

church family matters

September 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

Farewell Paul and Clare

We will be saying farewell to Paul and Clare on the weekend of 16/17 September. There will be the opportunity at that weekend (party at St Andrew's on the Saturday, and at a joint 10.30 am service on the Sunday) to pray for them and say some words of thanks, but here are some parting words from Paul and Clare...

Clare: *As we approach the date I feel a real contradiction of emotions. I am SO excited about living in a house we have chosen, especially as it is in the Gloucestershire countryside with a great view. Decorating and planning the move has been very exciting.... until suddenly I remember that means we have to leave Combe Down and most of all the lovely, church family including South Stoke, Monkton Combe and Foxhill.*

One of the highlights for me has been the Tuesday walking



group: fun, fellowship, exercise and countryside all rolled into one. I've also loved being involved in all the home groups and getting to know people that way.

Hosting Newcomers, Alpha and Discipleship groups here at Lonsdale has been fun and being part of the staff team has felt like a real privilege. Worshipping at Holy Trinity has been wonderful, and I have really enjoyed the ceilidhs and jazz evenings. And of course 2 of our sons have been married in Holy Trinity so that is very special! Top highlight? Toby's baptism service (alongside Fran, Emily, Sarah & Rachel. Wow! Paul: 35 years of Ministry!

It's been virtually a whole life-time, particularly as Clare

and I started out together thirteen days after my ordination in York Minster in 1982. We were married in July

cont. overleaf

Farewell to Paul and Clare cont.

and came back from honeymoon to launch straight into parish ministry in Scarborough. Wonderful growth of the church, unbelievably busy Sundays, all the usual challenges of ordained pastoral ministry. Then it was Reading for four years, Gloucester for nearly 11, Hong Kong for 5 and Versailles for 6 years. Much of that was very exciting, challenging and fulfilling with wonderful opportunities to travel in mission and on exotic holidays. But I am glad to say that our 6 years in Combe Down have been the cherry on the cake!

This has been a place of profound worship, in different styles around the Benefice, but all heartfelt; a church committed to mission and spreading the Gospel; an increasingly warm and welcoming congregation where we have felt loved and wanted; a great Staff Team to lead and work with, and a church where so much has been possible because of people's willingness to get involved. Long may it continue!

We have loved living in Lonsdale - such a happy

family house in a friendly community, and so convenient for getting to early morning prayer meetings (!) and for fetching stuff forgotten when going to the office! One funny memory is of the Holiday at Home celebrating the Queen's 90th; her cardboard cutout was still in the pulpit on Sunday morning when a group of Chinese visitors from Shanghai were in church. It was really difficult to explain to them that this was not a normal feature and we do not worship her (like Chairman Mao) as the head of the CofE!! Most embarrassing but very amusing.

Retirement now beckons and we are looking forward to a bit of rest and being free from responsibility for a while. We hope to see much more of family and especially grandchildren. In March we will visit Singapore and see our new granddaughter Isabelle for the very first time. Meanwhile we will be living in beautiful countryside on the edge of Painswick in the Cotswolds. Lots to look forward to..... and lots more to be thankful for!

Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 Sept



Read on to find out what all these pictures have in common.....

On Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 September, we are delighted to be welcoming Mark Aldridge who will be



speaking at an event on Saturday evening and at HT on Sunday morning and at Open Space.

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 23 September we will be serving our communities both on Foxhill and in Combe Down with litter picking, car washing (St Andrew's only) and other

community outreach activities. Meeting point—10 am either at HT or at StACC. There will also be sports events on the playing field at the top of Entry Hill run by Stuart.

On Saturday evening we are having a 'Fish and Chip Supper' at St Andrew's at 6 pm- an opportunity to bring a friend, enjoy fish and chips, with Mark as guest speaker in a more relaxed setting. We will also be inviting all our CAP clients and supporters to this event. This will be a ticketed event—no charge for tickets, but donations on the evening.



Mark will be preaching on Sunday morning at HT at **9 and 10.30** and at Open Space at St Andrew's on Sunday evening at 7 pm.

Review of the



This year's Holiday Club hosted at HTCD and led by Pulse did indeed take us Above and Beyond –

heaven was definitely glimpsed in the joy of the children's worship and the open honesty of their prayers.

Over 70 children joined us for part of the week with over 50 there each day. There was so much energy and fun – it was infectious. **Leaders were gunged – even Sharon & Paul this year!** There was a great turn-out for the parents BBQ – thank you to all who came to be a friendly face of the congregation – **there was a powerful message given to all about how each tick of the clock reminds us of God's love for us.** Thank you too to my faithful

team of helpers – it would not have happened without you. I am certain that God spoke to hearts eager to hear from him and that seeds of faith have been sown. Please pray for all the families we touched that they might come to worship with us again.



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Please also pray for our plans for future Holiday Clubs – they are such blessings to all involved and a



great way to serve our community and bring Good News to many.



Our 3 day 'Holiday at Home' at St Andrew's had the theme of 'Bath

and the wonderful H@H team entered into the spirit by dressing up in regency costumes or Roman togas!! In the mornings we had whole group activities including a virtual Open Top bus Tour and a "Dressing Mr Darcy" talk and the catering team served a wonderful home-made lunch every day. The afternoons had choice sessions including 'Bath in Bloom' (flower arranging), and 'Bath Spa' (hand, head and foot massage). Each afternoon ended with music and the last afternoon was a Regency Ball (yes, we actually did regency dances!) **In total we had 66 seniors** attending the event and had the guests were people who do not normally come to HT or STACC. Just before lunch we had a short devotion which gently challenged people to consider the gospel and several of the visitors commented about the welcome that they had received -



one said: "This has been a wonderful day—the best thing about it has been the lovely people



running it."

NewWine

Local churches changing nations

A group of 30 people

from our church family went to New Wine this year. Here are some of their highlights:

- Worshipping with thousands of people—a very powerful experience
- Fellowship over meals
- Time to reconnect with friends from other churches
- Bonding in the adversity of mud and rain!
- Fantastic teaching—in particular the morning talks by John-Marc Comer, very refreshing, deep talks reminding us of our need to connect with God again

We have a USB stick in the office with ALL THE TALKS from

New Wine this year. Available to borrow for 24 hours only from the church office.



Ashbury Hotel

Stuart took a group of 8 young people

(11-14 year olds) from the St Andrew's youth

group to Ashbury Hotel for 2 nights away.

The group tried their hand at various sporting activities—archery, surfing, bodyboarding and others. There was also a gospel time together each day with prayer and 2 of the girls are now keen to come to church.

A big thank you to Rob and Eli Archer who helped on the trip. Please pray for the ongoing

relationships between Stuart and the young people as several who came have not been coming very long to the youth group.



Staff news

StACC Centre Manager

Tamsin McMaster left her post of StACC Centre Manager in July. We applied for a grant from St John's Foundation for the salary for a new StACC centre manager.

Unfortunately we weren't successful with this application but have been encouraged to re-apply in November, so please do pray that this time we'll be successful. In the meantime, Susie Houston has been doing the job on a voluntary basis over the summer and has now been appointed on a temporary contract to do 12 hours a week until the end of December.

Finance Officer

Gary Paul (finance officer) left his post with us in July in order to work full time with 'Relate'. Although Gary wasn't on the staff for very long, he will be much missed.

The post of finance officer is being advertised—all details on our website, closing date Friday 15 September.

HTCD Job Vacancy

Finance Officer

All details on website



GOING FOR
GROWTH

Going for Growth is our sermon series for this term. If you have a recent testimony of personal spiritual growth, please do get in touch so you can encourage others by sharing it.

Tim Dewes—gift aid secretary



Tim Dewes has been a member of HT for many years (16 actually) and has recently become our gift aid

secretary. Tim is married to Sue and they have 4 grown up children. Tim will soon be retiring from MC Senior School where he was been working for 34 years (the same length of time as being married to Sue!). How has being members of **HTCD** helped you to grow in your faith?

By being encouraged each week, sharing with others, having the platform from which to do things in the community and church family. We moved house from Monkton to Combe Down this year and are now able to be more fully involved in church life eg home group, leading services etc.

Which areas do you serve in?
I've been on PCC for 5 years, and am the PCC safeguarding lead. Previously I led the marriage course with Sue and I was also a foundation governor at Combe Down Primary School

for many years.

What's been your best moment in your time at **htcd**?
Recently, the 'Love Combe Down' event on the Firs was a fantastic opportunity to engage with the community.

What's involved in the gift-aid secretary role?

As gift aid secretary in the finance team, my role is to encourage people to make the most of their giving by doing so in a planned and prayerful way and to make the most of the opportunities to claim the tax back from the government. I feel strongly that part of being in the church, is that people should contribute in all sorts of ways to enable the ministry to continue and develop.

Financial giving is a key part of this. I'm always available to offer advice to anyone who is not a part of the gift aid programme. Thank you to all those who gave such positive feedback following my communication after Pledge Sunday to church family members who are part of our gift-aid scheme.

Contact Tim
dewesfamily@hotmail.com or
catch him on a Sunday.

Sat 16 Sept

Retirement Party

5 pm, StACC

Join us to say farewell to Paul and Clare as Paul retires



Sat 23 Sept

Fish and Chip Supper

6pm at StACC

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



Sun 8 Oct

Welcome Lunch

After 10.30 service, Appledore (Blairs' home)

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



Key Dates this Autumn

Sun 8 Oct

Oaks & Acorns

4pm at HTCD

Event for old and young in church to bring generations together



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 StACC

An alternative to Halloween for all primary school aged children.

