



Horfield Methodist Church

Bristol & South Gloucestershire Circuit

General Church Meeting Reports

May 2018



Adopting Holy Habits

In conjunction with our sister churches across the circuit, we have been using material from the Holy Habits programme to encourage and deepen our discipleship as individuals and together as a church. These habits are based on verses in Acts 2, which capture the activities of the early church in response to the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost.

***Acts 2: 42** They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. **43** Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. **44** All the believers were together and had everything in common. **45** They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. **46** Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, **47** praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

Our forthcoming AGM falls in the Easter period, as we continue to celebrate with joy and thanks the Good News about Jesus' resurrection. Scripture describes several occasions when that truth was revealed, events which provide inspiration for our future. I hope that it is not too big a leap of imagination to suggest that our Annual Meeting will be a moment to celebrate the life of our church community, then to seek God's encouragement for the future and to be inspired!

'Give to me Lord a thankful heart'

The reports which follow are all a good reminder of the variety of activities supported by our church community. I hope that you are thankful not only for that variety, but also for each person within our church. A quick glance around our average congregation reveals a spread of ages and life experience, and I hope that we can celebrate that as we continue to worship God together and in our loving service within the local community and beyond.

I would like to give particular thanks to those who hold positions of responsibility within the church, who ensure that all our activities take place, on whatever scale. We are blessed by their contributions and leadership, some over long periods of time.

Whilst giving thanks, several church members and established friends of the church have died in recent months, and as is customary, we will take a moment to remember them prayerfully during our meeting.

'And a discerning mind'

Our meeting is also an opportunity to reflect on how we are being called to serve God in our fellowship, in the locality and further afield. At last year's meeting we agreed to look at a number of items, some of which we have progressed, others not.

Before our meeting on 6 May, please can you take a few minutes to look at the summaries of the discussion at last year's general meeting, which are posted on the notice board in the corridor by the vestry. We will be using these to feed into our

discussions this year, not least to consider how we address some of the topics which are listed there and which we haven't been able to progress.

'Give as I play the Christian's part ... and act on what I find'

Please can you also prayerfully consider three other topics, which we will include in our meeting:

Holy Habits: during the past year, we have looked at the topics of ~~E~~Eating Together, ~~S~~Serving, ~~M~~Making More Disciples, ~~G~~Gladness and Generosity, ~~B~~Breaking Bread (which was our Lenten focus) and will soon be turning our minds to ~~P~~Prayer. These topics have been covered in worship and studied in house groups and elsewhere.
How do we now want to respond as a church to the topics we've covered so far?

Supporting the activities of the church: I hope that you won't turn off now on the grounds that the minister always makes a plea for support and help! We do have lots of willing volunteers, both for on-going roles and for one-off tasks, but more offers of help, both for things ~~w~~within the church community and as we seek to offer God's love to the wider community would be helpful.

Acts 2: 37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "what shall we do?"

Please can I ask you to prayerfully consider the church-based activities which you support in God's name, not least for those things which we'd like to engage with (for example supporting missional activities with the homeless) which need our support.

Financially-speaking: Could you give up a cup of takeaway coffee each week to support the church? Like any organisation, we are reliant on our financial response to God's love to each of us: whilst that love is un-ending, our financial resources are not.

As the Treasurer's report notes, we are on a reasonable financial footing, but the closure of the Playgroup during the past year has impacted the regular income we receive from letting the building. Some additional lettings have helped, as has the continuing presence of the Circuit Office, but if every member were able to give an additional £2 to the church each week, that would make a big difference.

A year on

The past year has sped by for me: as I was writing my report a year ago, I was preparing for my ordination in the weeks ahead. Once again, can I thank each and every one of you for your best wishes and support at that special time, expressed not only in your generous gifts for me, but also for Sandy and our family. Those gifts have been supplemented with your generosity in friendship and in other support, perhaps less tangible, but equally gratefully received.

Like the disciples in the early church, our experience of Jesus is something to be excited by in worship and in service. As we look ahead, let us all pray that the Holy Spirit will inhabit us in faith and in hope.

With love in Christ, *Rev Patrick*

Stewards' Report

As always we continue look at ways in which we can serve the church and community more effectively, helping people in all situations:

Disabled Christian Fellowship for people with a disability;

Awareness of the help in the community for those who are homeless;

Serving coffee to the dancers families on a Saturday which involves closer links with Kenneth House;

We now have a regular accompanist on 3 Sundays in the month: Josh Cottam and we welcome his skills.

The Pentecost Revival Assemblies of God are meeting on Sundays from 13.00 to 15.00 hours in the yellow room from April 15th and we pray that they will find a welcome here.

Cafe Church is becoming established but we are still discussing ways of making the process easier to manage. Any suggestions will be welcomed!

Again a big thank you to all who help in any way, remember we are here to assist.

Praise to the Lord our Saviour.

Janet; Lorraine; Asmin; Richard; Andy.

Treasurer's Report

Although we have enough in the general reserves to ensure that we could cover our expenditure for almost 6 months, unfortunately our finances are not looking as healthy as in recent years and some thought needs to go into how we can address this issue.

Figures quoted below compare the equivalent periods (September (start of the Methodist financial year) to the end of March) of last year (2016/2017) with this year 2017/2018.

Income:

- Weekly offering is down by an average of £20
- Income from lettings is down by around £3700 for these 7 months (the playgroup closure accounts for a loss of £2500 in rental income over this time period).

Expenditure:

- Utility bills for gas and electric have increased by around £500, partly as a result of having had several prolonged spells of very cold weather. We have also had

several more events than last year in the church and hall where heating has been required.

- Insurance has increased by just over £200.

Special collections:

- The church congregation continues to be generous in its support of external organisations and has given over £1600 so far to charities such as Shelter Box, Action for Children, Children's Hospice South West, World Mission Fund, Christian Aid, Bristol Methodist Centre and JMA.

Major Project Fund:

- This began the financial year with £2452.41 which was then put towards the cost of the work carried out by the stonemason (replacement of dangerously eroding coping stones above hall and church porches, plus the repointing of joints) in October.
- The proceeds from the Christmas Fayre means that the MPF now stands at £1500. We are very grateful to all those who support the fayres in any way (particularly to Margaret Postlethwaite who spends many, many hours in producing plants for the spring fayre, raising over £1000 alone) as from these two annual events we expect to raise around £3200.

Playgroup savings account:

- A meeting of the Playgroup Committee is scheduled to formally agree to the closure of this account. The balance will be put into the church account and recommendations from the Playgroup Committee as to the possible use of its use will be considered by the Church Council at its next meeting.

On behalf of the church, I would like to thank everyone for their ongoing financial support.

If you feel you are able to increase your giving - either by way of a more regular commitment through the weekly envelope scheme (speak to David Bainbridge or myself if you would like to find out more) or by increasing your existing regular giving, it would be very much appreciated and would go some way towards helping to meet the increased day-to-day running costs as well as the increase in Benevolence-giving and Missional activities.

Helen Wallbridge

Messy Church

Messy Church is now in its tenth year, its sixth year of running monthly.

This year we have explored themes from the Messy Church material about the Still Small Voice, John the Baptist, the Ten Bridesmaids, Christmas through Joseph's eyes, New starts and New beginnings, Family, and Second chances

Interspersed with these themes we have also had the chance to take part in some Messy Adventures based on the Holy Habits programme. The Eating together theme was particularly enjoyed!! Others have included exploring Service and Making Disciples.

Each Saturday there are always a range of activities to help us explore the themes, followed by an act of Worship and then sharing lunch together

By the time you read this we will have shared communion together for the third time having first made our own bread and crushed grapes to make our own Communion wine and even making our own communion table from bamboo canes.

Over the last 3 years we have served refreshments to our dancing friends, many of them now join us for part of Messy church, in between dance classes.

Our congregation is wonderfully diverse and are very loving and caring of each other.

We are also very fortunate to have an excellent team of volunteers who prepare and run activities, lead services and of course provide great food and drink. Thank you.

If you would like to find out more about Messy Church or would like to help with the activities please come and join us every second Saturday of each month from 11am-1pm.

4:12

You are young, but do not let anyone treat you as if you were not important. Be an example to show the believers how they should live. Show them with your words, with the way you live, with your love, with your faith, and with your pure life.

1 Timothy 4:12 (International Children's Version)

We are proud to say we young, important to God, and can provide an example to everyone in how to follow a Christian life.

Over the last year, we have been spending our Sunday evenings playing games, meeting with our friends, eating pizza and learning about the bible through Methodist Church material to explore themes in it. It has been quite a busy year. With the help of the church and a generous donation from the Coop, we have been redecorating the former crèche, furnishing it for us . even spending a night over at church with a trip to IKEA to buy and assemble furniture for the room. We are really pleased with how it looks now! We cooked a thank-you dinner for all those who helped in sorting out the crèche, and enjoyed this time of fellowship together. We decorated a flamingo for this year's Easter trail in Broadmead. Over the next year we are looking forward to spending time with Patrick, where we will start to look at membership of the church, and what it means for us.

If you're at Secondary School or 6th form college (11 . 18) and would like to join us, we meet twice a month, on the 2nd and 3rd Sunday evenings at 5.30 . 7.00pm at Church, with games, pizza and some study time. Please speak to Hannah or Sam, or email them on samandhannahwilliamson@gmail.com if you would like any more information.

Sam and Hannah Williamson

Junior Church

When we look back over the last year there is so much to be thankful for.

We are very blessed to have a lively group of children and young people who confidently join in and ask questions both in Church and in Junior Church.

We are still keeping to our established routine of starting by singing and mentioning each child and adult by name, we then have a time of interactive prayer and then spend time looking at the story for that week. After the story we have a time in smaller groups completing age appropriate activities, which often involve discussion and craft. We usually end our session with more singing and the children love learning new action songs particularly lively Doug Horley action songs complete with sign language . we were so excited that he came, visited and sang for us in our Church Anniversary service! We have also had several young people contributing to family services, reading and taking part in some of the liturgies at Christmas and Easter, which has been lovely.

We also have much younger children and several babies who are looked after in the Crèche.

The children's corner in Church is still being used regularly by children attending our service - we think it is a wonderful use of our worship space.

We would love to have some more helpers and leaders, so if you feel able to help with any age group please talk to one of the Junior Church leaders. Please feel free to come in and see what goes on in Junior Church.

Helen, Shirin, Donna & Hannah

Pastoral Report

Pastoral Visitors lists have been reviewed during the last year and continue to be considered at each pastoral meeting. We appreciated Alison Young volunteering to become a Pastoral Visitor and are always looking for more volunteers. Pastoral Visitors were rededicated on the 7th January 2018.

Church membership is 99. During the past year we have had 5 Baptisms: Rafe Simpson, Jayden Pawsey, Lucy Manners and Aimee & Katie Webb.

3 Deaths in December 2017 Sylvia Martin, Julie Claridge and Sue Walters. Sadly Andrew Leaning died on the 6th April and will be sorely missed from our Church life. We send our sincere condolences to wife Winnie, daughter Jenny and family.

2 Transfers out Liam McKenna and Jamie Warren to Australia and 1 Transfer in Pauline Lush in 2018.

We would like to give thanks for all their contributions to the life and witness of the Church.

The prayer chain is now coordinated by Brenda How and any prayer requests have been passed on very efficiently to named members of Church to circulate as needed. We continue to include names for prayer in the weekly notices.

House groups have been using the Holy Habits material and have been having beneficial discussions helping to grow in their relationship and discipleship with God.

Flowers are distributed each Sunday after the Service and kindly provided by people weekly. Thank you to those who provide, arrange the flowers and then distribute to those who receive a lovely bouquet.

Pam Williams

Property

We are still looking for someone to chair the Property and Finance Committee so if you have any interest in finding out more about what this role entails (or just joining the committee) please ask for further details.

Work during the past year has included:

- Redecoration/refurbishment of the crèche into the 4:12 room, including bespoke floor-to-ceiling cupboards. Unfortunately some of the wooden flooring in one of the corners of the room was found to be rotten so the damp had to be professionally treated. There is still some work needed in the room to reinstall the speakers which enables services to be heard in the crèche. Money is still available from the Co-op grant for additional items which are yet to be purchased.
- Rough sleepers sleeping under the fire escape steps on the north side of the premises caused a lot of disturbance to our neighbours over several months last summer. Howard Wilson and Leroy Taylor fitted a one-way device and made various alterations to the fire escape gate which ensure that this route is no longer accessible from the Gloucester Road end.
- Major work was carried out during the autumn replacing badly damaged (due to age and weathering) - and dangerous - coping stones around the hall roof and the south porch roof of the church, as well as much repointing and clearing of loose stone from the spalling stonework in that area. The roof of the church's north porch is also in need of attention but our roofer is happy that he is able to sort this out. This should be done in the next couple of months.
- Many thanks to David Bainbridge and Cherry Arnal who have spent time decorating the church porches. Cherry will be finishing off the walls once the north porch roof has been made fully watertight.
- Since the unfortunate and sad closure of the playgroup, we have gradually been re-allocating the resulting vacant cupboard space allowing groups to have easier access to their stored items. If your group has need of any storage or would like it to be more accessible than it currently is, please let us know.
- The church premises have had several major safety checks recently including the full electrical installation certification (5-yearly requirement) and the emergency lighting system. A representative from our insurance company also visited to check we are compliant with all its requirements and also to give an updated insurance valuation. The resulting insurance report states that all groups (our own as well as other user groups) need to have their own risk assessments. The Property Committee we will be following this up.
- Our neighbour on Churchways Avenue contacted us during last summer to advise us that she had been having trouble with rats. In an effort to reduce the areas where rats could live, we cut down all the vegetation at the back of our premises and have just had the plants removed from the area outside of Room 1 (rats have been seen here in the past!) and replaced it with turf.
- Finally thanks to all those who have helped in any way with the upkeep of the building, including (but not exclusively limited to): Janet Browning for doing a great job of weeding the courtyard (with a little help from Helen); Jenny and Keith Cornell who cleared most of the brambles etc out the back; and Andy Stevenson who, in spite of his dislike of heights, climbed a ladder (n.b. health and safety

rules WERE followed!) to clear some of the guttering and snowboxes of mud and plants!

The Quinquennial Inspection should have taken place by now so we are expecting to be notified of it at any moment. Meanwhile there will be list of decorating and maintenance jobs which need carrying out put on the table at the back of church. If you feel you are able to help . either individually or to help one of us with a job - please sign-up or ask for more details. All equipment is provided.

Helen Wallbridge on behalf of the HMC Property Committee

Wessex Avenue House Group

In the past year we have not been meeting quite as regularly as previously, but we are changing our time from the evening to the afternoon to help us be an inclusive group. We rely on Cherry and Eurfron to provide transport. We continue to explore the many sides of our Christian life and our faith has been renewed by our studies of Holy Habits. We have made monetary contributions to the church and to the disabled Christian Fellowship.

Joan Lewis

Pam William's House Group Report

Members of our house group continue to meet monthly at each others' homes for fellowship, discussion, bible study and practical activities.

This year the group were keen to share discussion topics from Holy Habits and have followed sections of the resource material alongside copies of the book. We were able to offer views and personal experiences in a comfortable setting. These discussions are led by different members where they feel able. We have also shared an evening of Celtic readings and debated questions from the Alpha course.

As in previous years, several of our group have been involved with the organisation of the Women's World Day of Prayer although this was unfortunately cancelled due to the snow. At our March meeting we began planning and preparation for leading a morning service based on this material which will take place at Horfield in April.

Alison Young kindly organised an outside speaker, Gill Wilding, who spoke to us about her 30 year involvement with Friends for Parents at Bristol Children's Hospital. This organisation operates at the hospital in conjunction with the Chaplain's office. The aim is to provide a listening ear to parents and be a friendly face. The volunteers, mainly women from Mothers' Union, although not exclusively, ensure that the parents rooms are stocked with tea/ coffee and offer opportunities for them to have a hot drink. Many of the parents have travelled long distances to be at the hospital and are often separated from other family members and either stay locally or sleep at the hospital. Volunteers also collect small toiletries as found in hotels and provide a zip lock bag with new face flannel, toothbrush, toothpaste and

toiletries. Our House Group has been active in donating tea and coffee to Friends for Parents as all beverages are donations. Alison has now completed her training to join this group of volunteers at the hospital.

During the past year, as a group we try to support the church in a variety of ways. At the two church fairs, we run the cake and Christmas gifts stall and volunteer our help where needed during the events. We spend an evening wrapping gifts and have been pleased to see this stall become a real feature of the Christmas Bazaar.

In the summer months we have our annual walk led by Margaret. Last June we ventured to the countryside around Tockington where we enjoyed wonderful views and lively conversation. In July we met for an American Supper and in December many of us were able to share a Christmas meal together at the Eastfield Inn - another house group custom!

Wednesday Morning Group (WVG)

Wednesday mornings during term-time, 10am – 11.30am.

Our membership has increased by 50% to three regular members this year (with others dropping in now and again)! Whilst this may seem small in number, we appreciate the time we have together, providing a very important time of fellowship where problems can be discussed and prayed about, and blessings shared and celebrated over a cuppa - and the newly refurbished 4:12 room makes for a very pleasant, comfortable and more up-market venue than before!

Our duties have reduced in recent years and now our only regular commitments are refreshing and replenishing the toys and activities in the bags at the back of church, which are available for children to use during services, and having a termly cleaning session when we spend the morning cleaning and disinfecting some of the toys belonging to the crèche.

Destinations for outings this year have included several visits to church-run (or charity) coffee shops including the Nonesuch Coffee Shop (St. Peter's Hospice, Gloucester Rd), the coffee shop at St Michael's, Stoke Gifford and a church in the centre of Bath. Further afield, we have been to the cathedrals in Gloucester, Wells and Salisbury.

We are always looking for people who enjoy the sort of activities that have been mentioned to join us for WVG, even if it's just dropping in one morning for a one off visit.

To make it easier to know whether we will be meeting at church or elsewhere, we have made the decision to have the following routine:

1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month . at church in the 4:12 room

2nd Wednesday of the month . at church **OR** a local (Bristol) coffee shop

4th and 5th Wednesday . either at church **OR** longer dayoutings (usually 9am . 3.30 or 4pm)

We are currently considering where we might visit this term . a church in Chippenham (with a coffee shop!) is a possibility but we are open to suggestions.

It might be wise to check with me where we are meeting before coming along if you are thinking about joining us on the 2nd, 4th or 5th Wednesday of the month, tel.07767 481445 (Helen W).

Helen Wallbridge, Helen Perkins and Liz Meiklejohn

Prayer Support Team

There are six people in the Prayer Support Team who are on a rota co-ordinated by John Hopper.

Two people sit in the prayer corner at the back of the church each Sunday morning after worship and members of the congregation are invited to join them for prayer or to discuss problems. If no-one comes the members of the prayer support team pray for others who are known to have need of prayer and for each other.

There has been a change in the prayer chain as Linette has resigned from this position. We thank her for all her efforts over such a long time. Brenda has taken over from Linette and will receive prayer requests by phone at any time. She passes this information on to four leaders who in turn ask people on their list to pray. It has all worked well and needs are covered quickly.

Benda How

Worship Consultation

- **Dementia friendly worship**

Due to a mix up with dates Peter Slee was unable to attend our last Worship Consultation meeting to discuss Dementia Friendly Worship. Hopefully this can be rescheduled for our next meeting.

It was proposed that Dementia awareness training be offered within the church.

- **Doug Horley**

Following a successful visit by Doug Horley, it was agreed that something similar should be done in the future . perhaps annually. Hopefully this will provide encouragement for our young people.

- **Past services**

It was noted that the Ash Wednesday service led by Mandy Briggs had gone well and on 25th March the healing service was very well received. Could be offered in morning worship at some future date.

- **Bible Month.**

June has been designated as Bible Month. During this period, preachers are to be invited to focus on Jonah. Where possible, our own preachers are to be planned.

- **Prayer breakfast**

This continues to be held on the second Sunday of the month with the exception 3rd May when it will include Holy Communion.

- **Local arrangement**

We currently face a shortage of Ministers partially due to sickness but likely to be further depleted when some Ministers leave in August with not all being replaced. This means we are likely to have to take more responsibility within our membership for leading worship.

The Local arrangement service planned for 22nd April will be led by Pam Williams house group

- **All Age Worship.**

The AAW on 29th April, will also be a united service with Bishopston.

- **Disability access.**

This is to be reviewed.

- **Gift service.** A suggestion had been received that, in future, these should be held earlier in the year, say October. This would allow for the more timely distribution of gifts, especially money. In addition, a shared service with Parkway should be considered.

- **Mothering Sunday.** Consideration should be given to hold a parade service on Mothering Sunday.

- **Holy Habits.**

A review should be conducted into the adoption and practice of Holy Habits. It was recognised that there may be problems getting members to engage with this in a larger than average church. It was proposed and agreed that the matter should be discussed at the Church AGM.

David Bainbridge

Leprosy Mission

We continue to support the Leprosy Mission. If you would like to know more about this, then please ask me. Perhaps the simplest way you can help is by donating used postage stamps and postcards which I can send off. There is a box at the back of the church for such donations.

Thank you to all who support.

Sheila Lomas

Neighbourhood and Mission

The main focus of the last few months has been exploring ways in which to help the homeless. The plight of the homeless has been highlighted by the exceptionally bad weather this winter. We encourage everyone to think of suitable ways in which they can be involved.

Individual members of the church are actively supporting other organisations such as The Bristol Methodist Centre, The New Room, Churches Together, Horfield Lodge, The Food Bank and the New Place.

We have supported Colston as he has organised the Disabled Christian Fellowship meeting. The group meets every second month and have various foci, from a simple meal to a games session. This is open to all as well as the disabled so please come to support them.

The forming of the film club was discussed at our meetings and Bob has now got this well underway. It was encouraging to see a number of people from the community at the last session and it is proving to be very popular.

We are at this time, thinking of charities which can benefit from our special collections. One suggestion was that we collect to provide toilets in other countries. As well as the obvious advantages, this would help in many ways such as allowing children to spend more time at school and providing a healthier environment.

We plan to hold a charity coffee morning on the fourth Saturday of every month. This is a new initiative in the church and it needs your support. Please try and come each month. In April we shall collect for Joseph's Goal, this is a charity, suggested by Sandy, to help children with a rare health condition. In June, the Parents of the Scouts will hold a sale to collect money for one of their adventures and in July, we shall hold a coffee morning for Christian Aid. In past years we used to make collections for Christian Aid from door to door, but now it is difficult to get enough collectors to cover the many streets in our area. You can help contribute to this charity by supporting this event.

Eurfron Parry

Lunch Club

The lunch Club continues to meet on the second Tuesday of the month. Approximately 25 people meet for food and fellowship. We have been fortunate in having extra helpers to prepare and clear away. We are very grateful all those who come along to help. The people who come for the meal always express their thanks. We give some money to the church for heating and lighting and we also buy kitchen equipment and sundries.

Eurfron & John Parry

Film Club

We started our first Film Club on 25th May 2017 and it takes place every 4 to 6 weeks on a Thursday evening beginning at 19:00 and finishes around 21:00. We have had a positive start with approximately 10 people attending the opening night with numbers growing at each session. Our latest film night on 22nd March 2018 had an audience of 20 people.

We either borrow or buy the latest movies which are suitable for all the family to enjoy. The projector works well but because we are projecting onto a wall, as the evenings get lighter, we could do with a more reflective surface.

We have an excellent team with Donna and Cherry working hard on hospitality whilst I project.

As an outreach Project, we are building a strong relationship with Kenneth House where we normally get two or three of the residents attending. We have also had in the audience attendees from the Orthodox Church and the Holy Trinity as well as a group of eight from Saint Marys, Gainsborough Square, Lockleaze with good reviews for the last film. We positively encourage wheelchair users and special needs from the community

The audience footprint is getting bigger as we try to show films that will appeal to all age groups eg, animation, fact based, science fiction etc. At the end of the movie we gauge feedback from the audience as to what type of film the majority would wish to see next.

We do not charge for the film Club but we ask for donations for the refreshments to which we have contributed a reasonable amount to the collection plate once a month.

Bob Walters

Art Group

The Art Group has continued to maintain its numbers and has, in fact, recruited two or three new members.

We are pleased that our friends from Kenneth House join us whenever they can and have taken some of their framed pictures to hang on their walls.

We could always do with some new faces (no skills required). Why not pop in on a Friday from 2 o'clock till 4 o'clock, if only to see what goes on and have a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit (sometimes cake!)

John Parry

Craft Group

A few of us meet on the second Thursday of the month to make different items and to share our knowledge and ideas. We were able to make items for the Christmas Fair and we are building up a stock of items for other sales etc.

Eurfron Parry

Novel Group

The Novel Group meets, roughly, every six weeks, giving ourselves time to read even the lengthiest tome.

We are, at the moment, a group of six members, who would happily welcome anyone else who cared to join us, always on a Thursday morning.

Our tastes in fiction: what we look for in novels, our views on what we read, vary hugely, of course, and this leads to lively discussion which we all enjoy.

Sandra Lloyd.

Scrabble group

The Scrabble group continues to meet on alternate Tuesday afternoons. We are a small group whose numbers have often been augmented by people from Kenneth House. We would love it if more people could join us.

Little Fishes Toddler Group

Fridays during term-time, 10am – 11.30am

Little Fishes continues to thrive with 42 toddlers on the register. We always love it when one of our mums has a new baby and in recent months six lovely, cuddly babies have been born!

Each week we have a table with a different craft activity, such as making animal masks, story cards, stencilled pictures, playdoh, cutting and sticking. On the third Friday of each month the story and craft activity is based on a Biblical theme; amongst other things, the children have made a *climbing Zacchaeus* to climb up a picture of a tree. More recently, they rolled up pieces of cut green paper to make palm leaves to wave during the Easter celebration led by Patrick in the church. At the end of this, and with much excitement, each child received a small Easter Egg and Easter Story booklet. The Easter holidays saw some of our toddlers and their families taking part in the Flamingo Trail around Broadmead and Cabot Circus to spot the flamingo they helped decorate with hearts (*Loving our Differences*).

At the end of our weekly sessions we finish with a story and songs. One of our favourite songs is *Sleeping Bunnies* when, for approximately 5 seconds during each verse (whilst they are *sleeping* on the floor) there is an amazing sight of lots of otherwise lively toddlers all perfectly still and quiet until they *wake up* and proceed

to jump, hop, stamp, flap or crawl around (depending on the type of animal that was sleeping)!

Regular annual events include the summer picnic on Horfield Common, and a Christmas celebration in the church followed by a Christmas party. Instead of our usual coffee morning in aid of the Macmillan charity this year, however, we decided to support Children's Hospice South West. It was a great success with many busy parents finding the time at home to bake cakes to sell during the morning, raising an amazing £100.

This term we are looking forward to having a visit one morning from some creatures (and their keeper!) from Noah's Ark Zoo Farm. Other planned activities include planting flowers, making a Father's Day card/gift and the summer picnic on Horfield Common.

We are often told by the parents how much they value Little Fishes, citing the friendliness and care shown by our wonderful volunteers as one of the main reasons for this. We are fortunate in having had two mums (Marion and Ali) join us on the rota this year as their children are now at school. However, a couple of volunteers have had to leave us but we thank them very much for all they have done. If anyone is interested in joining us on the Helpers' Rota once a month or more, please do let me (or Eurfron) know. We could really do with more help. There are a range of roles: making refreshments . . . giving out the refreshments . . . at the door welcoming . . . talking to the adults/playing with the children . . . manning the craft table . . . clearing away.

Helen Wallbridge

158th Bristol Brownies

Our busy year continues. We have made use of outside organisations during the past year such as visiting Rowe Vets at Filton, Pets at Home Eastgate, Dementia Care training and we had a speaker from Cats Protection. We held a joint craft evening with Horfield Baptist Brownies, went to Henleaze School for their firework evening and did our annual Torchlight Walk and Chip Supper. Our Christmas meal was once again at Pizza Hut.

Alexis from Scouts came along one evening and caused lots of excitement as he instructed the Brownies to protect an uncooked egg then launch it off the top of the fire escape. One survived! We had a lady from the Council come to help us fill in a survey about the Horfield area and what children would like in the area. We made posters and displayed them in a Brownies window in Horfield for Window Wanderland. Picture below.

Sara worked towards and passed her Pack Holiday License this year at Tytherington with a theme of Zoos. We visited The Wild Place, held a Zoo Party with fancy dress, made mosaic rainbows, monkey door hangers, lion and hippo pencil tops, fimo lions, held a Brownies Own service, had a movie night and watched Sing whilst

eating popcorn !, painted a zoo on a big sheet, made ice-cream monkeys and went to Winter Stream for Sunday lunch. We also had the much anticipated water slide!!

We did our usual Easter and Christmas crafts, Mother Day and Fathers Day activities and decorated the church for the May and Christmas Fayre and for Remembrance Sunday and ran a stall at both fayres. We also helped run a family service with Patrick's help to celebrate 158th Brownies 80th Birthday.

Normal+Brownie evenings included First Aid, Soup Making and a sing song (toasting marshmallows of course) and we are soon to start our Kilimanjaro Badge with a 10,000 step activity.

Sue Pollard - Brown Owl



62nd Bristol (Horfield Methodist) Scout Group

The last year has been yet another fabulous rollercoaster ride at 62nd, across all sections.

Youth numbers across the whole Group total in the region of 160. All sections maintain very healthy numbers with an overall lengthy waiting list to join each section. Whilst we only have one Beaver Colony, we have had two Cub Packs and two Scout sections for quite some time now. The newer of the two Troops, Wednesday, is now well established, with the original Scouts who joined very young, now about to move on towards Explorers. We have also had a healthy number of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts achieving the respective Chief Scouts Awards for their sections.

Whilst it is not a part of 62nd Group, instead run by Cabot District, we have been lucky enough to have a new Explorer Unit open up. They use our hut as their base; their first meeting was in the Autumn Term last year and filled up instantly. Mostly with our Scouts but it is there for all the Groups in the local area. It is some of these ex-62nd Scouts who are heading off to exciting places all in the name of Scouts. 10 in total are off to either the World Scout Jamboree in the USA 2019 or to Nepal, in October 2018, to host a Jungle Jamboree for local Scouts.

We have an excellent team of leaders most of whom are settling comfortably into their respective sections. We have had the pleasure to welcome new faces. Sadly, it also means we lose people, with some familiar faces moving on towards university and so forth.

The Group Executive, that oversees the running of 62nd, has seen some changes. Our Chair Don Pritchard has stepped aside to become secretary, whilst Phil Osborne has become Group Chair. The Exec are currently organising a family camp to River Dart Country Park, Devon for May later this year. We are expecting nearly 200 members and their families to join the fun. The Exec are also planning a BBQ in July on the field, all welcome!

As a Group, we have attended last year's St George's Day at Clifton Cathedral. We have also fundraised together with our annual Christmas Tree Sales. As mentioned, we are also holding a family camp and BBQ.

Each section has been working furiously! Beavers have had animal encounters, lots of craft, planting flowers and an excellent trip with other District Beavers to SS Great Britain and Bristol Docks.



The Cub packs have held a recent weekend camp; the original destination to Cheddar was cancelled due to the snow. However, an excellent snowy weekend was hosted at Horfield Methodist Church.



The Scouts have been equally busy, with growing numbers each troop have utilised the Hall more often, most recently for a thoroughly entertaining (yet loud) night of steel drums.



Last August the Scout Troops flew over to the Netherlands for a camp near Delft. Cycling was the highlight of the week, as was the excellent local transport of trams and trains. We were able to visit Anne Frank's house as well as get exceptionally muddy in the local canals!



Once again, thank you very much to the support, warmth and kindness we receive from the people at Horfield Methodist Church. As a Group that has grown tremendously over the years your support and assistance has been truly appreciated and quite simply fantastic!