

TOOTHILL CHURCH

Part of the

West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Ecumenical Church Partnership



Annual Report 2020

Presented at the AGM March 7th 2021

And

AGM 2021

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From our Minister

I am very grateful to the Committee who have done a lot of work over the last year even though we haven't been able to meet in our building. They have had to maintain the fabric of the building and make sure that all is well while it is not in regular use; keep accounts up to date and look for ways to save money; perform a thorough Risk Assessment and plan for how we can open safely when that becomes possible; keep in touch with all the families who are part of Tinies and Friday Club. All of these things are behind the scenes so to speak, and you may not have noticed that they have been happening.

In addition to that, members of the Committee have facilitated our worship as a church family, providing the means for online services and Bible studies to happen as well as the materials that have been used on these occasions.

Although the building has been closed, there seems to have been a huge amount going on! I am grateful to all of you who have supported the Committee in many ways, not least by joining in worship and helping our bonds of fellowship to grow.

Reverend Rachael Wilson

Children's outreach 2020

Toothill Tinies and Friday club was able to meet from January 2020 till middle of March 2020 before the corona virus lockdown. We averaged around 28 children attending Friday club weekly during this time and around 18 toddlers and their parents attending Tinies.

During the spring of 2020 we were able to deliver food parcels (donations from Westlea councillor Suraj Gutapur and from our own packs of food before the shutdown). We delivered this to members of our groups and random families that responded to our Facebook offer to help families in need.

Christmas 2020 we donated 5 huge food parcels donated from the church to 3 families from Oliver Tomkins school and two members from our own congregation.

We started an online youth club from October 2020 to date and have 6 regular attendees.

We organised an outdoor carols service which attracted just over 45 people, most of whom are not even our regular group attendees. We received comments like "this is a really good thing to attend as we have been locked at home for most part of the year" amongst many other comments.

Rebecca Bondah

Music Group 2020

We had just started to rehearse a new song to open the 2020 Easter service when practises had to stop with the first lock down last March. May be we will sing it for Easter 2022!

Over this last year we have mostly kept in contact through WhatsApp and phone calls from time to time. As the first lock down ended, we were able to meet twice over July and August, socially distanced, in our back garden for tea, chat and lots of cake. Joyous occasions.

We sorely miss being able to sing together and I hope to have much better news of the Music Group for next year's AGM report.

Nicola Hoar

Bible study group

A group of members have met for Bible Study using Zoom this year. We began by discussing our favourite Bible passages and what they meant to us. We then explored the Letter to the Colossians. In 2021 we read the Letter to Titus and in Lent we are working through the Archbishop of Canterbury's recommended book Living his Story.

Rachel Dowling

Toothill church AGM 2021

Welcome

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Approves minutes of last year's meeting (approved at the time by Church Committee)

Toothill Church AGM March 1st 2020

Present Michael Black, Rhoda Bolton, Rebecca Bondah, Mark & Rachel Dowling, Diana Doyle, Geraldine Hambridge, David & Nicola Hoar, Eileen Huck, Eddie Koppoe, Gordon & Jan Partridge.

Apologies: Emma Applegate, Emmanuel Bondah, Tony Fairfoull.

Last year's minutes were agreed subject to changing Emma's name.

The 2019 annual report was adopted by AGM, subject to adding church statistics.

It was agreed to invite the Youth Club run by Becky Bondah to meet in Toothill Church at a discounted rent, to cover running costs. This group was funded by West Swindon Parish, so was a community rather than a church group.

AGM made its annual commitment to safeguarding.

The financial report was presented and 2020 Budget agreed.

It was agreed that elections were by show of hands.

Secretary – Emma Applegate

Treasurer – Mike Black

Stewards – No elections required this year

David Hoar – 1 year

Mark Dowling - 1 year

Emma Applegate - 2 years

Tony Fairfoull – 2 years

Committee members elected for one year

Becky Bondah

Rachel Dowling

Graham Stockill

Eddie Koppoe

Hazel Stacey

David Hoar's 3 year licence to preside at communion had gone forward for consideration at URC synod.

AGM was updated on the special partnership meeting

Approve 2020 Annual Report

Re-affirm our commitment to safeguarding as set out on the Partnership website

<https://wswinyd.org.uk/council/policy/safetogrow.html>

Election of officers and committee members

Due to the difficult circumstances the Church Committee recommend that the elections are deferred for one year and that all officers and committee members duly elected in 2020 remain in post until then (see last year's AGM minutes above).

Membership statistics

We currently have 31 adult members.

Finance

Receive year end accounts for 2020

Approve budget for 2021