

Staffing Update

We are thrilled to share that Karen has now officially moved into her new role as Children's Lead. In the next few weeks, we plan to advertise for a part-time families and children worker to work alongside her and Hannah.

Prayer, Discipleship and Journeying with Others

In February we held our **Month of Prayer** and around 25 signed up to receive daily prayer points via email. Lots of paper copies of the prayer calendars were also distributed. Several prayer meetings were held over the month and the month ended with our **24 hours of Prayer**, where 21 of the 24 prayer slots were filled. There have also been a couple of prayer walks organised by members of the congregation.

On Saturday 9th March, we celebrated the commissioning of our 4 new **Local Pastoral Ministers**: Christine Thompson, Martin Carter, Liz Evans and Val Marshall. We also celebrated the recommissioning of Anne Purdon and Tiff Biddle, and the commissioning of Ian Thompson as a **Local Worship Leader**. Also commissioned was Bren Stuart White as a Local Worship Leader for Dobwalls LEP.

The latest **CAP Money Course** ran over four weeks in March, the first using newly relaunched material from CAP. Six people from five households signed up and, for the first time, all five households attended every session. The two-hour daytime sessions seemed to go very quickly, using CAP's videos, various activities and lots of discussion round the table as all contributed. Participants seemed to appreciate the course and to be putting the principles into practice. All sessions opened in prayer, and we took the opportunity to offer the Alpha course to those interested and to mention forthcoming Easter services. We are now planning the next course, probably an evening course. As usual, it's open to all, church members or not, with or without faith, whether struggling financially or seeming to have it all sorted – it can be helpful to all. Do consider attending or recommending it to others. For more information, please get in contact with Hannah Dunne or Mark Allen.

We welcomed Gary McCormack to St Martin's over the weekend of the 1st – 3rd March with a special focus on the guys from **SOAR**. Gary shared his story about the clashes in Northern Ireland, his struggles with addiction and on coming to faith. Over the weekend we had almost 120 people across the 3 evenings, 12 of whom had no connection with SOAR or a church affiliation. Following the weekend, 3 new guys started to attend SOAR and have become regulars.

Our new **Alpha** course started last night (9th April) with 7 guests and potentially a few extra may join next week. Please do pray for Tiff, Liz and Martin as they lead these sessions and particularly for those participating, some of whom are hearing the gospel for the very first time.

Also starting last night, was our latest Bereavement Journey course. They welcomed 5 guests last night, with a further 2 due to join them next week. Please do pray for Ian and Christine as they lead this and for all their participants.

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Teams

Steve from The Pursue Network joined our **tech team** on 19th March to deliver some training. This was a really worthwhile time, and many commented how much they valued having the space to work with the system and with the rest of the team.

On the 8th March we held a **prayer tent** training session, where we also invited other churches from the Churches Together network to join us. As it happened, only the Salvation Army were able to join us, but it was still a really good time of sharing and encouraging one another.



Newly Commissioned / Recommissioned Local Worship Leaders and Lay Pastoral Ministers from the parish of Liskeard at Truro Cathedral. From left to right:

Bren Stuart White, Ian Thompson, Liz Evans, Val Marshall, Christine Thompson, Tiffany Biddle, Martin Carter.

Children and Youth

We had 37 children attend our **Blaze Easter Party** and we've had lots of positive feedback which is so encouraging. The party followed the usual Blaze format starting with a game then on to zones, food, talk and finishing with two volunteers being pied in the face! It was wonderful to see the children engage and spend time in each zone. There were opportunities to add flora and fauna to the Easter garden, nail prayers to the cross, write their prayers on bunting or get creative with Lego and playdoh. Food was in abundance

thanks to our brilliant volunteers. All the children were so attentive to Hannah retelling the Easter story and they asked some amazing questions. An Easter party would not be complete without a few chocolate eggs as they departed. Hannah did a fantastic job of organising the event and making sure everything went smoothly on the day. We were blessed to have so many volunteers give up their time to ensure the kids had the best time.

On Sunday 11th Feb the Youth team took 4 young people to **Glow**, a worship night in Redruth run by Creation Fest and SWYM. The young people we took have been attending our Youth Alpha over the past few weeks. They loved the chance to spend time together and had so much fun: playing table tennis, playing games, doing a workshop on listening well, thinking about the importance of friendship and it was great to see them experience a room full of young people worshipping.

We are now getting towards the final sessions of **Youth Alpha**. Over the last few months, we have seen 19 different young people join us, however we have averaged about 10 young people each session. There have been great conversations and questions being asked.

This quarter at **Smart Kids**, we have seen an average of 17 children attend our 3 groups each week. We continue to use the Scripture Union bible-based curriculum with all 3 age groups covering the same session. Our new registration desk continues to work well, and it gives us a great opportunity to engage with each family when they arrive in church. The children are enthusiastic about participating in what the leader has prepared for them. They are eager to share details of their week and readily come up with things they are thankful to God for. We recently had a team meeting where we shared encouragements and challenges. It was good to be together and gain feedback from each of the groups. All 3 groups are growing but we desperately need more volunteers to sustain this vital work.

Easter

Easter Services

We have managed to run so much over the Easter period and through Holy Week, and this is only because of the amazing volunteers who have enabled it all to happen. I would especially like to thank Rev David Hazlewood and Rev Angus Parker for all they both did during Holy Week.

Below are the attendance numbers for our Easter events and services:

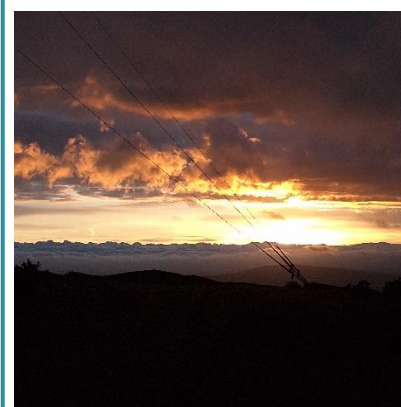
- *Maundy Thursday – 50 adults and 9 Children*
- *Good Friday: An hour at the cross – 55 Adults + 1 Child*
- *Stainer's Crucifixion – 50 adults*
- *Blaze Easter Party – 37 children*
- *Easter Sunrise Service – 12 adults, 3 Children*
- *Easter Sunday All Age Communion – 155 Adults + 36 Children*



Easter Saturday - Blaze Easter Party



Sunday 11th February - Glow Youth Event



Easter Sunday Sunrise on Caradon Hill



Maundy Thursday Shared Supper and Communion

Plans

Our next **Rooted for Women** day will be on Saturday 4th May, 10-4pm in St Martin's Church. Our guest speakers are Debs Smith and Jo Young. They will be sharing with us on our theme, which is "Women who Worship" and we are expectant for how God will speak through these ladies over the day with us. Tickets for the day are £5 (which includes lunch and refreshments) and can be brought via cash through the office or online:

<https://smartchurchliskeard.churchsuite.com/events/dldj6msm>

Plans for the **Flower and Music Festival** are now underway and this will be held over the week 27th May – 2nd June. Publicity will soon be circulated with details of the church opening times, events and concerts taking place over the week.

Our young people will once again be going to **Spree** in June. Spree is a youth Christian camp which is organised by South West Youth Ministries (SWYM). Last year the young people had an incredible time, and have all rebooked to go again, along with some who are going for the first time. Please do pray for those yet to sign up, and for Hannah and the team as they make the preparations.

The Liskeard Show will be held on Saturday 13th July. We will have our usual pitch and if you would be interested in helping on the day, even if for a few hours, please let me know. We are also hoping to find a couple of volunteers who could help on the Liskeard Churches Together stand for an hour or two. Their stand is inside one of the marquees. Let me know if this is something you might be able to do.

Lastly, myself and Niall continue to be on the committee for **The Ploughman's Festival**, which will be held on Saturday 17th August on the cricket pitch at Liskeard Secondary School. The organisers would love us to open the festival with a short service, as we did last year, so those discussions are underway. We will also have our stand with free children's activities and we will be looking to grow a team to help with this.

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 9 th April	Alpha starts!	Jericho, 7pm
	The Bereavement Journey	St Martin's Church, 7pm
Monday 15 th April	PCC Meeting	Jericho, 7.30pm
Sunday 21 st April	Combined Service follow by the APCM	St Martin's Church, 10.30am
Tuesday 23 rd April	Visit Day	
Wednesday 24 th April	Interview Day	
Thursday 25 th April	Meet the Funders	St Martin's Church, 9am-4pm
Friday 26 th April	PCC, Staff and Ministry Team Shared Supper	St Martin's Church, 6pm
Saturday 4 th May	Rooted for Women	St Martin's Church, 10am-4pm
	Cornwall International Male Voice Choir Festival	St Martin's Church, 7.30pm
Saturday 11 th May	ECBC Singing Day and Concert	St Martin's Church, 9.30am-5.30pm
Sunday 12 th May	Grace's last Sunday with us!	
Saturday 18 th May	Cornwall Organists Association Concert	St Martin's Church, time tbc
Monday 20 th May	PCC Meeting	Jericho, 7.30pm
Monday 27 th May – Sunday 2 nd June	Flower and Music Festival	