

Staffing Update

We are now in the final stages of preparing a job advert and job description for a **Families and Children Pioneer Leader**. This role will be focused on breaking new ground and resourcing, equipping and encouraging our current team of volunteers whilst also growing that team.

On the 1st September, **Hannah Levett** officially joined the team as our **Youth Lead and Worship Intern**. Hannah is full of amazing ideas and has a heart for discipleship and seeing lives changed by Jesus. One key focus for her at the moment is growing her team.

New / Launching

Despite being in a period of 'transition', where most churches press pause and find themselves in a time of waiting, we are continuing to go as the Spirit leads us and press forward with the vision.

This month we have launched 4 new things which have been in the planning since before Steve left us; the **11am Children's Registration Desk**, the **Connect Point**, an **additional children's group** on Sunday mornings, and our new **7pm Evening Service**.

Our new **Children's Registration Desk** has been something we have been talking about as a staff team, and also with the PCC, for quite some time. It has been incredible to see new children join us on a Sunday morning, but it has also made us need to organise what that means in relation to safeguarding and best practice. We are now regularly seeing 25+ children on a Sunday and a system was needed to ensure permissions are all up to date, contact details, allergies and medical information stored securely and that it's clear to all regarding responsibility for the children at the relevant times during the 11am service. The desk is now up and running, and soon we will move the registration system over to digital, which will make the whole process much quicker. We will also, in the next few weeks, be introducing new team t-shirts for those serving on children's work on Sundays, so that the team can be easily recognised by both children and their families.

Our new **Connect Point** which launched in the last few weeks, situated at the back of the Lady Chapel, will be staffed between the 9.15am and 11am services, and at the end of the 11am service. This is a space and opportunity for anyone wishing to speak to someone from the leadership and find out more about the church. To begin with, this will be 'staffed' by those on the Transition Team (Sheri, Mike, Rachael, John, Niall, Grace and Nikki) but the hope is that more from our church family would be happy to volunteer and be able to share positively with those who are new to the church.

The **7pm Service** launched on Sunday 10th September, and a few weeks in, it feels that this is being really well received. Over the last two weeks we have seen 20-25 join us on a Sunday evening, and the response I am hearing is how great it is to have 'space' for God to minister to people. The new evening gathering has started with an 8 week series on Spiritual Gifts.

Prayer, Discipleship and Journeying with Others

Prayer, discipleship and journeying with one another and those on the fringe of our community is still at the heart of what we do. Over the last few months there has been several things that the church has been involved with, whether that's the continuation of our **weekly life groups**, the **benefice prayer meetings** that have been organised during the advertisement period or the **24 hours of prayer** organised by Ian Thompson towards the end of August. It's been, and continues to be, crucial that prayer is before, during and after, everything we do.

The **Prayer Tent** continues to have a weekly presence on the Parade each Friday. Unfortunately, we have lost some key volunteers from the team and this has made running the Prayer Tent, weekly, increasingly difficult, as we don't have enough volunteers. Please can I ask you all to pray for this? The Prayer Tent is an amazing opportunity to meet with and be amongst our community. We have seen so many journey to us through meeting someone on the Prayer Tent, and I really feel this is something we need to continue.

Another really amazing opportunity to meet with people, and one of which we hadn't planned for, but God guided us there, is the sudden birth of **Soar**. Soar is a group that has been started for men, particularly those going through challenges of addiction and mental health. The name comes from Isaiah 40 (*They will soar on wings like eagles*) and the aim is that Soar is a safe space to come and share with each other – share where they've been, where they're at, and where they hope to be going in their lives. In the midst of this they share faith too, and as with all good gatherings, they have tea, coffee and snacks too! Soar meets weekly, on Wednesday afternoons and approximately 25 men have come at different times, though not all come every week. Numbers have consistently been between 12-18.

The **Gathering hosted by CVM** (Christian Vision for Men) was held in June, and 10 men from Liskeard travelled up to Swindon for the weekend. It was a great weekend with amazing worship, great testimonies and plenty of activities for men. One of the young men who went from Liskeard gave his life to Jesus over the weekend.

Community and Events

The summer has been busy; from some of our church meeting up at **CreationFest** through to last weekend's **Liskeard Unlocked**. Below are just some of the events and things out in the community over the last few months.

On Sunday 27th August, the **11am service** was held on **Maudlin Field** followed by a community bring and share picnic. Although the weather looked a little threatening, it held off, and over 60 people including children, joined us as we worshipped together and sang blessings over the field and the neighbouring community.



Some of the activities on offer on our stand at the Liskeard Show

On the 8th July St Martin's held their usual stand at **the Liskeard Show**. I actually think this was the busiest year yet for the team of amazing volunteers! It was a fantastic day where almost all day we were packed with children joining in with activities and also having some great conversations with the grown-ups too.

The Ploughman's Festival was held on Saturday 19th August on the cricket pitch at Liskeard School. This year we had the privilege of opening the festival with a short worship service. Unfortunately, the weather was not on our side during set up, however as we began to worship the sun seeped through the clouds and the remainder of the day it shone! Our stand was very popular with the children, and we had lots of entries into the colouring and football competition. This year we offered free hair wrapping for the first time, and this was by far the greatest attraction. A big thank you to all our volunteers but especially Rachael and Grace for their hair braiding/wrapping skills!



A photo of our stand at the Ploughman's Festival and view of the main stage

The **Tanzanian breakfast** event was held to raise awareness of the new link we are forming between St. Martin's church and Empowering the Future project in Tanzania. 40 people came to the breakfast and enjoyed the delights of Chapati and Mandazi and £250 was raised for Empowering the Future. We are looking forward to seeing how this link develops in the future.

Children's Work

In June we took 13 young people to **Spree** which is hosted by SWYM. Our young people had an amazing time and thoroughly enjoyed all the activities on offer, whilst also learning more about God and growing in their relationships with Him and with each other.



Some photos of our young people at Spree – June 2023

We had 26 children join us for our **Blaze Summer Club** and 3 young people join the team as volunteers. We looked at the good news of Jesus over the 3 days, beginning with Him making and loving us, Him dying to save us and finally thinking about how we might respond. We played games, made crafts, heard stories and testimonies, painted, danced, pried leaders in the face and so much more.



Blaze Summer Holiday Club

At the beginning of September, we were able to launch an additional group for our **Sunday's Children's Work**. We now have 3 age groups: Preschool (2-4 year olds), Smart Kids Primary (Reception-Year 3) and Smart Kids Juniors (Year 4+). We are still struggling on a weekly basis to gather enough volunteers to staff all these groups, so prayers gratefully received.

For the third year running a team went to **Castle Park** every Monday afternoon throughout the school summer holidays armed with games equipment, cake and squash. Football was the firm favourite activity, seconded by rounders. The

recent investment in a giant Connect Four was appreciated alongside the giant Jenga and other games. It strikes us each year, that no matter what the weather, there are kids waiting for us to arrive. It continues to be a great service to the community during the summer with many families joining us every week and lots of good connections made and significant conversations had.

On the Way / Resourcing

We will be hosting, along with the Rural Dean, our first Deanery **Safeguarding Training Day** on Saturday 28th October in St Martin's Church. At this in-person training day, people will have the opportunity to attend the relevant session they require from: Basic Awareness (Level 0), Foundation (Level 1) and Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse. All those in the Deanery and of course, in St Martin's Church, will be invited. Our hope is simply that we get as many people as possible to attend and receive their relevant training.

Plans

Plans are underway for our next **Rooted for Women** day. This will be held on Saturday 18th November, 10am-4pm in St Martin's Church. We are thrilled to have Ruthie Mitchell and Jen Beale come to lead this day for us. More details about them both and how to book will be available in the coming weeks.

A new **Alpha** is due to start in the coming weeks and will be led by David and Mary Leswell at their home. Please do pray for Alpha and for those joining the group.

We are still looking through the data and responses that came through from the Church Health Check. However, it has been noted, that several requests were made for something like a **Deeper Bible Teaching Day**. We are currently in conversations with James Harding, who is a lecturer from St Mellitus and is the Centre lead for St Mellitus SW.

Christmas plans are underway and some of these are listed in the 'dates for your diary' section below. Dates for school visits and services are still being arranged.

Dates for your diary:

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Sunday 1 st October | Harvest Festival celebrated at both morning services | St Martin's Church, 9.15am and 11am |
| Sunday 8 th October | Baptisms <i>with Rural Dean, Rev Ben Morgan Lundie</i> | St Martin's Church, 11am |
| Saturday 28 th October | Safeguarding Training | St Martin's Church, <i>details tbc</i> |
| Sunday 29 th October | Benefice Communion Service <i>with Archdeacon Kelly</i> | St Martin's Church, 10.30am |
| Sunday 5 th November | Baptism <i>with Grace and Angus</i> | St Martin's Church, 9.15am |
| Sunday 12 th November | Remembrance Sunday | St Martin's Church, 11am |
| Saturday 18 th November | Rooted for Women | St Martin's Church, 10am-4pm <i>more details to follow</i> |
| Sunday 19 th November | Safeguarding Sunday celebrated at both morning service | St Martin's Church, 9.15am and 11am |
| Saturday 25 th November | Autumn Fair | St Martin's Church, 10am-3pm |
| Sunday 26 th November | Advent Carol Service | St Martin's Church, <i>7pm?</i> |
| Sunday 3 rd December | Christingle Service | St Martin's Church, <i>time tbc</i> |
| Friday 15 th and Saturday 16 th December | Nativity Musical | St Martin's Church, 7pm |
| Sunday 17 th December | Carol Service with Liskeard Silver Band | St Martin's Church, 7pm |
| Sunday 24 th December | 9.15am Morning Prayer 11am Morning Praise | St Martin's Church |
| | Crib Service | St Martin's Church, 5pm |
| | Christmas Eve Communion | St Keyne, 9.30pm |
| | Midnight Communion | St Martin's, 11:30pm |
| Sunday 25 th December | Christmas Day Communion | St Martin's, 10am |