

## **APCM Reports 2022**

### **St Tim's and The Vine APCMs 2022**

#### **Curate's Report**

It has been a delight and a privilege for me to join St Tim's and The Vine as curate. Everyone has been incredibly welcoming and supportive, and I couldn't have wished for a better training situation. My sincere thanks to everybody, and most particularly to Will.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the many and varied opportunities I have had to share in our public worship, preaching and leading on Sunday mornings and (at St Tim's) on Wednesday lunchtimes; speaking at the Harbour service on Sunday evenings at St Tim's; conducting baptisms and funerals; and leading our online morning prayer time, Vine Light Daily. It was very special to lead the outdoor service of Remembrance at Wardsend Cemetery. And I appreciated the challenge of putting together our Advent preaching series and notes for home groups, leading the benefice Lent Course on the Character of Discipleship, and facilitating our joint deanery Living in Love and Faith course. It was particularly joyful to lead and preach at the Easter Sunday service at St Tim's this year.

Some of the things I have done in my deacon's year so far have been less visible. I loved helping organise and lead the Walkley School Christmas assemblies at St Bart's with Andy Wilcock from Hampden View Wesleyan Reformed Church. It's been a privilege to visit people pastorally, as a mentor, or for baptism preparation. I've helped behind the scenes on occasions such as cooking for Alpha, helping on the day with the St Tim's Christmas tree festival or The Vine pancake party, and helping serve and chat with people at the Wednesday Lunch Club. I've put together rotas and prepared children's activities. And I've received such a lot from you all too, not least through the Week of Accompanied Prayer.

Outside the parish context, I've appreciated being able to continue teaching New Testament Greek and Biblical Studies for St Hild – it was a delight to teach a couple of you on the Greek course! – and to contribute Bible reading notes for Scripture Union's Encounter with God series. I have found my ongoing curates' training in various aspects of ministry and leadership to be helpful and interesting, and I hugely appreciate the time, wisdom (and coffee!) Will has shared with me in our weekly supervisions. But perhaps most importantly, I have been growing in rhythms of prayer, learning how to organise and find balance in a life of ministry that is full, varied, and often unpredictable, and deepening my practices of theological reflection and study.

Amy Hole

#### **Wardens Report APCM 2022**

Yet again the pandemic altered our plans for building use but now as we hopefully come fully out of Covid we will have to reassess the buildings and their maintenance.

Both buildings have had only pretty much essential maintenance during this year but over the next 12 months there will have to be significant expenditure.

The subsidence at Stephens has worsened around the porch and we are now having reports done which will be followed by underpinning. Thankfully it will only need to be in the Porch area.

The electrics at Barts in terms of heating and lighting will have to be restructured this year.

Thankfully both buildings are now being used regularly. The Rock have now left Stephens but we have been grateful to them for using it and for the income stream. They in turn were very grateful to us for allowing them to rent it.

Their place has now been taken by St Phillips who are using the building during the week and on weekends.

IMHOP are also regularly using Stephens which is great.

As we have returned to “normal”, rotas have started again and the Wardens are very grateful to those that share Sunday wardening duties, are on coffee rotas and have kept the garden clean and tidy. The tech team have also taken on quite a lot of responsibility with streaming etc. and this will only increase as we look at maybe a worship team in the future.

As we gather more and grow as a church, rotas inevitably follow so please let us know if you would like to be involved in helping out.

A massive thank you to the PCC and Standing Committee from the Wardens for all their help and encouragement and particular thanks to Will and Amy who make the wardens lives so easy especially as they are in turn very busy.

A very BIG THANK YOU to Jackie our administrator who does so much to help the Wardens and The Vine.

## **THE VINE SHEFFIELD HOUSE OF PRAYER AT ST. STEPHEN'S REPORT TO APCM, MAY 2022**

### **Introduction**

Over the course of this last year, The House of Prayer at St. Stephen's has moved from it's embryonic forms within the covid years, to the tentative steps of a growing community. This report is based on the report given to PCC in March of 2022.

At the Away Day in September 2021, PCC considered a number of “next steps” to take. These included considering a reallocation of designated funds, investing in our Sunday worship (including a children's and family worker), and receiving and responding to the S6 Mission Audit (which has begun to be actioned). The other area of consideration was “with regard to a sustainable worshipping community in Netherthorpe/Upperthorpe”, which had been on our heart for a while, and the “next steps” from the PCC Away Day included:

6) *To continue the exploration towards developing a “Sustainable Worshipping Community” as a community within the communities of The Vine.*

7) *To continue the activities of the House of Prayer and attend to some of the minor maintenance needed to improve it’s amenity. [Taking into account, for instance, the recently observed subsidence issue at St. Stephen’s].*

8) *To be willing to consider partnerships, as they become possible – with the International Community, and possibly with St. Philip’s and others who share a similar ethos.*

9) *To be willing to imagine a future for St. Stephen’s, and to investigate feasibility of refurbishing the flat and other redevelopment.*

10) *To embrace some of those within the community and vicarage household who are considering being members of The Vine and look to invest in a Worshipping Community in Uppertorpe/Netherthorpe.*

11) *To be open to consider possibilities for “seed funding” specific activities as they emerge.*

12) *To join in and pray, and to learn more about missional monastic forms of being church. There are many interesting people and resources that might bless us!*

As with the other areas, there has been some progress in these “next steps.”

### **The Activities and Growing Vision of the House of Prayer**

This is the story that was shared at the PCC Away Day in September: The House of Prayer at St. Stephen’s developed from the opportunity for “private prayer” in the pandemic lockdown of November 2020. It has developed into a current expression of community, space, and rhythms during the week.

The developing heart of the House of Prayer is to embrace, experiment with, and explore a way of being a worshipping community that interweaves prayer, worship, discipleship, and mission and activity in an every-moment and every-day way.

It leans into the concept of “new monasticism”: Imagine a monastic community of the typical sort of monastery or abbey that we might think of from history; at its core is a rhythm of prayer and worship within the heart and life of each member and in the community as a whole; that life of prayer and worship is naturally expressed in hospitality, care, and outreach.

Now imagine those values expressed within the urban community of Uppertorpe and Netherthorpe, constituted of many different nationalities and young people and students. Imagine those rhythms expressed in a shared space, such as St. Stephen’s, and also in family homes, shared-living households, on the streets and in public spaces, and in the lives of individuals. It has a daily rhythm of “breathing in” and “breathing out” with Jesus at the centre of it all; this is the hope and heart for the House of Prayer.

These “new monastic” forms of community are a phenomenon within the wider church. They are particularly meaningful for those who have experienced ecclesiastical trauma, or those who simply want to go deeper into community than what they have experienced in “normal” church moments. The community growing around the House of Prayer includes members of The Vine, members of other churches, Christians who find themselves currently without a church “home”, and others who are not Christians but who are pondering and considering faith within the community.

At the PCC Away Day we recognised that there was a number of different groups gently exploring what this sort of community might mean; the group of those invested in prayer rhythms at St. Stephen’s; the group of (mostly younger) people who are in fellowship in and around the vicarage; and the “international community” in Uppertorpe that had grown out and beyond a small group of another church. We were intent to continue nurturing these relationships. Since then there has been something of a coalescing of this dynamic with the House of Prayer becoming a common touchstone.

This relates to one of the “next steps” identified in September to “*embrace some of those within the community and vicarage household who are considering being members of The Vine.*” We have, for instance, welcomed Tim Stewart into The Vine community, and we are blessed by his contributions, including on Sundays. He continues to lead alongside Gill Briggs and Anne Kingstone in holding the rhythms of the House of Prayer. We have also embraced Mahta and Ali, an Iranian refugee couple who live near the Ponderosa, and who have been part of the International Community; they have joined in with some of the rhythms of prayer, and have also been a part of the recent Alpha course. Ali was baptised on Easter Sunday; and together they also want to bear witness to their faith through a marriage service at St. Stephen’s.

Another of the “next steps” was to “*learn more about missional monastic forms of being church*”. This has progressed as we have made connections with, and are learning from, other communities of a similar ethos in other places. In particular, a number of those involved in the House of Prayer visited *Urban Abbey*; a community that is at a similar stage, although expressed slightly differently, in Nottingham. We are hoping to be making contact with the Tree of Life community in Leicester shortly. Will & Gill will be travelling to Waverley Abbey in Surrey during the summer.

Bishop Sophie has been a source of encouragement and connection as well. There are ongoing conversations within the diocese that have sprung up from the Ministry Exploration Scheme (of which our own Nick Phoenix is a part) towards learning and formation in similar sorts of community to what is imagined here. Consider the community of St. Anselm that resides at Lambeth.

We have also made contact with the 24/7 Prayer Movement. This movement – founded by Pete Greig of *How to Pray* and the *Prayer Course* – epitomises the heart of vision of this way of being God’s people. They are forming a network of like-minded communities, and are willing to nurture, encourage, and provide some accountability within the 24/7 network of prayer communities. Their integrity and

reputation is recognised across the wider church, and connection with them builds confidence that a sustainable community can be formed safely and well. The House of Prayer was invited to join in with their “Euro leaders” online conference in early February of 2022 and we joined in from the Upper Room at St. Stephen’s.

Will and Gill and other members of the House of Prayer community are also exploring an individual commitment to the “Order of the Mustard Seed” dispersed community. This is slightly alongside the House of Prayer, but it is of a similar ethos and provides ongoing formation, relationship, and training that is relevant.

And finally, for this part, another “next step” was to “*continue the activities of the House of Prayer*” and this has happened. These activities are shaped around *rhythms* which are gently communicated within The Vine’s notices and on a Facebook page branded as “IMHOP Sheffield” – *International Missional House of Prayer* reflecting the nature of the Upperthorpe/Netherthorpe community. The ethos is to not *push* the activities through marketing or social media campaigns, but to simply communicate and be accessible. The essence of this mode is to begin in the “breathing in” rhythms and allow growth and movement to naturally well-up, rather than striving for exposure and attention.

In general, these rhythms have included times such as:

TUESDAY – Morning Prayer & Live Worship. This uses liturgical prayer based on material from the Ffald-y-brenin and the Lectio 365 resource. We have come to call the live musical worship *Adoration* and it has been hosted by Tim Stewart and Nick Phoenix. A diversity of people have attended this time, with up to seven or eight in attendance.

WEDNESDAY – Lunch-time Prayer followed by prayer and engagement on the streets. This time is used by another diversity of people – again up to about seven or eight from a range of church experiences. We are finding that some are coming to this time from their workspaces as a way to mark their day. The “Maker’s Room” has been used during and after this time as a place for prayerful creativity. The activity on the street includes offering friendship and hospitality, particularly to the homeless, migrants, and students, and doing so prayerfully and seeking the guidance of the Spirit. Nick Phoenix takes a lead in this area.

THURSDAY – Lunch-time prayer. A smaller group (about three to five people) usually meets and uses similar forms of prayer. Like the other times, leadership is shared.

FRIDAY – Most weeks (but not all), the space is open for simple times of quietness and reflection in the afternoon. During Lent, a number of The Vine and the House of Prayer community chose to fast on Fridays and met for lunch-time prayer on this day as well, and this has continued.

MONTHLY ON A FRIDAY EVENING – As a way of expressing hospitality, there is an “Open Table” shared meal held in the hall. This is gently “liturgical meal” with some short prayers to begin, inspired by the concept and worship

of Sabbath, and includes a time to hear the Bible read in the many languages of those who attend. More than half a dozen of these meals have been held at, with about 35-45 in attendance each time. The encouragement is that those who appreciate this time together can host a similar rhythm in their own homes, offering hospitality on the other weeks. We have been blessed to host and serve a wide range of people, Christians from a variety of churches (or none), through to refugees, students, friends, and even neighbours and “random” contacts taking up the offer of receiving hospitality. Again, the hope is that this is a form of gentle engagement, with invitations by word of mouth and through friendship.

“STAND ALONE” TIMES – Including the Week of Accompanied Prayer (organised in partnership with St. Tim’s) and hosting a broadcast of the 24/7 Prayer Gathering.

The activity of the House of Prayer is also shaped by the space at St. Stephen’s. The various rooms (the “living room” for quiet sitting, the “maker’s” room for creativity, the “chapel” upstairs for shared praying, the “upper room” for larger gatherings and movement, etc.) are a gift. We seek to offer them to any who would like to use them according to the purpose for which they are set aside; this does not need to be during one of the set rhythms, but at any time of day (or night!) by simply making contact and arrangements. A number of individuals have done this.

In this way the gift of the space at St. Stephen’s is not just a gift to The Vine, but to the whole church in the city of Sheffield, and it’s a joy and privilege to be able to exercise that hospitality.

There have been a number of groups who have made use of the space, beyond the existing arrangement we have had with The Rock, and the ongoing relationship with St. Philip’s. This includes the “Far & Wide” worship collective and “The Way” community, the “emPower” prayer evening, and the Christian Union. These groups share a similar ethos and partnering with them allows us to pursue one of our “next steps” to be *willing to consider partnerships, as they become possible*.

## **Looking Ahead**

The PCC received a report from the House of Prayer ministry in March and encouraged some gentle next steps in this area of ministry. These included:

### **A leadership team:**

We are reaching a point where the next steps will require the community around the House of Prayer to have a certain amount of structure. It has been useful to begin recognising a “core group” or “leadership team” that can act as a steering group and be accountable to the parish, as well as providing a clear point of contact, and to facilitate further conversations.

Within the existing community there are a number of individuals who have shown consistent commitment to the operation of the House of Prayer and an alignment with the values and possible ways forward and these have been recognised by PCC: Rev. Gill Briggs, Anne Kingstone, Tim Stewart, Nick Phoenix, Miriam Briggs. Within

the wider community there are others who are committed to the community from outside of The Vine, these include Kath Newton (a member of St. Philip's, and a retired missionary who currently lives at the vicarage) and Lizzie Finney (a student, and a member of The Well).

These are tentative steps. At this stage in the development as a community around the House of Prayer the task is to hasten slowly, always returning to the core of prayer, and releasing and enabling leadership as it emerges.

**Other systems:**

The House of Prayer at St. Stephen's is a real asset, in *missional* terms apart from any monetary value. To be able to provide it as a space for other groups to use, for the purpose of prayer and intercession, is a valuable part of our hospitality. This hospitality requires facilitation – ways in which the space can be offered, means for receiving donations in a good, ordered way. These systems are slowly emerging.

The House of Prayer and St. Stephen's are not exactly the same thing. One is a community, and the other is a building. St. Stephen's is a space that can be more than the activities of the House of Prayer; and the House of Prayer community is growing in its heart for Netherthorpe and Uppertorpe more generally. However, the two are intertwined, and can serve to bless each other.

To that end, the vision of a “sustainable worshipping community” in Netherthorpe and Uppertorpe can inform one of the “next steps” from the Away Day which was to be *willing to imagine a future for St. Stephen's, and to investigate feasibility of refurbishing the flat and other redevelopment* and we are excited for the conversations that might emerge around this.

We are also mindful, looking ahead, of the likelihood of significant conversations emerging with regard to possible partnerships that align with the House of Prayer vision. We hope to continue conversations with St. Philips, who are also located at St. Stephen's. We are also aware of an early conversation within the Diocese about the establishment of a vocational and formational program for younger people, that would align with the IMHOP vision, and which could possibly make use of the space at St. Stephen's.

Please do continue to pray for the House of Prayer, and feel free to make use of the space at St. Stephen's. We have a growing heart for holistic community, manifesting the kingdom of God in Netherthorpe and Uppertorpe. The mode of pursuit is an aspect of the mission: to seek first his face, to embrace whatever fellowship and connection emerges, and to follow in obedience and faith.

## **Deanery Synod Report**

My Second year as Deanery Synod representative for The Vine has passed. The Synod has met both in person and over zoom.

The meetings have covered several subjects over the year including Living in Love and Faith, Eco Churches and als a chance to catch up with news from other churches in the deanery (as well as share our own.

I look forward to continuing in the role over the next year.

Steve Hill

“There were 56 on the electoral roll last year. 25 were resident in the parish and 31 outside the parish.

0 have been removed from the roll and 3 have been added.

There are now 59 on the electoral role. 25 are resident in the parish and 34 outside the parish.”

Dave

## **Alpha Report**

Alpha ran for 10 weeks from 24<sup>th</sup> October to 9<sup>th</sup> February with a 2 week break for Christmas and included a meal, a song of worship, a talk using the Alpha video and table discussions. Across the 10 weeks, we saw 8 guests engage with the course from a wide range of different demographics, which was really cool as it seemed to really represent the wide diversity of the body of Christ, and it seemed like the majority of the guests really grew deeper in their faith. The course included a Holy Spirit with extended space for worship and prayer ministry, and although there were lower numbers, the guests and leaders who were there seemed to really encounter God and have space to be ministered to. One story that particularly touched me from the day was one of the guests really felt like an embrace of love of God hugging her. Another encouragement was that as we prayed as a team beforehand, we had a sense that somebody might have kidney stones that they could receive prayer for- it turned out one of the guests did have pain in their kidneys which they were able to receive prayer for before getting it checked out by a doctor, and so was an encouragement to her how much God knew and cared. The most exciting thing about the course was that although the fruit seemed more hidden at the time, 4 of the guests after the Alpha course finished decided they wanted to be baptised on Easter Sunday at St Bart's, which was super encouraging to see the continued hunger and desire of the guests to go all in for Jesus beyond Alpha.

## Internship Report

As part of my internship, it has been a joy to be involved and gain experience in a variety of different ministries. My experience has included being involved in the weekly ministries at St Tim's such as Tuesday Social Club, Wednesday Lunch Club as well as some youth work including Quest and the connect group Bible studies. These have been in learning how to interact with all kinds of people from different backgrounds. I've also been able to grow in communication and speaking through preaching at morning and evening services, leading and planning services and Vinelight Daily morning devotionals at both the Vine and St Tim's and I feel like I have both learnt and grown so much in learning how to communicate well and knowing my audience well to discern what they might need to hear, as well as working on structure and delivery. As well as getting involved in general church life such as staff meetings, men's breakfast etc. and gaining insight behind the inner workings of church life, one of my key projects was organising and running an Alpha course, giving me skills in organising and planning and working out how best to facilitate and host an environment for people to encounter Jesus. Another project I was also slightly involved in helping to plan was the Crookes Holiday Club for children during the Easter Holidays including giving a talk and helping to plan some activities, which to be honest was probably more out of my comfort zone of ministries I'm used to. My time has also been spent within the House of Prayer and being involved in the prayer rhythms there and one of my projects has also been helping to pioneer going out to chat with and pray with people on the streets. This has been one of my highlights, particularly as I feel a strong calling to evangelism and outreach, and simply connecting with and building bridges with people is something I would like to develop and grow further. Living within the missional community in the vicarage has been such a privilege as I have learnt so much and gained insight into what generous hospitality looks like, simply journeying alongside people and being family together. Other ministry experiences have included meeting up with people such as regularly visiting an elderly woman part of our church community and meeting up with a homeless man we became acquainted with. It's been such an enriching year seeing ministry from a lot of different angles, and being able to discern more the areas I feel most called to such as outreach and evangelism, preaching and ministry among the poor and broken such as homelessness, and it's been amazing to have had the freedom to step out and have a go and am so thankful for how much I have been invested in and taken a risk on in order to help raise me up and grow me into all that Jesus desires for me.

### Care Home Settings

Since November 2021 Charles and myself together with Tina and Pauline have been delivering Godly Play on a monthly basis in two separate local Care homes, Moorend Place and Burnt Tree Croft. We have been warmly received and appreciated by both residents and staff in both settings, sometimes family members who are visiting relatives choose to join us too.

During the session we pray together, sing hymns have the story and even manage a little wondering!!!

Residents particularly enjoy singing and using percussion instruments.

Serving God in this way is such a joy and so rewarding to be able to support people on their faith journey who can no longer get to church. Every visit is unique and brings blessings of it's own, thank you Will for encouraging us to start it up again. We look forward to the year ahead trusting God will continue to Bless and enrich us through this ministry.

Sue Hurle

### **Audit Action Group - APCM Report 2022**

We live in times of great need across our city, our nation, and the wider world. But these are also times of great opportunity to work with God to build his Kingdom and share his Gospel, conscious though we are of our own flaws and weakness! Yet we preach not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord – as St Paul reminds us!

As the Vine has been coming out of Covid restrictions and beginning to wake up to the new reality of being church in mid-21st century UK, we have been very conscious of our need to ask God for guidance as to how we can be actively “salt and light” to our local community in these challenging times, compassionate and transformative.

A Local Community Audit was commissioned to help with the process of discerning God’s will for the way forward, and the Audit Action Group was then formed and tasked with seeking to help the church implement the findings of the Audit – as presented to the PCC in November 2021.

Here is a summary of the findings of the Audit group, in a leaflet given to the wider church family:

1. We have identified that one possible way forward for the Vine might be to use its buildings and grounds to host and run various activities, thereby become a community hub.
2. We have also identified that we need to build relationships and work with the schools
3. Work collaboratively with other agencies and churches working in the area
4. To develop a volunteer-base to expand hub activities, recruiting from the local community.
5. Employing a community worker to coordinate volunteers and disciple church members in outreach
6. Good communication and the regular use of leaflets will be a vital for future ministry
7. For some church members to become actively involved in supporting local initiatives, seeking to be ‘salt and light’ there.

Including in the concluding section of the report summary, it was stated...

“We need to start outreach again. We cannot wait until we are in a perfect place spiritually and organisationally. Without this we will become increasingly

irrelevant. This needs to be done prayerfully and with a view to showing God's kingdom at work. It also needs to start with the church community working together to achieve this.

"Two small things we could work towards:

- A regular coffee morning aimed at the elderly. This could be a lightweight activity to allow us to get our building open again during the week and start to work on one of the critical needs of the community.
- A Pancake Party. This has been a regular and well received community activity. This could continue as an 'event' team for future festivals."

The Audit Action Group was convened at the beginning of 2022, and part of its remit was to work towards these ends. Its original membership comprised Steve Hill, Tina Powell-Wiffen and Phil Townsend as chair. Vicki Neave joined us soon afterwards.



We set about seeking to organise the two "small things" identified above - the Pancake Party and the Coffee Morning - and in so doing have begun to fulfil, by the Grace of God, six out of the seven findings in the audit summary. "Employing a Community Worker" is the only possibility we haven't actioned – as yet!



Another priority identified was to explore the possibility of using our extensive gardens and grounds as a base for a Community Garden Project. Local people have already shown an interest, and there is plenty of potential for developing allotment-type gardens, full of fruit, veg and flowers! St Tims has already begun their own monthly Garden Church on Morley Street, and we might pick their brains on this! Certainly, there is potential for communal workdays and community meals shared together, sometimes with acts of worship to celebrate the beauty of God's Creative and redemptive Power! We are soon to have initial conversations about this to consider various options...

Bearing in mind the likelihood of increasing number of Refugees and Asylum Seekers, it may also be possible to re-visit the "Community Meal" idea with at least the occasional meal organised as an act of hospitality and welcome, alongside the existing plans for Welcome Boxes.

**BUT...** having potential is one thing – fulfilling it is quite another! That is why the other (equally important) task of the Audit Action Group is to prayerfully consider ways to encourage greater "spiritual enthusiasm" in our Church. Meaning what? In the Liturgy for "Morning Prayer", one of the prayers states, "*As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you, now and for ever.*" If our hearts are really **on fire with love for God** it's likely we will want to give ourselves generously, joyfully and tirelessly in his service! And we will also want the whole world to know about how great our God is!

The Audit Action group is not seeking to drum up support for coffee mornings, etc. We believe what is needed is **for all of us** to hunger and thirst for an encounter with

Jesus, and to be filled with his Holy Spirit – as the church did in the Acts of the Apostles. That is what will transform the life of our church, so that each of us will offer our lives freely for his Kingdom - wherever he has placed us, with whatever gifts he has given us, to love and bless those around us.

To that end we are currently meeting up with people involved in various ministries and groups in the church – seeking to listen to what the Spirit seems to be saying, about how we can move forward, as individuals and as a church.

We hope that this will help to deepen the life of Sunday and midweek ministries, filling us all – we pray! – with increasing Joy in the Lord, inspiring us for mission and service.

If you have any thoughts or ideas about what might help this happen, we'd love to hear from you.

### **Youth ministry at The Vine – 2021/2022**

Following the easing of Covid restrictions in April last year, The Vine collaborated with St Tim's Youth to launch a new after school club on a Tuesday at St Tim's called Quest. The purpose of this new youth club was to provide an opportunity for discipleship for existing young people aged 10-13 at both Churches, as well as giving an opportunity for outreach.

Over the past year, Quest has gone from strength to strength, and now has a regular attendance of more than fifteen young people each week (including five youth from The Vine). Activities have ranged from talks and discussions to games, Bible Studies, drama, reflective activities, and this month we have also started a Youth Alpha course. We have been hugely encouraged to see how well the youth have engaged, and how open they have been to going deeper in their faith.

In addition to Quest, Vicki has more recently run a fortnightly Bible Study/discussion group after the morning service for the five younger youth who attend The Vine. Three older youth from The Vine have also joined St Tim's Youth, and are now very involved in the weekly youth clubs and Bible Study groups based at St Tim's. Almost all of these youth took part in very successful residential to Thornbridge and Center Parcs last autumn, which provided a wonderful chance for the youth to meet with Jesus and grow in their faith. We are very excited to see what God has in store for the youth of The Vine and St Tim's in the coming year ahead.

Alex Townsend, Vicki Neath & Nick Phoenix