

# Weymouth Baptist Church - Ministries Report of 2016

## Communications and Publicity – Ted Winter

Looking outwards, it has been a year since the new website went live, and looking at the stats for the last month, WBC continues to reach out into the world. Second only to the UK, Russians logged on to our website more than any other country, with Saint Petersburg being third in the top ten cities (after Weymouth and London) to visit our site. Our Facebook page also makes a worthwhile contribution.

Looking inwards, the Sunday Reminder, our weekly newsletter, produced and printed in-house for distribution on Sunday morning services (a big thanks to Sue Sparks), also continues to be emailed out to over eighty addresses, many of whom are joint subscribers, helping WBC to maintain links to those who cannot attend church or have moved away. The new projector has enhanced our worship and presentations, and the software that run the computers in the church has all been upgraded to the latest versions. Technology continues to play a large part in all that we do.

- Praise God that we have, not only the will, but the means to reach out with a weekly message of salvation to people in all parts of the earth, many whose authorities are not friendly to the Gospel.
- And pray that we can continue to harness the benefits of new technology to present the Good News, often to those that are bound by that same technology.

## Treasures - Jayne Newton

We have had a very busy year in Treasures, which included a day trip to the farm, a garden party at the Manse, a parenting course as well as lots of craft, play and singing. We have had team members leave (Claire A and Keira) and others join (Sandy S, Terri P, Rosemary & Melvin D).

Our numbers have been growing throughout the year and we usually have at least 30 families each week with 50 on our sign in sheet for last term. The parents/carers tell us how much they appreciate the group, that they feel welcomed and that it is not cliquey. This means a lot to the team, as we really want each family to feel cared for and that they belong.

We are grateful to God for ongoing safety, good conversations and the large numbers of people.

### Please pray:

- For some extra helpers as it is very tiring to run such a busy group and we want to spend good time chatting with people.
- For spiritual conversations.
- For wisdom to follow up individuals and continue parenting/seeker courses.
- For church parents who attend and befriend.
- For individuals to come to faith.

Thanks from the team: Jayne N, Claire H, Julie L, Pete B, Liz LeQ, Sandy S, Peter M, Terri P, Rosemary & Melvin D.

## The Lantern – Melvin & Rosemary Dunk

The food goods that the church has given to the Lantern has been well received. We have often received “We are so thankful”, “Just what we needed”, “Thank your people at the Baptist Church for your continued support and generous giving”.

- Please keep supporting and praying for the Lantern.

## Weyfinders – June Stephens

Weyfinders have had a good 2016 and new members have been joining us. Our coffee mornings have given us time to get to know each other much better and to make use of our hospitality skills and above all share God’s love.

Our Christmas meal was a great success and enjoyed by all.

A Valentine’s lunch is planned on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February** (gentlemen make note). Watch for all details on the notice board in the corridor and in the weekly Sunday Reminder.

We look forward with anticipation to our 2017 programme. Thank you Lord for all the blessings you have given us and we look forward with Vision and Hope to seeing more joining us in the months ahead.

### **Mission Support Team – Len & Rosemary Croft**

We read in Colossians 4 v 2 Paul's further instructions – "Devote yourselves to Prayer, being watchful and thankful". Our group meets informally at our home bi-monthly to do just that – remembering in Prayer all our Mission Links:

- All of our Baptist Missionary Society workers, especially The Douglas Family serving in Nepal, they have had difficulties this year and at the moment are concerned for family here at home. BMS have a special Prayer Day each year, for 2017, it is **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February**.
- Baptist Home Mission – especially Stoborough Baptist with whom we are linked.
- The Stewart Family working with London City Mission, they are very precious to us. Kath especially is having severe health problems.
- AIM International especially Zeka and Anita Tjiwana and their two sets of twins. They are hoping to go back and work with The San People once their health problems have been cleared.
- The Families of our Old Links in Romania and Poland.
- Our own Matt Rees and now his wife Grace as they work on The Isle of Man.
- At Home – we remember Weymouth Food Bank, Healing on the Streets (HOTS), Street Pastors and Christians Against Poverty (CAP).

Our next meeting is on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February** at 2.30pm, please come and join us.

### **Food Bank – Ann Hampton**

Over the past year, the number of clients attending has fluctuated, but we have provided meals for 1,249 adults and 720 children. We have been blessed by the amount of donated food from many sources within the community, both individuals, groups and businesses. As we move into 2017, we look to the Lord for His guidance for the ongoing progress of this ministry.

### **Care Homes Ministry – Michael Hampton**

We have visited three care home each month (except August) during the year. These are Westhaven House, Avon-Lea Nursing Home and Weymouth Care Home. We hold a fairly traditional service using hymns, plus prayers, poems and a brief Bible-based talk. We are able to talk with residents and staff on these occasions, and we are grateful that many of the staff in these homes are supportive of our visits. We pray for the Lord's blessing on the services planned for the coming year, and will be glad of any support to strengthen our teams.

### **Welcome Team – Mary Bennett**

My grateful thanks goes out to all members of the team who turn up early for church on Sundays with smiles on their faces ready to greet the congregation each week. We have a full team with recent additions being Don and Gill Bridle and Richard Murton. Members are often ready to step in if someone cannot make their duty. As well as greeting people, we are ready to assist with security and emergency evacuation of the building, should it ever be needed.

### **Security – Mary Bennett**

This is a task which is necessary but not particularly enviable so my thanks goes to the small group who see that fire doors are unlocked at the beginning of the Sunday service, stay in the welcome area during the service to deal with any issues which arise and then stay behind until everyone has gone in order to see that electrical items are tuned off and all doors secure.

### **HOTS – Mary Bennett**

It is a great privilege to be able to stand in the middle of our town to own Christ among our residents and tourists and to offer to pray with them for whatever is on their minds. We have many reports of people who have been helped and blessed, some coming back for more or just to thank us. The team is composed of members of a number of churches in the town and we enjoy good fellowship together. However, the team has shrunk dramatically due to those who themselves are aging, have family commitments or ill health. We met together in the autumn to seek God as to whether we should continue. The outcome was that during the winter months we are going out one Saturday a month until after Easter. We would really love to welcome new team members.

- Please seek God as to whether you could be one and if you would like to know more, please speak to me, Mary Bennett.

### **Prison Ministry – Marian Albery**

Prison Fellowship, which operates in 108 countries worldwide, aims to support chaplaincies by prayer, financial & human resources, prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families. The establishments our local group supports are: HMP/YOI Portland, HMP Ashfield (Glos.) and the Immigration Removal Centre at the Verne. This is achieved by letter writing, attendance at Sunday worship, prayer group, midweek groups, Angel Tree, presents for prisoners children at Christmas & Mothers' Day cards & gifts for young offenders.

- Give thanks for: Those who come to faith, that they will keep strong on release.
- Pray for: Our chaplaincies, for - wisdom, compassion & protection.

### **Pastoral Care – Ian Newton**

The Pastoral Care team has grown this year and I am grateful for each person's contribution. Some have regular visits with individuals and others give support as need arise. We are aiming to ensure that everyone in the fellowship has access to help and support. We have had two opportunities for training, firstly with regards to bereavement and then for safeguarding issues. We meet every other month to pray and support each other. If you have any questions or wish to raise a pastoral need with us, please contact Ian Newton or Peter Mockett.

### **Street Pastors – Dave Rees**

WBC have provided a base for Weymouth Street Pastors (WSP) this autumn due to its strategic location in the town centre and this has been greatly appreciated by the trustees of WSP as St Marys is undergoing refurbishment.

WBC currently provides 1 Street Pastor and 1 Prayer Pastor as part of the Weymouth Street Pastor team. WSP are in transition as the current co-ordinator, Ken Crafer, is leaving the area and this is a vital role, which needs to be filled. As an established inter church initiative, we have a team of about 40 people from 15 churches and do require more Street Pastors and Prayer Pastors to maintain a level of peace in the night time economy of Weymouth.

The founder of Street Pastors, Rev Les Isaacs will be coming to Weymouth in May, more information to follow.

The team has completed 21000 voluntary hours in the community since 2008, made 6000 contacts on duty, picked up 10600 bottles, given out over 4200 pairs of flip-flops, and saved and changed lives by being in the right place at the right time.

- Praise points are – A safer, more peaceful night-time economy.
- Prayer points – WBC members prayerfully support and consider whether this is a ministry they could be involved in.

### **CAP (Christians Against Poverty) – Neil Hardisty**

During the past year, CAP has gone from strength to strength – in the strength of the Lord. In total 25 clients have now completed their programme and gone debt free. Over and above that, ten have come to know the Lord as their personal saviour. The Lord has blessed and is continuing to bless the work. The local centre is now on a firm financial footing thanks to the generosity of sixteen local churches and some individual givers. This means that clients can be blessed in more ways. A recent highlight was a local CAP dinner at the Hix Academy at Weymouth College when 45 people sat down to a 3-course meal to the accompaniment of a jazz trio and a guest evangelist from CAP. The total cost of the meal was specifically covered by generous gifts – Praise the Lord. Also, Sally Hunt is now a salaried worker and there are plans in the pipeline to provide a further five years of funding for her - as well as a second worker to help meet the need in Weymouth & Portland. Please pray for this matter, that it will have a positive result. And thank you to all the volunteers from many churches who diligently support the work of CAP in many ways.

### **Worship Team – Liz Tripp**

We have welcomed some new members to our team this year, and continue to be blessed with a wide age range of musicians and singers, each bringing their unique gift to enhance our corporate worship.

We would still like to see more musicians and singers, and the technical (Audio Visual) team are very short of volunteers.

- We appreciate your prayers for more volunteers to step forward and become involved.
- Please also pray for continuing spiritual development of our ministry, and the Lord's protection and guidance to us as a team.

### **Prayer Team – Keith & Fiona Johnson**

We currently have 13 people actively involved in providing prayer support during or after the Sunday morning service: Dave Rees, Keith Johnson, Fiona Johnson, Judith Dodd, Julie Leeming, Angie Winter, Anne Callaby, Dave Alderson, Christina Smith, Sandy Scully, Terri Plater, Richard Homer and Claire Homer.

It has been encouraging to see people coming forward for prayer as well as being prayed for during the coffee break. Prayer is available at the front of the church but we are also willing to pray with those who would prefer to stay in their seats. This is available during or after the service has finished. We want people to feel they can ask for prayer about anything. If someone expresses a need to you, suggest praying with them about it. It's so encouraging when we see our church family talking and praying together.

- Praise point: We have seen God touch people as we pray for them.
- Prayer point: We would see God move in each of our lives more powerfully as we bring all things to him in prayer (Phil 4 v 6-7).

### **Girls' Brigade – Pauline Hardisty**

Our company is very much alive and active, although very small at present. We currently have 14 girls attending, but we are running four separate programmes each week. Ages range from 4-16. We have sadly lost one of our older girls this year as she has moved away and we have lost touch. Two of our older girls attended the Young Leaders' Training weekend last spring and two more will be going this year. This gives girls the opportunity of learning valuable leadership lessons and also making friends with other likeminded girls from a wider area. We had a fun camp in Tiverton last summer. We were sorry to lose Keira after her wedding but have been really pleased to have Larissa on the team. Angie Pearce and Sara Samuel were commissioned as leaders in November and they are being very well used. I was surprised with the presentation of my 50-year service award and we have just had our 38<sup>th</sup> birthday. New members of all ages are always welcome and we will be doing some more recruiting soon. Our Seniors and Brigaders will be sharing in a Mystery Evening next week at Yeovil and in March, we will be hosting a District Event here when we will be sharing worship, tea and an evening at Sharky's.

### **Catering – Pauline Hardisty**

We may not have had many whole church events this year, but the kitchen has been well used by many different groups, both internal and external. This, however, brings problems with it, as not everyone leaves the kitchen as well as they should and various things seem to disappear and strange things happen! Tea towels especially disappear at an alarming rate and we keep replacing them. Also, please do not use tea towels for mopping up spillages. This stains then unnecessarily. Please use dishcloths for that. Likewise, there are oven gloves for use with hot dishes. Please if you see the kitchen bin is full, then empty it and likewise the food bin. Spare bags are kept under the hand sink. Thank you. Also, please remove left over food unless you label it for use by someone else who knows about it!!!

Please remember to collect your cake tins/dishes when you bring them with something in.

Likewise, please return church items that you borrow! There should always be someone working in the kitchen who has done the food hygiene course. We will be tightening up on that shortly.

### **Life Groups – Peter Mockett**

The ministry of the Life Groups continues from year to year and we owe a great deal to those that lead and others that host these often weekly meetings. Without the ongoing service of these great people, we would not be such a healthy church. There is, of course, plenty of room for more people to get involved and for even more groups to get started. It is always great to see and hear how members have supported and encouraged each other in these communities and we pray that it would continue and deepen. During the coming year various groups will be getting involved with leading the prayer time on a Sunday morning and have the opportunity to share a testimony of either the group or one of its members. We will also, hopefully, be joining together to do a joint study called *Whole Life Discipleship*.