



## ***Changing lives and building community through Jesus***

**The Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul  
Uplyme**

### **Group Reports 2020**

Uplyme Church  
Pound Lane  
Uplyme DT7 3TT

Charity number: 1131962

### **Prayer**

*Prayer continues to be central to our mission. During the pandemic a prayer tree has been situated in the porch for anyone to request prayers.*

*David Jones*

### **Prayer Fireplace**

During lockdowns, personal prayer requests are being directed on the e-mail Sunday Service information to Marilyn Kent, Simon and Kay Chaffin-Johnson, Brian Stansfield or David Dare. It is realised that in the present pandemic four meetings a week in church will have to be reviewed and a decision made for the future.

*David Dare*

### **Music 2020-2021**

It hardly needs mentioning that last year was a difficult one for development, because of the constraints of the pandemic. I know that a source of continuing regret for congregations is that they are still unable to sing in church. It underlines the fact that an

essential part of worship is being able to express our praise of God through music. May we be able to resume our singing very soon.

Despite the lockdowns, we were grateful to Bruce and Eunice for organising online singing sessions on Friday evenings and both, together with Em contributed to our YouTube services. These services meant that, despite being deprived of singing in church, watchers could give full vent to their voices online without being heard!

Services resumed in church in early August, in time for Rev Nicky's first Holy Communion. Between August and early November, we continued to hold services although opportunities for music were extremely limited. We were, however, able to record a service for Remembrance Sunday just prior to the latest lockdown with a small choir. My grateful thanks to Bruce, Eunice, Elaine and Charles.

Thankfully, the traditional Christmas service of Lessons and Carols was able to go ahead, although with a vastly reduced and of course muted congregation. Our quartet from Remembrance Sunday was augmented by Emma and Maurice and we were able to sing a selection of carols for choir and well-known hymns as usual. The choir also sang on Christmas morning and both their contributions were much appreciated by those present. We have reformed for Easter Day and look forward to real live participation, on this feast of all feast days.

Sadly, the Festival Choir have not sung since my last report, but Adrian and I hope that this will be remedied soon.

Thank you to all who have provided live or online music during the past year. We are so fortunate to have a group of talented musicians at Uplyme, and we are well-placed to develop our various styles of live music in whichever direction post-lockdown and a 'new normal' may take us. One specific aim is to continue to develop the Worship Band and its repertoire and, with the help of Simon, our Youth Worker, to further encourage young people to take part in our services on a regular basis.

## **Roger Grose**

## **Pastoral Care**

As with music, the development of our pastoral care programme was greatly affected by the various lockdowns. We are extremely grateful to David Jones who ably organised our church members into groups with designated people to phone each group member on a regular basis, and this continues to date.

There are several church members who do not have access to the internet, and in order to keep in touch with the church in addition to phone calls, with David's help I was able to organise fortnightly telephone services at 4 p.m. on Sundays, following the format of the Uplyme evening service. At the January lockdown they became weekly, although following the resumption of live services in church at Easter, they will alternate with the AVMC Zoom services from 18<sup>th</sup> April.

Over the past year, pastoral care has always been an agenda item on the regular Wardens' Meetings. We discuss in particular any who are in need through sickness, being housebound or any other type of need, arranging support where possible.

In normal circumstances, pastoral care will include supporting the sick, isolated and bereaved; preparing/supporting/following up baptisms, marriages; supporting those with relationship difficulties; working with new members, taking home communion. Now that we are members of the Axe Valley Mission Community, we shall, in the future, be discussing with all our churches a common approach to pastoral care. Whatever the outcome, we still need to remember that we are all given pastoral responsibility for each other with the command of Jesus: *'love one another as I have loved you'*.

**Roger Grose**

### **Worship**

Firstly, a big thank you to all those who take part in our worship in many ways. We are indeed fortunate to have a strong team who are willing to give their time in helping others to worship God. During this unusual year, special thanks to those who created and ran the YouTube services, appreciated by so many. Be assured that great deal of unseen work is involved. Thanks also to the 'Tech Team' whose expertise both online and in church has ensured that our worship has continued to be accessible to many.

The Worship Team have continued to meet regularly during the year, despite the various lockdowns. We always begin with prayer and Bible Study, in order to focus our minds on God. We were delighted to welcome Rev Nicky at our September meeting and have appreciated her experience and input.

Clive, our Team Rector suggested terms of reference for the Worship Team and provided a draft. The resulting document, briefly summarised below, has seen the formation of a Worship Committee which plans our liturgy and music. It reports to the PCC.

The main aim of the Worship Committee is to work with the AVMC Ministry Team, Uplyme PCC and Uplyme Worship Team, in order to maintain and develop appropriate patterns and styles of worship within the Parish and on-line, which encourage and enable as many people as possible to come to know and glorify God.

Its objectives:

- To promote worship which is Spirit filled and glorifying to God
- To support the parish through prayerful reflection on its various worship needs.
- To seek to recognise, respect and cater for the breadth of traditions of our congregations
- To promote a range of worship that is welcoming to all.

To promote worship which seeks to be attractive to those who have limited experience of faith and church.

To promote worship which seeks in particular to nurture and encourage children, young people and families

Its specific tasks include:

1. To plan the liturgical and musical content of services
2. To monitor and review services in conjunction with the Worship Team, working to ensure a high standard, both in regular services and on special worship occasions.
3. To seek to reach out to the wider community through worship.
4. To be aware of developing patterns of worship, and to consider their adaptation for the work and worship of the parish.

The Worship Team's specific tasks include:

1. To encourage and support each other in the ministry of leading and speaking.
2. To contribute creative ideas on liturgy and music.
3. To review services in conjunction with the Worship Committee.
4. To develop biblical and liturgical knowledge and take part in training activities where appropriate.
5. To discuss any issues affecting the operation of the rota.
6. To meet on alternate months, or as circumstances require.

As we return to regular services in church, there are many imponderables: will people return? What form will our services take? How will we continue to use online services? I am confident that under Clive and Nicky's leadership, supported by other clergy, lay ministers and our lay team, we shall move forward in hope and expectation to wherever God is leading us.

**Roger Grose**

### **Uplyme Church Flower Arrangers**

Over the past year we have kept a Floral presence in Church, and have met once for coffee at the Talbot when restrictions allowed.

We decorated as usual for Remembrance, Christmas and for Mothering Sunday posies were given to the school and pre-school staff and a lovely array of posies were left in the Church porch for people to collect.

We are, as I write this, looking forward to Easter and New Beginnings.

*Felicity Langford*

## **Uplyme Uganda United**

Over the past 3 years we have been unable to co-ordinate these projects due to Russell's illness, apart from writing every other month in the Parish News about the Kiges Water Project. Kate Tolhurst did the alternate month, writing about Treasures in Jars of Clay, part of New Hope Uganda. Last year (2020) Kate left New Hope Uganda and last October we passed over our responsibilities of co-ordinating the Kiges Water Project to Rev. Nicky and the PCC, because we are still having to isolate regardless of Covid lockdowns.

It has been a real privilege to be responsible for co-ordinating our response to the poorest of the world since 2011, especially seeing the amazing response to the Uplyme-Zambia Water Project which raised £87K for BICC/Tearfund over 7 years until 2018, both from church members and people in the community.

*Russell and Morag Kingsbury*

## **Report on School links 2021**

Mrs Ethelston's School in Uplyme is part of Acorn Multi Academy Trust (MAT). The MAT consists of Primary schools and Nurseries: Primaries: Axminster, Loders, Mrs Ethelston's, Marshwood, Membury, St Andrews,; Little Acorns (nurseries) Axminster, Loders and Chardstock. We have an excellent Chair of the MAT in Brian Impey, also a member of our church in Uplyme.

Last year, at Mrs Ethelston's, we were looking for two more Foundation Governors to represent the Church within our Local Governing Board. We have been delighted to welcome Bruce Roberts and Elaine King to our board. We now have a joint chair, Corinne Hales and myself, two parent Governors and four foundation Governors. I have no doubt that Elaine and Bruce will offer excellent contributions to the Board.

This year has been a challenging year for the school with home schooling, teaching key workers' children in school and now, at the time of writing, thankfully all children back in school once more. The Governors have kept in constant touch with the school during this time, both through local governing board meetings with Katy Lyons, the Head Teacher, and through our monitoring visits. Although we have been unable to visit in person, we have interviewed children and staff via zoom and observed lessons via zoom throughout times of home schooling. The children are remarkably resilient and the staff at the school have worked tirelessly not only on ensuring academic progress but also ensuring the children's well being. This is a particular focus now all the children are back. Children's activities have included various socialising exercises within the children's bubbles, so that sharing skills and negotiating skills are developed alongside academic work. PE has taken place in the playground where children's enjoyment is evident as their excited voices often ring out. Hopefully, as lockdown restrictions ease we shall be able to visit the school in person and volunteers will again be able to go in to listen to readers and offer other activities too.

Jo Cursley, Church and school link.

## **Report on Uplyme Gospel Singers**

Unfortunately COVID restrictions have meant the Singers have been unable to meet for some time, though we did meet up outside the church building to sing Christmas carols next to the Christmas Tree, which we enjoyed. We are of course looking forward to the time when we can all meet up inside once more.

Jo Cursley.

## **Home groups Badgers Brook**

The group met fortnightly, as usual, in January, February and early March – we did some studies in the book of Isaiah. Due to the pandemic, and recognising the vulnerability of our group (we are mainly 70+), we did not meet again during 2020. Philip and Alison did email us with an Easter meditation and a Christmas reflection.

We were all very sad to hear the news of the passing of Alan Jones. We will always remember his faith, his character, and his ministry. We rejoice that he has gone to be with his Lord, whilst continuing to support Esther and the family with our prayers etc. We do hope to meet up again once the restrictions are lifted. Over the years, this home group has been a great blessing to many.

*Philip and Alison Tolhurst*

## **Graham and Andrea Sheargold**

The House Group has continued to meet using Zoom throughout the last 12 months using a variety of Biblical study material. Presently we are looking at a Church of England publication, Living in Love and Faith which deals with such issues as Identity, Sexuality, Relationships and Marriage. Well worth a look.

We meet fortnightly on a Monday evening and do have space available if anyone would like to join us.

*Graham and Andrea Sheargold,*

## **Anne and David Hardman and Carole Fowkes 2020-2021**

We continue to be a group of some 12 members who meet fortnightly at Anne and David's house on a Monday evening 7.30 – 9.00pm. Well this has not been the case this year !! ...need we say more? Instead, despite the technical frailties of the hosts we have instead met via zoom with other members of the group occasionally hosting the meeting.

A variety of resources have been used over the year including online material from LICC (London Institute of Contemporary Christianity) considering Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians. Also using study books we have unpicked the letter of James (helped by Tom Wright's guide) and presently we are being challenged as we look at each of the 12 disciples (Douglas Connolly). We all have to do a bit of preparation prior to the meeting but there is usually time at the start or end for some catching up and some supportive fellowship. We also share readings, prayers and leadership among the group.

*Anne and David Hardman and Carole Fowkes*

### **Ladies Groups**

We haven't been meeting because of Covid. However, we have still been meeting on zoom fortnightly on Monday evenings to catch up, pray, and encourage each other. Once it is allowed, we will meet up again and start a study. It will probably be Pete Grier's Prayer Course.

*Jan Maccoy*

### **Concerts in Church**

Owing to the pandemic there were no concerts in church during 2020. A classical concert in the Concerts in the West Series by Trio Klein originally scheduled for May 2020 was postponed to April 2021 only to be postponed again. It has now been scheduled for 19 November 2021. We hope also that the Uplyme Gospel Singers will be able to perform for us again in 2021.

*David Jones*

### **Saturday Walking Group.**

We were able to hold walks in January, February and March 2020 but have not been able to do any since then owing to the pandemic. I am planning a reunion walk in late May 2021 and then continue with monthly Community walks from Uplyme of about an hour. During Summer 2021 I hope to walk some of the longer walks around the parishes of the Axe Valley Mission Community as featured in the Parish News in 2020.

*David Jones*

### **Parish News**

What can I say?

The magazine has been hit badly over the past 12 months. We have managed to produce a magazine every month, but over 50% of these have been online only magazines. Contributions have been thin on the ground with many people unable to say when they will be running their events and services again. However, others have provided us with some lovely articles and "Walks" - thank you David Jones, and as we go back into print these will be repeated so those not on "the web" can benefit from their writing. Groups have been turning to social media to keep people updated and lots of Facebook pages have appeared keeping people informed daily!

This may be something the magazine needs to look at going forward if it is to really take part in Village life.

Many people in the parish have said how much they miss the magazine dropping through their door each month, and we hope and pray that we will begin to print and deliver from May 2021.

*Robin Hodges – Editor*

## **Safeguarding**

Although for most of the past months since the previous APCM Uplyme Church has been closed and linked groups and activities have been put on hold, as safeguarding representatives for Uplyme Church, we have managed to continue to update procedures.

The Uplyme Church Safeguarding Policy Statement, the Parish Domestic Abuse statement and the Policy for safe photographing of children have all been renewed and agreed by the PCC.

Previously we would send in a yearly safeguarding audit to the safeguarding team at Exeter Diocese. Moving with the times we have now accessed a digital Parish Safeguarding Dashboard which gives us instant access to areas that are green, amber and red. We have moved from Level one of the dashboard to level two. Rather than a yearly audit this can be accessed and updated throughout the year.

We are in the process of updating safeguarding information on the Uplyme Church website and undertaking DBS verifications that need renewing for volunteers and PCC members as required. Any new members to the PCC, following this annual meeting, will be required to undertake a DBS check and a basic level of safeguarding training which can be accessed online. The DBS checks need renewing every five years and safeguarding training needs updating every three years. If anyone has any questions or queries please do contact one of us.

Jo Clarke

Noreen Watson

Safeguarding representatives for Uplyme Church.

## **Black Dog Coffee Mornings**

We have not been meeting due to the pandemic, though members of the coffee morning have been supporting each other with letters, phone calls, e-mails and the occasional visit to each other's garden.

I am now living most of the time in Italy so I'm not sure who will take over the running of the group once everyone can meet up again.

*Joanna Will*

## **Shining stars**

The year started well. From January to March 2020 the average attendance was 17 children and babies per session. However the church playgroup had to close on 17<sup>th</sup> March due to Covid-19 restrictions. Even when some restrictions were eased, social distancing had to be maintained, toys could not be shared between families and many of our volunteers were self-isolating, so it was impractical for us to re-open.

During the summer, our volunteers were allowed to do the annual clear up and sort out at the Scout Hut. We also received a grant from the Lyme Regis Pre-School Fund Raising Association which enabled us to purchase a new toy kitchen.



In the Autumn, with no prospect of re-opening soon, we put together a selection of free Craft Packs, advertised them on our Facebook page and delivered them on request to local families. This has been a good way of keeping in touch as well as providing support for the community.

WE hope and pray that we will be able to open safely in 2021 and look forward to seeing everyone again.

*Jan Impey*

### **Saturday Morning Football**

2020 started out as a good year for the football group. We were managing to play each week from early January in Axminster and the group was well established. When lockdown happened we obviously stopped and we were not allowed to think about meeting until later in the year after the group would have stopped for the summer. However,

subsequent restrictions and lockdowns in the autumn and winter mean that we have now not played football as a group for over a year, and there seems little point in planning anything this side of the season starting again in September.

We really hope that we can get the group going again in September 2021, but often these things stop and become difficult to re-start as interest wains and youth find other things to do.

We will, however, give it our best shot and see what rises from the ashes of the virus strewn world we have been living in.

We need and welcome your prayer.

*Robin Hodges – Group Leader*

### **Open the book**

It is more than a year since we were able to do Open the Book assemblies for Mrs. Ethelston's School in church, due to the Covid restrictions. Last September (2020) Morag contacted both the school and Rev. Nicky to see if they would like an Open the Book story recorded on Powerpoint and since October she has been doing these every fortnight. These have been really well received and just before Christmas, St. Andrew's Primary, Chardstock also joined in. This way of doing Open the Book will continue until we can meet again as a team in church, and do it as before; something we are all looking forward to.

*Morag Kingsbury*

## **Youth Update 2021 Q1**

Xplosion – Not Active

Crusaders Football – Not Active (Conversations started about resumption)

Vibe 2.5 – After retreating back onto an online forum in January the group have been through a range of different subjects including sex and relationship, creation care and how to build spiritual maturity. This has been made possible through inviting additional adults to guest speak. One of those being Izzy Sibley from Crossroads Church who lead one of the sessions on creation care. We have also been joined by Alison also from Crossroads who has agreed to join us as a supporting adult. Many of our young people already know Ali from other Seaton-based youth work. We plan to reconvene face to face sessions on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April and take the group away on residential in June to North Devon.

Vibe have done an incredible job in terms of engagement, some of whom really battled through fears of coming together online. Our boys especially have made great strides in their faith thanks to their willingness to partake and respond to my input and challenges.

See information about ‘Explore’ below to find out how we continue to develop this amazing group of young people.

Explore (Older Teens): This smaller more intimate group of older teens have continued to flourish with the additional opportunities Nicky and I have presented them with. They continue to have a real desire to interactive with each other and us. They have been encouraged to test out their giftings and been given a platform through the ‘All Age’ services at Uplyme to do this. We have expanded these opportunities to the older Vibe members as well. The feedback received from these services have helped us develop these individuals further. Nicky and I plan to offer these young people additional training in communication, presentation and research to support their continued growth.

We plan to include Explore in our proposed residential in June, but because many of them would have already broken up from school/college in June we will give them a few days prior/extra before Vibe join us for the weekend.

Personal CPD – I continue to attend monthly CPD sessions online as provided by SWYM. These have been extremely useful and I will share all my findings in an online shared folder with the church.

Thank you so much for your continued support in prayer and emotionally backing me via your encouraging comments and emails.

I want to make an extra special mention to Nicky who has come in and supported me brilliantly. Given me the space to create opportunities for our young people and allowed me to focus on the needs of our youth. Nicky is fantastic with the teens and has already built a fantastic rapport. Nicky is a brilliant asset to Uplyme and I pray that she will be given the same level of support that I have been blessed with from you

Simon Smith

**Groups which have not been meeting since the first lockdown but which are hoping to recommence as soon as restrictions allow:**

**Black Dog Luncheon Club**

**Film Nights**

**The Viaduct**

**Men's Group (Men's Breakfast)**

**New Life Group**

**Junior Church**

**Uplyme Church Fundraising**

**Xplosion**

**The Craft group closed owing to lack of numbers.**