

Music, Pastoral, Worship Reports: 2023-24

Morning Worship Our pattern of services – Holy Communion on the first Sunday, Morning Worship on the second and fourth Sundays and Together @ 10 on the third Sunday gives plenty of scope for varied styles of music.

We have again greatly benefitted from the musical experience and expertise of Bruce, Eunice and Adrian. Bruce and Eunice choose the hymns/songs for our morning services. They also organise the singers and instrumentalists who give our worship an added dimension. We will continue to develop the repertoire and new singers/instrumentalists are always welcome!

Evening Worship The pattern of 1st Sunday evening services changed in January last year to a 3-monthly cycle: Evening Worship from our worship book, a service of Wholeness and Healing and Choral Evensong. This allows for very varied styles of music which include hymns/songs, Taize chants and traditional choral music. Further information under 'Worship'.

Compline has continued on the 1st Monday of the month. This is a very peaceful and meditative service and I commend it to you all.

Festival Choir The choir sang full Choral Evensong on Palm Sunday, in July and October and most recently on Easter Day. Though the music was new and challenging for some, the choir rose to the occasion each time. They participated in Carols around the Christmas tree held in the church grounds early in December. This was again very well supported and much enjoyed by all present. Thanks go to Rev Nicky for leading it and to Adrian for conducting. Our traditional Christmas Carol Service attracted a choir of over 20 singers and a very large congregation. Thanks to all singers for their support.

Church/School musical links have been strengthened recently with a memorable, moving and much-appreciated Easter Service in the Village Hall. Eunice and Bruce have been visiting the school for some time, rehearsing the children. Their commitment and hard work was clearly evident in the children's enthusiasm and the quality of their singing - thank you both. We look forward to further collaborations in the future.

Thanks to all those who have played and sung on a regular basis: Adrian, Bruce, Eunice, and Kay, not forgetting our band of singers and instrumentalists.

Roger Grose

Pastoral Care

The early church thrived because Christians were good at caring. It was said: "*See how these Christians love each other*".

Jesus' command to 'love one another' means that all must take responsibility for each other. This is an expression, not only of love but also of the particular gifts we

have been given by the Holy Spirit. In a lively and active church, pastoral care will inevitably and rightly spill over into the local community. Practical pastoral activity can be summed up in 3 areas we are developing in our church life:

Care: a role for everyone. Those inside or outside the church will only know that God cares for them when they know what it is to be cared for themselves. It follows that all of us need to look out for, listen to and pray for others.

Communication: keeping people in touch, which shows how their importance is valued. Personal communication apart, we now have an 'Uplyme Pastoral Care' chat on What's App. It has already become invaluable in updating news about our members, but most importantly, signalling those who need our care and our prayers.

Commitment: We were delighted that in January several of our church members committed to the spiritual well-being of older people, and following training were commissioned as Anna Friends. Their support will include home Communion and visits to residential homes. It is a non-judgemental ministry, given to those of strong, little or no faith at all and is given across the Mission Community. Before Christmas, groups visited local care homes to sing carols to residents. Your prayerful support for our Anna Friends would be greatly appreciated.

Roger Grose

Worship

The **Worship Committee** has continued to meet every three months. It works with the AVMC Ministry Team, Uplyme PCC and the Uplyme Worship Team to maintain and develop appropriate patterns and styles of worship which encourage and enable people to come to know and glorify God. We hope that through the variety of services we offer, each person will find their own way to God.

Morning Worship has continued on the 1st and 4th Sundays, now including an all-age song. We are currently exploring greater access for young people to our 1st Sunday Morning Communion. On the 3rd Sunday, Together @ Ten has developed and prospered and the Evening Communion continues.

As detailed in the music report, a 3 monthly cycle of services began early last year and will shortly be reviewed by the Worship Committee.

The **Worship Team** have held quarterly meetings during the year. At each meeting, updates from the latest Worship Committee are given and we discuss a chapter from Bishop John Pritchard's book, '*A Handbook of Christian Ministry*' which has proved both valuable and thought-provoking. We also discuss practical issues arising from past and future services.

The **Telephone Service** has continued to be supported on the second and fourth Sundays at 4 p.m. Although numbers are less than 2020 during lockdown, those attending still find it a helpful form of worship.

Thanks are due to all those who take part in our worship in so many different roles

and particularly to Rev Nicky for her support and encouragement. We are so fortunate to have a group of people willing to commit their time and talents in helping others to worship God

Roger Grose