



## Churches Together in Keynsham and Saltford Report for the Keynsham Parish APCM 01/04/22 – 31/03/2023

**“Churches Together in England unites in pilgrimage those Churches in England which, accepting God’s revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God”.**

This declaration is on the home page of the Churches Together in Keynsham and Saltford website.

Nothing is able to flourish without the underpinning of constant prayer and the annual week of Prayer for Christian Unity sets the year in motion, with prayer walks, children’s activities and group and individual prayer providing a strong sense of unity.

Churches Together in Keynsham and Saltford was 30 years old in 2022 and celebrated our anniversary with celebrations and activities over the weekend of 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> June, including a concert at the bandstand, a Picnic in the Park, and a new event called ‘We are Movement’ which seeks to empower and equip young people to be all that God has called them to be. CTKS are pleased to confirm that ‘We Are Movement’ will become an annual event.

Like most organisations, CTKS experienced some difficulties over the last few years due to Covid and some of our activities had to be curtailed, but we are now fully operational again. In addition CTKS is now offering more support for the community with other various activities as and when needed that are becoming regular events.

**Ecumenical Alpha Course** An Ecumenical Alpha Course started on the 18<sup>th</sup> April, at St Dunstan’s Church. The course is designed to share the bigger questions in life for those new to faith or ‘seasoned’, and begins every week with a welcoming meal.

**Christian Aid:** The Christian Aid committee consists of only two people – Wendy Robbins and Tina Stubbs. The Soup Lunch was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> March and the The Big Brekkie Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May at the Keynsham Baptist Church and the Christian Aid 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday service 30<sup>th</sup> April, at the Victoria Methodist Church, Queens Road.

**Friends in Need:** earlier in the year, there was a temporary break in this service due to the drivers observing the pandemic rules. When the pandemic regulations were eased the drivers were able to return and FIN is now fully operational again, but more volunteers are needed.

**The Food Bank:** the Food Bank continues its vital work in the community and is now under new management. There is an urgent need for volunteers to fill the following positions: Trustees, Project Manager, Admin Co-ordinator, Website and Social Media Manager.

**Outreach to Older People (Oops):** Services are being held in local care homes and Christmas Carol services were planned for Kingfisher Lodge, Saltford, Mostyn Lodge and the Chocolate Quarter. The Meryton Place Care Home on Bath Road has just opened and an Oops team has already arranged a visit.

**Schools Team:** The importance of Schools Team going to schools cannot be underestimated. Open the Book Team continues at Saltford School. The annual distribution of Bibles to Year 3 pupils is funded by donations at the Lent Series talks but this year, following approval, it is hoped the booklet *'Its your Move'* may be distributed instead. This is made up of helpful information and advice for children making the move from primary to secondary school. *'It's Your Move'* also gives churches another way to serve their local schools and provides a mechanism for churches to make first contact with local schools if they don't already have a relationship.

**Believe Together Radio and the Lighter Show:** since the inauguration of the 'Believe Together' and the 'Lighter Show' radio programmes were inaugurated, both programmes have gone from strength to strength, offering music, prayers and a light hearted approach to life and can be found on KTCRfm Peter and Jenny Morgan and Simon Bright and their production teams are very much in need of volunteers to assist with the programme planning and recording.

**Meditation Groups:** the meditation groups at St Dunstan's and the Methodist Church continue to give respite from the daily demands of life.

***Futura Learning Partnership (formerly Wellsway Multi Academy Trust):***

Pip Lovell, Youth Worker at St John's Church, is now working as Chaplain at Wellsway School on Pip was commissioned at the St John's Candlemas service in January 2022 and said she has found a real need and hopes for future development of her role. Earlier this year Malcolm Broad, Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Futura Learning Partnership, gave us a most interesting overview of the challenges facing Education with particular emphasis on all our local schools, and encouraged the need for strong pastoral care.

The Lent Series Talks were themed on the Gospel of Mark with a performance of 'I Am Mark' by Stephan Smart as a forerunner to the talks.

***Recent events in 2023:***

The Good Friday service at St John's was followed by the Walk of Witness and the service at Market Walk. Hot cross buns and tea/coffee hosted by the Baptist Church were a very welcome treat.

CTKS had a table at the Keynsham Spring Show on March 25<sup>th</sup> 2023.

Soup lunch in aid of Christian Aid on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Christian Aid is being run by Wendy Robinson and Tina Stubbs and more helpers are needed – BUT even so well over £1000 given at Christmas.

Worship & Testimony Evening held on Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> with about 30 people in attendance. A second evening is planned for April.

***Christians against Poverty (CAP):*** After years of hard work by a dedicated team, and due to circumstances beyond CTKS control, a decision has been made to temporarily halt the

negotiations to establish CAP (Christians Against Poverty) in Keynsham. Ros Durrant, CTKS Chair, has been discussing ways forward with Sian Hearsey the Regional CAP Manager.

***Environment Day/Eco Festival:*** Cultural Consortium Heritage Action Zone Bid

Following the success of the Eco Festival CTKS have been invited to have an “Eco event” during the Keynsham Music Festival (on 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of July) – so this year there will not be a formal Eco Festival in October, though some events will be planned.

***All these events need volunteers to help!***

Huge thanks to all the clergy and volunteers who help with the CTKS activities and events.

Each church in Keynsham and Saltford can be represented at Council and Executive meetings. The Council meets 4 or 5 times a year and CTKS needs more Representatives. You can be involved to a level which suits you. We are also looking for a Vice chair and people to join the Executive team. If you would like to be involved in any of the activities or events mentioned, and more, please contact Chair Ros Durrant, Secretary June Lowe, your Representative or clergy. Tel Ros 0117 2398669 email: [rmdurrantenroute@gmail.com](mailto:rmdurrantenroute@gmail.com), June Lowe 0117 9860097, email: [juneannel@talktalk.net](mailto:juneannel@talktalk.net)

CTKS acknowledges with grateful thanks the strong support from all the churches and clergy in Keynsham, which has been consistent and steadfast and without which there would be less progress towards the connection and support of the local community. Volunteers are vital and needed to ensure that CTKS activities and involvement in the local community continues.

June Lowe  
CTKS Secretary