



St James' & St Luke's  
Church Glossop

**Report to the  
Annual Parochial  
Church Meeting  
for the year ended  
31 December 2019**

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**Charity Number 1134145**

# Vicar's Report

Toby May

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## Why read this report?

**Why read this report?** After all, this is a report on 2019 – which now seems like a very distant memory! The report was written in March for a meeting that was cancelled at a few days' notice by lockdown. What's more, Annual Reports can sometimes be a great cure for insomnia!

However, I hope that as you hear a bit about what was going on at St James' & St Luke's in 2019, you will be **inspired** by what God was doing in our church and our community; **excited** about how we have used the time, money and talents that many of you give so generously; **enthused** by the impact it makes on people's lives; and **encouraged** to pray and to get more involved, as we look to the future.

There is too much going on in the life of the church to cover it all in this report, but to catch a glimpse, read on...

## What's our Purpose

As a church, we are seeking to follow what Jesus said were the greatest commandments:

**To love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength... and to love our neighbours as ourselves.**

We aim to do this by growing:

**Upwards** (our love for God), **Inwards** (our relationships with one another) and **Outwards** (sharing God's love with our town).

## So, where did we start from in 2019 and where have we reached?

## A Starting Point

2019 has been a year of **challenges and changes**. In September 2018, Helen and I arrived here feeling clearly called by God from our previous parish, but unsure what to expect. We are grateful for the warm welcome that we received from so many. It's certainly been a busy and eventful year!

One of the first things we did was to conduct a **listening exercise** – to hear the views of as many church members as possible about the church's strengths and weaknesses and where we should be heading.

It was a privilege to meet and listen to so many wonderful people who were seeking to follow Jesus. It was also encouraging and inspiring to share together lots of ideas. In particular, people felt:

- The church's strongest dimension was 'Upwards' (growing towards God)
- Growth 'Outwards' (towards others) was the weakest.
- Teaching and Worship were often seen as strengths
- Children, Families and Youth Work were declining
- **Disunity** was a serious problem – on average, each member mentioned it once. Further questions revealed that the divisions were in multiple areas – buildings, ages, group structures etc.

This last finding was very surprising, but also disturbing. After all, Jesus said: '*By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*' (John 13:34) and Paul also wrote regularly on the importance of unity: '*Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*' So addressing this issue became a high priority for our church, which we have begun to tackle during 2019 by...

- Replacing the parallel structures of MATs and Life Groups with **Growth Groups** – using common teaching material across the church, linked to service themes. Growth Groups also provide a core structure for pastoral care and discipleship.

# Vicar's Report

## Continued...

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- Creating distinct **service times** and clearer differences in style for the two Sunday congregations – to reach a wider population, to enable the vicar to be regularly at both services and to standardise the preaching across the congregations.
- **Praying** together every Sunday evening – to listen to God and to pray for our church and town.
- Increasing the use of the refurbished **Vineyard** as a whole-church facility.
- Consolidating **youth work** to create a critical mass for growth.
- Improving joint communication and publicity
- Encouraging consistency across the whole church rather than duplication – One church, but with 3 congregations (9:30, 11:15, Wednesday) and 3 locations.
- Resolving as a PCC to take a lead in challenging gossip and negativity and replacing them with encouragement and honesty.
- Teaching from Romans 12 and James on being a healthy church body – focussing on God's mercy and putting love into action.

Deep change takes time – and this is just a start – but **God is faithful** and it has been encouraging to see progress

## Other Challenges & Changes

**Staff changes** have been another big challenge this year: Following Dan Leathers (curate) moving on to become a vicar in 2018, in 2019: Julia Wilkins was appointed a curate in Leeds, Sharon Murphy trained for ordination, Jane Higginbottom moved to a wider role at Romiley and Steve Mitchell (Lay Reader) sadly died.

However, we are greatly blessed by a wonderful new staff team, including: Charlotte Jones (Admin), Chris Ellison (Children & Young Families) and Samuel Klemperer (Youth). They've all brought gifts, enthusiasm and a willingness to learn, but above all, a strong sense of calling and passion for serving God in their new roles. I am extremely grateful to them all, as well as to those who support them in their roles and those who took part in the recruitment processes.

There have been plenty of other challenges to face this year, including:

- Sunday attendance had been declining for 10 years – especially children
- Considerably fewer 14-50 year olds compared to the local population
- A number of people moving on or leaving for a variety of positive or negative reasons – as well as others joining.
- A Giving Gap between giving and expenditure – causing declining reserves
- The high cost of maintaining church buildings (repairing, heating, insuring, cleaning) – £80k in 12 months – including boiler replacements and window repairs

But there are also many great opportunities for us to share God's love with our town. Some of the changes we've made to these challenges and opportunities have included:

- Completion of the Vineyard Project (Phase 2) – and exploring how we can maximise the benefit of our new facility
- Starting Messy Church – which has seen a sharp increase in new young families exploring faith – timed to help them get involved more regularly in church life
- 'Roots' Youth Club starting on Sunday evenings.
- Re-structuring teams – including Vision, Growth Group Leaders, Finance, Fabric and Mission Partners
- Tots and Toast toddler group to add to Karibuni

Of course, not everything has changed. Many of the things we already run or support, we have sought to grow and encourage more people to get involved with – such as Alpha, Street Pastors, schools work, Wednesday Worship and the cafés. You can read in more detail about many of these things in the reports that follow.

# Vicar's Report

## Continued

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### Where Next?

We have come a long way during 2019! Whilst many of the challenges remain the same, God has repeatedly shown his grace, love and mercy to us. Through his sustaining power, we have made great progress in responding to the challenges and opportunities... but there's still a long way to go!

During 2019, we formed a Vision Team to share the vicar's role of discerning the long-term direction that God has for us as a church. Going forward, we will continue to develop this work – including exploring how to implement it with the PCC, staff and others, and communicating with the whole church.

Meanwhile, we will need to seek God's guidance on how we should be better stewards of the resources we've been given – including our buildings for effectively worshipping him, welcoming others and sharing his love for our town – and encouraging financial giving to enable the work that we do. We also want to make the most of the opportunities that God has given us through our community connections – to reach out to people from the very youngest to the oldest with the good news of Jesus – in word and action.

### Thank you!

As vicar, I am extremely grateful to **all** those of you who have given of your time, talents and money for God's Kingdom here over this last year. It's a privilege to serve alongside so many wonderful people.

There isn't room in this report to name everyone here, but I very much hope that in our growing atmosphere of encouragement, we will all regularly thank and encourage one another. However, this year, I would particularly like to thank Helen (my wife), Nick and Sandie (churchwardens) and Charlotte, Chris and Samuel (staff) for being willing to take on new roles in the life of our church and for carrying them out with commitment and grace.

In the March version of this report, at this point I wrote: '*This has been a busy year of challenges and changes. There will no doubt be more to come.*' Little did I know how true that would be! However, as Paul reminds us in Ephesians 3:20, we worship one God who is '*able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us*' So... '*to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*'

Toby

### An Overview of Events in 2019 *compiled by the Wardens and Charlotte Jones*

- CAP Money Course
- Memorial & Thanksgiving Service in October
- LOVE Shirebrook event in June
- Fisherman's Tale in June
- Annual Peg Hunt in April
- Light Party in October
- Messy Easter and Messy Christingle at St Luke's
- Tearfund Quiz
- Youth Alpha and weekend
- A number of Singles Socials
- Christian Aid Big Brekkie in May
- Eat Well Glossop Community Lunch in January
- Welcome lunch in November

# Church Warden's Report

Sandie Mann & Nick Rogers

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We thank God for His love, grace and mercy for Whitfield Parish. This year, we have lost a number of dear brothers and sisters to death and poor health and some who have moved away. Some of these were in key leader positions and we give thanks for them all and their service to God's kingdom. We remember in particular all that Steve Mitchell contributed to the church, especially with Care Home Visits, Christian Aid and Quest clubs (to name a few!)

We continue to run two Sundays services – 9.30am at St Luke's and 11.15am at St James'. Both provide God's word, worship and fellowship with different styles and welcoming new people with friendliness. We also have our midweek Wednesday service at St James' which is attended by a regular group of mainly older members but is welcome to all. On Sunday evenings there is a prayer meeting in our newly refurbished Vineyard providing reflection, listening time, thanksgiving and encouragement. Prayer meetings for Glossop are also held in St Luke's back room on Monday mornings. The Growth Groups provide pastoral care in a smaller setting as well as fellowship and bible study.

We continue to offer weddings, baptisms and funerals – for funerals, we have people from the congregation who will come along as welcomers and provide support. We also have Messy Church 3 times a term, run by Helen May and the team and this is thriving – we thank the team for this service.

We thank God for the employment of our Youth Worker Samuel Klemperer and Children & Families worker Chris Ellison. We are pleased to say that ROOTS, the new group for Glossop and surrounding areas, is now well attended and we're excited for the new kids club starting in 2020. Sadly, we said goodbye to Julia Wilkins (and family) who was ordained and is now working in Leeds. Sharon Murphy continues to train for ordination and will have a new curacy post in 2020. We thank both of them for their service in Whitfield Parish and all they continued to do in 2019; we are delighted they have both gone forwards with ordination. We also saw Jane Higgenbottom leave us to take on a new role in Romily and Charlotte Jones has been appointed as our Church Administrator and is doing a good job, proving to be an invaluable asset.

Various events have been held throughout the Parish in 2019 including and we wish to thank all the volunteers who serve week in and week out to provide for the Church, Parish and wider community, in both the seen and unseen roles.

We saw TOGA finish at the end of the year with a final Christmas meal at Peruga. We celebrated all that TOGA have done and provided for our seniors with a special thanks to Denise Perry and .... for their service. Whilst we are sad that this season is over, we are grateful for all the years of lunches, speakers, days out and fellowship.

We would like to thank Toby who serves God's Kingdom and the Whitfield Parish faithfully. We have seen him work tirelessly, support us in our roles and encourage and love others. Jesus We are grateful for a number of dedicated leaders who support Toby in a number of ways.

Last but not least we would like to thank our long serving deputy wardens, Sheila Humphrey and Duncan Edge who do a lot of seen and unseen practical work in the Churches, both on Sundays and throughout the week and who both serve on the Fabric Team and PCC - our grateful thanks to you.

So, let us build each other up, have unity and be shining lights to those who don't know Jesus. Always have hope, always keep praying and always encourage.

## **The Bible Verse for all of us is Colossians 3 v 12-14**

"Therefore as God's chosen people, Holy and dearly loved, clothe yourself with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bare with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another.. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 AND over all these virtues put on love, which binds them altogether which binds them all together in perfect unity.

# Treasurer's Report

Ann Williams

## Cash Reserves

	2019	2018	Inc/dec
Joint Parish Account	37,444.11	40,933.71	
Barclays Account	39,148.67	31,520.68	
Nat West Account	9,764.62	3,630.38	
<b>Total</b>	<b>86,357.40</b>	<b>76,084.77</b>	+13.5%

There are Cash reserves of £32,254 available above our 3 months reserves of £54,103 recommended by the Charity Commission. Reserves increased by 13.5% over the year.

## Income all Sources

	2019	2018	inc/dec
Planned Regular Giving	159,712.58	163,171.01	-3,458.43
Collections	2,263.40	2,852.36	-588.96
Gift Aid	32,144.58	34,085.27	-1,940.69
Sundry Gifts	1197.50	1,025.00	172.50
Grants	1730.20		1,730.20
Wedding/Funeral Fees	3317.00	3,497.00	-180.00
Vineyard Hire & Misc	935.00	655.00	280.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>201,300.26</b>	<b>205,285.64</b>	-3,985.38

Our Parish income is most reliant on congregational giving (79%). There are 124 planned givers. Other sources are Gift Aid (16%) Sundry Gifts, Fees and Vineyard Hire (5%). 2019 giving was down by approx. £4K. This also follows a drop in giving from the previous year of £11K – Total £15K. This has been due to a drop in regular giving, which was through folk leaving our parish and some for economic reasons.

Due to our income being primarily supported by taxpayers, the parish claimed Gift Aid from the Government of £32,133K which is an amazing figure. We urge all those who are tax-payers and have not already done so to sign a Gift Aid Declaration form which they can get from the Treasurer

## Overview Expenditure

	2019	Average Monthly	% of total cost
Staffing Costs	37,140	3095	19
Parish Share	83,174	6931	44
Buildings Maintenance	9,965	830	5
Energy	9,952	829	5
Other Housekeeping Costs	19,182	1599	10
Children/Youth/Senior cost	3,520	293	2
Community outreach	7,658	638	4
Mission Partner Share	13,339	1112	7
Discretionary Grants	6,637	553	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>190,567</b>	<b>15881</b>	<b>100</b>

# Treasurer's Report

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Expenditure this year is £22K less than 2018.

To balance the budget, savings were made in 2019 on Staff Costs £11K, Buildings Maintenance £14K

Our largest expenditure item is our contribution to the Common Fund (Parish Share) (44%). The new figure for 2020 is £83,326 which is an increase of 0.18%. Staffing Costs, (19%) Building's Maintenance, (5%), Energy (5%)

Our Mission Partner share was divided between our 5 Mission Partners. Discretionary Grants were shared between 14 organisations/individuals.

Excluding special events etc, it costs an average of £15,881 to run the parish each month.

Looking ahead to 2020, to achieve a similar expenditure we will have to draw down again into our limited cash reserves. We need to increase general giving as this will not be a sustainable solution beyond 2021.

## Building Projects

During 2019, £26,704 was spent from St Luke's building fund to repair one of the stained-glass windows and replacement of the boiler system. There is a balance of £62,287 at the end of the year.

Phase 2 of the Vineyard project was completed at a cost of £66,885. This leaves a balance of £28,387.90 at the year end. As these funds represent designated funds originally transferred from St James' Deposit fund, the intention is to ask PCC to re-designate the funds back into St James' Deposit fund.

## Deanery Synod

### Rhiannon Singleton

Clergy and lay representatives from every parish in Peak Deanery are invited to Deanery Synod four times a year. This gives an opportunity to find out what is happening in parishes around High Peak and is a good way of linking ourselves to the wider Anglican church. It enables parishes to find out about information and plans coming from national and diocesan leadership and to feed grass roots information back to them.

Over the past year a lot of discussion time has been taken on three issues.

**Setting God's People Free** – This is a report from the Archbishop's Council which calls churches to set lay Christians free and support them to minister both in services and in their Monday-Saturday lives. Discussion has been around how churches can put this into practice in different settings. For some parishes it appears this is a new concept. ([www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org) › SGPF; [www.churchofengland.org/files/gs-2056-setting-gods-people-free](http://www.churchofengland.org/files/gs-2056-setting-gods-people-free))

**Church Funding** – Discussions have focussed on identifying priorities for diocesan funding from a local parish perspective. There is a shortfall in funding as the Church Commissioners have moved money from supporting existing parishes to mission, growth and areas of deprivation. The funding gap is being filled by 'Common Fund' contributions increasing for the past 3 years. Messages have been relayed back to the diocese calling for transparency in diocesan finances and consideration of the proportion of diocesan funding spent on diocesan administration and an academy school in Derby.

**Safeguarding** – Both because this is a high priority for the Church of England and because the diocese has moved from a diocesan policy to implementing the Church of England policy.

# PCC Report

Charlotte Jones—*PCC Secretary*

Post	Name	Term Length	
Incumbent	Toby May (Chair)	Ex-Officio	The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC continues to identify, evaluate and monitor risks facing the Council's operations.
Warden	Sandra Mann	2019-20	Whitfield PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, Toby May, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Churches of St James the Great, Hollincross Lane and of St Luke's, Fauvel Road; Church House, Fauvel Road and The Vineyard, 18-20 Charlestown Road, Glossop.
Warden	Nick Rogers	2019-20	
Treasurer	Ann Williams	2019-20	
Deanery Synod	Rhiannon Singleton	2017-20	
Deanery Synod	John Bowers	2017-20	
Deanery Synod	Gill Ellison	2017-20	
Deanery Synod	Sam Magorrian	2018-20	Day to day management is delegated to the Incumbent. In addition, stipendiary and non-stipendiary members of staff take responsibility in a variety of roles. All other members of the leadership team are volunteers.
Deanery Synod	-	2017-20	
Deanery Synod	Ends in 2020	2017-20	
Deanery Synod	Ends in 2020	2017-20	
PCC	Sheila Humphrey	2018-21	As the PCC has ultimate responsibility for a wide range of matters affecting the parish, individuals with expertise relating to compliance with health and safety, disability discrimination legislation and child protection are identified, consulted and trained whenever necessary.
PCC	Duncan Edge	2017-20	
PCC	Nick Jones	2019-21	
PCC	Peter Leighton	2018-21	
PCC	Jean Burston	2017-20	The PCC meets every two months. The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules. Members are either ex-officio or elected at the APCM.
PCC	Jon Crosse	2017-20	
PCC	Kathy Leason	2019-20	
PCC	Rachel Lochhead	2019-20	
Secretary	Charlotte Jones	Annual	During 2019, Jane Higgenbottom left to start a new role and Charlotte Jones was voted on until April 2020 as Secretary (in her role as Church Administrator). There were resignations and Rachel Lochhead was voted in to replace one of these resignations until March 2020.

## Main items discussed at PCC Meetings in 2019

- Staff job positions for Young Families & Children's Worker, Youth Worker and Church Administrator
- Completion of The Vineyard project
- Repair work on the hole in The Vineyard roof
- New online Safeguarding Dashboard
- Review of giving
- Youth work in our churches and across Glossop
- Youth work in our churches and across Glossop
- Our Mission links and discretionary grants
- Budget for 2020

# Fabric Report

Sheila Humphrey—*Fabric Chair*

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Our intentions continue to be to ensure that our church buildings, namely St James' Church, St Luke's Church and The Vineyard are properly maintained, up to date with all mandatory safety checks and repaired and updated wherever necessary, to see them all fit for purpose and user friendly. Church House Trustees look after the Fabric of that property in consultation with the tenants.

The past 12 months has presented us with challenges and answered prayer – God is Good

**St Luke's:**

- Boilers failed and had to be replaced.
- The rear high level window was next on our agenda of window renovations. This one was particularly challenging as the full extent of the masonry repairs could not be seen until the scaffolding was up.

**St James':**

- Following a H&S check of the Graveyard several gravestones have been made safe.
- The boilers have needed attention and are currently running well.

**Vineyard** - The Phase II project team are reporting separately.

- Fabric have picked up the new and ongoing servicing and H&S checks of the lift.

I have been fully supported and assisted by the other members of the committee – Duncan Edge, Pete Leighton, Rob Moore and our Vicar Toby. Special thanks to Jane Higginbottom and Peter Collard who have left the team in the last year after years of great work.

We have been further supported by our PCC and the congregations, for which we are truly grateful. Please pray for the Fabric team as we continue to work with our buildings during this time of financial challenge.

# Safeguarding

Sue Leighton—*Parish Safeguarding Officer*

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Safeguarding continues to be an important part of the parish's duty of care for those with whom we have contact. To this end, all who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults are required to hold a current DBS certificate and undertake safeguarding training delivered by Derby Diocese. Currently, most, if not all, of our volunteers hold current certificates or are in the process of renewing those that are due to run out (a DBS lasts 5 years). As far as possible, training is required to take place within 3 months of being vetted and commencing work. Leaders must hold Foundation and Leadership certificates whilst other helpers only require Foundation level. In addition Safeguarding links are required to do the new Safeguarding dashboard training which assists with auditing the Parish performance in this area.

Thanks to all the volunteers for completing the necessary paperwork and training in order that we continue to keep our children, young people and vulnerable adults safe. Anyone needing training or who are unsure if they do, please contact Sue Leighton.

# Children & Young Families

Chris Ellison—*Children & Young Families Leader*

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We were sad (and excited!) to say goodbye to Julia in the summer of 2019, as she started her new role as curate in St George's Church Leeds. We then welcomed Chris Ellison in September who now works with us for 16 hours a week. Chris says:

"We started off the year with the parent and child campout in the woods at Duke of Norfolk school, this was really well attended by parents and children from both congregations and was a super time together, playing hide and seek by torch light was epic.

Work within schools has been going well, I regularly do assemblies in 3 schools we have relationship with; St Luke's, St James' and Simmondley (where we have run a dinner time club for many years) these have all gone well and been well received by both staff and pupils.

The acquisition of a bouncy castle for The Vineyard has been a great success with it being used regularly on Sunday morning and we look forward to using it for our new kids club in 2020.

Kingdom kids has seen an increase in numbers, mainly from children moving up from praise patrol in addition to families that are new to church. Sunday mornings have been a fun time of learning, children even faced their own version of a 'Bush Tucker Challenge' (needless to say there was no insects or bugs involved, although the children didn't believe that).

The annual peg hunt in Howard Park at Easter was incredible last year 150 children with their families taking part. It got to the point that there wasn't enough eggs for those who wanted to take part. Needless to say we are on it this year and researching prices for the lorry load! In October Sue and Peter Leighton organised the light party as an alternative to Halloween which was a great success with lots of children enjoying games, craft activities, a talk and hot dogs."

## In 2020...

From January 2020, we will be having a term time club called 6.30 Kids on Thursday evenings during term time for 5-11 year olds. This will be a free club with games, craft and a snack and our new bouncy castle! We have advertised the club across the 3 schools we have links with, sending out leaflets in all the book bags.

## Under 5's

### **St James' - Charlotte Jones**

We've turned the vestry at St James' into a Baby Zone area— this is a parent supervised area with plenty of age appropriate toys, drinks, a baby changing station, high chairs and speakers to listen to the service. It's well used, along with a small soft play area at the front of church and flags and ribbons for the children to use during worship. Praise Patrol is now aimed at 2-4 year olds with a structured session (although we keep this flexible!). We have been encouraging and teaching the children to pray for themselves and each other.

### **St Luke's—Sue Leighton**

The crèche is held in the vestry and is not only a place for our under fives to learn and have fun but also allows parents to fully participate in the service, knowing their children are happy and safe. We follow the "Tiddlywinks – stories and pictures" series of books to teach our little ones Bible stories, how much God loves them and that Jesus is their friend. These books have just the right amount of information for those who are very young.

# Children & Young Families

## Groups

### Tots & Toast *Helen May*

Tots and Toast is a toddler group that was started in The Vineyard by Julia in November 2018 so has now run for just over a year and is now led by Helen. Each Tuesday morning 9.30am -11am in term time we have on average 20-30 babies, pre-schoolers, Mums, Dads, grandparents and carers from the local community coming together to enjoy play, chat, toast and drinks.

There is a very special atmosphere, and many have commented how friendly the group is and that they feel welcome. Some families are venturing from this to Messy Church and we intend to make further links with 6.30 Kids in 2020.

### Karibuni *Sue Leighton*

Karabuni is a tot friendly café meeting in St Luke's church every Wednesday 10-12noon during term time. We aim to provide a safe and loving atmosphere where friendships can grow and the love of Jesus can be felt in our loving service.

We have delicious cakes, Fair Trade drinks, crafts and toys. Christian literature is available at all times and appropriate presents given to all the children at Christmas and Easter.

Having sadly lost Nikki and Julia after Easter we were down to a team of two (Sue and Peter Leighton) with the continued help in setting up and packing away from Gill & Sandy Booth and Astrid Fude. However, an answer to prayer came when Sheila Humphrey and Sandie Mann volunteered to help one week a month.

### Messy Church—*Helen May*

Messy Church was started in January 2019 in the Vineyard. We had 8 sessions with an average attendance of 88 at each, with usually at least half or more of these being children. Topics have been varied and sessions action packed and fun. We've seen new children and families are coming along to this including parents and grandparents. We begin with an hour of activities which have included paint, glue, water, clay, mud, baked beans, porridge, glop, cardboard, flower seeds, photographs, newspapers, icing sugar, squirty cream, bananas, chocolate, playdough balloons, as well as reflection, stories and competitions, to name a few! During these there is plenty of time for chat exploring stories in the Bible creatively and thinking about how we apply them to our lives today. We learn about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and how to pray on our own as-well as together with our families. We then come together and there is a time of celebration where Toby leads an interactive talk for everyone together and we often watch a video and then lunch is eaten together.

Messy Church is an exciting space to be able to develop as we reach out to families in our town. Each Messy Church we meet at least one new family— sometimes families who have just moved to Glossop and who have looked on the website, others exploring Baptism or Thanksgiving for their children and others invited along by their friends or neighbours who have been along and enjoy coming. We pray it will enable families to connect with our church in an easy way and as they do it will be a place where they find, grow and explore faith.

Thank you to the whole Messy Church team- its hard work, but great to be able to create such a positive space for families to come together to learn more about God. Thank you to everyone however you take part and whatever age you are- you are all valued members of the team! I think Jesus is smiling with us as we all grow and journey together towards him each Messy Church.



# Youth Work

Samuel Klemperer—*Youth Worker*

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In September 2019 we welcomed Samuel Klemperer as a youth Worker. Samuel is working 20 hours a week with us alongside studying. Samuel says:

"Since I've started, I've formed a team of amazing and experienced volunteers who serve and had been serving diligently in ministering to the young people who now also supporting me in my role. We've amalgamated various youth groups into Sunday mornings and evenings that are now fully supported by the parish.

We held a parents' evening to gather information on what they wanted to see in the youth work on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019. On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November we launched Roots, a youth group for 11 to 18s. Roots has flourished as a group and has developed a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. We've had excellent feedback from the young people and parents. We've recently had the young people ask some brilliant questions that we will be working through in the coming sessions. They particularly like our end of term Roots movie and pizza nights! On Sunday mornings we've been following along with the series on paradoxes within Christianity, trying out different styles of prayer and working on our Church project.

The young people have also enjoyed helping with Messy Church monitoring activities and looking after younger children. I've planned a youth weekend away on the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2020 collaborating with Eyam Parish Church, Revive Church New Mills, and Good News Church Whaley Bridge. This is a marvellous opportunity for young people to be encouraged by other people close in age in their faith. All this has and will enable the young people to grow closer together and develop in confidence and faith. "

## In 2020...

In the next year I've got lots planned, including networking ecumenically with other local Churches promoting and sharing youth events. I'm working with Carmel Church Hadfield's youth worker to launch a 15 to 18s youth group called "Rooted" at the end of March. My intention is to narrow the Roots age bracket to 11 to 14s.

I'm also working with the Elim minister looking towards serving in local schools in the way the school leadership think best. This could potentially develop into providing assemblies, pastoral support or a lunch club. This will allow us to provide quality youth work for specific age groups across different locations.

# The Vineyard—Phase 2

Helen May



In March 2019 the PCC approved Phase 2 of the Vineyard refurbishment Project. This was to make the upper floor of the Vineyard fit for purpose to use in the same way as the lower floor had in 2018. During 2019 we have successfully installed a disabled moving platform giving access to the second floor for all, renovated the upper hall into a larger space and created and equipped 2 fit for purpose staff offices with a new smaller print room.

We have obtained all the equipment needed to use the building into the future- new comfortable chairs, lighter folding tables, extra crockery and kitchen equipment, youth equipment and also managed get a hearing loop installed in the lower hall within budget. The Vineyard has been successfully equipped to a high standard for church and community activities and can now be enjoyed and used for many years to come.

Thank you to Jane for her part in getting quotes organised before she left and leaving the project in such a well-ordered way for me to complete after she left.

£64195 was approved by PCC for Phase 2 Vineyard March 2019 and Phase 2 was completed within this amount. £29200 of the total Phase 2 Vineyard Project spend has been using grant money so Phase 2 has not cost the church the full total. Phase 2 has only cost the church £34995 which is amazing given the work that has been done and equipment purchased.

## Grants

£29200 was raised through grants and spent during 2019

The Vineyard project had been initially specked up as costing £250 000 and grant monies form various organisations were pledged against this total. Phase 1 in 2018 was completed in cheaper ways than anticipated which was great but caused a problem regarding the grant monies that had been pledged against the £250k total! After a series of letters, phone calls and a face to face meeting with one of the grant providers it was possible to release the grant pledges into real funds to the total of £25000. One grant provider decreased their grant pledge by half, but this is totally understandable given the circumstances and we are very grateful for all the grant monies that were donated to us.

- £2500 Beatrice Laing
- £10000 Garfield Weston Banked
- £12500 Joseph Rank

£4200 extra grants were successfully raised during phase 2

- £2700 Allchurches Trust
- 3 x £500 Grants Derbyshire County Council (Toddler equipment, Toddler and adult height tables)

# In our Community

## Café Jericho *Nick and Donna Rogers*

It has been a busy year in the Cafe. We had the kitchen and cafe completely refurbished at the start of the year. We now have a modern workable kitchen thanks to donations from Whitfield Parish and other local churches.

We continue to provide food both physical and spiritual for people living and working in Gamesley and surrounding areas.

We have been forging links with the local church. We have joined together for Easter Harvest and Christmas services, For Remembrance and summer BBQ. Our annual Christingle and Christmas interactive play went well. We had Barry Woodward to speak in October.

We continue to take students from Glossopdale School for work experience and each month have a drop in for emergency services Fire Police and Ambulance. Where people can ask questions or seek advice.

The Cafe remains a vital part of the life of Gamesley Estate and we look forward to even greater things in 2020.

## Street Pastors *Rhianne Singleton*

Glossopdale Street Pastors come from several churches across the valley and are in the town centre 10pm Sat night -2am Sunday mornings. We chat and give lollies to anyone, look after anyone needing support – listening or practically. The police see a link between Street Pastors on the street and reduction in problems arising on Saturday nights. Many people who start seeing Christians as judgemental and critical and therefore avoid anything to do with Christ, see that at least some Christians do not fit their stereotype and Street Pastors meet many people who we would probably never speak to otherwise.

Glossopdale Street Pastors have had a difficult year. Due to illness and other life changes of team members we have had to decrease the patrols from weekly to twice monthly. We make sure that the busiest nights are covered each month and hope to have teams out most weeks by the summer. However, we do urgently need more Street Pastors.

Financially the year has also been challenging. Costs of covering insurance and services provided by the umbrella organisation have increased dramatically in addition to training and practical costs. We are currently seeking financial support from churches across the valley.

## Glossop Children's Centre *Tracey Fellows*

The last 12 months have seen change in the team structure. After a prompt from the Holy Spirit, Tracey Fellows stepped down from leading the Whitfield MAT in June 2019. Whitfield MAT stopped meeting and all members have been encouraged to join a growth group. Whitfield Community Cafe no longer comes under the umbrella of Whitfield MAT but continues in its own right now with a separate budget.

Links with Glossop Children's centre have been maintained and as a result Tracey worked together successfully with the staff to bless children in need from the area. This time there were less numbers from Whitfield and so the staff went wider to include children from all over Glossop and a small number from Gamesley. All children identified by the children's centre received a fair trade real advent calendar at the end of November that included the Christmas story and a parish card with the Christmas church services. At Christmas all identified children received a gift generously provided by members of our church.

### In 2020...

We will continue working with the Children's centre at Easter and Christmas to bless with a chocolate treat and provide the story of Jesus.

Food poverty and school holiday hunger is a real issue. Please pray about whether as a Parish this is something that we could get involved in -it requires team, vision and commitment and good health.

# In our Community

## **Alpha—Helen May**

After a whole parish leaflet distribution just before Christmas, Toby and Helen led an exciting Alpha Course January 2019 in the newly refurbished Vineyard on Tuesday evenings. There were about 20 people enjoying an evening meal in The Vineyard with discussion groups after the DVD in both the hall and upstairs youth room each week. Thank you to all growth groups for being involved laying up, preparing, cooking, serving and clearing up to make this happen smoothly. You helped to create a lovely, welcoming atmosphere for the guests and are greatly valued. It was a privilege to get to know, explore and discuss faith with those who came. We had a day away during the course to explore the Holy Spirit in Castleton which was very positive. Afterwards many carried on with a short follow up course "Digging Deeper" led by Toby and are now settling into a new growth group run by Ann and Mike Williams who helped on the Alpha course.

We plan to run Alpha annually in January. This is because at Christmas there are lots of visitors to church services and it is great to have something in place to invite them to just afterwards. Next year we are planning two courses- a day time one with a creche as-well as an evening one to maximize invitational opportunity. Please pray for many to find faith in Jesus through coming along to one of the Alpha courses. Prayer is a vital part of Alpha.

## **Christmas—Charlotte Jones**

We had a brilliantly busy Christmas period including: a Family Christingle Service, Messy Church, Carols by Candlelight in both churches, Open Air Carols, a Nativity Service, Midnight Communion and Christmas Day. We saw over 800 people from our congregations and community come together across these events.

We handed out hundreds of mince pies, gingerbread biscuits and drinks and we are thankful to Glossop Tescos and M&S for their donations towards this. It was a delight to have Dark Peak Brass Band and St James' and St Luke's schools join us again for the Open Air Carols Over Avent. Other groups also held their own Christmas celebration/parties.

We did a big leaflet drop across our Parish and school links which included all our Christmas Events, details for Alpha 2020 and the new 6.30 Kids group launching in January 2020. We also presented Children Bibles to the younger classes in St James' and St Luke's—both schools held their Christmas assemblies in our churches. We ended 2020 giving thanks for the birth of our Saviour and all He has done for us throughout the year!

### **Whitfield Community Cafe**

The Café runs most Wednesdays, at The Vineyard, between 1.30 and 3.30pm. The Café offers an open, welcome place to come and join others for a chat, a quiz and a brew and biscuits. There is a range of ages that come along, some new and some regulars.

This year, there have been a couple of special events put on including the Celebration of Life event with TOGA in and the Cupcake Party in June - always well attended and good fun!

There was also fire safety training from our local Fire Station.

### **Coffee Pot**

Coffee Pot is open Thursday mornings 10-11.30am at St Luke's Church and all are welcome for coffee, cake and a chat—some come a little earlier and others are loathe to leave!

The café's purpose is for fellowship and using donations from the coffee, tea and cake, the café was able to donate £100 to St Luke's towards the heating, £50 to the Mustard Tree Trust and a child is sponsored through International Needs at £240 a year.

*Gill Booth and Cynthia Jones*

# Missional Giving

## Mission Team—*David Woodward*

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The Mission Team was formed to promote awareness of the work of the 5 main Mission Partners that the Parish supports through prayer and finance. The team meets 3 times a year for prayer and updates, and anyone who is interested in Mission is welcome to come along.

The 5 main Missions are: Jericho Cafe, The Message, Dave McGuire in Romania, Tear Fund and Open Doors. Each mission has a champion who will keep the congregations informed of the latest news and prayer points. This information is passed on through Growth Groups and each group has been encouraged to take a special interest in at least one of the partners.

This year we have used some of the Slice of Good News slots in services to highlight the work of the Missions and opened up the opportunity for representatives to come and inspire us. Some highlights include:

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# Worship

## St James' & St Luke's

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### **St Luke's — *Andy Hackett***

We have had some changes in the team over the last 12 months with both the Manson and Murphy families leaving to join other churches for family reasons.

Our keyboard led worship was looking shaky, but our prayers were answered through the Wilson family with Richard joining us on keyboard, and Louise joining as a singer; both while being committed to other church duties. In fact, our prayers were already being answered even before we knew we would be in need, when Richard asked to play the odd session for us from December 2018. It never ceases to amaze how God works his plans.

We aim to choose songs that fit the theme and readings of the week so that the congregation are able to sing their praises to the Lord, our God, and can rejoice in His Name, and also reflect on everything He has done for us.

### **St James' - *Millie Crosse***

The music team at St James' continues to lead the congregation in sung worship weekly on a Sunday morning and at Christmas and Holy Week Services.

In addition to that we have been delighted to be able to serve the congregation and local community by playing at a number of weddings.

At Christmas, we opened up the band to have others who don't always worship with us on Sundays to join in for some of our Christmas services which helped us and was a wonderful opportunity to serve others in a different way.

# Growth Groups

Helen May

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Growth Groups are a key part of our church, which we encourage everyone to be part of. They help us grow as followers of Jesus. Growth Groups are small groups made up of 6-15 people. Most meet during the week, fortnightly, in people's homes with some during the days and others in the evenings. They are different in style, but with core things in common.

Our Growth Groups are seeking to grow...

- Closer to God – through prayer, exploring the Bible and sharing experiences of God in our day-to-day lives
- Closer to one another – having fun, being friends, eating meals, sharing problems and caring for one another.
- Closer to others – praying for our community, organising churchwide social events, inviting friends or getting involved other outreach events.

2019 has been a year of transition from Life groups and MATS to the new structure and format of Growth Groups. Life groups and MAT Groups have been morphing, merging and transforming into Growth groups which now form the backbone of our church.

# Pastoral Support

Sue Leighton—St Luke's

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There continues to be a Pastoral visiting team at St Luke's for those who are sick, bereaved, lonely or housebound and to be a bridge between our Church and those who are unable to visit it at present.

We still have our box at the back of church for people to pop in requests for help or visits, whether it is for themselves or for others who are known to them. I would encourage everyone to use it when needed as it helps the team to know where they are needed.