

church family matters

October 2017

Godsays
HTCD

Search for me with all your heart
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

Entering into the vacancy

As we enter this time of 'vacancy' following Paul's retirement our church wardens and PCC are busy seeking the Lord and practically doing all that is necessary to pave the way for our next vicar. Some people may be unsure as to what happens next, so read on to find out more:

What is the parish profile?

It is a document which tells prospective vicars all about our benefice, giving information about Holy Trinity, St Andrew's, Monkton Combe and South Stoke. The first job for the church wardens and PCCs is to prepare the parish profile.

How can I contribute to the preparation of the parish profile?

By completing a questionnaire. Questionnaires are available at the back of church (or can be completed online with the link <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NS3XYB3>) which enables you to

give your view and answer questions on how you see our church, and also comment on what characteristics we are looking for in our new leader. These questionnaires need to be returned by **13th October**.

What is the timescale for the next year?

We will hope to advertise the post in January, and have interviews in March. Realistically, depending on the new incumbent's availability, it's unlikely he or she would be able to join us before next summer.

Who is now responsible for leading the church?

The responsibility for the leadership of the church rests with our church wardens and PCC. Our staff team, to be coordinated by Sharon Blair during the vacancy, ensure the day-to-day smooth running of the church, and the Senior Leadership Team (Jo Robinson, Sharon Blair, Steve Rogers, Liz Hume and

Vacancy Period Continued



church wardens Christine Absolon and David Purdon) has oversight of the staff team and all the operations of the church. We are also very fortunate in welcoming Esther Smith (transitional minister) to our team. As we are a large benefice with no curate, and very few retired clergy, the Diocese has appointed Esther as transitional minister.

What is Esther's role?

Esther's role is to offer practical help with things only an ordained priest is allowed to do (eg communion and weddings). She will also offer spiritual support for the many people in leadership. Esther

will be a part of our PCC, and our staff team and SLT and will be with us full-time until June 2018.

What is Esther's background?

Esther has just completed her curacy at St Swithun's Walcot. She lives near Victoria Park with her 4 sons. Esther's email address is esther@htcd.church.

How can I best support the leadership during the vacancy?

- By praying! We are holding a prayer meeting each month on the 2nd Sunday of the month at Holy Trinity. The first of these prayer meetings will be on Sunday 8 October at 7 pm. Fine to drop in for part of it, or stay for the hour if you can.
- Also, by maintaining our unity and stepping up as the need arises.

PRAYER

**Sunday 8 October,
7 pm, HT**

**We will gather on the
2nd Sunday of the
month to pray for the
vacancy and to pray for
our next vicar.**

Mark Aldridge, Fish and Chips and God

On Sat 23 to Sun 24 September we had an outreach weekend with speaker Mark Aldridge

Mark is on the New Wine leadership team and is director of church leadership development. Many years ago he was curate here when Jeremy Wordsworth was vicar.

On Saturday evening over 50 people at St Andrew's enjoyed a free fish and chip supper. Several of Amanda's CAP clients were there and lots of Foxhill families. There were games and activities for the children (thank you to Claire Morrish), a free raffle and Mark Aldridge shared his testimony of coming to faith on Foxhill, the ups and downs of his walk with God, with honesty about the struggles and also many testimonies of God's faithfulness.



It was a particularly moving weekend for Steve Rogers as he was led to Christ back in 1989 (28 years ago this September!) on Foxhill. Steve: "It was a profound experience to welcome Mark

back as I had only seen him once in those 28 years. We've both grown in that time, but his enthusiasm and passion for the gospel is so strong and he's always been like that. He shared a testimony about a blind boy being healed in Kenya after he and a New Wine team prayed. He's always quick to say it's not about him and it's all about Jesus. He shared in a very real way of his own doubts and his disappointments but also of the amazing things he's seen God do. A really encouraging and powerful weekend."

On Sunday Mark preached at HT and in the evening at Open Space. Rohan Clay led fantastic worship on Sunday evening and Mark really encouraged her and other young people there who were inspired and touched by Mark's powerful message of God's welcome to his banqueting table.

On Saturday morning 2 teams at HT and StACC did litter-picking,



prayer walking and car-washing.

'Everyone's a winner'



The
FareShare
FoodCloud

project looks to redistribute unsold food from supermarkets to local charities. The aim is to cut down on waste, save organisations money and help provide for people in need.

Susie Houston has set up Holy Trinity's link with the FoodCloud project. Each week from Tesco's we can collect chilled goods, baked goods and fruit and vegetables which are approaching its sell by date, in order to serve at Tuesday Toddlers, or freeze for use at Foxhill Focus, etc.

This service is free of charge to us so will save us money and will obviously help reduce waste. Susie: "It is brilliant being able to use this good food to add to the delicious food already being served at Tuesday Toddlers, and Foxhill Focus. Everyone is really enjoying the meals! Also any non-chilled food left over is given out at St Andrew's, or Sharon gives it as gifts as part of the Families Ministry.

'Everyone's a winner' is the phrase that comes to mind!"

Light Party



A chance to celebrate Light overcoming the darkness with our

primary school age children.

There will be crafts, worship, children's tea and games and we will be carving a verse into pumpkins to bring light to our community. Book online at www.htcd.church

Tuesday 31st October

5-7pm

HTCD

Do invite any children you know who might prefer this party to trick and treating. Do offer to help if you can. Contact:

Claire.morrish@htcd.church
for more info or to offer to



Pumpkin carvings from 2016 light party

PCC News

The PCC last met on Tuesday 19 September and discussed the following items:

CAP FINANCE UPDATE

We have received a further £5k from the Bath Abbey and £2k from Peasedown St John for CAP. A CAP newsletter has also been circulated to all the Bath church leaders (available at the back of church).

Vacancy and Recruiting a new vicar

See page 1 and 2.

FINANCES

So much to be thankful for: so far we have seen 34 people/families increase their giving, which means we expect our income for the year to December 2017 will be £20k higher than originally expected - and our expenditure is expected to be lower than we planned by £27k. This is really encouraging, as this reduces the gap between our giving and expenditure. However our spending is still more than our giving, which we can't sustain indefinitely. The PCC and staff are in the process of preparing the budgets for

2018 and will provide an update about this once completed, but please contact the Treasurer (John Talbot) if you would like to discuss this further in the meantime.

BUILDINGS

We are applying for a faculty for essential tree maintenance work in the church gardens.

EXTENDED COMMUNION

The PCC has approved for Steve Rogers, Rick Harwood, Alan Hodges and James Bradby to receive training to give extended communion.

Health and Safety

The team overseeing health and safety is:

- Helen Green (professional Health and Safety Consultant and church warden at St Michael's Monkton Combe)
- Liz Hume, Health and Safety Lead within the staff team
- Mark Humphriss, PCC Health and Safety Lead
- John Moore, church member with professional H&S experience

Women's weekend 24-25 March 2018

We are delighted to be welcoming Jo Swinney as our speaker at next year's women's weekend. The weekend is at Ammerdown Centre in Radstock. As it's only a 20 minute drive away, tickets are available either for a Saturday booking (day ticket) or overnight through till 4pm on Sunday. Prices range from £60 for the day to £150 for a single ensuite room.

The theme for the weekend is **'Deep Spirituality for the Desperately Busy'**. Jo will be addressing ways of connecting with God in the noisiness of real life. Jo is an author and speaker—her published books include *GodHunting*, and the recently published *'Home: A quest to belong'*. She is an excellent communicator, down to earth, witty, articulate and with inspiring stories to tell. Not to be missed! For more information about Jo visit her

website www.joswinney.com



Alongside the teaching sessions, worship and prayer

ministry, there will also be time to relax or walk in the beautiful surroundings, and take part in craft activities or pamper sessions.

For any more information, contact Penny Williams (willjo2000@hotmail.com)

Book and pay for places online:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/deep-spirituality-for-the-desperately-busy. Link available on the HTCD homepage.

There is a limited number of both overnight and day tickets, so book early to avoid disappointment.



Women's Weekend—
Sat 24, 25 March 2018

'Deep Spirituality for the Desperately Busy', Speaker: Jo Swinney

Interview with Jean Maguire

Jean Maguire shares her passion for prayer and April fools. It has been a challenge to limit her passion to one A5 page!

Jean has been coming to Holy Trinity since 2008 and describes herself as 'mischievous'! She was married to Derrick ('a wonderful man'), a baptist minister, for 48 years and has 4 children, 11 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. Jean tells something of her life and faith:

"My passion is prayer -such a privilege to talk to Father God.

My family were all atheists and at the age of 15 I had a desire to know more about the God I didn't believe in. I gave my life to Christ at 17 years of age in Ilfracombe as a 6th former. I started a school Christian Union & tried prayer using the church next door to my school. The vicar gave me permission for 3 of us meet every Monday at 8am to pray for the school. The vicar thought it strange that young people met for prayer, so he hid himself in his vestry. He was not too pleased when one Monday I prayed for his salvation & the vicar complained

to my headteacher! However, my prayer gave him a troubled mind so he took himself over to Lee Abbey in Lynton. There



he spoke to the warden who explained the way of salvation to him more clearly & his life was changed. The warden was the late Chris Rogers' Dad. Chris knew the story & he connected it with me!

I have been helping to lead the 7 am prayer meeting for 7 years & I love to be part of it - we have around 17 attending regularly & have seen wonderful answers to prayer & healings .

There is a side of me that loves to have fun. On PK's 60th birthday (1st of April), I decided to play a joke on him . I wrote a letter addressed to the Vicar at HTCD giving him a warning for his church members to park their cars properly. I signed the letter Tamir Ahmed, adding he was a Muslim & the members of the Mosque in Bristol, who faced the same problem, were being cooperative on the matter & was sure HTCD would comply. (Tamir was the name of an elephant from Whipsnade Zoo in the days of Animal Magic).

Paul took it so seriously that we all received letters from him to park our cars correctly. 48 hours later when he started apologising to his neighbours, I owned up! He really did believe it was an official complaint! His shock soon turned to relief and with a birthday on 1st April, it's surely to be expected....."

Sun 8 Oct

Welcome Lunch

After 10.30 service,
Appledore
(Blairs' home)

New in church?
Come along to a lunch to meet others



Sun 8 Oct

Oaks & Acorns

3.30pm, HT

Event for old and young in church to bring generations together



Sun 8 Oct,
12 Nov, 10 Dec

Prayer for the Vacancy

7 pm, HT

Monthly prayer as we seek the Lord's will for our next vicar



Key Dates this Autumn

Thurs 12 Oct

Vision Evening for all Parents

7.30 pm Church Rooms

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



Tues 31 Oct

Lights Party

5-7 pm HT

An alternative to Halloween for all primary school aged children.



Sat 25 Nov

Family Film Night

5 pm, StACC

Come and enjoy popcorn and a film on the big screen!

