

church family matters

July 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

Mission Trip to Albania

Steve Rogers, David Purdon, Stuart McLachlan and 3 Blairs (Sharon, Peter and Charlotte) spent a week in Albania from 14-21 June visiting our mission partners Paul and Albana.

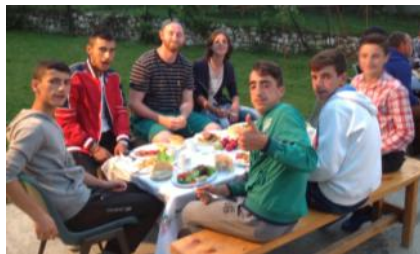
The team were involved with preaching, sharing testimonies, leading the children's holiday club, taking part in Albanian dance, connecting with the youth and generally being a part of all that God is doing in that community.

Steve: “I loved the community there and the way of life—so much simpler than our society, and so much less suffering in terms of anxiety and depression. Everyone has a piece of land which they farm, and they're reliant on this for their income. Houses look fairly rundown from the outside, but are beautiful and homely inside. The church is



a real hub in the community, and particularly through Albana's magnetic personality and ability to communicate the gospel, many people are drawn to Christ and to the church community.”

Stuart spent a lot of time connecting with the young people, doing football coaching and building up relationships. Steve: “Stuart was like the pied piper, with an ever-growing number of young people gathered around him. He was in his element, naturally connecting with the young people there. He came home with a near empty suitcase having given away most of his clothes and his trainers to the young people!”



To support this mission trip, there will be a fundraising Disco and BBQ on Sat 2 September at StACC.

Staff News

Farewell to...

Tamsin McMaster is leaving her post as StACC Centre Manager at the end of July. Tamsin has been in this post for just over 5 years, starting in the June after the church first opened in November. Tamsin and her family were part of the team from HT who launched StACC in 2011. Tamsin: "I've loved the team atmosphere here, watching the building getting busier and busier. It's become a real hub at the heart of Foxhill, and so much happens here—ranging from toddlers, youth work, to choirs and RSPB bookings. For many local people it's a safe place with an open door where they can drop in for a coffee and a chat."

Tamsin will be working for St Matt's and St Thomas' in Widcombe as community administrator. This role will involve building relationships with Widcombe Primary, the university, helping with office administration and doing outreach into the community. Tamsin's looking forward to putting into practice all that she's learnt at



St Andrew's, in the new setting of St Matt's.

Steve: *"I will really miss Tamsin's great sense of humour, her friendship and support in ministry. She has been great to work with."*

The Staffing Committee is currently considering the best way of resourcing the centre manager role and because of current budget restraints, the role will not be immediately advertised, but the hope is that it will be re-advertised in due course.

Dan Young's last Sunday with us was Sunday 25 June. Dan will be continuing his curacy training in Yeovil following his ordination in Wells cathedral on 1 July.

Paul: *"Dan has had a good year with us during which he has used his musical gifts particularly to encourage our young worship leaders. He has also connected with many people on the fringes of the church through baptisms and weddings, and has been especially effective in men's ministry. His reflective style of preaching has been a great blessing, and he will be particularly missed in the village congregations and at St Andrew's where the majority of his training has been spent. We wish Dan God's rich blessings as he moves to Holy Trinity Yeovil"*.

PCC News

The PCC last met on Tuesday 13 June. The main items discussed are below:

Approaching the Vacancy

Feedback from the meeting with the Archdeacons on 31 May was given (full report available on request). The main message was that appointing a vicar is not 'regular recruitment' – there needs to be a time of reflecting on where we are as a church, what are the green shoots starting to appear, in order to inform our decision as to what sort of leader God is guiding us towards. This process will begin properly when PK leaves in September. Our 2 church wardens will be attending staff meetings during the vacancy to ensure good communication between PCC and staff.

Staffing

The PCC agreed not to advertise the StACC centre manager role immediately, but to first assess the budgetary situation for 2018 and in the meantime conduct a global review of operations and provide interim cover for the centre manager tasks.

Finances

Although our giving is currently broadly in line with budget, our expenditure continues to need to be carefully controlled. John

Talbot met with the Diocesan Head of Finance to discuss the possibility of us applying for the Benefice Ministry Allowance, a new Diocesan initiative to give larger churches like us, particularly those who fund their own staff and are involved in mission, a parish share rebate. If successful this will go part of the way to meeting our need to increase income OR reduce expenditure from January 2018. We continue to pray for growth in giving, and consider how else to reduce our financial deficit. Currently, 235 of church members give regularly to the church. This is a high proportion of our membership, for which we are extremely grateful.

PCC Roles

Membership of the different committees was discussed, and developing links between PCC members and key ministry areas.

Safeguarding Training by Diocese

All staff have completed the basic online training. PCC members will also complete this and it will gradually be rolled out in church.

Prayer

The PCC meets from time to time before Sunday morning services and is hoping to do this more regularly during the vacancy.

Farewell to the Avramenko Family



Andrew,
Elaine,
Josh (9 in
July) and
Abigail(6)

Andrew was born in Combe Down, moved away, then returned in his twenties, and is training for ordination from September. Elaine was born in Zambia and, until recently, was a Biochemistry/Immunology Research Scientist but will be teaching science at Hayesfield School from September.

Andrew joined HTCD in 2001 following an HT Alpha Course. Elaine joined when she moved down from Glasgow in 2005. They worship at the HTCD 10.30 service but also support St Barnabas in Southdown once a month as part of the *Share the Fire* initiative.

Andrew: "Being members of HT has been key in my faith journey: I have gone from hiding at the back to preaching at the front; and through the support and encouragement of the church family I have been able to see, explore and answer God's calling to be ordained. When I begin my training in September we will be moving to be part of St Barnabas on a more regular basis to support

the vicar & new curate, but keeping our links with HTCD. In their free time, (and when not watching Formula One!), Andrew loves to be on a mountain, whatever the weather, exploring the natural world with the family. Elaine and Abigail like sitting in the garden with a cup of tea and a book (this doesn't happen very often!), whilst Josh likes art and making films.

In church, Abigail enjoys singing and Josh likes the games and quizzes in the services and his groups. And their parents? Elaine: "Seeing faith, hard work and patience bearing fruit – we have started to see this at St Barnabas in the service we have been supporting which is wonderful." HTCD has been central to key events in their family life. Andrew and Elaine got married in HT and both children were dedicated here.

Favourite service? Andrew: "The Holy Week Complies exquisitely led by Alan Hodges, such a powerful and helpful way to absorb the reality of Good Friday. Elaine: "The Easter service with 'cardboard testimonies' – the power of seeing how God has worked in so many people's lives. Paul and Clare's Star Wars sketch is also a highlight not to be forgotten!

Interview with David Purdon

I have been married to Anne for 35 yrs and have 3 grown up children Nick (31), Helen (28) and James (26). We're excited about becoming grandparents later in the year.

I relocated to Bathampton from London in 1988, to join Wilts Wholesale Electrical in Trowbridge, where I served initially as Finance Director and then Managing Director until 2010. I am currently a Non-Executive Director of Sirona Care & Health and am also a Trustee of St John's Foundation in Bath.

In my free time, I enjoy badminton and rather reluctantly agreed last year to getting a dog. Now I wouldn't be without our cockapoo Alfie, who keeps me fit with lots of walks. Anne works full time at Norland College, so I am also having to hone my culinary skills to ensure a hot meal awaits her on her return from work.

After attending St Nicholas Bathampton for many years and serving as Churchwarden and PCC member, we moved to HTCD in 2009. We really enjoy being blessed with our excellent preachers, where prayer is at the centre of all we do. We've forged strong friendships with people who challenge us in our daily walk.

We also enjoy our home group with members young and old and where we share leadership.

I am really passionate about mission and am a member of the International Mission Team. It was an amazing experience in 2014 to spend a whole year in Albania with Anne when we set up a school for missionary children.

Becoming church warden with Christine Absolon, is an honour and a big responsibility as the vacancy approaches. At times it seems there are so many things to take on board but as Christine and I visit the various ministry areas I can appreciate the many talented and hard working people (staff and volunteers) who ensure that church life runs smoothly. I am sure the vacancy will be an exciting time when we can all pull together and allow God to lead us to where He wants us to go.



Feedback on Landrover Adventure

Dan Young, Jon Williams, Clive Abbot and Martin Davies joined a party of 5 other guys for a European drive from Wiltshire to Transylvania.

Many thanks to all who were praying for our Trans Europe Trip in the Landrover Defenders. Travelling 1800 miles is not everyone's ambition so we sweetened the experience with visits to Ceske Krumlov [Czech], Banska Stiavnica [Slovakia] and Budapest [Hungary]. Our final night was spent on top of a mountain in Transylvania.

It was a great opportunity to talk and get to know each other. Three Dads brought their sons so



there was much opportunity for father-son bonding!

The team met with the pastor, Atilla, to hear about his work with the Gypsies. We saw the proposed farm land and the site of the new children's home. My work with this inspirational guy begins in July when about 100 students and staff from six different schools will start the building programme with polytunnels, chicken coops, pigsties and more.

The much needed landrovers are now in place and we will be able to reach our somewhat inaccessible project areas.

Jon Williams

Congratulations!

CONGRATULATIONS to
Judith and David
Hutchinson
who got married in St
Andrew's on Sat 24 June.



Review of Oaks and Acorns

Our second Oaks and Acorns tea party was held on Sunday 11th June. Oaks and Acorns aims to bring together primary aged children and grandparent aged people and partner an 'oak' with an 'acorn' to bridge the generation gap with prayer and friendship.

It was great fun - 30 members of our church enjoyed playing bingo, jenga, dominoes and a



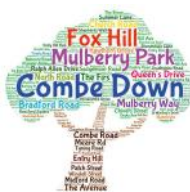
beetle drive.

Crafts were made to take away and act as aids to prayer. Conversations flowed between the generations as did some squirry cream.

If you missed this fantastic event and are primary school aged or grandparent aged come along to the next one on **Sunday 8 Oct, 4pm at HTCD.**



Mulberry Park



You will have noticed that the Mulberry Park Estate is starting to take shape and building

progress is speeding up! There are a few houses that are now occupied and they have already been visited by members from HT - carrying the new Community Guide as well as home-made brownies!

The new residents were really pleased to be visited and to

receive a warm welcome into the community. There are only a few of us on the Mulberry Park Team and we would love to encourage more to get involved - either through prayer, making cakes or by visiting!

So if you have a heart to build community and to share your faith through relationships, do get in touch with Jo Robinson or Matt and Caroline Wheeldon.

Sun **23** July

Sun **13** Aug

Summer Picnics

Picnics on the following the 10 am service.
23 July—The Firs
13 August—Church Gardens



15-17
August

Holiday at Home

Social time, trips, music, games for seniors— all based on the theme of Bath.

10.30 am—3 pm, St Andrews



21-25
August

Kids Holiday Club

'Above & Beyond' - a space themed week of events.

10am -3pm, HT



Thu **24** Aug

Holiday Club BBQ

For everyone involved in holiday club and anyone else welcome to come too!

5-7 pm, HT



Key Dates this summer and beyond

Sat **2** Sept

Disco & BBQ

Fundraising Event for Albania



Sun **10 & 17** Sept

Farewell Paul & Clare

Lunches following the morning services, 10th at StACC, 17th at HT



Sat **23** Sep

Fish and Chip Supper

Saturday evening event in a weekend of events at St Andrew's with speaker Mark Aldridge



Thur **12** Oct

Vision Evening for all Parents

Parents of youth and children— come along and be inspired as we start this new term

