

# Operations Manager's Report

January 2023

## Prayer, Discipleship and Journeying with Others

We held our latest **Rooted for Women's Day** on Saturday 19th November. Due to hosting a women's day back in March when Lou Fellingham visited, we haven't held a Rooted Day since 2022 and so we weren't sure what the response would be. But we were thrilled to be joined by 50 women who had hearts hungry for God. We enjoyed a day of worship, creativity, food and sharing, and excellent teaching from Ruthie Mitchell and Jen Beal, who had travelled all the way down from Kent to be with us. We also had some ladies come over from other churches and would definitely open up future events to the Deanery and neighbouring Deanery. We are currently looking into dates and speakers for our next Rooted for Women day, which we hope to run in April/May.



Rooted for Women

## Children and Youth

**Youth Cafe** continues to go really well. We have now stopped our Monday night youth life group, and instead, for those young people who want to go deeper, following Youth Café from 5-6:30pm we are running **Youth Alpha**. Their first session on 12<sup>th</sup> January had 9 young people join for Alpha – which is so encouraging.

Hannah hosted our first **Youth Silent Disco** on 1st December. This was open to school years 6-11 (ages 10-16). We had 38 young people join us and a great time was had by all!

Our **Sunday morning children's groups** continue to do well, and numbers remain 20-25 each week. However, we are really struggling with volunteers. When we split into 3 groups, we barely had the number of volunteers to cover this. But we took a step of faith. Now a couple of volunteers have stepped back, this had made the situation even more desperate. Because of ratios required by law, we need to have the right amount of volunteers. It is also extremely hard to try and pitch material at 5 to 12 year olds. We need to have these 3 age groups (2-4, Reception – Year 3, Year 4 upwards), but we need volunteers to make this happen. Our plan now is to trial having a few extra **All Age Services** throughout the year, which will help reduce the burden on volunteers, and ensure the weeks when SmartKids run, is the best it can be. Grace is currently building a team to be involved in leading All Age Worship and our next All Age Service will be Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 11am.

**Blaze Kids Club** was started up by a team of 5 staff team members. However, this is now solely run and overseen by one staff member; Hannah our Youth Lead. With a depleting team of volunteers, this, in its current form, has become impossible to run each week. We would love to try and continue to run a weekly group, but to do this, its current model needs to be reshaped. Over the next month Hannah will be speaking with Blaze parents and getting feedback from them, with a hope to re-envision and reshape what this looks like from February onwards.



Blaze Kids Club

We had about 40 children join us for our **Blaze Light Party** in November. It was a great time celebrating Jesus being the Light in the darkness with many children who are unchurched. We played games, looked at the bible, had a disco space, glitter facepaint, made crafts, heard stories and the children engaged with the prayer stations.

We now have 6 **TLG (Transforming Live for Good)** coaches trained and available to coach. Three are meeting with pupils at Liskeard Secondary School and three at St Martin's Primary School. It took a long while to get everything in place at the secondary school, but that is now done.

The team are also coaching two boys and one girl at St Martin's Primary School and are now well established at the school and have good relationships with the staff. The Head has welcomed and encourages the team. They are just beginning to establish relationships at the secondary school, helped greatly by the fact that the contact person there is the same person that we dealt with at the primary school - she has moved schools! The secondary environment is very different, and the team are learning how to adapt to make the best use of this opportunity. The coaches give their time sacrificially, but they love what they do, and they get very positive feedback from the pupils themselves.

## Christmas

### Schools Work

We all thoroughly enjoyed welcoming both Hillfort and St Martin's Primary Schools into the church over the Christmas period.

Liskeard Hillfort's year 5 students visited the church early in December with decorations for the church building, and then Hannah led an activity with the children which tied into their RE lesson's focus of 'special places'. Their teacher, who is also the Deputy Head, was full of thanks following the afternoon and said "not only was it fun but the children actually learnt something, so thank you!"

The nursery class and Year 5's from St Martin's Primary School visited and decorated the Christmas tree. Grace spoke to them about advent and waiting for Christmas and then they enjoyed looking round the church.

St Martin's Reception class also visited the church and enjoyed having a look around and also looking at all the decorations.

Liskeard Hillfort's Christingle service saw around 400 children and about 150 parents (KS1 and Year 6 parents were invited) join us for a really special service. Grace led the service, and a guest speaker was organised by the school; a pastor from a church in Truro.

St Martin's Primary School held their Christmas Carol Concert in the church. The church was really full as it was open to all parents.

### Christmas Services

We have had an exceptionally busy December, and despite now being without a Vicar and a Curate, the church family have really come together to be able to ensure our usual Christmas services are still able to run. Below are our key church Christmas services attendance details:

- *Advent Carol Service – 60 attendees*
- *Christmas Worship & Praise – 30 attendees*
- *Carol Service – 153 attendees*
- *Crib Service – 130 attendees*
- *Christmas Eve Midnight Communion – 75 attendees*
- *Christmas Day Family Communion – 100 attendees*

### Christingle Service

Our Christingle was held in the church, and started at 3pm on Sunday 3rd December, with various stations set up around the church where children could make Christmas crafts, decorate biscuits, meet Father Christmas, and then the important Christingle making! Following this, we held our Christingle Service where 76 children joined us to sing carols, learn about the meaning of the Christingle, and learn the importance of being a light in the darkness.

### ABC Christingle and Christmas Party

We held our ABC Christingle on Tuesday 12th December. The war memorial was packed full of families enjoying the service! We then went back to the hall for a Christmas party and a special visit from Father Christmas. The parents later went out to the Tavern for our annual ABC Christmas meal, which saw over 20 mums and dads enjoying an evening out.

### Nativity Musical

Our annual nativity musical was held on Friday 15th and Saturday 16th December. More than 300 people attended across the two evenings and we raised £700 for the Liskeard foodbank. A big thankyou to Pete Morgan and all those involved in another successful production.



*Hillfort Christingle, and decorations from both schools*



*Father Christmas made an appearance at both the ABC Christmas Party and the Christingle Service*



*Some of the cast from the Nativity Musical*

## Christmas in the Benefice / Deanery

This year, we took our outdoor carol service to both St Keyne and Dobwalls. Both saw about 30 people join us for Christmas carols. St Keyne was a bit quieter than previous years but those who were there seemed to really enjoy it. Dobwalls were very complimentary and really keen for it to become a yearly occurrence.

The worship service down at Looe, Elevate, continues to go well. On average, most months, we get around 15 people to the Elevate services. However, for the carols at St Nicholas we had 40 join us, which was really encouraging.

## Events and Fundraising

Our annual **Autumn Fair** was held in November and raised a brilliant £934.68 towards the church hall renovations. A big thank you to Linda and her team. Plans are now being made for our Spring Fair which will be held on 23rd March.

Linda Dean organized a **pop-up shop** over December and raised £700 – a massive thank you to her and those who supported this.

## Plans

I have been attending the **Liskeard Churches Together** meetings since Steve left. This week I attended the quarterly meeting which was also the AGM. The meeting was really encouraging, and I was asked to share about the **Prayer Tent** and my hopes for a way that Churches Together may be able to support this on a once-a-month-basis. The general response was very positive, and I have been asked to arrange a training session which the other churches can invite their interested members to come along to. I am now talking with Malcolm Griffiths and Grace about what this could look like and when we could hold this. Once I have details, I will share this with the PCC and open this up to the church as this may also appeal to members of our own church who have been hesitant to join the Prayer Tent team.

Our Pastoral team are currently planning a **service of remembrance** for those who have lost loved ones. This will be a great chance for people to commemorate and remember those that they have lost, and we will be handing out flyers for the Bereavement Course. More details will follow soon.

We are hoping to offer an **Alpha Course** this term after unfortunately not being able to run one last Autumn. I have already a couple of volunteers, so hopefully we will soon be in a position to start advertising and seeing if anyone else in the church would like to join the team.

Although no plans are yet set, I am aware **Easter** is on the horizon. The Churches Together gathering on the Parade at 12pm on Good Friday will be going ahead and will be led by Teresa from the Salvation Army and Deniz from Cleerway. I hope that we will be able to do something like we have done for the last couple of years on Maundy Thursday, and I'm hoping our usual Easter Services will go ahead as normal.

## Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	CreationFest Prayer Gathering	St Martin's Church, 12-2pm
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Jonathan Delbridge Organ Recital (External Hirer)	St Martin's Church, 7:30pm ( <i>tickets available on the door - £12</i> )
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	All Age Worship	St Martin's Church, 11am
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	CAP Sunday celebrated at both morning services	St Martin's Church, 9.15am and 11am
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	CAP Money Course starts	For more details contact <a href="mailto:hannahdunne@capuk.org">hannahdunne@capuk.org</a>
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Mothering Sunday will be celebrated at both our morning services	St Martin's Church, 9.15am and 11am
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Spring Fair	Spring Fair, 10am-3pm
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Maundy Thursday – arrangements to be decided	
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Good Friday Meditation Service TBC	St Martin's Church, 10am TBC
	Liskeard Churches Together service	The Parade, 12pm
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Easter Sunday Communion and All Age Worship TBC	St Martin's Church, 10:30am