

Heaton Baptist Church

Annual Reports 2021

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2021



HEATON
BAPTIST
CHURCH



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MINISTER'S WELCOME

By Aileen Innes



Hello,

Well, what a year it has been! I don't think anyone could have imagined it. It is certainly a year we will never forget. The Covid-19 pandemic brought the world to a standstill. We went through a lockdown of society that few, if any, ever dreamed possible. We were isolated in our homes, separated from our loved ones and could no longer meet in the same way we have always met as a church. And yet we have still been the church. We have learnt (or been reminded again) that the church is not the building, but we, the people, are the church.

Lots of things have amazed me as I look back and reflect on the year that has been. Firstly, the resilience of all those who make up Heaton Baptist Church. What could have divided us, has in many ways, brought us closer together. It has been wonderful and humbling to see the many ways that people have come alongside each other to support, encourage, comfort and help one another. Over the last year people have made phone calls, sent cards and letters, texted and WhatsApp-ed like never before! People have cooked meals, done shopping, dropped cakes and other treats at the doorstep, sat in freezing cold gardens – and many, many other gestures of love and care for one another. You have all shown yourself to be true disciples of Christ, “This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” John 13 v 35.

We have all adjusted and learnt new skills to continue to meet together on a Sunday morning to worship God. Zoom was not a word we ever thought we would become so familiar with! And yet we have, and our times of Sunday worship each week, although not perfect, have been genuine times of encounter with God and fellowship with one another. Our thanks must go out to our worship team who have learnt and developed new skills of recording music and leading over Zoom. And a special word of thanks to Pete Tang and Jonny Bird who have served us faithfully each week, and who have genuinely kept us going this last year. And indeed, everyone who has contributed to our Sunday services. Thank you so much. Even though we are looking forward to returning to worship in the building, I will look back and remember fondly our Zoom Sundays.

People have used Zoom in many new ways to connect with one another. One way has been our 'Tea at 2.30pm' conversation and coffee on Zoom. In the early days of lockdown it was daily, in more recent months it has become weekly. I for one have really enjoyed the varied conversations and getting to know some people I didn't know so well pre-covid. The breakout rooms on a Sunday morning have also been so good for this too, as people have been randomly placed in groups, encouraging conversations that may not have happened in other circumstances. This is just one of the surprising, positive things that have emerged this year, which I hope continues when we no longer need to meet virtually.

Another thing that has amazed me is how much prayer has accelerated this year amongst the church. At times, prayer has been the only thing we could do. Many of us have stood side by side with others and cried out for healing, relief of suffering or a miracle for each other or the world. After a great 'week of prayer' in November we began our weekly Zoom prayer meetings on a Monday Night for 30 mins. It has been a privilege to be a part of these evenings. Also many ministries and lifegroups have used WhatsApp groups as a way to pray together or communicate prayer requests, and I am sure this will continue long after covid.

This has also been a year that, despite our building being closed, we have continued to make known the love of God by being salt and light in the communities we live. The 'Helping Heaton' initiative took referrals from various local and city wide organisations and delivered emergency food packages and other essentials to the most vulnerable people affected by the pandemic. Also, I know many of you initiated or got involved with neighbourhood schemes to be a support to people on your streets and estates. Many have reported these to have been wonderful opportunities to get to know neighbours in ways that you wouldn't have otherwise, and some great stories have come out of this.

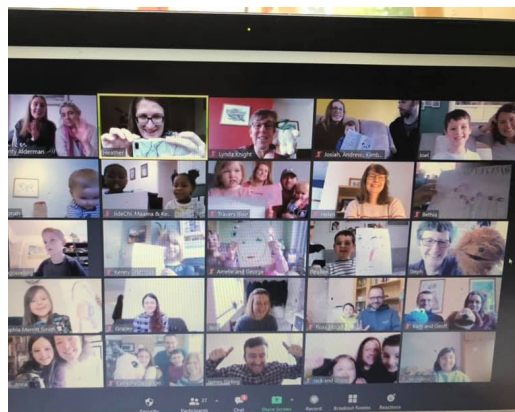


A Christianity Explored course ran for the first time on Zoom and saw a good number of people attending and exploring the Christian Faith for the first time, or using it as an opportunity to go deeper in their faith. And a baptism course ran over Zoom earlier in the year, and we have 10 people waiting to get baptised as soon as they are able. We've had people attending our Zoom Sunday services who wouldn't normally or haven't connected with us for a long time. We've also had people join our church and become members over the last year and they haven't ever been in the church building! How amazing is that!

I feel like I could go on, like I'm only scratching the surface of all the ways that God has been at work through the people of Heaton Baptist Church, despite all the obstacles, frustrations and personal struggles and sadness. I said at the start of this letter that I was amazed – amazed at you all, amazed at the church – and of course, amazed at God. Despite everything, we can say with all confidence that for another year, God has walked with us. I'd go even further and say God has carried us. And I know that "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" John 1 v 5. Not only that, but God has used us in our brokenness, our darkness, and our anxiety and he continues to pour His grace upon us and shine through us. Oh praise His Name!

Friends, it has been a privilege to travel beside you this past year – some years feel hard and long, but the people you travel with make it easier. As we look with anticipation to the year ahead, we ask God to show us who and what the church should be and look like post-covid. And we pray that we would have ears to hear where He may be leading us in the year ahead.

Aileen



CHURCH SECRETARY'S REPORT

By Rob Wallace

In 1970 Joni Mitchell recorded what was to become her most famous song, Big Yellow Taxi. It contains the line:

"Don't it always seem to go that you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone"

Joni's songs are loved by millions and often listened to by this church secretary. Joni has experienced personal tragedies and triumphs and has brought comfort to many by expressing intense experiences into song.

Since our last annual report we have been faced with the reality of loss in so many ways. The simple pleasures of meeting our brothers and sisters, of casual conversation, of sharing a cuppa indoors, of singing worship songs in a room with our friends... all lost. Did we ever really appreciate these things as much as we now do?

There have been other more intense losses this year. Many of us will have been bereaved, and many have suffered ill health. A few members and trustees have left our church over differences of Christian understanding of scripture. These losses are painful and made the more so when we discover what we never appreciated enough.

This year of disease and fear and separation has, paradoxically, brought some blessings too. Our online services have helped us keep connected and some new members have joined without ever having been in our buildings. Some of us have enjoyed working and attending meetings from the comfort of home. Much of my work as church secretary has been largely unaffected by this year's restrictions; trustee and members meetings, letter writing, church staff contracts, but it's the quality and richness of personal interaction that's been missing.

We will get back to some kind of 'normal'. In the meantime, we must all learn to appreciate more what we have, and not wait until it is taken away from us to treasure the most simple of blessings. Joni put it better.

YOUTH

By Anna Girling

We have lots of brilliant young people at Heaton Baptist Church and although our youth programme has looked very different over the last year the purpose of what we do has remained the same. We are passionate about creating spaces for young people to encounter God, find their identity in Him and reach out to the world. Over the last year, these spaces have all been over Zoom, or one to one meet ups – but we have continued to spend time together, played games, deepened our friendships with each other and learned about God.

Grid

The Grid is for young people in school years 7 – 9. Girls and Boys group is our mid-week gathering for this age group and we have been meeting throughout lockdown over Zoom. Girls and Boys group have been meeting 3 out of 4 Wednesdays of every month from 6.30-7.30pm. Our evenings are spent playing games, praying together, and over the past year Boy's Group have explored the book of Acts, gone through the intro outro series and had social evenings where they have enjoyed quiz and game nights. Girl's Group have explored the I Am's, identity in Christ and done a lot of baking together over Zoom.

ID

ID is for young people in school years 10-13. Youth Lifegroup is our mid-week gathering for this age group and has continued to meet 3 out of 4 Sunday evenings from 7.30-8.30pm throughout lockdown on Zoom. Youth Lifegroup is all about spending time together, building relationships and having space to explore the Bible and faith more deeply. Over the past year we have explored topics like the book of Daniel and 'where is God in lockdown?'

Mentoring:

Once young people move into ID they have the opportunity to be mentored by a member of the youth team or someone in the wider congregation. Mentoring looks different for every young person and leader and has looked very different this last year however we continue to see this as a crucial part of supporting and doing life alongside young people and we have seen a few new mentoring relationships begin over the last year.

Student Evenings

Last summer 5 young people moved out of the youth programme to head off to university or gap years, and we gathered on Zoom for 3 evenings to cook together, talk about university life and we had the opportunity to meet in small groups in person with these young people to pray and have some fun which was really special.

Ask 7:7

Youth For Christ run an event for young people aged 11-18 called Ask 7:7, which has gone virtual since the start of lockdown. There have been several events over the past year which our young people have really enjoyed.

Emma Foster, Tim Howell, Rob Taylor, Caz and Tom Onions, Neil and Lorna Davidson, Jonny and Kirsten Bird, Rachel and Jon McNaughton, Ben Foster, Jack Barraclough and James Girling.

This is the team of amazing and servant hearted leaders who make the youth ministry at HBC happen. We love working alongside these guys and are so thankful for who they are and all they do to support our young people.



TODDLERS

By Sheila Fletcher

Toddlers is a safe place for parents/carers to bring babies and up to school age children, somewhere safe to play and meet with friends. We meet on a Monday and Tuesday morning during term time in the Life Centre. When we first arrive, we set out the toys, and prepare drinks and snacks. We chat to the parents/carers, set out craft time and generally keep an eye on how the morning is progressing.

Obviously we have not had our groups for the past 13 months. We have kept in contact with our families by sending out craft activities, ably prepared by Sarah Walton. We have texted the families a couple of times asking if they had any prayer requests, the first time we received 2 requests both from Christian mums. The second time we had 4 replies and only 1 was from a Christian mum. The parents have been very appreciative of the craft activities

Special thanks to Kath Liddell, Sandra Cowie, Heather Skee, Vera Franklin, Helen Macfarlane, and Sarah Walton for their continued service.

LIFEGROUPS

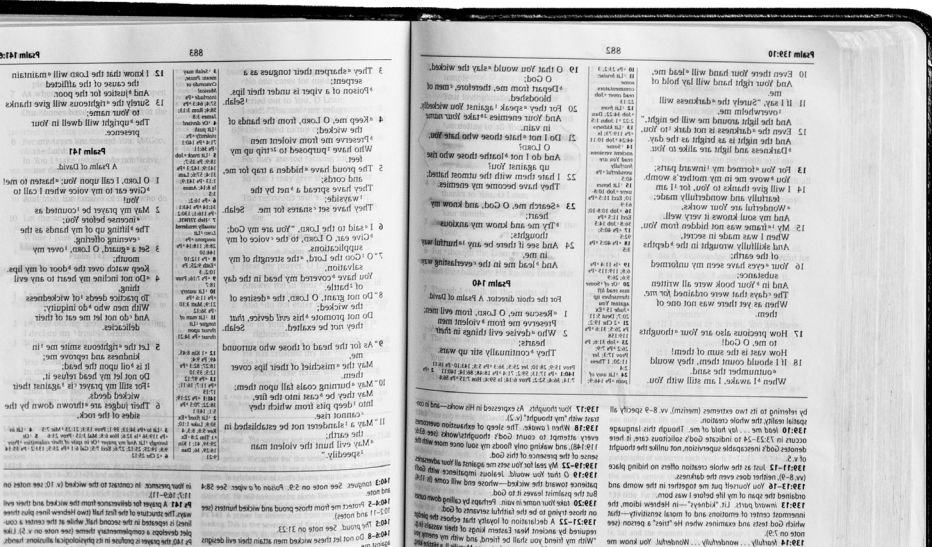
By Aileen Innes

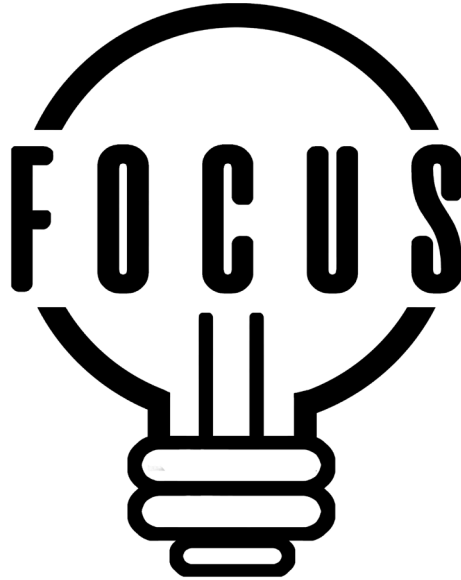
Lifegroups are the churches small groups, and are open to anyone who would like to gather with a smaller group regularly to grow in their relationship with God and develop deeper friendships with others from church. They have been vital this last year, as we have been unable to meet all together. All groups, without exception, quickly figured out how to make groups work online. Many groups have increased their activity meeting more regularly online than they did last year, and although Zoom doesn't work for everyone, many groups have had higher attendances online.

A good number of people have joined a lifegroup over the last year which has been great to see, and some newcomers to church have been able to find a group and start to make connections. Jack and Kristin Barracough started a new Lifegroup back in the Autumn. This has grown to 7 adults and 3 children very quickly, which has been wonderful to watch. Rachel and Shotti Rai have taken over the coordination of the 'Saturday at 3.30pm' group, as John and Mary Mackenzie step down from that role. Our thanks go to John and Mary for their faithful service.

Lifegroups have also provided invaluable care and support to one another during this past year, providing phonecalls, checking up on one another, running errands and even dropping off surprise treat packages. Some groups were able to meet in smaller numbers outside over the summer last year, and I now all appreciated being able to see each other.

Our thanks to all of the Lifegroup leaders for their coordination, care and leadership of the groups. If you would like to join a group please do get in touch with myself or the church office who will help connect you.





STUDENTS & 20s

By Emma Foster

Focus is a lifegroup for students and those in their 20s. Our aim is to be a welcoming community for those who are studying in Newcastle or perhaps returning to Newcastle after their degree. Our hope is that Focus is a safe and encouraging space to learn, grow and share together about life, uni, faith and everything in-between! There are currently about 12 of us and at the moment group is a real mixture of students and young professionals. It has been great to welcome some familiar faces who have returned to HBC after uni to the group this year.

We are currently meeting every Tuesday at 7.30pm on Zoom. We tend to just meet for an hour and divide the hour between chatting, studying the Bible or maybe going through a study book together and praying.

This year has been a strange one but it has been lovely to think outside the box and do things slightly differently. We've had a few socially distanced walks as a group in Heaton Park which have been really lovely- a good chance for people who haven't ever met in real life to say hello! We have also managed alongside our weekly meetings to have a few other socials including decorating gingerbread biscuits over Zoom for Christmas, quizzes and we even completed an online escape room together!

Special thanks to Ben Foster and Grace Bretnall for being part of the leadership team.

WORSHIP TEAM

By Hannah Coffey

The worship team provide music and technical brilliance services for the church, across Sunday services, special services and, as and when asked.

Lead by Hannah Coffey and Jonny Bird, we contribute to every week to Sunday services, we currently rehearse once or twice a week and we have incredibly skilled members of our church family who share their musical and technological gifts generously.

The most notable thing is the new system that was put in last summer and has already made a huge difference, even though we aren't having Sunday services in church. The system has enabled us to record tracks to be played out over Zoom as well as to play live and feed into the Sunday service. We are still immeasurably grateful and blessed to have been able to do this. Thank you to everyone who contributed and made it possible.

Special thanks to all the members of the team for their generosity and patience this past 18 months.



WELCOME TEAM

By Jan Pinder

Our involvement on a Sunday has been stymied yet again by Covid but we all hope for resumed Sunday Services, however restricted, before long. During the last year a number of faithful, long serving members of the team have resigned and I am sad to see them go. I wish you well and God's leading and blessing for the future. I am grateful for the time, support and often additional slots they have covered during extra events.

My term as a Deacon has come to an end and I shall hand over coordination of the team as this is a Diaconate role. I want to thank everyone on the team for their involvement over the years. Also thanks to Elaine Watts and Gill Taylor for their admin help. I have really enjoyed working with you all to develop the team, define responsibilities and get the rotas working better. Thank you so much. Whichever Deacon takes over will be blessed to know you all as you all are a blessing to others as you welcome them into church.



PASTORAL CARE

By Gill Taylor

Obviously, the lockdowns have had a huge impact on the work done by this team as we have been unable to visit people. So, we have spent time and prayer seeking ways in which we could support individuals and as a result, we have:

- Set up a telephone system to talk to people on a regular basis.
- Sent cards of encouragement.
- Continued with Tea at 2:30 which enables people to chat to each other on Zoom and share a short reflection.
- Distributed goody bags, pots of hyacinths and flowers which has given us the opportunity to have doorstep chats.
- Held a regular Whatsapp prayer time to pray together for others.

We continue to look for ways in which we can support those in our fellowship who are having a hard and stressful time.

One of the highlights has been attending a four week Pastoral training course on Zoom. We learnt more about how to really listen to people and how to care for them. In summary, Pastoral care is all about love.

'So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.' John 13 : 34

Special thanks to our team who have done a fantastic job this last year: Brian and Carol Twedde, Debbie Scar, Sandra Cowie, Bill and Maureen Hayton, Vera Franklin, Elaine Lord, Dee Dick, Gill Taylor, Dave Tubby, Aileen Innes and also thank you to the many others who have been involved in the pastoral phone call system





BUILDING ADVISORY GROUP (BAGS)

By Tom Pinder & Michael Stobbs

Although there have been no services in the church over the last twelve months, routine maintenance and repair work has continued, and the opportunity taken to continue a number of improvements and upgrades.

In the sanctuary, following requests, a large cross has been erected above the projection screen and very good it looks. The ground floor windows on the east side have been replaced complementing the major refurbishment of the foyer and the development of the resources centre in the rear corner. The electricity cables and sockets to the sound desk have all been renewed and upgraded.

In the life centre a new domestic hot water boiler has been fitted to replace the previous system that was beyond economic repair. After experiencing great difficulty in getting adequate maintenance and repair for the ageing fire alarm system at a reasonable cost, it was agreed that the system should be replaced completely to achieve long term economies. This has now been completed and at the same time the opportunity taken to install fire detectors in the third floor storage areas that had hitherto not had them despite them being a high risk area.

The team has also undertaken routine repair work that might normally be undertaken by the caretaker when necessary – a new caretaker is expected to be appointed before services in church recommence.

Much of the above work has been arranged and overseen by Bob Franklin. His experience and skill, allied to his enthusiasm and energy has been invaluable over the least three or four years, especially in the major works to the foyer. He will be greatly missed.



ENGLISH CLASSES

By Jeremy & Jean Wood

Our classes are to help people who have English as their second language to improve their skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking. Although we have not met in the past year, Jeremy has been doing one to one sessions each week with a few people using Skype.



PRAYER MINISTRY

By John & Mary MacKenzie

The prayer ministry team was set up to provide prayer support for those who would like to receive this ministry after services. This may be as a result of something said during the service or something that God has said directly to them during the service. Others may come forward to receive prayer about ongoing issues of concern.

During most of the past year the team has been led by John and Mary MacKenzie, who have been very ably supported by all the volunteers who have remained available to assist with prayer. As John and Mary have now stepped down as Prayer Ministry Team Leaders, Tim and Sheila Fletcher have taken on the role of Interim Team Leaders and will be supported in their new role by all of the team. Volunteers are available to pray with people about a variety of issues, keeping all of it confidential. Once services resume in the building, the team will meet on Sunday mornings on a planned basis, each person taking their turn every 2 to 3 weeks to be available to pray with others as part of the service.

This has been a quiet year for the Prayer Ministry Team. Whilst team members have remained available to provide prayer ministry either by phone or via a confidential Zoom meeting, this hasn't been requested by anyone during the past year. The team is now looking forward to returning to the church building and, following a risk assessment, we have been looking into ways to provide prayer ministry in a Covid secure way once in-person services resume. John and Mary, Tim and Sheila, plus team members have been busy looking at furniture and screens to enable the team to do this. We hope that the new layout will make the area more inviting for use by the church. It is also exciting to think of ways this area could be adapted in the future for other teams to use, which could help to make the sanctuary more accessible for those who are not from a church background.



As we look back over many years of prayer ministry, it is wonderful to remember special times of prayer we have had with many people and also some amazing answers to prayer. It has been such a privilege to be involved in this vital ministry.

“God is our refuge and our strength, an ever-present help in trouble. The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.”
Psalm 46: 1, 11.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all of those who have supported the prayer ministry team during the past year. The service which the team provides for the church is greatly appreciated by ourselves and by those who come forward for prayer. Those who have been involved regularly in serving on the prayer ministry team during the past year include: Kirsten Bird, Sheila Fletcher, Tim Fletcher, Sally Foster, Ed Foster, Bill Hayton, Maureen Hayton, Daniel Jegatheesan, Tom Pinder, Shotty Rai, Paul Smith, Anne Wales, Debbie Webster and Miriam Westfall.

MEETING POINT

By Michael & Margaret Stobbs

Aim: to provide a social/spiritual meeting place open to all, both HBC members/attendees and guests.

Leaders: Margaret and Michael Stobbs.

We meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 12-30pm for communion, followed at 1pm by a buffet lunch, and then a speaker or other activity.

As with other areas of ministry we have been affected by the covid pandemic, meaning that apart from September 2020 when we met in Church, for the rest of the year we have met on Zoom.

We look forward to the time when we can resume to meet together back in the Church.



iCONNECT

By Heather O'Neill

The aim of iConnect is to create a welcoming community for people from all over the world to share our faith and God's love practically through friendship, fun and hospitality.

Heather O'Neill, Andy and Hannah Clarke currently co-lead iConnect.

We also have a great team of helpers consisting of: Priya Daniel, Viv Weatherly, Adele Boakye, Vera Franklin, Heather Skee, Tim Knight, Shotti, Rachel and Abi Rai, Raymond and Vanessa Ortega, Ligia Martir, Sandra Cowie.

This year we have been unable to meet face to face, so instead have kept in touch with an active what's app group with a wide variety of engagement from crazy quizzes to prayer requests. The team have also been involved in regular doorstep visits, with gifts to help us stay connected such as ingredients to make shortbread or seeds to grow plants and then encouraged to post the developing or finished product on the what's app group. We have also kept in touch by phone or text with a few individuals or families each from the group to ensure everyone has been supported. At the start of lockdown we

tried using Zoom for some games and conversation but it hasn't worked so well as many of our group are using Zoom on their phones or may not have sufficient monthly data as well as language being more difficult to understand.

Many in the group have missed the opportunity to get together to practice their English so just recently we have paired people up with someone from church (mostly outside of the iConnect team) to chat once a week for half an hour or so and so far this has been going well and they have really appreciated the opportunity to talk to someone new.

We are all looking forward to being able to meet up face to face again but have also enjoyed the different ways we have connected through this past year as well and our hope is that everyone has felt something of our love and care for them.

Thanks to everyone in the iConnect team in supporting our community and each other this past year.



JUNIOR CHURCH/HBC KIDS

By Heather Rogers

Junior Church: To provide weekly provision for children aged 0-11 on Sunday mornings, including worship, teaching, prayer and play; to enable our children to feel welcome, loved, and a part of the church family, and to help them build strong, meaningful relationships with their peers, with leaders and with the wider church family.

HBC Kids: To work with the Junior Church leader, and aid in the mission that all children would know that they are welcome, loved and part of the church family at HBC; to facilitate outreach initiatives in the community, local schools and to partner with local organisations; to create resources that aid the wellbeing and the spiritual growth of children, both in the church family and in the community.

Junior Church: Jacq Howells is our Junior Church leader, overseeing the Junior Church groups on a Sunday morning and co-ordinating the teams for this. Our Junior Church groups meet on a weekly basis: Lasers (school years 5 and 6); Livewires (school years 3 and 4); All Stars (school years 1 and 2); Beginners (Nursery and Reception); and the Creche, for babies and toddlers. We have a great team of Junior Church leaders and helpers, who facilitate the sessions for the children: we currently have 31 volunteers in this area of ministry.

HBC Kids: Heather Rogers is our Children's Ministry Team Leader, and oversees HBC Kids as a whole. Heather started in her role in April 2020, and the wider work of HBC Kids has grown from this point – HBC Kids is the wider umbrella which covers community outreach events and initiatives, partnerships with local schools, etc.

Junior Church and HBC Kids has looked very different during the COVID-19 pandemic: although we have not been able to meet in person on Sunday mornings, we have been keen to ensure there are regular opportunities





for the children to connect to the church and to their peers. For our Junior Church families, this provision has taken various different shapes over the past year, including:

- Zoom Junior Church: this has provided a great opportunity for the children to connect with one another and with their Junior Church leaders over Zoom, and have been well attended and well received.
- HBC Kids in the Park: throughout the summer holidays, we met with small groups of families in Heaton Park on a weekly basis. Very recently, we have begun meeting again, in our Junior Church groups in the park, on a monthly basis – this is a great step into being able to meet in person again, and it has been wonderful to see the children together again.
- Big Questions weekly video sessions: throughout our Big Questions series, we provided weekly recorded “Junior Church sessions” and resources for families to use at home, around the same topics that were being discussed in the service. This was a great chance for the groups to grapple with difficult questions around faith.
- Easter packs/Advent bags/deliveries – throughout the year, we have found ways to connect with families on their doorsteps,

and to drop packages off for the children. We’ve also sent cards out to all of the children on a few occasions, and celebrated birthdays throughout the year, in order to keep those relationships going well.

- Walks with Heather/phone calls/Zoom conversations – we’ve been finding creative ways to offer support to our families, while we’ve not been able to meet in person.

As well as our Junior Church work, we have also had the opportunity to facilitate some wonderful initiatives for the community and other families in Heaton. This has included:

- Care Packages for Chillingham Road: We were able to deliver a “care package” for every member of staff at Chillingham Road Primary, including tea

and hot chocolate, hand sanitizer and cream, and other bits and pieces.

- The Big Heaton Treasure Hunt: in the half term holiday, we were able to put together a treasure hunt around Heaton, in partnership with local businesses. Shops and businesses around Chillingham Road and Heaton Road put posters up in their windows, and local families were invited to collect all the clues, and to come and collect a goody bag from the Life Centre at the end of the week. We “met” (from a distance, in a COVID-secure way) about 100 families, and it was fantastic to be able to connect with local businesses. The local businesses also donated items and packages for a prize draw, which we were able to give out to some of the families that took part.

Special thanks to Jacq Howell, for her spectacular leading of the Junior Church. Also, big thanks to our Junior Church volunteers: James Girling, Ross McCall, Chris Pay, Massi Tambala, Gordon Innes, Tammy Lennox, Anna McCall, Kath and Geoff Moffitt, Travers Blair, Grace Bretnall, Helen Darlington, Amanda Douglas, Anne Liddell, Steph Wallace, Hannah Wilkin, Karen Alderman, Priya Daniel, Viv Davies, Jenny Ford, Lynda Knight, Debbie Scarr, Viv Weatherley, Helen Middleton, Jayne Bird, Amanda Cowie, Karen Dews, Sheila Fletcher, Esther Gillespie, Helen MacFarlane, Joanne McCheyne and Verity Alderman.



GREEN TEAM

By Tim Knight

We are all increasingly aware of the detrimental impacts of human activities on the climate, on the environment and on our local & global neighbours. We now know that climate change is likely to have a catastrophic effect on our own and other species if global temperature rises are not kept below 1.5 degrees. Those who are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change have often contributed least to global warming; for some the crisis has come already.

We acknowledge Jesus as the source of, the sustainer of, and the saviour of creation. Trusting in Him we want to encourage and challenge one another to reduce the damage we do to the environment and to live more sustainably. The team aims to do this through teaching, campaigning and most importantly taking action as individuals and as a church.

The group was formed in Spring 2021 and is meeting monthly on-line to review progress. The main work of the group happens between meetings with individuals involved in initiatives such as:

- Eco Church audit,
- Assessment of the carbon footprint of the church and its activities,
- A Sunday morning slot promoting ideas to reduce our impact on the environment
- Services focussing on our relationship with the planet.
- Campaigning.

If you share our passion and have your own ideas please get in touch with Tim Knight or another member of the team.

PARTNERSHIP FUND

By Kath Moffitt

The Partnership Fund is used to support church members in, or training for, or retired from, full time Christian service who have been recommended to it by a church meeting.

Over the last financial year the Partnership Fund has been able to give some support to:

- Jack Barraclough working for Agapé in Newcastle
- Andrew and Kimberley Carrabine and Josiah training with and now working with YWAM
- Rebecca Mayo, working for Youth for Christ in Newcastle
- Anna McCall, Agape staff member working in the UK for Agapé
- Jonny Potts working for Agapé in Newcastle
- Miriam Westfall working for Agapé in Newcastle

There are three main ways the fund is financed:

1. Some comes from the church funds
2. Some gifts given through the partnership funds are given for specific individuals (these are added to the allocations from the fund)
3. Some gifts are given for general use.
4. Where applicable we recover and distribute the gift aid.

As you can see, the majority of the funds come from the church with only a small amount coming from members of the church giving direct to the Partnership Fund.

The Partnership Fund has also taken over the functions of the short term bursary which was previously administered by the Church Treasurer. If you are interested in giving to the fund in general or to a specific individual please talk to one of the trustees. If you feel you would like to be partnered by the Partnership Fund in training for full time Christian work or in full time Christian service or for the Short term bursary, please approach the elders.

Heaton Baptist Church - Partnership Fund Accounts 2019/2020

2019/2020 20734 0 (bank charges) £20734	Payments Members in full-time/training/short term bursaries Other payments Total	2020/2021 18894 0 (bank charges) £18894
1094.71 200 680 22200 0 23080	Receipts Brought forward Gift Aid giving Non gift aid giving Church Funds Gift aid income tax refunds 2018 Gift aid income tax refund 2019 Bank Interest Total	3440.71 0 480 22200 0 22680
£2346 £3440.71	Outgoings vs Income Balance in hand	£3786 £7226.71 Kath Moffitt 31/03/2021

Thank you for all your support
Amanda Cowie, Kath Moffitt and Rachel Megoran
Partnership Fund Trustees 31/03/2021



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