

# 2020

Annual Parish Church Meeting



HTCD



STACC

21 October 2020

*Holy Trinity Combe Down  
St Andrew's Community Church*



## Annual Parish Church Meeting: Agenda

7.30pm, Wednesday 21 October 2020

At HTCD and Live Stream

7.30 pm      **Welcome** as people arrive – Host: Liz Hume  
Electoral Roll checking

7.35pm      **Opening Prayer**  
Worship  
The voting system explained

7.40pm      **Testimonies**  
A look back to Steve Rogers  
Kelly and Kim – Alpha

7.45 pm      **Annual Vestry Meeting (Election of Church Wardens)**  
*Standing down: David Purdon*  
*Nominees*  
Christine Absolon      Proposed: Tim Dewes      Seconded: Sharon Blair  
Nick Alexander      Proposed: Carolyn Scriven      Seconded: Julian Shepperd

7.50 pm      **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approve and sign Minutes of last year's meeting
3. Presentation of the Electoral Roll
4. Election of members of the Deanery Synod – Richard Meryon
5. Election of members of the Parochial Church Council

**Thank you to PCC leavers:** Mark Humphriss and Duone Hopwood

### Candidates Standing

Sally Hogg	Proposed: David Purdon	Seconded: Anne Purdon
Becky Clay	Proposed: Susie Houston	Seconded: Nick Stubbs
Jacob Easaw	Proposed: Chris Absolon	Seconded: David Purdon
Sue Dewes	Proposed: Rebecca Hannon	Seconded: Fiona Womersley

8.00 pm      **Voting Opens**

8.05 pm      **Reports (verbal)**

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| • Finance (with slides) | John Talbot (Approval of 2019 accounts) |
| • Fabric                | Howard Jones                            |
| • Staffing              | Clive Abbott                            |

8.20 pm      **Report of the year (18 months)**

### Looking Back

- Report from the year
- Thank You this year
- Goodbye this year

### Looking Forward

- Staff changes
- Looking to the Future

8.50 pm      **Voting Results**

8.55pm      **Questions**

9.00 pm      **Closing Prayers**



## Annual Church Family Meeting 2019: Minutes Wednesday 24 April 2019

### Annual Vestry Meeting (Election of Church Wardens)

Chair – Shawn Swinney

Nominations for church warden elections are below:

Christine Absolon  
David Purdon

Proposed: Simon Stuart  
Proposed: Sally Hogg

Seconded: Charmian Kingswell  
Seconded: Tim Dewes

Those present showed their support for the election of David and Christine by a show of hands. Shawn thanked them both on behalf of the church family. Shawn also thanked David LeTall and Peter Houston for all they do as deputy church wardens.

The Vestry meeting was declared closed and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting was declared open.

### Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Chair – Shawn Swinney

1. **Apologies for absence** – Sue and Simon Wilsher, Stuart Mitchell, Mark and Rachel Humphriss, Sophie Alexander, Janet Andrews, Rob Archer, Ian Argyle, Rob Clay, Saphi Davies, Tricia Hargrave, Anne Jones, Jean Maguire, John Morrish, John Rew, Diane Rogers, Lynne Tisdale, Clive and Abi Abbott

#### 2. Minutes of last year's meeting

Elizabeth Perrott proposed that these minutes be accepted, and this was seconded by Jan Robertson.

The minutes were UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED as a true record of the meeting.

#### 3. Presentation of the Electoral Roll

Shawn presented the electoral roll with 233 names. 2 particularly significant church members who died last year were Lyn Hodges and Anne Harwood.

Lyn and Alan Hodges were married in Holy Trinity, and Lyn has served in many ways throughout the benefice. She was a great pray-er, had a great sense of humour and together she and Alan have been a blessing to many through their commitment, friendship and faith.

Anne Harwood was a member of HT and StACC for many years. Anne and Rick together have served our whole community in numerous activities. Anne was very committed to the MU and as part of this she started serving a hot meal at the end of St Andrew's Toddlers. Anne is greatly missed by our community.

The electoral roll was UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED as the electoral roll of this church.

#### 4. No election of members of the Deanery Synod

#### 5. Election of members of the Parochial Church Council

There are 3 vacancies and 3 nominations have been received.

Nick Alexander  
Niall Robertson  
Simon Winchcombe

Proposed: Sarah Knedel  
Proposed: Stuart Mitchell  
Proposed: Steve Rogers

Seconded: Katie Talbot  
Seconded: Mark Humphriss  
Seconded: Eli Archer

Those present indicated their support of these people by a show of hands. No abstentions. Shawn prayed for the newly elected candidates.

#### 6. Thanking people

- a) **Eli Archer** – as she steps down from PCC, with her particular focus on St Andrew's and the prayer life of the church.
- b) **Paul and Margaret Maxwell Cooke** who stepped down earlier in the year from organising the monthly seniors service and lunch

- c) **Di Groom, Viv Winrow, Penny Williams** for their work heading up the Genesis Sunday Centre, which ran for nearly 20 years, for their commitment behind the scenes, serving the vulnerable in the city.
- d) **Charmian Kingswell** who has quietly and efficiently set up our safeguarding system and overseen our DBS checks. Charmian has done this very thoroughly and we've been really fortunate to have her expertise and care.

## 7. Reports

### a Finance, *John Talbot*

A power point presentation was shown. The highlights:

- Our total income for 2018 was £564k. This is an increase from 2017, as it includes the BMA (benefice ministry allowance) and St John's grants for CAP and the StACC centre manager and outreach worker for 2018 and 2019 (we have to recognise the 2019 income due to charity accounting rules).
- We had planned for a budget deficit (deficit of £56k), with the prayer that our membership would grow and income would increase. We are so grateful that we are seeing this happening. Our giving from members increased approximately £30k from the amount we expected in 2018. Due to the significant level of grants we received (BMA, St John's CAP and STACC Centre Manager and Outreach worker for 2018 & 2019), the overall result for the year is a surplus of £41k. Without those grants, we would have had a deficit of £51k - which emphasises the importance of them at this present time and the ongoing challenge for us to invest for growth so that by the time the grants end we are able to sustain our activities from our own giving.
- Our main budgeted expenditure costs are staff salaries, mission and parish share - all carefully monitored and spent, with the day to day operations of the church spending £26k less than budget
- Reserves at the end of 2018 were £443k
- Going forward into 2019 our cash reserves are in a sound position
- Planned deficit budget for 2019, being carefully monitored
- Following Pledge Sunday, the giving response is £43k higher than expected - reassuring and encouraging news for the as we look forwards
- John asked for help from anyone who has experience in applying for grants

Now the accounts have been considered, JT invited those present to receive the accounts. John Knowles proposed that the accounts be accepted, this was seconded by Niall Robertson and all were in favour.

Huge thanks were expressed to John in his role as treasurer, and also to Katie Talbot who does an enormous amount of work with our church finances.

### b Fabric, *Niall Robertson, on behalf of Stuart Mitchell*

The Buildings Committee look after the HT church building and grounds, as well as the Church Rooms and St Andrew's (in liaison with the Holy Trinity Trust who own the buildings). Their remit is to ensure that the buildings are safe and suitable for use, accessible and legally compliant. During the vacancy, the buildings committee also had responsibility for Lonsdale. The following work has been carried out during the last year:

- Improved management of subcontractors and safe working practices in order to comply with regulations, in particular health and safety regulations
- Quinquennial jobs - south east gateway and wall by boiler room steps. Quotations received, work hopefully to be done this summer
- Gutter cleaning - has been done up to now by Chris Stone and David LeTall, to be done from now on a commercial basis
- Tree work planned
- St Andrew's. We are hugely indebted to Nick Stubbs for investigating the problems with our air conditioning system.
- HT boiler - putting a plan in place to replace it when it stops working.
- Now that seniors work has moved to StACC, we have no current plans to change kitchen facilities in HT.
- Roof access - safe access to the external roofs being planned.

Stuart thanked the following people:

- The Committee members - Niall Robertson, Ian Teasdale, Liz Hume, David Purdon and in particular Chris Stone and David LeTall
- H&S Walkarounds and Advice - John Moore, Helen Green
- Practical help - David Le Tall, Chris Stone
- Admin Support - Liz Hume, Sarah Knedel
- StACC AC Project - Nick Stubbs

### c. Staffing, *Christine Absolon and David Purdon on behalf of Clive Abbott*

The Staffing Committee's main remit is to ensure that the PCC complies with employment legislation and it is responsible for examining staffing levels and costs.

Committee membership: Christine Absolon, Eamonn Kelly, Liz Hume, Sally Hogg, David Purdon (now stepped down), Shawn Swinney.

In addition to routine things, the following staffing changes have taken place:

- We welcomed Shawn as our vicar in September
- Jo Robinson left the staff in August 2018 to train for ordained ministry at Trinity College
- We gained funding from St John's for the StACC Centre Manager role and for StACC outreach
- Polly Andrews has joined the staff team in a voluntary capacity to oversee our seniors work. We are very grateful to her.
- Sharon was awarded £2000 for the church as runner up in an Ecclesiastical Competition for volunteers for all her work at HT and St Andrew's
- Anna Evans was appointed as finance officer in May 2018. Anna is currently on maternity leave; Nick Moss is doing the maternity cover.
- Looking ahead to coming year, Sally Hogg will be leading a review of our safeguarding policy
- Christine thanked our staff team who serve our church at HT and StACC.
- Liz Hume, operations manager
- Jane Bradby, church administrator
- Sarah Knedel, PA to Shawn
- Nick Moss, finance officer
- Susie Houston, StACC Centre Manager
- Chris Stone, caretaker
- Steve Rogers, St Andrew's Minister
- Sharon Blair, families minister
- Claire Morrish, children's minister
- Stuart McLachlan, youth minister
- Polly Andrews, seniors minister
- Amanda Wetton, CAP centre manager

Also on behalf of the PCC, staff team and congregations, Christine thanked Shawn for all he's brought to us in the last 8 months.

Thanks were also given to Jo for all she does to support Shawn, the staff, and for the open houses they've hosted.

## 8. Annual Report (Shawn)

Firstly Shawn shared some snippets from the different ministry areas:

- CHILDREN One of the record numbers at St Andrew's Toddlers: 94 children and adults
- Sunday group numbers have grown from 51 to 62
- Numbers in our Under 6s have doubled in the last year.
- In the last year our relationship with Combe Down Primary School has continued to flourish, and the school use the building for various Christian services eg Christingle
- YOUTH 18 regulars at the Foxhill youth group
- Prayer space at Ralph Allen School, 60 young people in Y7-11.
- Ignite youth group is growing – it has a stronger Christian input, and there are 17 young people per session
- FOXHILL. Lots going on in the week, enabling St Andrew's to be a lifeboat to many.
- CAP – Amanda has been part of a work intervening with CURO so people don't lose their homes.
- SENIORS – A big thank you to senior pastoral team, they're a great testimony to faith in later life
- ADMIN – in the last year, there were 133 external bookings at StACC, bringing an income of £17k. There were 111 bookings in Church Rooms bringing an income of £14k and contact with many different community events.

Shawn shared the news that Vineyard Church is moving to Mulberry Park School from their current venue in town. Shawn has met with the Vineyard leaders to talk and pray about this. Shawn highlighted that this new expression of church in our parish will hopefully serve to bring more people to Jesus and that we want to look at how we can best support them and make them feel welcome.

Anna Gidney shared a testimony of the past year and the difference it makes knowing Jesus in her everyday life

Shawn shared some of his highlights since last September:

- Licensing
- Remembrance Sunday
- Christmas, angel, baby in a box
- Easter baptisms
- The range of preaching series we have covered and the importance of the theme of vulnerability and sharing our faith

Shawn's focus since arriving:

- Equipping the staff – computers, easy worship, planning center, training
- Equipping the church – training for leaders, for leaders, for home group leaders
- Communication – new website for HT, info cards for newcomers, unified communication plan.

- Developing a united benefice. Communication, operations, PCC and Staff day (for Monkton South Stoke and Combe Down)
- Coming up – hospitality Sunday, focus on community, just one morning service, and following it, people hosting lunches, so people will either host a lunch or be invited to a lunch. Pentecost Sunday (United with StACC) followed by hog roast, Combe Down Fest.

CAP is being relaunched at Manvers street so it can be better connected with FoodBank and other initiatives. Relaunch will hopefully be effective to create longterm sustainability from other churches.

Shawn expressed his thanks to Dan and Lydia for their huge commitment to their role as worship coordinators.

**Questions were invited:**

- a) John Knowles – Would the PCC consider increasing our 11.5% giving to mission? SS responded that there are other areas of mission that are not in the 11.5%. eg CAP, Foxhill and that the PCC regularly reviews the proportion we give away.
- b) Hazel Roberts – Why isn't the StACC sermon on the web? SS responded that he and Steve have talked about this, and it's a possibility for the future.
- c) Claire Morrish on behalf of the children. Are there any greener options for heating our church? Solar panels? The Buildings committee will look into this.
- d) Rachel Jackson – Can we see even more people from this church going across the world to preach the gospel? Leila Butcher, Molly Spear and Polly Andrews led a time of prayer, and the meeting closed with a hymn.

# 2020

## APCM Annual Report

21<sup>st</sup> October 2020

*This report covers from March 2019 to October 2020 due to  
the delayed APCM because of the Covid 19 Pandemic*

## Annual Parish Church Meeting: Report 7.30pm, Wednesday 21 October 2020

*This report covers from March 2019 to October 2020 due to the delayed APCM because of the Covid 19 Pandemic*

### Our Church Services

Our Churches are flourishing! Pre pandemic we had 2 morning services at HTCD attended by about 200 adults. STACC had a service attended by about 40 adults. There is a large amount of lay involvement in all the services. We have developed closer links with the other churches in the Benefice in these 18 months.

From March 2020 we ran streamed services for all four churches in the benefice with contributions from all four churches. These were also placed on Youtube and were very well received with high numbers of devices joining. Shawn's sermon series chosen before lockdown was called 'When the world falls apart', seemed an apt title!

We are very grateful to Shawn for his foresight and leadership in this time. He was indeed appointed 'for just such a time as this'. And we are grateful for all his technical work in this season in setting up streaming and Youtube services and in editing our services which regularly takes more than a day of his week!

Three people with a past or present link with our churches were ordained in October 2020. Our dear minister for STACC, Steve Rogers, died before he could be ordained and as Bishop Ruth said at the ordination service, 'he had been called to serve a higher calling.'

We have three from our congregations accepted for ordination training from September 2020, Praise the Lord for raising up people to serve our churches.

There have been changes to our staff team with a new Comms officer, Charlotte Dawes, and a new debt coach, Vicki Wooding. We also have an Associate Priest Liza Wortlethock one day a week who joined us in the summer. Our Finance Officer went on maternity leave and was ably replaced by Nick Moss and then Jacqui Bates. We have Chris Absolon as our part time curate who will assist Bishop John Perry at Southstoke 2 Sundays a month. STACC is being supported by Cath Candish who has postponed her ordination until June to serve at STACC.

We are very grateful to Dan and Lydia for their leading of our worship before the lockdown and how they stepped up and led our worship through this season. Dan's degree, although not used in his day job, has been invaluable in recording and producing our worship.

## Ministry reports

*Our Ministry Leads have written reports on the last 18 months, pre Covid and during Covid, in each of their areas. providing an overview of the many activities of the churches. We are very grateful for all the work they do and the teams that work with them which have an impact across the generations both within the congregations and in our local community.*

### Worship Leaders, Dan and Lydia write:

Worship for most of 2020 has been a bit different to previous years. The opportunity to worship together as a unified benefice for most of the lockdown, across the internet has been a unique one that wouldn't have happened in a 'normal' world.

We have a great team of musicians who have risen to the challenge of videos and playing together across distance, and it's been good to be able to include people from both HTCD & STACC where technology allowed. I'll never complain about the time it takes to have a practice again, as assembling, mixing and producing the tracks & videos is a part time job. As is normal, there have been team members who have stepped down or moved on, but there have been new additions to the team across the period too - people worshipping together who have never met in person.

Being able to record together as a team now is a good step forward, and means we'll be able to get more of the wider team involved, whilst still protecting our more vulnerable members.

A big thank you to Josh & the sound team (particularly Josh) who are stepping up & learning new live-streaming skills.

One of the big prayer points is for STACC - for the team there to continue developing when they go back to having a live band. Another point that requires both prayer & personnel cover is for the beginning of next year, as we'll be looking to take a break as we adjust to having a newborn.

If the volume of voices at the last pre Covid service we had back in the mists of history is anything to go by, when we can get back together it will be a very special experience. A big thanks to everyone involved.

### Families Minister, Sharon Blair, writes:

The aim of the Families Ministry is to support families to have more fun together and either come to know Jesus or to be able to reach out to others who don't. The activities below are a few of the things we do to fulfil this aim:

**Families on Foxhill:** I head up the two Toddler groups at STACC with various helpers and the facts and figures are in the children's ministry report. We have given a safe, secure, friendly and nourishing space to many young families over the year. They love the friendship and support, including prayer, given by a great team plus the meals made by the MU.

**Foxhill Family Support:** It has been a real blessing to see mums that we have supported over the past 8 years in a much better place, both physically and mentally. At least two or three families are visited each week. It's so encouraging to see that, because of the support and love they have felt from our churches and Families team, some of them are moving on in their journey towards Jesus. God is on the move as we share His love and four mums attend a weekly bible study, ten parents have done alpha over the past three years, one is on alpha now and we are taking one family to New Wine.

**Family Events:** 450 people attended Combe Down Fest celebration on Fir's Field, 150 at our church Pentecost hog roast and other family events have been fun (very important), have reached out with the love of Jesus to our community and enabled our church family to grow together in fellowship.

**Alpha:** The alpha course in the Easter term 2019 was well attended by an average of 15 guests of whom one was baptised this year and others moved on in their faith. All need our continued prayer.

**Alpha online:** A real moment of joy in the midst of gloom! Despite never having met some of the people in reality it was SO good to have a lively, interested and great group of people on the alpha zoom course from June -August. Some have come to faith for the first time and others have grown significantly in their faith - hallelujah! This has been SO encouraging and it's been lovely to welcome some into church and get to see what their bottom half looks like!! THANK YOU to all those who faithfully prayed for this each week. There must

have been at least 50 people praying for this and we could really feel the Lord's presence every week as a result!

**Pastoral Support for Families:** We have been able to give pastoral visits to families within the church – usually two a week. Three or four families per month who are new to the church, or in need, on the fringes of church or just because... have been blessed with a cake. This also provides good opportunity to give pastoral support.

In order to maintain contact between church families during lockdown I set up three Whatsapp groups for parents depending on the age group of their children. This enabled the sharing of much relevant information e.g. good educational resources, good places to walk, suitable music etc etc as well as encouragement

#### **Family Work during the Pandemic:**

Family Support on Foxhill. We are unable to have any sort of Toddler groups at STACC due to Covid. So we are missing them very much. Once the 'hard' lockdown was lifted a little I was able to spend a day a week delivering Foodshare food parcels given by big supermarkets once a week to 15 or so families. Another joy was the sharing of toys and educational resources – families from HTCD who had, gave to those who had not and it was a great witness.

These deliveries enabled me to keep in contact with many of the mothers and children. Some have had a bad time during lockdown particularly whilst schools were closed but due to the relationships that have built up over time I have felt privileged to be able to share those woes and pray and give as much support as possible. Many parenting issues, relationship difficulties and neighbourly disputes have cropped up which have been hard for all concerned.

Four of the mums from Toddlers are managing to attend a bible study outside led by ladies from STACC which has been encouraging and we can see small indications of faith growing which is exciting. One of these mums is hoping to come to New Wine with the church financed by generous members of our church family.

Family Events have been nil – no Fest and no hog roast and no other church family get togethers! How I long to relaunch these one day!

#### **Children's Minister, Claire Morrish, writes:**

Children's ministry continues to grow in all directions. We now have over 75 children aged 0-11 registered for our Sunday groups with average attendances each week of between 30 and 45 children.

We have developed a **new sensory room** for some of Ruth's Crew (aged 3-7) as for some of our sensitive little ones the main room was just too crowded and busy.

I go into Combe Down school for MaD (**Make a Difference**) Club on Monday lunchtimes and we continue to deliver the Wednesday's collective worship slot. We have also host seasonal events for the school adding this year: a prayer space for the school as part of well-being week & the empty chair project for remembrance.

Our mid-week toddler groups are also busy – **Messy Mondays** fortnightly reaches 20 families (about 25 toddlers), **Tuesday Toddlers** on average 30 families (about 35 toddlers) and continues to include a free lunch.

**Thankful Thursdays** now in its 2<sup>nd</sup> full year currently has 20 Mums receiving the Thankful thought and about 10 mums and 14 children attending on an average week. What has been lovely about that group is the shared café time with the 11.30am service after often seeing ages 0-100 sharing time together.

Last years **holiday club** saw 76 children join us, to travel through time over our 4 days of fun gospel learning. Last year Messy church ran until July attracting 55 people on average but it has been rested and Café church has been launched in it's place.

All Age services continue to find engaging and interactive ways for us to worship and discover God's word all together. Combe Down fest also brought together many families with whom we have a link and some who live close by to celebrate God's love for us all.

**The Pandemic** has sadly stopped all our face to face work with children under 4 and their parents. We can no longer go into the school in person or the school visit our church for collective worship. These are great losses to children's ministry. However thanks to Shawn's knowledge of skills and equipment children's ministry has flourished virtually with Claire discovering her inner Blue Peter presenter and Thankful Thursday, Ruth's Crew,

Peter's Crew and some school collective worship all onto Youtube with good viewing figures. Some highlights of the feedback included the chance to bring together families who live overseas – so different generations separated by physical distance could watch and share the same spiritual input and discuss their faith in this difficult season.

**Holiday Club** went virtual and ecumenical and a group of 12 churches from in and around Bath produced the Unlikely Heroes Club which went out as 6 weekly episodes throughout the summer. We sent out 15 craft packs to families in Foxhill to support them in accessing this and had some great feedback.

Over the summer we also launched **Bible at Bedtime** and intergenerational project enabling our seniors to read the bible to our juniors.

As the new school year begins we have launched **Muddy Church** for our primary school aged children in our church garden during our 10.30 service and we are also piloting a kids club by post initiative to reach those who we haven't seen in a while.

**School collective worship** is now delivered via teams live into classrooms and we have provided prayer spaces for every classroom in Combe Down encouraging them to pray about their theme of respect this term.

The Unlikely Heroes team is looking ahead to Light party projects and Christmas ideas.

### Youth Minister, Stuart McLachlan, writes:

- Our **Youth Hangout** takes place during the Sunday services and is attended by 11-18 year olds
- Another 40+ young people, aged 15-18, sit in during the service
- 62 youths attend youth activities on a Sunday
- 45+ young people were reached through our **Youth Club on Fox Hill** with an average weekly attendance of 18+
- The **Ignite Youth Club at HTCD** reached 41+ young people with an average weekly attendance of 17+ young people

**Throughout Covid** we have been online with Zoom groups, a Wednesday boys group and also a separate girls group, running at the same time. We have also had youth church online with weekly videos and youth meet ups. We have a daily blog for youth online. Over summer the young people got together to do a bike ride and picnic, with other meet ups also through summer with games and picnics. I was also able to support young people through phone calls and mentoring the young people I worked with from Ralph Allen.

### Students and 18-30s Leads, Matt and Megan Harris, and Lewis Irvine, write:

This last year we have seen a steady number of students with some going on placement and some coming back. We have had meals together and enjoyed developing relationships with them. At the start of September we prayerfully considered to change our focus and move from **18 to 30 year olds**. The purpose of this is to reach out to more people. We have had some socials out in town which normally revolve around food. We are looking forward to seeing this develop more and build community together. We would particularly like to thank the hosts of the student welcome lunches and Patricia who put on an exceptional Christmas lunch for us all in December.

We are grateful to Matt and Megan for leading the Student work aided by Lewis Irvine. Matt and Megan have passed the baton to Charlotte and Ben Dawes from September

### Women's Minister, Penny Williams, writes:

We had a range of Women's activities in 2019. The focus of these was to provide events to which we could invite friends and to develop faith and relationships within and between the churches.

We started the year with a breakfast with the title **Women in the Workplace**. In June we went on a guided walk finding out about amazing women in the history of Bath followed by a meal. In October we had a day of reflection and teaching and finally our wonderful **Craft Evening** in November. We had 70-80 women at the events many of whom were not part of our congregations.

### Men's Minister, Jon Williams, writes:

Last year involved a number of varied events that were offered both to allow the men of the church to enjoy fellowship and also to tackle certain challenging areas of their faith.

Regarding the purely **social** we enjoyed a curry night, a BBQ, a wine taster and some evening walks which ended at a local pub.

On the more serious side we tackled an evening on 'Politics and Faith' which was well attended, offered a range of interesting opinions and was surprisingly civil!

The **book group** continued to meet to discuss "The Heavenly Man" and "The life of Hudson Taylor".

Most successful was the **week-end** away where we managed to encourage thirty five men. The topic on 'Science and Faith' was well presented, challenging and certainly too complex to resolve in a few brief talks. However, it was well worth developing our understanding of the issues. Lee Abbey was an excellent venue.

In conclusion, the year went well and the men of the church expressed their appreciation of the activities and fellowship opportunities on offer.

### Mother's Union, Elizabeth Perrott writes:

The aim of Mothers' Union is to uphold family life and build strong relationships. We meet monthly and have yearly programme of speakers following special theme. This year our theme is 'Building Hope and Confidence'. 15 or so members attend our meetings but everyone is welcome.

We have **Lunch Club** every Tuesday at STACC and feed and support 50 or so Mums and Toddlers. We raise funds and help distribute **MU Student Cookery Book** and also give vouchers to Women's Refuge to help in resettlement of clients. We also work to raise Awareness of Violence against Women, Trafficking and Female Genital Mutilation. Our latest project is in response to request from our local schools to provide sanitary goods so girls do not miss schooling during periods. Prayer is the heartbeat of every thing we do. Come and join us!

### Meals Ministry, Mary Newton writes:

"The meals ministry" has been running at HTCD for about 16 years. I took it on 5 years ago and during that time **we have cooked 157 meals** for families, couples and individuals, mostly church family members but for some people from outside the church.

I have a team of 17 cooks but 5 or 6 of them do most of the meals.

We have referrals from the church office, Families minister, Seniors Minister and others. Most of the referrals are for the sick, those just home from hospital, those moving house, new Mum's etc.

The ministry is valuable not only for providing meals but for fellowship, company and encouragement."

### Small Groups, Mark and Rebecca Hannan write:

There are **17 Home Groups** (Small Groups) (220 members) in the Parish which meet weekly. Group Leaders convene twice a year to encourage each other, to hear of the different activities in which each engage, and for training. The Groups meet for worship, Bible study and prayer. Invariably members support each other through the various vicissitudes of life, and also get together for social activities extending to 'unchurched' members of the their families or the community. They also join together in service (helping with Alpha Suppers, Seniors Ministry etc.). As all the Groups are currently full one of the larger groups is to divide so each "daughter" Group can help fulfil outstanding requests for places.

Through the Pandemic home groups have tried to keep in touch through zoom, socially distanced meetings on the Firs and in gardens and by phone.

### Senior's Minister, Polly Andrews, writes:

(April 2019- October 2020)

We believe that the fullness of life that Jesus came to give is available to everyone no matter your age or ability. Seniors Ministry desires to reach, enrich and empower older people with and through the love of God, the hope of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. To promote and facilitate a disability inclusive church, allowing everyone to be able to participate, contribute and flourish in church life.

## **Pre Covid**

We reached out to several care homes and a day centre providing activities and services that are well received:

**Songs of Praise** for people living with dementia who attend Peggy Dodd Centre is run fortnightly by a team from HTCD and is attended by 25 plus.

**Informal Services** for residents at Springfield House Dementia Care home. Runs monthly by a team and are attended by 12-20 residents.

**Orchard Praise** at The Orchard (Sirona -Rockhall Lane). Occurs monthly, 8-10 attend.  
The Orchard Variety Hour for residents living at The Orchard occurs Monthly (15)

**Needles and Natter** for all ages at STACC weekly (10-12)

A **Communion service** and lunch is held at STACC at 11.30am on 1st Thursday of the month (except August) 45 usually attend. At the Christmas service and lunch this increased to 65!

Summer Social Event for any older people living in Combe Down – This year was Afternoon Tea with live music and 80 attended.

**Dementia Friendly Carol Service** with the Peggy Dodd Centre at HTCD 90 attended, and many extended families attended including grandchildren.

**The Carol Service** at The Orchard was attended by 22!

**Seniors Pastoral Care Team** meets (monthly), pray and visit many of the senior members of a congregation when ill or immobile. The team comprises 15 people

The SPCT have an away day to support and equip and a prayer and vision night in Feb 2020

## **During Covid:**

At the beginning of the year we prayed for ways that we could get to know the Seniors in our church and village better; to deepen our relationships with them. We are finding that through the regular phone calls we are making to the Seniors at this time of not seeing them they are talking more opening and honestly, chatting for longer and looking forward to our phone calls. We thank God that he has used this time to answer our prayers!

We also prayed for generations to mix and that has happened as we have linked a young family with a Senior for phone calls and support.

Better relationship with residents and staff at the Orchard through increased support and contact

## **Paper Traditional Service:**

Those who were not able or did not want to access the online services were appreciative of an alternative via a written traditional service delivered weekly. This increased my contact with and helped me get to know many more Seniors who I will not continue to be in contact with.

These comments were received:

*"Thanks so much Anne, Polly and James. Lovely having a service one can read at one's leisure and James' sermon that I can keep going back to. All very helpful in these dark times. "*

*"You are doing such a brilliant job. The hymns are accessible. Yes, they may cause tears, but only because they are such a powerful aid to memory. Good choices. Really appreciate your thoughtfulness and prayerfulness. "*

*"I saved all the Holy Week readings James compiled until today, and have just finished studying them (and answering all questions!). I thoroughly enjoyed this work and giving it the time it deserved. I have also 'taken part' in the moving Easter Day service compiled by James and Polly and sent by Anne. Obviously it wasn't the same as a service at St James would have been, but it was thoughtful and beautiful, and very appropriate for the strange times we are now living through. Thank you so much to all who played a part in making this Easter Day a special one. We are very lucky in our church leaders and wardens, and I hope I speak for us all when I say we so appreciate what you do for us. I have copied James into this and hope someone can also thank Polly Andrews whose email I do not have. "*

**The Bible at Bedtime** project did not reach the intended audience. It required a lot of time and effort on my part but I am trying not to feel discouraged as in recording the 42 episodes I had contact with and visited Seniors who I wouldn't have seen if it wasn't for the project.

Young families have been linked with Seniors for mutual encouragement at this time and there have been some great stories of resulting joy

**The Pastoral Seniors Team** reviewed their role and purpose in this current season and we now aim to:

- Keep in contact with the Seniors
- Make and maintain relationships with Seniors
- Offer prayer and support
- Raise the profile of the Seniors and the Seniors ministry in our church
- Spiritual encouragement
- Encourage and support spiritual growth
- Point people to Jesus
- Help people to navigate these uncertain times

We continue to meet monthly via Zoom

## Prayer

We have a 7am prayer meeting weekly that is inspirationally led and prays in particular for our linked mission partners. There are focused prayer meetings about various aspects of the work of the churches for example CAP, Families Ministry.

We have had whole church prayer meetings twice a term attended by 30-40, focused on pressing issues such as politicians, Brexit, and illnesses amongst our congregations.

We have had a prayer ministry team of about 19 people who are equipped and willing to pray with people.

**During the Pandemic** we have had Morning Prayer on zoom every week day morning for the last 7 months! We pray for individuals and pressing needs. This is attended regularly by 20 'devices' and has been a huge support, encouragement and inspiration during this season.

A 'Revival Prayer meeting' has started and meets monthly on zoom.

## Missions Team Leaders, Richard Meryon and Anne Purdon, write:

HTCD allocates 10% of its annual budget for 'mission' work outside the parish. This is managed by the International Mission Team (IMT) and the UK Mission Team (UKMT), who divide this figure 2:1.

Most of that allocated by the IMT is given to our church Partners, our church's members who are now serving overseas. So in FY19-20 we had three couples abroad (in Albania, Tanzania, and Uganda) and one single person also in Tanzania. In FY20-21 we will be supporting six married and a new single person serving overseas. For most, we are their 'principal' sending church but for at least one we are one of several who support them. The IMT also supports church members, young or older, who go abroad on short term mission trips – anything from 2 weeks to 6 months to say Romania, Tanzania or Albania. We also have a few who are Links, couples with a looser link to HTCD, to whom we give occasional one-off grants for a specific 'mission' project. The church regularly prays for all our Partners and Links which all would say is far more vital than the financial support."

The Zoom era has seen great benefits for the IMT ministry. Shawn has been great at allowing many of our international Partners to offer an update to be woven into the middle of the Sunday services. Hopefully the church now feels better connected to our Partners, as they surely do to us.

The UKMT, guided by a survey to the congregation, supports a number of Christian charities in the UK, mainly Bath based. These cover a wide variety of projects including work with children with disabilities, nomads, youth and street pastors. We also support an anti-trafficking charity and a previous church member now working for OMF based in Huddersfield. In addition we support a project based in inner city Bradford, Yorkshire working with elderly people and refugees, focused on engaging with, and supporting marginalised, vulnerable and isolated people in the neighbourhood, and improving community wellbeing and integration. The church partners with these projects financially and through vital prayer support.

In November 2019 we had a very successful Missions Weekend. This included a quiz, a service with input from our missions partners, missions displays and a lunch on Sunday. Indi Elcock from the Anchor Project was interviewed and Rev Rosy Fairhurst preached.

## CAP Debt Centre

Our CAP Debt Centre is now in its 5th year. Our debt centre manager has been joined by a debt coach each working 2 days a week. We are grateful to St John's Foundation and other churches that support this work. The Debt Centre moved to Manvers Street Baptist Church in September to be more centrally situated and to be closer to other helpful services like the Food bank. We are grateful to Manver Street for providing a room and support of CAP.

Vicki has been trained as a debt coach, prior to this she has worked on writing to grant organisations to fund CAP as St John's funding finishes shortly. There has also been an effort to share the responsibility for CAP amongst other Churches. We are very grateful to the other churches who have supported CAP over the years, but we need more supporters for CAP to be sustainable.

## STACC

### Pre Covid

STACC continues to play its part in the local community providing a safe place for all who use our facilities by offering a place to meet with others, in particular, children, families, the elderly, those who live alone and feel isolated. The building is a hive of activity throughout the week:

**Foxhill Focus Lunch Club** provides a hot 2 course meal for those who arrive, usually 15, and offers physical, emotional and spiritual comfort and support to marginalised folk on Foxhill who struggle with a number of issues including alcohol, drugs and mental health issues

We have joined the **Fareshare** food scheme which has enabled us to collect food from Tesco's for distribution to needy families as well as providing additional food for Foxhill Focus lunches and other church events.

**STACCtion** days have become firmly embedded in the life of STACC where twice a year we provide skips so that local residents can get rid of any unwanted rubbish. This year Curo have joined us and paid for another two skips to be placed in other locations on the estate.

STACC is well used by the local community for events and national organisations also uses it as a great venue eg RSPB. The footfall through STACC during the week is very high.

## STACC 2020 Report, Cath Candish and Susie Houston writes:

Spring 2020 looked promising. A successful 'cafe church', and a bustling jumble sale took place just before Covid restrictions fell. But worse by far was the loss of Steve Rogers in May.

**Steve** was dearly loved by all and his death left the whole church family as well as the Foxhill community heartbroken. At his funeral the roads around the church were lined with people to show their love for Steve and Di. The rest of the year has been spent in grief as well as finding a way through the restrictions imposed by Covid.

Cath Candish has joined us as a licensed lay curate to assist the church family to navigate this difficult transitional journey. While it is an extraordinary time, marked with sadness and grief, God continues to surprise us by moving in new ways. The church family have noticed that relationships, both within the church and with the Foxhill community, have grown richer, with more opportunities for prayer.

**Foxhill Focus** became mobile with Susie Houston making weekly deliveries of Tesco fareshare food to around 20 vulnerable individuals (and Sharon Blair to Foxhill families) in their homes. We now also offer freshly cooked meals for collection from STACC which is proving popular amongst those who attended Foxhill Focus. Other groups have begun to use the building again, including Southside community centre for the serving of meals to vulnerable families.

**A Whatsapp group** has been established for the STACC church family that has held us together in extraordinary ways during this period. A pastoral team works to ensure that all those on Foxhill estate known to the church who are vulnerable are reached out to. Services are continuing in the building as well as the HTCD online family service. Groups meet on Zoom both after the Sunday service and on Wednesday evenings.

Autumn is set to be busy as we celebrate the significant markers of the season in creative, Covid safe ways. We are also planning a 24 hour prayer event and a community 'STACction morning' involving hiring skips for local residents' unwanted items.

***We are very grateful to the Lord for all he has and is doing amongst us and give him all the glory! We are also thankful to our staff team and everyone who plays their part in our church families and to Shawn for his leadership in this season.***

Christine Absolon, October 2020