

church family matters

April 2017

God says

You will find me when you search for me with all your heart

Jeremiah 29:13

Holy Trinity
Combe Down

St Andrew's
Community Church

LOVE COME DOWN



Sun 7 May
The Firs
10 am-1.30

Invite your friends Flyers available in church today—please do take several to invite friends and neighbours. Some posters available to display in your window.

What to bring the week before

Please bring bunting and gazebos to the church office.

What to bring on the day? A picnic, a picnic rug, deckchairs for a seating area, your friends!

Easter



Mon 10 -Thurs 13 April

Compline Service, HT

9—9.30 pm

A short contemplative service each evening with prayers and times of silence for reflection.

Good Friday, 14 April

Tenebrae Service, HT

9—9.30 pm

A service which recreates the betrayal, abandonment, and agony of Good Friday.



Sun 16 April
Easter Day

One joint 10

am service at at HT with an egg hunt for the children. (Normal worship at StACC on Easter Day).



Please note the following dates of **Joint Services (HT 9 and 10.30 am together)** and **United Services (HT and StACC together)** for the remainder of the year:

WHEN?

WHERE?

SERVICE

Easter Sunday, 10 am

HT

Easter Celebration

Sun 7 May, 10 am

Firs Field

Love Combe Down

Sun 16 July, 10for10.30

St Andrew's

All Age Service

Sun 23 July—27 Aug, 10am HT

HT

Summer Services

Sun 17 Sept, 10.30 am

HT

Kenchington Farewell

Sun 19 Nov, 10.30 am

HT

Missions Sunday

Funky Feet Friday

This Good Friday, 14th April we will be hosting a Funky Feet event at HTCD, 10.30-12pm. Inspired by how



Jesus washed his disciples' feet before his Last supper we will be celebrating all that is foot-related.

This is an event to invite friends of all ages to. There will be a bouncy castle for bouncy feet, a football game for football feet, painting for those with crafty feet and foot pampering and decoration.

There will also be some space for reflection and leaving things at the Foot of the Cross and a brief word and worship time with some opportunity for dancing feet.



Please come and bring others and let us celebrate all that is Good about being saved by

someone who was willing not only to wash our feet but to have his own pierced for us.



Easter Experience



On Monday 27 March, sixty 7 and 8 year olds from Combe Down Primary School came to Holy Trinity to experience the Easter story told through 6 different stations by a team from HT. The children left church after an hour with a playdough shape of a time they felt alone, a stone with an image of their hopes for the future, a chocolate egg and memories of a very vivid encounter of the Easter story.



PCC News

The PCC met on Saturday 11 March and were joined in the morning by staff and other key ministry leaders. In addition to the items covered elsewhere in this edition, the following items were discussed:

The key discussion items in the morning:

- * Love Combe Down (see page 1)
- * Youth Discipleship

James Vaughton, Director of Bath Youth for Christ, shared his thoughts on youth discipleship. In summary, the key is RELATIONSHIP! The PCC considered how we can best support Stuart in this key

ministry.

- * CAP (see page 8)

Finances

The accounts were approved and will be made available to the church family ahead of the APCM. The PCC is continuing to consider how to align our income with our expenditure as we look ahead to 2018 and will be looking at this more in September.

Safeguarding Policy has been updated and is available on the website

Governance Paper has been prepared in order to clearly define responsibilities for our various committees

St Andrew's StACTION Day



St Andrew's held their 4TH StACTION morning on Sat 18th March for the Foxhill community where 2 skips were filled with unwanted items. Thank you to the team for all their help. Money raised from coffee and cakes will go towards supporting our overseas link Turning Point Trust.

Annual Meeting—Wed 26 April

At our Annual Meeting we have the opportunity to celebrate all that God has done in the previous year and look towards the coming year.

Church Warden Elections

Mark Dixon and Carolyn Scriven are stepping down as church wardens. We now have 3 nominations (Christine Absolon, Richard Meryon and David Purdon) for these 2 positions. Clearly we can only have 2 churchwardens, so please spend time between now and the APCM praying and discerning:

- * who are the people of God's choice
- * who will be able to guide our church firmly and gently in co-operation with the PCC, the Staff and all the other people who share leadership
- * who will make a good warden team, along with the deputy wardens.

The role of the church warden is wide reaching—in addition to the spiritual qualities of servant-hearted leadership, the main responsibilities are: (some of these points depend on the individual's availability):

- Personal support for the vicar
- Strategic and prayerful concern

- for the staff and church as a whole
- Churchwarden admin eg reference to the Diocese
- Buildings Committee / Staffing Committee
- PCC
- Standing Committee
- Senior Leadership Team
- Staff support
- Occasional interview panels for new staff
- Encouragement of volunteers
- Church member support
- Welcome
- Crisis management as needed
- Church events attendance/availability
- Bringing ideas
- Administration, including Communion
- Attending Staff prayer meetings

PCC Elections

Susie Houston, Marilyn Perry, Jon Blair and Alan Hodges are standing down as PCC members. If you would like more info about serving on our church council, contact the church office for an information sheet and nomination form (nomination forms need to be returned by to Sarah in the office **by Monday 10th April.**) We would also like to appoint deputy church wardens and elect people to the Deanery Synod.

The logo for the Anglican Parish Church Meeting (APCM) is displayed in a stylized, blue, 3D-effect font.

Review of.....

On Wednesday 22nd March the Pastoral Team from HT hosted an afternoon of information sharing about facilities for the elderly in B&NES.

Pastoral workers from 6 other churches in Bath attended and the main speaker was Jenny Rudge – the health visitor for Combe Down. She explained her work which is with the over 80's and gave lots of helpful advice about how to help elderly people have a healthy and active lifestyle.

We also had speakers from Age UK and the Red Cross who provide excellent facilities and support for older people whether they are in good or poor health.

Everyone left the meeting with a pile of leaflets about services available and having made some good contacts with others involved in similar ministries.



Alpha Our morning and evening Alpha courses have now finished. Thank you to everyone who has given prayer support, helped lead groups and made cakes. Here's some feedback from the participants:

"I came to Alpha with a list of questions in my head. I was prayed for on the Holy Spirit Day and realised afterwards that during the prayer all my questions were answered."

"I would describe Alpha as a friendly and relaxed environment, where no question is off-limits. Amazing food, too!"

"Head knowledge reinforced - heart experience still being sought"

Doing the Alpha Course has made me more aware of the power of prayer! Prayer really works! I have also learnt more about the bible and it has encouraged me to read the bible more.

Prayer, People and Plants

Interview with Anthea

I spent many happy hours in my childhood exploring the Freshford woods, then arrived back here twenty years ago having finished working in London. Most of my working life was people-centred.

After coming to Combe Down the priority became another creation – plants; Paul Langham was new to the parish and I joined the church gardening team. Later I headed up the 9.00 welcome team – and when services changed and children only went to the 2nd service, I remained at the 9 am service.

When I walked into Holy Trinity I knew God was there and I still find it exciting each week to know we have His presence with us. We are so fortunate in our preachers – and there is a greater emphasis on the Holy Spirit than in my previous home church. I have got to know many of the congregation through house groups, and

currently enjoy “Start the Week” on a Monday with serious teaching, and supportive group prayer.

Present Priorities in life are **Prayer, People and Plants** – and the latest initiative I’m involved in is planning for welcoming the new Mulberry Park residents.

My favourite service of the year is the Carol Service just before Christmas. 50 years ago I realised I had become a Christian when the carol words came to life and I knew Jesus came as my Saviour.

The best moments of all – being prayed for and knowing God’s peace and love; and when John and Carol Arnott came from Toronto several years ago, God answered prayers by healing my painful shoulder to enable it to move freely.

A fun moment in church? Every time there is a film clip in church from an American film – I always have an inappropriate giggle!



christians
against
poverty

CAP

Our Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre has been operating for 2 years now and Amanda is visiting an

increasing number of people from our local community. 6 people have so far become debt free and 12 are on route to being debt free. If you would like to be involved in this amazing project, please consider becoming a befriender. This is a special role and is a real opportunity to show God's love to those struggling in poverty.

Can you describe the role of a befriender?

Amanda: A befriender literally becomes a friend to a client who has signed up to get out of debt with CAP. It is a very different role to a support worker, who accompanies me on the first three client home visits before the client has agreed that CAP will act on their behalf. A

befriender provides practical and emotional support to the signed up client and encourages them to keep paying towards their debts. I keep an eye on their payments and inform bendifenders



if they need extra encouragement. Too many people sign up but then find it difficult to maintain paying into their plan which is the key to them becoming debt free.

What is the time commitment?

Amanda: Part of the training requires that a befriender comes on just three initial home visits, each lasting between an hour and two hours to get a greater understanding of what CAP does. Following these visits, I assign a client to a befriender and it is up to the befriender and client how much contact is maintained. This may be as simple as a phone call once a month or inviting them out for a regular coffee or walk.

What qualities/ characteristics does a befriender need?

- * A friendly smile and non judgemental attitude are the prime requisites.
- * No financial knowledge required
- * A willingness to share your faith
- * Training will be given

If you would like to find out more, please do contact Amanda (07525 855990) – she'll be delighted to hear from you!