

church family matters

January 2018



BE IMITATORS OF GOD AS DEARLY LOVED CHILDREN AND LIVE A LIFE OF LOVE OF LOVE EPHESIANS 5. 1-2

Here is our motto bible verse for 2018. It was chosen by the PCC, staff and ministry leaders at their day together last November.

On that day the team considered together how we can best be God's image-bearers, reflecting on the following quote by Tom Wright:

'God made humans for a purpose: not simply for themselves, not simply so that they could be in

relationship with him, but so that through them, as his image-bearers, He could bring his wise, fruitful order to the world'.

Please do take a fridge magnet to remind you of the verse, commit it to memory, and use it as a reminder to seek ways to:

- ⇒ be an imitator of God
- ⇒ be a dearly loved child of God
- ⇒ live a life of love

Vacancy Update

Our benefice profile is now complete! A big thank you to Christine and David, and the church wardens from Monkton Combe and South Stoke for the hours of work they put into compiling it. The end result is fantastic—do look at it via the homepage of our website.

The role will be advertised via the Church Times from 12 January, and on the New Wine Network. The closing date is 11th February. The interviews will be on 6 and 7 March.

On **Saturday 20 January** we have a parish walk between the different parishes, starting off with bacon butties at St Michael's Monkton Combe. Timings below—stay for the whole walk if possible, or just turn up at one of the times given below:

9am ~ Bacon butties & croissants ~St Michael's Monkton Combe

10.20am ~ Holy Trinity

11.20am ~ Coffee ~St James, South Stoke

12.10am ~ Soup and roll ~St Andrew's

PRAYER

Sunday 14 January
7 pm, HT

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

This week's
prayer request:

For the right people to see
the advert and apply



**Profile of the United Benefice of
Combe Down with Monkton Combe
and South Stoke**



Have a look at our benefice
profile on www.htcd.church

Christmas Review

Foxhill Focus Christmas Lunch



A delicious free Christmas lunch was enjoyed at St Andrew's by over 50 people. Susie Houston organised the event along with Sophie Alexander and a great team of helpers.

The meal was followed with games of indoor curling organised by Ricky Bush from St John's Foundation.

Foxhill Toddlers Christmas Lunch

Over 70 adults and children enjoyed the Toddlers Christmas Lunch, with carol singing, the nativity story and a visit from Father Christmas (alias Alan Hodges, after having already roasted potatoes for 70 people that day!). Thank you to the team, especially to Rick & Ann



Harwood and the team who cooked the Christmas lunch.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS



Thank you to everyone who provided goodies, and to the team who put together the 30 beautiful

hampers which were then distributed to CAP clients, Family Matters clients, and families the church supports. It is a wonderful expression of God's love for those people who without your kindness would not have been able to enjoy such luxuries over Christmas.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Thank you to everyone who helped with our Christmas services. The Christmas day service was absolutely packed

(over 250 adults) and the Nativity Service featured the 2 characters on the left....



Finance Officer

Stephen Merrifield has now been appointed as our finance officer—he lives locally and does other book-keeping work. Stephen will be working Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. He will handle the day-to-day finances and John Talbot will continue to oversee our finances as treasurer.

A big thank you to John and Katie Talbot for all the extra work they have put in recently before this permanent appointment was made.

StACC Community Outreach Worker and Centre Manager

We have received a grant from St John's to fund this appointment for one year at St Andrew's. More details available on our website or in the notice sheet. Closing date for applications: Monday 15 Jan, interviews to be held on Monday 22 January.

After 11 years, Richard Bullard has now retired from his role as the headteacher at Combe Down Primary School. The school marked his retirement with a teaparty and a special service with songs from each year group and a whole school 'flash mob' style school to the tune of 'Let him go'. There were various presentations, including one by David Williams, the Diocesan Director of Education, and one from Claire Morrish on behalf of the church, of the old school bell with an inscription from Revelations.

The new head, Jane Gascoigne, starts in January. She is meeting with praying parents on her first day for a prayer walk round the school and we hope to arrange a time soon to introduce her in HT.

Do pray for her as she starts in her new role. She was previously the head of St Julian's Wellow, Shoscombe and Camerton.

Thank you from Paul and Clare

Paul and Clare would like to thank everyone for the very generous gift. We gave them a patio heater and a set of water glasses with jug, and a cheque. They sent this message:

We miss everyone at Combe Down and in the villages, but really cannot pretend that retirement is anything but delightful! It is wonderful to have freedom and space after so many years of being somewhat governed by what is in the diary. Nowadays my diary is almost empty, except for things that Clare has arranged and I am very happy to let life revolve round her interests rather than my job.

Our house is lovely, warm and cosy and the view across the valley to the village and the hills is just gorgeous - different in the varied lights of morning and evening, and always something of interest to look at. We have had some Bath visitors so we have caught up with much of the news, but pray that God will continue to lead you forward and that the church will thrive during the vacancy. With all our love, and thank you again for your generous farewell gift to us.

Paul & Clare

Daniel Fast



It's not too late to join in with the Daniel Fast!

See details in the notice sheet or find out more on Sunday 7 January.

One of our goals and priorities for 2018 is 'developing a

hunger for God'. Let's make it our prayer that as we fast from some of the things we usually enjoy, our hunger for God will grow and we will grow closer to Him.



Alpha



Our Alpha course starts on Wed 10th Jan at StACC for ALL the parish.

If you've not done Alpha before, it's a great opportunity to ask anything about life, faith and God in a friendly, open and informal environment.

Each evening starts with a hot meal and glass of wine, followed by a talk on DVD which looks at a different question around the christian faith and is designed to create conversation.

Contact Steve or Sharon to find out more.

**Wednesday
evenings at StACC
From 10 Jan.
Invitations available**



UK Mission Team

For this coming year we are giving away £14,000 to UK Mission from our overall mission budget of £44,000.

THANK YOU to Nick Coates who had been heading up our UK Mission Team and has now stepped down. Jo Robinson will now be heading up the team, alongside Sue Crookes and Eli Archer (do contact them

to find out more).

It is their responsibility to decide each year which organisations to give this money to. We are committed to supporting Pulse Ministries and the Anchor Project in Bradford, and will be seeking your views later in the month for other organisations and individuals to support.

For families.....



On Friday 26 January we are hosting X:site from 6-8 pm at St Andrew's. This is an opportunity for 7-11 year olds from churches across Bath to come together 6 times a year.

Please pray for children from across the city as well as our own children to come and enjoy exploring the theme of 'The Good Shepherd'.

If any of the DBS-ed team can help that evening do let Claire know as we will need a few extra hands.

These events have been a great way for the Children's Ministers across our city to work together ecumenically to further the Kingdom in Bath.



Friday 23 February—Where Adventure Begins—Faith in the Family

A Riding Lights Theatre Production at St Swithins Church, Paragon.

Meet Jake, Jasmine and Ellie as they re-live their childhood and teenage experiences of Christian faith at home and at church. In a brilliantly entertaining show – real, touching, hilarious – Riding Lights create an unmissable piece of theatre to deepen our understanding of 'family'. Recommended for children aged 11+

Book on the New Wine Website under 'events'.



Come along to a family pantomime at St Phillips, Odd Down (and look out for Peter Houston and Ewan Morrish

on stage....). Tickets from the St Phillips church office (835228).

Sun 7 Jan
HT, 10 am

Joint Service
(9&10.30
together)

Sun 4 Feb
HT, 10 am

Joint Service
(9&10.30
together)

Sun 1 April
HT, 10 am

Easter Joint
Service with
baptisms

Wed 10 Jan

**Alpha
Starts**

7.30 pm
St Andrew's

Invitations
available in the
church office
and church



Sun 21 Jan

**Lunch with
mission
partners
Ben and
Katy Ray**

Church Rooms
following the
10.30 service.

Contact church
office.



Key Dates

Sat 27 Jan

Coffee&Cake

**'Restoring
light and hope
to our
communities'**

10.30am-2 pm

Holy Trinity

Rachael Coulson
will talk about her
work with
Luminary
Bakery
offering a
second
chance to
women



24-25

Mar

**Women's
Weekend**

Ammerdown

Speaker: Jo
Swinney

Contact church
office for more
information.



Sun 20 May

**Love
Combe
Down**

Firs Field, pm

Following the
success of last
year, get this
date in your
diary for Love
Combe Down
2018

