



St Timothy's Church
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
5 May 2024

Annual reports

Contents

.....	1
Vicar's Report To APCMs 2024	3
Churchwardens' report.....	6
Safeguarding	7
Children and Families	8
Youth.....	10
Tuesday Social Club	18
Prayer Ministry	18
Wednesday Lunch Club.....	19

Vicar's Report To APCMs 2024

Will Briggs, Vicar

Luke 18:1 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. ² He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. ³ And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'

⁴ "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!'"

⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸ I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

It is my habit to bring to my APCM report a passage of Scripture that illustrates, in some way, the year that has been. This year I've found myself leaning into this passage from Luke.

This year, in both parishes, we have all-but-crossed-the-finish-line of formalising focal ministry. This is, of necessity, a journey of faith and trust in the Lord. And so the exhortation of Jesus in this parable to 'pray and not give up' is apropos. We are called to be Christ's people, amongst whom there is 'faith on the earth.' This God-reliant posture is essential as we continue into this coming year.

The passage also has an outward focus. The prayer on the widow's lips is not simply self-serving; it is a call for justice, a 'crying out' to the Lord of mercy. As we consider the age we have found ourselves in there is much that we consider unjust: from the health of the planet, to the state of geo-politics, to deepfelt insecurities in the weave of the social fabric. We could consider such things and turn inwards in denial or self-comfort, or launch out thoughtlessly in our own strength; rather Jesus would have us pray *persistently* – an exhortation that only those who risk *discouragement* in their endeavours need to hear – and so he *encourages* us bring his life to the world by, once again, relying on him in faith.

Persevering slowly but surely

You will be aware that at last year's APCM the possibility of Focal Ministry was a significant part of what was presented and discussed. The PCCs that were elected in 2023 received feedback and approved the pursuit of Focal Ministry as the way forward.

I am very grateful for the attention and openness given to the process. A key principle in Focal Ministry is not to have a team appointed by the vicar to help the vicar; rather it is an *upward movement*: a congregation discerns, calls, and commissions a group of trusted people; they *focus* on the local mission and ministry, and the vicar (as *Oversight Minister*) enables, encourages, and facilitates them in that task.

In summer last year, therefore, both parishes commenced a period of discernment. We were encouraged to *pray*, *listen*, and *encourage* those amongst us we felt might want to consider taking on the task. As the summer ended, I was delighted to have a number of conversations, and to bring a

significant number of names to the PCCs. As we entered 2024, the *nominated* Focal Ministry Teams in the Benefice had become as follows:

For The Vine: **Andy Bryce, Vicki Neath, Tina Powell-Wiffen, Paul Sheridan, Rachel Widdows**

For St Tim's: **David Cope, Jenny Holt, Kate Rogers-Kay, David Townsend**

In the first half of 2023 much has been going on 'behind the scenes', with input from the Diocesan Focal Ministry support team, to take these nominees through the 'Getting Ready' process ahead of formal authorisation by the Bishop in May. The teams have also begun to meet in an initial preparatory way as we consider the lie of the land, find our feet in terms of how things will work, and discern areas of priority for the team and for each member. In the year ahead, I am excited to see what will emerge.

Do be praying for these focal ministers. As we have met and begun to form as a team, there is an shared desire to consult widely. We are keen to get your feedback, and receive your questions and thoughts.

Persevering Processes

Alongside these developments on the *ministry* side of our leadership, there is ongoing work on the *governance* side of our leadership. Our PCCs and Standing Committees do excellent work alongside our administrators **Siobhan Melville, Jackie Keiran**, treasurers, **Andy Bryce, Jack Hiscock**, and wardens **Paul Sheridan, Dave Neath**, and **Aidan Melville**.

In both parishes there are some significant tasks to consider. Excellent work has been done at The Vine to demarcate the cost basis of our two locations, which will facilitate a pursuit of sustainability into the future. The necessary improvements to St. Bart's, especially with regard to heating efficiency, has required and received a wise and steady consideration.

At St. Timothy's you'll have noticed that there are also some building-related tasks to attend to, and to pursue with regard to our ecological responsibilities. I am also grateful for the work being done, with significant leadership from **Aidan**, our warden, to improve our decision-making and line-management processes so that our ministries are well supported and sustained.

As we look ahead, it is also becoming clear that the task of aligning aspects across our governance structures in the benefice as a whole will be necessary. The need for alignment in financial and HR systems and other policies is becoming more evident. The Standing Committees of our PCCs met jointly for the first time in March, and further Joint Meetings towards the establishment of a more formal Joint Committee will likely be a necessary work in the year ahead.

The Fruit of Perseverance

Perseverance is not just about the plod or the process; it's for the joy set before us. I continue to delight in all that is happening in, with, and through the faithful work of God in our parishes.

The House of Prayer team (**Gill Briggs, Anne Kingstone, Nick Phoenix, Kath Newton** and **myself**) continues to hold a prayer community in homes and households and the prayer rooms at St. Stephen's. There are growing connections not only grounded in the S6 part of our mission area, but also with students and young adults, and support for other prayer communities and initiatives further afield. The hunger for prayer is a growing phenomenon, across the board. The commissioning of the House of Prayer as a part of the 24/7 Prayer Movement Communities Network this year was a significant step.

Our work across the benefice with youth and children, including the connection with local schools, is a great blessing, of some significance within the diocese. **Alex Townsend, Kate Rogers-Kay, Esther Gratze** and teams have enabled us to seize missional opportunities, and to encourage and disciple a significant number of young people from within our congregational families and beyond.

Our midweek ministries – **Tuesday Social Club, Wednesday Lunch Club, Thursday Welcome Space** etc. – are persevering, fruitful labours. The same is true for our ministries on Sunday mornings as well as the consolidating congregation at The Harbour in the evening at St Tim's.... I could list everything of course, but that's simply not possible. The fruit of our labours is recorded in the reports; it is present in the conversations we share, and it's a part of the prayers that we pray.

If there is one thing I am most aware of this year is the necessity of prayer, and a delight in the *increase* in our prayer. There are a number who have taken the initiative to pray. To pray with perseverance. To pray in hope, and to pray in faith. To which I can simply say, Amen!

Personal Plod

As always, I am more than happy to have a private conversation over coffee regarding anything in this report. We have talked lots about focal ministry in the last year or so in our parishes. I am also becoming increasingly aware of how different the role of vicar is, and will be, as an 'Oversight Minister', certainly in contrast to what has been historically known. I grieve not being able to be as personally present as I have been able to be in other posts. I am on a learning curve with how to best position the vicar's role such that it is supportive and facilitative, even while it is necessarily slightly more removed from the 'frontline'.

I am resolved to at least ensure that at the core of the vicar's role remains the vocational heart of attending to the word of God and prayer, and not just formally, but in effect. I am also aware, with some concern about the bigger picture in the Church of England, that this no longer goes without saying.

After more than two years holding the incumbency, the formalities of my job description are only just now being discussed and formalised, ahead of an eventual formal licensing. I'd value your prayers as these things occur.

But finally, can I offer two words of thanks.

Firstly, to **Amy Hole**, whose departure as curate soon after the APCMs was not entirely unexpected, but certainly felt. We continue to pray for her and wish her well as her curacy-in-charge draws to an end and her further ministry awaits.

Secondly, for the general support and encouragement on the passing away of my father last year and Gill's and my subsequent trip to Australia last summer. Not only was that a meaningful time for myself and my family, the opportunity to take pilgrimage in the Holy Land on the way back from Australia was utterly life changing and profound.

The opportunity to be where our Lord walked, and the later realisation that in God's providence we were there shortly before the increase in tensions and violence and the outbreak of an explicit war, has only fuelled my desire to cry out to the Lord and to attend to pursuing faith on the face of the earth. What I have learned and am learning from our brothers and sisters in that region informs and inspires the faith that we need even here in Sheffield. We have much to learn from them, not least of which is to heed the words that we began with – a conviction to pray, and to not give up. Amen.

Churchwardens' report

Jack Hiscock and Aidan Melville, Churchwardens

Jack Hiscock was elected to the office of Churchwarden at the 2023 Annual Meeting of Parishioners. Aidan Melville was subsequently elected Churchwarden mid-term by a special meeting of parishioners in June 2023.

Fabric

The inventory of church requisites was checked.

The day to day management of the fabric of the church continues to be overseen by Kate Rogers-Kay (Estates and Hall Manager) and Siobhan Melville (Parish Administrator and Safeguarding Officer) on behalf of the churchwardens.

An Operations Team (OTM) is tasked by the PCC to oversee the smooth running of St Tim's from practical point of view. This includes both churchwardens, Kate and Siobhan (as staff), Peter Wigglesworth and David Townsend (appointed as assistant churchwardens).

In the twelve months from May 2023 to April 2024:

- We had a visit from the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) who endorsed our approach to church development and our aspirations for the future of the building
- We have received a partial copy of the last report from the last quinquennial inspection.
- Scaffolding was erected to complete routine work on the church roof and gutters. A stone cross on the roof became unstable, which required us to close the path that runs behind church to connect the church hall with the church field. The cross has recently been taken down and the path will be reopened soon. The path is in a state of disrepair and we are looking at options to resurface it. This has been added to the list of jobs for the 2024 to 2025 year.
- There has been no further progress on the installation of bike racks.
- Asbestos has been found in the club hut. We hope to be able to remove the club hut in the coming years, but there is currently no timeframe for that. Looking at options has been added to the list of jobs for the 2024 to 2025 year.
- The lease with scout hut has been agreed.
- The Diocese of Sheffield has produced a template maintenance plan. We are in the process of compiling this, as it will be a useful source of evidence for accessing funds for future development.
- Northern Powergrid maintain an electricity substation on the premises. Routine maintenance work has been carried out.

Future development

- Using funds which are restricted for use for eco projects at St Timothy's we have commissioned an energy consultancy to do a survey of the church and the church hall. The report from this survey will give us the information we need to draw up realistic plans to

decarbonise our buildings, including heating options (boilers, heat pumps and so forth), insulation and sustainable energy (such as solar panels).

Sundays

We are thankful for everyone who volunteers to take part in the smooth running of Sunday services including people on our:

- welcome team
- coffee rota
- leaders of prayer and intercession
- bible readers
- sound technicians
- projector operators
- children's workers and volunteers

as well as those who lead our services, our worship and our preachers.

Final thankyous

We are grateful for all the work that our paid staff – Kate Rogers Kay, Siobhan Melville and Allie Kinneavy – do each week to keep our building open and running for the benefit of our church family and the wider community.

We are also particularly grateful to Peter Wigglesworth and David Townsend for the work they have done this year as assistant churchwardens, and wish David well as he moves on from this role to concentrate on other aspects of church life.

Safeguarding

Siobhan Melville, Parish Safeguarding Officer

Policies and practice

The PCC has complied with its duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

The Safeguarding policy was reviewed and adopted by PCC on 20 September 2023.

Safeguarding has been on every PCC, Standing Committee and Operations Team agenda during the year.

Training and DBS checks

During 2023, two people completed Foundation safeguarding training up to and three people completed Leadership safeguarding training

In 2023, seven applications were made to Thirtyone:Eight (formerly CCPAS) for a DBS check.

Disclosures

The Safeguarding Officer has liaised with the Diocesan safeguarding team as necessary through the year.

Children and Families

Kate Rogers-Kay, Children's Minister

GLOW

Glow runs from 1-11 years old, till the end of Y6 when they get to move into our youth provision.

In the hall we have Ignite (pre school and Foundation) and Sparks (Infants).

The hall is set up with lots of different areas, a writing and words table, a colouring in table, a craft table and then we have either a sand or water tray out plus a small world area, a sensory tray and an area for either building or imaginative play.

We have a theme each week, which is explained with a story or another type of input. Sometime we use books, some time story telling, some time videos.

Each of the areas is linked to the theme so that the children can investigate, think, play through ideas, so they can process them in their own time and way.

Over a 3 year period the kids go through the bible as the curriculum takes them story by story.

We know that children learn so much more through play and by setting out our Sunday kids groups this way, they are able to take things in, in their own way and their own time.

In Flames (Juniors) they have a separate 3 year curriculum that takes them through the bible again.

The children get more time reading directly from the bible in Flames and get to discuss and think through their understanding of what they have learnt.

Our Flames leaders are really good at finding imaginative games and interactive ways of thinking about faith.

If a child goes through all of GLOW they potentially go through most of the bible 3 times before they start in our youth provision.

Our volunteers in Glow are amazing, we have such an eclectic bunch of kids that have a varying needs and skills. Which means we need plenty of adults to make it a safe place for the kids to learn and grow.

We don't have enough people on our children's rotas at the moment, which means the people we do have are under more pressure and at times it does not feel as safe as we'd like. We are also running the risk of having some weeks where we just won't be able to run Sunday children's provision.

If you've ever thought about working with children or really see the worth of our children's work and think you could help, please do come and have a chat.

Kids' Church

We have had a good year at Kids' Church with lots of fun activities.

The sung, signed and danced worship at the beginning is unconventional but to see children who engage enthusiastically in their own way is a joy.

Whilst sitting still to hear the story or input is not always easy, we are always trying to think of different ways for the children to hear and absorb God's word. So even if they haven't heard what is said hopefully our activities and craft help to cement a bit of that for them to process in their own way.

And as much as we struggle to have enough helpers to provide a meal for the children (a huge thanks to Allie for helping with this!), it is so worthwhile that we can facilitate them eating together as a family.

My favourite quote from one of the children, when one of the worship songs had a cat on, shouting very loudly from the front, at not necessarily the appropriate time in normal services "why are we talking about a cat, we're supposed to be talking about Jesus!". So, I'm happy we got that one right!

Tiddlers Baby Group

Tiddlers as ever is a joy to facilitate. Having your first child can be incredible scary, exhausting and isolating, as well as joyful, exciting and magical. Being able to share these highs and lows with parents, is an honour and if we can make the time a bit less lonely and daunting, we have done what we set out to do.

On top of this we now have people who come back with 2nd and 3rd babies, as they enjoyed and found the group so beneficial with their previous babies.

It just shows how spending time with people and giving them cake, really does help and is a simple way of sharing God's love.

Sunbeams Toddler Group

The mayhem of toddlers carries on and is always fun.

Again, a simple idea for showing hospitality and doing life with people, toddler group is always busy and is never dull.

Toddlers will happily play the same game or with the same toys over and over for as long as you will let them. They will also never get bored of singing 'jumping up and down on the big red tractor!'.
'

A big thank you to Lynn for her weekly dedication to toddlers and singing time and we gained a new volunteer in Bridget, helping keep the parents hydrated and the children fed.

Toddlers, I believe is our longest running ministry (outside Sunday services) and alongside that has had the most dedicated and long standing volunteer in Tracey Johnson, who has finally hung up her toddler group leader hat after many, many years of service. Tracey has had a few years of trying to keep going through ill health but has well and truly earned a rest. She is hugely missed on Thursdays but has left us with a brilliant legacy to keep going. So a huge thank you Tracey.

Crookes Holiday Club

In the summer we got together with our friends at Wesley Hall and had a 2 day holiday club based at St Tim's.

We learnt about God's wonderful world and its different continents, built pyramids, ate bread from different countries and generally had fun.

We also had a visit from Glyn and other teachers from Concord marching band, who introduced the children to a variety of wind instruments and taught them some flag dancing. Which was a brilliant experience.

In a meeting reflecting on the summer holiday club and planning for the Easter one, we acknowledged that finding volunteers for the holiday club has been increasingly difficult and as we have quite lot of extra needs in our attendees, we need more, rather than less.

So we needed to guarantee we had enough volunteers for the Easter dates to feel we could have fun and feel confident it was a safe environment.

We were unable to guarantee that, so we decided we would have a fun day instead. Which was a great success with lots of games, crafts and of course an egg hunt and meant we were able to have fun with whole families and still work as a joint church venture.

We are planning similar events for the following year and will review in 2025.

St Mary's School lunch club

We (Esther and myself) have been attending St Mary's on a Tuesday for over a year now and it's lovely.

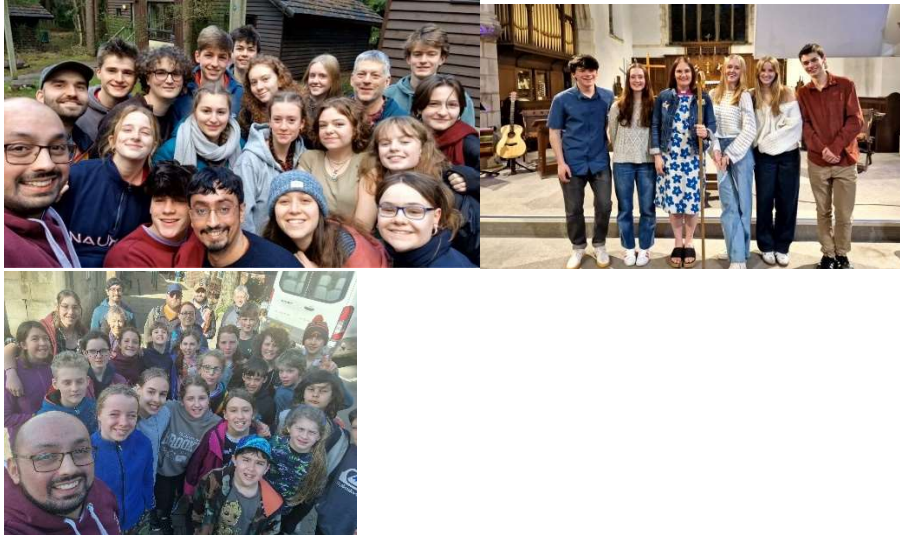
We have covered all sorts of subjects, from different countries, dinosaurs, inventors and of course Christmas and Easter...and played lots and lots of Dobble!

We have got to know lots of different children, some of which have visited both The Vine and St Tim's events since.

We feel we have created a space that the children look forward to and miss if it doesn't happen and they feel safe in. The relationships we have built with a lot of the children are really worthwhile and I often see many of them outside school and they are very happy to say hello and chat.

Youth

Alex Townsend, Youth Minister



The vision of St Tim's Youth ministry is to be a **family** who are:

- **Jesus Centred**
- **Spirit Led**
- **Kingdom Focused**

Our aims and values are as follows:

- We are a **family** with **Jesus at the centre**.
- We seek to be **led by the Holy Spirit** in all that we do.
- We are focused on our mission to **build God's Kingdom**.
- We aim to be a **welcoming community** rooted in **God's Word**.
- We want **prayer and worship** to be at the heart of all that we do.
- We want to make space in our meetings to **encounter Jesus** through the **Holy Spirit**.
- We love **having fun, doing life together**, and sharing **authentic and genuine friendships** with each other.
- We want to encourage our youth to **thrive as individuals** and develop a **personal relationship with Jesus**.
- We want to **share God's love** with each other, our Church, our local community and our world.
- We actively seek to **grow in faith together**, and **welcome new youth** into the Church.

- We want our young people to become **disciples who make disciples**.

It has been another incredibly busy and exciting year for St Tim's Youth! Our weekly youth clubs continue to thrive with around 30 youth regularly attending across the week. We have run four residential over the past 12 months, taking 41 different youth on Gospel-focused weekends away. We have also seen our Year 13 cohort expand to become our biggest ever year group – 13 young people (including 3 who have attended St Tim's Youth as well as going to other Churches), and all of them were able to join us at our Center Parcs residential in February.

The highlight of the year has undoubtedly been the amazing growth we have seen in the faith of our oldest youth: two have become Christians, and three more who were already Christians have chosen to go much deeper in their relationship with Jesus. The five of them – Daisy, Lola, Tom, Leo & Grace – were Confirmed in their faith this week by Bishop Sophie in a wonderfully personal and moving service that completely blew everyone away. We are so grateful to Bishop Sophie for making it such an incredible and joyous event that we will all remember for the rest of our lives. To see these five youth step out in faith in this way is so incredibly inspiring and we have been so encouraged to see God at work so powerfully in their lives. Over the past few months, they have all shared their testimonies publicly and many have also delivered talks for the youth and even in the evening service. They have been supported by three Christians in their friendship group from other Churches who have also attended many of our events as well as being part of their own Church youth group. To have eight committed Christians, all aged 17/18, and all passionate about their faith and seeing others come to know Jesus is an absolute dream come true for any youth team. We are so grateful to God for them and very excited to see where he is going to take them next.

And there is so much more that God wants to do. The rest of our Year 13s have all taken steps forward in their faith journey and are very open to finding God. At our recent Thornbridge residential, many of our younger youth said that they wanted to go deeper in their faith, and we look forward to many more adventures together with them in the years ahead. It is a great joy to work with all of these young people aged 10-18 and see first-hand all that God is doing in their lives. God has blessed us more than we could have ever hoped, and he continues to amaze and encourage us each day. Ultimately, this is his youth group and this is his Church, and it is an incredible privilege to partner with him in building his Kingdom here in Crookes.

Quest

Quest is our main weekly youth club for Younger Youth (Y6-Y8) at St Tim's which runs on Tuesdays from 6:00-7:30pm. It is a faith-based youth club which we run in partnership with The Vine. The purpose of the group is to help young people explore Christianity through a mixture of discussion, film, drama, art and Bible Study, as well as running socials such as games nights and bowling trips. The group launched in April 2021, and has run on Tuesday evenings ever since.

After a bit of a dip in numbers last year, we have had a significant influx of mainly Year 6 boys which has certainly raised the energy levels! Due to the increase in numbers and the widening gap between the oldest and youngest youth at Quest, we have decided to launch a new 'middle youth' section called Venture. This will take place on Wednesday evenings for youth in Y9-Y11, although we will be moving our Y8s up when it launches this week.

We hope Quest will continue to grow and thrive as we seek to keep it relevant and engaging for the youth who come. We have been really encouraged by how willing the youth have been to engage with exploring Christianity as we have covered a range of faith-based topics in a variety of different ways. We look forward to continuing this journey, growing a greater sense of family amongst our younger youth as we seek to develop and refine Quest in the coming weeks and months ahead.

Oasis

Oasis is one of our midweek youth clubs for Older Youth (Y10-Y13). This year we have continued to have a strong focus on prayer and worship, giving the youth time to meet with God and pray for each other. This has enabled us to all go deeper in our journey with God and also to encourage and build each other up in faith. The sense of family amongst our older youth is incredible, and we have got to know them so well over the past 7 years. We have continued to run a few socials and trips throughout the year, such as meals at COSMO and Saigon 68, a day out at Alton Towers and a day in Manchester for the DTI Road trip. These events have helped keep the 'family vibe' strong, and we have really enjoyed hanging out and growing in faith together.

We also ran an Alpha course in February and March this year on alternating Wednesdays and Thursdays. We included a selection of some of the most relevant topics and the course culminated in a Holy Spirit day with an extended time of worship where we prayed for each other and felt God's presence as he met with us.

We used the adult Alpha videos in order to better engage our older youth and to facilitate mature and open discussion about these crucial topics. We included food and fellowship at the start of each session and had a number of different youth attending. The videos and subsequent discussions were thought-provoking and engaging. They were helpful in consolidating and building on progress that some of the youth made at the Center Parcs residential as well helping others in different parts of their faith journey to explore these foundational issues of faith and to learn more about Jesus for themselves.

Connect

Connect is a Bible Study group for Y10 to Y13 age youth and has met on Wednesdays and Thursdays. It has typically met at least fortnightly, although this has been subject to change depending on what other events there have been in our calendar. Last academic year, we finished going through the Gospel of Mark. This year, we have been looking at Acts, as well as some other one-off topics.

This group has been a great opportunity for the youth to become more familiar with reading the Bible, asking important questions and applying God's Word to their lives. They have all been given youth Bibles that they can have at home as well, to encourage them with engaging with the Bible themselves. When we began reading the Bible with the youth just after Lockdown, some of them had never even opened a Bible before. Now they are growing in their love for God's Word, and many of them have recently started doing Bible plans using the Bible App. It is such a joy to read the Bible together as a youth group and we have loved meeting with God through his Word. The fact that many of the youth are now reading the Bible in their own time is a great encouragement to us and shows how far they have come in their faith journeys.

We have not run Connect recently due to doing an Alpha Course but will be restarting it this week at a new time on Sunday evenings, after the evening service. We hope this will encourage some of the youth to attend the evening service as well.

Catalyst

Last year we launched Catalyst as a group for our older youth who identified as Christians. The idea was that it would provide us with a group for those who wanted to be equipped for radical discipleship, sharing their faith and growing as leaders. However, it ended up essentially becoming 'Connect with food', so after a brief trial period we stopped Catalyst before the summer, with plans to relaunch it in September with a clearer remit.

This worked better than we could have hoped as when we relaunched it we were able to gather four youth who genuinely were committed in their faith and wanted to be equipped in sharing it. Over the past eight months, we have seen these youth make rapid progress in their faith and flourish as Christians and as leaders in their own right. They have shared their testimonies with the youth and the whole congregation. They also gave talks at Center Parcs and some of them have delivered talks at the Harbour. Catalyst has been boosted in the last few months with the addition of two more youth who have become Christians and have really grown in their faith. Together they led our Alpha course for older youth and we were so proud of them for how well they helped their peers in exploring faith. It has also been a great joy to prepare five of these youth for Confirmation, with the sixth having already been baptised in his own Church.

Catalyst has been a huge encouragement to us as a team and we are so excited to see where God takes these youth next. We hope to continue their Catalyst journey with them after they leave St Tim's Youth, and hope to continue to raise them up in their leadership gifts and equip them in leading others to faith.

Impact

Impact is a group for Y6 to Y9 age youth which takes place on Sundays during the morning service at the same time as the children's work. Over the past year, it has been run on 1st and 3rd Sundays, but we have recently started also running it on 4th Sundays as well. We have seen an increase in numbers over the past year with some of the younger youth moving up from Flames.

It is discussion and Bible study based and accompanied by some chocolate croissants and juice. Having a simple breakfast incorporated into the Impact session each week – rather than hosting a separate youth breakfast as a monthly event – has worked really well and is a popular way to start the session! We have looked at a wide range of topics over the past year, with some being seasonal or related to the main service sermon series as well as a number of other topics. This year, we have been doing a series looking at the parables of Jesus.

This group provides discipleship content for these young people who are transitioning into more adult learning. It can also be a means of encouraging young people who do not normally attend church to come to the morning service and join us for Impact (and for breakfast!).

Engagement with Church

We identified last year that Church attendance amongst our youth was perhaps our biggest weakness. This is something we have looked to prioritise this year. Whilst we have carried on our partnership with STC, over the past few months we have started taking our youth every week to the Harbour as we feel they are ready to access that service now and actively contribute to helping it to grow. As a result, our youth now feel more part of St Tim's and are keen to invest in the wider Church. A faithful group of our older youth now come to the Harbour most weeks, and some have been involved with worship, planning and preaching. We seek to continue to strengthen our links with the Harbour in the year ahead.

Getting the youth to come to the morning service has been more of a challenge, but one or two now come regularly each week, and many more have come to some of the major services which they have really enjoyed. They also once again helped to plan and lead the Christingle, along with an All Age Worship. It has been great to see some of the youth take on active upfront roles at St Tim's and it has been a significant encouragement and blessing to the congregation too.

As a number of them will be moving on from youth this summer, we want to instil in them a love of Church and a desire to be part of a Church family. We are hopeful that many of them will seek to find a Church in whichever city they end up in, and look forward to seeing them grow in their leadership gifts and flourish as part of the body of Christ.

Residentials

Residentials are undoubtedly the most important events we run, and it is here where we see the most spiritual growth. We have run two trips to Thornbridge for our younger youth over the past 12 months – one in June last year and one in April this year. Whilst we only had 12 youth at Thornbridge last year, we still had a lot of fun, and we were blessed by having 6 of our older youth join us to help lead the weekend. They were a huge support and it was a great opportunity for them to get a taste of leadership, which has been very helpful in their faith journeys this year. Our more recent Thornbridge trip was much better attended with 22 youth, and it is great to see a new generation of youth coming through who are keen to join our family and grow in faith. We were greatly encouraged by the number of youth who were open to going deeper in faith and we look forward to many more trips like this to help them grow in their faith.

We ran two residentials this year for our older youth – DTI (Dreaming The Impossible) summer festival and Center Parcs. We took 7 youth away with us to DTI (including 2 from STC), and we had a fantastic five days together worshipping Jesus and encountering the Holy Spirit. While we enjoyed the Satellites festival in summer 2022, DTI felt on another level and a more natural successor to Soul Survivor. The worship was outstanding, and the talks and seminars were relevant and engaging for our young people. We spent a significant amount of time praying together as a group, which helped draw us closer to God and to each other. It was so encouraging to hear the youth praying out loud for each other and for us as leaders too, and we felt very blessed to have that special time together as a youth family. We look forward to returning to DTI again in the summer!

In February, we took 14 youth away for the third trip in a 'trilogy' of Center Parcs residentials. Our 2023 trip had been most intense and spiritually fruitful weekend away we had ever run, so we came into our 2024 weekend with expectations extremely high. Unbelievably, our 2024 trip not only surpassed our expectations – it completely blew them out of the water! Somehow God blessed us with the best elements of the previous two trips in a weekend that was truly life changing for

everyone who was part of it. For the first time ever, we had some of the youth up the front doing talks and testimonies. Four youth gave talks (which included personal stories from their own faith journey), having already shared their testimonies at one of the prep sessions, and two more youth shared their testimonies on the weekend. All six leaders also gave talks, including stories from their own faith journeys, which meant that an amazing total of 12 different people spoke at the front. It was such an encouragement to hear from so many people about what God has been doing in their lives, as well as hear such great wisdom on how to live as a Christian. Our worship and response times were the best they have ever been, and our last session was once again a record 5 hours (!), the last 2 of which was all 20 of us sharing through tears how much God had been doing over the weekend. The comments we received from the youth after we got back to Sheffield showed us just how much it had meant to them, and on the back of this weekend one young person became a Christian and almost the whole group has started to read Bible plans together. Residentials are expensive and a lot of work, but it is not hard to see why they are so important when we have fruit like this. Praise the Lord!

Mentoring

Mentoring has continued to form a key part of our provision for our older youth. Whilst the 1:1 sessions are very much an 'optional extra', they have given us a way to go much deeper with our youth and help coach them along in their faith journey. Indeed, one of our youth this year first decided to call herself a Christian at a mentoring session in Nam Song! These sessions have really helped us in providing a bespoke provision that meets the needs of each of our young people and allows us to tailor a session to exactly where they are spiritually. It has helped with deepening our friendships as the youth have grown into young adults, and the youth have encouraged us in our faith just as much as we have encouraged them. "As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend" – a verse that inspires us to what our 1:1 conversations can become.

Leaders and plans for the future

We are so blessed at St Tim's to have an outstanding youth leadership team, and it goes without saying that none of what we do would be possible without the dedication of the youth leaders who volunteer so much of their time every week to put on a fantastic and engaging youth provision for our young people. We were delighted to welcome Jen Ryder to our core team last year, and her contribution to our younger youth each week is greatly appreciated. To have seven youth leaders who volunteer weekly is amazing, and their commitment enables us to go further than ever before in our efforts to help our young people become a family who can grow in faith together. We are also grateful to those on our wider team who help out on a less frequent basis and their contribution is still much appreciated and very valuable.

Youth work can be very challenging, but having such a great team that supports and upholds each other through it all is such a wonderful encouragement. We have a lot of fun together as a team and try to model the sense of family that we want for our young people. Many thanks to the whole team for also being such a great support to me in my role, and especially James and David for helping me with overseeing the youth ministry through our endless discussions and weekly senior team meetings at Saigon! With David taking on the exciting role of becoming one of St Tim's Focal Ministers, James has stepped up to become Deputy Youth Minister and has been a fantastic 'partner in crime' to navigate leading the youth ministry with this year.

It has been also great to get some of our youth more involved with planning services, leading worship and even preaching, and a special thanks must go to Jackie and Matt for helping to facilitate that. We look forward to our youth becoming more involved in Church services in the year ahead.

Speaking of the year ahead, it is fair to say that a great deal of change lies in store. In the short term we have a brand new middle youth section to launch and a fantastic bunch of Year 13s to give a great send-off to. This will lead to a restructure for a much smaller older youth group that remains, and our younger youth provision also needs to be reviewed to ensure it is meeting the needs of the growing number of new members. We also need to look at ways of supporting our older youth in their transition to adulthood and hopefully find a way to keep Catalyst going with our 18 year olds, as we want to continue this exciting journey of faith with them and equip them for sharing their faith and shining for Jesus wherever God calls them. Whilst on paper all that is quite a challenge, we know God will give us the wisdom to make the right decisions and give us the strength to carry out what he has called us to do.

And so ends another youth APCM Report and another year for St Tim's Youth! It's fair to say that Youth ministry has its ups and downs, but as we look back on the past twelve months, we feel so incredibly blessed by all that God has been doing. Our young people are truly amazing and have exceeded even our most ambitious expectations. To see first-hand all that God has been doing in their lives has been such a great privilege. Although we are sad to be saying goodbye to our Year 13s this summer, we are so grateful to have had them in our youth family over the past seven years, and are so excited to see where God will take them next. Some of them are already far beyond where we were faith wise aged 18, and they continue to grow in faith each day. There can be no greater blessing for a youth team than to send out into the world a group of young people on fire for God and his Kingdom. We hope that they will go on to do greater things than any of us, and we will be cheering them on every step of the way.

Thank you to everyone who supports and prays for us, without prayer we could do nothing. Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain, and we are so grateful for the continuous prayer that has gone into our youth ministry – it has made all the difference. The prayer WhatsApp group is a such a great encouragement to us as a team, and it means so much to the youth to know that so many of their Church family at St Tim's are praying for them. Please continue to pray for an anointing of God's Spirit on this generation, that the light of Christ will shine brightly through them as they step out in faith for his Kingdom and lead others to discover the life-transforming power of a personal relationship with Jesus.

Youth Minister: Alex Townsend

Deputy Youth Minister: James Chapman

Assistant Youth Minister: David Townsend

Core Leadership Team: Alex Townsend, James Chapman, David Townsend, Vicki Neath, Helen Wigglesworth, Colin Taylor & Jen Ryder

Wider Leadership Team: Alex Townsend, James Chapman, David Townsend, Vicki Neath, Helen Wigglesworth, Colin Taylor, Jen Ryder, Kate Rogers-Kay & Peter Wigglesworth

Tuesday Social Club

James Saunders, Tuesday Social Club Coordinator

The Tuesday Social Club (TSC) is enjoying its 20 year anniversary this year! As such we are planning a party on Tuesday 18th June (11am-2:15pm) and church members are more than welcome to join us, meet the members and join in the festivities. We are hoping to get back in touch with past members and volunteers and invite them along to join us. More details will follow in the church notices nearer the time.

The TSC is a relaxed, inclusive 'drop in' community club for adults who come for company and conversation. We chat over a cup of tea and maybe a crossword. Playing uno has had a recent resurgence but pool and table tennis are as popular as ever. We share in a 2 course lunch for £1 and members donate to ASHA for their seconds. In the afternoon we offer a group activity which members can join with if they wish to such as 10 pin bowling, a quiz (written by a member), bingo, giant crazy Jenga and most the popular 'killer' pool to name a few. We are in the process of buying a new snooker/pool table for the members as our current one has become a bit warped and makes playing on it more for the connoisseur.

We have a core of regular members who attend weekly and a number of other members who 'drop-in' every so often. Just recently several new members have come along to try us out, 2 of whom have become part of the regular weekly core. A couple of the new members have been referrals from the government's 'social prescribing' initiative. Recently Diane Marples has joined our team and she has slotted in like she has always been here. Valerie has taken some time out but we are hoping to see her again soon.

Space4Faith has been on the back burner in recent months but we have been looking to restart this and hope to in the near future. They are a good source of 'faith exploration' and discipleship for the members who stay on for this.

We have also been thinking to re-launch 'The Buzz' a 3 monthly newsletter for the congregation with interviews with members and updates as to what has been happening at the TSC. Look out for this later this year.

Over the first weekend in December, we host the annual Christmas Tree Festival to raise funds for the TSC. The event was well attended last year with 28 trees taking part. Thank you to all who helped out, prayed for and came along.

We have a great team of volunteers and if this is something you would like to find out more about or get involved with then please to speak to James Saunders or email tuesdaysocialclub@gmail.co.uk

Please do hold the TSC in your prayers.

Prayer Ministry

Ranee Townsend and Zoe Chapman

We remain passionate about providing prayer ministry after all Sunday morning services, including Healing Ministry on 3rd Sundays, and are blessed by the privilege of praying with the members of our congregation that come forward. This aspect of the ministry continues to grow.

Prayer Chain

The Prayer Chain which is used for crisis prayer continues to be used on a very regular basis and requests frequently come from non-Christian friends and family of church members. It is clear that many people from outside the church really appreciate being prayed for in this way and this is a real witness to the love of Jesus.

Healing Prayer WhatsApp

This is used very regularly by the Prayer Team to share prayer requests from members of the congregation and their families. Members of the team also meet twice a month to pray as a team for all the people on our prayer list.

Prayer Box

The prayer box remains in the church welcome area on the prayer notice board. This is now rarely used but we are still leaving it up while we review how to make this more accessible.

Space on Saturday

We continue to open the church every second Sunday between 10am and 12 noon for those who wish to come to the church for private prayer. Prayer team members who are able, meet between 11 and 12 noon to pray for all the people within the Church family who have requested prayer. Team members are also available to pray with others between 10am and 11am.

Our future vision is to be able to open the Church on Saturdays to pray with people from the local community.

New opportunities for Prayer Ministry

For the first time during the Summer fair, the team set up a prayer station in the side chapel in Church and team members were available to pray with anyone who wanted prayer.

In the last year as a team we have endeavoured to be more open to the leading and guiding of the Spirit and to be obedient to acting on this.

This led to us organising a week of prayer in May for certain members of our Church who are dealing with serious health issues; the people who gathered to pray included not only team members but others who wanted to be part of this. Following this week of prayer, a group of 17 people made a commitment to pray weekly for these people and that is still ongoing. Our desire is to be faithful to the Biblical principle of persevering in prayer and not giving up (eg Isaiah 62.6-7, Luke 11.1-10, Luke 18.1-8).

It is exciting to see how God is clearly calling not just the prayer ministry team but others within the Church family to pray with an intensity that we haven't seen before, but also to act on the leading of the Spirit. We wait with expectancy to see what God is going to do at St Tim's and He is certainly teaching and refining us in the process.

Wednesday Lunch Club

Stacey Renshaw, Lunch Club Coordinator

We have continued to provide lunch for approximately 25 members each week over the past year. Our numbers fluctuate quite a bit due to the nature of the elderly person and their health.

We had problems in getting volunteers but this has resolved for now. However, some of our volunteers are probably more suitable as members and there will be a time in the near future when we will be in need of more volunteers.

One problem we have had over the last 12 months is a lack of transport. It is very difficult to find people capable of driving a minibus due to age and insurance but we have just been allocated a minibus and driver and will, hopefully, benefit from this and get new members due to availability of transport.

We have had some problems within the management team, due to unforeseen circumstances, and are very grateful to Kate Rogers-Kay for being willing to step into the breach for this time.

We enjoyed time last year making decorations for the Christmas tree festival and were pleased to come second. We have had some good times celebrating birthdays, and other festivals. Chairobics has been fun and we enjoy the ukelele band who play at Christmas.

Our members are offered the opportunity to attend our lunchtime service on Wednesday and this is well attended by members and volunteers. Thanks to Will, Phil, Tina, Ellen, Stacey and Kate for facilitating this.

