

Combined Reports for CMM 22/03/22

CBBC and Youth

Due to lockdown, bags of mini eggs were delivered through letter boxes this Easter but, at last, Real Advent calendars could be given to our children and young people in person in late November. Our birthday card ministry continued throughout the year, thanks to Lena. Sadly, it has not been possible to organise outreach events, but the Superheroes party, although not a CBBC event, was very much enjoyed by our children and provided great outreach! So did the intergenerational services in July and August. After a long period of lockdowns and restrictions, it was great to get back into church together, and these services both entertained and stimulated our children and youth and enabled families to worship together in a safe and secure setting throughout the summer. Summer sessions ended and we returned to CBBC and Youth sessions in September. New families joined us during this time, bringing 26 children into CBBC/Youth!

CBBC celebrated with a 'back together' party, then settled into a series on the awesomeness of God, learning that the Bible isn't just a series of separate stories but God's big story, with Jesus at its centre. We learnt that we are accepted by God no matter what we do: this isn't something we have to earn, and doesn't depend on what others think of us. Children learnt that they are given a choice by a loving God: do they want to follow Jesus? Jesus loves us but doesn't force us to love him back: he wants us to choose to. He is still talking to God the Father on our behalf, and encourages us to talk back to him.

During this time, we reviewed our safeguarding policies and practices, practiced our fire drill, and reviewed and updated our admin records.

Numbers in attendance are currently low due to the rise in Omicron infection rates, family illness and isolation requirements, and the CBBC and Youth teams also change due to personal and family circumstance, but we continue to create opportunities for our children and young people to explore the Bible, to respond to its teachings and to develop a personal faith in Jesus. We continue in all three groups – 3-5, 6-9 and 10-14/16 – to talk about our lives, our hopes, fears and aspirations, and to pray into those together and for each other. As Catherine steps down from Youth leadership at the end of January, we would all like to thank her for her commitment to working with our young people, and for sharing her faith with them in such a real and meaningful way.

Annette

Youth group

It has been great to start meeting together as a youth group again. We have spent some time getting to know each other through games and conversation as we have had new members move up into youth. We started a series from Mission Academy

Live, helping us to think about sharing our faith with friends. This involved short video clips with time for questions and discussions.

We have paused this for the moment while we start to dig into the bible for short studies.

A big thank you to the youth team and Annette for all of your support and work with the youth.

Catherine

Do please continue to prayerfully consider whether you could join the CBBC/Youth team, as either a leader or a supporter.

The CBBC/Youth team

January 2022

Fabric Report

Church Buildings

As per the last report we only have 4 outstanding jobs from last year.

- 1 Three window panes blown in the Church.
- 2 Replace florescent lights in Church X6.
- 3 Conservatory roof still leaking down wall. Second repair needed.
- 4 Paint ceiling in Ridgeway Hall.

We do not see any major works required this year. We will be doing an up date and refresh on the front entrance and a refit/paint to the rear entrance.

There will also be some ventilation work undertaken in the disabled toilet at the rear entrance. Plus, we need to water prof the back wall of the church on the outside.

Manse

The water supply problem has been sorted and a new water supply has been fitted.

We need to have the outside walls pointed up as the mortar between the bricks is failing. Prices needed for the work to be done.

Other items

We need to look at the parking needed re the grass area to the road side of the Church due to the Garage next door still going for plaining on the property. (New updated planning has been put in).

The roof over the Rigby Lounge will be inspected over the year to see how it is holding up.

Colin Russell, Fabric Deacon.

Foodbank Report

Bentley Baptist Community Foodbank has continued to provide food parcels to individuals and families who are in need.

Between January and September, email referrals were received from various agencies and support workers. As a result, an average of 26 people were supported each week. The food parcels were home-delivered, and we are so grateful to the volunteers who used their vehicles to make this possible.

As Covid restrictions eased, most home deliveries ended, and from October, alongside the continuing email referrals, which are now collected, we opened up for walk-in self-referral. This has increased the number of people receiving help to 46 per week on average.

The addition of walk-in referrals has allowed us to talk with clients over a drink and biscuit. We are assisted by someone from Creative Support, who is able to give advice and help to clients if requested. Thanks also to The Visual Group, who generously provided the external sign free of charge.

There has been significant financial support from Doncaster Council and South Yorkshire's Community Foundation. We are also grateful to the support of both food and money we receive from local churches, particularly St Peter's and Bentley Pentecostal church.

I would like to thank all our volunteers for their commitment each week to supporting those who need food.

Ruth Bellerby
Sue Parker
Graham Simpson
Dianne Clifton
Moiria Miller
Ken Taylor
Cyril Jackson
Amy Lanelly
Peter Plant

God bless.

Phil Stevenson
Manager

Open the Book

Sadly, it is 2 years since we were able to go into schools on a regular basis because of the pandemic. In order to maintain contact and provide Bible stories we have made videos which the schools have really appreciated. We are indebted to Adrian and Connie who willingly gave their time and expertise to produce these.

We did go to Arksey for a special year 6 final assembly in July and we supplied the 'It's your move' booklets for all year 6 pupils in the three schools.

New Village school welcomed us back in the Autumn term and we were able to fit in two assemblies before Christmas and we are hoping to continue this in the current term.

We were invited to join in a roving Nativity around Arksey organised by the school because they were unable to invite parents into school and we were really pleased to take part in the introduction and narrated parts.

Pauline joined the New Village team and her creativity in designing costumes and props

has really enhanced our presentations.

It has been encouraging to be able to maintain the good relationship with heads and staff in spite of all the restrictions.

A big thank you to all the team members for their commitment and willingness to rise to all the challenges. Please continue to pray for them and the schools as we seek to share the Good news of God's love with them.

Jenny Stephenson

Safe Guarding Report

2021

1. All DBS checks are up to date.
2. A meeting was held with Joel to discuss safe guarding in the church. Joel decided that we would probably adopt the BUGB 2020 safe guarding policy template and he would discuss this with the elders. This can be seen via the link below

[The Baptist Union of Great Britain : Model Safeguarding Policy and Procedures](#)

(Nothing has changed yet so we are still using the 2018 safe guarding policy at present).

3. In October Gill started to look for providers to do safe guarding training for those working with children and vulnerable adults at BBC.
4. The risk assessment for CBBC and Youth was updated by Gill and Annette in September.
5. A new risk assessment for creche was created by Gill and Jenny in October.
6. Lanyards have been introduced for leaders and supporters in CBBC and Youth. There are also lanyards for the play workers in creche. Gill still needs to explain to those helping in creche about the risk assessment and the lanyards.

2022 Vision

1. DBS checks need to be completed for new volunteers in creche/CBBC and there are a number of DBS checks which need to be renewed.
2. The safe guarding policy needs to be updated and available in church, Renew 127 and online.
3. Trustees, deacons, safe guarding lead and those working with children and vulnerable adults need to do Level 2 safe guarding training.

This will be held in church on Saturday 11th June and delivered by YBA.

Trustees, deacons and safe guarding lead need to do the safe guarding training Level 3 once Level 2 is completed.

More details regarding the training will be given nearer to the time. This training covers all aspects of safe guarding but is specific for volunteering in a church setting.

Gill Beams

Website & Social Media

Over the last year we have moved from everything church being online, to being able to meet in person once again. Since we begin to gather in person, I have felt that it was important to discern what online content needs to continue and what has now served its purpose. The general approach to social media content has also changed - now that we are running sermon series themes, I try to keep all social media content within that theme so that it compliments the sermon and helps to keep it in people's minds for the week. Sometimes this can be a story or reflection based on that theme or perhaps even tips for applying the recent teaching to daily life.

Website

Back in February I was given the task to redesign and rebuild the website. Whilst the old website was perfectly functional, there was a LOT of tabs and content – it was overly complex. The purpose of the new build was to strip back and simplify, leaving just the information that was really needed and present it in a way that made everything easy to find. Although it ended up being a much bigger job than I originally anticipated, I believe we now have a nice user friendly website which highlights exactly who we are as a church and what's important to us.

Facebook

During the last year the number of followers of our Facebook page has seen a slight increase but nothing too dramatic – we currently have 509s likes and 530 followers. What has increased though, is how many people are seeing our posts, particularly videos. Our videos have reached hundreds and in some cases thousands of people which is really encouraging. (Highest watched video has reached 2243 people.) We've also seen a lot more people interacting and commenting on our posts which is great.

Instagram

We launched our Instagram page in March 2021, it still has quite a small following but I have noticed that we now seem to be getting more views from people who aren't followers. I'm experimenting with different hash tags to see how I can get us 'out there' more effectively and grow the page. What has been an encouragement though is that we do get almost as much post interaction on Instagram as we do on Facebook, despite us having a lot less followers.

YouTube

Back at the beginning of last year, when we were still only having online services, I decided to change up the intro to our services to make it more personal (and professional looking) to our church. With some tweaks from Joel, I feel we managed to produce a service intro that really speaks who we are what we are about for any new people watching us for the first time. Further into the year I also started to produce my own lyric videos for use in the services, I felt that this was a good way to keep continuity throughout the service and it also helps give a more professional feel. When we started gathering again in church, I was unsure how many people would watch online however, whilst numbers do vary, on a whole we generally have as many people watching online throughout the week as we do in church on a Sunday! I have been made aware that we have people who quite regularly watch our service who are not local so it has been great that they can join with us this way. I know there has also been a few people who watched us online before deciding whether they would like to come join us in church for the first time and so it has almost been a 'taster session' for new people.

Joel started making content for weekly vlogs and although we don't get many views for this on YouTube, I suspect it is because most people are watching them on Facebook instead. However, we have been starting to get lots of likes and comments more frequently, so I do think that those who are watching them are getting something out of them.

Most notably this year between, September and October we gained just over 750 subscribers to our channel! We've had a steady increase since and now have 1090 subscribers. What has been a real blessing is that at 1000 subscribers it unlocks the community feature which means I can now make posts on YouTube in the same way I would on Facebook or Instagram. This gives me the opportunity to have a way to try and engage more personally with our subscribers and give them a place where they can respond.

Vision for 2022

I think it important to remember now more than ever, that this a ministry and not just a provision. It needs to be about more than just making something that looks nice and needs to help people on their discipleship journey.

Right now, I think that our online ministry very much relates to the 'explore the Christian Faith' step in the discipleship journey and of course it is my vision that this will continue throughout 2022. I want people who are curious about God to easily come across our content, on whatever platform they choose to use. I want us to be creating content that gets people 'hooked' so they want to find out more. I believe a lot of this 'exploring' content is also great teaching and life application for those who are already committed Christians.

In this next year I want us to hear stories about people who have made a commitment to Jesus because of our online content. Myself and Joel have discussed

ideas to make a future video series that looks at Christian's basics and I feel that this could be where that becomes a reality.

I feel that we have created a great online church that is almost a perfect substitute for in person church however it lacks the fellowship side of things. This year I want to find a way to be able to share fellowship with our online church members. What shape or form this will take I honestly can't say, but I am seeking God's guidance in this.

Hannah Cassell
Digital Resource Leader

Women's Ministry

To say the last 2 years have been challenging is an understatement and I know many of us have struggled through, but I am always blessed to see and hear how many women, looked out for one another and kept in constant contact during the lockdown periods.

Some of our life groups moved to zoom meetings where we were able to keep in contact, support and seeking God in the midst of the storm going on around us. Those who couldn't go online, telephone conversation and prayer requests going through WhatsApp really helped, we were able to remain together, to praise God for answers to prayer and really pray into situations when needed.

Year on year the women of Bentley Baptist Church are truly amazing with their love for God and their love for one another.

We did finally manage to get back together towards the end of last year and we even managed to hold a ladies coffee morning, where new ladies in church, ladies from renew and ladies who had not managed to get back to the Sunday services were able to come, feel comfortable in a safe and relaxed environment to drink coffee, eat cake and chat! Something that wasn't too difficult for us ladies to do!!

As we go into 2022, we are excited that we can once more look forward to see what God's plan is for us. A lot of us maybe need reminding that it is ok to not be ok and that God's love is unconditional and no matter how each one feels, He is waiting there for us to fall back into His presence and be filled with His Holy Spirit.

We have a great set of life groups that run regularly each week, where women can do life together and dig in deeper to help build their relationship with God. We still feel that these are an integral part of the discipleship journey. We have welcomed

many 'new' women into church recently where some are already attending life groups.

Along with the regular weekly meetings we are planning to hold a couple of events during this year, to help build up our ladies, to encourage them in their own relationships with God and some events that we can invite our non-Christian friends along to as well.

I know I have the privilege of heading up the women's ministry area but I have a fantastic group of ladies to help me, true women of God which can only mean that God has great things in store for us all and I for one, am excited to see where this next part of the journey takes us.

Lorraine Jackson