

church family matters

November 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



GOING FOR GROWTH

Going for growth

is our focus this term as we enter the vacancy. We are on the look out for what the shoots of new life in our church are and there are many!

WELCOMING NEWCOMERS



On Sunday 8 October Sharon and Peter Blair hosted our first welcome lunch in this new term. It's great to welcome new families and students to our church family (please give them a warm welcome!). A newcomers group is starting on Wed 8 November for 5 consecutive Wednesday evenings. Dave and Hils Rogers are hosting it and co-leading with Sharon. We have a good group of people coming along—if you're new in church and would like to

join this group, contact Sharon (07962 218848).

ADOPT A STUDENT



We are hoping to re-launch the 'adopt a student' programme—information to follow.

IGNITE—FRIDAY YOUTH GROUP



Our Friday evening youth group is growing. Stuart is now welcoming 20+ young people to this group, so significant growth since this time last year. Praise God!



PERSONAL GROWTH

If anyone would like to share a testimony of personal growth, please contact one of the staff team—it would be a huge encouragement to everyone to hear of growth in our lives.

Vacancy Update

Thank you to everyone for completing the questionnaires. In total we received 144 questionnaires. The next step is to compile the draft parish profile. Our church wardens are doing this in consultation with others, and the PCC will look at the draft parish profile when they meet on Sat 11 November.

The Archdeacon gave our church wardens the results from a study of 40 churches going through a vacancy. Many churches shrink during a vacancy so the paper makes recommendations to prevent this from happening:

- ⇒pray
- ⇒stay united
- ⇒value the paid staff, don't expect them to be the vicar.
- ⇒spread the load- staff & wardens can't do it all, everyone needs to step up.
- ⇒don't stop changing and growing
- ⇒organise pastoral care so that no one drifts away unnoticed.
- ⇒welcome newcomers
- ⇒communicate, communicate, communicate so everyone knows what is happening

We are really keen for everyone to have a role in the life of our church—have a look at page 5 to see some different areas of church life you might like to be involved in.

PRAYER

Sunday 12 Nov

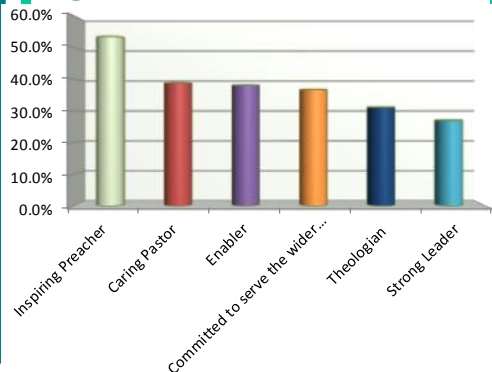
7 pm, HT

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

This week's prayer request:

Prayer for our church wardens as they create the benefice profile (job description for our new vicar).

Questionnaire Results



Men's mission trip to Transylvania

Please sign up for this exciting chance to have a hands on adventure together; building a barn, driving landrovers and climbing mountains. Working with Attila and his Gypsy Mission will be an inspiring and eye opening experience for all of us!

Dates: 15th to 22nd Sept 2018

Place: Transylvania, Romania

Project: A Barn Build to support poor communities

Cost: £550 . All inclusive [Also Fundraising for project materials required]

Places: 16

To apply and see more details go to "People Against Poverty"/ Development Projects/ Adult Development Projects and select the September dates.

Come to a meeting in HTCD on Wednesday 8 November at 8 pm for a full presentation

Contact Jon Williams for more information
willjo2009@hotmail.co.uk



Photo taken on landrover trip to Romania in June 2017

Family film night

Come along to St Andrew's on Saturday 25 November to start the Advent season as a family with a viewing of Nativity 3 on the big screen.



A great opportunity to come along for the cinema experience with no charge. There will be refreshments on sale.

St Andrew's

4 pm

Sat 25 November

Nativity 3



Light Party



60 children flooded into HT dressed as princesses, animals and superheroes

on 31 October for 2 hours of fun activities around the theme of 'Let there be light' (shown below carved into pumpkins). Activities included skittles in the dark, making a lighthouse kebab, spinning top challenge in the dark and a clear message that Jesus is the light of the world through song, dance and a relay race to put together the key bible verse.

A big THANK YOU to the team.



Missions Weekend

SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER

We are holding a Missions Fayre between 10 am—2 pm in the Church Rooms. There will be reps from some of our mission partners and other organisations that our church members support.

Drop in for half an hour for a bacon butty and to find out more about our mission partners. There'll also be kids activities and things to buy.

SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER

One joint 10.30 am service with our inspirational mission speaker—, Bridget Carroll, and video messages from our mission partners.



Every member ministry

Finding your area of service within our church is a great way of being more involved, and using the gifts God has given you. There are so many opportunities within the life of our church. Esther is passionate about encouraging people to take a little risk to see what God might be calling them into. It might be making a cake from time to time



for our families ministry, or it might be to be a CAP befriender. If you feel God nudging you to try something out, please please contact one of the staff team.



¹² Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.
1 Corinthians 12.12

Mulberry Park Update



Going for Growth

has been our sermon series this autumn and

Mulberry Park is a visual reminder of this theme!

You will all have seen the new houses going up near the mini-roundabout and now more than 30 houses are occupied and people are moving in all the time! On completion Mulberry Park is going to have 700 new houses and the at centre of the housing estate there will be a community hub including a primary school and nursery which are due to open in September 2018. **Mulberry Park will increase the size of our parish by 33% and it's a huge challenge and opportunity for our church to make a real difference in our community.**

The Mulberry Park Team from church have been visiting and welcoming the new occupants with our helpful Combe Down Community Guide and they have had lots of friendly conversations on door steps.

Many of the new people seem to be young couples and at least half are completely new to Bath and are looking for friends and a sense of community. Already, one couple have been in touch with the office about booking a wedding in HT following the friendly contact from our team.

The team have set up a Mulberry Park Community Facebook page (become a friend and join the conversation) and have organised a pub night at the Forester and Flower on November 6th with more socials and events to follow. We want to make the most of this exciting opportunity to reach out and impact the local community so do get in touch with the Wheeldons (832272) or Jo Robinson (835835) if you want to be involved.



Interview with Esther Smith

Esther Smith

Tell us a bit about where you're from and your family.



I grew up in Yorkshire and then studied modern languages, and was head of modern languages in various schools after university. I loved teaching but the Lord called me into ordained ministry and

I was ordained in 2013. My husband died 12 years ago, and my children (3 boys and a girl, aged 18 -25) have been magnificent in supporting me in my journey—I'm very proud of them. I have an understanding of the joys and challenges of parenting children into adulthood.

And your interests/hobbies?

Life is busy with work, family and also I'm studying for a Masters in Theology, Ministry and Mission at Trinity College Bristol, with a special focus on the wellbeing of churches in vacancy. But when time allows, I love to be in the garden, read, walk the dog and enjoy creative crafts.

Where did you serve your curacy?

I was a curate at St Swithin's Walcot and my curacy was extended so that I could remain during the vacancy.

Why has the Diocese created this transitional minister post?

It really is a huge gift to a parish to have a full time priest during a

vacancy, and the Diocese is offering the post as an expression of support to the churches. It's an indication of the value that they place on your fellowship and a desire for your continued well-being.

What does the role 'transitional minister' mean?

In essence, my role is to journey with you, and encourage you not to look to the past, but to acknowledge it with gratitude, and to understand who we are now without Paul and Clare, and to discern who God is calling you to be in the future. That will impact the kind of person you look for in a new vicar. So it's about valuing you as a congregation and ensuring as far as is possible your wellbeing in this season of transition.

What does the role 'transitional minister' NOT mean?!

It's not about filling Paul's shoes or about sweeping in and doing all the jobs. I believe passionately in every member ministry, and I would love it if my presence encouraged people to take a little risk. If you sense God nudging you to take a risk, to test out what God might be saying, I'd love to chat with you.

How can we best pray for you?

I would really value people's prayers in this busy season for me to stay close to God and hear what he's saying about this church, and where he's leading me to.

Tues 7 Nov

Prayer for the City

7.30 pm, Bath Abbey

Join with others from across Bath to pray for our city.



Sun 12 Nov,
10 Dec

Prayer for the Vacancy

7 pm, HT

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



Sat 18 Nov

Mission Fayre

10am-2 pm,
Church Rooms

Details on page 5



Key Dates this Autumn

Sat 25 Nov

Free Family Film Night

4 pm, StACC

Come and enjoy Nativity 3 on the big screen! Refreshments for sale.



Fri 1 Dec

Christmas Crafts

HT, 7.30-10 pm

Come along to an evening of making Christmas crafts with refreshments and a Christmas thought. Invite your friends



Sun 17 Dec

Carol Services

2.30 pm

Dementia Friendly Service

7.30 pm

Carol Service for all

