

St James Taunton Church Magazine

September - November 2011

Are you a disciple?

One thing that has struck me about those whom Jesus chose is their prioritising of the mission. It was not primarily to do with their learning or their education or their politics or even their belief in who Jesus was (they had little idea until the end of his earthly ministry) – in all these areas Jesus appears to have chosen a completely mixed bunch.

But one thing he consistently required was to follow him as the priority. No waiting until elderly parents died (Mt 8:22); no being deflected by family (Lk 9:61, Mt 12:46ff); no relying on religious words and practice (Mt 7:21ff); no compromise with possessions (Mt 19:21): just 'follow me'.

We are going to be thinking about some of the consequences of being disciples this Autumn in our morning services. There is great pressure on us to be 'compromisers'; we expect to be able to be a committed disciple of Jesus Christ as one thing among many in our busy lives. We have family, work, leisure, 'me time', well-being, a balanced lifestyle – all to fit in. Surely God cannot expect us to put church commitment *first*?

Are you sure? Actually I think he does!

Some who are believers do not become real disciples because of lack of teaching. Sometimes we assume that people know how important it is to pray, to read the Bible, to worship, to serve and to live for the glory of God - when in fact no-one has ever taught these things. That is the fault of those of us in church leadership and needs to be addressed.

Others who are believers do not become real disciples because they are compromising, perhaps in areas such as relationships, money, time or other areas where they know they are not putting Christ's teaching into practice. Or alternatively these things may have become idols to them.

Still others are not yet disciples because they find it difficult really to trust God. Some worry all the time about all manner of things. Some are angry or in despair because of things that have happened. Some hang on to hurts in the past and cannot bring themselves to forgive. These things are really difficult and only God can bring healing; but we need to ask for it, mean it and trust him.

You may now be thinking what Jesus' disciples asked in bewilderment, after Jesus' saying about the camel and the needle (Mt 19:24): 'Who then can be saved?' Answer – no-one by their own efforts or by compromise: 'For human beings this is impossible, but for God everything is possible'.

'Everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake, will receive a hundred times more and will be given eternal life'.

We cannot normally 'leave' these things physically. But in terms of our priorities, I think we need to hear a real challenge to become disciples not just believers. I find this as hard as anyone.

Tim

Welcome to St James Quarterly Magazine

In this Newsletter we have

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Deadline for
December
Newsletter
15th Nov

Next **Newsletter Deadline 15th November** for the December Edition.

Thanks to all those who have contributed for this edition and we look forward to receiving more articles for the next newsletter. Contact details for sending information are on Page 12, and remember supply the information in the best way that suits you .. thanks Andrew Slade

Communication is available at St James through many sources. In addition to the Church Newsletter, keep up to date with the Weekly Bulletin, and also visit us on the website...

www.stjamestaunton.co.uk

News about our Website

Joe Gentile has been doing the website since it started, about 10 years ago. Joe has carried this out with no previous experience and is entirely self-taught. It was started from scratch and changed as the need was seen to what it is now. With the help of positive criticism, the site has been altered from time to time to reflect the views and preferences of others who helpfully took an interest.

The new look website is just an interim, mostly cosmetic measure before the site is completely redesigned by Chris Buckman in the new year. Chris who does website design on a professional basis will be taking over as the webmaster.

Joe is looking forward to a new, more professional site to take over from the work he has done over the past 10 years.

Thanks to Joe and Good luck to Chris!

Exploring Christianity'

The Christian's experience likened to a journey may be a tired analogy but it is a hard one to better. Not least because journeys are taken in so many ways and the experience of journey is so varied. For some, journeys are little more than the necessary transition between departure and arrival points; for others they offer enriching opportunities with a value all of their own. It is, I suppose, the difference between active and passive journeying. A case of 'what can I do with this journey?' rather than 'what will it do to me?'

The Christian is encouraged to pursue an active journey of faith and with this comes the opportunity to observe, to explore, to discover and to gain insight, knowledge and wisdom which can then be applied, enhancing subsequent stages of the journey.

And yet, it would seem, many Christians appear to be content to take the passive option. They let their faith carry them along, engaging in worship, attending meetings, helping with the range of regular church duties, while missing opportunities to transform their view and application of their faith.

These opportunities come in a variety of forms but the diocese's 'Exploring Christianity' has a proven track record that prompts me to commend it to any who are open to explore, deepen and, yes, let's be honest, challenge their faith. The experience of studying some, even if not all of the modules, has been transforming in itself for many participants. For others the course has become a 'step on the way' to discerning or developing a ministry.

Where this part of the journey of faith takes people is part of the fascination and excitement of participating, but it is rare to find people untouched, unmoved, unchanged by 'Exploring Christianity'. That probably stems from the distinctly personal dimension to the course, best illustrated by a popular phrase coined by teenagers: "And that affects me how?" The feedback from 'Exploring Christianity' confirms that it does affect people; in fact it can prove to be pivotal in taking people forward, not only in understanding but in applying their faith.

New groups starting this autumn in various locations throughout the diocese. Contact Dawn Hickman on 01749 685106 or dawn.hickman@bathwells.anglican.org

School of Formation – Diocese of Bath and Wells

Traidcraft – Why You Matter

Did you know that the UK is the world's largest fair trade market? More and more fair trade products are now on sale in mainstream supermarkets and shops; this is giving hope and opportunity to millions of small scale growers and their families. The whole concept of fair trade was new when I started as a Traidcraft 'rep', on returning from Nigeria in 1992, after 4 years working in a rural hospital. Feeling the culture shock, and a bit guilty that I should still be in Nigeria, the needs of the world seemed overwhelming. Then a friend said 'you should do Traidcraft' and I've been involved ever since!

So why is it still important to support Traidcraft and why are some fair trade products sold more cheaply in the supermarkets?

Supermarkets only deal with producer organisations that have already achieved fair trade certification and can supply large quantities. Their size allows economies of scale and efficiencies that Traidcraft cannot compete with, meaning that they can offer some products at a lower price. Supermarkets do not offer opportunities to producers who are not yet at the fair trade mark level, but would like to be, or to those producing products for which no fair trade mark yet exists (eg textiles, ceramics), or to small scale producers.

As a Christian response to poverty, Traidcraft directs much of its efforts towards these poor and marginalized producers, working with them to help improve their products and develop their small businesses. A significant proportion of Traidcraft income pays for this work so sales from Traidcraft stalls play a vital role in making it possible.

Selling Traidcraft products in churches is also a 'shop window' for our Christian values and our response to the scriptural call to seek justice for the poor. Traidcraft was created as a Christian response to poverty; giving families the opportunity to work their way out of poverty, helping to provide simple amenities like clean water but also working to change the way the world trades. The choices we make when we spend our money send powerful signals to government and business.

I would encourage you to keep buying fair trade products from Traidcraft or the supermarket – every small purchase makes a difference! Please think of it especially when buying luxury items like chocolate, ground coffee, wine and flowers – they will taste or smell even better if you know they are fairly traded!

By Shona Gilmour-White (including extracts from a Traidcraft leaflet).

Traidcraft stall at St James 1st Sunday of each month www.traidcraft.co.uk

PCC Roundup

Here's a summary of the main things the Parochial Church Council looked at in June and July 2011.

Financial Matters

Income and expenditure are running according to expectations. Tina Andrews's mid-year revised forecast for 2011 indicates a small surplus, but this still means that we are dependent on income from hall hire.

The PCC was pleased to give a grant Keith and Mélanie Whittaker towards their outreach with YWAM to a First Nations village in Northern Québec and then to Port au Prince in Haiti. No less important was the decision to underwrite the small net costs of our own cricket team.

Mission allocation

The PCC allocates 15% of the income from Stewardship, collections and Income Tax reclaim to missions that are not directly part of the church's own activities. The PCC agreed the following disbursement of these funds:

Taunton Youth for Christ	£1,800	Tear Fund	£1,500
Open Door	£ 400	WEC	£1,500
Taunton Team Chaplaincy	£3,000	Wycliffe Bible Translators	£1,500
Grants to individuals	£ 800	Barnabas Fund	£1,500

This leaves a contingency of £750 for unforeseen items arising in the latter part of the year.

Vision

The PCC's attention is focussing on the barriers to growth that are generally well-recognised for churches of our size. We need to do this if we are to provide effective pastoral support for a growing number of people. A small group is thinking about the issues, and the aim is to share the developing vision at an Away Day in November. In brief, growth means that it becomes impossible for the vicar to be a direct pastor to everyone, and the PCC cannot be directly involved in overseeing every activity without causing a bottleneck. A number of leaders will need to be appointed to whom authority can be delegated for certain matters, and the exact shape of that leadership team (and its relationship to vicar, churchwardens and PCC) is being discussed by the small group.

Women and the Episcopate

There is an important General Synod debate coming up on the legislation for women bishops; dioceses, deaneries and PCCs have been asked to discuss the matter. The PCC has written to the diocese's lay representatives on General Synod, asking that the guidance being prepared for bishops should require them to heed the wishes of dissenting parishes. A church like St James, while disagreeing with the doctrine of some parishes, would not wish to see them leave – or be forced out of – the Church of England; the CoE is a broad church that should seek to identify with the whole people of England.

Safeguarding

The PCC adopted the diocese's updated *Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults Policy 2011*. The new policy includes changes in the procedures for checking volunteers, and a major extension regarding checking people working with vulnerable adults. All church members affected should by now have been contacted.

Church Weekend 2012

A booking is being made with Brunel Manor for a church weekend - 5 October 2012. Detailed planning is in hand.

Baptisms at communion services

Concerns had been raised that visitors attending baptisms were feeling uncomfortable during communion. The PCC agreed that where family commitments dictate (e.g. where key people are on leave from the forces) it would be better to swap the communion service to another Sunday.

Children and Young People

The C&YP Policy Group is reviewing ministry in local schools. One exciting development is a joint church/school interactive display in 2012 using church members to act out scenes from the Easter story.

Trial of Joint Evening Services with St Peter's Lyngford

The PCC agreed to try joint evening services with St Peter's. They come to our praise on 2nd Sundays, and until early 2012 there will be a trial reciprocal event at St Peter's on 4th Sunday evenings.

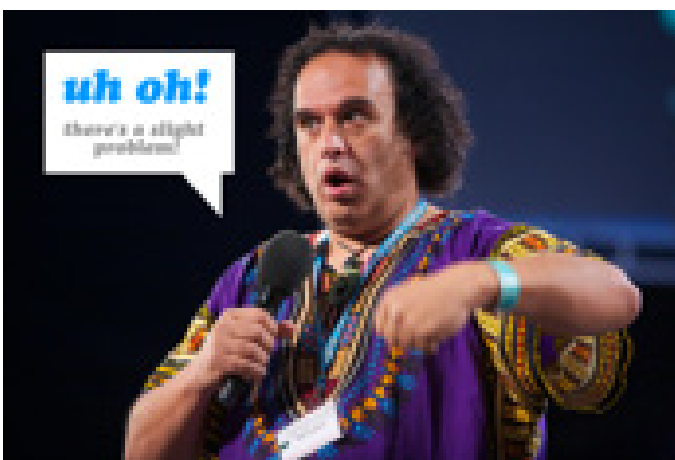
The latest PCC minutes and agenda are displayed on a board near the coffee area, and previous minutes can be inspected in the office. An updated version of the □Contact Points□ leaflet is available near the photograph board; this tells you who to talk to about the many and varied things we do as a church.

Martin Wakefield



Soul Survivor grew out of an Anglican Church, St Andrew's Chorleywood that was equipping Christians to move in the power of the Holy Spirit through the 'New Wine' family conferences.

The vicar of St Andrew's Chorleywood was, back then, a very nice and very wise chap called David Pyches. For some reason (which in hindsight he may regret) he unleashed a young(ish) Greek lad called Mike Pilavachi - a former accountant (!!!) - to help out with the church's youth work.



By 1993 the number of young people attending the annual Summer New Wine Christian Family Conference at the

Royal Bath and West Showground in Somerset was significant enough for the organisers of New Wine to launch a special youth event. The first Soul Survivor conference took place in the Summer of 1993 under the leadership of Mike Pilavachi. Like New Wine, the Soul Survivor conferences were originally overseen by St Andrew's Church.

The conference was the inspiration of Pilavachi and one of his church youth club members, Matt Redman who regularly led the worship at early Soul Survivor events. 1,896 young people attended the first Soul Survivor festival in 1995.

There are now a number of events held each summer to accommodate everybody. By 2011 attendance at the events was around 28,000 spread over three weeks. Soul Survivor events are aimed at secondary school age and there are two of these in Somerset and one further north (in Stafford).

Since 2004 they have also held a separate event for students and twenty-somethings called Momentum. Fast forward 20 years or so from 1993 and Soul Survivor is in its teens, getting passionate about seeing other teenagers living for Jesus and taking his love to their part of the world. You meet in a tent introduce people to Jesus and see what happens

The basics of Soul Survivor

Soul Survivor is a five day event where thousands of us gather together to



journey with God.

The festivals consist of seminars, sporting events and art, music and drama workshops during the day, and a charismatic worship service followed by live bands and activities in the evening.

The main focus of the events are morning and evening meetings where we all spend time worshipping God with music, learning more about Him through His word (the Bible) and waiting on the Holy Spirit to change us and equip us to live lives for Him.

As well as main meetings and seminars they have a bunch of venues from cafes and films through to gigs and dancing... It's pretty good fun as well!

What does it look like?

Soul Survivor is about thousands of us seeking God, praising Him, listening to His word and praying for each other. But it's not just about main meetings. There is the chance to attend and be



challenged on all manner of issues in the massive array of seminars.



On top of that there's the hanging out drinking hot chocolate and eating chips.

Who is it for?

Soul Survivor is about following Jesus better, though you don't have to be a Christian to come or part of any particular denomination to attend.

This year over 1600 young people made the public choice to follow Jesus, and many more were changed healed and given a fresh purpose and direction.

We spend time seeking God in the main meetings, everyone is welcome, whether they class themselves Christians or not.

The stuff that happens is specifically for young people and younger adults, and seeks to equip us all to worship God and follow Jesus with our whole lives. It is not about hype, but seeking to learn and grow from relevant and biblical teaching and through the gifts of the Holy Spirit. I would like to point out that those of us who are older also learn a

huge amount through the quality of the teaching the worship and seeing what happens when Jesus is invited in. It's not about high tech gadgets and multimedia presentations. We worship God we listen to his word being preached and we respond

So what has this got to do with St James??

Well...

A group of 20 young people from Taunton including 12 from St James went to Soul Survivor for week C, surviving Richard Lucas's cooking, the odd down pour, late nights and Clive Beckhelling dancing!



This is the third year Richard and Clive and Penny have taken a group and as in previous years it was an amazing experience.

The experience of the high quality teaching and vibrant worship was an opportunity not to be missed and had a profound effect on us all. It was of course great

fun, friendships grew, along with the understanding of what it means to make that choice to be a Christian; the difference that it makes was seen and lived out over that week – but not just for that week.

It was about fun, it was about laughter it was about faith and a real relationship.

We were reminded at the end of our week that the Christian life is every week not just this week. It cannot be a big top experience every Sunday and we need the tools to keep our faith alive as we go through the year and this is what they give to the young people and us older ones privileged enough to tag along.

We were introduced to Jesus in a field in Somerset and we saw what he could do and the difference that he could in a life. But we also went away with the resources the enthusiasm and the commitment to go back into our home churches to serve there and to keep Jesus alive in our hearts.

As one of the speakers said we were created by God to be in relationship with him without that relationship we can exist but only in relationship with Jesus can we truly live.

**Richard, Clive and Penny
With
Emma, Jenny, Melanie,
Hannah, Claire, Nathan, Tabbi, Claire,
Becky, Joe, Bethan, Maddie.**

ST JAMES' MEN'S GROUP

St James' Men's Group was formed after a working breakfast towards the end of 2010. Its aim is to build up friendships within our church and to encourage other men to come to faith. Although one shouldn't generalise, it can take men a long time to get to know one another, whereas women find socialising easier! Men are also a bit slow when it comes to 'cottoning on.' On average, men take 5 years to come to Christ after first hearing the gospel. However, if you do lead a father to Christ, 93% of their families follow, compared with 17% of their families following if a mother is led to Christ.

So, men are different. You can tell that because they like mucking about in sheds and find Formula 1 interesting (well, some do!). St James belongs to an organisation called Christian Vision for Men (CVM) and they produce good ideas for men's ministry. We are following their 4-level approach to evangelism, which comprise fun activities (level 1); a meal with a speaker (level 2); an Alpha or just looking course to chew the fat and debate the Gospel (level 3) ; and, finally, getting involved in a church (level 4). Their website is www.cvmen.org.uk.

We have put on two level 1 events so far. The first was a skittles evening at the Kings Arms, and the second event (billed as 'Walk-Eat-Talk') was a stroll in the countryside at Stoke St Gregory



followed by a meal and a chat at the Royal Oak.

It has been a real joy, too, to welcome a number of friends to join St James' regulars. Next we are dipping our toes into level 2 with a men's breakfast at the Winchester Arms, Trull on **Saturday 1st October** with a talk by our very own Jack Edmonds. That is not to be missed. St James' men are encouraged to bring a friend along.



Next year, on the drawing board we have a trip to the Blackbrook bowls club to try our hand at lawn bowls, a breakfast /golfdays and a brewery tour, all subject to appropriate clearance of course! All men of any age are very welcome to join us.

The emphasis is for everyone to enjoy themselves and meet others.

Finally, CVM have produced something called Codelife for men to live by. Actually, it applies to us all, irrespective of our sex:

1. *Jesus is my Captain, Brother, Rescuer and Friend.*
2. *I owe everything to Him.*
3. *I will unashamedly make Him known through my actions and words.*
4. *I will not cheat on anything, personal or professional.*
5. *I will look away from the gutter, be prepared to pull people out of it.*
6. *I will keep my body free from any addictions.*
7. *I will put the welfare of those closest to me before my own welfare.*
8. *I will treat all men and women as brothers and sisters.*
9. *I will lead as He would lead. I will honour my leaders provided this also honours Him. I will follow Him in company with my sisters and brothers.*
10. *I will use my strength to protect the weak and stand against the abuse of power.*
11. *I will protect the world that God has made.*
12. *If I fail I will never give up. He never gives up on me.*



Welly boots, umbrellas, queues, a dodgy back, tripping over tent pegs, portaloos, brooding skys, a leaking tent or two - may not sound the ideal backdrop for a relaxing weekend.

But set against that was the smell of frying bacon, good company, lots of laughter, talks that made you think, worship in many different ways, happy smiling faces, people of all ages sharing, lots of crafty-makey-doe-messy stuff (for adults aswell as children), singing, music, dance, resources good PA, displays and opportunities just to chill and talk is what makes Greenbelt a special place. You can't do everything because there's so much to see and do and hear, familiar events and new ones, including Ed Carpenter in his first Greenbelt performance with the Band Thumb, (which unfortunately we all missed! Sorry Ed).



The picture left is the Communion service attended by approx 20000 people! About 16 of us from St James went this year.



Here are just a few comments on what different people liked about Greenbelt 2011:

***“Everything”; “Making soap;” “The Big Sing;”
“Meeting friends;” “Experiencing the wider Church”; “Sense of Community,” “God’s love”.***

Church In The Park

Following an invitation from the Friends of French Weir Park, St. James was asked if they would like to provide a display at the Community Fun Day in the Park.



This was a great opportunity to be ourselves outside the church building and remind people that church isn't necessarily stuffy and boring.

So under the direction of Nic Tall

a group of people set about bright and fairly early to erect Gazebos, (something that requires considerable coordinated team work!), put together displays, sort out the squash, and set

up some activities to keep any young people amused – the Jenga was a great hit as you can see below. To illustrate what we get up to in church, Rick Sainsbury had provided some amazing large-scale photographs of different aspects of church life, which gave opportunity to illustrate some of the things the church offers. We had a good number of visitor, many of whom were glad of a sit down and a place to chat quietly or visit our prayer display in the tent; Chris Rickard lost count of the number of woolly squares she helped small children make. Good job we were next door to the Wivey scouts, who kept us supplied with cuppas and hot dogs!!



JW

The Watercolour/Art group

The water colour/Art group, as you will see from the church bulletin meets on a Wednesday morning from 10am to midday.

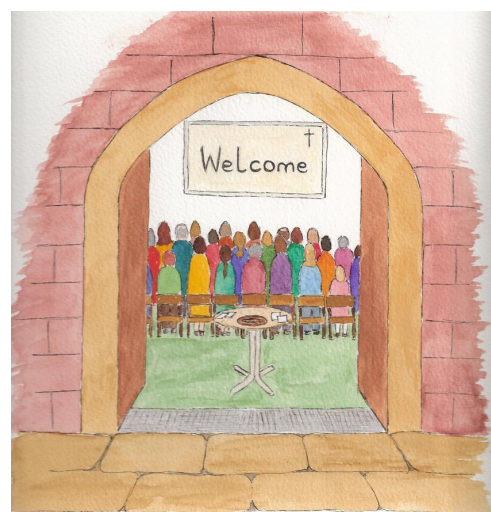
The group was formed about 4 years ago and members were drawn from several churches. At that time their work was based on a book written by Dora Banfield which is a spiritual exercise in interpreting themes from the Bible in drawing and painting. Some of that work has been used to illustrate our present communion booklet.

The Bible tells us to use our talents. Many people develop a hidden talent late in life. Maybe it is a question of having more time or simply plucking up courage to try something new. It does take courage to join a group when perhaps you think that everyone there is sure to be more gifted than you.

Learning to draw and to paint is a challenge but very rewarding. You may have noticed our little recent exhibitions mounted on the blue screens in church. We did our best to illustrate the 23rd Psalm and a passage from Ecclesiastes. I have been amazed how relative beginners have progressed and good painters have become even better.

You would be welcome to walk in on a Wednesday morning to see what we do. Bring a friend if you wish, talk to members and stay for a cup of coffee.

For further information contact Karen in the office or Phone Doreen Carter on 331775



Graham Reid introduces Abbeyfield House.

In March 2008, a new Abbeyfield House for the active elderly was built within our parish - at Northfield Court just behind Wood Street car park. The ten flats (5 one bed and 5 two bed) are for rent, not for purchase. The idea is to make life easier for residents so they don't have to deal with endless bills; residents pay one monthly charge which covers all costs, including all meals, gas, electricity, water charges and Council Tax. There are no extras or service charges.

We employ a Housekeeper and assistant, a part-time Administrator and a cleaner but to keep costs as low as possible, the organisation is managed by volunteers. As Chairman, I am supported by a dedicated team of seven volunteers; from the St James congregation, we have Joyce Vernon who has adopted a vital pastoral role and more recently, Rodney Dixon who has previous experience of Abbeyfield elsewhere.

We all know that running your own home can be a worry as you get older - yet making a move is a

huge step. And the most difficult part is deciding when to move. That's why we offer all prospective residents a chance to stay in a furnished flat for a two week trial - with no obligation.

It's the easiest way to experience living with Abbeyfield and to get a feel for what is involved without making a commitment - and without moving your furniture.

We invite members of the congregation to become involved, formally or informally, with this lovely new facility for the elderly within our parish; the more of you who can get to know the House and the residents the better. We put on talks or film shows from time to time and also organise short trips and if you would like to become involved with any of these, you would be very welcome.

We will endeavour to keep you informed of any events that you may wish to join in with but if you have any queries about Abbeyfield, please feel free to approach myself, Joyce or Rodney or indeed any of the residents who worship here at St James.

Graham Reid (tel: 01823 277865)

Coming Up...

'Tea and Teddies'

New day time home group, starting
Tuesday 6th Sept '11
9:45 – 11:30am



Particularly, but not exclusively, for those with young children.
A warm welcome guaranteed.

Anita Bowater 07952 600 955



The Kitchen

Are we there Yet ?

Yes!

The moving Back Party - Saturday 17th Sept
See Bulletin for details

And now this means we can look forward to:

**The Harvest Services
with the Lunch
&
The Barn Dance**



.... see Bulletins for up to date details

Also coming up:

The Shoe Box appeal
... so save those Shoe Boxes !!!!!

News Letter Contacts List

Contacts for Pastoral Matters

Vicar: Rev Tim Jones 01823 333194

email: timjones@tesco.net

Pastoral Care Coordinator: Jane Melton 01823 412370

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Church Office 01823 272931
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**Deadline for
December
Newsletter
15th Nov**

Churchwardens
Jacky Gillingham 01823 270044
Mandy Slade 01823 259440

Associate Churchwarden
Stan Wojcik

Home Groups

Tuesday 10:30 am 56 Manor Orchard (Joyce 278387)
8:00 pm 25 Whitmore Road (Kathryn 283691)

Wednesday 7:30 pm 28 Comeytrowe Lane (Mike 270044)
7:30 pm 27 Priorswood Road (Kay 251077)
7:30 pm Killams Group (Les 254344)
7:30 pm 'Beta' Group (Bethan 271655)
8:00 pm 42 Ashley Road (John 282507)
8:00 pm Hesperia The Avenue (Richard 277916)
8:00 pm 'Gamma' Group (Contact Church Office 272931)

Thursday 8:00 pm 21 Ryesland Way (Sue 271223)

Other Groups

Mondays - Parent and Toddlers Group 10:00am – 11:30 pm in the Church Hall
Contact: Alison Buckman (07783 883053)

Tuesdays – Jungle Club 4:30pm – 5:45pm for children aged 6-11 in the Church Hall
Contact: Tim Jones (333194)

Tuesdays – 11+ Club 7:00pm-8:30pm for young people over 11 years in the Church Hall
Contact: Nicky Bradford (337690)

Tuesdays – Bell Ringing (alternate weeks)
Contact: Marian Gentile (275278)

Wednesdays – Art Group in the Church Hall
Contact: Church Office (272931)

Thursdays – Thursday Fellowship (first Thursday of the month) in the Church Hall
Contact: Vicky Dykes (282507)

Friday – The Ark Support Group. For Parents/Carers of children with special needs.
Meets once a fortnight.
Contact: Alison Buckman (07783 883053)