



APCM 2026

**GROUP  
REPORTS 2025**



The Parish Church of  
St Peter and St Paul

Uplyme Church  
Pound Lane  
Uplyme DT7 3TT

Charity number 1131962

## **2025 Group Reports**

for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 28/04/26

This booklet offers a glimpse of the many groups and activities that make up the life of our church. We are very grateful to everyone who has taken the time to contribute a report and to share something of all that happened during 2025.

To keep the booklet to a manageable size - and to avoid testing the patience of both readers and printers - some reports have been shortened and lists of individual names have generally been removed. This is simply a matter of space, not importance. The life of our church is supported by the gifts, time and care of many people - far more than could ever be named here.

We hope these pages give a sense of the fellowship, service and shared life that we enjoy together, and we give thanks for everyone who helps make our church community what it is.

**Rev Nicky Davies**

## **Worship Reports**

**Morning services** - Our pattern of services has continued largely unchanged through 2025, with 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, giving plenty of scope for varied styles of music and worship. We try to ensure that the songs chosen are linked to the readings, and to use a mixture of more modern songs alongside appropriate hymns and songs from the church hymnbook.

The regular team includes many talented singers and instrumentalists. 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 services** - The pattern of Sunday evening services has been the same throughout 2025, with a service of Wholeness and Healing on the 1st Sunday of each month, and Holy Communion on each 3rd Sunday. Kay continues to play for the 1st Sunday evening services, as well as choosing the hymns for this service each month, and we are very grateful for her support. Adrian usually plays for the 3rd Sunday Holy Communion services, while we choose the hymns.

**Compline** - a very peaceful and meditative early evening service, has continued on the 1st Monday of each month.

**Festival Choir** - The Uplyme Church Festival Choir convened five times in 2025.

The shock of the sudden and very sad loss of our co-founder Roger at the beginning of the year was immense. In our small but important way we felt gladdened to be able to say farewell to Roger musically at his Service of Thanksgiving by singing a Rutter anthem and leading the singing of several of his favourite hymns. Our Easter Sunday evening Songs of Praise service was a more joyful occasion and well attended. The next two choir gatherings were to contribute to morning services at Pentecost and Harvest. Our final event of the year was the traditional Carols by Candlelight, when 20 choristers convened to sing, among other items, "Mary, Did You Know?" and "All Bells in Paradise". Members of the choir also during the year contributed more informally to the singing at the Light a Candle and Remembrance services and to the Carols under the Tree event.

**Worship Committee** - comprising Rev Nicky, Bruce, Eunice and Adrian, has continued to meet every three months, working 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.

**Worship Team** - comprising all those who lead or speak at our services, continues to meet quarterly through the year. At each meeting, there is usually an open discussion, updates from the latest Worship Committee meeting, and consideration of practical issues arising from past and future services.

**Eunice Roberts, Bruce Roberts and Adrian Pearson**

### **Church / School / Community**

We have continued to strengthen the relationship between the church and Mrs Ethelston's Primary School next door. The school uses the church extensively, as there is no hall at the school, so the children are very familiar with the space. Throughout school term times, Rev Nicky conducts a whole school assembly every other Tuesday morning, supported by Eunice and Bruce, with the 'Open The Book' team from the church acting out bible stories on alternate Tuesdays. Rev Nicky is well known to the school. Eunice, supported by Bruce alongside members of the church and the wider community, produced another much-appreciated Easter Presentation in the Village Hall, and we continue to be grateful for the support of the community and members of the church for this event. Bruce has been the 'school link' with the church throughout 2025, as well being on the local governing body of the school. We have collectively been encouraging the school, families and staff, to come to church services and events.

**Bruce Roberts**

### **Anna Chaplains and Friends**

Anna chaplains and Anna friends who work with them are a relatively new and rapidly spreading ministry started in 2014 by Debbie Thrower. She found that her parents, regular church members for many years, received little spiritual support following their admission to a care home. We are named after Anna, the prophetess in the temple. We receive training and are accountable to our local ministry teams. In the Axminster area we are a team

which includes several members of the Uplyme church. We hold monthly services in local care homes and visit elderly people in their own home.

**Jackie Gannaway**

### **Safeguarding**

Since the 2025 APCM we have continued fulfilling routine safeguarding requirements as they arise. Jo Clarke and Noreen Watson as DBS verifiers have undertaken the DBS checks for people in new roles and renewals, and we have regularly reviewed and updated the Exeter diocese online audit tool (the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard) and a new extension (the Hub). These online platforms have been designed to facilitate our compliance with safeguarding requirements and are likely to be further developed in the future. The safeguarding contact details are displayed in the church porch and the vestry, and the Parish Safeguarding policy was reviewed and updated by PCC in June. We held a well-attended in-person safeguarding training session in May which was led by a trainer from the diocese and included people from the other AVMC churches. We are hoping to arrange another training session this year.

**Claire Gregory**

### **Wednesday Prayer Group**

The Prayer Group continues to meet every Wednesday at 10.00 for about 30 minutes. We have for the most part of 2025 met in Shirley's home due to her frail health and inability to come to church for our prayer meeting. Shirley has recently moved into Bymead Care Home so we have been holding our prayer group there, enjoying fellowship with Shirley but also continuing with our intercessory prayers – this includes praying for other people's needs and situations throughout the world.

We normally open our prayer meeting with verses of scripture which often directs our prayers as we seek guidance from our Lord. We have no prescribed prayer list, sharing what's on our hearts and minds seeking guidance as we know that when we meet as a Group Jesus is with us by His Holy Spirit as promised in Matthew c18 v20. Our prayers are varied and can include such needs as those shown on the Prayer Fireplace board mounted in the church but regularly include those who are suffering in body, mind or spirit. Whilst we

have seen God answer many of our prayers we are well aware that some needs and situations require persistence prayer so we continue to knock on God's door for His answers! Our greatest hope is that more people will come, in faith, to know Jesus and build an intimate relationship with Him. So we regularly pray not only for our own witness but that Uplyme Church will be empowered by His Holy Spirit to make known the Gospel of Christ. We believe this prayer group, which has been meeting for many years, is a valuable ministry for our church and should you be interested in joining you are very welcome.

**Andy Bateman**

### **Home Group**

We continue to be a group of some 11 members. We meet fortnightly on a Wednesday and normally meet at Anne and David's house but on occasions Rob and Sharyn have hosted the group if the usual hosts are not available. Over the years we have used a wide variety of written and visual resources. Usually they stretch us in unexpected ways but at the end we invariably feel we have gained a great deal. 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.

**David Hardman**

### **Meditation Group**

This has been our fifth year of Meditation at Uplyme church. We start in September and continue through till July on a Tuesday afternoon. In July we had our annual pilgrimage to Hilfield Friary for another Quiet day which was led very successfully by Rob Smith. Our numbers vary as members are not able to attend each week but we still have a core of about eight for each meditation time, including those who do not attend church very often.

**Catherine Lightfoot**

## **Flower Arrangers Group**

The Uplyme Church Flower Arrangers Group “Floweries” are pleased to report another very happy and successful year. The group has 12 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 Lent and Advent where we follow the tradition of no flowers in church as periods of penitence, reflection and preparation. To support the village schools celebrations of Christmas at the end of term we usually decorate the church for Gaudete Sunday ensuring the church is also then looking festive for the churches Christmas services.

The 2025 Flower Festival took its theme from the Uplyme Horticultural Societies theme of Meadows which was well received by many visitors. We were open with stewarding for two days and the Sunday was a quiet day for viewing between services. We again decorated the church for Remembrance Day, using the net poppies over the pulpit and the altar and the tower balcony, with individual arrangements in the windows.

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

**Carole Hodges**

## **Bell Ringers**

In 2025 we rang the bells for Sunday morning services and some Sunday evening services. We have rung for national events such as VE Day, and local events such as the Devon Association of Bell Ringers Centenary, the church’s Spring and Christmas Fairs and the Horticultural Society Summer Show. We also offer to ring for special family events and this is advertised in the Parish News. In 2025 we rang for one Uplyme resident who celebrated their 100th birthday. Following a fundraising event and the support of the PCC we were able to buy some new Muffles which are used for Remembrance Sunday and some funerals. They muffle the sound of each bell giving them a special resonance. We also had teams of visiting ringers coming to ring our bells particularly as the are known to be a set of bells that are a joy to ring. We are a regular team of 6 to 8 ringers and have two learners at present. We are also supported by ringers from other towers who help ring with us and help us with special events. We are also very appreciative of the support we receive from the PCC and Uplyme Church congregation.

**Jo Clarke**

## Charities Report

Uplyme PCC agreed in June 2025 to support the following two charities for a period of three years until April 2028 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. St Petrock's Exeter Ltd , who support homeless and vulnerably housed people in the Exeter area. Emma, from St Petrocks, came to speak at our July service.

Ekisa, a charity working with disabled children in Uganda was also supported to March 2025.

The main fundraising events for these 2 charities were the donation of 50% of the proceeds of our gift day (£1943 plus some gift aid money) and the funds raised at the Art Exhibition (£1682) in August 2025 plus the profits from a Quiz Night (£750). In addition specific events and collections have been held to support Tear Fund, Christians Against Poverty, The Childrens' Society, Royal British Legion and the Axminster food bank.

With other donations a total amount of £6114 was paid out to the charities supported in 2025 with major donations being:-

The Busoga Trust	£ 2,340
St Petrocks	£ 2,340
Ekisa	£ 266

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. The Busoga Trust have named a further repaired well after Uplyme Church in 2025.

**Sharyn Walker**

## Electoral Roll

2025 was the year for the complete renewal of the Electoral Roll (once every six years).

This was carried out successfully in time for the APCM 2025 and the number recorded was 66. The previous Roll was 78.

Below is an interesting statistic based on people's addresses:

	Nos	%
Uplyme	35	53
Lyme	16	24

Axminster	8	12
Bridport	1	2
Charmouth	3	5
Rousdon	3	5

## **Mike Maccoy**

### **Deanery Synod**

The Synod met three times this past year and the change in format has made a big difference. Most parishes are still suffering financially after the Covid pandemic. But the diversity and breadth of things going on has been exciting. The introduction of “Just One Thing” - which asks parishes to bring to the meeting a positive action or event that has happened in their parish since we last met - has been a great source of encouragement and inspiration to others. The visit of +Mike in November was very well attended and the Five Strategic Priorities of the Diocese were talked about - Missional Leadership, Vocations, Children and Young People and Mixed Ecology. The Synod is looking forward to the Visit of +Moria in March. This year sees the triennial election of parochial lay representatives to Deanery Synods. Reps from our parish will be elected for the next three years. It would be good to have some more representation on Synod.

## **Robin Hodges**

### **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. The children have enjoyed worship through our music resource - ‘Fischy Music’. This academic year we have focused characters from the Old Testament and then the Story of Jesus.

## **Sheila Stratton**

## **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 and informal, so that families with young children feel welcomed and comfortable. This service has grown during 2025 and enjoyed by a broad range of ages.

**Together @ Communion** - a monthly Sunday morning services with separate teaching for the children and communion for all. This has not taken off as hoped but we continue to encourage our Together @ Ten families to attend.

**Junior Church** - resources are provided for all morning services (except Together @ Ten) for two volunteers to teach children who wish to join them in the vestry during the sermon. So far this has only been used occasionally.

**Open the Book** - this is held in the church every other Tuesday during term time as part of Mrs Ethelston's school assemblies. The acting out of Bible stories an interactive and fun way is very popular. The volunteers have also brought their skills to church services

**Shining Stars Playgroup** - is for under 5's and their parent or carer and held at the Scout hut on Friday mornings during term time. In 2025 their were between 9 and 20 children per session from Uplyme, Lyme Regis and the surrounding area.

**Church Cafe** - is a new morning group providing refreshments, crafts and toys for families with young children and toddlers. It's held once per month during term time and weekly during the holidays. Attendance has been very encouraging.

**Friday Night Fun** - provides a variety of activities including crafts, games, films and walks. FNF for young people aged 10 to 13 and held weekly during term time in the church. Bible & Bites & Bible - follows FNF sessions but for the teenagers only. Food is provided while our Team Vicar uses a range or resource to help the teenagers engage with the bible. The discussion have been very encouraging.

**Saturday Morning Football** - held on Axminster's 3G pitch in the bad weather and on Uplyme playing fields when it's dryer. An average of 10 to 12 primary aged children attend each week from September to May. Two new coaches have joined the ranks and been DBS checked.

**Outdoor Nativity** - A very popular event held in the church on Christmas eve. Dressing up, singing and taking part in telling the

Christmas story involves those from the church and the community of all ages.

## **Jan Impey**

### **Building Team**

Following the Quinquennial inspection done on the 4th October 2024, specifications were drawn up for 2 major items of work by Andy Bateman. These were for 1) General gutter and roof repairs and 2) Work to reinforce the tower structure and general masonry repairs. Both these items were completed in 2025, the roof work by O'Briens and the masonry by Crowstep.

Other works undertaken during the year:

Repairs to West door and South Chancel door.

Old water butt removed and the area tidied to West end of church.

Electrical inspection and PAT testing done

Entrance steps, galley and kitchen steps white lined.

Fitted new halyard to flagpole and purchase new flag.

Tidy and fix WiFi cable from the top of the tower to church interior.

Gas safety check done and fire extinguishers serviced.

Leak to toilet fixed.

*Work in Progress:*

Work on removing old flagpole stump on going as difficult to find appropriate tradesmen. May be able to do the work in house.

Repair required as there is a water leak into bell chamber.

We hope to replace the old rope handrail on the tower staircase with a newer, thicker rope.

## **Rob Walker**

### **Tech Team**

The audio/visual system continued to perplex us as various components were tested/replaced/upgraded during the year. Using an HDMI cable rather than a wireless connection seemed to be the more stable solution and continues to be so. Replacement or updating of the whole system was investigated at some length (thanks to one particular member of the team) which indicated a possible cost of over £15,000. The PCC meeting of November 2025 decided to freeze this plan as there were more pressing matters needing funding.

Church Management System - one member of the team carried out and led a thorough analysis of the various systems available and included feedback from major stakeholders. It is hoped that a decision will be made in early 2026 together with the Team Rector and AVMC admin.

**Mike Maccoy**

### **Social Team**

In 2025 we arranged and participated in a large number of events starting with a quiz in January, followed by Winter Warmers in February and a barn dance in March. There was a spring fayre in April. The art festival was held over several days at the end of August and the Christmas craft fayre was held in November. A second successful quiz was held in November. The social team also helped with organising refreshments for the Dean's talk in January, a Ukrainian evening in July, two social lunches after Sunday services, and a large amount of mince pies and mulled wine around Christmas. We have raised a considerable amount for the church and its charities. All members of the team have worked hard and I am very grateful for their support.

**Jackie Gannaway**

### **Parish News**

The Parish news has continued in its usual format and is widely appreciated around the parish. We now have a good, diverse selection of articles and information appearing, although the magazine can look a bit like the advertising weekly some months. Most of the advertising spots have been taken which is really good, and it seems to be breaking even or returning a small profit.

**Robin Hodges**

### **Community Walk & Lunch**

These monthly walks continue to attract an average of 14 people and 2 dogs on the walks. Each one led by a different leader, some including nature notes along the way. The lunches are very well attended by the walkers and those who join us with an average of 20 people each time. Thanks go to the wonderful variety of cake and soup makers - we always seem to have just the right amount

for everyone each time! And thanks to Martin and Jenny who set up, make coffee and wash up!

**Sue Wells**

### **Black Dog Coffee Morning**

Held on the first Thursday of every month except January, local folk gather to share coffee and chat. Usually we are about a dozen strong and you'll receive as much coffee as you can drink and biscuits for the princely sum of £2.00p. Do come along and join us if you're new to the village or just fancy a change of scene. We're all very friendly and welcome new faces. The group usually meet from about 10.30am to 12.00noon.

**Graham and Andrea Sheargold**

### **Men's Brunch**

We have continued this year to have a variety of Speakers at our Brunch breakfasts at the Talbot Arms hosted by Steve and Wendy. Although the group was originally started with only Members of our Church attending it has always been the aim that we should include others from the community. At the moment we have an average attendance of 20 with only half being Church attendees . This number is as many as the Talbot can cope with but we are always delighted to squeeze any newcomers into our midst.

**Martin Wells**

### **Knit and Chatter**

The knitting group has continued meeting in the church on Wednesdays except for high days and holidays. We have a list of contacts within the group to keep everyone up to date with news and any unexpected changes, for example school use or church services. A 50p voluntary donation per meeting pays for expenses such as postage. Any excess we pass on to the church, a small donation towards the heating we use in the vestry. We are very grateful for the use of the vestry in the cold months of the year. We have supported the Baby Bear project in South Africa for years. It aims to give warmth and comfort to vulnerable families. We concentrate on providing baby sets and knitted teddies for newborn babies. We do have some prolific knitters! This year we

had a heart lifting Christmas card from Ruth Crook who oversees transport of the knitted packs plus the charming knitted bears and ducks mostly knitted by Audrey and Sylvia. I might add that it is not easy to manage to get a smiling face rather than a grumpy visage. Ruth has let us know that now they will be happy to receive knitted garments for toddlers. Quote from Ruth's Christmas letter "...we have continued to maintain our regular monthly pallets each containing 150 packs of baby clothes..... we regularly receive feedback from the Robin Hood Foundation in South Africa - we actually see the smiles on the faces of new mums who receive our packs."

We do have one off requests from time to time, like the call for knitted hats for premature babies at Exeter hospital. Please do send in any requests for charities seeking knitted clothes. We continue to knit for Ukraine, everything is welcomed. It's not necessary to come to the knitting group to donate any jumpers, hats, scarves. Please deliver them to the church and we will include them in our packs. We were delighted to get a Christmas thank you message from Ukraine, courtesy of Alan Vain. accompanied by a tin of chocolates! A very welcome addition to our tea and coffee breaks. We are looking forward to a visit from Alan on February 18th to talk about his work for Ukraine. We are absolutely thrilled to hear that he has photographs of some of the children with toys sent and wearing our jumpers, cardigans and so on. It will be lovely to see the children and families.

The knitting group is also a social affair. This year we treated ourselves to a Christmas meal at the Talbot. It was such a happy success that we are now contemplating options for a cream tea at Easter Time. As of Christmastime Margaret Morgan took over the running of the group. One last thank you for your support.

**Elizabeth Cooper**

## **Uplyme Gospel Singers**

We had a successful year at UGS, with many regular attendees. The group is very supportive of one another and for many it feels like a family. The Singers had two very successful concerts: one at Beer Caves, which was very atmospheric. The amazing acoustics there made our choir sound twice as big! The second concert was held in Axmouth Church as part of their Christmas Tree Festival. It was extremely poignant to sing amongst the beautifully lit trees, and

besides Chloe's expert conducting, we also welcomed the tremendous expertise of Laura on the piano. This was Chloe's final concert with us. She has been a joy and worked patiently with us to give us a wide variety of music over many years. We were sad to see her go and made a special presentation to her. We wish her every joy with her growing family next year. Meanwhile, we will continue in 2026 with new leaders building on the foundations Chloe laid for us. New members are always welcome.

**Jo Cursley**

