

ST JAMES CHURCH, DEVIZES

2021 – 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

APCM 15th May 2022



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VICAR

Keith Brindle, Vicar

vicar@stjamesdevizes.org

Keith will give his report at the APCM on the 15th May.

The reports contained within this booklet cover 2021 and the months of 2022 up to the APCM.

Though most activities are reported in this document, we may have missed a few. Therefore, though it covers most of the amazing mission and ministry of St James, it is not comprehensive.

CHURCH WARDENS

Mike Wilmott, Churchwarden. churchwarden1@stjamesdevizes.org

Jenny Oliver, Church Warden. churchwarden2@stjamesdevizes.org

Purpose

Although appointed by the Bishop, our role involves being the representatives of the congregation, working alongside Keith and Richard to help grow and develop the mission and ministry of St James. We also aim to handle some of the necessary administrative work, such as looking after the buildings that as a church we are responsible for and securing the necessary consents from the Diocese for any changes.

Review of 2021 – 2022

The last two years have been like no other, with the restrictions imposed by covid dramatically changing the way we all do things. With the able assistance of the more tech-savvy members of our church, we were able to continue to worship on a regular basis, with services delivered for a while solely online. As restrictions have begun to ease, we have been able to continue to livestream our Sunday 11 am service, which has enabled those unable to reach church or absent on holiday to be able to take part or catch up.

The foresight of our current and previous Treasurers in encouraging church members to give financially via direct debit through our Parish Giving Scheme has enabled us to stay in a sound financial position despite the lack of in-person services and cash collections. We have moved with the times and introduced contactless and mobile phone giving as options for our in-person services.

Despite the challenging situation presented by covid, we have opened the St James Centre as a hub for our partners in the community and as a base for our own activities. We have also assisted Devizes Opendoors (DoD) in their work with those without permanent accommodation through leasing the parish centre building to them. This building, built almost 50 years ago by our church community, thus continues to serve the needs of our wider local community.

Throughout the pandemic, our Connect Groups have continued to provide support, friendship, and an encouraging place for exploring and building faith. The goodwill inspired and the experience gained by

the Love Devizes initiative in the worst stages of covid has enabled us to help launch LoveUkraine.

Life has been even more challenging for those attending and working at our local schools, and many of our regular activities were understandably curtailed during the pandemic. However, Bethany, our Intern has been welcomed as a Chaplain in Devizes School. The importance of good quality work and support with and for children and young people has perhaps never been more evident.

Plans for next 12 months

During the pandemic, we as a church have been blessed by seeking to serve others. We have grown in our experience and practice of God's love for us and his creation. As Churchwardens, working with Keith, Richard, and the PCC, we believe that there is a need for us as a church to continue to invest our time and financial resources in demonstrating God's love for others as much as we are able.

To this end, the PCC have as a first step employed Bethany as our full-time Children and Young People's worker to enable us to continue to build on the work she has established in Devizes School during her year with us, and to re-set our children's work that has been curtailed by the pandemic.

We are also aware that the community engagement that Keith and Richard have fostered over the last few years needs to have space to grow and develop, alongside the growth in faith of the church. This will need us all to consider the part we can play to support this work, both as volunteers where we can exercise our gifts, but also financially to help meet the costs that will be incurred as we seek to grow God's Kingdom in this place.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Richard S Oliver OBE, Treasurer. treasurer@stjamesdevizes.org

No. of volunteers involved: 7

When: Quarterly

Purpose

The Finance Committee is responsible for assisting the Church to fulfil its aims and mission by the responsible handling of its income and expenditure. Each member has an identified area of responsibility, including ex officio the Office Administrator, the Stewardship Treasurer, the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) Project Leader and the Internal Auditor.

The 2021 Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council of St James Church, Southbroom are available on request.

Richard Oliver, our treasurer, will also present a summary of the finances at the APCM.

PROPERTY

Mike Wilmott, Team Leader. churchwarden1@stjamesdevizes.org

No. of volunteers involved: 4

Purpose

To ensure that the fabric of the church building, St James Centre, and the Parish Centre are kept in good order so that the buildings can be best used to develop and grow our mission in the community.

Review of 2021 – 2022

The most significant development this year has been our lease to Devizes Opendoors (DoD) of the parish centre to help DoD with its work alongside those in housing need. Whilst the PCC retain the ownership of the building, DoD have sole use of it for the period of the lease, providing a regular source of income for the church.

With the easing of the covid restrictions, the St James Centre has seen a steady increase in use, and is the home of both the church office, Devizes CAP Debt Centre, and a base for many of our activities and those of partner organisations. We have obtained permission from the Council for the installation of solar panels to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and hope to have these installed with battery storage this year.

The replacement of the heavier wooden chairs with the lighter upholstered metal stacking chairs during lockdown has increased the flexibility of our space within the church building, and the ground floor is now used for a weekly Friday Toddlers group. Masonry repairs have been undertaken to parts of the coping, and the guards for the stained-glass windows re-fixed, dealing with some of the matters highlighted in the 2019 Quinquennial report on the church fabric.

Plans for next 12 months

We are investigating whether we can re-roof the church building to avoid regular 'patching' and with a view to inserting additional insulation and potentially incorporating some solar panels. Whether we can move forward on this in the next 12 months will depend on the likely costings and obtaining the necessary consents.

Our application to remove the Hornbeam trees from the churchyard was approved by Wiltshire Council and at the end of April was approved by the Diocesan authorities. We will now be working with our

Tree Surgeon to implement this later in the year (avoiding the bird breeding season).

Our stewardship of these buildings is not an end in itself, but a base from which we can grow our mission to help others to flourish and find hope and life in all its fullness.



SAFEGUARDING

*Clare Kent, Parish Safeguarding Representative.
safeguarding@stjamesdevizes.org*

Purpose

We want every activity, mission, group, service, everything, to be a safe environment for all people whether part of the Church family, visiting or part of our wider community. As such, we hold our safeguarding responsibilities very highly and ensure that all staff and volunteers are trained to the appropriate level and are aware of their duties.

The St James' Safeguarding Policy, which adheres to the Church of England "Promoting a Safer Church" Policy can be found on our website alongside all our other Health and Safety Policies. We follow the Safer Recruitment guidelines for the appointment of both staff and volunteers and respond promptly to every Safeguarding concern.

Schools, Children, Youth & Young Adults

The DNA of St James is to see children, young people, and their families flourish, be equipped to navigate the world around them, and see God in action in their lives.

All of this is not possible without the help of enthusiastic volunteers who can help. No matter how much or how little time you can give, or how much experience you have, we would love, and urgently need, your help in making a difference in a young person's life.

If you would like to be part of this amazing team, please scan the QR code or register here: tiny.one/CYPsupport



GOVERNORS

*Richard Saint, Foundation Governor. curate@stjamesdevizes.org
The Trinity Academy & Southbroom St James Academy Primary Schools*

Purpose

The role of a Governor is to support the Headteacher and staff in the oversight of the school by reviewing academic progress but also in ensuring the creation and sustaining of a safe, secure, and supportive environment where all children can flourish and thrive. A Foundation Governor also holds the responsibility for helping the school maintain its Christian distinctiveness and ethos.

Review of 2021 – 2022

St James has a long heritage of providing Governors from the church family to support our local schools and it has been my privilege to take up the torch from my excellent predecessors. Over the last 12 months I have begun the intensive training required of a new governor, attended the bi-monthly Governor meetings (known as an Academy Standards and Ethos Committee – ASEC), been available to receive feedback after school inspections, and to provide insight and comment for the Headteacher annual reviews. It has taken quite a while to get used to the jargon used in schools and to settle into the role but it has been a joy to see the commitment, dedication, and passion that the Headteachers and staff have for their students welfare, education, and health. This has been particularly apparent as the schools have coped amazingly well with the extreme stresses and strains of the pandemic.



Plans for next 12 months

I hope to be able to continue in supporting the schools as they strive to help their students recover from the impact of the pandemic and to grow as individuals. As a Foundation Governor I would like to focus specifically on the atmosphere of the school rather than solely on academic achievements and help to encourage that safe, secure, and supportive environment where children are able to feel valued and thrive. One of the remits of a Foundation Governor is to represent the transforming presence of God in the school and in the Governor meetings. As such, I would really value your prayers for wisdom and discernment in how to do this in the best possible way.

DEVIZES SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY

Bethany Kinderman, Children & Young People's Worker.

bethany.kinderman@stjamesdevizes.org

Age range: Year 7 to Year 13 students and all staff

Average No. of participants: Around 15 students a day

When: Every Tuesday 08:30 to 15:30 (term time)

Purpose

Chaplaincy comes from the idea of meeting people where they are, both physically (in the school) and developmentally. Supporting and developing opportunities for young people to question, explore and develop their own beliefs or spirituality; enabling them to grow and develop as individuals. Chaplaincy at Devizes School provides support to both staff and students.

Review of 2021 – 2022

Chaplaincy involves providing students with a neutral and safe place in which they can share their worries and frustrations and explore solutions. This is done through 1-2-1 support and drop-ins during breaks which have

been used by individuals and smaller groups. Though it has only been a few months, it has already been seen as a positive presence in the school. Students have opened up about a variety of issues.

"The swift, compassionate and generous action of the church in supporting the school has made a profound difference at a time when it is needed most."
Senior member of Staff

"Thank you, that was helpful, I feel better now I've talked about it" Year 8 pupil

Chaplaincy has also included carrying out student voice and social action projects, such as with the organisation of youth coordinators for LoveUkraine.

Plans for next 12 months

To continue to grow the Chaplaincy support within the school, through being present throughout the school day, 1-2-1's and drop in opportunities, also to increase the capacity of mentoring provision through volunteers. To restart other school provisions, such as Crammer Café and continue to build on the strong relationship between St James and Devizes School. To continue to listen to the needs of the school and adapt accordingly, whatever this looks like.

SUNDAY CRECHE

Sarah Cook, Creche Coordinator. Rainbowsarah78@outlook.com

No. of volunteers involved: 2 each week

Age Range: 0 - 5 (Reception age)

When: most Sundays during the 11am Service

Purpose

Staffed by at least two DBS-cleared volunteers the creche gives young children a safe space to play, participate, share and grow, whilst allowing parents to participate in the service knowing their young child/children are being well cared and provided for.

Review of 2021 – 2022

Creche stopped during covid and started again September 2021. Though we lost a handful of volunteers during this time, a call for new volunteers has meant that two others have joined our ranks.

Plans for next 12 months

To continue to provide this vital service and to get to know parents and children more, with the hope that more and more parents will be increasingly able to stay in the service and be fed, rather than have to stay in creche with their child.

SUNDAY CHILDREN'S GROUP

Steve Dewar, Wiltshire Youth for Christ. steve@wiltshireyfc.org.uk

Average No. of participants: 1 – 10

Age Range: Key Stage 1 & 2 pupils

When: Sunday during 11:00 Service (term time)

Purpose

Children are an integral part of the St James church family and therefore we appreciate that it's good for them to have their own time and tailored activities. Though we have typically followed the same themes and questions as the adults...we generally have a lot more fun, food and mess whilst doing it!

Review of 2021 – 2022

Despite the challenges of the Covid pandemic and the impact on schools and churches following guidelines, the Sunday morning Children's group have been maintained most weeks throughout the year. It has been hard with uncertain numbers of families and individuals attending on Sundays, but we have been committed to make provision, whether it be for 1, 10, or more children each week.

Using available rooms around St James Centre, we mixed up sessions with activities, reflections, and creativity. The children have focused on the "Golden Question" of the day and reflected on how it applies to them and what the Bible has to say.

"I enjoy Sunday mornings because of the fun activities we do whilst still learning about God. I like thinking about the same questions the adults are looking at and thinking about was it means to us." Attendee

The group have carried out litter sweeps in the local area, played lots of

"It is encouraging and lovely to see my child having their own time to reflect and be encouraged in their own beliefs. They get to learn from the leaders and see the example set of loving God and loving others." Parent

games and challenges, built houses on sand, created amazing works of art, produced delightful biscuits, personalised place mats, worshiped Jesus, and prayed together.

Plans for next 12 months

We have recently seen more regular numbers of children attending and know that this will continue to grow. I believe by linking and complimenting with our school engagement through Collective Worship, Chaplaincy and Pop-Up work, children will have more opportunities to engage with church and build relationships. As we start to plan the year ahead, and into 2023, we will explore opportunities for camps, trips, baptisms etc. We would also like to increase our team of adult leaders to help, as well as to enable a wider range of activities and skills (see page 11 to register interest).



FRIDAY TODDLERS

Teresa Steele, teresadiesel@hotmail.co.uk

Average No. of participants: 25 – 40 children

Age Range: 0-5 and parents, grandparents, or carers

When: Fridays 09:30 – 11:15 (term time)

Purpose

To provide a safe and friendly place for children to play and socialise with exciting activities to take part in. To give parents any support they may require with a friendly chat, cup of tea, slice of cake or to signpost them to where they might find additional help or advice.

Review of 2021 – 2022

After moving all the group's resources from the Parish Centre over the summer to our new home in the Church we finally re-opened Friday 3rd September 2021. It was great to see some regular families return and to also welcome lots of new families to the group. The first session started small, but by the following week word had got out and our group has grown steadily since.

"Toddler group is so great, especially for single children who don't otherwise get to socialise with other little people. Especially after the two lockdowns, it is invaluable in helping them gain confidence, speech, and friendship. Thank you for such a lovely place to come" *Parent*

"I think it is great fun for the kids and Parents! Especially when you are new to the area and trying to find your feet as a new mum too. It's a great opportunity for the children to mix with others their age and me to meet new people too" *Parent*

We continue to review and update our resources; new chairs were bought to accommodate the increasing numbers, especially for snack time and activities where the children are sat down drawing, crafting etc. The use of the tuff tray for messy play in the creche room has proved immensely popular.

In November, the group held a cake sale and raffle and raised £80 for Children in Need. In December, we held our Christmas party with a special visit from Father Christmas.

The move over to the Church has been the best thing for the group as we can accommodate more families and have a lot more space for the children to play. The carpeted floor means that far more adults sit on the floor interacting with their children, which is wonderful to see.

“A really friendly and welcoming group for Parents/Grandparents. The volunteers are really lovely and make everyone feel part of the community- glad to have found it and will keep coming. Thanks to all those who keep it running” Parent

Plans for next 12 months

- To continue to update and replace our toys and resources and introduce new fun activities
- To be there to welcome in any new families to the group
- To recruit more volunteers (page 11 to register interest) to sustain the growth of the group



FRIDAY IMPACT & ROLLERCOASTERS

Becky Starling, Heidi Boothe, Alix Irvine, Lisa Green & Lisa Jackson

Average No. of participants: 20

Age Range: Year 1 to Year 6

When: Fortnightly on Fridays (term time)

Purpose

A drop-in style group to grow positive relationships through a variety of art, craft, cooking, Lego, as well as whole-group games with an opportunity to connect with God through a bible study or talk.

Review of 2021 – 2022

After a long period of not being able to meet together due to covid, we were excited to launch Impact & Rollercoasters again in September 2021. We were unsure who would come as many of our previous group were now too old to come now, but God has been great and we have had a great group of mainly new young people come, many from Southbroom St James Academy (SSJA) advertising through the school. It's been great to build relationships with the young people and we're totally amazed by their openness to hear the gospel each session and their love and excitement of coming.

Plans for next 12 months

To continue to build relationships with the young people and their families and to continue to share the Bible-based sessions with our young people & develop ways we reach their families too.



TUESDAY 10:10

Steve Dewar, Wiltshire Youth for Christ. steve@wiltshireyfc.org.uk

Average No. of participants: 12

Age Range: Key Stage 3 & 4 pupils

When: Weekly on Wednesdays 19:00 to 20:30 (term time)

Purpose

10:10 has a bit of everything thrown into it, but most importantly is a chance for teenagers to have a weekly catch up with others and encourage a daily relationship with God.

Review of 2021 – 2022

Throughout the pandemic we have had to adapt and overcome many challenges. Always mindful of Government and school guidelines, challenges, and the impact

on mental and physical health on all those involved. Transitioning from online to in-person gatherings, the 10:10 evening sessions have included Christmas Karaoke,

"I love coming to 10:10, if it has been a busy day or week, it's a special time for me to relax and have some time with others my own age." Attendee

Sport on The Green, Movie Nights, Games, Easter Egg Hunts, Discussions, and time to chat about some of the bigger questions in life. We have also brought in a 10:10 Resource that covers ten themes for young people to discover how to live and find their best life. At the heart of 10:10 is a safe and engaging space for those of secondary school age to be with others, encourage one another, and pray together.

Young people attending span all the local secondary schools and this has been reflected in some of the challenges that the Covid Pandemic has caused. The Group has continued to form closer relationships with each other, enabled some deeper conversations and openness to chat about challenges and achievements being faced. The teenagers are also encouraged to join the wider church ministry; including on the worship and tech teams and support our children's groups. They also attended the Devizes town meeting to consider ways of supporting those impacted by the Ukraine conflict.

The teens have mostly loved chatting and catching up on the previous week or discussing what's coming up. We have consumed lots of hot chocolate and marshmallows and other refreshments. The group have

taken advantage of the lovely weather and been out and about when possible.

Plans for next 12 months

As we continue to see an increasing number of young people attending, the leadership group will further develop a programme of activities and events. 10:10 will go from strength to strength as normality settles down.

We are also keen to support the transition for those year 6 students coming into 10:10 and a smooth move on for those going into "Vision".

"Thank you, my teenager loves coming to 10:10 and always comes back home chatting about it. They are already talking about next week" Parent

We will continue the development of the adult volunteer team and would love to hear from anyone who would like to become a volunteer. We have a faith, Hope and Love in God and young people and believe when brought together, lives can be transformed.



VISION

Anna Brindle, Vision Leader. kabrindle@msn.com

Average No. of participants: 6

Age Range: 16 – 22(ish)

When: Weekly on Tuesdays 19:30 to 21:00 (term time)

Purpose

Vision (previously called twenty:twenty) is an informal discussion group for young adults - a place to meet people and explore faith and life's big questions.

Review of 2021 – 2022

Although the group is small, it is a wonderful collection of engaged and interested young adults, some from Christian backgrounds and some not. Launched in the autumn of 2021, we build the programme around discussing the questions the members have submitted – often controversial, sometimes personal, but always with an honesty, openness, and lack of judgement that both the leaders and members really value.

“Vision is a small group, but extremely welcoming. It is such a safe space. Discussions are extremely inciteful and I usually come away from it with some questions answered, but a lot more really interesting questions going on in my head. It's a great community and a great place to think about and discuss interesting topics and apply them to life.” Vision Regular.

Plans for next 12 months

The nature of a group this age is that every year it changes. Most of the current members will leave for university in September and we will need to be ready to recruit and be responsive to a new group, who may want things done differently. As volunteer leaders we love the conversations that we're having and relationships we are building this year, and hope we can keep this going through exam season and the new cohort.

WILTSHIRE YOUTH FOR CHRIST

Steve Dewar, Wiltshire Youth for Christ. steve@wiltshireyfc.org.uk

Age Range: Secondary School

When: Youth ministry throughout the week

Where: Devizes and the surrounding towns and villages

Purpose

Wiltshire Youth for Christ is an ecumenical youth work ministry that is missional in its heart to "Take the Good News of Jesus relevantly to every young person in Wiltshire." We aim to do this through church, school and community engagement, inspiration, and equipping.

Review of 2021 – 2022

2021 – 2022 has seen many challenges but also great opportunities to serve our local young people. Throughout the pandemic we have responded to the increased needs of supporting secondary school students in Devizes, Lavington, and Melksham schools with "Mentoring" support. This has consisted of weekly 1-2-1 sessions that have been face to face and tailored to the individual's needs. We have also helped enable the local church to explore ways to support their local schools through "Chaplaincy", specific church services and Pop-Up events.

We are championing and advocating a more cohesive plan of youth work delivery not just in Devizes but across the county. Collaborating with Local Authorities, Parish Councils, Police, Schools, and other organisations for a joined up and holistic approach to supporting young people.

"I cannot begin to tell you how important and valuable this youth work and resource is, particularly as it's the only one of its kind in the locality. On several occasions, we've asked Steve to drive the van up to an area we've identified as a hot spot for youngsters causing Anti-Social Behaviour and help us with a community Engagement."
Neighbourhood Policing Team

The Wiltshire YFC Summer Pop Up Van events on The Green, Devizes connects with over 100 teenagers and will be in its 7th year of running. The Unique resource has also been active in other areas of Devizes and surrounding villages with youth and community engagement.

Plans for next 12 months

The challenges and opportunities to supporting young people in a rural area are increasing and are recognised by the National Youth Agency. I believe we will see a big and significant change in the role and impact the local church can have in our area. Locally this could include re-introducing the after-school Crammer Café at Devizes School, Detached Youth Work taking place on a regular basis and development of Secondary School Chaplaincy across a wider area. Wiltshire YFC is working with other churches and groups across the county to enable more youth workers to be employed and released into their vocations. Church denominations working together in a united vision and ministry will be a greater witness of our love of Jesus. We are already seeing this taking place as we work with the "Devotion Project" in Marlborough to appoint a new youth worker. We will also be regularly bringing youth and children's workers together from across the county to help network, support, and resource.



SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB

Sarah Smith & 6 core committee members

rainbowsarah78@outlook.com

Who: Primary School aged children

When: One week in the mornings during summer holidays

Purpose

A fun packed week of bible stories, songs, drama, games, sports, crafts, gunge and more! Run by a few of the churches within Devizes.

Review of 2021 – 2022

Though in 2020 the club was streamed on YouTube, last year we successfully ran the club in-person, which was a lot more fun and felt a lot more normal and engaging.

We did a few things differently due to covid, including reducing the number of children we allowed in and the format of some of the games and activities so that close contact could be kept to a minimum.

Plans for next 12 months

We are currently planning this year's club (Monday 15th to Friday 19th August). We are always looking for new volunteers so keep an eye out for promotions!!



THE BRIDGE AT SOUTHBROOM ST JAMES ACADEMY (SSJA) & THE TRINITY ACADEMY

Rob Jackson, Thrive Hub Chaplain. rob.jackson@the-bridge.org.uk

Who: Whole School support (children, staff, parents)

When: Tuesdays at Trinity; Fridays at SSJA

Purpose

Rob provides 1 day per week of Chaplaincy support to four separate schools who are part of the Thrive Hub. Two of these schools are within the Parish of St James. This involves whole school support, one-to-one mentoring, class support, and other specific provisions.

Review of 2021 – 2022

Having met together in the final term of 2021 to plan, 2022 saw the launch of the inaugural and innovative Love Language Collective Worship & Teaching Series. This was a collaboration between Southbroom St James Academy, St James Church, and The Bridge Youth Project. It ran from January to April with the culmination of the series being a whole day event on the 6th April.

"My daughter has come home and spoken lots about the love language series so I'm here today to find out more about it for myself and what it can do for our relationship going forward into Y7" Parent

The whole school collective worship series, led by Keith, Richard & Bethany (overcoming the many obstacles that Covid 19 brought along the way), looked at Love and how God is Love and how Jesus used Love Languages throughout his life and in all his relationships (words of affirmation, safe physical touch, gifts, quality time and acts of service). The whole school were encouraged to think about how they can Love and serve one other and how they can love Jesus too. We also looked at how Love is a verb, a doing word, something that is intentional and deliberate and how, for Jesus, his selfless act of Love on the cross was just that, intentional and deliberate. A LOVE freely available yesterday, today, and forever (hence the taking part of the midweek communion- an opportunity for the children to link the Love of the Jesus they've heard about through primary school to God's Love for us in the present day).

The Y6 then had additional sessions on Fridays to look at each of the five Love Languages in more depth, delivered by The Bridge. This gave

them an opportunity to discover what their love language was and how they can serve each other in friendships and their relationships with

teachers and family alike. We also looked at how Love is patient, kind, does not envy, keeps no record of wrongs (1 Corinthians 13) and encouraged them to consider how these characteristics of Love might help them to navigate their relationships.

"Rob, thank you for doing the Love Language sessions, I've never done anything better, keep going."

Year 6 Child

To my knowledge, the afternoon at St James Centre on the 6th April was the first time SJC had been used by a school so it was a joy to be a part of it. The children and parents absolutely loved SJC and we all had an amazing afternoon.

Plans for next 12 months

Ongoing collaborations with Southbroom St James Academy & Trinity CE Primary, St James Church and Wiltshire Youth for Christ (Love Language Series, Wraparound Y6-Y7 Transition, parent empowerment initiatives & wider community enrichment etc.)



As planned within the teaching series, Rev Richard led the midweek communion service on the 6th April with the Y5 & Y6 children. He explained each component of the sacrament, the liturgy and what his role was in the service. As he seamlessly linked the entire Love Language Collective Worship series, the children were really engaged. He led a powerful reflection on God being love, God's love for us, lived out through Jesus's death and resurrection and how that same love is offered to us through Jesus and there is nothing we can ever do to prevent God from loving us. He invited children to come forward for a blessing if they wished to and that invitation opened the floodgate for approximately 25+ children to wait in line for a Blessing. It was such a joy to be a part of.

SPURGEONS NEW PARENT NEW BABY COURSE

Becky Seager, Together for Families Worker, Spurgeons.

rseager@spurgeons.org

Who: Parents and non-mobile babies (up to 6 months)

When: Thursdays 13:00 to 14:30 (5 to 6 week course)

Average No. of participants: 4 – 6

Purpose

A course for parents of new babies, based on the “five to thrive” model of child development. A strong focus on confidence building, creating a social network for new parents, and an opportunity to share faith in action.

Review of 2021 – 2022

This course is very new to St James, having previously been based at Devizes Childrens Centre. It has proved successful when linked with churches in other towns across Wiltshire. I have run 2 courses thus far at SJC and the feedback from parents has been very positive. Many have joined the Friday toddler group following the course.

“Becky is very kind and clearly loves her job. I really enjoyed this course. Thank you.” Parent

Plans for next 12 months

“Thoroughly enjoyed this group. Thank you for being so lovely.” Parent

To continue to support new parents. To increase capacity when COVID-19 risk assessments allow and to strengthen links with Friday toddlers.

Courses & Support

THE JOURNEY GROUP

Robert Sanday. robertsanday12@gmail.com

Average No. of participants: 10

Who: For those living with life-changing health or wellbeing conditions and those supporting them

When: Monthly on Tuesday 14:00 to 15:30

Purpose

The Journey Group is a supportive and safe space where we can share personal and challenging issues. It includes Bible study with discussion and prayer.

Review of 2021 – 2022

We have met 3 times following a simple format of catch up, how are we doing, Bible Study, discussion, and prayer. All of us are learning to live with our conditions and situations, and to discern and share what God is doing in our lives.

Plans for next 12 months

We are open to where God is leading



LIFE SKILLS COURSE

Alex Irvine, irvine.alex@hotmail.com

Who: Anyone who is struggling or wants help with managing their living costs and friendship

Purpose

To learn money saving tips, cooking on a budget, and an opportunity to build relationships with new people

Review of 2021 – 2022

The sessions went well, and the attendees enjoyed the cooking demonstrations which included doing a batch cook so they could take lots home for the freezer. Attendees also learnt how to save money on bills and reduce living costs through talks focussing on how to save money on electric bills and food, how to look after yourself when you are not feeling good mentally, where to get help, and what healthy living looks like.

"I am so gratefully that there are people that are trying to help people who are struggling." Attendee

We built some good relationships which we still maintain now. We also had some interesting conversations about God, faith and Jesus which were initiated by the attendees. We also had a big laugh!

The attendees must have got a lot from the course as they have talked to friends about it. Some of whom have phoned the SJC office to start conversations about the next course.

Plans for next 12 months

To run another course and help more people.

CAP DEBT COUNSELLING

Kate Morris, katemorris@capuk.org

When: Mondays 08:30 to 14:30; Tuesdays & Thursdays 09:00 to 14:00

Who: Anyone struggling with debt

Purpose

Advice is given to anyone struggling with debt. We review their financial situation and work out the best way for them to get out of debt. We then support them through this, however long it takes, while also trying to identify any other areas in which we can help make life a little more enjoyable. A befriender builds a relationship with them and provides ongoing contact, showing them that they are valuable and sharing God's love.

Review of 2021 – 2022

In the last 12 months I have worked with 37 people and seen 11 of them go debt free, through a combination of repayment and insolvency. In addition to debt advice, we have helped to source and provide carpets, a bed, a lawn mower, washing machines, school uniform, and an electric drill, along with supermarket vouchers, food boxes and fresh fruit and vegetables. We have also been able to support those struggling to afford fuel with emergency top up vouchers and payments. Some clients

"Thank you so much for the lovely presents and food at Xmas. It brought tears to my eyes and love in my heart. I've found it very hard to trust people, but you have made my Christmas more special knowing that there are people like you." CAP Client

"The generosity and kindness shown by you and the church is quite overwhelming. I am so very, very thankful" CAP Client

have been to church services while others have really enjoyed the film nights, SPA events and games nights, appreciating the opportunity to get out of their homes and have a good time without having to worry about the cost. In addition, the generous donations of Christmas gifts, hamper items and Easter eggs were all most appreciated and allowed us to show many who often feel overlooked something of God's abundant love.

Plans for next 12 months

Most clients find out about CAP through word of mouth, so I am working on trying to make more people across Devizes and beyond aware about the debt centre and the support we offer, by speaking in churches and various organisations. I hope to encourage more people to volunteer as befrienders while supporting those who already help in this vital role. I would like to continue to build the client numbers, while ensuring that all clients get the very best support that is available for them. This also involves widening and strengthening links with other local agencies to provide cohesive support. I have also applied to join a working group to help refine CAP's debt advice practice to make it as effective and accessible as possible. Finally, I will continue to look for opportunities to connect clients with our church life and family, and to find ways to draw them closer to a relationship with God.



PARENTALK COURSE (CARE FOR THE FAMILY)

Jenny Jones & Richard Saint. parentalk@stjamesdevizes.org

Average No. of participants: 6 families

Who: Parents, whether they are parenting together, alone, or as a mixed family and for any family size

When: Wednesday evenings – 6 sessions with subsequent social event

Purpose

Parentalk: The Teenage Years explores the important role that parents have in their teenager's life and looks at some of the everyday challenges that they face. Over six sessions, Parentalk: The Teenage Years looks at some of the key issues that parents of teenagers face, as well as valuable principles that can be applied on a day-to-day basis.

Review of 2021 – 2022

Parentalk: The Teenage Years is not a course that will tell them all they need to know about parenting teenagers. It will, however, help them get to know themselves better as parents so that they can build on their strengths and discover things they might want

to start to do differently. Parentalk: The Teenage Years doesn't set out to solve major conflict and relationship problems within the family, but it does aim to help parents develop and deepen the relationship they

"We found the talks invaluable. There were some great tips and advice from Care for the Family about how to get through the teenage years in one piece and it was great to be able to share experiences - the good and the bad - with other parents. We also had quite a few laughs along the way and came away feeling reassured that we weren't doing so badly after all!" Parent

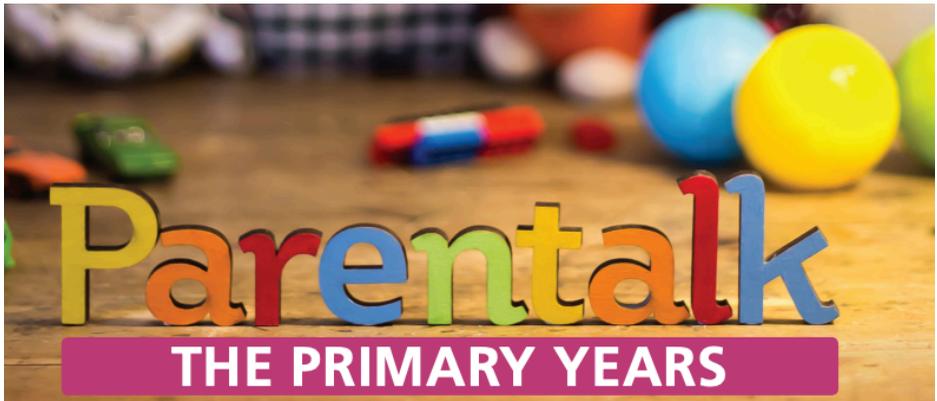
"Myself & my husband attended the talks. We have 2 children in their teens. This couldn't have come at a better time. It's a challenging time in their lives & ours. The talk was easy to follow. They made us feel like we were not the only parents going through it. The talks also gave us the right tools to practice & learn with our children." Parent

already have with their teenagers. Parents were given a copy of the Parent notes, and this encouraged and reminded them about what they learned in each session and helped them to notice any small, but often significant, changes

that were happening in their family life throughout the course. Sharing these, they encouraged one another.

Plans for next 12 months

ParentTalk: The Primary Years is currently being advertised for Wednesday evenings from 8th June to 13th July 2022. ParentTalk is all about helping mums and dads do the best job they can at bringing up their children. In six online sessions, it gives parents the opportunity to share their experiences, learn from each other, and explore some essential parenting principles. This course will be run online as we understand how difficult it is to attend in-person events while parenting young children.



Outreach

OUTDOOR & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Richard Saint. curate@stjamesdevizes.org

Who: Church family and community of Devizes

When: Typically, times of Festival (Christmas & Easter)

Where: Church & The Green

Average No. of people: 200+

Purpose

St James' church took the decision to celebrate significant times of Festival (predominantly Christmas and Easter) outside of the church building taking the Good News of these celebrations into the centre of the community. Our desire was to show that the Christian message remains important, significant, and relevant for daily life today.

Review of 2021 – 2022

Over the past year we have hosted an Eco-Christingle Service, a Community Carol Service, and "The Field" initiative which included our Easter celebration service, all done on The Green. It has been wonderful to see this interaction between the church and the community. Each of these services enabled the community to engage with the Christian message in a familiar setting as The Green is part of the daily life of Devizes. Simply by leaving the church building we are proclaiming that faith is not restricted to a building but is significant for modern life. Eco-Christingle spoke the message of God bringing light to our darkest situations in an interactive way through movement, music, and food. The Community Carol Service brought schools, community, and church together in celebration to mark the birth of Jesus, God with us. "The Field", done in collaboration with St Andrew's and Sheep Street, allowed people to remember things they had lost or struggled with by placing crosses in the ground around a central cross. These were then transformed with flowers on Easter Sunday, representing the transformational hope that Jesus' resurrection brings to all situations. Over 500 crosses were placed in the ground including from two of our primary schools.

Plans for next 12 months

Due to the success of our outdoor / community services we will continue to hold future services outside of the church building and look to how we can develop these further. This will be particularly the case for times of festival but also other occasions as appropriate. With the Mayoral Carol Service being reinstated for 2022, we will not be looking

to replicate our Community Carol Service but instead will be combining this with our outdoor Eco-Christingle service. We will also continue to engage with our local schools, churches, and community, to include them in the planning and delivery these services.



"It has been a wonderful evening thank you to all the lovely people for making the carol service a very special event"



MEN'S GROUPS

Steve Carter. scarter0380@gmail.com

Who: Men (over 18)

Average No. of participants: 10 – 20

Purpose

The Men's Group aim is to create an opportunity to encourage men in the church family and local community through social events.

Review of 2021 – 2022

We restarted the group in April 2022 after a long gap. We had a lovely skittles evening at the Southgate Inn in Devizes attended by 13 men. A great time of getting used to meeting in public and having fun. We are meeting up on the 8th May 2022 for a ramble and have BBQ's and a talk in the diary for the rest of the year.

"It is great to spend time with guys from church, away from church. New friendships are made, and regular friendships enhanced in an unthreatening neutral environment" Attendee

Plans for next 12 months

The committee will build another programme in September and offer that to the church family. We aim to grow and build the group into a group of about 30-40.



SPA LADIES GROUP

Allie Carter. Alison.carter@stjamesdevizes.org

Who: Ladies (over 18)

When: Monthly (various days, times, and locations)

Average No. of participants: 10 – 30

Purpose

Spa is a social group for ladies from the St James' church family that meets monthly to connect, support, and encourage each other in life and faith.

Review of 2021 – 2022

January 2022 saw the relaunch of 'Spa' Ladies Socials following a break during the Covid19 pandemic. We were encouraged to see over 30

"It was indeed a good evening. Thank you, Team Spa" SPA Attendee

ladies at our relaunch! We have also hosted a film night at SJC, met at a local pub on St Patrick's Day and hosted an Easter Crafts afternoon at SJC.

Plans for next 12 months

To continue to organise a wide variety of activities, to enjoy spending time together and to encourage ladies from the local community to join us.

"That wonderful afternoon is such a warm memory. Thank you for making it happen." SPA Attendee



LOVEUKRAINE

Keith Brindle. Lead Coordinator of LoveUkraine

ukraine@stjamesdevizes.org

www.loveukrainedevides.org

Purpose

LoveUkraine (LU) is the people of Devizes and the surrounding villages working together to respond in very practical ways to the Ukrainian Refugee crisis. LU has 4 key aims:

1. to do a really good job of matching Ukrainian families wanting move to Wiltshire with suitable hosts in the Devizes area
2. to enable the safe, quick transfer of matched Ukrainian to their new home in Wiltshire
3. to support Ukrainian guests and their local hosts once they have arrived
4. to support the town of Lesko in Poland, and close to the Ukrainian border, in the work they are doing to provide food, shelter, safety, and comfort to Ukrainian refugees (Devizes and Lesko have a long-standing partnership, similar to Town Twinning)

Review of 2021 – 2022

LU was launched on the 23rd March 2022 with a well-attended event in Devizes Town Hall, brought together by St James Church, in partnership with Churches Together Devizes, Devizes Town Council and Wiltshire Council. It was clear from this event that the people of Devizes wanted to support, welcome and home refugees fleeing the war in Ukrainian, and since LU's inception a significant amount has been achieved.

To date LU has,

- enabled the arrival of families to the Devizes area, with more arriving each week.
- has raised funds to safely shelter and transport matched Ukrainians
- has assisted guests and hosts in the significant and complex paperwork involved.
- has created two WhatsApp groups; one for Ukrainian guests and one for local hosts. Each provide mutual support and the exchange of information.
- has hosted a social for all hosts and guests and soon-to-be guests
- has started weekly tours of Devizes to newly arrived Ukrainian guests
- has provided 1-2-1 English classes to adult Ukrainians

Soon LU will,

- start a fortnightly 'meet and eat' night at SJC for guests
- start a fortnightly 'meet and eat' night at SJC for hosts
- provide regular English courses at SJC in partnership with Wiltshire Council
- launch a buddying scheme for school-age Ukrainian guests
- have a new campaign to find new local guests as we have more potential guests on our system than hosts



THE ST JAMES CENTRE

Angela Kendall. Office@stjamesdevizes.org
www.stjamescentredevizes.org

Purpose

St James Centre (SJC) is a well-equipped, bespoke refurbished, and accessible community centre that facilitates both the flourishing of our local community as well as the mission of St James.

Review of 2021 – 2022

SJC is now the venue of choice for most of our groups, events, activities, and outreach. Whether it be for children and youth groups, support groups, or to deliver courses, SJC, is working for all.

The list of local charities that now use SJC is growing on a monthly basis, and more importantly SJC is a venue from which they can support and improve the lives and wellbeing of many. We get to build relationships and make connections with these organisations and their clients, and these relationships inform the work that we do.

“Wiltshire Mind has been pleased to hold various events at the SJC over the past year ranging from regular support group meetings for our service users, to our AGM and a fundraising lunch for our supporters. The staff are very accommodating, and the rooms are both welcoming and well presented.” Karen Miller, Coordinator. Wiltshire Mind

“The St James Centre is a fantastic facility. It is light, flexible, and importantly accessible for all our users. The staff team are friendly and very helpful.”

Zoe Millington, User Engagement Outreach Development Worker.

All this, coupled with SJC being the home for our church office, means that SJC has become the place of relationship building, flourishing, and mission we prayed it would.

Though he's recently moved to new employment, we are

thankful to Matt Tarry for all he did to ensure the timely opening of SJC and keeping things rolling thereafter.

Plans for next 12 months

Venue Hosts – The setup, welcoming, hosting, and clear up for hirers of SJC is currently falling to the church staff team, predominantly Angela and Richard, but also Keith and Kate. This is time consuming, and sometimes inconvenient, when dealing with regular hirers or one-off hirers during working hours but is a considerable problem for out-of-hours bookings or days when church staff are not available.

We would really value and appreciate some volunteers who can assist the Staff Team in hosting the users of SJC. There are two methods of registering to support the hosting of users of SJC. Regardless of which option you select, you will be given training on how to access the building and an orientation of SJC. To find out more, follow the links below – whatever your availability there will be a way you can help.



If you would like to be part of the amazing Venue Host team that supports the outreach of SJC, please scan the QR code or register here: tiny.one/venuehost



OPERATION SCEPTRE, KNIFE AMNESTY

Keith Brindle. vicar@stjamesdevizes.org

Purpose

Operation Sceptre is a national annual Police knife crime awareness and enforcement campaign.

The Op Sceptre knife amnesty reduces the number of knives in the community. It gives the public a chance to safely dispose of knives, stopping them from finding their way into the wrong hands, whether that is the hands of those who will use them for criminality, young people or those considered vulnerable.



Review of 2021 – 2022

Since 2019 we have been a lead partner with Wiltshire Police in coordinating and delivering the knife amnesty. As well as providing St James as the Devizes venue for one of the amnesty bins, the church was used for the media launch at the start of the 2 week amnesty last November, and we coordinated the use of 5 other church venues across the county.

"Churches are places of sanctuary from whatever you're feeling or going through. So using St James as an amnesty venue just seemed to fit. And St James are so welcoming...it's one of the most perfect places to put a bin in my opinion" Sergeant Gareth Coles Wilt Police.

The 2021 amnesty saw 450 knives, swords and blades dumped in the bins. St James had the greatest number of knives, over 70, recovered, including some of the more unpleasant ones. Some of these knives come from those who don't want their unused knives involved in crime, and many were dumped by people who would never otherwise cross the threshold of the church.

Plans for next 12 months

The next amnesty is in November 2023, and we are already planning this campaign with Wiltshire Police; as well as enabling the delivery of knife-crime education through the chaplaincy at Devizes School.

LAY PASTORAL ASSISTANTS

Helen Sharples. LPA Coordinator
sharpleshelen@hotmail.com
No. of LPAs: 6

Purpose

To work alongside the leadership team to provide pastoral care and support for those in our church family, those on the fringes, those we support during the bereavement of a loved one, and increasingly, since the 1st Lockdown, more widely across the town's community.

Review of 2021 – 2022

When Covid started in 2020 and the over 70s had to isolate, it was the LPAs who were charged with keeping in regular contact with them; checking on their physical, practical, spiritual, and wellbeing needs. Each LPA, along with others who helped keep in contact with those isolating, had a list of people to support. Though we are in a very different place now, we have remained in regular contact and continue to provide support to some of those we first started to call in early 2020.

We prepare, and host, the Remembrance & Thanksgiving service during Advent. This service is for those who are grieving a loved one who has died. In recognition that such loss is felt more acutely at Christmas, rather than at the less well known All Souls date earlier in the year, we chose to provide this opportunity closer to Christmas. The service includes a time of quiet reflection, the lighting of candles, and the naming of loved ones on paper hearts which are then hung in the churchyard.



Every Maundy Thursday at Salisbury Cathedral, along with ordained ministers and Lay Worship Leaders, we attend the Chrism service, where we all renew our vows of service. This year we all had lunch together afterwards.

Plans for next 12 months

We will continue to support the pastoral work of St James.

Church Life

'LIFT THEM UP' Prayer Services

Revd Anthony Rose. associatepriest@stjamesdevizes.org

Who: All members of St James Church Family

When: Quarterly on Tuesday 20:00 to 21:00

Average No. of participants: 20

Purpose

A time of prayer for those we are aware of who are sick.

Review of 2021 – 2022

This service was born out of a recognised need for us to pray together for the sick, being aware of many connected with St James' who were suffering in one way or another (and not only because of Covid). The title comes from James 5:15 – 'And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up'. So far, we've met three times (the first time was in July), in the context of listening to and joining in with recorded worship songs and breaking bread together. The primary aim is to pray for others, and this is done through writing up names on a board as well as open extemporary prayer, although there is also an opportunity for participants to receive prayer themselves. There is no pressure for anyone to pray out loud if they don't want to, and the overall feel is fairly contemplative.

Plans for next 12 months

To continue in much the same vein, as long as the need exists. The format seems to work well, but we are always open to modifying aspects of it.



LIFE EVENTS & SUPPORT

Richard Saint. curate@stjamesdevizes.org

Who: Couples and families associated with Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals

The numbers: Baptisms & Dedications (15); Weddings (3); Funerals & Interments (35)

Purpose

Life events (baptisms or dedications, weddings, and funerals) are important and significant moments in life of celebration or grief where the church and Christian faith can offer more than society is able to. At St James, we offer guidance with planning these events but also continued support after them with pastoral calls and a remembering and thanksgiving service for those who have lost loved ones, and various courses to assist couples, parents, and families as they tackle all that life brings.

Review of 2021 – 2022

Over the past 12 months we have been involved in numerous life events and as such had the opportunity to support people through these often-complex occasions. It is a privilege to be

allowed into the lives of individuals and families as they say final farewells to loved ones and to be able to support them as they process

“A huge amount of thought and time was put into providing a really special experience and atmosphere - thank you.”
Marriage Sessions Attendee

“A brilliant reminder of the need to invest time and thought into our most important relationship - to help good marriages be great and help more difficult marriages to be reinspired and rekindled”

Marriage Sessions Attendee

their grief. It is a joy to be able to celebrate with friends and families as they welcome children into their lives or rejoice as couples make promises of commitment to each other. In the last 12 months we have also published our new “Life Events” webpages which outline what

we are able to provide and why we think these times are so special. We hope that this will encourage more people in our community to consider us for these important events allowing us to share with them the Good News of God’s love for them. In 2021 we ran our first Marriage Sessions Course (produced by Care for the Family) which gives couples the space and time to invest in and strengthen their relationship.

Plans for next 12 months

We believe that Life Events play an important role in building and strengthening relationships through the celebration of life and the marking of loss. In the next 12 months we will continue to develop how we engage with people coming to us for support with these events. We also plan to run The Marriage Sessions course again to continue to encourage couples and to invest in their relationships. We are advertising these courses within the church, through our links with primary schools, as well as across the community of Devizes. We firmly and passionately believe that strong relationships build and sustain strong communities where every individual knows they are known, valued, and loved.



ST JAMES FESTIVAL

Steve Carter, Festival Coordinator. scarter01380@gmail.com

Who: Anyone connected with St James Church

Where & when: Wiltshire Scout Campsite (Potterne Wick)

Purpose

St James Festival is a wonderful opportunity to relax, socialise, chill, and meet new friends. To deepen community and relationships in one weekend of fun, games, disco dancing, BBQ food, and engaging with God in a new environment.

People come for the whole weekend, camp overnight, or just visit during the day. We have tried to keep tickets affordable but also offer support for those currently struggling financially.

Review of 2021 – 2022

After a year without a festival due to the pandemic it was great to be together once again in the beautiful countryside of Potterne Wick.

All the stuff that has become synonymous with the festival was enjoyed by all who come; the meals together, the good weather, the disco, the band, the outdoor service, the sitting around in the evening with a glass of wine, the fun and the being together.



Plans for next 12 months

Our theme this year is *Communion*, and it is around this theme that our teaching will be based. We strongly feel that camping together is a great way to do communion, community, and companionship.

This year we are going to be adding a new venue, imaginatively called *The Venue*, to the festival. The Venue will be open 24/7 and will be a space for prayer, reflection, reading, contemplation, creativity and connecting with God.



8TH-10TH JULY
stjamesdevizes.org

**ST JAMES
FESTIVAL
2022**

- camping
- day passes
- crafts
- ramble
- bonfire
- youth activities
- live bands
- disco
- fun
- inspiration/teaching
- prayer space
- sunday service

CONNECT GROUPS

Jane Rose, Connect Group Coordinator. connect@stjamesdevizes.org

Who: Anyone connected with St James Church

Where & when: Many & various – there will be one that works for you

Average No. of participants: 120+ (in total)

Purpose

Friendship and mutual support, worship, bible study & discussion, prayer, aiming to grow in faith and maturity. There are currently 11 Connect Groups mainly held in people's homes but also a couple in church.

Review of 2021 – 2022

The pandemic has reinforced our belief that small groups in a church are vital. They have been great for people to keep in touch, especially when we couldn't meet in person. Groups maintained contact by phone, Zoom and/or WhatsApp. New people that joined the church during lockdown have been able to engage online with a connect group. However, for some this still needs to be translated into physical church attendance. In many ways this hasn't been an easy 12 months for some of the groups, but I'd like to thank all the group leaders for keeping going, following up with people, putting up with Zoom, and generally caring.

Many of the groups have found following the sermon series very helpful, being able to go into subjects in greater depth. However, groups are still free to study other material. Leaders' meetings have been helpful for encouragement and sharing ideas. For many groups WhatsApp has proved to be a useful tool for sharing prayer needs.

Plans for next 12 months

Groups to continue to grow in discipleship, always thinking about how they might evolve. The priority as we emerge from the pandemic is to look out for potential leaders within the groups in order to start new ones (perhaps consider a training course for new leaders). There is a real need for this as nearly all the evening groups are full, and some are too big! There is always a danger that groups can become too comfortable, but growth will only happen when we are stretched. Having said that, we need to encourage those church members who are not in a group to think about joining one. Groups might like to think about ways in which they can express practical help (such as the recent organising of the coffee rota using connect group members).

BELL RINGERS

Colin Smith, Tower Captain. southbroom@sdgr.org.uk

Average No. of participants: 8

Age Range: 9 to 99 (and above)

When: Sunday Service Ringing 08:30; Practice Mondays 19:30 to 21:00

Purpose

We continue the tradition of ringing for church services, weddings, special occasions, national events and for our pleasure.

Review of 2021 – 2022

The pandemic has had a considerable impact, the number of regular ringers has reduced and it has not always been possible to ring on a Sunday. Our biggest disappointment was not to be able to ring over the Christmas and New year period.

Plans for next 12 months

Our focus during the next 12 months will be to recruit and train new ringers. Bells have been part of Christian life since the 1st century when the early missionaries used small hand bells to call people to worship.

Here at St James, bells have been in regular use since the Tower was constructed in the 15th century and it is our passion to see this continue for the foreseeable future. Why not give it a try? A warm welcome awaits! To find out more contact the Tower Captain or visit the Salisbury Guild of Ringers www.sdgr.org.uk

"Having been badgered into 'having a go' I was surprised how much I enjoy ringing, the teamwork, and the company; it is like having new family."
Bellringer



SOUTHBROOM MESSENGER

Sheila Smithson & Lawrie Smithson. sb.messenger@btinternet.com

Purpose

The Southbroom Messenger is published monthly. Of the 200 copies printed many are delivered by hand to people's homes by a wonderful team of deliverers. Copies, including large print versions, are also distributed to local care homes and GP surgeries.

Much of the content is aimed at members of St James but will be useful and informative to many others who are interested.

Regular features are:

- a letter by a church leader, either introducing in more detail some of the month's upcoming activities, or reflecting upon the season in light of our faith and hope in Jesus,
- details of forthcoming activities, services, and events at St James and in Devizes,
- updates on events and situations associated with Churches Together in Devizes, and the wider church (including a focus on Kajo-Keji, South Sudan),
- highlighting the amazing work of one of St James' Mission Partners,
- a detachable monthly prayer bookmark which helps many of us to know who and what we can be praying for,
- general Christian articles,
- often a puzzle or a cartoon to get the brain ticking over.

As well as informing our regular church family about what has happened and what is coming up, our hope and prayer is that the distribution of SBM will help people to see a church whose desire is to see God better known in its community, to help people to see that faith is an active thing which remains significant and relevant today.

AUDIO VISUALS (AV)

Stephen Casey. quickstepking@hotmail.com

When: Weekly rota – Sunday 11am service and festival services

Who – 3 people every Sunday

Purpose

Running the Sound Desk, to ensure that everyone can hear the speakers and worship band, running the software (OpenLP) that controls the words on the big screens and at home, and running the Livestream cameras and software (OBS) to broadcast the service live on YouTube. 3 people are required each Sunday.

Review of 2021 – 2022

The last 12 months has seen the move from on-line only live services to the weekly livestreaming of the 11am Service. As well as creating a permanent set-up in the church to allow the video broadcast without obstructing the view of the congregation, we have invested in new Front of House monitors and a new relay screen for the band, new TV screens in the gallery to allow the relaying of the livestream for those seated at the back of the gallery who can't see downstairs, and a new physical desk, rack and some stools upstairs that give us more room and allowed us to tidy the large amount of cabling. Particular thanks to Matt Tarry who was instrumental in getting the streaming up and running initially and then migrating it to its current, easy to use, format.

Plans for next 12 months

Identify and train more volunteers, particularly on the Sound Desk which is currently run by a rota of just 3 people. Please get in touch if you want to give it a go.



THE OFFICE

Angela Kendall, Church Administrator. office@stjamesdevizes.org

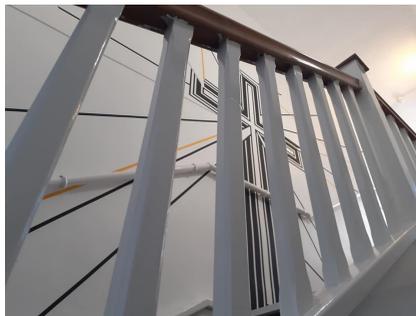
Review of 2021 – 2022

What a difference a year makes!

My role has evolved significantly since I started as the Administrator 6 years ago. I am less involved in the Sunday service preparation, although I still assist with Funerals and Weddings. I now field far more enquiries relating to our Missional Work and the use of SJC.

Bookings for rooms in SJC have picked up quickly this year, with Tuesdays and Thursdays being particularly busy. The main hall has come into its own with 3 bookings in the last month for 50+. Attendees are genuinely impressed with the building and facilities available.

Moving the Church Office into SJC has created a far more conducive working environment, with a light, airy space, and desks for the whole team. It also places me exactly where I need to be for meeting and greeting at SJC, and co-ordinating our bookings and visitors.



OUR MISSION PARTNERS

Working with our mission partners, enables us to take Jesus into situations and places that we would otherwise be unable to go. This means that we can effectively undertake missional initiatives in collaboration with those that have the expertise, experience, and motivation to see God's kingdom come here on earth.

All that happens at St James is financed by the giving of its church members. 10% of what is given is tithed to support our mission partners. In 2021 we gave £15,211. To ensure a consistent income to our partners we commit to a 3-year cycle of financial support, though we have supported some of our partners for far more years. At the end of the 3-year cycle we review the local, regional (UK based) and international partners we support going forward. Our current partners are:

Local

Wiltshire Youth for Christ
Devizes Opendoors
Devizes & District Foodbank

National

CAP
Bible Society

International

CRESS, South Sudan
Project Delivering Hope
Stand By Me

As well as our mission partners, St James works in collaboration with, or is affiliated to Churches Together in Devizes, Devizes Deanery, Salisbury Diocese, New Wine, Fairtrade Foundation, Eco-Church.

Working with mission partners is far more than giving them money. We have built up valuable friendships with our Christian brothers and sisters that have helped us to grow in our understanding, compassion and faith. Many from St James have worked alongside our partners and have been deeply transformed as a result. As a church we receive far more than we give from our mission partners and they are a blessing to us. We thank God, and pray for, our mission partners.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DEVIZES

Keith Brindle, Chair of CTD, vicar@stjamesdevizes.org

Purpose

The purpose of CTD is to bring the churches of Devizes, across the denominations, together in prayer, worship, service, mission, and ministry. This includes learning from, caring for, and loving one another.

Review of past 12 months

In many ways 2021 and the start of 2022 have been both challenging and fruitful for CTD.

All churches have struggled in many ways since the start of the pandemic and, to greater or lesser extends, have had to go through a process of regrouping and redefining themselves. The same is true of CTD.

This has meant that many things that were part of the norm for CTD are no longer so; Good Friday Walk of Witness, united services, regular meetings for reps, the website. On the flipside though, we have had a renewed sense of mission, started during the first Covid Lockdown, that see us more involved in our local community, especially and currently through LoveUkraine.

Plans for the 12 months

Though formal meetings of CTD reps have ceased, the church leaders are meeting far more regularly than before, and there is a sense of friendship, collegiality, trust and wanting to work together missionally. The success of LoveUkraine, 'The Field', and the outdoor Easter Sunday service will, I believe, inspire further ecumenical missional partnership.

DEVIZES DEANERY SYNOD

Purpose

The synod covers the Anglican parishes in Devizes and the surrounding villages.

Review of past 12 months

It met 3 times in 2021. At each meeting there is a main topic with questions and discussion. We also had reports on the General Synod. Meetings were held either via Zoom or at St James.

St James lay representatives are Clare Kent, Jenny Jones, and Lawrie Smithson. The licensed clergy are ex officio members.

In 2021 the Synod approved a new Deanery Strategic Plan, which was written by Keith Brindle, as Assistant Rural Dean. The Strategic Plan identifies the key actions that the church communities in Devizes Deanery will continue to focus on over the next 5 years, from summer 2021 to summer 2026.

To ensure the plan translates into action the Deanery has identified 4 Strategic Actions, that will direct our mission and ministry over the next 5 years. These Strategic Actions are:

1. Children & Young People (CYP)
2. Finance
3. Community Engagement & Presence
4. Buildings

Plans for the 12 months

To implement the Strategic Plan. Doing so will only be achieved if the Deanery churches can identify common areas of mission and ministry within the Strategic Actions, work collaboratively, and build relationships of trust and mutuality.

MISCELLANEOUS DETAILS

Address

The address for correspondence is:
St James Centre
Estcourt Crescent
Devizes
SN10 1LR

Tel: 01380 723891;
e-mail: office@stjamesdevizes.org

Period covered

This report covers 2021, and 2022 up to May 15th.

Charitable status

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. It is registered charity number 1134059 under the name of: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St James, Southbroom, Devizes. The working name is: St James Southbroom PCC, Devizes.

Aims and Objectives of the PCC

To cooperate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.

PCC Meetings

The PCC meets regularly in odd-numbered months. During 2021, the full PCC met 6 times with an average attendance of laity of 13.

Electoral Roll

Electoral Roll Membership for the 2021 APCM is 194.

PCC MEMBERS

The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules. In 2021 the following were members of the PCC.

Vicar

Keith Brindle, PCC Chair

Curate

Richard Saint

Associate Priests

Anthony Rose

Churchwardens

Jenny Oliver, Mike Wilmott

Elected Representatives of the Church

Stephen Casey, PCC Secretary

Clare Crowley

Jeremy Davidson, PCC Vice-Chair

Rachel Gardner-Poole

Mo Hill

Alex Hobbs

Doreen Hutton, Finance Team, Stewardship Treasurer

Jenny Jones, Deanery Synod Representative, The Noise Coordinator

Clare Kent, Deanery Synod Representative, PSO

Liz McAnaw, Finance Team

Richard Oliver, St James Treasurer

Michael Porter, Finance Team, PGS Treasurer

David Sibson

Lawrie Smithson, Deanery Synod & Diocesan Synod Representative

Peter Walker

Elliott Wallace

Mike Wilmott, Property Team Coordinator

Non-Elected PCC Member

Angela Kendall, Electoral Roll Officer, Finance Team