

Weymouth Baptist Church - Ministries Report of 2017

Weyfinders – June Stephens

Weyfinders have enjoyed much time together in 2017, and shared wonderful hospitality in various members' homes. We all really enjoyed a perfect summers day for our Garden Party held in Doris and Fred Flack's delightful garden. We also had a wonderful Weyfinders Holiday in Sidmouth in October and hope to repeat this again in 2018.

Christmas Lunch was at the Nothe Fort and no one was disappointed, it was all delicious.

We certainly felt blessed in 2017, getting to know each other well and feeling welcome. Our time together is something special, we can say that we have shared much laughter and we are there for each other when times are not so easy.

Thanks to all those who have given lifts when it was required, this is much appreciated. We also have welcomed some new faces.

Walks are being introduced starting on Tuesday 30th January. Whether you prefer a walk or a gentle stroll, everyone is welcome, with hospitality being given at the end of the walk. We will also look forward to more walks/gentle strolls in 2018.

Weyfinders started in 1997, so this year is our 21st Birthday (party time???)

We pray we will continue to look forward with Hope and Vision for 2018, enjoying our senior moments together celebrating and sharing God's Love with Joy in our hearts, as age is just a number.

Welcome Team – Mary Bennett

A very faithful and diligent team have welcomed people on a Sunday morning with a smile and care. The duty includes at least one person being ready to stay in the Foyer throughout the service to assist with security and any other matter that might crop up. It is amazing what happens behind your backs! They are also ready to assist in the case of the building needing to be evacuated. It is a tribute to one and all that the team has remained virtually the same except for Lily Mockett who had to give up due to ill health. My thanks to you all.

Security – Mary Bennett

A small, but regular team, take it in turns to ensure evacuation routes are clear before the service, to stay in the Foyer during the service to attend to any incident that occurs, to be ready to take charge should there be the need to evacuate the building, and then to stay behind after we have all left to ensure all doors and windows are secure and necessary electrics switched off. This is a behind the scenes, but very necessary task and my thanks goes to everyone who takes part.

Communications and Publicity – Ted Winter

Our website continues to function well – in the last 7 days at the time of writing, it received 345 page views, of which the Diary page had 18, the Sermons page 17, and WBC News and the Children's/Youth pages each had 16 views. However, the real surprise is the Foodbank page; that was accessed 62 times in the week, and 1029 times over 90 days, 5 times more than any other page. This would probably account for the fact that 90.3% of the total views came from the UK, trailed by 5.6% from the USA. Russia, which came so high in the viewing figures last year, didn't even show. The CAP page wasn't too far behind the other leaders either, with 10 views in the same week. Adding together the astonishing interest in the Foodbank page and the views for CAP, I leave you to your own conclusions.

The Sunday Reminder benefited from a couple of cosmetic changes over the year, endeavouring to keep it fresh, and we are still printing 60 copies a week and emailing to 79 different addresses far and wide.

Our Facebook page ([facebook.com/weychurch](https://www.facebook.com/weychurch)) is proving to be an asset and has had far more use in the last 12 months.

Information Technology. The emphasis this year has been on security. The church's Wi-Fi network has been changed to a guest network. It is a totally different network with a different, freely available password from the main network. This means devices connected to the guest network will not be able to access files and printers connected to the main network. An extender was installed on the Hub to boost the guest network downstairs so that it would reach the Foodbank room and Parlour. Users passwords on the office pc have been changed and personal information is in the process of being encrypted, safeguarding against unauthorised access.

Food Bank – Ann Hampton

This past year has seen an increase in the number of clients attending Foodbank – some are in work but don't have enough income to pay for rent and food, whilst others for various reasons are receiving benefits or awaiting the outcome of benefit applications. During 2017, we provided food for 1,692 adults and 197 children. This equates to 23,787 meals, an increase of 34.2% over 2016.

However, the Lord provides, and the generosity of churches, individuals and other organisations has enabled the Foodbank to provide adequately for all clients. We continue to look to the Lord for His provision and opportunities of sharing His love with our clients.

Prison Ministry – Marian Albery

Prison Ministry supports Chaplaincies, prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families through prayer and practical support, writing letters to prisoners and ex-prisoners, keeping in touch to aid rehabilitation after release. Prison Fellowship operates in 108 countries worldwide. The local branch in Weymouth meets once a month for prayer, supporting Angel Tree- gifts to children at Christmas, and Mother's Day for Young Offenders. We appreciate your support and prayers.

Care Home Ministry – Michael Hampton

The team began the year with monthly visits to three care homes in the area. These were Weymouth Care Home, Westhaven House and Avon Lea Nursing Home. The visits take the form of an informal service, including some traditional hymns, a poem and a solo, as well as prayers and a brief Bible meditation. These visits seem to be appreciated by both staff and residents. Most of the team are from WBC, and some from other local churches.

The biggest change in the year was the sudden closure of Avon Lea Nursing Home. We had visited the home at the regular date in October, including conversations with new staff. A week later, a phone call from one of the team confirmed that the home had closed, and the residents dispersed to other care homes around the area.

We have not, as yet, been able to include any new homes in our itinerary. We really need some fresh volunteers to expand the team to enable us to do that. That is our prayer for 2018. We continue to visit the other two care homes each month.

Worship Team – Liz Tripp

We have welcomed a couple of new members to our team this year, and their contribution is greatly appreciated. However, we urgently need more technical support, particularly sound engineers. We are also still short of musicians and singers, partly due to the limited availability of current team members, as many are also involved in other ministries in the Church.

We have been particularly blessed with having Larissa Thams and the Youth Band lead worship at occasional Sunday morning services this year, bringing another style of worship to the Church, making it more accessible to additional younger folk who may not routinely go to Church.

If anyone is interested in joining the Worship team, please do get in touch (Liz Tripp for musicians and singers/Murray Miller for technical support team). We would just ask that potential new members come along to a few of the Practices (Thursday evenings), and once on the team, then be committed to attend the Practice prior to their Sundays on duty.

- Praise points: we continue to be blessed with a wide range of worship leaders, musicians and singers, each bringing their unique gift to enhance our corporate worship.
- Prayer points: please pray for more musicians, singers and technical support. Also, please pray for continued spiritual development of our ministry, for unity within the team and for the Lord's protection and guidance to us.

Youth Band – Larissa Thams

The Youth Band has been a great space for the teens to find their gifting and talents as well as making new friends. The group has really bonded and enjoyed every practise - praying, reading and praising God through music and conversations.

We have really enjoyed the opportunity to lead worship at Family Services and more recently at regular Sunday services.

Youth Cell – Elaine Pullen

Youth cell has had a good year. We continue to meet from 6.00 – 7.30pm on Tuesday evenings in term time. We eat together, and then spend time in Bible study and worship. I don't have figures for the first part of the year, but since September, attendance has been stable, at about 12 young people each week.

During the first part of 2017, and at the request of the young people, we worked through the book of Revelation. We spent time trying to understand John's vision of heaven, always returning to the message of hope that lies at its heart.

Having said goodbye to Joe at the end of the summer term, we started the new academic year with a 'walking supper' for which we were generously hosted by the Homer and Miller families. Our main focus between September and December was on the Spiritual Disciplines of Prayer, Simplicity, Confession, Worship, Silence and Solitude. Submission and Celebration. Fiona Daborn, who works for Christian Aid, co-led the session on Simplicity, which the young people very much enjoyed. We also spent a couple of sessions thinking about North Korea, and the situation of Christians who live there.

This term we are looking at the work of the Holy Spirit as described in the first four chapters of Acts. This will lead us up to the middle of March, at which point we will switch our attention to Holy week, asking 'what is holy communion?', and finishing, two days before Maundy Thursday with a shared communion meal. We have already had a guest speaker this term: on 23rd January, Don Bridle volunteered his services to answer the young people's questions.

'#ask Don', as the evening became tagged, was a great success, with questions, and answers, ranging widely over the subjects of God, faith and the bible, to name just a few.

The young people enjoyed their evenings with Fiona and with Don: if you think, you might have something to offer and up for the challenge, please speak to one of us and we keep it in mind as we plan for the future.

Sanctuary – Nick Wrightson & Larissa Thams

2017 has been a strange year for both youngsters and those of us not quite so young! Saying goodbye to Joe after so many years was hard for us all, he had been such an inspiration to so many people for so long.

The first half of the year was busy with games evenings, discussions, etc. and when we returned in September we continued in a similar way as well as having a sleepover weekend during which we did a 10.2 mile sponsored walk, raising £260 for the renal unit at D.C.H. followed by an evening of bowling - which maybe wasn't the wisest of decisions bearing in mind the state of our legs!

This term we have been bowling and are planning a cinema trip, a Chinese meal and cooking cakes for the team who feed the homeless on a Sunday evening.

We are planning a trip to Soul Survivor in August and already have a few people booked.

Please pray for us during the coming months, particularly as the church advertise for a Youth Pastor.

Street Pastors – Dave Rees

Street Pastors did not have to intervene in any acts of anti-social behaviour whilst the teams were on the streets of Weymouth every Friday and Saturday night in 2017. During the year, we have picked up 548 glasses and 841 bottles and swept up 152 smashed glass items in the town centre year. We have given out 380 pairs of flip-flops. Alcohol consumption has declined over the reporting period as we are seeing 40% less alcohol related incidents in both genders, with a significant drop of 75% in female incidents. The collective measures put in place by the Night Time Economy Partners is having a positive effect in curbing alcohol consumption with door staff, CCTV and venues playing their part to change drinking behaviours. We received a volunteer group of the year award in 2017 from the Dorset Volunteer Service and the unsung hero's award from Pub watch. Personally, I have taken on the Street Pastors co-ordinator role, and it has been great to grow in this role, being able to represent the Church of Weymouth in night-time economy steering groups. We shall be recruiting in 2018 both Street and Prayer Pastors, please contact me for further information.

Kitchen Report – Nick Wrightson (Kitchen Caretaker)

This has been another busy year in the kitchen with it being used on virtually everyday of the week. Thank you to everyone who uses it and looks after it so well. We have had no major issues and when I do the weekly clean my job is made easier by the fact that you all leave the kitchen nice and clean. If you wish to borrow anything from the kitchen, please ask Nick Wrightson or Pauline Hardisty just in case it is needed for anything and remember to return it.

Please remember if you are cooking or reheating food for your group to record the temperature of the food, there is a form to record it on and a thermometer beside the serving hatch.

Please remember to empty the bin and food bin when they are between ½ and ¾ full. Black sacks go in the hessian bag in the corridor and the food bin into the brown food bin. Spare bags for both are kept in the cupboard under the hand washbasin in the kitchen.

Food is now being stored correctly in the fridge-please remember to label and date any food you are leaving in the fridge and do not leave food there unless you KNOW that you or someone else will use it within 3 days.

Some of these rules may seem a little odd, but as we are registered as a food premises with Weymouth and Portland Borough Council we have to abide by the rule laid out by The Food Standards Agency. Thank you again.

Kids on the Wey – Julia Mockett

Since Joe has left, I have overseen the running of Kids on the Wey, which is the Children's ministry on Sunday.

It was a 4-department crèche run by Rebecca Robinson, Bubbles run by Christina and Splash and Xstream run by Joe. When I took over Rebecca and Christina were virtually out of church every week. Even though they enjoyed what they were doing, they missed being in church and wanted more help. After it was apparent that not enough volunteers were available to relieve the situation the decision was made to amalgamate the 2 groups. This took place at the beginning of January. Since making this decision Rebecca has decided to attend the Catholic Church after her daughter started going there since she went to St Augustine's School.

Crèche will run for the 0 to 4 year olds, Splash 4 to 7 year olds and Xstream 7 to 11 year olds. There are still a few teething problems with the running of Crèche, e.g., what to do when the older children need to go to the toilet?

Splash have now been able to go to their room during the small group time as we have enough staff to run the 2 groups properly. They really enjoy using the room.

It is lovely to see people serving the children of the church giving up their time sacrificially when there are no direct benefits to themselves or their families. It is a beautiful thing to see.

The crèche is being run with parent helpers, so if you would like to enable those parents to attend church you could volunteer your services on a once a month or even just once ever 3 months. If you become involved in the children's work you would need to complete a DBS but Fred would come round to your house and help you to do it. If you are involved in the Crèche already and would like to help to oversee it and set the new rota please come and see me.

Prayer Team – Keith & Fiona Johnson

We currently have 11 people actively involved in providing prayer support during and after the Sunday morning service: David Rees, Keith Johnson, Fiona Johnson, Judith Dodd, Angie Winter, Anne Callaby, David Alderson, Sandy Scully, Terri Plater, Richard Homer and Claire Homer.

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 or coming to the front with them.

- Praise point: We have seen God at work as we pray.
- Prayer point: To encourage one another to seek God in prayer, through the Holy Spirit in all situations. (Eph 6 v 18).

Mission Support Team – Len & Rosemary Croft

In Ephesians 6 v 18 we read – “And Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of Prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on Praying for all the saints.” 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 are busy – Angus in the new building of the KISC School and Helen with Medical Research. Caleb, Charis and Esther are all fast growing and at KISC.
- Baptist Home Mission – especially Stoborough Baptist Church with whom we have been linked.
- The Stewart Family working with London City Mission – they have so many problems but continue to serve the Lord.
- AIM International especially Zeka and Anita Tjiwana and their two sets of twins serving in Rundu in Namibia.
- Operation Mobilisation (OM) and its many works around the world.
- Our own Matt Rees and his wife Grace as they work in Douglas on The Isle of Man.
- At Home – we remember Weymouth Food Bank, Healing on the Streets (HOTS) Street Pastors, Christians Against Poverty (CAP) and The Nest.

Our next Meeting is on Thursday 15th March at 2-30pm, please come and join us.

The Lantern – Melvin Dunk

We continue to deliver to The Lantern on our designated dates. We are finding that very few people are putting food items in the box but a few people are still handing us money to take. The Lantern are always very grateful for anything they get.

Life Groups – Peter Mockett

Being asked to write a report for this year has made me realise that I have not given enough attention to the ongoing well being of our Life Groups. Plans were made last year but not implemented and so I hope and pray that 2018 will be better. I am glad to announce that Stuart Dennis has agreed to become the new Life Groups Coordinator. As far as 2017 was concerned, a new group was formed following on from the Alpha course and the testimony of other groups show that the social, pastoral and discipleship aspects of group life is continuing to be healthy. Please pray that as we go forward there would be a new vitality and purpose in all that we do.

Pastoral Care – Peter Mockett

This year has been one of transition for the team. Many thanks to Ian Newton would led the team but has now moved on from leading but is still part of the team. Currently it is led by Jack Curtis under the supervision of myself and I will take over when Jack leaves in June. It is hoped that our regular team prayer times will start again shortly. If you are interested in being part of the care team, please speak with me. If you know of someone who needs support and/or a home visit or if someone is in hospital, then please let me know.

Treasures – Jayne Newton

Treasures continues to be very popular with a regular attendance of 30+ families.

- Praise point: There is a growing sense of community and openness in the group with many attending Messy Church. The team have had opportunities to pray with people. We have had two new team members.
- Prayer point: That we make the most of the opportunities to share our faith. That we grow the team this year as sometimes we struggle a bit now that the group has grown.

Kids Club – Jayne Newton

Jayne now leads this and has worked with the team to produce a new programme. Our numbers are still quite low but starting to grow. Please pray that we manage to attract more families and that we find the best way to reach out to children in our town.

Youth and Children's Ministry – Peter Mockett

Obviously, with Joe Hobday leaving during last year has led to some changes as we seek to serve the children and youth of WBC and the local community. I would like to thank the many people who have stepped up to the plate to take on leadership, teaching and helping roles in the last six months. Nick Wrightson leads a team that continues to run the Sanctuary Youth Club on Fridays with its varied programme. Nick will also be leading a group to Soul Survivor this year. Elaine Pullen has taken on the leadership of the Youth Cell on Tuesday evenings and is training with Equip to develop her skills in youth work. I have put together the rota for the Teenage Sunday Class that has been run by a large and committed group of church members bringing the teaching in various ways with the support of Larissa as the common denominator. This varied approach has been appreciated by the youth and it is hoped to be continued when, and if, we appoint a new Youth Pastor. Julia Mockett has returned to take on the leadership of the Sunday children's ministry (Splash and Xstream) and has a very capable team delivering the teaching. With Rebecca Robinson moving churches, this has left a gap in Crèche and a new leader is needed. However, the Bubbles group has closed and amalgamated with the Crèche and other children's groups. Many thanks to Rebecca for her long and faithful service. Jayne Newton now leads Kids' Club on Friday's and is beginning to see new growth as she investigates possible changes for the future. Please continue to pray for the Youth Pastor position that is currently being advertised, that the Lord will supply the right person for WBC. What the last few months has shown is that we are blessed (Praise God) with many people willing to help in this ministry, but the overall leadership and oversight of youth and children's ministry is needed, and we need someone who has the time and gifts to be able to help with the connections we have in local schools, colleges and the wider community. Thank you to everyone involved in delivering quality ministry to our youth and children.

Messy Church – Jayne Newton

We have had two Messy Church events this year. Both have been very well attended and have helped families connected with us to have fun but also to hear the Christian message. These events take a lot of planning and need a large team. Currently Jayne is looking for a few people with a heart for this kind of ministry, who might form a team to plan future events.

Christians Against Poverty – Neil Hardisty

CAP is now recognised as the most highly recommended Debt Counselling Service in the country and has continued to raise its profile in Weymouth and Portland. The really good news is that the application made by Refresh to the Reaching Communities Fund of the National Lottery was successful and part of the funding secures the salaries of the Debt Centre Manager, Sally Hunt, and a second debt coach, Claire Atkin, for the next five years. In addition, funding is also being sought for a third debt coach, Ian Newton, to work primarily on Portland so please pray that this application will be successful and that the Lord's work will be able to reach more people in the borough. The Job Club has been able to get people into work and into voluntary jobs during the year and is looking at how best to attract people on to the programme. The Money Course, aimed at teaching people how to manage their finances and so not get into debt, was able to reach many students at Kingston Maurward College before the main deliverer, Colin Parkes, was struck down with illness but the prospects for 2018 are good as KMC is keen for the team to return. The monthly prayer meeting is now always held at St. Aldhelm's on the second Wednesday of the month at 10.30am and anyone is welcome to attend to support this amazing work.

Girls' Brigade – Pauline Hardisty

We have just celebrated our 39th birthday and have some very keen girls on our books. We have 20 girls at present aged from 4-17 and 16 are pretty regular. We run 4 age-related programmes each week interspersed with a variety of special evenings. Larissa is helping us for part of the evening and we have recently welcomed back Tracie-Anne Francis who has joined the staff team. She and Amelia Hawkins will be taking adult leadership classes and possibly two younger girls will be joining the Young Leaders' Weekend in March. Angie Pearce is not with us at present but Sara Samuel and Carol Newton plan most of the activities with me. GB Nationally is 125 this year so there are various special activities to celebrate this special milestone. We will be joining a Regional Fun Day in Cullompton in April and we are planning a District Event possibly on the beach in September. A special badge work programme has been written for this year, which we will be starting this month, which should lead to the girls doing something to make a difference in our community. We have just had a New Generation event in Martock for the older girls with a variety of activities for the girls to relax with. Last summer a very enjoyable camp was held in Bournemouth and we are in the midst of planning this year's camp for July.

Catering – Pauline Hardisty

We have had some new faces on the catering team this year and many others have used the kitchen for a variety of events. It would be great if you could let us know when you are using the kitchen for something that's not a regular event. We might be able to help you find things you need or that would be helpful to you, that you don't know exist!!! This has happened just recently and it would also help to keep things organised and problem free. We have welcomed two coachloads from other churches for tea last summer and no doubt, some will be coming again this year. They love it!! We have also organised a couple of funeral lunches. If you are new to the church and would like to help with catering either in the week, weekends or evenings then please let me know so I can contact you when we are looking for helpers. We have not solved the mystery of the frequently missing tea towels though!! They are washed each week by me, but there are only about half the number there should be!! Has anyone taken some home to wash and forgotten to bring them back? Also, there is plenty of odd cutlery for anytime use in a drawer under the hob. Please only use the best cutlery for proper functions and replace it into the correct boxes. Thanks are due too to the various people on the coffee teams who serve us on Sundays. There are only six teams at present, so it does come round quite often.