



LOCKINGCASTLECHURCH

Following the way of Jesus, serving the community

Book of Reports On the year 2017

AGM 15th April 2018

As you read through this report, thank God
for all He has done and is doing through us
for the sake of His kingdom.



Contents	Leader	Page
Minister's Report	Tom Yacomeni	3
Worship Group	Phil Brown	4
Prayer Ministry	Julie Lanham	4
Pastoral Care	Emily Cumberbatch.....	5
Oasis Café Church	Emily Cumberbatch.....	6
Soaking Prayer	Katherine Hollis.....	6
Youth & Children's Ministries	Andy Pearce.....	6
Children's and families work	Cathy Bond.....	7
Mentoring	Debbie Van Der Watt.....	7
Audited Accounts for 2016	Martin Purnell.....	8-9
	Jacqui Keir-Bucknall	10
	Jutta Stanley.....	10
	Neville Brownlee.....	11
Life Groups:	Emily Cumberbatch	11
	Heather Colledge.....	11
	Phil and April.....	11
	Emily Cumberbatch.....	12
	Katherine Hollis.....	12
Men at Locking Castle (M@LC)	John Lanham.....	12
Women at Locking Castle (W@LC)	Naomi Dunn.....	12
Crafty Ladies	Adele Lloyd	12
LCC Art Group	Debbie Van Der Watt.....	13
Outreach ministries:		
Alpha	Paul Gill	13
Haywood Village	Fiona Mayne.....	13
West Wick	Ellie Gray.....	14
Summer Lane Chaplaincy	Peter Richardson, Emily...	14
Summer Lane Reading Team	Suzanne Pearse	15
FoodBank	Dave Manuel.....	15
Toddlers	Mims Yacomeni	16
CAP money(Christians Against Poverty)	Emily Cumberbatch	17
Church operations		
Safeguarding	Suzanne Pearse	18
Mission Focus	Emily Cumberbatch	19
Newsletter	Jutta Stanley.....	19
Flowers	Suzanne Pearse	20
Bookings	Teresa Britton	20
Administration	Katherine Hollis.....	20

Minister's Report

Tom Yacomeni

2017 was another exciting year to be part of Locking Castle Church. As we continued to invest in our 3 strategic priorities of *Growing disciples*, *Planting churches* and *Serving the community*, by God's grace our mission opportunities have multiplied and the church has continued to grow. Baptisms and new members joining continue to be highlights on Sundays, with our worship teams leading us into rich times in the presence of the Lord. It has been a delight to welcome guest speakers as well as being served brilliantly by our own preachers and Sunday volunteer teams.

The year began with the launch of a new Healing Cafe initiative in January. Leaders from New Wine Swansea trained a team on healing prayer and lots of people enjoyed the evenings. A good number of people reported receiving full or partial healing. Our XLP mentoring course also officially concluded in January but many mentors continue to meet their mentees on an informal basis. Youth and children's work is a key emphasis of Locking Castle Church's ministry and I am so grateful to all those who support our young people and give their time so willingly.

Easter 2017 was a landmark weekend as services were held on all three of Weston's new estates. 'Tea and Toast church' was launched at Haywood Village Academy, building on the growing popularity of weekly Take5 afterschool clubs, both at Haywood Village and at St. Anne's West Wick. Pop-up church at St. Anne's met several times a term and continues to be really popular, and LCC became the official sponsor of Church@St Anne's when Tom became a foundation governor at the end of the year. A new Baptist pastor Claire Roberts started work at Locking Parklands and it has been a delight to see Parklands community church now established and growing. With momentum building, the next stage is to grow committed small groups in each of these communities. We continue to pray for this work to grow.

At the AGM in April Phil Caine presented drawings and plans for converting the Upper Room storage space into a meeting room with storage and office. After a gift day in May, over £34,000 was kindly given or pledged and the project proceeded to planning. After receiving the necessary approvals, the development went out to tender and a building Contractor JEG properties was appointed to start the work at the end of January 2018.

It was a delight to support two mission teams who went abroad during the summer. A team of 25 went to help teach English at Yazlingo kid's summer camps organised by our mission partner David Bute and Kreativitiy Church near Cherkassy, Ukraine. It was a great success and a wonderful experience for everyone who went. Kenya Hope charity also raised money and organised a trip to Kenya to run Alpha course and encourage the churches and schools in several Kenyan Villages. Well done to everyone involved!

In September we welcomed Cathy Bond as part-time Children and families Pastor and she has been a wonderful addition to the staff team. As well as organising the kids teams and activities she, David Wilkie and Paul Gill started detached youth work amongst skaters using the campus facilities. This resulted in the church being commissioned to write a report over the summer about the youth provision in the area which meant by the end of the year we have been approached to consider further youth training.

Other highlights included a great Men's 24 hours away with a rather soggy walk up Pen-y-fan, over 1100 people at our fireworks event in November, Church leaders gathering for an envisioning day about a possible 'Turning' Mission to North Somerset in 2019, Coffee for commuters outreach and some wonderful events and services in the days leading up to Christmas.

On a weekly basis I am amazed and so thankful to God for all the hard work and ministry of so many: The staff team and Ecumenical Church Council, Alpha, CAP, LCC Art and Craft groups, Foodbank, Kids Club, Kids and Youth Bands, Little Crackers, Life groups, Men's and Ladies Breakfasts, Oasis and our care home Chaplaincy, Prayer & pastoral ministry, Soaking and 24hr prayer, Take5, TLC toddlers, Worship, Youth and Hospitality. There are just too many people to name and thank individually, but **thank you** to everyone who serves and contributes so generously to the life and witness of the church. We continue to be grateful for the Ministry of Revd Angie and Gary Hoare from the Methodist Circuit, and Alan Dixon from Somerset churches together who sponsor us as a Local Ecumenical Partnership.

In John 14v12 Jesus said 'I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. They will do even greater things than these...' and it will be thrilling to see all that God will do through this church in the years to come.

Worship

Report by Phil Brown, Worship Coordinator

The past year has seen a real abundance in our sung worship. We have been blessed with a wonderful youth band, Reuben Yacomeni, Jacob Skyrme, Jared Lockwood-Saunders, Oscar Cumberbatch, Phoebe Williams and Joey Lyons, who have matured and lead us so well. Salv Lomanto has led us regularly along with his wife Noelle. We also have a great team, Dave Manuel and Sue Stableford led with me several times. Nadine Anderson continues to lead worship at Oasis along with Norman Lester who also kindly plays the organ on occasion. And Andy Pearce, along with his many duties, also leads sung worship.

Thinking back on the last year I have seen a steady growth in the quality and beauty of our sung worship, if of course this is something we can measure! It has not been without its logistical headaches, but it is a real pleasure to head up this part of the life of the church. It is wonderful to see the kids worship group, led by Sandy Skyrme, growing in proficiency and I look forward to them being more involved in Sunday worship. It is great to see the marriage of old and new songs that we have now, which I believe adds a deeper dimension to our worship. I look forward to seeing how things develop in the year ahead.

Prayer Ministry

Report by Julie Lanham

Over the last year the prayer ministry team continues to grow. We have team leaders that are responsible for one week out of four with a team of three or more to support them. We are also very blessed to have a good sized reserve team who are willing to stand in when we are short.

Each week we have a good number of people coming forward for healing / strengthening and frequently hear of answers to prayer and see God at work. Praise the Lord :)

Pastoral Care

Report by Emily Cumberbatch

Pastoral ministry involves caring for people within our church and our community, and fostering care for each other within our congregation. Pastoral care is an opportunity to show love in action and encourage people closer to God and to increase trust in him. This is carried out through lots of prayer, listening, encouragement and much practical help, always depending on the Holy Spirit to lead.

Some pastoral visits involve listening and praying with people who may be grieving, or in distress; it's being alongside for the journey, however long it may be. Other Pastoral Care includes visiting in hospital or home, taking Communion to those unable to come to church, shopping, lifts, offering meals, accompanying to appointments, working with people from other social care agencies. We are increasing our connections with our neighbours at the Coast Resource Centre and No.1 Elmham Way. As usual, in 2017 there have also been situations that were distinctive one-offs, it is a very varied role! In 2018 I hope to build a small team of pastoral helpers, for whom training is available, to help when additional support is required.

At LCC we have many compassionate people who generously offer help when they see a chance. Thank you so much for all you do. It's great to hear about these acts of kindness which point to the way of Jesus.

Grief, illness and crisis are part of life and I seek to be watchful for those who may need support. I'm very grateful for pointers if you think someone may want help or a visit; emily.pastoral@gmail.com 07905 516624.

Our Local Nursing and Residential Homes:-Throughout 2017 the partnerships with Lakeside Court and with Summer Lane Nursing Home have continued to develop. I'm grateful to the very cheerful team that helped serve cake & teas twice per month at Lakeside. Codie, Jordan, Susie and Izzy were brilliant and the residents looked forward to hearing about what they'd been up to at school! However, as they've gone on to college it leaves space for new volunteers...

'Senior Alpha' ran at Lakeside to a group who enjoyed the opportunity to explore and discuss their faith. Thanks to Nita for helping gather the group and always bringing laughter to the discussion!

At Diamond Court a new Life Group will be starting in April 2018! Viv has been very helpful with organising this and will be a key member of the group.

School RE Lesson visit:-Herons Moor Year 2 visited LCC in June for an RE lesson and enjoyed a Treasure Hunt, Prayers and songs and of course the 'dry Baptism' their favourite part! I have loved leading these sessions over the years! It's a joyful time when we can share the gospel with 60 children plus their teachers. In 2017 it was lovely to share the lesson with Cathy as a handover and she will take on this delightful ministry from 2018.

A new initiative which we started running in Autumn 2017 is Keys to Freedom from Mercy UK, an interactive discipleship course which seeks to equip and empower people with the biblical keys to live free – for more details see Marilyn Spencer or myself.

In November a few of us went to a prayer ministry event run by Christian Prayer Ministries (CPM), they are behind the training for the Prayer Ministers at Harnhill. We first looked at the biblical foundation for this ministry, then each of us were able to receive a personal prayer ministry session. I hope to be able to arrange for the CPM team to offer these in-depth prayer ministry sessions at LCC as soon as practicable.

Prayer events:-In 2017 we held 3 Prayer events, the 2 usual 24 Hours at the start of Lent and Advent, plus the national 'Thy Kingdom Come' week of prayer leading up to Pentecost. These will also run in 2018, with Thy Kingdom Come running on the 10 days from Ascension to Pentecost.

For the second year running we also enjoyed a Maundy Supper - a combined meal and service with prayers, rituals and blessings from the oldest parts of our bible, intermingled with fun traditional Passover games and optional hand or foot washing; It celebrated our Jewish roots through recalling the Passover, reflected upon Jesus's Last Supper and helped prepare us as we approached the end of Holy Week.

If you are looking for an opportunity to serve within LCC and would like to be part of any of the above ministries, please let me know as it would be great to add to the team! Blessings ☺

Oasis

Report by Emily Cumberbatch

Throughout most of 2017 (apart from a summer dip) our Oasis congregation continued to gather up to 20 on Wednesday afternoons to sing traditional hymns. It's informal, interactive and dementia friendly with the aim of sign-posting our more mature congregation to a closer relationship with God. We share a short talk then chat over refreshments which is a perfect time for fellowship. The talks often follow the Sunday congregation series, but we have also studied alternatives such as key characters of the Bible, and an overview of each of the four Gospels. On the first Wednesday each month Tom offers Holy Communion. It has been a good place to bring friends to, with some people sharing lunch together then heading over to Oasis. As a sister congregation we always pray for the people, ministries and outreach of our church, and keep up to date with church events. In September we did a trial visit to Court Farm to see if it may be a viable trip for more members of the congregation, it was very enjoyable and a great success! In 2018 we pray for some growth in numbers, and a deepening of faith for all. Thank you to our amazing musicians and to everybody that helps, particularly Viv and Jennifer on refreshments.

Soaking Prayer

Report by Katherine Hollis

Soaking runs on the first Sunday of every month. We spend some time in a warm safe room with gentle Christian music playing and we simply spend time with God. Anyone is welcome to join us in this silent prayer time.

Youth & Children's Ministries

Report by Andy Pearce

An exciting year of change was had in the youth work at LCC in 2017 starting with the relaunch of the Thursday night youth club. After some trouble just before Christmas it was decided to close the existing youth club and restart in February under a different name and structure; thus '7' was born, 7 Thursdays, 7 teams and 7 challenges starting at 7 pm. Alongside this, we started detached youth work to connect with young people on the streets. End of 2016 we began Revolution Youth worship event which is hosted by a different church each month, which continued to build throughout this year. Sunday mornings follow the sermon series of the church, and we created a new life group for youth called Monday Workshop. Two teams consisting of 28 young people and adults went on a mission trip in the summer to Ukraine to help teach English to Ukrainian children, and some young people volunteered at New Wine. A big thank for the commitment and hard work of the volunteers that make each event happen, without them we could not achieve what we have accomplished this year.

Children's and Families Work

Report by Cathy Bond

Children and Families work has been growing with Sunday Stars membership at 18 and we welcome visitors every week. We have 7 leaders and 8 young leaders. Sunday Stars enjoy healthy snacks, baking, arts & crafts, stories, games and prayer following the Sunday sermon series. This is a great way for families to then discuss church together at home.

Little Crackers and Kids Club have also flourished along with the introduction of the Herons Moor Academy Walking Bus, where we collect the children at the end of school and walk them safely to church. They enjoy activities and healthy snacks before LC & KC start. We have 67 members in LC & KC and 16 of those use the Walking Bus, with an average weekly attendance of 40-45. The craft is wonderfully organised by Sandie for both groups and our 17 leaders and 13 young leaders do an amazing job in the smooth running of the clubs. After LC & KC we also hold our Younger youth band rehearsals, they have improved so much this year and played a worship song at the youth take over service very successfully.

Through the year we have also put on successful church community events, Big Bouncy BBQ Bash at Easter, a Neon light party in October and our Christingle Service. We have also been into Herons Moor Academy and St. Anne's, West Wick to do assemblies and HMA have come to LCC for RE lessons. The local cubs have been to learn about our church to gain their faith badge.

We pray for all the children and their families. Bless our amazing leaders who serve God in this privileged role.

Mentor Programme

Report by Debbie Van Der Watt

The Mentoring programme came to an official close in January 2017 with some mentors continuing to meet or mentor their mentees on an unofficial ground as requested by their mentees and parents.

Finance

Report by Martin Purnell

Giving increased by over 10 per cent in 2017, reflecting increases in standing orders, envelopes and plate collections. In addition over £29000.00 was received for the Upper Room development. There was also an increase in expenditure due, among other things, to a 15 per cent increase in denominational contributions, which includes the Parish Share, increased staffing, purchase of a new projector and the final payment for the refurbishment of the chairs. Nevertheless, after excluding the Upper Room development, there was a surplus of £1943.00.

The Church Council has agreed a budget for 2018 with a deficit, again after excluding the Upper Room development, of £13500, as the church continues to grow, and in order to meet increases in staffing costs, utility bills and other expenses, and the Parish Share, which has again increased by 15 per cent.

If you give regularly, or want to give regularly, and you pay income tax then please complete a Gift Aid declaration, if you have not already done so. We can claim back 25 per cent of your giving in Gift Aid. (In 2017 we claimed back over £10000.00 in Gift Aid.) Please see myself or Susan Brooks for more information about this. Finally, if at any time you have any queries about any aspect of the church finances please let me know and I will be very happy to talk with you about them.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 1st JAN 2017 – 31st DEC 2017

INCOME	2017	2016
Giving	56,861	50,692
Gift aid	10,644	9,473
Grants	18,000	4,000
Special collections	3,412	4,178
Lettings	25,038	26,479
Events	3,687	783
Parochial fees income	1,435	1,459
Children and youth	1,712	2,180
Upper room development	29,557	-
Ukraine trip	7,519	440
Soul Survivor	-	2,742
Hill House weekend	-	3,141
TLC	1,252	1,334
Insurance claim	826	-
Other	<u>2,438</u>	<u>1,836</u>
	162,381	108,737

EXPENDITURE

Community and mission giving	6,000	5,000
Events	2,798	776
TLC	847	871
Other mission and evangelism costs	10,159	3,536
Children and youth	5,105	6,554
Other church running expenses	5,361	1,345

Worship	3,584	2,177
Staff salaries, expenses, training etc	34,034	29,715
Denominational contributions	28,645	24,503
General church maintenance	5,616	6,131
Utilities	6,983	7,215
Insurance	817	686
Obligation	8,000	8,000
Office and sundry expenses	1,526	1,851
Parochial fees to Diocese	1,239	352
Clergy expenses	1,614	1,568
Ukraine trip	7,996	945
Soul Survivor	-	2,884
Hill House weekend	-	3,313
Upper room development	3,416	-
Other	<u>556</u>	<u>2,028</u>
	134,296	109,450
Balance as at 31.12.2016	52,966	
Excess of income over expenditure	<u>28,085</u>	
Balance as at 31.12.2017	81,051	
Nat West account	81,665	
plus uncleared credits	<u>703</u>	
	82,368	
less uncleared cheques	<u>1,413</u>	
	80,955	
Petty cash	<u>96</u>	
	81,051	

BALANCE SHEET 31 DECEMBER 2017

ASSETS

Bank and cash 81,051

LIABILITIES

Loan obligation to Diocese (10,620)

Net assets 70,431

Unrestricted funds 26,010

Restricted funds

 Development fund 15,969

 Mentoring 1,987

 Upper room fund 26,465 44,421

70,431

Life Groups

Report by Emily Cumberbatch

Again in 2017 our Life Groups increased and blossomed and we have new ones underway. Thank you to all the leaders and hosts that make running these essential groups possible. Life Groups pray and study the Bible together with discussion often centred on the previous Sunday sermon. Some groups eat together, do mission or serve the church as a team. Life Groups are important, it's where we grow caring supportive friendships, and where we deepen our faith and grow as disciples through prayer, study and loving accountability. Life Groups also have an important part to play in being the first people to see when someone in their group is needing additional support.

It's a key part of maturing our faith and growing in love for God and for one another, so please let me know if you're not yet part of a Life Group and I can help find the right group for you. emily.pastoral@gmail.com

Jacqui's Wednesday Life Group

Jacqui

Members: Jacqui KB, John & Julie L, Susan S, Suzanne P, Bob M, Jill & Luke L

Meeting at Jacqui's house in Banwell, between 7:30-9:30pm, we generally follow a 4-W format:

- a general **Welcome** catch-up over refreshments, sharing news and views from the week
- time reflecting on the **Word** - reading a passage of scripture from the Bible
- a discussion, guided (at least at first!) by the weekly sermon questions considering how we can **Witness** or reflect our faith in our daily lives
- a time of **Worship** through prayer, with people contributing openly as/when they feel called

We often take turns "leading and feeding" each week, so everyone has the opportunity to facilitate the conversation as well as choose the goodies to eat. With all our different characters, this adds variety and spice to our gatherings!

Our lively discussions, which provide an opportunity to share opinions and experiences in a supportive environment, also challenge our views at times but always encourage each of us in our walk with the Lord. Sometimes, towards the end of a season, we simply enjoy good fellowship over a social gathering, perhaps watching a film together or sharing a meal together, when conversations flow even more freely.

Thursday Evening Life Group

Jutta

We continue to run our group from different locations. During the year we gained three new members and now have a Life Group baby again with the arrival of little Max, Sarah's boy.

We continue to study the notes and find it helpful that sermons are available online as not all of us make it to attend the service on a Sunday morning. Our group is very supportive of one another and it is a great pleasure to be the official leader. In practice we take turns running and hosting. ☺

Thursday Life Group

Neville

We are a Thursday lunchtime (1.00 pm to 2.30 pm) group of 5 who meet at Adele Lloyd's house. We follow, but are not restricted to, the Church weekly questions.

Anyone who feels able to lead a session is encouraged to do so.

The group is relaxed and no questions or views are too simple to ask or express.

We always make room for anyone wishing to joins us for learning, caring and fun.

The Sweet Grass Group

Emily

This new Life Group started in Autumn 2017 and meets on Thursday evenings. To start we met at my house in Sweetgrass Road until we settled on who will lead, host and the most convenient time for everyone. It is hoped that Andy and Kat Watts will lead, and to enable both Steve and Hannah to attend it will be hosted by them in Banwell. Keith and Denise also attend when possible.

Apart from the keen biblical insights, a key feature of this group has been Science Corner, presented by Dr Andy Watts, which has been fascinating, and not at all off track as scientific understanding enhances appreciation of God's creation.....

As this is still a small Life Group, more members would be most welcome! If you are not yet in a Life Group, please see myself or any of the group members to find out more.

Life Group

Heather

We count our weekly Life group as successful, in that the majority of the members meet each week without fail, and through our studies we are becoming closer, both to each other and to our understanding of the part Jesus plays in all our lives. We study the bible passage and notes used at church the previous Sunday. We use the questions which accompany each study as a basis for our discussions.

It was a group already established by our Minister's wife when we took it over, about a year ago. Since then we have grown to 8 members.

Across the members we have a wide range of numbers-of-years-as-Christian, from many to just a few, and we have mixed sociological backgrounds. This leads to some very interesting and reflective sessions.

When we meet we start by eating lunch together, each person contributing some element, including printing off the notes for the whole group. We notice that levels of trust are rising over time, and there is usually something meaningful to pray for within the group, each week. As co-host with my husband Clive I feel truly blessed in all of the above.

St Georges Life Group

Phil and April

We meet on Tuesday evenings at Phil and April's in St Georges. We have ten members at present. We use the Life Group questions but also do other studies including small group DVD studies. There have been many opportunities for the group to support one another in practical ways and this is an important part of our life together. Laughter and food are still important to us as we seek to encourage each other in our walk with Jesus.

Monday morning Life Group

Emily

Our Monday Life Group continues to be very supportive of each other in prayer, encouragement and practical ways. During 2017 we met at LCC in the hall. As a group we keep a prayer journal, Thank you Lyz for keeping it up to date! It is always so encouraging to see the many answered prayers! We have lost a few members to ill health but continue to keep them in our prayers, and of course they are invited to our socials – we had cream teas at Banwell Castle on a sunny day in August and ate Fish'n'Chips and watched The Shack in December.

Wednesday morning Life Group

Katherine

Our life group runs on a Wednesday morning during term time, at the church. We invite mums or dads with babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers to join us. The year has seen some members move away or leave due to children to school, but we have also welcomed some new faces. There is a time for fellowship, teaching and of course playing!

Church Groups

M@LC

Report by John Lanham

M@LC is overseen by John Lanham with Paul Gill assisting and very successfully coordinated the monthly breakfasts at the Landing Light. The speakers have been a mix of guests and "locals" from LCC and the partner Weston churches sharing their testimonies and stories. The last twelve months have seen some great times of fellowship and engagement with God's spirit. Paul has built on the strong network with other churches - Hope, Milton Baptist, St Pauls, Hutton and others and the Landing Light pub regularly hosts 30-35 men each month.

W@LC

Report by Naomi Dunn

Another year of brunches, we've met on the 3rd Saturday to share a great breakfast, latterly at the Weston Gateway Harvester. They have looked after us very well and always find us a nice table whatever our numbers! We've ranged from 8 to 16 in numbers. I can say we've had some great conversations, felt supported by old friends and made new ones. We have some regulars and a wide number of occasional attendees, it's very relaxed with guests letting me know up to the Friday evening if they're coming.

Crafty Ladies

Report by Adele Lloyd

Crafty Ladies is a Group that meets at my house on a Wednesday morning from 10am – 12pm. At the beginning of the year there were 6 of us. The numbers each week varied depending on illness or other commitments.

During the year, while drinking tea, coffee, or marshmallow and cream topped hot chocolate, we decided how we were going to put right everything that is wrong with the world. We ate lots of cake, chocolate biscuits or crisps. What's not to like?

We used lots of techniques of craft - knitting, crochet, card-making, lace-making and painting. If craft items were needed for Toddlers or Kids Club we used Crafty Ladies Time to pitch in so there was enough material for them to use,

We each have an enjoyable time and welcome more people who would like to join.

LCC Art Group

Report by Debbie Van der Watt

LCC Art Club, is held on Saturday afternoon for 2 hours. We ask for a donation of £2:50 which pays for refreshments and materials. We have 12 people of a large variety of ages on our books with an average attendance of 6.

In The last year we have been experimenting with several mediums had have had some lovely results. The majority of attendees are beginners but I have seen an amazing improvement with some members showing their work in our exhibition which was joined by numerous local artists.

We try to provide an environment where members do not fear the prospect of producing a 'masterpiece' but feel free to relax and play with the medium. Art is a way of expressing yourself and also a means to escape from the worries and problems we are facing. We hope that we are accomplishing an opportunity for people to destress and enjoy themselves as well as improve their painting skills and hence self-esteem.

Outreach Ministries

Alpha

Report by Paul Gill

Alpha is a real team effort, from Wendy our administrator, to the group leaders and helpers, the catering team, the cooks and Dave, our technical expert, they all help to create a relaxed friendly atmosphere. The new alpha film series has proved to be a great success. Our dedicated prayer team have also been crucial to the success of these courses. A lunchtime 'Alpha Lite' is starting in May and our next Evening Alpha starts in September. Alpha remains the best tool we have for explaining the Christian faith to people. If you have never attended one, or if you know someone you would like to invite please check the website for the dates of the next courses and sign up.

Haywood Village

Report by Fiona Mayne

There has been a great deal to be thankful for at Haywood Village during 2017. Tea and Toast Church launched on Easter Sunday at Haywood Village Academy and was very well attended and has grown and continues to grow.

This is a café style outreach Church in the local community there. There are crafts and live music and competitions and a bible story and we serve tea and cake and toast. People come because it is informal and an introduction to Church and the children seem to enjoy getting interactive with the stories on stage. We also had our first Christingle at Haywood Village in December and that was very successful with many local children dressing up and joining in the nativity. We have had two local children join the worship band too which is exciting. The Haywood Village team also continue to run take 5 which is an after school meet up for coffee and crafts and that has grown as the school has grown. We are now so busy that we need more volunteers especially on crafts and refreshments. We continue to support local events such as quiz nights and fun days at Haywood Village and I am still an Academy Councillor so remain very involved within the school. I am still looking to move to Haywood Village as soon as possible to enable me to better be a part of the community that I serve. Our team at Haywood Village is a real blessing and we are looking for more people to join us if you think you might be able to help. It very exciting to see all that God is doing at Haywood Village and we can only imagine what other exciting plans he has for the future.

West Wick

Report by Ellie Gray

Take 5 (Mondays 2.45pm – 4.15pm Term Time)

A drop in for refreshments and a children's craft in the school hall.

Take 5 offers an opportunity for the local community to meet each other and spend time together as a community. There is only a pub and school in West Wick; no other amenities, so using the school for Take 5 is a regular event that is very well attended, with approx. 75 children and adults each week.

Sundays in West Wick:

Pop up Church (cafe/messy style church in the school hall 3.15pm – 4.30pm)

Over the last year we have celebrated Spring Sunday, Easter Sunday, Christingle Service, Harvest Festival, and BBQ Sunday. The services offer a short message plus prayer and worship alongside refreshments and crafts. These are well attended, and would benefit from being more regular when resources allow (prayer point).

Additional church outreach events in West Wick:

Wreath making evening - this was fully booked and we had to turn people away. This year we did not advertise it outside of West Wick to ensure residents had priority.

Other:

Both Ellie Gray and Tom Yacomeni are on St Anne's Church Academy School governing body and are able to work with the school to support its Christian ethos and values

The Future:

A new weekly life group starting in 2018 with 6 members

Summer Lane Care Home Chaplaincy Team Report by Peter Richardson & Emily Cumberbatch

The monthly Monday afternoon Holy Communion service at Summer Lane continues to minister to a wonderful fellowship in their main lounge. Peter still prepares the Order of Service, he is much missed, and we always hope he will be able to join us when possible. Rick Bowers is the regular organist and his wife Louise also helps with the service.

During the morning our visiting team aim to call at each of the 90 rooms, 45 on each floor, to chat to the residents to offer company, pray and share the peace. After the sad loss of John Jackson in February 2017, our usual team throughout the year has been Susan and myself and I'm very grateful that June Ford has joined us too.

By visiting regularly we have built up a good relationship with the staff and formed friendships with many residents. They are pleased to see us and are a joy to talk to, with many fascinating stories to tell about their life and family. As Peter says, It is important to remember that their room is their home and to treat it and them with respect. Unfortunately some are severely poorly or disabled and cannot respond, except perhaps to squeeze your hand. Susan and June are awesome at giving love, care, grace and the Lord's peace as we try to cover all residents both upstairs and downstairs, always leaving them with a smile! 😊

Many Thanks to Peter Richardson, Susan Brooks, Rick & Louise Bowers, June Ford and Sandria Elvey.

This is a fascinating and rewarding ministry in so many ways. We would love more volunteer Chaplains for the morning visits. Can you help us? You would not have to commit to visit every month but on a rota, nor attend the afternoon service unless you wished to. This is a wonderful ministry and I ask you to prayerfully consider if this could be your calling. Maybe you could come along for one visit to see what is involved? If you can help or would like to talk about it then please contact Emily or any member of the team.

Reading at Summer Lane Care Home

The reading group at Summer Lane continue to meet on the second and fourth Monday of each month. There are usually between 3 and 5 residents who come to the group. We read short stories from The People's Friend magazine and recite poetry. Often, we chat about our families and days gone by. The reading group compliments the first Monday communion for the residents of Summer Lane and those who also attend Oasis with Emily on a Wednesday.

Report by Suzanne Pearse

Foodbank

The Foodbank service provided by our church over the last year is still a vital provision for those in critical need in Locking and the surrounding area. The supply to those in need is still maintained at an average of 1 family per week. At the head office in North Street they provide over 30 individuals and families every day of the 3 days a week they are open which averages out at over 100 per week which has been the same level unfortunately for a number of years now.

Report by Dave Manuel.

David Manuel provides a delivery service for those who cannot make it themselves to the church or to the head office. A number of agencies in Weston have our contact details and will let us know when there is a requirement.

Fortunately, donations of food are pouring in from supermarkets and from donations at church

We continue to receive many gifts of food from the congregation over the year. At harvest time last year we had so much donated that it took many car loads to get it to the main Foodbank for sorting.

Over the year Paul Gill has been able to collect Farm Food vouchers from people he meets in the course of his business, people and companies kindly donate and he has been able to get many £20 vouchers over the year that have been given out to those in need who are able to go to this supermarket which has been chosen as they do not stock cigarettes or alcohol and families can buy fresh food and toiletries etc that we cannot provide in normal deliveries

People are genuinely surprised that others are giving them something for nothing and are so thankful, our prayer leaflets and other useful information is given to them which they see and we hope that when they are in need again they will come to us and hopefully also to the Lord



“Thank you Lord that you made me, Thank you Lord for your TLC, Bless us Lord from our head to our toes and keep us all safe as each one goes” Our TLC prayer said at the end of each session (with actions of course!)

2017/18 has seen another great year at TLC – Toddlers Locking Castle. We currently have 82 children and 60 adults on our register and get an average weekly turn out of 55 children and 40 adults. The session runs from 10-11.30 on a Tuesday morning during term time. I am immensely grateful for all that the team do. Some members are more hidden, like Bob Mitchell, who is an absolute star; he turns up at 8am each week to set up the chairs and tables and put out the toys and then disappears before the kids arrive (He’s wise too!). Tom often lends a hand with set- up along with Nita’s nephew James. Louise Willis, Susan Brooks and James are experts at making everything look welcoming and seem to rather enjoy playing with the toys before the kids arrive – the teddies sat politely at the tea-set and the dolls put in their acrobatic poses on the gym mats! You need to keep on the right side of Caroline Butcher when she’s wielding her fruit knife but so far it’s only masses of fruit that has been chopped into little pieces! The cafe is always appreciated by everyone and I’m sure it’s the cakes that mean we have to have a waiting list for the group (thanks Jutta, April Brown and Susan!) – they’re so popular, even with Jutta’s mystery vegetabally ingredients! (Jutta is far more than just a pretty cake – she makes sure the programmes go out on time, that we have all the resources and food we need, supports us all pastorally and basically makes TLC happen.) Sue Baldwin is fab at keeping the tea and toast flowing and Julie Lanham and Jenny Webber keep everything organised and ensure the registration system runs so well. I am super admiring of Jenny with her ability to keep our finances tickety boo and we always have enough in the coffers to pay for a free trip for everyone in the summer to Court Farm too – always a highlight. The craft table is always popular and Adele Lloyd, crafty lady extraordinaire, manages somehow to come away not covered in paint and glue! We have our resident ‘Chatty Grandmas’ aka Debs Van-der-Watt and Wendy who make sure everyone is looked after and everything is well with the world. We pray for all our guests before they all arrive and God is faithful! For the amount of bodies in the church building it is always surprisingly calm with happy children playing. Everyone gets invited to our outreach events and we pray that we make a positive impact on our community as relationships are formed and we share the love of Jesus with them. Our church attendees that have children and come to TLC also wear our Team Tshirts, like Anna Lagler & Julynn Prazeres so everyone knows they can approach them for help. We recognise the importance of routine and consistency for our little people and it’s funny to see what happens as we pack the toys away to our resident DJ Dave Manuel’s tunes; so many of them are lying on the floor ready for the first song – sleeping bunnies! Every, single, week! We always finish with Hokey Cokey – and pray that they realise that actually ‘that’s NOT what it is all about’!! Our biggest challenge is getting everything back into the little cupboard at the end but Teresa Britton has got the order down to a fine art now – just don’t open the door between sessions. If you’d like to join the team, help prepare crafts or bake cakes – you’d be most welcome. The more, the merrier 😊

CAP Money - Christians Against Poverty

Report by Emily Cumberbatch

The CAP Money Course has helped several people this year, through re-organising re-prioritising and encouraging people to control their money, 'don't let it control you'. It's a free course, meeting once a week for 3 weeks. It's not simply for people in debt but helps review and prioritise spending and reduce costs, and is aimed at anyone who wants to;

- have sure control over their finances,
- know they have money ready when bills are due,
- save for future needs or something special,
- maximise their charitable giving.
- prevent debt

The trend is mostly towards coaching on a 1:1 basis, although this takes more time it can be very effective in getting quicker results for those whose situation is pressing. It takes hard work at first to get things in order, but then with diligence the budgeting tools will serve you well. It's so great to see people living free of worry about their finances. As CAP Coaches we can deal with a certain amount of debt, but if it can't be cleared within 3 years we would refer to CAP HQ who would refer to a local debt centre.

The Weston-super-Mare CAP Debt Centre run by Revd Paul Larcombe continues to be extremely busy. Each person takes a minimum of 20 hours of visits and preparation to establish a budget plan which will move them out of debt. This time is much increased in some situations. Paul is always accompanied on visits by a befriender such as Caroline Williams or myself, praying before entering the home. The support offered by CAP HQ to Paul is excellent. Paul has an incredible pastoral way with those he visits gaining trust and openness and he closes each session with the client in prayer.

If you would like to offer time as a befriender please contact Paul Larcombe or myself for further information.

In 2018 we hope to run another CAP Money Course for those who have gone through the debt centre and need a sturdy budget system to give them financial control for the future.

Please pray for those in Weston struggling with their finances that they would seek support.

Church Operations

Safeguarding and Safe Recruiting

Report by Suzanne Pearse, Safeguarding Officer

The last year has been another busy one. This is great news as it means there are lots of people volunteering to help with our youth and children's work including on the new estates.

The church council has again voted to adopt the safeguarding policy of the Church of England through the Diocese of Bath & Wells. LCC's policy statement can be found on our website with a link to the Diocese of Bath and Wells' safeguarding webpage and a hard copy of the full Diocese policy can be found in the church office. The policy covers the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults within our Church and the groups that we run.

We have now undertaken a full year using the E-bulk DBS system on line. Time wise the safer recruitment aspect of the process remains the same but the processing of certificates is now much quicker. DBS checks are valid for 5 years.

Not all positions need a DBS check so have a word with me about a volunteer role that interests you and I can speak to you about 'observing' that role and how to progress to the safer recruitment and DBS process. Please remember you cannot be included on a rota until you are cleared.

This year has also seen the introduction of C0 on-line safeguarding training and C1 face to face training through the Diocese. Many of you have already undertaken this training and some have yet to do it!

I have regular meetings with Tom, Andy and Cathy and report to you all at the open church meetings. In addition, I circulate a report to the ECC every month.

All leaders should remember they must consider LCC initiatives when considering new groups.

Photographs in Church

Please remember that you **cannot** assume it is okay to take photographs in church of children or young and vulnerable adults. Please seek consent of the leader and those involved before you consider publicising photographs on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Driving

If you are a designated driver please remember to let me know when you have renewed your insurance, tax and MOT and if you have changed your car.

Finally, please remember that we must **all** take responsibility for safeguarding within our Church. The Diocese are extremely supportive of the work we do at LCC. If you have **any** safeguarding concerns please contact me immediately.

Mission Focus

Report by Emily Cumberbatch

Each month, on the fourth Sunday, we focus on one of our 6 Mission Partners. We hear about the work they are doing and learn what specifically to pray for. The offering collected during that service is given to their work. At the start of each year the church council select the 6 charities for the year. This way we cover a diverse yet relevant range of missional activity. On occasion a representative from the charity comes to speak and tell us first-hand about their cause. Jimmy Rocks & family sent a personal video update, Christian Aid also provide a video to convey the amazing work they do.

Mission Focus giving in 2017:

£1041.09 Open Doors - Serving persecuted Christians in the world's most dangerous countries
£972.09 Christian Aid –Tackling Poverty & Injustice, and providing Emergency & Disaster Relief
£677.34 CMS – Jimmy Rocks and family 'Sharing Jesus, Changing Lives'
£580.52 Kreativitiy – passionate about Mission, developing business projects to fund ministry.
£883.68 Somewhere To Go – a support centre helping rough sleepers and disadvantaged vulnerable adults
£600.00 CAP Debt Centre, Weston-super-Mare, Guiding local people out of unmanageable debt towards good financial stewardship.

Other giving in 2017:

£495.28 Weston Foodbank
£250.00 Kenya Hope
£500.00 Winter Warmth

Total giving in 2017 was £6,000.00.

Our Mission Focus partners for 2018 are:

CAP WsM	Jan/Jul
Kenya Hope	Feb/Aug
Kreativitiy	Mar/Sep
Somewhere To Go	Apr/Oct (Harvest Food)
CMS – Jimmy Rocks	May/Nov
Open Doors	June/Dec

Thank you for your generosity ☺ Be blessed.

Newsletter

Report by Jutta Stanley

The newsletter points out opportunities to get involved in the life of the church, gives prayer pointers to all that is going on in church and the wider world, and informs of events, be they regular or more special. The newsletter would not exist without Tom's valuable input and your contributions. Generally it is published latest by the first Sunday of the month. Contributions can be emailed to jutta@thestanleys.eclipse.co.uk and need to be received by the last Wednesday of the month.

Thank you for reading!

Flowers

Report by Suzanne Pearse

Thank you to all the flower ladies for their continued support during the last year. On the team for 2017 were Lyz Wells, Susan Brooks, Rose Gray, Sandria Elvey, Gretta Holdway, Evelyn Laird and myself. Going forward in 2018 we have space for two new recruits! If you would like to join the flower team, then please let me know. If you would like to sponsor an anniversary or donate to the flower fund again please do get in touch.

Bookings

Report by Teresa Britton

2017 has been another busy year for LCC. We have all our regular hirers and some new ones too! We continue to receive lots of enquiries and Saturdays are still very popular for parties in the Community hall with lots of bookings.

A big thankyou to all our hirers for their continuing support.

Church Administration

Report by Katherine Hollis

We have a very busy office with diverse roles on various days. Tuesday sees the office busy with Teresa, our bookings manager, who deals with hirers, booking queries and invoices Wednesday is busy with Debbie Van Der Watt who is LCC's Occasions administrator, dealing with all weddings, baptisms and funerals. Monday, Thursday and Friday I am in the office, one part of my varied role is organising the Sunday rota which helps our services run smoothly. There are many different roles to fill, so if you feel called to serve the church please come and see me. A big thank you to all who already serve.

Thank you to all who have contributed to this book. It is wonderful to see how many ways Locking Castle Church is blessed and how we are blessing others. Thank you to all who continue to pray for the church and our community.

God Bless

Katherine