

church family matters

May 2017

Godsays
HTCD

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

Jeremiah 29:13

Holy Trinity
Combe Down
HTCD

St Andrew's
Community Church
HTCD



ONLY A WEEK TO GO TILL
LOVE COMBE DOWN, ON THE FIRS FIELD
SUNDAY 7 MAY, 10 AM—1.30 PM



Invite your friends—plenty of flyers still available at the back of church, or if you'd like an 'e-flyer', contact the church office



Please sign up in church to bring a cake on the day



Please bring bunting and gazebos to the church office next week



Please bring deckchairs and picnic rugs to the Firs on the day



Pick up a 'Try Praying' booklet in church to use this week then pass on to a friend

Benefice Easter Review

Easter Crafts (a big thank you to Caroline Wheeldon and the team), Compline and Tenebrae in Holy Week (thank you to Alan Hodges), St Andrew's Easter Celebration and the events below provided a great range of expressions of worship to approach Easter and celebrate what Jesus did on the cross.

FUNKY FEET FRIDAY



This year the focus of the Good Friday Family event was FEET inspired by Jesus who washed his disciples' feet and then had his own feet pierced for us.

The church was full of families from our church and our wider community. By the end over 80 had joined in with bouncing feet, football feet and dancing feet. Many feet left more beautiful than they arrived with painted toes and tattoos, ready to share Good News. Painting feet created some flowers that decorated church on Easter Day.

Many children's feet were washed. The adults were more reluctant to bare their toes showing the intimate act Jesus offered his disciples is still hard to accept today. The talk emphasised Jesus's footprints and how we can follow his example and many responded by sticking their named footprint to the cross.

EASTER DAY AT HT

At 10 am the whole church family came together to celebrate Easter—such was the buzz of God's presence and excitement at celebrating Easter that Paul very nearly forgot to go to Monkton Combe to the 11 am service—he was aiming to be there at 11.30 and just made it for 12 pm. The MC congregation were very forgiving!



GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE AT MONKTON COMBE

A reflective service focused on 6 shadows, for walking through Good Friday events. At the end of the service, people were invited to come to the foot of the cross, having written on a slip of rice paper things they wanted to bring to Jesus. The rice paper was then put into a bowl of water in front of the remaining lit candle and the rice paper dissolved. This created a very intimate moment.

Dying Matters Cafe

We all find it hard to talk about death and dying, perhaps one of the last taboo subjects left, but it's so important - we will all die sometime, (unless Christ returns soon), and will all experience bereavement at some point.

'Grave Talk' is a new Church of England resource and has thought provoking questions on different topics:

LIFE— "How would you like to be remembered?"

DEATH— "What does it mean to have a good death?"

SOCIETY— "How has our culture shaped our thinking about death?"

FUNERALS— "What will happen when you die?"

GRIEF— "what is the reality of loss and how do you experience it? Do we recover from grief?"

These questions are designed to be used in a relaxed café space and people will sit around in small groups, with a facilitator and discussing whichever questions interest them.

Chris Absolon, a member of HT, and the palliative care GP lead for Somerset has worked as a doctor at Dorothy House Hospice. He has run 'Dying Matters Cafes' elsewhere.

Chris: "My experience is that people have great conversations, some of which may be moving, but people genuinely feel better afterwards. So do come to talk about death and dying in a safe way and invite your friends and neighbours. The resources are produced by the Church of England, but there won't be a talk or prayers, so it is very accessible to all."

Dying Matters Café

Wed 17 May

7.30—9 pm

St Andrew's



Paul's retirement

Paul has now set his date for retirement, which will be the end of September.

Paul's last Sunday in HT will be Sunday 17th Sept. On that Sunday we will be having a joint service at Holy Trinity at 10.30 am to mark the end of Paul and Clare's time with us and to say farewell to them. There will be a bring and share lunch following this service. There will be an opportunity for the St Andrew's church family to say farewell to the Kenchingtons on Sunday 10th September with a service and bring and share lunch.

Paul: "We are currently buying a house in the



countryside to the south of Painswick from which we will have a view across the valley to the Painswick Beacon. Strangely, having spent much of my youth playing squash, the building happens to be a converted squash court! We are looking forward to reconnecting with friends and family in Gloucester and the surrounding area (and of course keeping in touch with friends here). Clare is looking forward to completing the Cotswold Way and to me joining her on more of these walks than is currently possible!"

Farewell Services for Paul and Clare:

Sun 10 Sept, StACC

10.30 Service followed by lunch

Sun 17 Sept, HTCD

One joint service at 10.30 am followed by lunch

Annual Meeting—Wed 26 April

Our Annual Meeting provided the opportunity to celebrate all that God has done in the previous year and look towards the coming year. Thank you to everyone who came—the meeting was very well attended with over 120 people present.

Elections were held for church wardens, and after a very close vote, Christine Absolon and David Purdon were elected as our new church wardens. Thank you too to Richard Meryon for standing for election and for so graciously expressing his willingness to serve under Christine and David.

Paul expressed his thanks to Mark Dixon and Carolyn Scriven, our outgoing church wardens, and they were presented with cards and presents.

David LeTall (for HT) and Peter Houston (for StACC) were elected as deputy church wardens.

Paul thanked the following people who have stepped down as PCC members: Marilyn Perry, Susie Houston (deputy church warden), Jon

Blair and Alan Hodges (Deanery Synod Member).

The following people have now been elected onto the PCC: Sally Hogg, Stuart Mitchell, Mark Humphriss

Reports were given from John Talbot (finance), Mark Dixon (buildings), Ali Sturgess-Durden (staffing).

The following people shared testimonies:

Dan Young—about his experiences as a curate here covering such a range of services and ministries

Martin Gilmore—about his ministry to the Roma and canal communities

Jo Drew—about sharing Jesus in the Foxhill Community and an opportunity to pray for healing for someone which led to the person to come to faith.

A power point presentation of photos was shown with a snapshot of the huge range of activities from the last year. Thank you to everyone involved in so many areas of ministries to make all this possible.

Dan Y—marriage, ordination and moving

Big changes are coming up for Dan Young as he approaches ordination, moving house (again!) and marriage.

Dan will be leaving us at the end of June to continue his curacy training in Yeovil (Holy Trinity Yeovil with Barwick).

Dan: "The parish includes some of Yeovil town centre and there are lots of opportunity for mission and outreach. There are 2 churches with a diverse population and most importantly, football and rugby teams too! I will also have placement experience with the Fleet Air Arm with the Royal Navy at Yeovilton Navy Airbase which I'm excited about as I'm hoping to go into military chaplaincy."

Dan's ordination

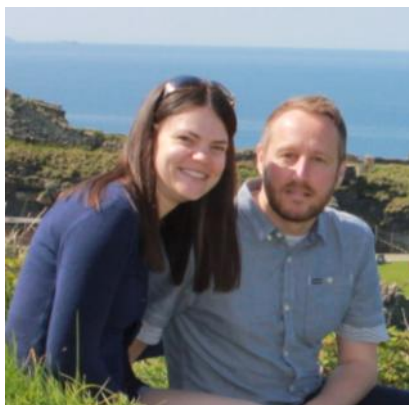
Saturday 1st July, 3 pm

Wells Cathedral

Everyone is welcome—
arrive early
for a good seat!

Marriage preparations for Dan are also underway as he and Fay prepare to get married in September in Theale, West Berkshire. Dan: "I'm someone who really embraces change, so am approaching this season with a sense of excitement and seeing God's hand in it all. It's timely for me and Fay that we're able to start married life together in a new place and we're looking forward to doing ministry together. Fay will be an NQT and is looking for a teaching job in Yeovil."

Dan's last Sunday in HT will be on Sunday 25 June—we will gather between the 2 morning services to have refreshments and say farewell to Dan.



Baptism

On Mother's Day (Sunday 26th March), we celebrated the baptism of baby Elijah in HT, alongside parents Maria and Ashley and the wider Pearce family.

This was the first child Dan had baptised, so we thought it warranted a few words in church family matters! Dan himself was baptised as a baby but came to faith much later in life so it was an opportunity for him to reflect on his journey to faith.



Dan: "It was good to meet with Maria and Ashley

ahead of the service and I'm excited about what God's doing in their lives. The Pearce family have very strong links with the church and it was special for them all to be in church for the baptism. Baptism can provide a great opportunity to welcome friends and family into church who wouldn't normally be there, and the family were overwhelmed with the welcome Elijah received."

Dan's 2 objectives for the day were to get the words in the right order and not to drop baby Elijah! Dan will be taking his first wedding on 3 June, where he will have different objectives involving not dropping rings!

24/7 prayer, 25 May—4 June



We will be joining in the National Initiative launched by Archbishop Justin Welby

for 10 days of 24/7 prayer between Ascension (25 May) and Pentecost (4 June).

We will be using an online sign up which will be available from early May.

Dan is organising it and is keen to involve different parts of the community, and hopefully also connecting with 'canal ministries'. We will also be connecting with Monkton Combe and South Stoke, and there will be multi-sensory stations throughout the church.



Bookshelf in HT

The bookshelf is still available in church, now at the front near the door to the crèche.

We have run it for just over a year, putting on its shelves books that come with personal recommendations from members of the congregation. Now we would like to encourage everyone to add further books to build the collection into more of a library.

Do think about what books you might have at home which would be an asset to the library – without, please, using the shelves to offload books you do not want!

While we expect many books to be given, there will also be scope to lend books and retrieve them in due course: please put your name in them



if you want to see them again! We will keep the sign-out book to note borrowings.

We will also recommend from the front books that might fit with a sermon theme or ministry, or invite people to lend books on such a theme for a limited period.

Have a look from time to time to see what is available, not least if you have an enquiring friend who might welcome a book as part of a conversation about God. Please continue to make recommendations if a good book comes to your attention.

Thank you for your support for this resource and we hope it will continue to be both informative and an encouragement to people, especially as the opportunity to browse Christian books is limited now that Christian bookshops have closed across the city.

Carolyn Scriven, April 2017