



'Together planted by streams of living water...'

APCM 2024 Ministry Report

With other reports to be shared in person...



Sung Worship

- It has been such a pleasure entering into my role as Worship Coordinator at St Peters Hextable. I have been welcomed into such a lovely church family, have a really strong team working together for God's purpose, and continuously receive such lovely feedback week on week which is always an encouragement.
- As a church, we have a lovely culture of worship. It's always an encouragement to hear the gusto of the congregation and the freedom to honour Him in whatever posture we love to take in praise.
- Knowing how much we love to sing and praise, I am hoping to gently introduce us to new songs of both praise and reflection. To help with this and creating an atmosphere for freedom in worship, I intend to host a worship focused gathering in the upper room one Sunday evening a month (Like overflow, but more worship). Also looking to make some technical and visual changes that will make it easier for people to get involved with audio and visual support.
- I am thankful for all who have welcomed me with such open arms, for a team that has embraced change and growth, and Johnny who has been a pleasure to work alongside and support by fronting the worship ministry of the church.
- We could really do with strengthening our tech team, primarily Visuals could do with more support and I am happy to train anyone in audio or Visuals. I would also love if we had any musicians, whether that's bass, drums, guitar, electric guitar, Cello, saxophone... If you play, I'd love to hear about it.
- Pray for the team to grow, worship culture to continue to strengthen, and for me, capacity to carry out the worship role effectively amongst the other jobs and roles I have.

Ashley Summerhayes

Ashley@stph.org.uk

Life Groups

“... spur one another on towards love and good deeds... encourage... carry on meeting together.” Hebrews 10:24

At present we have ten Life Groups with about one hundred members who attend on a fairly regular basis. The groups vary - some are area based - some mostly support women - some meet in the daytime - others are held in the evening - some are weekly some fortnightly. We meet for Christian fellowship and support, prayer and Bible study. Most groups follow the material linked to the Sunday sermons.

The intimacy of meeting in a small group in a friendly space, helps each person to know that they are loved by God and to love Him more, and to grow in their discipleship. We would encourage everyone to become part of a Life group, not only to receive but to give, not only to be cared for but to care.

And in our group Eve makes very good cakes!

Jeanna & David Rebel

djjcrebel@gmail.com

Pastoral Care

In the past year up to February 2024, we have been very active in ministering to 357 people and situations - that is an increase of more than 12% from last year. An average of 30 people a month asked for prayer for themselves, family or friends, or for help of a more practical nature. One month peaked at 50!

We also pray for Johnny and his workload on a very regular basis as well as at our Pastoral Care Meetings, which are held on a monthly basis where possible.

We would like to thank everyone who has directed people to us – it is often Sue in the Church office who gets the phone calls! There are others who give practical help and visiting of those who are poorly. So thanks to Ann England, in particular.

The team members are Vicar Johnny, Pauline Pearson, Debbie Sams, Angela Carpenter, Karen Ledger, David Corbett, Anne Philpott and Liz Warwick. Each has different skills; all show compassion and love to those in need. Look out for us at St Peter's and St Paul's churches if you need someone to talk about something that's troubling you.

Pauline Pearson

pastoralcareteam@stph.org.uk

Childrens, Youth & Family Ministry

Sunday Kids and Youth: Our Sunday kids and youth groups have continued to run most Sundays, exploring a range of different topics and bible stories as well as crafts, games and songs. Whilst we have struggled for volunteer numbers for these groups, they have continued to grow in terms of number of children and teenagers.

Parent's Babies and Toddlers: Our babies and toddlers group has grown in popularity and size and we regularly meet with up 14-20 families (around 20-40 attending total) each week. It has become a key group in our community with parents, grandparents and carers often saying how much the group makes a difference to them.

After School Club: After School Club meets twice per month and we regularly see around 40 children and parents who take part in crafts, games, activities, and bible stories. We have also had a large number of new families since last year and from this we also get many families attending our one off events.

Youth Group: Our church youth meet on Wednesday evenings in the cafe. This is a mixture of church youth and friends of church youth. We eat together every week and then take part in an activity and explore a short life and faith-based topic together. We have around 8 young people attending currently and growing. We have also taken the youth on some trips out, including bowling and crazy golf.

Schools Work: I also have the opportunity to be going into two of the local primary schools each week. Tuesday mornings doing "collective worship" assemblies at St Paul's and into Hextable Primary on Wednesday afternoons as part of their RE lessons. These are both great opportunities in different ways to talk to children about church, christianity, and Jesus and get them asking questions about who Jesus is, and what faith looks like.

One-Off events: Our one off events such as the Light Party in October, Christmas parties and two Christingles at Christmas, Easter Trail, and Holiday Club in the summer have all been really popular and fully booked out each time by families from both church and the local community. Our Holiday Club last August particularly was hugely successful and included 3 days of fun and teaching 60 kids each day about Jesus.

Bea Reid

Bea@stph.org.uk

Churchwardens' Report

St. Peter's.

This year we completed the renovations of the kitchen, back hall and crèche room thanks to the wonderful Swift Building Services, which have brought our facilities in line with the annexe.

The creation of additional cupboard space in the old school corridor has been much appreciated by the sound team and children's and youth team.

Baffles were installed in the café to help reduce the noise levels when the café is busy, as well as for events such as music nights and quiz nights.

The flat roof above the lobby had some temporary repairs in the autumn as it was leaking, and we hoped to have extensive work done to fix what has been a problem for many years, but our roofer retired. It remains on our "to-do" list for the coming months.

Our thanks go to Dan Wren who took on the Caretaker role at the beginning of the year, and Ashley Summerhayes who took over when Dan's commitments meant he had to step back. As a result, we are a much tidier and well-organised church!

The cleaning contract we had with Raigins has now come to an end, and we have taken our previous cleaner, Grace, back 'in house'. Cleaning is one of those jobs that people only notice when it's not done, so huge thanks go to Grace who single-handedly keeps both our churches and annexe clean.

St. Paul's

This year has been a year of issues at St. Paul's, with disputes over bench placement and the unauthorised placing of a large memorial dominating a disproportionate amount of time. Both of these issues are now being handled by the Diocese.

New threshold matting was installed this year as the old one was becoming a trip hazard.

We are due a Quinquennial inspection of both sites in 2025. We will need to get roof inspections for both churches done this year.

Our thanks go to Darren, our gardener, who has the enormous job of keeping St. Paul's graveyard tidy. As you can imagine, when it is warm and wet in the spring this can be a mammoth task, but we have received thanks and appreciation from people who come into the graveyard for how well it is kept.

As last year, we would like to put on record our thanks to David and Pauline Pearson, and Vivian and Barbara Ramsey who do so much in the stewardship and care of St. Paul's, and to Jane Roberts for the beautiful flower arrangements. Also, thanks go to Andy and Liz Lawrence, who assist Johnny so brilliantly with burials of ashes at St. Paul's.

The PCC recently agreed to the formation of a Fabric Advisory Committee who will assist the Wardens and PCC in decisions and planning concerning the maintenance of the “Church estate”.

All fabric, goods and ornaments are present and correct.

John Wiggington & Sue Haward

Vicars Report

Thankfulness resources deeper faith, unity & witness for God's honour in His world.
Gratitude and grace change us.

Amidst an almost unrelenting workload, I have encouragement almost hourly in the life and ministry of our messy, ordinary and wonderful parish life.

Church family life is ever more diverse, vibrant & growing across our four regular congregations. Pastoral load is more than twice what it was over a year ago. Gladness, encouragements and joys are more alive, and losses, grief and challenges more torturous. Everything feels so much more vivid...

We continue to lean into the three priorities post-Covid

- Word, prayer & discipleship as essential patterns: prioritising **equipping**.
- Serving children, youth & families: prioritising **emerging** generations.
- Living faithfully & generously with others: prioritising **evangelism** & witness.

Through significant parish and area-wide reach, our scattered lives and witness including Next Door Hextable, we continue to live into the fullness of what community life means beyond Sunday life. There is much continued newness and fresh possibilities as we share in the mission of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. Together we anticipate what God wants us to be & do in the coming years... Pray and participate in God's unfolding renewal purposes in parish life.

As your pastor the reach of God's presence is our best offering. People who can love, share and give because God has loved, shared and given so very generously first to us...

Might you consider you onward part in our shared ministry?

Know my thankfulness for you...

We continue to choose to be people planted by streams of living water...

We drink on and consistently from the living water which is Jesus Christ himself. For “those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” said Jesus in John 4:14

Never-failing supplies.

Inexhaustible.

Always good!

Johnny Douglas

vicarjohnny@gmail.com

Prayer

Prayer continues to play a vital role in church life and our personal relationships with God through our services, children and young people's groups, lifegroups, pastoral care team and dedicated prayer activities. Last year we continued to both deepen our prayer life and explore different, creative ways of praying.

“Presence” - launched March 2023, this is our quarterly prayer and worship gathering hosted at both St Peter's and St Paul's. We centre ourselves on Jesus, worship, pray in different ways and finally yield to our Father – *your will not mine be done*. We also seek to be attentive to the movement of the Holy Spirit and what God may be saying to us as we pray. Over the course of 2023, we have prayed for children and young people, our Mission Partners, our local community, and for war torn countries including Ukraine and Middle East. It's been an informative, creative, Spirit led time of prayer. We would love to see more people join us as we experience the manifest presence of God and pray deeply for local, national and global needs.

Pre-service Prayer – has continued prior to our 10.30 service, where we pray for the service and all those involved, then listen to what God may be wanting to share for healing, encouragement and sometimes challenge. These words often speak to people in a deep way and can also encourage them to come forward for prayer. All are welcome to join us. The only requirements are to have a pulse, love Jesus and want to hear God speak.

Prayer Ministry – we were delighted to re-launch our Prayer Ministry Team in August last year. The team minister the love and power of Jesus directly to someone, to bring healing and wholeness of mind, body, and spirit. Its God who heals and we have the privilege of joining in, seeing God move powerfully in the person with whom we are praying. Prayer is available after the 8.30, 10.30 and at Overflow services. If you might be interested in exploring this ministry, please speak to Sally Minett or Steve Webster.

Early Morning Prayer – we continue to meet for 30 minutes at 8am on Wednesdays in the café, where we read scripture and pray together for church family and local community needs. All are welcome.

Quiet Space - we are a small group who meet at St. Paul's church each Tuesday between 10am-12pm for contemplative prayer. We start with a drink and a chat and after a short 'thought for the day' we separate inside or outside the church for 30 minutes of silence. Following another drink, we then share any thoughts we may have had during the quiet time. If you would like to join us you would be very welcome.

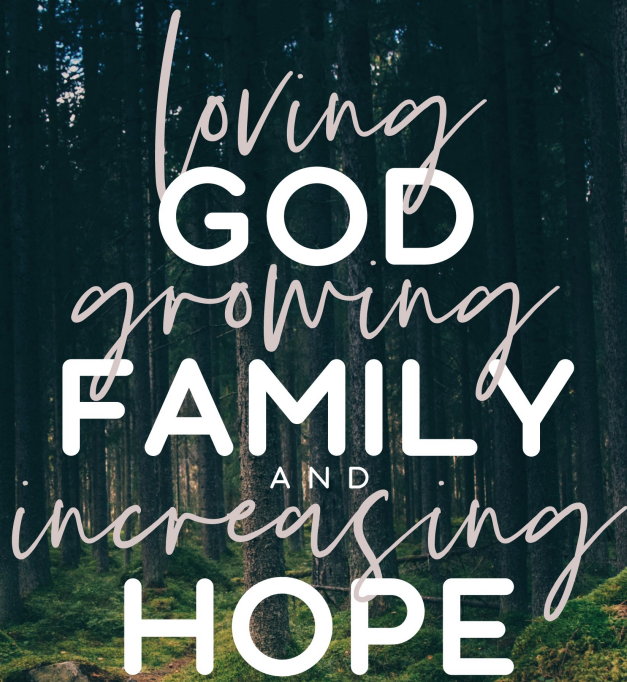
Thy Kingdom Come – we again joined this global ecumenical initiative in the lead up to Pentecost, with a reflective prayer space, and creative opportunities to pray for healing and salvation. Those who attended found it a moving time and experienced the tangible presence of God. We encourage you to give it a try this year.

Prayer Box – Last year we introduced a prayer box to the café. Any prayer requests are passed to the Pastoral Care Team or taken to early morning prayer depending on the nature of the request.

With thanks to Angela Chapman, Sally Minett, Angela Willard and to Lifegroup leaders, the Pastoral Care Team and many others for their ongoing commitment to prayer.

Steve Webster

websterstevie@googlemail.com



loving
GOD
growing
FAMILY
AND
increasing
HOPE

'THE PEOPLE WHO KNOW THEIR GOD ARE
STRONG AND DO GREAT EXPLOITS...'

DANIEL 11 V32

 **ST PETER'S
& ST PAUL'S**
HEXTABLE &
SWANLEY VILLAGE