



St James' & St Luke's
Church Glossop

Report to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting for the year ended 31 December 2020

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Charity Number 1134145

Vicar's Report

Toby May

Tough Questions

What a year! It has been an unprecedented year of global turmoil, as the pandemic has raised repeated challenges to the world, our nation, our community and our church.

At the start of 2020, we embarked on a new teaching series in our services and Growth Groups entitled '**Tough Questions**'. It was based on Krish Kandiah's book, 'Paradoxology'. I don't think any of us could have envisaged just how many tough questions would hit us all, so quickly!

As individuals and as a nation, we have faced big questions about freedoms such as 'how do you balance the rights of individuals with the risks to others?'; questions about our priorities – money, education, community, family, mental/physical/spiritual health; questions about the value we place on people – by their income, as 'key workers' or the colour of their skin; questions about where we find our security – our health, relationships, vaccines ...and many, many more.

As a church, we have faced even more questions – questions about how we express our love for God in worship when we can't gather; questions about individual v corporate discipleship; questions about outreach into an increasingly digital world; questions about our dependence on buildings; questions about how we respond to community needs; questions about pastoral care for all ages; questions about the benefits and limitations of technology; deep questions about what discipleship, worship, evangelism, mission or church mean.

At the end of all this, we will need to ask ourselves more questions, including 'How have our relationships with God, with one another and with our community changed?' In what ways has our love increased, diminished or changed? What has God been showing us during this time? How do we need to change as individuals and as a church? What do we need to do differently from now on?

But let's return to 2020...

Responding to the Crisis

At the start of the year, following the recruitment of new staff members at the end of 2019, we had just started a number of activities which were beginning to take shape and grow. These included Samuel starting Roots youth club, Chris forming 6:30 Kids and Charlotte growing our bookings for the refurbished Vineyard. We were also continuing to develop Alpha, the new toddlers group, the Whitfield Breeze Café, new Growth Groups, Wednesday communion – and more.

Then COVID. All of them were stopped overnight.

So much of what we were doing involved gathering people together – which is a really healthy thing to do. It was a huge shock when we were unable to do it. Many of us were left feeling upset, disorientated, confused, lonely or afraid.

However, amidst the pain, there have been many signs of hope. So many members of our church have responded in fantastic ways – delivering gift bags to families and the bereaved, conducting COVID risk assessments, starting Grace Kitchen, setting up our database for pastoral phone calls, learning Zoom for Growth Groups, developing video editing skills, installing live streaming, singing socially distanced carols, burning and distributing DVDs, delivering YouTube assemblies, reorganising our website, preaching and praying on camera, trying Alpha online, ensuring safety whilst being welcoming, discovering Discord... the list goes on!

Vicar's Report

Continued...

Not everything we have tried has been a success – we've made some mistakes too – but it has been wonderful to see so many people having a go at new things in response to a completely new context.

I want to say a big **THANK YOU** to everyone involved on behalf of our church and community. I also want to thank all of you who have encouraged and supported one another (including us) during these difficult times.

There are far too many people to list here, but you can read more about many of these activities later in this report.

Looking Ahead

Looking ahead, our church will never be the same. I don't believe the pandemic has been caused by God, but I do believe he has used it like a spotlight to draw our attention to things that we need to do more of, or less of. In some cases, we have needed to accelerate changes that were already happening – or begin new things sooner. In others, it has highlighted things to stop. Some of these changes are specific to our church, but many are shared across our town, our diocese, our nation or worldwide.

Through being denied things, we have realised how we undervalued some things – such as gathering together or physical contact – but have overvalued others such as travel or independence. We have discovered new ways to keep in touch or reach others – such as Zoom and YouTube – but have also discovered their limitations. As we emerge from COVID, it will be important to reflect and learn from these discoveries as a church.

And whilst COVID has had a huge impact, we also face other major ongoing challenges – the costs of work required to our buildings identified by the Quinquennial report; the drop in income due to people moving, retiring or leaving; the task of re-engaging those who we have lost touch with during lockdown and welcoming those who have joined. We will have difficult decisions to take in the year ahead.

In John 15, Jesus describes the True Vine. In it, even the healthy branches are pruned by God, the gardener. This has been a time of pruning – of stripping back – for individuals and as a church. But the purpose of pruning is that the vine will bear much fruit in the future. I believe this will happen, as we are obedient to God's calling as he leads us step by step into the unknown.

As we have journeyed together through this time of suffering, we have been frequently reminded by our partners, Open Doors and Tearfund, of those who are suffering much more severely because of their faith or poverty. In his first letter, Peter writes to Christians in far more extreme circumstances than us, but let us pray that in the months ahead, his words could be written of us too:

***'In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.'* (1 Peter 1:6-7)**

May our merciful and gracious God bless you.

Toby

Churchwarden's Report

Sandie Mann

Romans 12 v 1-2 (NIV)

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve, what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will.

Grace and Peace to you. My congratulations to you, Whitfield Parish Leadership team and wonderful congregations – how I have missed you, young and old! What a year and haven't we learnt a lot? Praise the Lord for creativeness and adaptability in difficult circumstances.

Thank you to Toby and the Service teams who have opened churches for 2 services on Sunday mornings, at St Luke's 9.30am and at St James' at 11.00am, which is now streamed live for those who can't get to church or are shielding – when churches have been allowed to open, following Government COVID rules. Thank you for weekly Parish prayer time on Sunday evenings via Zoom. Congratulations to all who have videoed Bible Readings and Parish prayers for the service and thank you to Toby and sermon leaders for their teaching and preaching which been put onto YouTube during the time of lockdown.

Chris Ellison, our Children & Families Leader has created a weekly children's video also on You Tube for Whitfield Kingdom Kids Club and school assemblies. Samuel, our Youth Worker and the Youth team offers support, encouragement, fun, Bible teaching and a chance to chat on Zoom Sunday morning and evening – also throughout the week chat and games on Discord. Messy Church has kept contact with Church Families and those on the fringe of church as has Karibuni, Tots & Toast and at the older end, Coffee Pot and Whitfield Community Cafe. The delivery of family bags- with craft and booklets at various times and very important phone calls, contacting people old and young, offering support and care and any help needed.

Thank you to the Growth Group leaders and Growth Groups who have continued to meet up via Zoom. Some have a Whatsapp group, where texting or phone calls keep them in touch, bonding and giving and receiving kindness that has helped throughout. God bless you.

The Alpha course has continued via Zoom to spread the Good News of Jesus. In November we handed out Bereavement bags to enable people to give thanks and remember their loved ones and join a Remembrance Sunday Service. Grace Kitchen was started, a small group (COVID friendly) make up weekly bags of fresh fruit and vegetables plus other goodies donated by Glossop supermarkets and then give them out to people. During Christmas time, 72 hampers were made and delivered. Thank you so much for all the hard work of the team.

I believe we have a good, good Father who loves and cares for each of us, as we receive from Him and worship Him as a church and our outpouring of love is so needed in this season towards all who are struggling, lonely and in need. I pray for the churches in Glossopdale to work more closely than they do now and for believers to pray through the Holy Spirit specific prayers (and hopefully to be able to meet up soon) to extend God's Kingdom.

I will bring this report to an end by saying it has been a privilege to serve in this Parish during a year of Global Pandemic. I have witnessed many acts of random kindness and want to thank Toby and Helen for their work, Charlotte Jones who serves diligently and works hard, Ann Williams, the Treasurer and all the volunteers of various groups within the Parish. I want to encourage and thank Toby and PCC members who have some tough decisions to make on behalf of the Parish. We would value your prayers for us. We pray for God's will and guidance. Love in the Jesus Christ.

Ephesian 4 v 2-3 (NIV)

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Churchwarden's Report

Nick Rogers

Greetings to all at Whitfield Parish

Well what a year this has been. So challenging in many ways. The pandemic has affected us all very differently. So many pressures and changes to daily life and in the life of the Parish. I wish to thank all those that have had to work during this time putting themselves on the frontline to serve our communities. Too many names and occupations to mention but we are very very thankful for your service.

Many of us were oblivious to zoom meetings or other forms of communication just over a year ago. As a church we have learned much as the pandemic has evolved. Online worship, zoom prayers, youthwork, schools work, alpha and much more provided digitally. Often learning on the job.

The birth of Grace Kitchen has been an exciting development. Reaching out to the local community with food relief and a face to interact with at the door. Building relationships through food was often the business end of Jesus ministry. Jesus was in the business of creative miracles taking a little to provide much. When we start to come out of lockdown we will have to adapt quickly to the needs of our communities. Things will look very different.

As warden I would like to thank all that have stepped up and stepped out in faith during this time. To those who who have sent a text picked up the phone keep doing that because to someone that could be a life saving act of kindness.

Going forward the parish will face significant challenges. Not least how we use our buildings and the finances of the parish. But we must always hold before us that With God all things are possible. We must stand on the word of God and the leading of the Holy Spirit. We need to reconnect with God in significant Spirit led prayer individually and corporately. If we do not do this everything else we do will be futile. **Unless the Lord builds the house the builders labour in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain. Psalm 127 v 1**

I believe as a Parish we will have to be creative in our worship. We must be more visible outside of the building. Going back to where we were just over 12 months ago is not enough. The buildings must become a place of refuge a refuelling station a place of discipleship Holy Spirit led worship and unity. A place of equipping to send us back out into the harvest fields. The 5 fold ministry must be encouraged and where there is lack connect to those who operate in those gifts. I believe we must work more closely across the denominations taking the Gospel to the streets. My dream is of a church where all denominations come together to work together and worship. A church that shares the Gospel of Jesus and is truly the Bride of Christ

Yours In Christ

Nick Rogers Warden

Treasurer's Report

Ann Williams

Cash Reserves

	Year end 2020	2019	Inc/dec
Joint Parish Account	17611.63	37,444.11	
Barclays Account	55076.35	39,148.67	
Nat West Account	16681.41	9764.62	
Total	89369.39	86,357.40	3.49%

There are Cash reserves of £35,791 available above our 3 months reserves of £53,578 recommended by the Charity Commission. Reserves increased by 3.49% over the year.

Income all Sources

	2020	2019	inc/dec
Planned Regular Giving	145,412.50	159,712.58	-14,300.08
Collections	513.22	2,263.40	-1750.18
Gift Aid	26,354.46	32,144.58	-5,790.12
Sundry Gifts	1838.99	1,197.50	641.49
Grants	0	1,730.20	-1,730.20
Wedding/Funeral Fees	1117	3,317.00	-2,200.00
Vineyard Hire/Rental/Misc	10,649.52	935	9714.52
Totals	185,885.69**	201,300.26	-15,414.57

Our Parish income is most reliant on congregational giving (79%). There are 106 planned giving units -18 units down on last year.

Other sources are Gift Aid (14%) Sundry Gifts, Fees and Vineyard Hire (7%)

** Discrepancy in income is due to Transfer of PCC portion of Church House Rental from unallocated funds to General funds at the end of the year.

Overall, there has been a drop in personal giving, due to folk leaving our parish and some for economic reasons and people moving house.

Due to our income being primarily supported by taxpayers, the parish claimed Gift Aid from the Government of £26,354K. Due to a drop in income, this is down by near £6K

We urge all those who are taxpayers and have not already done so to sign a Gift Aid Declaration form which they can get from the Treasurer

	Annual Income			Total	Net
	St James	St Luke's	Parish		
2017	129,379	81,502	5540	216,420	
2018	119,806	79,952	5528	205,286	-11,134
2019	115,204	77,831	8265	201,300	-3,986
2020	105,136	66,029	5100	176,266 **	-21,093
Predicted 2021	83,252	60,408	10,000	153,660	-22,606

Treasurer's Report

Continued...

Overview Expenditure

	2020	Average Monthly	% of total cost
Staffing Costs	38,805	3234	21
Parish Share	83,326	6944	46
Buildings Maintenance	9,611	800	5
Energy	8,382	699	6
Other Housekeeping Costs	19,117	1593	10
Children/Youth/Senior cost	2,206	184	1
Community outreach	1,348	112	1
Mission Partner Share	14,056	1171	7
Discretionary Grants	6,024	502	3
Total	182,875	15239	100

Expenditure this year is £8K less than 2019.

Due to Covid 19 large savings were saved. The cleaning staff were furloughed due to our buildings being closed saving approx £2K - reduced heating and not doing planned maintenance has saved a further £19K. £8K was saved from not being able to do most face-to-face mission work.

Instead of an expect £28K deficit there was an overall £3K underspend.

Our largest Expenditure item is our contribution to the Common Fund (Parish Share) (46%), Staffing Costs, (21%) Building's Maintenance, (5%), Energy (6%)

Our Mission Partner share was divided between our 5 Mission Partners

Discretionary Grants were shared between 9 organisations/individuals

Excluding special events etc, it costs an average of £15,239 to run the parish each month.

Looking ahead to 2021, we have had to cut the Parish Share payments to 50% and make other smaller cuts to achieve a deficit budget of £20K which is covered by our cash reserves. We have partially furloughed staff again whilst we are still unable to meet youth/children face to face.

We urgently need to look forward, planning strategically to cover our expenditure as income seems to continue to fall. PCC will be seeking the Lord in prayer and looking at all options in 2021.

St Luke's Building Project

There is a balance of £60,394 at the end of the year.

Discussions need to take place in 2021 about use of this fund, as we no longer have the funds required to complete the original plan for the project.

Ann Williams
Parish Treasurer

PCC Report

Charlotte Jones—*PCC Secretary*

Post	Name	Term Length
Incumbent	Toby May (Chair)	Ex-Officio
Warden	Sandra Mann	2020-2021
Warden	Nick Rogers	2020-2021
Treasurer	Ann Williams	2020-2022
Deanery Synod	Rhiannon Singleton	2020-2023
Deanery Synod	John Bowers	2020-2023
Deanery Synod	Gill Ellison	2020-2023
Deanery Synod	Donna Rogers	2020-2023
Deanery Synod	Michelle Howard	2020-2023
PCC	Sheila Humphrey	2018-2021
PCC	Duncan Edge	2020-2023
PCC	Nick Jones	2019-2021
PCC	Peter Leighton	2018-2021
PCC	Rachel Lochhead	2020-2023
PCC	Jan Edkins	2020-2023
Secretary	Charlotte Jones	2020-2022

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.

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.

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.

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.

The PCC meets every two months although in the past year has met more regularly to be able to respond to the COVID crisis. 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 Members who finished their terms

Jon Crosse

Sam Maggorian

Jean Burston

Kathy Leason

Main items discussed at PCC Meetings in 2020

- Our response to the COVID outbreak including risk assessments, activities for children & youth, church building openings, communion, Grace Kitchen and Pastoral Care
- Quinquennial for church buildings
- Budget for 2020 and 2021
- Safeguarding— New Parish Dashboard training

Fabric Report

Sheila Humphrey

As in previous years our role in 2020 has been to ensure that our church buildings : St James' Church, St Luke's Church and The Vineyard are properly maintained with all mandatory servicing, safety checks and repairs being carried out, this is with the aim to keep them all fit for purpose and user friendly. Church House Trustees look after the Fabric of that property in consultation with the tenants.

At the beginning of 2020 sadly due to the anticipated shortfall in parish funds, Fabric together with PCC agreed that all non-essential works would be postponed. This was with the agreement that we would review the situation with PCC when the five yearly Quinquennial inspections, due in 2020, were completed and reported. We received these reports in time for September 2020 PCC and some of the most urgent works have commenced.

This year due to the Covid regulations our buildings and activities required several additional Health & Safety reports. Many thanks to Pete Leighton for constantly reviewing and updating these to enable us to have our buildings open at the permitted, reduced functionality.

Fabric Team : Pete Leighton, Duncan Edge, Sheila Humphrey

Safeguarding

Sue Leighton & Tracey Fellows—*Parish Safeguarding Officers*

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 every three years. Presently 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 (C0/C1) and Leadership (C3) certificates whilst other helpers only require Foundation (C0/C1) level. In addition Safeguarding links are required to do safeguarding dashboard training which assists with auditing the Parish performance in this area, safer recruitment and domestic abuse training, along with various other meetings and training sessions run by our diocese in order to keep our parish a safe place.

Usually training is held in various buildings within the diocese but obviously for most of 2020 this was not possible, this has not however stopped training from being done as online training, including some Zoom meetings filled the gap in 2020 and continue to do so. Under normal circumstances at least one of a volunteer's certificates must be achieved face to face but at the moment all online certificates are acceptable.

We do have two pieces of exciting news for the year. At the beginning of 2020 Sue Leighton was having to cover the parish alone but in March Tracey Fellows came alongside to share the work. Also many of you will know part of the DBS process involved Derby Diocese but Sue is now qualified to do all of the process, Tracey will do it soon. Hopefully this will speed up the application process.

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 or Tracey Fellows.

Deanery Synod

Rhiannon Singleton

Due to COVID-19 restrictions and other problems, Deanery Synod's only meeting so far was on zoom last October. A further meeting, due in January was postponed.

Bishop Libby set out a diocesan vision. Encouragingly this was very focussed on Christ. The vision was summarised as 'The Kingdom of God: Good News for all'. With the purpose of the diocese being 'to proclaim afresh in this generation the good news of the Kingdom'. She acknowledged that as society has changed, increasing numbers of people are not being reached with the good news by the way we have historically 'done' church in the diocese. The way ahead is seen as '[all] God's own people equipped for everyday, everyway discipleship', so that corporately we have 'Transformed Lives, that Grow Church and Build Community'. The focus will be increasingly on mission rather than maintaining the status quo. This includes church plants and fresh expressions in communities where the gospel is not currently reaching.

What the diocese will look like in 5 years' time is not yet clear, but the plans include actively working towards seeing more people coming to Christ, developing lay leaders and equipping church members as 'missionary disciples' in our everyday lives. While fulfilling what Christ has called His people to be in the world is the primary goal, it was acknowledged that the current diocesan financial position is poor, and that alongside the movement to become a missional church in Derbyshire, there will need to be financial restructuring and fewer stipendiary clergy. The goal is to achieve ongoing financial viability by 2025.

The refocusing on discipleship, mission and reaching people who currently are not hearing the good news of Jesus in the diocese is exciting – but it looks as though the road to achieving this is likely to be bumpy. It would be good to hold Bishop Libby and others in key diocesan roles in our prayers as they seek the way forward.

ChurchSuite

Charlotte Jones

In early 2020, we signed up to use Church Suite. A church data management system. I went on some training to see what and how it could be used, and the original plan had been to move our offline database to it over the course of the year. With the initial lockdown in March, we brought that project forward and completed it in 3 weeks. Moving these details across meant that we could easily allocate church members some sort of pastoral support, whether that be within their Growth Group or a specific person, making sure everyone had some form of contact with the church during that time.

Later in the year we moved our paper newsletter onto email, using Mail Chimp, giving the option for people to opt out of having it but also saving on administration time and costs. We have over 100 people reading our newsletter each week. We then also moved the Prayer Chain across to it, which ensures those people receiving prayers are members of our church and actively choosing to be part of the chain. Both these changes have also put an end to the unfortunate spam emails a lot of us were getting in 2019!

Using Church Suite means we hold your data securely and more accurately. We continue to get used to all the features and functions it offers – it's been a really positive change and helps me significantly in my role. A special thanks to Sheila Humphrey who helped with this mammoth project – it wouldn't have been possible without her!

Growth Groups

Helen May

Growth Groups are a key part of our church and everyone is encouraged to be part of one. They help us grow as followers of Jesus and look after each other, which has been vital in lockdown. Growth Groups are small groups made up of 6-15 people. They met during the week, fortnightly in people's homes pre Covid and have adapted to lockdown and Covid in different ways. Most have given zoom a go and find it a helpful way to connect and keep meeting up with each other. Some are also using what's app or phone-calls or doorstep visits to stay connected.

Several people have moved to Glossop and joined the church in lockdown so joining a growth group has been a good way for them to be able to meet people, even if only virtually. We want to encourage as many people as possible to join a growth group. Some are in the daytime, others in the evening. To join a growth group please contact Charlotte in the office or Helen/Toby.

As of Jan 2021 We currently have 10 growth groups meeting on different days and times with over 100 people being part of one. We also have people running Alpha with us from which we aim to grow a new growth group every year.

Covid has caused its challenges and not all the things we usually do we can do at present, but through growth groups we can connect with each other in meaningful ways.

Our Growth Groups seek 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.

Missional Giving

David Woodward

The purpose of the Mission Team is to promote the work of our Mission Partners amongst church members.

Our five main mission partners this year were Jericho Cafe, The Message, Open Doors, Tear Fund and Dave Maguire in Romania.

We also supported the work of the Embassy Bus, Stephen Bell, Street Pastors, Gideon's and UCB.

The Mission Team meets three times a year to pray for our Mission Partners and discuss requests for discretionary grants. This year we have met over Zoom, and the Tear Fund quiz was also a Zoom event. News and prayer requests from our main Mission Partners are forwarded to Growth Group Leaders to encourage prayer and special interest in one or two of the Partners.

In-church activities have not been possible because of COVID restrictions, but hopefully we can encourage more involvement when restriction are eased.

Children & Young Families

Chris Ellison—*Children & Young Families Leader*

I don't need to tell you this has been a crazy year. Before we all went into lock down it felt like we were starting to build and increase numbers attending the different groups. Numbers had been increasing in Kingdom Kids, even during the period when we were allowed back into church and running Kingdom Kids in a socially distanced format, new children were attending on Sunday mornings, which was fantastic to see in such difficult times. The 6-30 Kids group was also going from strength to strength, regularly having 20 plus kids attending. However, once lock down started parents were understandably reluctant to expose their children to additional bubbles, so unfortunately this has not been able to be run.

During the lockdown I have been creating video assemblies for Kingdom Kids which have also been shared with pupils in St James, St Luke's and Duke of Norfolk's primary schools on a weekly basis, being shown in classrooms as well as being sent to pupils who are at home, in addition Simmondley primary have also shared the assemblies with pupils in school. They have all been well received with the feedback from staff and pupils being very positive. In effect we are connecting with several hundred primary school age children through these assemblies, probably twice as many as previously, which is great. However, I'm really looking forward to getting back to face to face working hopefully in the not too distant future.

Messy Church

Helen May

Messy Church last met in the Vineyard on 15 March 2020 just before the National Lockdown. Average attendance had been 88 prior to this with usually at least half or more of these being children. We have tried various things through the various lockdowns and restrictions to try to connect with families.

At first Messy activity sheets were e-mailed each week, but with families overloaded with home school requirements it was hard for them. We tried Messy Church Online for Holy Week with Messy Church activities, competitions and daily story. A face-book event group was created for this and we had a few families post photos and win some of competitions from as far away as Manchester!

Birthday Cards and small gifts have been sent to each child since we realised lockdown was here to stay and widened to include the toddler groups and all children connected to the life of our church. We have received grateful thankyou's and happy children photos for some of these from parents.

Just before Advent we bagged up and delivered to every family an advent candle and advent calendar sticker book along with a few Christmas activity ideas with an invitation to our online advent family service. These were very well received and delivered to every family we have contact with as a church. The deliveries were made possible through the brilliant new database system and the new team of willing deliverers formed through Grace Kitchen plus a few extra helpers. Thank you to everyone involved- it was quite an operation. Families shared photos of their advents candles and advent calendars which were included in the advent service.

Just before Christmas we delivered another family bag to every family which included a Christingle, Christmas activity ideas and an invitation to online Christmas services. We have given families a Lent challenge pack and will deliver an Easter Bag just before Easter. We so look forward to meeting as Messy Church families again and reach out to more families in our town and will keep trying to find creative ways to connect, show love and that we care in the meantime.

Youth Work

Samuel Klemperer—*Youth Worker*

Having started in my role in late September of 2019, I can only speak for what the young people have been up to since then. 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 11th November 2019. On Sunday 17th 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 13th to the 15th 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.

With COVID restrictions coming into play in March, things got a bit more difficult, however there were highlights. We put together our very own youth discord sever and launched it on the 20th of March so we can chat and play online games together. Online Roots on Sunday evenings became Zoots and Sunday mornings were able to continue with COVID measures in place. On the 29th of May we organised a Zoom Quiz & Pizza night collaborating with the youth worker at Carmel Church Hadfield and meeting their young people. We all had an amazing time and the young people got pizza delivered! In June, Chris (Our children's and families' worker) and I ran an "It's Your Move!" session (by Scripture Union) on Zoom with a local primary school. It went down really well with the year six class. We also started the first of five weekly livestreams for the young people before Zoots on a Sunday evening. During December young people worked on video projects for the Christmas service and pulled together a Christingle tutorial video, a video on Minecraft and Jesus, a series of vox pops, and part of the nativity!

Thank you and well done to you guys for your creativity and hard work.

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The Vineyard

Charlotte Jones—*Church Administrator*

After the completion of The Vineyard project, we began to increase advertising the rental of some of the space in The Vineyard, as well as using it more for more church activities, such as Roots and 6.30 Kids and a Games Evening in February. We secured a long-term rental at the beginning of January with a charity. Sadly, with COVID, all our external bookings have been stopped. We currently use The Vineyard for Grace Kitchen and for our Children and Youth work when they are able to meet. Staff now only use the Office on a need only basis We continue to monitor the situation and follow the Government and Diocese regulations. A special thanks to Peter Leighton for doing the risk assessments for us and helping us navigate tricky waters.

In our Community

Grace Kitchen— *Helen May*

Grace Kitchen began at the end of May 2020 when we were offered an opportunity to collect supermarket waste food. "Could the church use this food somehow to stop it being thrown away?" we were randomly asked by a national organisation by e-mail. Wow! That morning I had been reading about hearing God whisper and had actually prayed that if he was to whisper that day I would hear him. We had to respond within 24 hours to the e-mail. Toby said "let's give it a go and see what happens, it feels right" so we did. I am so thankful we did this as it has felt such God thing ever since. We gave the food the first week to anyone we could think of who was struggling or known to us as well as blessing many church folk who we knew were lonely and isolated in the pandemic with flowers, cakes and goods. All were very positively received.

We quickly advertised the free food that was available out wider to anyone struggling in the community so anyone in Glossop could request a free bag for whatever reason. We blessed many isolated older church folk with flowers and produce too. Throughout lockdown 1 we did 2 slots a week and then consolidated our efforts as only one collection slot was long term once lockdown ended. Grant monies were successfully raised during this time (see grant report) and more and more people in the community started asking for help.

We currently take out around 25 food parcels each week, all with "God Bless you" tags on them, to the different individuals and families from the community who have requested them. We have had requests from over 60 different contacts. At Christmas we gave hampers and gifts to over 70 individuals and families and were able to include bereaved and lonely from referrals from others- individuals or The Bureau as we secured a last-minute Love Christmas Grant. The purpose of this grant was to double our hamper efforts and bless and show Gods love to more people which we did. It is both a joy and a privilege to share God's love with people in our community in this way. Recipients are always grateful.

Thank you so much to the team who help me faithfully each week, sorting packing and delivering and to Charlotte for dealing with all the requests each week. We look forward to being able to expand the work of Grace Kitchen when lockdown ends and meeting face to face with people is possible. This term I have painted and racked out a cellar room ready for storage of food in preparation.

Alpha—*Helen May*

Toby and I were part way through two Alpha Courses- one evening and one daytime with two lovely groups of people when Covid hit in March 2020. We had just been to The Peveril Centre for the Holy Spirit day away with the groups and had 3 sessions left when suddenly we entered the first national Covid lockdown and were not allowed to meet in The Vineyard. That week's meetings had to be cancelled, something I have never done in 25 years of running regular Alpha Courses!

Thank you to all growth groups for being involved laying up, preparing, cooking, serving and clearing up to make the meals happen smoothly pre lockdown. You helped to create a lovely, welcoming atmosphere for the guests and are greatly valued. A few weeks of turmoil ensued at the start of lockdown getting church online and then the realisation this tool called "zoom" could reconnect us all from our houses. We invited the Alpha guests to regroup of a Tuesday evening to try out zoom and completed the course together. Sadly not everyone could or did join online for various reasons, but those that did are still meeting as a new growth group today and are getting involved in the life of the church in various ways. This growth group has not met in a house yet obviously!

Having finished off the January 2020 course and realised zoom Alpha works, we advertised a new online Alpha course for January 2021 and gathered a team to work with us with the guests who would come. This current course is going well and providing a great space for those attending to explore life and faith together some of whom would have been unable to do so if they had had to physically go to The Vineyard. We miss eating together lots as it is such a crucial part of getting to know people on Alpha, but we look forward to many more Alpha courses in future years. 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.

In our Community

Memorial & Thanksgiving Bags— *Charlotte Jones*

This October, a small team of people put together and hand deliver over 50 bags to those in our church and community who had had a recent bereavement and funeral at one of our churches. These included a candle, prayer and an invitation to watch our online Memorial & Thanksgiving Service, along with their friends and family and to give us a name that we would include in that service.

We had a brilliant response from those in our community who really felt loved, especially in such a difficult time and we have been able to make some longer connections with people because of it.

Coffee Chat & Coffee Zoom — *Charlotte Jones*

During the first lockdown we set up Coffee Chat, a Facebook group that allowed people to “chat” and respond to questions about the Sunday service. This was a really special time, with people from both churches joining in and a mix of ages and stages of faith. This eventually developed into Coffee Zoom, where people can join the zoom after our service to catch up and we intend to continue this for as long as needed.

Sermon DVDS — *Charlotte Jones*

Over the COVID season, we have started recording services onto DVD and delivering them to those who don't have internet access. This started on a bi-weekly/monthly basis but at the end of the year we purchased a DVD burning machine which significantly speeds up the process and means we have been able to provide weekly DVDs. We also deliver these sermons to 4 of the care homes in Glossop. A particular thanks to Geoff Singleton and Nick Jones for all the DVD burning and to Leigh Jones who faithfully delivers these DVDs each week.

Grants — *Helen May*

£11400 has been raised in grants in the last year ie March 2020 – March 2021. These funds are restricted solely for the usage they were given.

Knowing church funds are becoming increasingly tight and seeing that funding was available for community work several grant applications were secured to enable Grace Kitchen to be sustainable into the future and enable this ministry to grow and expand further to help those who are struggling once restrictions lift.

- £1000 Councillors Initiative Fund (August 2020)- Grace kitchen: Funds for freezer for The Vineyard that does not leak and start up money for Grace Kitchen community project costs.
- £2000 Public Health Covid19 Fund (October 2020) – Grace Kitchen: Dried food top ups, bags, heavy duty shelving and paint to create cellar storage room in Vineyard, lap top and printer to support job seekers informally post COVID-19.
- £8000 Derbyshire Foundation (December 2020) Grace Kitchen: Dried food top ups, bags, Post COVID-19 soup lunch subsidy, lap-tops and tablets to support job and benefit seekers informally Post COVID..
- £400 Love Christmas (HTB) (December 2020) Grace Kitchen: To double our planned community hamper distribution to those struggling in our community.

A Glimpse of 2020 in pictures





Grace KITCHEN

