

**Uplyme APCM            19 April 2021**

*Report from Team Vicar, Rev Nicky Davies*

What a challenging start to my first incumbency and time among you in Uplyme. It has been lockdown for the majority of the period, since my licensing on 11 August. Despite that I am very glad God called me here.

I was very inspired by the advert for this 'new' role and will remind you of what it said:

You wanted an enthusiastic and encouraging priest: I hope you have found me to be that! Despite the hardships and challenges around the pandemic and the very sad funerals, I have tried to maintain a good work/rest balance and have endeavoured to be as positive as possible. I was delighted to discover the Youtube services and other online services available and grateful to all those who contribute. It will be exciting to see how we continue/develop these as well as livestreaming some services for those unable to get to church for whatever reason.

You wanted someone to continue your growth and mission: that has been challenging in lockdown but through good contact with the school and families, as well as our outdoor activities, we have made a good start. Working with the staff at Mrs Ethelston's is a real delight. They were overjoyed with their Christingle kits and flowers for the staff recently. I will be very glad when they can come back into church and I can go into school, to meet them properly! Vision planning for the AVMC Ministry Team is underway with the Archdeacon. I really look forward to deepening relationships, being together in person, restarting some established events and to looking outward together to increase our service to our community. Thank you to all those who supported the Outdoor Nativity and Come to the Cross events.

Across AVMC you wanted someone to inspire, develop and co-ordinate work with youth, children and families. I have worked closely with Simon and instigated the youth-led service. Simon and I have met weekly with the Explore Group, in person or on zoom. Although Simon is wanting to move on, there is some fantastic work established and I am excited about the possibilities going forward. Open the Book, with Morag's input, goes online into two schools and we look forward to when we can get the groups back into schools. I met with Jan Impey to talk about Shining Stars and it has been great to see the craft packs welcomed and used during this time of no physical meetings. Thanks again to all those who support this work. Holiday clubs, Messy and Forest Churches are all ideas to consider going forward... and I am sure you'll have ideas too!

You wanted someone to be liturgically creative: again, challenging with lockdown, but I have supported and contributed to our Youtube worship as well as leading a host of different services across the team.

Our outside harvest and car-park carols was a first and we hope not the last, for AVMC. I look forward to developing our worship in Uplyme and establishing a pattern that serves all the church family.

You wanted someone with a pastoral and evangelistic heart: I have been glad to hear of the ongoing phone calls, prayer and care for each other. I am looking forward to establishing good pastoral teams. I am also wanting to gather our small group leaders together, so we can have a co-ordinated approach to learning, alongside pastoral care and encouragement for each other.

I would like to record my thanks to all those here who have made me feel so welcome. Thanks to Jenny, our churchwarden, who is always so positive and encouraging. To Roger for all his commitment and support, wisdom and advice. And to David and all members of the PCC for their work and care. I also feel very supported by the AVMC Ministry team and glad to have colleagues to work with.

In this Eastertide, launched with gusto as we sang Thine Be the Glory together, outside church, for the first time in a year; I am feeling very hopeful about the future of our church and excited to see the AVMC grow and develop.

I hope we can all keep this question in our minds as we keep going on this adventure with our Trinitarian God: How best can we join in with God's mission in this place, as we seek to share the good news of God's astounding love for us all?

*Christ is Risen. He is Risen indeed. Alleluia!*