



## The Parochial Church Council of the Parish of St Peter and St Paul Uplyme Annual Report 2022

### **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. The pattern of church services has been established with services on Sunday mornings with two evening services at 6.00pm and two telephone services at 4pm per month. On the fifth Sunday there is a joint service for the Axe Valley Mission Community at one of the eight churches. Since October 2021 an evening Compline service has been held on the first Monday of the month. One 10.00am Service has been introduced as Together@10 an all age informal worship. As well as to our Team Vicar we have been indebted to the retired Reverend Canon David Lawrence, Roger Grose, our Licensed Lay Minister, members of the AVMC ministry team and our lay preaching and leading team for enabling us to maintain a full programme of services. We have seen a gradual increase in numbers attending worship. The PCC is specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church building and we have been very grateful to the newly formed Building Team. The churchyard is 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

## Achievements and performance

We are aware that a Mission Action Plan is to be developed for the whole Mission Community and this is at present being worked on at the AVMC joint meetings. 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.

### 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. Vibe for younger teenagers and Explore, a group for older teenagers and Friday Night Fun, our younger age group, Saturday Football have continued during 2022.

All are welcome to attend our regular services. At present there are 89 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll.

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

	2019	2020	2021 (Under restrictions)	2022
Easter Sunday (morning)	123.	Not held in church	49	62
Easter evening	52.			41
Harvest (morning)	48	33 (socially distanced)	Not held.	44
Harvest Communion (evening).				14
Harvest songs of praise (evening)	40	Not held ( restrictions)	31	
Light a candle to remember (evening).	61	31 (socially distanced)	33.	56
Remembrance Sunday (morning)	102	Live- screened from church	57	158
Nativity Service	99	101 – Open Air	69 – Open Air.	100
Carols by candlelight (evening)	178	42 (socially distanced)	60.	81

Christmas Eve Communion	43	Not held (restrictions)	19.	Not held
Christmas Day	95	38 (socially distanced)	50.	68
New – Carols around Christmas tree in Churchyard (to be repeated!)			75.	70

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 7 funerals in our church this year and 1 baptism, and 1 wedding.

### **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. The "Prayer Fireplace" which was established in 2016 has continued to provide a focus for prayer each Wednesday The Prayer Fireplace also prays to the requests from our Prayer Tree in the Church Porch.

Christian Meditation has been established on a weekly basis and two "Quiet Retreats" held.

### **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.

## **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 Licensed Lay Minister, Roger Grose has remained responsible for pastoral care. A monthly coffee morning has been set up at The Black Dog Tea Room under the leadership of Graham Sheargold. This works alongside the informal pastoral support from many members with which we are blessed. The founders and many members of the “Uplyme Help at Hand” organisation which provides many 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 we aim to pay visits 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 - a monthly luncheon club at the Old Black Dog Tea Room is held. A comprehensive Groups Report is produced ahead of the annual meetings and includes reports on all the church groups as well as Music, Pastoral, Worship, our links with the church school, Safeguarding and the Parish News magazine. This report is available in church before the annual meetings and copies can be made available to all on request by e-mail or in paper form.

## **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. Regular Together@10 Meetings and Worship Team meetings are held. Safeguarding training sessions have been held.

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

*MAP Action: Raising money through various activities.*

The PCC decided we would support 3 charities, Ekisa Ministries and Busoga Trust in Uganda and St. Petrocks in Exeter. We invite people in the community to our fund-raising events for our charities, bringing people into contact with the church that would normally have none. We were able to hold an Art Festival in August 2022 and a second distribution was made to our three new charities. At Harvest we held a Barn Dance and all proceeds were given to St Petroc's caring for the homeless of Exeter.

We supported Ukraine raising funds with a cream tea at the Rectory, a day of bell ringing with coffee & cake, and an evening of history/facts, family and food - given by our local Ukrainian family.

### **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 and services in church, Open the Book, and our Team Vicar holds worship. Pre-school children are invited to join our Shining Stars playgroup and the older children contacted through Saturday football, the weekly youth club, Friday Night Fun, the Vibe for older children, Explore for older teenagers and Surf weekend. It also maintained links with the older members of the community through monthly coffee mornings and lunches. Many church members are also involved in the Uplyme Help at Hand Scheme, which continues to provide essential help wherever possible.

We have leaflets available in church which provide information for visitors about the activities of the church. Our parish magazine is distributed monthly free of charge to all households in Uplyme and is also published online.

Our church is open to our community every day for private prayer. Since the re-ordering in 2013, it is used several times a week by the school for assemblies, Open the Book and worship, and for social events which bring the community of Uplyme together. Popular social events are the monthly Film Nights during the winter, Quiz Nights, Travelling Theatre, Craft Fair, Spring Fayre, Winter Warmer entertainment, Flower Festival. We held an Art Exhibition in August to raise funds for our three charities.

**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. Simon Smith our previous Youth Worker continues to be involved with Friday Night Fun, Vibe, Explore and Saturday Football and is now part of Axe Valley Youth an ecumenical group previously administered by Seaton Baptist church but now by Uplyme PCC and supported financially by the PCC and several members of our church and other parties.

On the third Sunday morning of the month we hold our all-age family service “Together at Ten” and we are beginning to see growth of younger families. We normally run groups for all ages from 0 to 18+, during the week with Shining Stars (parent and toddlers), Friday Night Fun youth group for Year 6 +, Saturday morning football, and the Vibe for younger teens and Explore for older teens on Sunday evenings. We were again able to hold a well attended open-air Nativity Service on Christmas Eve, in the Village Hall Car Park in 2022. 100 people attended this event.

### **Volunteers**

Details of the work of the church are described more fully in the Groups’ report document from committees and other groups who contribute to our church community. There will be a printed copy in church and will be available via e-mail on request. This report will also be available on the church website. 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. The other committees are responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly.

### **Sub – Committees**

The Standing Committee: Meets when required and has limited power to transact business of the PCC between meetings. It consisted at the end of 2022 of the Vicar, the Wardens, the Treasurer, and two PCC members – David Jones and Don Draper.

Finance: Sharyn Walker (Treasurer), Jan Impey, David Hardman and Don Draper. It meets when necessary.

Youth: No formal committee, but the key people involved are Rev. Nicky Davies, Robin Hodges, Mike and Kate Whittome, and Simon Smith.

Building: The Building Team consists of Andy Bateman, Geoff Linsley, Andrew Lightfoot and Rob Walker.

A new Tech Team has been formed: Our Tech Team consists of Mike McCoy, Brian Impey, Bruce Smith, Geoff Linsley, Matt Roe, Rob & Jo Smith

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 7 times during the year with an average level of attendance of 85%.

### **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 Uplyme Church, 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:**

Martin Whitehead FCA  
Penfold  
Cannington Cottages  
Cannington Lane ,Uplyme

### **Bank:** CAF Bank

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2022 until the 31 December 2022 are:

**Incumbent:** Team Vicar – Reverend Nicky Davies

**Churchwardens:** Jenny Perham  
Sue Wells (from July 2021)

**Deanery Synod Representatives:**

Robin Hodges (until 2023)

Matt Roe (until 2023)

**Treasurer:**

Sharyn Walker *Co-opted January 2022*

**Elected Members:**

Don Draper (until 2024). Robert Smith (until 2025). Jo Clarke (co-opted July 2022)

Mike Maccoy (until 2025) David Jones Secretary (until 2024)