



AULDHOUSE COMMUNITY CHURCH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

21st April 2021

MINISTRY REPORTS

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“When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests and Levites with their trumpets and cymbals took their places to praise the Lord, as prescribed by David king of Israel. With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the Lord: ‘He is good; his love toward Israel endures forever.’ Then all the people gave a great shout of praise to the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. But many of the older priests and Levites and family heads, who had seen the former temple, wept aloud when they saw the foundation of this temple being laid, while many others shouted for joy. No one could distinguish the sound of the shouts of joy from the sound of weeping, because the people made so much noise, and the sound was heard far away.” (Ezra 3:10-13)

This time last year when I sat down to write my annual report, we had just entered a time of national lockdown because of the Covid pandemic, and I'm sure none of us realised just what lay before us. How long would we be in this state for, how was it going to affect the wider population, how many would lose their lives, their loved ones, their jobs? But, some were already asking, *“when will we get back to normal?”* It wasn't long before the conspiracy theories and anti-regulation protests started up. We were all watching and waiting anxiously.

For some of us this past year feels like it has gone so quickly, and for others it has dragged by slowly. A number of us contracted the virus, others have grieved the loss of loved ones, and some have lost (and found) jobs. We've witnessed or heard stories of great courage, sacrifice and inspiration, and also stories of great sadness, loss and sometimes selfishness. And here we are now emerging from our second major lockdown, but this time with more hope and faith for the future, largely due to the discovery and delivery of vaccines, which we are all extremely grateful for.

And so, how has all of this affected us as a church family in 2020?

Rewind to the beginning of 2020 when we had a wonderful celebration at ACC as we witnessed and shared in Sarah Niyatkhair's baptism. What an amazing Sunday that was and what a year it has been for Sarah! After four years of waiting, rejection, struggles and disappointments she received her leave-to-remain visa, enabling her now to stay in our country, study, work, find a home of her own and start to enjoy a new life. We've also welcomed several other new members who were formerly asylum seekers: Amir Banak, Donya Solgi and Fariba Tajik (who is also our new church cleaner and has done a wonderful job keeping our building clean this year).

We had recently welcomed Scholtz as our new Youth Worker and were all looking forward to being able to develop and grow our youth work again. But then, the week before Mothering Sunday everything was forced to stop and we had to implement significant changes to our life as a church family and our ministries. Our youth work, children's work, outreach activities, Sunday services, prayer meetings and small groups all had to adapt to the new restrictions. We've been able to do some of these activities online, with the help of our new "friend" called ZOOM. Other activities were able to resume for a few months in the window of September - early December, but then had to stop again.

And yet there were several bright glimmers of encouragement during those days, for example:

When Breakout was able to resume in September the team of leaders were thrilled to see a flood of new children join - probably more than have attended for several years (see Colin Macleod's report for more details).

When we started having services again on Sundays quite a few of our young families attended and, as a result we had lots of kids in our Sunday School. We were also blessed to have a new family, the Allan's join us with their four lovely children. Once we are able to meet fully as a church again, we look forward to some exciting times ahead with our children's ministry. In the springtime we were able to celebrate the start of a baby-boom at ACC! We give thanks to God for the safe arrival of Ateen to Omid & Mitra, Finn to Fraser & Kirsten, David to Euan & Vicky as well as others further afield: Harris to Glenn & Lindsey Stobo and Adrian to Bahador's sister, Bahar.

We also celebrated with Sarah Kennedy & Simon McKean on their engagement! They tie the knot on 29th May.

The major area of ministry that we've been able to continue on site with over this past year has been our foodbank. During the height of the first lockdown we were catering for well over 100 people each week. We were able to keep our doors open to receive people, but had to close down the Care & Share café. We were also really touched by, and grateful for the offer of support from our wider community - people on furlough stepping up to collect food from Morrison's for us or do home deliveries; as well as close to £7000 in financial donations coming in to help us support needy families and individuals through our community fund.

We were able to re-open Care & Share for a few brief months, and since December have continued to reach out to many vulnerable people in our community. See Clare Malloy's report for more details.

We have used the time last year, with the building not being used (all of our outside rentals also had to stop except for the Adult Literacy Project), to carry out some significant upgrade projects. The whole building has been repainted within, and the outside paths have been power washed. We are so grateful to the Deacons for all the work that has gone into preparations for the audio-visual upgrades with new data screens, TV monitors, and sound desk etc, which will take place very soon.

And so, as we consider the text at the start of this report from the Book of Ezra, we see a situation described where the people of God have returned to the land after a time of exile, sadness and loss. As they returned there was a mixture of excitement as they laid the foundations for rebuilding the temple and anticipating being able to worship the LORD together again in a new day. Yet there was also the sense of sadness and grief among others as they recalled loved ones who were no longer around as well as lost years, and potential experiences as God's people that had been taken from them. That is where we are now, along with our other brothers and sisters across Glasgow, here in Scotland and around the world. No one has been here before! Several titles have been published¹ touching on how to live and find God in a pandemic, but no one knows yet quite how Church will look or life in general as we move forward. Life will never be as it was before. The new "normal" will have elements of life before Coronavirus: gathering together again in person, to worship, share communion, pray, socialise, study and learn from the Scriptures – and gathering with others as we reach out, serve people and share our faith. As we move into "uncharted waters" we must be open to new opportunities, to new ways of being God's people together and also to be ready to share our hope in Christ with a world in recovery.

¹ For example, Tom Wright "God and the Pandemic"; John Lennox "Where is God in a Coronavirus world?"; and Walter Brueggemann "Virus as a summons to faith".

Deacons Report by John Betram

Last year we were grateful to Andy Watson and Kemp Anderson for joining the team. We also had Vini Gohil step down from the team. We are all appreciated the input from Vini over the last few years.

Building's update

Lockdown in 2020 gave us an opportunity to get some work carried out in the building with less groups and activities taking place.

This gave us an opportunity to carry out some improvements

- 1- LED Lighting upgrade – The lights were upgraded in the coffee area to dimmable lighting. This assists with giving us flexibility for various activities that take place in this area.
- 2- Church internal painting and decorating. In April 2020 we had the full internal building repainted.
- 3- We have been active in looking at upgrading flooring throughout the church. More will follow on this in 2021.

One thing to note is that whilst the building was used less last year, we had a costly maintenance repairs carried out to the Basement drainage system and the heating system.

AV Project update

We have been active in 2020 getting ACC ready for the future with a state-of-the-art AV improvement. Special mention to Kemp who had expertly led this project. Below are some of the benefits

- Introduce modern and versatile digital information screens to improve communication within the church building.
- Improve display facilities for lyrics & presentations in the main hall during Sunday Services.
- Introduce a Confidence Screen at the rear of the main hall to allow speakers and the worship band to easily see displays.
- Provide media screens at key locations in the building to show recorded video or live sound and vision from the main hall.
- Replace TV in basement with digital media screen.

- Screens can be used for breakout groups / youth / Sunday School work / service users.
- Add additional Wi-Fi access points to give better coverage for wireless access to the internet.
- Upgrade the broadband service to support the new digital information and media requirements, and provide fast & secure internet for anyone using the building
- Easy to use – no specialist technical expertise required to operate.

Digital Ministry by Alison Devenish

“It’s life Jim but not as we know it” as Dr Spock from Star Trek once said. Modern culture has been moving us to more digital forms of communication. This has been accelerated and brought into sharp focus with the arrival of the pandemic in 2020. ACC started to reconsider its methods of communication with its ACC members and the local community.

In addition to moving to services delivered via Zoom, a focus was placed on our digital methods of communication. These include the ACC website and channels such as YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp.

A workshop was held with a Digital agency – Limelight – in November 2020 at which the strategy for ACC’s Digital Ministry was discussed. Following this meeting an ACC Digital Ministry team was created. Its members are Scholtz van der Walt, Alison Devenish, Jonny Bell, Bethany Watson, Philip Heelis and Ian Kenji. The team meets every 3-4 weeks and focuses on the following:

- The key purpose of the Digital ministry is to:
Deepen the knowledge of God’s word within ACC.
Widen the knowledge of God’s word outside ACC.
- The content delivery aims to deepen the use and understanding of the Sunday morning services using the teaching programme amongst ACC members and the local community outside ACC. Regular messages and videos created by ACC members have been posted on Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp and YouTube. Engagement with

these posts – likes, comments, shares – has been encouraging. There's still lots to be done.

- Future plans include targeting our Facebook messaging to the local community to encourage interaction and potential new ACC members. Also Key Performance Indicators will be agreed so that we can track the effectiveness of our digital activity. The education of ACC members in the use of social media will be achieved by the creation of a series of short videos, which will be posted on the website and the various digital channels.

ACC through embracing a Digital Ministry enables people to connect and be built up to explore, discover and build faith. It's new for us and needs us to engage and embrace how people in all walks of life, different generations are exploring and finding meaning for what life is and ultimately showing them that Jesus is the Way the Truth & the Life.

Discipleship by Don Palmer & Colin Macleod

2 Timothy 2:1-7

Seven benefits of being involved in a discipleship relationship with another Christian or in a discipleship group. They enable us to:

- grow stronger in the power of God
- be productive in equipping others in their faith
- become tough and learn to endure in a harsh world
- be more focused on our Lord's priorities
- be disciplined to live our lives as Jesus would
- develop patience to see fruit in our lives
- be more thoughtful in listening to God would teach us

Over the past year, we have been blessed and encouraged to see two of our weekly discipleship groups grow, both in number and in depth of our relationships with one another and the LORD. Due to Covid restrictions, the majority of our meetings have been spent on Zoom.

Throughout last year I met with several of our Iranian brothers (Farhad, Mohammed and Omid) most **Monday evenings**. We went on a journey

through the Old Testament, from Genesis 1 and got as far as the Book of Joshua. We were so glad when Ehsan Farbod (along with Mahtab and Liana) decided to move back to living in Glasgow last summer and we welcomed Ehsan into our Monday evening group again. We were also joined by a new brother, Amir Banak, who heard of our group through another Iranian fellowship. Also Phil Palmer decided to join us and add his presence, his knowledge and his fun to the group. It was exciting to see prayers answered for Farhad to eventually get a permanent job, as well as Mohammed and Omid receive their permanent visas. (by Don Palmer)

The **Wednesday morning** discipleship group has also grown significantly and we now have up to 10 members meeting together (inc. myself, Dalbir Bains, Jeanette Cleary, Aileen Watson, Jean Smith, Debbie Fanning, Shahrzad Shamsedin, Sarah Niyatkair, Catherine McGee and Helga Mukuahima). We finished one study going through most of the women in the Bible, and then moved on to looking at the Fruit of the Spirit. Recently we started going through John's Gospel. We really appreciate our time of prayer together and a huge answer to prayer this year has been finally witnessing Sarah get her leave-to-remain. We always have lots of laughter, sometimes tears, but always sense a deep love for one another within the group. (by Don Palmer)

A discipleship group of guys has met online fortnightly on **Monday evening** with Jonathan Bell, Colin Macleod, Tony Milne and Nick Viney. Our first series of 12 studies was from 'Growing Through Life's Challenges' which didn't shy away from difficult topics as we discussed what we could learn from things like rejection, doubts, grief, failure & weakness. We are now going through Greg Ogden's 'The Essential Commandment' which is a disciples guide to loving God and others. It focuses on the verses *'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these'* Mark 12:30-31. Encouraging one another and sharing experiences have been key as well as support in prayer. Curry night has been our favourite social, once in person as restrictions eased and the other on Zoom with our takeaways. We are looking forward to the Alpha course and welcoming others to join with us. (by Colin Macleod)

Mission & Community Outreach

Community Worker Report by Clare Malloy

Looking back over the last year at the foodbank and care and share café we thank God for providing for this ministry and for looking after all those involved in it's delivery.

March 2020 (a lifetime ago...) saw the numbers at our foodbank creep up as people started to worry about what was going to happen during the impending pandemic and the rumours of a lockdown.

We made the decision that the foodbank was going to open to provide essential supplies to all those in need and that in addition we would offer some home deliveries. At the time there was little guidance on how to operate, but from emerging information we decided that in addition to increased hand hygiene and cleaning we should maximise ventilation and social distancing by serving limited number in the main hall with queuing outside where necessary. In addition, the whole of the basement would be used for sorting and packing to allow volunteers to socially distance better.

Many of the food bank and café's volunteers were in the vulnerable category and were no longer able to volunteer with us. We also needed volunteers to help provide a home delivery service. We were amazed at how this was provided for – neighbours and local residents offered to help and we partnered with the Pollokshaws Area Network to provide home deliveries.

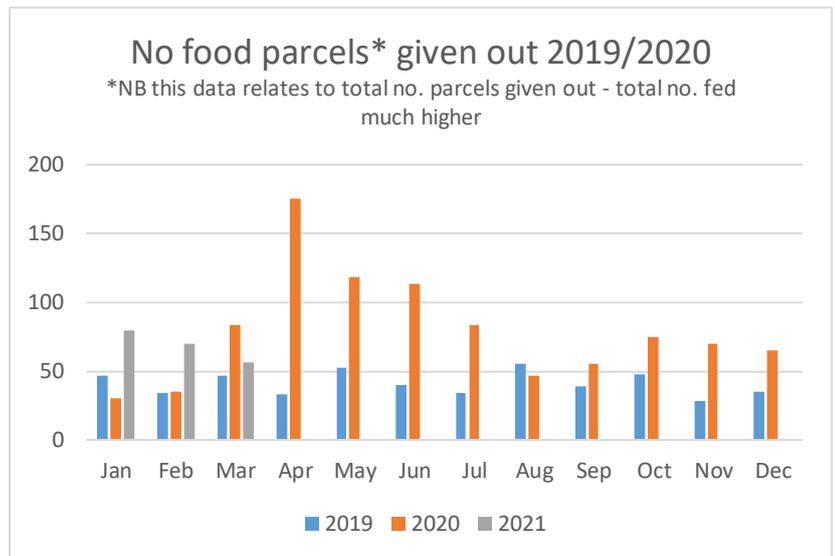
A number of organisations approached us and asked us to help prepare parcels for their most vulnerable clients including families with young children, asylum seekers and those at risk of homelessness. These were prepared in advance of the foodbank and delivered by workers and volunteers. Despite the huge rise in the number of parcels we gave out we never ran out of food, and on occasion were overwhelmed with too many donations!



Over the summer of 2020 we wound up home delivery and numbers returned more or less to pre-pandemic levels although there was an increase again with the second wave in the winter.

We were delighted to be able to open the Care and Share café again up until Christmas time, albeit with rigorous

cleaning, social distancing and face masks. It was lovely to be able to welcome people back for a cuppa and a bite to eat, but sometimes frustrating as the restrictions made it much harder to chat to our customers who were lonely and feeling the effects of months of lockdown.



Please thank God with us for:

- The ability to keep serving our local community with emergency food provisions (when almost all other services closed. In April and May we fed over 100 people per week.
- The continued and sometimes overwhelming provision of supplies
- The new relationships we formed with individuals and voluntary organisations in our community through working together
- The hard work and dedication of the staff and volunteers who were able to keep helping out during the course of the pandemic, and their continued good health and safety
- Despite the limitations the privilege of being a point of contact for help, friendship and prayer for many lonely people

It has been hard to go back into lockdown again and no longer be able to offer the café's services, but we hope to do so again soon.

Looking forward the challenges that we face include:

- How to best support people facing the effects of isolation and lockdown, which we know has disproportionately affected those already vulnerable
- The potential for a decrease in demand for foodbank services due to other foodbanks opening up during the pandemic
- Finding the best way to offer support to people without encouraging dependency on the foodbank

During this year of coronavirus, the church has continued to be a place that many in our local community have turned to for help. We pray that we will continue to build on this in the year ahead.

Mission Projects (National, Global & Local) by Don Palmer

Here at ACC we believe it is vitally important that we support and partner with mission projects, both locally and internationally. During 2020 we gave devoted just over 10% of our total budget towards supporting such projects and this current year we have increased that to around 13%. How this is broken down as follows:

We gave £500 each to the following mission partners:

- TEAR Fund Scotland
- The Leprosy Mission Scotland
- Scripture Union Scotland
- Glasgow City Mission
- Glasgow Street Pastors

We also supported the national organisation Scottish Network of Churches, donating £500 towards their ongoing running costs and another £500 specifically to one of our partner churches through SNC, Clay Community Church over in Possilpark.

We also gave £1000 to The Arch over in the East End of Glasgow, a Christian-based centre which helps to resettle and reintegrate men who have come off addictions, have been homeless or have been released from spending time in prison.

We also were able to support many families and individuals locally, through our Community Fund, who we came in contact with either through social services or through our Care & Share ministry. In total we gave over £8000 towards meeting these diverse practical needs – from furniture, clothing, phones/ tablets/ laptops, study support payments, topping up gas/ electric cards, train & bus passes etc.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We also provide newsletters and prayer diaries from most of our mission partners, and would encourage everyone to pick these up from the information trays beside our Mission bulletin board in the café area at church. You can also access these prayer and new updates through each of our partners websites, or via our ACC website.

Worship & Prayer

Worship by Adrian Smith

What strange times. So much of what we have come to expect as ‘normal’ has changed in the past year and the church family has not been immune from this.

Church is about community. Worship is about community. Social distancing, masks, singing bans and Perspex screens do therefore tend to undermine the very essence of communal worship.

Ah yes, but worship isn't just about singing praise and worship songs together is it? Surely, it's a whole life thing. True, as followers of Jesus our daily lives should be our worship and a witness to God's love and grace but much of that has been zoomed out of existence too. Challenging times on all fronts then.

When the first lockdown was announced last March there was little time to prepare and to work out how we could do church online. We got there though and we should particularly thank Timothy, Kemp and Vicky for all they did at that time to make it happen. On the worship front we really had no choice but to go over to using music videos and while not ideal, this has at least enabled us to raise our voices in praise week by week.

A special thank you is due as well to all those of you who have stepped up to help out in leading online services and choosing appropriate songs. Nicole, Vanda, Ruth, Helen/Lucy, Emily, Peter, Vicky, Phil – you have no

idea how much we appreciate the way you have led our online worship times. I do hope that you will all be willing to keep helping us to worship God together.

When we were permitted to have limited numbers back in the building briefly during the year it again fell to Timothy and Kemp to work out how we stayed connected - thanks both and to John and the deacons. We had hoped that this would allow us to return to live, led worship times but this simply didn't prove to be practical.

Looking forward, there is hope but more challenges to overcome. We're back in the building again but we still don't know exactly when we'll be able to throw off the masks and raise our voices in praise together. It's also clear that we're going to find it much more challenging than in the past to field a worship team Sunday by Sunday. Please pray about this and if you are able to help in any way by singing or playing please do let us know.

I love the illustration on unquenchable worship in Habakkuk 3. If we think we've had a hard time it has been nothing compared to the worshippers in Habakkuk's day. So let's be encouraged. Despite all the trials he could say: *'Though the fig-tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, Though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, Though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Saviour.'* (Hab 3: 17,18)

Prayer by Rozanne Bertram

"Devote yourselves to prayer being watchful and thankful" Colossians 4:2

Team: Stuart McNeil, Phil Palmer, Rozanne Bertram

ACTIVITIES

PRAYER MEETINGS – In the last year we have been meeting together for corporate prayer twice a month, like many other gatherings the prayer meetings have been taking place via zoom. We have just started the "Prayer Course part 2" a resource produced by the 24/7 prayer team as with other 24/7 material we have used it has been an excellent tool to allow us to explore prayer more deeply and has encouraged us in our prayer lives. The prayer meetings have for many of us held an even more significant role this

year as we have brought the dire needs caused by the pandemic of our families, church family and multiple nations to our father who hears our cries for help and answers our prayers.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER – Due to the many issues that have required prayer this year the intercessory prayer slot has been a weekly event during the service on a Sunday morning. It is great to have so many people volunteering to take part in this area of prayer.

PRAYER EVENTS- Unfortunately we were unable to host any of our usual prayer breakfasts or prayer events. The prayer web was rolled out in February 2020 this will be reviewed when we Covid restrictions are lifted and we can assess how it has been utilised by church members over the last year.

PRAYER MINISTRY- Again another casualty of Covid, the prayer team have been available to pray with anyone over the last year but it has been quite limited due to the lack of face-to-face contact time with church members.

GOODBYE

As a team we have said a sad farewell to Kirstin and Sarah. Kirstin has been a committed member of the team for many years we will miss her boundless energy (even at through the night prayer events), her creativity and leadership skills which has kept us all going. Sarah has been an enthusiastic member our team for the last 2 years we have benefited so much from her spiritual insight, literary eloquence and IT skills. Their contribution to our team has been invaluable and they will be missed.

PLANS

- To resume prayer events when allowed
- To evaluate the prayer web
- Prayer support for alpha course

PRAYER POINTS

- For an increase in numbers and age range attending the prayer meetings
- For new team members to help develop prayer in our church
- As a church we will grow together in deepening our prayer lives

FEEDBACK

If you would like to join the prayer web or If you would like us to pray for you please contact the prayer team.

Children's Ministry

Breakout by Colin Macleod

- **Zoom Meetings** with a handful of enthusiastic participants during term time from May to October. Here are some of the highlights:
 - *'Bring me a cuddly toy and some toothpaste'* - Scavenger Hunt
 - *List an animal, girls name and a place starting with the letter 'R'* - Scattegories
 - *Read my lips what am I saying 'blank and blank'*
 - *How is the shepherd looking out for his sheep?* Listen in for Helen's story.
- **Great to be back in ACC for a few sessions** in November & December with loads of new faces. Scholtz got the word round Tinto Primary and they all came with their friends. We had 27 enjoying our Christmas party. Here are some of the highlights:
 - *'Get that balloon over their head'* – Balloon Tennis
 - *'Run, run the music has stopped'* – Musical Chairs
 - *'Can I unwrap the next present?'* – Morag's Christmas talk
- **We have not met in 2021** due to Covid-19 restrictions as the numbers were too large for Zoom meetings and also having spent so long online at school, we felt the enthusiasm wasn't there.

• **Prayer Points**

- That we will be able to return safely to the church building next session.
- Summer Party Special to re-connect with Breakout.
- That all those who came both new faces and old will return after summer.
- For new leaders to join us to cope with large numbers of lively children.
- For an exciting, fun programme of games, crafts and stories.
- That God will be working in these young peoples lives bringing them closer to Him.
- For renewed contact with parents and positive relationships.

Sunday School by Anne Lewis

As the annual ACC ministry reports were being written and submitted last year, the church building closed its doors due to the coronavirus pandemic and in line with national Covid restrictions. Here we are a year later, and our building has been closed again for an extended period since late December 2020.

Thankfully, our church community have been able to gather via Zoom technology but there is no doubt we have all missed the direct face to face contact with others from our church family.

This is particularly the case for the young people in the church and we look forward to being back in the building late March in time for Easter celebrations, welcoming our young people back together again as we support and encourage them on their faith journey.

In normal circumstances Sunday school happens each Sunday during the service for children aged 3-10 years old. During the pandemic we were able to meet during Sept/Oct and again for a few weeks in early December. For various reasons it was decided to keep all the Sunday School children attending church together in one group and to meet with them in the Basement. Following government guidelines, we aimed to monitor the number of children and households on each Sunday and were usually able to welcome 8 children from 3-4 households. Throughout the last year, when it has been possible, we have been able to support up to 14 children from 9 different households ranging in stages from Nursery through to Primary 6.

For a range of reasons, our list of available leaders was restricted and we will again be encouraging volunteers to join with us in the coming year as we work with our young people. This is such important and rewarding work and I would ask anyone who is considering helping to contact me for more information. You will be made very welcome, with lots of support and still be able to attend services during the year (Anne - 07865937557, alewis14@gmail.com)

Teachers: Morag McNeill, Anne Lewis, Jane Anderson, Andy Watson, Carron Allan

We continue to use Scripture Union Material to direct our teaching programme. This material covers a wide range of bible stories and biblical principles in an age-appropriate way and working with a wide range of ages in the one group. We would ask for your prayers as we prepare our lessons and that we would be able to deliver our message in a meaningful and relevant way, praying for the children in Sunday school to put their trust in Jesus as they journey through life with Him.

Since the second part of last year we have been blessed to have some more children joining Sunday School and we will continue to review the class arrangements for the children. We pray for God's blessing on all the children we work with, and their families, please remember them all regularly in your own prayers.

Preparing for the Nativity in Covid times brought its own challenges but I think there is no doubt that the ACC Nativity video was the highlight of the year for many. With the need for last minute adaptations as we went in to a second lockdown, it was all hands-on deck! Many thanks to all the families who were able to contribute and a special mention to Carron and Andrew Allan for their creativity and IT support.

Most of all though, a big thank-you and well done to the children involved who managed to raise our spirits and remind us of the real meaning behind the Christmas story during a very different sort of Christmas-time for many.

The children give some money each week in our special "lion box". We use this money to support Sylvia in Uganda (£28 per month). We share news from Sylvia with the children and involve them in our replies as we tell her

of our life in Glasgow, what we are learning in Sunday School and of our church activities.

As we return to the church building, we ask for your support in whatever you are able to do; from prayer to direct support it is all important and very much needed. From me, a big thank you to the whole team for their commitment and enthusiasm for the work of the Sunday School team. We will continue to pray and seek to build on the numbers of current teachers and the children involved.

We have also been thinking about moving forward during the next year and below a number of points are outlined that we hope to develop in the coming months:

- Greater access and use of IT to vary the work we do with the children
- Further develop the structure of our sessions with the children to include social play, crafts, worship and prayer
- Consider linking Sunday School topics with the adult services where possible
- Involve parents in the stories and messages we cover with the children to allow these themes to be developed further throughout the week at home
- Maximise the use of the Basement area to allow for more interactive work with the children
- Encourage others from the church family to get involved in children's ministry

Youth Ministry

Auldhouse Youth by Scholtz van der Walt

Our Purpose Statement – *Helping young people to find and thrive in faith.*

Although we have about 12 young people on our books, we saw 3 young people engage consistently with what we've been doing over 2020. Some young people decided that Zoom is not the way that they'd like to engage and so dropped out after a few meetings and others didn't engage at all. For the brief spell we were back in the building we saw a small number re-engage pushing us back to 5 young people at some meetings.



AY Sunday, Bible Study, Social and Tuesday Club

- AY Sunday: We met every Sunday morning during the service on Zoom or hybrid when back in the building.
 - One of our topics were: “Big Questions” – Weekly topics from young people’s suggestions.
 - We plan to do the Youth Alpha alongside the rest of the church after Easter.
 - Current team: Scholtz van der Walt, Ian Kenji (joining soon)
- AY Bible Study: We met every fourth Sunday evening on Zoom or in the basement when back in the building.
 - Young people have responded well to this and dipped in and out of it as time (and state of mind) allowed.
 - We’ve done various reading plans on the YouVersion Bible App.
 - Current team: Scholtz van der Walt
- AY Social: We met every fourth Sunday evening (alternate to Bible Study) on Zoom or in the basement when back in the building.
 - Very challenging event to keep interesting for the young people, but have been the glue that kept the group together. We’re also encouraging the youth to invite friends to social events.

- Various combinations of activities including online hosted games evenings, escape rooms, mobile based gaming apps, Netflix party
- Current team: Scholtz van der Walt
- Tuesday Club: March 2020 we had to close for lockdown. We re-launched in November with few numbers and had to shut-down again after Christmas due to COVID. Although numbers were few, the young people who did come along was very glad and enthusiastic to be with us. Before the pandemic struck, we were planning to do a Youth Alpha with a selected group of the young people. This is still the plan and we hope to set this in motion once we're back together and able assess the current state of relationships.
 - Current team:
 - Core (every week) – Scholtz van der Walt, Phil Palmer, Callum Smith, Sarah Kennedy, David Clist.
 - Wider (additional helpers) – Marc Shearer, Amy Campbell
- Overall team need: 4 volunteers to join the church youth team, and 1 volunteer who can join the Tuesday Club team to come along the girls.

Youth Work out-with ACC

- Powerpoint: a termly national youth worship event, has moved to YouTube live and we've joined this online.
- Magnitude: a Christian youth summer festival usually at Lendrick Muir. We joined in the live Facebook online events, and plan to join online again for Magnitude 2021.
- SU: We booked for a two-day SU camp at Lendrick Muir during the 2021 Easter holidays. Unfortunately, this was cancelled due to restrictions but we hope to book a summer camp with the youth.
- Schools work: Due to COVID our schools work has been completely capped. We've maintained email contact with the Head Teachers at Tinto Primary and Hillpark Secondary, expressing support and encouragement. The chaplaincy team, I'm part of, have occasional

catchups with news about our current connections with Hillpark and the continued offer of support. This support became apparent during summer 2020 when myself and another team member supported staff and students, on premises, while dealing with the very sad death of a student.

- Networking: Myself and a few of the local (south side) youth workers started meeting together monthly since March 2020 via Zoom. Aim is, and continue to be, supporting and praying for each other and sharing resources and skills. The network will eventually meet in person and we are hoping to do joint youth events once restrictions allow.

Prayer

- Our young people
 - God's continued hand over them as they face crazy times
 - Guidance as some of them are making subject choices and will be looking at Universities
 - Those who are currently seeking employment.
 - Mental health: With all the challenges they face, information input they get from everywhere and the effect of COVID it is easy for mental health to deteriorate.
 - Strong relationships with God, each other and the youth leaders.
 - Tuesday Club:
 - Young people to get to know Jesus as their Lord and saviour.
 - Young people to build strong and lasting relationships with leaders and each other.
- Our team
 - God to inspire and energise them
 - The Holy Spirit to give them a supernatural energy to do youthwork alongside life as usual.
 - Strong relationships with God, each other and the young people.
 - To provide the hands we need to do the work.

- Other
 - Schools work:
 - Doors to remain open and for God to continue working there
 - God to bring new believers out of the work we do in schools.
 - Networking-
 - Youth worker relationships to grow with in the network.
 - Joint Youth events with other south side church youth groups when they're able to happen.

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