

2024 Group Reports for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 28/04/25

Worship Reports

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

We have again greatly benefitted from the musical experience and expertise of the team, which in 2024 included Roger, Adrian, Bruce and Eunice, together with Paul on bass, and a regular group of singers, plus instrumental input from Laura on occasions. Eunice and Bruce choose the songs and hymns for our morning services, as well as organising the singers and instrumentalists who give our worship an added dimension. We will continue to develop the repertoire and are always happy to talk to anyone who might like to join the team.

Evening Worship – The pattern of 1st Sunday evening services changed two years ago to a 3-monthly cycle: Evening Worship from our worship book, a service of Wholeness and Healing and Choral Evensong. Although this allows for very varied styles of music which include hymns/songs, Taize chants and traditional choral music, it has been difficult to maintain, and the pattern is changing in 2025 to be Wholeness and Healing every 1st Sunday, and Holy Communion every 3rd Sunday. Kay continues to play for the 1st Sunday evening services, and we are grateful for her support.

Compline, a very peaceful and meditative service, has continued on the 1st Monday of the month.

Festival Choir – The Festival Choir sang several times during the year, including at Easter and the annual Carol Service, and we are grateful to all the singers who join us for these services. Music was organised by Roger and Adrian, also sharing the rehearsals, with the latter keeping track of who is available to sing with us on each occasion, and providing us with the necessary sheet music resources.

Church / School / Community – Eunice, supported by Bruce, worked with the school to produce a much-appreciated Easter Presentation in the Village Hall. We are also grateful for the support of the wider community as well as members of the church, as singers and instrumentalists for this event.

Worship

The **Worship Committee** has continued to meet every three months, working with the AVMC Ministry Team 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 continue to hope that through the variety of services we offer, each person will find their own way to God.

The **Worship Team** have held quarterly meetings during the year. At each meeting, a themed bible discussion is led, and there are updates from the latest Worship Committee meeting. The team also discusses practical issues arising from past and future services.

The **Telephone Service** (now discontinued) was supported on the second and fourth Sundays at 4 pm last year.

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 three 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 includes home Communion and visits to residential homes. It is a non-judgemental ministry, given to those of strong, little or no faith 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 to support their continued mission and those whom they support. Our apologies to other groups if we seem to cross over into their area of responsibility but do feel that directly or in-directly, Pastoral Care in its broadest sense, is at the heart of all we do both in and out of Church. As a part of our commitment to youngsters we are involved with Mrs Ethelston's School, Friday Night Fun, Football, Shining Stars and other specific events and Church services. Likewise, we hold various public events such as quiz nights, film showings, coffee mornings, men's brunch, spring fair and art exhibition as well as regular walks, all of which are open to our whole community. Opportunity for inter-action within the mission community is encouraged and promoted and specific help and support is offered when required; help getting to church or other appointments. For some, church has also become a meeting place for shared interests which presently include meditation, friendship and companionship, choir/music practice and bell ringing. Pastoral Care is by its nature both wide and diverse and as Jesus explained to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful," or to paraphrase, "The opportunities are vast," so let's us all, with one voice and heart, continue to develop our Pastoral Activities whilst also praying that; "The Lord of the harvest will send out more workers into the harvest field."

Amen

Graham and Andrea Sheargold

Children's Ministry Team

The Children's Ministry Team includes all church activities for children and young people.

Together @ Ten - a monthly Sunday morning services which is relaxed & informal, so that families with young children feel welcomed and comfortable. It continues to be well attended by all ages.

Together @ Communion - a monthly Sunday morning services with separate teaching for the children and communion for all. This is a work in progress, and we hope to have more families attending in the future.

Open the Book - part of Mrs Ethelston's school assemblies, this is held in the church every other Tuesday. The acting out of Bible stories an interactive and fun way is very popular.

Shining Stars Playgroup - for under 5's and their parent or carer, this is held at the Scout hut on Friday mornings during term time. Numbers range from 8 to 20 per session with young families from Uplyme, Lyme Regis and the surrounding area.

Friday Night Fun - a variety of activities for children aged 10 to 12 years, held weekly in the church and led by Lucy Smith. The group has grown and is greatly appreciated by parents.

Saturday Morning Football - held on Axminster 3G pitch in the winter and on Uplyme playing fields during the summer and led by Fletch Hulbert. Numbers vary, more attending in the summer.

Outdoor Nativity - A very popular event held in the village hall car park (or hall if wet) in the afternoon of Christmas Eve. Dressing up, singing and taking part in telling the story involves those from the church and the community.

Jan Impey

Technical Team Report

The team has continued to grapple with audio/visual issues during the last year, the current situation being:

Parts of the system have been tested piece by piece and if necessary replaced. We have asked for people's patience over this period but we feel the situation is now at least in a better state, though not perfect.

Issues in hand:

Investigation into a Church Management System have progressed with a survey of user needs and narrowing of possible systems. Three companies look promising and we are in discussions with them. There was delay as we waited for the new Rector to be installed before jumping ahead.

We are in the process of finding out what a complete replacement of the audio/visual system would entail and at what cost.

Thanks go to an anonymous donor and to team members' time and effort, often unseen and unrecognised.

Mike Maccoy

Safeguarding Report

Since the 2024 annual meeting we have continued with the routine safeguarding requirements as they have arisen during the church year. The contact safeguarding details are in the church porch and also in the vestry, the safeguarding policy is updated yearly. We have undertaken DBS verifications for volunteers helping in children's activities when required for renewal and kept the Exeter Diocese online safeguarding audit tool up to date through regular revisiting and reviewing of this.

We held a training day in church in the spring of 2024 with other churches in our Mission Community invited. We have held three of these days so far on a yearly basis with a trainer attending from the diocese.

We are in the process of organising another such day to be held at Uplyme again this spring/summer which will again be advertised to all eight churches.

After 8 years of undertaking the safeguarding role Noreen and Jo are standing down and we are very grateful to Claire Gregory for taking the role forward. We had hoped that the role could be shared again between two people but at the time of writing this has not been possible.

Jo Clarke and Noreen Watson (outgoing representatives)

Claire Gregory - appointed 2025.

Knit & Chatter Group

First of all we would like to thank the church for allowing us to hold our meetings free of charge in the church.

We are a small group, usually between 4 and 8 members at any one time. We ask for a voluntary 50p contribution per session and use the money collected to pay for the postage to the 'Baby Bear' distribution centre in Walsall. 'Baby Bear' is a charity that

sends newborn baby sets plus a teddy to St Mary's church in Durban, South Africa. Without these baby sets the babies are sent home wrapped in newspaper. We have sent four parcels to the charity this year. The latest parcels weighed in at just under 6 kg. This postage is our only cost. We hold enough money to cover future postage and any extra money we give to the church via Jenny Perham – signed and accounted for in our 'accounts' book. Exeter Hospital appealed for knitted hats for premature and newborn babies and some of our members happily obliged.

This year we established a contact with Alan and Lynne Vian with a view to knitting for Ukraine. So far we have delivered two very large parcels with a variety of baby clothes and jumpers etc for boys and girls. It is a pleasure to have the freedom to knit any style. 'Baby Bear' necessarily has rules to keep their baby sets more or less uniform. At our second Ukraine delivery, one knitting group member was able to contribute some new and nearly new adult clothes. A welcome extra to include with our knitting.

We met Lynne Yian who explained that it wasn't just the much needed goods that were appreciated, but also the message that it sends of love and of not being forgotten. Lynne had lots of potted plants outside her home to be sold at various markets during the Spring and Summer. Needless to say the group immediately responded with a 'shipment' of plants to add to Lynne's collection.

Our knitting has been supplemented this year by a keen knitting friend of one of our members. She can't come to the Tuesday meeting but wanted an outlet for her knitting. We are delighted and hope that this might inspire other people.

More good fortune – a member who is a professional knitter gifted us clothes that had not sold within a time limit. She also followed up a 'free-to-a-good-cause' Facebook message and secured a large bag of beautiful yarn which was promptly knitted up into jumpers for boys and girls. All are already on their way to Ukraine.

There is always a happy and welcoming atmosphere with the chance to make new friends and keep in touch with the community.

With great enthusiasm we have become more diverse this year in the charities whom we have supported. Though there will always be room for personal projects.

Elizabeth Cooper

News from Mrs Ethelston's School

The school continues to thrive under Mrs Allison (Katie Lyons having married.) There are many church school links, with services run by the school within the Church several times a week, plus /Christmas candlelit service, carols around the Christmas tree in their playground led by Adrian Pearson. Jo Cursley listens to readers most weeks, but the school is always looking for more volunteers to carry out this valuable service. Bruce and Eunice Roberts led a wonderful Easter Service within the Village Hall, supported by members of the church and attended by both parents and church members. The children had been taught songs by Eunice and Bruce and their rehearsals paid off well on the two occasions they performed within the village hall. They were appreciative of having real musicians accompanying them and adults singing as part of their choir. Reverend Nicky Davies has constant contact with the school

The school is now part of First Federation. This has meant that while some of the directors are still working for Mrs Ethelston's, some have now stood down as has the previous CEO, Andrea Rice. Many of the former trustees are now no longer working for Mrs Ethelston's, including Brian Impey who worked for several years as the Chair of the Board. He has done a lot of valuable work for Mrs Ethelston's, and many thanks are due to him for his service.

Jo Cursley stood down as Chair of the Governors for Mrs Ethelston's when her husband became so ill, and then sadly died in December. Bruce Roberts kindly agreed to be the school link for the Church and the new Chair of Governors is Hannah Betchley.

Uplyme Gospel Singers

We had an interesting year with frequent changes of leader while Chloe remained on Maternity Leave.

Pete Linnett kindly joined us to lead with a very different approach from Chloe, relying more on auditory memory which some members loved but others found difficult. There were a couple of members who enjoyed his approach so much that they have now left us to sing with his choir in Lyme. During this time, the Town Band asked us to share a concert with him towards Christmas. Although Pete was not interested in taking this on, after dipping numbers during the summer, sometimes as few as six, our next leader Anna Gregory willingly led us onward. Anna taught us many new techniques. We enjoyed her sessions and we regained some members and also gained some new ones. Joining another of her choirs with us, she led the choir part of the concert really well. Anna has said that she would be very happy to help us out again if we need her to.

Jo Cursley

Parish News

The Parish news has continued producing the 12 issues during 2024 - 25 and having moved production to Axminster Printing, it has proved to be much better and allowed us to set the deadline a bit later.

Advertising has been steady, and we are now pretty much full with adverts, although we will always look if businesses want to put something in.

One or two more groups have been submitting items and interspersed with the usual reports and some general National Churches articles, the magazine makes for good informative reading.

Robin Hodges - Editor

Saturday Morning Football

The club meets weekly on Saturday mornings between 9:00am and 10:00am at the Uplyme KGV Playing fields and at Axminster Sports Centre. The club operates between September and May each year with a short break over the Christmas period.

Players are welcome to attend as regularly as possible but it is not mandatory, Our numbers therefore fluctuate each week. In the period up to December 2024, we had around 10 young people joining us each week (although numbers have increased in Q1 2025).

We currently have 5 regular coaches plus 1 backup coach and a young leader who is helping the group while working on his DOE qualification.

The club has limited costs with the Church paying an annual donation to the KGV Trustees for the use of the playing fields. Parents pay a small donation towards the hire of the Axminster artificial pitch which has historically been supplemented by a donation from the Uplyme Community Fund (contact Martin Whitehead).

Fletcher Hulbert

Building team report.

1 Boiler Serviced in June 2024 and gas pressure checked at meter point.

2 Bell frame refurbishment: This work was completed in July 2024.

- 3 Tower clock: there is an annual service of the clock completed in October 2024. The pulleys are to be oiled quarterly.
- 4 Remove dead cherry tree in front churchyard
- 5 Damaged stonework repaired to pillar adjacent to the east end of the gallery.
- 6 Trapdoor to bell chamber can now be opened and closed from the bell ringing floor.
- 7 New bolt and lock to tower access door
- 8 Repair and repaint doors to the gas meter cupboard, church shed, boiler room and outside door to the office.
- 9 James has replaced tyres on the tower to stop the copper roof covering lifting in certain wind conditions.
- 10 Quinquennial inspection done on the 4th October, Andy Bateman, Andrew Lightfoot and Sue Wells were in attendance. It was a very comprehensive and thorough inspection and the report and invoice were received in January 2025. A list of 14 jobs were identified from the report that can be done in house.
- 11 Fire extinguishers have been serviced.
- 12 Additional bike rack fitted close to the other one
- 13 The gutter above the boiler room to the north side of church has been cleared.
- 14 Pat Tested carried out on church appliances.
- 15 Looking to the future - Electrical Installation Testing carried out and outside cabling to lights failed and may need replacing. The Quinquennial identified several large matters and these have been allocated among members of the Building Committee. These various works will not be cheap and we are fortunate to have the fabric fund to help cover these costs. In particular - Specifications for masonry repair work have been drawn up with a view to getting quotes. A specification was drawn up for work on the roof and gutters and a quote obtained and accepted

Rob Walker

Charities Report

Uplyme PCC has supported the following 3 charities for a period of 3 years until April 2025 when the position will be reviewed. The charities are:-

- 1) **The Busoga Trust**, a charity working to rehabilitate and construct wells, boreholes, latrines and wash rooms in Uganda.
- 2) **Ekisa Ministries**, which supports children with special needs in Uganda so that they can thrive in communities and families
- 3) **St Petrock's Exeter Ltd**, who support homeless and vulnerably housed people in the Exeter area.

The main fundraising events for these 3 charities were the donation of 50% of the proceeds of our gift day (£2445 plus some gift aid money) and the funds raised at the Art Exhibition (£1593) in August 2024. In addition specific events and collections have been held to support Transform Trade, Tear Fund and the Axminster food bank. With other donations a total amount of £5,444 was paid out to Charities in 2024 as follows:

The Busoga Trust	£1575
Ekisa Ministries	£1575
St Petrock's	£1575
Axe Food Bank	£298
Tear Fund	£292
Ukraine	£30

We have received grateful thanks from all these charities for our support and it is hoped that we will continue to build our relationships with them in the future.

Sharyn Walker Treasurer Uplyme PCC

Flower Arrangers Group

The Uplyme Church Flower Arrangers Group “Floweries” are pleased to report a very happy and successful year.

We number 11 of regular contributors, working together for the main events of the year Easter, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas and working individually on a rota basis for all the other weeks excepting of course Lent and Advent.

We had a lovely time preparing and presenting the Flower Festival in August following the theme set by the Uplyme & Lyme Regis Horticultural Society for their Summer Show – Herbs. The church looked and smelled amazing. It was a very hot week and keeping herbs and flowers from wilting was no mean feat! It was very well received and with our refreshment table taking donations for teas coffees and delicious cakes we made £320!

We donated £170 to church funds with £150 going back into our flower fund for buying replacement vases, vessels and other necessities. Straight after the festival the Horticultural Society asked us to join them again in 2025 the theme will be Meadows, enthusiasm for this challenge is high and we look forward very much to creating again! We all took part in the Remembrance Day decorating in November which saw us pulling out of storage the huge nets holding hundreds of knitted and crocheted poppies which were draped over the altar, pulpit and under the bell tower. With window displays and a further net at the bottom of the path it was definitely eye catching and provoked a lot of comment.

Christmas arrangements 2024 were on a theme of Christmas carols, which was great fun!

We sort out and tidy our small area behind the curtains every Spring but it gets very cluttered and is often a dumping ground for all and sundry, we keep pedestals and larger items in the shed at the back but with no lighting its often difficult to access.

The Floweries are a very happy and enthusiastic bunch of volunteers and I am constantly in awe of what they achieve.

The Uplyme Church Flower Arrangers Group

Carole Hodges, Jenny Perham, Sue Wells, Paulene Frost, Jo Clarke, Pam Cridge, Tessa Prescott, Sam Neal, Sam Pennington, Heather Pullinger and Gill Martin

Wednesday Prayer Group

Ten of us have continued to meet regularly. We have particularly needed the guidance of The Holy Spirit during this year of tumultuous events. We have enjoyed mutual personal encouragement in sharing family as well as church fellowship matters. Due to her immobility, we have continued to meet at Shirley Hobden’s home. It is an immense privilege to be reminded that, by faith and persistence, we can replicate scriptural accounts of God answering prayers for the relief of national as well as personal challenges. Elijah in 1 Kings 18 verse 38 prayed until “The fire of the Lord fell”. This led to the removal of the evil regime ruling Israel at that time. A reminder that nothing is impossible when we pray in the name of our Lord Jesus. During the year we’ve seen amazing answers to our prayers and thank God for His goodness. Do consider joining us.

David Dare

Shining Stars Playgroup

Shining Stars is Uplyme church's playgroup which meets every Friday morning during term time at the Scout hut in Rhode Lane. We are open to all parents, grandparents and carers with children under 5 years old, providing a friendly place in which adults can relax and children can play safely. The average attendance for 2024 was 13 children (including babies) per session.

This outreach group supports families from Uplyme and the surrounding area, many of whom do not attend any church. The sessions start with a warm welcome and refreshments for the adults while the children enjoy free play. After tidy up time we sing a welcome song and say a short thank you prayer before the children have their healthy snack and listen to a story. This is followed by songs and parachute games. We say goodbye to each children with our bubble song.

We are blessed to have many volunteers from the church and the local community. DBS checks, safeguarding training and risk assessments are organised through Uplyme Church to ensure everyone is kept safe. Term dates, contact details and other appropriate local events are included in the termly newsletter which is also posted on our Facebook page and the church website

Jan Impey

Art Exhibition

'I am amazed at the quality and standard of work for such a small place.'

That was one of the many visitors' comments about the Art Exhibition which takes place annually at Uplyme Church. The church's flexible layout displayed the huge variety of paintings and craft work. Thirty-five local artists, from amateurs to professionals, entered over 100 exhibits for our extended 4-day exhibition. This year the ages ranged from an art student to artists in their 80's. The overall impression was fresh, colourful and invigorating. Uplyme Church sees itself as part of the community, opening its doors not only for worship, but for a wide range of activities involving all age groups. It was lovely to see so many visitors and local people enjoy the event. A big thank you to all of you who brought friends and family. The final sum raised was £1,500, with donations still to come. The money raised will be split between three charities: Exeter-based St. Petrock's Charity for the Homeless and two African charities – the Ekisa Ministries caring for children living with disability and the Bosuga Trust which provides clean water and sanitation. Finally, the organisers would like to thank the many people who contributed to making our 2024 Art Exhibition such a success.

Sheila Stratton

Open the Book

Uplyme Church enjoys a strong relationship with Mrs. Ethelston's Primary School through Tuesday worship, part of the Children's Ministry. 'Open the book' offers the children the opportunity to share bible stories, presented by an enthusiastic and committed team from Uplyme Church. Every fortnight, the school takes part in bringing stories to life through action, song, and drama.

In 2024, 'Open the Book' was taken over by the Bible Society whose aim is to present bible stories in a way which is acceptable and accessible to the widest possible audience. The children have enjoyed worship through our music resource - 'Fischy Music'. This academic year we have focused on the Creation stories and characters from the Old Testament.

Sheila Stratton

Home Group - Anne Hardman and Carole Fowkes

We continue to be a group of some 11 members.

We meet fortnightly on a Wednesday 2.30 -4pm. We normally meet at Anne and David's house but on occasions Rob and Sharyn Walker have hosted the group if the usual hosts are not available.

A variety of resources have been explored over the year. Using study booklets we have been challenged as we looked at some thought provoking areas namely 'The Apostles Creed' and 'The Cross'. Not only did it stretch us in a variety of ways but at the end we felt we had gained a great deal. After Easter we intend looking at the Letter to the Hebrews

We share readings, prayers and leadership amongst the group and all of us have to do a bit of preparation prior to the meeting but there is always time at the start and end for some catching up and some supportive fellowship.

Twice a year we have a social occasion normally at Christmas/ New Year and in the summer prior to our August break.

We can accommodate around 12 people so if anyone would like to join our very welcoming group please contact Anne, Carole or David.

Anne and David Hardman, Carole Fowkes

Badgers Brook Housegroup

The Housegroup continues to meet fortnightly on a Tuesday morning from 9.30 until approximately 11.00. We enjoy fellowship over a cup of tea/coffee, worship and pray together, and study God's word.

In September we welcomed a new member, so our total membership is now 9.

We finished our reading of John's gospel at the end of summer. Since then, we have been looking at the Old Testament book of 1 Samuel and considering the themes of kingship and leadership. If anyone is interested in joining the group, please feel free to contact

Philip Tolhurst.

Men's Brunch

After a slightly difficult year, I am delighted to say that the future of the Men's Brunch looks very positive. It has always been the intention that the membership should be equally divided between those who come to our church and those from outside. With 24 members regularly attending the 50/50 target has been reached. Now we have a small team helping with advising on the selection of future speakers, which is a fantastic boost in securing our future.

Martin Wells

Black Dog Coffee Morning

Coffee Morning on the first Thursday of the month continues to meet at the Black Dog where we regularly serve up to 12 guests from both Church and the local community. Coffee is very reasonably priced and includes chat and a good selection of biscuits. Do come along if you're able, new faces are always welcome and it is a great way to meet and make new friends. For details contact Graham and Andrea Sheargold on 01297 442095. All are welcome.

Graham Sheargold

Bell Ringing

The year since the APCM in 2024 has been a busy time for the bell ringers at Uplyme. We total a group of 10-12 ringers lead by Tower Captain Andy Jarvis and we are able to

provide the bells to be rung at all of our weekly church services (both 10 am and 6pm) as well other events in the church calendar.

During 2024 work was undertaken on the refurbishment of the bell frames, a need that was long required and which keeps the bells and frames in safe working order. In November we undertook a fundraising day to support the upkeep of the bells. This included ringers from other towers joining us to ring the Uplyme bells. Refreshments were provided with the day coinciding with one of the monthly community walks and lunches. We raised around £500 and some of this will go towards some new Muffles. Muffles are attached to bells when we ring for Remembrance Day and funerals, they do render a particularly beautiful sound.

We have rang the bells at other church and village events such as the Christmas and Spring Fairs, the Uplyme Horticultural Society show and the Village fete. We also advertise in the Parish magazine to ring for special personal occasions such as birthdays and anniversaries with the hope that this could also raise some money towards the upkeep.

We have had the children from Friday Night Fun have a session ringing with us and we have some new adult learners. With the kind support of Uplyme PCC we have acquired polo shirts with our logo embroidered. The colour of the polo shirts matching the blue of the church ceiling and the embroidery in yellow/gold to match the ceiling stars. These polo shirts are our 'uniform' and are worn on Sundays and ringing for special occasions such as weddings.

We hold our practice nights on Thursdays 7.30-9 pm. We are a friendly bunch and welcome any new members whether with previous experience or novices.

Jo Clarke

Community Walk

These monthly walks have been very successful with half church and half community averaging around 18 people each time. They are led by different people and those who are not able to walk, come and join us for lunch. Thanks to Martin Wells and Jenny Perham who stay in church as coffee makers and welcoming receptionists!

Sue Wells

Meditation Group

This is the fourth year that the Meditation group has been running at Uplyme Church. We start in September and run through to the beginning of July when there is a Quiet day at Hilfield friary to round off our year. This year we were joined in September by John Rhodes our Area Representative for WCCM who came to meditate with us. There are about a dozen people who attend, which includes people who do not attend church regularly or who are non-church goers.

Catherine Lightfoot