

What's happening in the life of St Andrew's and St Bartholomew's



Reflections on ministry with children

By Alison Summerskill

This weekend Bill and I are in London to meet James, our almost two year old nephew, for the first time. To prepare for this momentous event, I was looking back through old emails from around the time of James' birth and came across one from his grandfather, describing how the business of comforting a permanently crying baby in the first six weeks of his life had exhausted his parents and both sets of grandparents. It made me wonder, how many people does it take to bring up a child? And if it takes more than six adults to meet a child's physical needs, what about their spiritual needs? And why should we bother? After all, if a child is healthy and does well in school, why should we worry about their spiritual needs?

One of the conclusions those who study children's spirituality have come to, is that spirituality can wither if it is not nurtured. The soil that nurtures spirituality is the environment in which they live. We can think of extremely hostile examples such as where children are forced to be soldiers, or taught to steal to support their families. However, the environment of competition and consumerism so prevalent in affluent societies can damage children's capacity to empathise with others, one of the hallmarks of healthy spirituality. Independence becomes prized over interdependence, possessions over relationships.

As Christians we know our identity is not bound up in our achievements or our possessions. As a community we model interdependence in our care for one another, and care for creation through our eco-initiatives. We show compassion through giving to missions beyond our community. For young people there are opportunities for service to others on mission trips. Children watch adults and learn from what they observe. They notice how we react to those who are different, how we drive our cars, how we make ethical choices. It's not easy to parent children. It takes a community.

The kind of ideal community we are called to embody is that of the end of Acts 2. I take comfort from noticing how that community is described in six verses, whereas all of Paul's letters are dealing with the problems communities encounter! We are not a perfect community. We struggle with the tension between being a large church and falling into the trap of embodying the competition and consumerism we critique. Not everyone feels

included all of the time. Despite our size, all of our ministries struggle to recruit volunteers. Yet with all our imperfections, there are some wonderful people amongst us who model how to live - and how to die - gracefully. There are some amazing people volunteering in public and private roles. I have been privileged over the past 16 years to work alongside many of them, and for that I am extremely grateful. There are children who have taught me so much about simply being children. Some of our children face challenges far greater than I have ever experienced and with far more courage. It has been wonderful to watch children become young adults, and to recognise in them the traits and passions that were already there in childhood.

I have been blessed with two kind and generous vicars who have tolerated the stuff that accompanies ministry with children. I have been allowed to shape our children's ministry in accordance with who I am, and not expected to be something I am not. I have been blessed by the kindness of this community. You have forgiven me for burning the new Quiet Room carpet. You have not reminded me of the raw egg illustration that went horribly wrong. You did not blame me for the BMW stickers that appeared around the place when I was the parent of a lively teen.

I am pleased to be handing over our children and families ministry to Laine Lewis. She has some great ideas for supporting families in parenting children for a life of faith. She and Mike are in the thick of it as they parent Korsten and Malachi. It's not easy for any of them to be in the spotlight like that. Please give her all the space and support you have so generously shown to me.

Alison

OUR CHURCH

'UP' - 'IN' - 'OUT' 5 YEAR PLAN IN ACTION

CAR WASHING FOR SOUL SURVIVOR



It is quickly coming around to that time of year when we take an amazing group of young people to the Soul Survivor festivals and go camping for the week. This is always a real highlight in the year, both for us as youth workers but especially for the Youth.

van. Although Kevin and Tim have been pulling some strings and smooth-talking their way to a great deal, we will need to do some fund-raising to cover our costs. This is GREAT news for you lovely people as you will be able to have your car cleaned and support the Youth at the same time. **An army of young people will be washing cars at the Men's Breakfast on the 14th of July.** Please come prepared to give what you can!

Daisy and Jack

To ensure that we can get all of the gear needed for the smooth running of the week, we will be hiring a

SUMMER PLANS



Wahey it's the summer...well almost! As our thoughts turn to sand, sea and hopefully sun we also have plans afoot for an exciting summer here at church.

Our **Summer sermon series** will be looking at the 'I am's' from the Gospels including 'I am the Way' and 'I am the Good Shepherd', as well as others.

The last staffed **creche session** will be on Sunday 22nd July and from then on until Sunday 9th September the Lounge will be available for parents to use with their young children, toys will be put out but no volunteers will be on duty.

Although children's groups will finish on Sunday 22nd July for the holidays; we will have two Sundays when the children can join us for activities in the hall. These will be on Sunday 29th July and Sunday 12th August. More details will follow in the near future so keep reading the newsheet!

We also have two Thursday Family Drop Ins for children and their families aged 3-11 on Thursdays 16th and 30th August respectively, both sessions will be 10-12noon. Come and play games, do crafts, eat biscuits and have fun together. No unaccompanied children please!

Laine

ASSOCIATE VICAR

Sadly we have drawn a blank looking for someone to fill this role. On the other hand, we need the right person not just a person 'who will do'. So, we go back to square one. I am in the process of asking the Bishop for permission to re-advertise. Keep praying. God has the right person for us waiting.

Jonathan

THURSDAY COFFEE SHOP & KNITTERS IN AUGUST



The Coffee Shop will be closed for the month of August and will re-open on September 6th.

The Knitting Group will continue to meet every Thursday in August from 10am to 12 noon in the small hall.

We were pleased to contribute 250 knitted or crocheted hearts to Sue Ryder for their "Work of Heart" garden. This exhibition will be on display in Gloucester Cathedral from 1st to 29th August and is well worth a visit.

Anne Ewart



MOTHERS' UNION

In July we have our annual social evening.

A meal at The Old Elm

Tuesday 17th July at 7.30pm
(7-7.30pm to make menu choices)

During the school summer holidays we are again having an all age coffee morning and lunch with children's craft activities. *A time to relax, eat and chat while the children get involved with the crafts.* And later in the month an Afternoon Tea. Both events are open to all. Please let your friends, family, neighbours know about them.

All age Coffee Morning, Lunch and children's activities
Wednesday 1st August
10.30am-2pm in the church hall

Homemade Soup and sandwiches Child fun crafts Coffee and cakes
 soft play area floor parachute 'games'

Plus stalls to raise funds for AFIA and MU Projects worldwide
 Books Toys Homemade items Raffle

Refreshments and stall items are by voluntary donations

If you are able to help in any way on the 1st August please speak to Janet Ross. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

Afternoon Tea
With Chris Evans
Talking about The Butterfly Garden and a gardeners' question time

Wednesday 15th August
2.30pm - 4pm in the church hall

Tickets £5
 From Janet Ross, Mary White
 or Thursday coffee shop
 Proceeds to MU projects worldwide
 And a raffle for The Butterfly Garden

On **Thursday 9th August** there is a Gloucestershire-wide:

Picnic at Shurdington Village Hall,

GL51 4TB, from 2-4pm.

Parking and toilets at the hall. Take your own picnic, and chairs if you prefer not to sit on the grassy area, and you are welcome to take a football/frisbee. There is also a good range of play equipment. Tea and coffee are available.

If wet, the event will be inside the Village Hall. At the end of the day (4pm) there will be a short act of worship for you to join in if you wish. All are welcome, just turn up on the day, no need to book.

Janet Ross

FOOTBALL INSIDE THE CATHEDRAL

On Saturday 16th June a team of children from St. Andrew's joined a football tournament within the nave of Gloucester Cathedral. The event took place not only to celebrate the World Cup but to reach out and bring more youth into the Cathedral. This replicates the idea from a few years ago when Christian Skaters UK brought a skate park to the nave which successfully brought people into the Cathedral, including several who had never stepped into a place of worship before. The football tournament was arranged by the Gloucester Diocese and PSALMS (Putting Sport Alongside Local Ministries) who are a local registered charity that enables churches to reach out to youngsters within the community. It was also PSALMS that provided sports activities during our Party In The Parish.

The majority of teams were from various local schools and football clubs and Team St. Andrew's played extremely well as a team and put in 110% effort the whole time. Our team came 4th following 4 matches which were played in a special netted pitch in the nave and within an outside pitch at the back of the Cathedral. Thankfully no stained glass windows were broken!



YOUNG ADULTS @ ST. ANDREW'S

Our church vision statement is "Hope for all ages" and there is indeed a lot of hope, life and excitement around our 18-30s age group. This age group can struggle in many churches as you can feel too old for the youth ministry but too young for the main congregation and mainstream connect groups.

Over the last year we have seen an increase from 5 or 6 young adults meeting weekly to well over 20 every week! We have already outgrown a number of houses and are beginning to meet at the church on a Tuesday evening, such is the need and hunger of young people eager to explore their faith and grow more in love with Jesus!

The Baptism evening was an amazing celebration with four young adults getting baptised or reaffirming their Baptism vows. Please continue to pray for Beth AJ, Beth R, Tom and Flo.

I have been guilty in the past of getting over-excited about this area of church life and this connect group, but it is so amazing to see what God is doing, and a true pleasure to ride along, seeing where God takes us. We have mainly focused on learning to be disciples of God's Kingdom but are now looking to be more outward thinking; finding areas to serve in church, helping with Gloucester City Mission and being more open with our faith to non-Christian friends.

We would love it if you would continue praying for growth both in our own faith and in our obedience to where God wants the Young Adults at St Andrews to go next! Thank you.

Jack Neave

MISSION SUNDAY 2018

Mission Sunday, which took place on May 13th, has now come and gone - for another year! It was a great day with the regular '**Mission Fair**' in the church halls and special speakers during the two services at St. Andrew's. This year, our speakers came from among our own congregation!

The first speaker was **Claire Power-Browne**, who works a phenomenal amount of hours each week for '**Teens in Crisis**', a Gloucestershire charity helping young people from the age of 9 up to the early twenties, who find themselves in some sort of crisis. Claire gave us the most challenging talk about the increasing numbers of young people in this situation and the success the charity has in enabling many young lives to be spared some of the worst outcomes.

The second speaker was **Ben Maughan**, who gave a most inspiring talk on behalf of the charity, **Seurr Sang'ida**, run by his mother-in-law, Gill Pulei. Gill's school provides both education and medical support for severely disabled children in a remote part of Kenya, who would otherwise be left without either. For those of us who get Gill's prayer updates, it is very moving to see photos of these children and read about their needs and the help they receive. During the long school holidays back in their home villages, life is difficult for many of them away from this help.

The third and last talk was given by **Celia Anderson**, on behalf of **Mark and Rosalie Balfour in Guatemala**, working in one of the planet's most dangerous urban environments, called Terminal City. Mark and Rosalie are working mainly with younger people, from the most traumatic backgrounds, to help them off the streets and give them hope for a new future. Beth Allen-Jones recently spent 6 months working

alongside them. We were all challenged to pray for the Balfours and those they are seeing to help.

In the halls, during and after the service, there was a busy but calm atmosphere as young people first and then the main congregation went from stall to stall to meet some of our mission partners and find out more about their work. These included local ones, like **OS-CAR** and **Gloucester City Mission**, and others further afield. One particular attraction for younger children was the *motorbike inside the main hall* at the stall for the **Christian Motorcyclists Association**, run by **Alan and Liz Robertson**! Another stall holder had balloons that kept the younger ones suitably distracted! The young people took quite an interest in what there was to learn about, which was a great encouragement to the stall holders.

Over £5,000 raised for mission

The final amount raised for the work of our mission partners by this event came to a **grand total of £5,086.45**. This, together with what was raised through the Gospel Choir event in March, will provide much help for the work of our mission partners. A very big '**THANK YOU**' on their behalf to all who gave so generously!

Lastly, but not least, a **huge 'thank you' to Rosie Button** who worked tirelessly beforehand and during the day to organise the whole event. Without her very hard work, the day simply would not have happened!

Helen Wilson
on behalf of the Mission Team

ECO CHURCH UPDATE

We continue to look at ways of being green and to promote awareness.

Last month CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other) lunch received a talk about our Eco work at St. Andrew's with handy tips to carry out at home.

I also gave a talk to a Girl Guiding Rainbow group who had been working on an environmental badge, with their focus on reducing plastic. They were extremely enthusiastic and eager to know more.

It is all about raising awareness, so look out for our weekly eco tip in the news sheet and pass the information onto others.

Litter is a huge issue for our environment and affects wildlife. Recently I have been walking up Chosen Hill and was surprised to find various items of rubbish, all of which I disposed of correctly. There are plenty of bins in Churchdown so there should be no excuse for this happening. Can you assist by clearing any rubbish as long as it is safe to do so?

We are surrounded by wildlife and with the hot weather we can help by leaving plates of water in our gardens for birds and hedgehogs. Better still, please collect rain water for this purpose.

Recently, an apple tree was planted within our car park area which already has two apples! We are also going to plant a buddleia to encourage butterflies.

Don't forget the following items can be recycled at church, for the benefit of various good causes. Please use the collection points in the Church Corridor:

- **Used postage stamps**—for the James Hopkins

Trust

- **Coffee pods/felt tip pens/baby food pouches**—for the Autism group
- **Broken/unwanted jewellery** via prepaid envelopes from church— for Mothers' Union
- **Inkjet cartridges**— via prepaid envelopes—for Gloucester Foodbank.

Also, during the Summer Holidays there will be craft activities held for children whereby the following are needed: **bottle corks; empty cotton reels; inner tubes from kitchen roll and plastic milk bottle tops.** Please hand these to the Church Office if you are able to assist.

During the warmer months can I encourage you to walk/bike to church? We have a cycle frame to secure your bikes at the back of the car park. If you can't, how about car sharing?

Thanks for reading,

Chantal



Planting apple trees in the church grounds.

WORSHIP FOR JULY 2018

All services will be at St Andrew's unless otherwise stated

1st July	Trinity 5
9am	Holy Communion
10.30am	All Age Communion
6pm	Evensong@St.Bartholomew
7pm	FUEL
8th July	Trinity 6
9am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Family worship
11am	Matins @ St.Bartholomew
7pm	FUEL
15th July	Trinity 7
9am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Family Worship
7pm	FUEL
22nd July	Trinity 8
9am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Family Worship
6pm	Holy Communion at St.Bartholomew
7pm	FUEL
29th July	Trinity 9
9am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Family Worship
6pm	Holy Communion at St.Bartholomew
6.30pm	Churches Together @Methodist Church
7pm	NO FUEL
5th August	Trinity 10
9am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Family Worship
6pm	Evensong@St.Bartholomew
7pm	NO FUEL

Weekday Services

9:00 am Monday to Friday in the Quiet Room - Morning Prayer
 10:00 am every Thursday in the Quiet Room – Holy Communion

USEFUL CONTACTS

The Vicar

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Children's Workers

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Reader

Alison Summerskill

Youth Pastors

Daisy Cordery & Jack Neave

Creative Pastor

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Office Hours

Monday-Friday 9.30—12.30 pm