



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

**The Parochial Church Council of the Parish of St Peter and St Paul  
Uplyme  
Annual Report & Accounts 2020**

**Like the whole world the Parish of Uplyme has been massively affected by Covid-19**

**Purpose**

St Peter and St Paul's Parochial Church Council (PCC) had the responsibility of co-operating with the clergy and staff of the Axe Valley Mission Community, which it joined in 2019, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. There was interregnum in place for the first seven months of the year, following the departure of the previous incumbent in January 2019. On 11 August 2020 Reverend Nicky Davies was inducted as a Team Vicar with a special responsibility for Axmouth and Uplyme parishes and has proved to be a great asset, albeit in difficult circumstances owing to the pandemic. Up to the middle of March the usual weekly morning and evening services continued, led by clergy members of the Axe Valley Mission Community, our retired clergy member Rev. David Lawrence and our lay members including our Reader, Roger Grose. Following the first lockdown a weekly morning YouTube service was started and subsequently a fortnightly telephone service aimed mainly at the evening service members most of whom are elderly and vulnerable and live alone. We are grateful to our Tech Team for YouTube and live-streamed services and to Roger for organising the telephone services. The church re-opened for services in August, albeit socially distanced, without communal singing and wearing facemasks and continued until early November when the second lockdown was announced. The church re-opened again on Sunday 8 December still with restrictions. The YouTube and telephone services continued from March to the end of the year. The PCC is specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church building and we are grateful to Geoff Linsley, a PCC member, for all his work in this area. The churchyard is now the responsibility of East Devon District Council but we supplement the maintenance by the council by paying a contractor to do additional grass cutting. This is financed through voluntary donations.

**Objectives**

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to share in the church community, to serve their needs and through this, to serve the wider Uplyme community. We note the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and particularly, charities for the advancement of religion. In planning our activities for the year, we try to enable people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer
- Learning about the Christian faith - developing knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care and opportunities for engagement
- Missionary and outreach work to share the Christian faith and to serve community

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St Peter and St Paul.

## Achievements and performance

We are beginning to see the benefits of belonging to the Axe Valley Mission Community, despite the restrictions placed on us by the pandemic. We are aware that a Mission Action Plan is to be developed for the whole Mission Community. A Worship Committee reporting to the PCC has been formed. Worship Team meetings will continue to be held to support our lay preachers and leaders. Pending the adoption of an Axe Valley Mission Community Mission Action Plan we have retained the headings from our previous MAP.

### Regular Communal worship

*MAP Action: Further develop services that are family/youth inclusive. Include young people within worship.*

The PCC has focused on offering and developing a range of services and activities to serve our church and local community both spiritually and practically. Cafe Worship which began in 2016 has continued to draw some fringe and new members of the church, including families and young people. Our youth worker, Simon Smith, has been helping to organise All-Age contemporary services during 2020 and the family friendly service "Church at 10" was started in early 2020, before being overtaken by the pandemic. Socially distanced family services were held in August, October and December led by our Youth Worker, Simon Smith and with some young people taking part. Simon's youth activities have been severely curtailed by the pandemic, but Vibe for younger teenagers and Xplore, a new group for older teenagers have continued online. During this time Simon has been undergoing training from SWYM. Simon's contract of employment expires in the summer of 2021.

While opportunities are provided for people to engage in more outgoing worship in the mornings, evening services provide a quiet, intimate and reflective environment for worship.

All are welcome to attend our regular services. At present there are 108 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, some 60 of who are not resident within the parish. Until the first lockdown, our attendances at the weekly morning and evening services averaged 53 and 22 respectively. During the first 4 weeks of October, three morning and one evening services were held under the then current restrictions and average attendances were not surprisingly reduced to 25 and 19 with the You Tube services getting an average of around of 40 views and the telephone services around 15 attendees.

Festivals and special services in church (adults and children):

	2018	2019	2020
Easter Sunday (morning)	131	123	Not held in church
Harvest (morning)	61	48	33 (socially distanced)
Harvest songs of praise (evening)	46	40	Not held (owing to restrictions)
Light a candle to remember (evening)	55	61	31 (socially distanced)
Remembrance Sunday (morning)	145	102	Live- screened from church
Nativity Posada/Crib Service	81	99	101 – Open Air and socially distanced
Carols by candlelight (evening)	183	178	42 (socially distanced)
Christmas Eve Communion	58	43	Not held (owing to restrictions)

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping. We hold a "Light a candle to remember" service on All Souls Sunday each year which has enabled members of the church and community to come together to give thanks for the lives of relatives and friends who have died, by lighting candles and decorating the church with white lilies. We invite the relatives of all recent funerals to this service as well as our members and the community as a whole. We have held 3 funerals in our church this year, but owing mainly to the pandemic no baptisms or weddings.

### **Prayer and contemplation**

*MAP Action: Prayer to be seen as the engine room for all church activity and as a result the profile of prayer within church and the local community is raised.*

Prayer is central to all Christian life and activities. We now meet for a time of prayer as a team before each worship service in church. Any words and pictures we feel may be from God and are appropriate are shared in the service. The "Prayer Fireplace" which was established in 2016 has continued to provide a focus for prayer each day until first lockdown and has been revised to include all areas of our Mission Action Plan. The Prayer Fireplace also prays to the requests from our Prayer Tree in the Church Porch. During lockdown the Prayer Fireplace has continued online under the leadership of David Dare.

### **Supporting the mission of the church in this diocese**

*Map Action: Work together with the Diocese and Deanery to encompass their Vision, Strategy and Mission Action Plans into our own vision - to become a "praying community, grow new disciples and serve the people of Devon with joy"*

Two members of the PCC sit on the deanery synod, including its Chairman. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church. It helps us to work together with the Deanery and the diocese to enable our parish to be an effective partner with them in what they do and to gain support from them. The Diocese Vision and Strategy document was circulated to all PCC members.

Our YouTube, live-streamed and telephone services are available to all eight of the Axe Valley Mission Community churches.

### **Pastoral care**

*MAP Action: For Uplyme Church to be a caring community*

We endeavour to support all those in our community, whatever season of life they are in, whether they need practical support or spiritual guidance. Therefore, an important part of our Mission Action Plan is to establish a comprehensive pastoral care strategy. Our Reader Roger Grose was hoping to set up a Pastoral Team from Home Bible Study Group members in 2020, but owing to a much increased workload during the interregnum and the pandemic this has been postponed and Roger has remained responsible for pastoral care. We aim for most of the congregation to attend a group where mutual pastoral care naturally occurs,

although many of these have not been able to function during the pandemic. At the beginning of the first lockdown we offered all our members a regular telephone call from volunteer members to keep in touch and to ensure their well-being. In addition twelve of evening congregation, many of whom are elderly and vulnerable receive a weekly telephone call. These calls have continued into 2021. This will work alongside the informal pastoral support with which we are blessed. The founders and many members of the "Uplyme Help at Hand" organisation which provides all types of support to the Uplyme Community are members of Uplyme Church.

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age and visits are made to all church members who have requested it, to celebrate communion with them in their homes

### **Life groups**

*MAP Action: For Life groups to form an integral part of church life and of our outreach to the community.*

We continue to seek to initiate and support a wide variety of interest groups and Bible study groups which enable people to grow in their faith, find friendship and to meet with God in a way which is relevant to them. Loneliness is a concern amongst the elderly and a group, 'The Viaduct' continued through early 2020 until prevented by the pandemic, for senior citizens who meet each week for fellowship in the village hall. Details of all home groups and interest groups and how to join them are normally available in the church. It is anticipated that all these groups will continue after the pandemic restrictions are lifted.

### **Training and equipping**

*MAP Action: Somebody to be appointed to be in overall charge of staff/volunteer development.*

To support the Church's mission, we are aware that relevant training is a priority and that training, resources and opportunities for development should be made available to all leaders. Regularly meeting together to share and pray will ensure that leaders are not working in isolation and some online training has been available during the pandemic. Whilst no training has taken place in the church during the year, it is anticipated that this will commence in 2021, probably led by our Team Vicar Reverend Nicky Davies.

### **Support for the poorest in the world**

*MAP Action: Raising £10,000/year until at least June 2018.*

The PCC decided that after the Gift Day in 2018, the church would support two charities in Uganda. These are the Tearfund Kigesi Diocese Water and Sanitation Programme and New Hope Uganda Treasures in Jars of Clay for special needs children. The fundraising activities have been well supported by the community, bringing people into contact with the church that would normally have none. Unfortunately, owing to the pandemic it has not been able to hold some of our usual fund raising events in 2020. Despite the lack of fund-raising events owing to the pandemic, payments to these charities totalled £4921 in 2020. The PCC is undertaking a review of this area of our giving in early 2021 which may well result in some changes to those charities supported.

### **Being part of our community**

*MAP Action: Bless our community*

A range of activities reflects our continuing priorities for building links with different groups in the community. The Church normally continues its strong links with the primary school through assemblies, Open the Book, and supporting "Mrs Ethelston's Big Wheeze" when it takes place; younger children and parents through the Shining Stars playgroup and the older children through Saturday football, the weekly youth club, Xplosion, the Vibe for older children and Spree SW, Surf and Heatree weekends. It

also maintains links with the older members of the community through monthly coffee mornings, lunches, the weekly Viaduct meetings and continues to support the Lyme Regis Food Bank. During the pandemic many of these activities have been on hold but will resume as soon as allowed. Many church members are also involved in the Uplyme Help at Hand Scheme, which continues to provide essential help wherever possible.

We normally have leaflets available in church which provide information for visitors about the activities of the church and a Welcome Pack, in which they are included, is now available. Our parish magazine is distributed monthly free of charge to all households in Uplyme when permitted and is also published online.

Our church is usually open to our community every day for private prayer, but during the pandemic this has been restricted to Wednesday afternoons. Since the re-ordering in 2013, it is usually used several times a week by the school for assemblies and worship as well as home groups (Oasis) and youth groups (Xplosion), and for social events which bring the community of Uplyme together. A popular social event are the monthly Film Nights during the winter, which brought in an average attendance of 35, around a third of whom were not regular churchgoers. These continued in the early months of 2020, but owing to the pandemic are not likely to resume until October 2021. Owing to the pandemic we were not able to hold our usual Art Exhibition or Quiz Night to raise funds for the Uganda charities, or our Christmas Bazaar, which normally raises funds for the church. All these events normally attract considerable numbers of people from beyond the church family.

**Youth and children** *MAP Action: For young people of all ages in our community to have the opportunity to learn about Jesus.*

We believe that children are not just the church of tomorrow but are an important part of the church today. We were successful in appointing Simon Smith as our Youth Worker in 2018 after a prolonged period of being unable to find a suitable candidate. Simon's activities have been severely restricted by the pandemic, although the Vibe for younger teenagers and a new group Xplore for older teenager have continued online. The members of Xplore are now also taking part in streamed services from church. Simon's three year contract which is being funded by our Legacy Fund expires in the Summer of 2021. If it is to be renewed we will probably require financial help from other churches in the Axe Valley Mission Community and possibly from other churches in the wider area whose youth Simon is serving. We normally run groups for all ages from 0 to 18, both on Sunday mornings and during the week with Shining Stars (parent and toddlers), X-plosion youth group for Year 6 +, Saturday morning football, and the Vibe for younger teens on Sunday evenings has continued online and Rev. Nicky Davies and Simon have been meeting with the Xplore older group of teenagers online weekly. Despite the pandemic we were able to hold an open-air Crib Service on Christmas Eve, socially-distanced in sunny weather on the Village Hall Car Park. More than 100 children and adults attended this event. In December 2020 Simon produced a report on his two and a half years as our Youth Worker and this is to be discussed by the PCC in early 2021.

## **Volunteers**

Details of the work of the church are described more fully in the reports from committees and other groups who contribute to our church community many of which have been unable to operate since March 2020. These will be able to be accessed via the website and there will be printed copies available in church and available via e-mail. The PCC depends on many volunteers who give freely of their time and talents to enable this work to take place. The benefits from volunteers' work, and our thanks to them, cannot be overstated, without them the viability of our church would be seriously impaired.

## **Structure, governance and management**

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The PCC normally operates by meeting every other month with various sub-committees meeting and conducting delegated activities and taking delegated responsibility in between. During the pandemic more frequent PCC meetings have been held on Zoom with all resolutions passed agreed subsequently in accordance with Rule M.39. The other committees are responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly. Methods of reporting back to the PCC range from the formal pre-distributed reports for discussion at PCC meetings, minutes of meetings, to informal verbal reports.

### **Sub – Committees**

**The Standing Committee:** Meets when required and has limited power to transact business of the PCC between meetings. It consisted in 2020 of the Rector, the Wardens, the Treasurer, the Secretary and two PCC members – Jo Cursley and Don Draper.

**Finance:** Philip Tolhurst, Neil Pullinger, David Hardman and Don Draper. It meets when necessary throughout the year. Philip resigned as Treasurer as at 31 December 2020 and has been replaced by Sharyn Walker. **Youth.** No formal committee, but the key people involved are Brenda Soldan, Robin Hodges, Mike and Kate Whittome, Rob and Jo Smith and Philip Tolhurst with Margaret Trafford and Simon Smith involved in any decisions. Roger Grose has had a role in spiritual guidance for Simon.

**Building:** Geoff Linsley has responsibility for the church buildings and he works closely with the churchwardens. His input on this important subject is invaluable.

The PCC became a registered charity in 2009 and is mindful of its responsibilities as Trustees. The major risks to which the church is exposed, as identified by the trustees, have been reviewed annually and systems or procedures have been established to manage those risks. The PCC is aware of and is complying with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding & Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.

The PCC met 8 times during the year with an average level of attendance of 79%.

### **Administrative information**

St Peter and St Paul's Church is situated in the village of Uplyme in Devon. It is part of the Diocese of Exeter within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Parish Office, Pound Lane, Uplyme, Devon DT7 3TT. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and became a registered charity in 2009. Registered charity number 1131962

### **Team Vicar: Reverend Nicky Davies**

The Rectory  
Rhode Lane  
Uplyme  
DT7 3TX

**Independent Examiner:**                      **Bank:** CAF Bank

Martin Whitehead FCA  
Penfold  
Cannington Cottages  
Cannington Lane ,Uplyme

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2020 until the 31 December 2020 are:

**Incumbent:**                      Team Vicar – Reverend Nicky Davies (from August 2020)

**Churchwardens:**              Martin Wells (to September 2020)  
Jo Clarke (to September 2020)  
Jenny Perham (from September 2020)

**Deanery Synod Representatives:**

Robin Hodges  
Matt Roe

**Treasurer:**                      Philip Tolhurst *Co-opted*

**Elected Members:**          Jo Cursley (to September 2020)  
Don Draper  
Roger Grose (Reader) (to September 2020)  
Mike Jenkins (to September 2020)  
Geoff Linsley  
Lynn Roberts (to September 2020)  
Robert Smith  
Brenda Soldan  
Sheila Stratton (to September 2020)  
Mike Whittome  
David Jones *Secretary*