

# **Stamford Methodist Church**



## **Reports for AGM 2023**



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## **Reports for Stamford Methodist Church**

### **WORSHIP**

#### **Welcome Desk**

Approximately 20 volunteers are very dedicated to ensuring that everybody entering church is shown a warm welcome. We have recently taken on a few more volunteers, which has helped to ensure that those giving up their time only have to do a maximum of 2 duties in each quarter. We thank them very much for the excellent job that they do.

#### **Music**

We continue to enjoy a good variety of music styles in sung worship from traditional hymns to contemporary songs, led by a range of different people and using a variety of instruments.

Sadly, Marion Kelham has been unable to continue playing the organ, so Malcolm Darke is now our only regular organist. Liz Murphy has been able to play very occasionally, and David Husbands has been around this spring to play for several services though he is now back in York. It is right for us to acknowledge the continued commitment and willingness of Malcolm, sometimes supported by some of our other musicians, to keep the organ available for leading our hymn singing. Thank you, Malcolm! If anyone knows of an organist who might be help to share the load, then please let us know!!

The Music Group plays most weeks for the more modern songs and involves a number of our congregation who are happy to play when they are available. We are always keen to hear from anyone who would like to join in, either occasionally or regularly. When there has been no organist available the music group has adapted to lead the traditional hymns.

The church's orchestra of about 14 musicians has played for a few services over the last year, both specials such as the Carol Service and for Sunday morning services. This gives a variety to our music and a 'week off' from the organ for Malcolm. Some of our orchestra are members of other congregations so there is a limit to how frequently the orchestra can lead a complete service.

Our sincere thanks go to all those who help to lead our sung worship, for their time and talents.

#### **Organ**

Julia has covered all that can be said about Music for the Barn Hill Church and Services. The Music group is a very good back up for the anything lacking in provision that the organ makes.

We welcome the keyboard contributions that Charlotte Pickard and Corinna Selby make when the organ is not available.

It is good for us to have extra help from David Husbands and Liz Murphy when circumstances make it possible for them to play.

We would welcome any offers from other organists whose lights are being hidden under various bushels.

## **Bible Readers in Sunday Church Services**

I took over from Sheila Wolfenden when she was unable to carry on in her job of finding readers for Sunday Services. Before Covid the list of readers was quite long but due to the after effects of the pandemic, folk were reluctant to come back to church. Others have since moved away. This has meant a considerable shortage of readers and I am trying to build it up again.

It is such a privilege to read on a Sunday and to have readers from the congregation is a bonus and also a help to the preacher. It is so nice to hear different voices too and brings an extra something to the service.

Anyone who would be willing to read occasionally would be greatly appreciated. Please consider it and get in touch. Contact Beryl Teasdale 01780 481574 email: [beryl\\_teadale@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:beryl_teadale@yahoo.co.uk)

## **COMMITTEES**

### **Church Stewards**

We continue to see an upward trend in attendees at worship although this can be sporadic at times. Over the year the stewards have supported the minister at several funerals and a wedding – not all church family, but all very special in their own unique way.

In June the Church Council voted to allow the Church to hold same sex marriages. After a lengthy, complicated, and somewhat fraught process, a certificate has now been received from the registry office.

In July we sent our best wishes to Rev Andy & Rev Helen Fyall and family. I have heard from Andy this week to say that he has spent the money we collected and has purchased the bike he wanted. Obviously, he will take it easy with small journeys initially and we pray for his safety as he does.

In August we welcomed Rev Andrew Hollins. The stewards have worked closely with Andrew as he settles into life in Stamford, and we look forward to all that he has to share with us.

During Advent and Christmas, we tracked the journey of The Posada around the church family using our Facebook page. I received lot of positive comments, and we will repeat it again this year – look out! Our Christmas services were ones of celebration and lots of fun – thank you Andrew, Julia & Ruth. Hearing the story in many different ways brought it to us in a fresh way. A reminder that morning worship on Christmas Day will be at 10:30am.

In the new year the stewards & Andrew tidied up the vestry and decided that the Stewards would operate from the Ministers' Vestry on a Sunday morning to allow for privacy and confidentiality during this time. So, if you need us, you might find us there.

The stewards are meeting after this has been written, but before the AGCM, and we will be reflecting on our Lent and Easter worship. We will share this with you at the meeting.

We have also made a conscious decision to utilise the variety of musicians we are blessed with. Malcolm organises this, in consultation with the other musicians and the stewards, and I'm sure you will agree that it's lovely to hear the variety we have. We would like to include as many people as feel able to help out during worship. Could you read the Bible passages, lead some prayers, help in the worship and learning of our young members, prepare the floral arrangements, welcome those arriving for worship, serve refreshments after worship, assist in counting the offertory, help out musically? If so, then please speak to Corinna and she can point you in the direction of those who co-ordinate these elements of worship.

At this moment in time, we still feel unable to offer communion at the rail, but please be assured that this is reviewed and discussed before every communion service. Where possible, we will use gluten free bread so that communion is inclusive for all. Where this is not possible a gluten free alternative will be available for those who require it.

We look forward to joining with our circuit family for the 'Fun at the Farm' Weekend 20th – 21st May 2023 where the theme will be "New Life, New Beginnings" and we ask you to put the weekend of 5th – 7th July 2024 in your diaries in preparation for an exciting weekend.

Sadly, we say farewell to Rev William Booker in August. Plans are afoot to do this in a fitting way, but we ask you to keep Sunday 30th July free in your diaries and we will pass on more details as we get them.

### **Property Committee**

The clue is in the name – the Property Committee tries to keep the Church buildings and their contents in good condition. There is always something that needs mending, replacing, maintaining or enhancing. Work over the last year includes redecorating the halls after replacing windows, repairs to disintegrating stonework, unblocking drains and keeping the church heated.

The last three Property Secretaries and the last two Health & Safety Officers have all moved away in recent years, causing the Property Committee to dwindle to only three active members. More are needed!

### **Pastoral Committee**

Our Current Pastoral Roll including adherents and children is 319. Of those 176 are members. In addition, we have 27 members who have left the area and we are awaiting their transfer to new churches.

As far as possible the Pastoral Visitors visit the members of their group at least 10 times a year when delivering the circuit newsletter. In many cases contact is much more frequent than that. Where face to face visiting is not always possible regular phone or mail contact is maintained. There are 18 pastoral groups. Some of these groups are quite large so if anyone feels that they could serve the church by visiting a small group of people regularly please speak to myself or Andrew.

The Pastoral visitors met together with Andrew in January where we held the members of our groups in silent prayer. We also discussed the current Newsletter review.

Finally, but most importantly, a big thank you to the Pastoral Visitors for all the time and care that they give to our church fellowship.

## **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

### **Children and Families Work**

In my role, I have several weekly commitments, but I have also been involved with school visits with Malcolm Sargent school. At Christmas one year group came to our Church and we visited another year group at the school. We followed that up recently by going into the school to talk about the Easter Story. It was amazing to hear the children singing the last song we had taught them, while we were led around the school to see their Easter gardens.

I am part of the Stamford Growth and Outreach Group, which meet once a month and we are discussing ideas for the Renew weekend next year.

I try to attend Zoom Meetings led by Gill Thomas, the Regional Learning and Development Officer. They are once a month but often clash with my weekly commitments. I have managed one meeting so far this year. There are also Lay Worker events organised by Matt Forsyth, the District Mission Enabler and I am looking forward to going to one at the end of April.

I am also involved with other events like the Farm Weekend in May this year. I am now looking forward to our Church Holiday Club at the beginning of August. Please can I ask that you hold in your prayers all the leaders that help in the various teams that I work with as well as all the children and families that I have contact with. I hope and pray that my role continues to grow. I am sure with God's blessing and guidance it will do so.

### Sunday Plus

We can have a varied number of children and age range each Sunday. We are aware that we have a few members that really need a separate group, as they are now too old for our group. We follow the lectionary readings, and it is amazing how the leaders can all offer different abilities to keep the sessions interesting for the children. A huge thank you to all of them. I work with a small number of leaders, and we would really appreciate some more help. We had an informal bring and share lunch this term with the families and we all enjoyed the friendship and fellowship.

### Twinkletots

The numbers that come to Twinkletots each week can vary, however we just had 21 children with their parents the last week before the Easter holidays. I work with Julia and William, and we all work well together, thank you. Karen and Shirley now help with the drinks and biscuits, and we would be lost without them. No session is ever the same and we enjoy the variety. They are mainly non church families.

### Girls Brigade/Boys Club

I lead the younger section of GB/JCB's. We have a small number of children, but it means we can enjoy a better relationship with them. The younger group have been looking at the topics of courage, love and motivation. We also had the chance to take our children to a District Activity Afternoon at Sleaford recently, where about 40 Girls Brigade children and their leaders had a fun time.

### Messy Church

We have progressed to having Messy Church once a month, we aim for the first Saturday of the month. There are a small number of leaders that inspire and lead the craft activities. Julia and I will plan the worship element of the session together. We have been able to use a continuous theme between the months recently. We explored God's Promises with a Candlemas session and Noah and His Ark session, which then lead to a session about the Dove of Peace. We are encouraging people to go to the Farm Weekend in May, so there will be no Messy Church in May. We hope to have sessions in June and July but some of the leaders will not be available.

### **GB and JCBs**

We are currently a small group with 6 regular youngsters between the ages of 7 and 12. Numbers have fluctuated over the past 12 months with some not returning after the summer break for a variety of reasons and others joining us for a while.

Before the summer holidays last year we enjoyed a range of outdoor activities including games, a scavenger hunt and a family picnic. We were also able to present our awards at a morning service led by Rev Maureen Jones.

Last July we had our first canvas camp since before Covid, taking 4 girls to Normanton for a weekend. None of them had camped GB-style before so it was quite a learning experience for them but they embraced collecting wood, cooking on fires, campfire songs and coping with wet weather with great enthusiasm.

We hosted a 'Pumpkin Heroes' party at the end of October to which we invited youngsters who had been to the summer Holiday Club. We were pleased that some came and enjoyed the evening with us. Also in the autumn we joined in the Remembrance Day service in Broad Street, standing with other youth organisations around the War Memorial.

Just before Christmas we invited friends and families for mince pies and drinks to raise money for the World Vision appeal that we had learned about during the Pumpkin Heroes party. We were able to send £60.

The GB District has restarted events and we were pleased to take 4 youngsters to Sleaford for an afternoon of activities in March. It was great to be able to share with those from other companies again, make new friends, and to realise afresh that we are part of a worldwide organisation.

Week-by-week we share the good news of God's love in Jesus with the youngsters through stories, craft, games and activities. We are very much part of the outreach of our church. Please pray for the youngsters and the leaders, and for opportunities to increase our numbers again.

## **OUTREACH**

### **Mission Projects**

During the past year, the Mission Projects Group have been very busy organising various fundraising events which have included concerts by the Stamford Concert Singers [£520], The Organists Entertain (Lincolnshire organists) [£400], Stamford Brass [£1250], Youth Brass 2000 [£850], and our very own very successful Stamford Dog Show and Family Fun Day [£3,250]. We were also blessed with a visit from the National Methodist Youth Brass Band who visited us for the fourth time last November and all proceeds went to the mission projects [£850].

Together with some very generous regular donations from church members we have managed to raise over £1,400. The MPG has also donated £500 to the DEC Ukraine Appeal and a further £500 to the DEC Pakistan Appeal. The sum of £1,000 was paid towards the recent Christian Aid Earthquake Appeal in Turkey. All these amounts were paid in addition to the generous donations from church members as well as the expected gift aid. A very welcome donation of £3,500 has also been received from The Well.

The church continues to support the Nixon Memorial Hospital in Sierra Leone as our international project and the 2nd Stamford Scout Group as the local project towards their new Headquarters. This is the second year we have supported the group. We are particularly pleased to anticipate movement towards planning permission for this building. We are now looking to select a new local project for the coming year.



We try and give donations towards the two projects in the ratio of 80:20. In the past year we have donated £9,100 to the Nixon Memorial Hospital [79%] and £2,400 towards the 2nd Stamford Scouts [21%].

### Second Helpings

In the three months to 1st January 2023 to 31st March 2023, Second Helpings:

- diverted (Jan 8137 + Feb 7621 + Mar \_\_\_) = \_\_\_ kg of food from landfill ( March figures not yet available)
- fed (Jan 280 + Feb 302 + Mar 270) = 852 guests in the Café
- served (Jan 1204 + Feb 1196 + Mar 1380) = 3780 customers in the Pantry.

With every indication of increasing need within our community of Stamford, Second Helpings continues to fill a vital role for struggling families. The ongoing fight to tackle food waste, and in the urgent drive to combat climate change continues.

We held our first Volunteers Evening on 18th March in the Masonic Lodge which was a great success. We also took the opportunity to say a formal farewell and express our thanks to Audrey. A short presentation was followed by a buffet and an enjoyable social evening. We hope to make this an annual event

We have now launched our new logo and publicity with artwork developed and donated by Year 2 students at Stamford College. This will be a valuable contribution to their individual CV's and will be a positive reinforcement of our presence in the town. We have mugs, aprons and t. shirts on order for all our volunteers sporting the new logo. We had hoped to have them for our Volunteers Evening and have goodie bags to give each volunteer but sadly it was not possible

Following the backing of the Church Council last year we have submitted a funding application to the National Lottery. The application is progressing and we have had our first meeting with a Fund representative. We will be advertising in the next few weeks for a part-time Operations Manager. We have sufficient reserves to fund at least the first year's salary and, if successful, will be able to extend the appointment for a further five years. Having a paid staff member will be of huge assistance to the running of SH.

We held our first ever First Aid Training Day on 25th March. This went well and the feedback from delegates was positive. A further Safeguarding Training Day is planned for 22nd April. We are also planning to hold a Manual Handling Training event, this is still at the planning stage but we have hopefully secured a local provider. A total of 20 volunteers have Food Safety & Hygiene Level 2 certificates and a further 6 are currently undertaking it.

We are indebted as always to our amazing company of Volunteers without whom this project could not function, for the church's willingness to provide accommodation (and putting up with the crates in the car park), and to our many suppliers. Thanks also to the companies, charities and individuals whose generosity continues to astound us and affirm the commitment of all concerned.

I think you are probably all aware. I took over the role of Chair from Audrey with effect from 1st April 2023. Lindsey Adams stepped into the Vice Chair role. Both appointments are interim until ratified at the AGM.

## **The Well**

Do you meet your friends for coffee or tea in town? If so, why not meet in the Well for your cappuccino or hot chocolate? Prices are very reasonable and because it is fair trade, you are helping some of the world's most marginalised producers to make a living. Sadly since the last AGM Traidcraft, the pioneering fairtrade company from whom we obtained a lot of our supplies has gone into liquidation. This is proving a challenge for obtaining supplies, particularly of foodstuffs but we are gradually finding new suppliers.

We continue to try to offer a place of welcome and care and our customer base has built up slowly since Covid but we do seem to be busier at last. Thursdays are particularly busy with new and old groups. Our volunteers continue to be the backbone of the project and we are very grateful to them all. Without their hard work and dedication we couldn't operate at all and we are always pleased to hear from people who would like to join the team! We are hoping to have another student from the Lifeskills department of New College working with us in the summer term.

Since the last AGM we have given £3,500 to Mission Projects. We have also held a special coffee morning and sent £124.94 to Evergreen. A coffee morning is planned for April 21st to raise funds for The Leprosy Mission. As you probably realise, this overall sum is nowhere near as much as we used to raise, and it is disappointing when the volunteers work so hard to provide a welcoming place for people to meet.

Please do consider whether you could have coffee or lunch with us on a regular basis, or buy some fairtrade goods from our shelves. You can buy cards for all sorts of occasions too. Some of our craft stock comes from the Karibuni project in Kenya and the proceeds from that goes directly to support the work of that organisation in Nairobi. We look forward to seeing you in The Well!

## **JMA (Junior Mission for All)**

We encourage the children to remember Missionaries who work around the world, and the children overseas who need our help and support. Children collect donations from family, friends and people in the Church and they do a tremendous job, often with the support of their parents.

The JMA Awards were given to our small group of 7 collectors, at Stamford Methodist Church, during the Missions' Service on Sunday 27th November 2022.

September 2021 to August 2022, they collected the total of £2,234.66. A big 'thank you' to all the wonderful people (50+ in total) who encouraged them by their regular donations.

New collectors, and donors would be very welcome. Please contact Judith Wade 01780 763340.

## **Leprosy Mission**

So far this year we have raised £111, with more to come with our TLM Tea Party in The Well on 21<sup>st</sup> April. Last year we raised £400. We had a service for Leprosy Mission Sunday on 29<sup>th</sup> January. Thank you to all who keep LM coin boxes and make donations to this worthy cause.

## **Street Pastors**

Stamford Street Pastors has representatives from most of the churches in Stamford and operates from Barn Hill. The representation from Barn Hill is Ian Husbands as Chairman, Judith Wade and Godfrey Jones as Street Pastors, Julia Dowding as a Prayer Pastor, and me as a trustee and Senior

Street Pastor. Many thanks to those of you who are also on the prayer mailing list and hold us in private prayer.

We currently patrol the streets of Stamford on the first and last Saturday of each month from 9.30 pm until 3.15 am. We work with the doormen and the CCTV hub which can liaise between us and police if needed. The underlying principles of what we do is 'Caring, Listening and Helping'. During the patrols we chat to people of all ages and backgrounds on the streets and act to keep people safe. This can range from ensuring people are able to get home safely, reassuring people who are upset, giving first aid, sweeping up broken glass, through to giving out water, lollies and flip flops.

As well as there being 4 of us out on the street, the team also includes a prayer pastor (based back here at Barn Hill or at their home) who prays over the team before they go out and is in phone contact with the team to be able to pray into situations occurring on the streets

Ideally, we would like to be out every Saturday night as the need is there. Sadly, we do not have enough volunteers to be able to achieve that. To address this issue, we are currently making presentations to as many of the churches as we can. So far we have spoken to 5 churches resulting in 3 potential prayer pastors and 4 potential street pastors.

We are very appreciative of the use of Barn Hill. We use a corner of the cellar here to store all our uniform and supplies. The Well is a welcome base for the team on a Saturday night, providing a base for the prayer pastor and a warm space for the team to come back into a couple of times during the night for a much-needed cuppa and sit down.

Please hold the work of Stamford Street pastors and the night economy of Stamford in your prayers.

### **Stamford Growth and Outreach Group**

The growth and Outreach group meet to seek better ways to encourage the church in its outreach to the Stamford community and find creative ways to grow the faith of God's people. Recent topics we have covered are:

- The Cliff Mission ("Come and See") in 2024
- The Farm Weekend
- Healing Services
- Thy Kingdom Come (Ascension to Pentecost 2023) esp. prayer displays
- Church displays for outreach to visiting groups
- Warm Spaces
- Church Front Entrance

### **FELLOWSHIP/BIBLE STUDY GROUPS**

#### **Monday Evening Prayer Meeting**

We meet on the first and third Monday each month (except when it's a Bank Holiday). The venue may vary; sometimes in the Prayer Chapel at church, or in a member's home. All aspects of prayer are covered; world situations; church matters and personal needs of people; combined with prayers of thanksgiving. Everyone is welcome to join us.

## **Just People Bible Study Group**

A small group of us meet, currently online, on a Monday evening from 7.30pm to 8.30pm. We take time to study and to pray together. We have worked through a number of different Bibles studies, the last looking at Colossians. We are very friendly if anyone would like to join us.

## **Tuesday Morning Bible Study**

These meetings are held weekly during term time at the home of the Darkes in Fife Close. They start at 10a.m and finish at 12 noon. All studies are Bible based and generally vary between 5 to 7 weeks often depending on the times of the ecclesiastical year. Tea, coffee and good discussion are part of the courses. The morning could be named 'Squash morning' because seating is sometimes limited. Come what may, 'All are welcome.'

## **Wednesday Afternoon Fellowship**

Approx 19 Members attend regularly to date, plus Members and Carers from Priory Court once a month when possible. We have a devotions service on the first Wednesday of each month. Our group have enjoyed some very interesting and varied Speakers over the year: Rev Dr Peter Stephenson URC; Ian Sinkinson (Mission Aviation Fellowship); Hazel Bassingdale (Hazel's Musings); Rev D Bosworth; Audrey Hensman (Methodist Travels); Rev Bell (Life Story); Phil Jones (Things I learned in my childhood); Richard Bailey (Richard entertains); Rev Don Mcgarrigle (A walk with God); Steve Bond (British Legion); Robert Shaw (Homily) and Rev Bryony Wood (The Sound of Musings). Our social activities: Members' Favourite Music; Beetle Drive; Desert Island Discs with Nina; Lessons and Carols, Advent Service and tea. Our collection was distributed at our AGM June 2022 and given for the work of Stamford Methodist Church, Action for Children, Leprosy Mission and Methodist Women in Britain.

Our committee members are: Nina Rawlins (Treasurer) Judith Wade (Minutes Secretary) Jean Stringer (Birthday Secretary) Planning - Maurice/ Judith Wade, Pat Fulcher, Trish Lilley, Robin Waters. Catering - Pat Fulcher and Diane England.

## **Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study and Fellowship Group**

The group meet every first and third Tuesday afternoon in the prayer chapel for Bible study, prayers and fellowship. During the past year we have had sessions on the Psalms, Pentecost, and 11 Timothy and Titus, taking in Advent and two Lent studies. We are hoping to start a study on the book of Revelation next and are up for the challenge!

At the moment there are seven of us in the group and we enjoy the time of questioning and discussion where everyone speaks freely and all opinions are respected. I value the time we spend together as it brings us new insights and helps us get closer to God and what He is saying to us. We end with tea and biscuits and a time to chat. It is all very light-hearted and anyone is welcome to join us as we learn together. Contact Beryl Teasdale 01780 481574 or email: beryl\_teasdale@yahoo.co.uk

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Circuit Steward**

Firstly to everyone thank you for your thoughts and prayers during the past year. We said goodbye to Helen and Andy to pastures new - and hello to Andrew Hollins our new (or not so new) Superintendent Minister for the Stamford Circuit. We are so pleased Andrew you have come to join

us and lead us. Little did you know - or the Circuit - that it would be such a difficult time. Money money money.... sorting out our finances and other problems... this being a never-ending job but a necessary one. Our prayers are with you and the Circuit. Talks and discussions continue over finance and the welfare of our Circuit and this will be on-going. Any updates will come to you via the Circuit office - and/or Andrew himself.

There is also a vacancy on the Circuit Leadership Team and if you feel that God is calling you to this very necessary (and not arduous) position, again we would love to hear from you. My "term" has lasted a rather long time because I enjoy it - so please think about it. At the same time we are still looking for a Circuit Meeting Secretary to take the minutes (and letters, if any) at the Circuit meetings. Please volunteer someone?!!

On-going training, discussions, times of excitement and times of silence, are continuing - please check your weekly news bulletins and the Circuit magazine for all and various activities of Church life here and in the wider Church.

### **Churches Together in Stamford**

Churches Together in Stamford is the collaborative organisation of Christian Churches and other Christian charitable organisations in the town.

We arrange a number of united events during the year, such as carol singing round the hospital, the procession of witness through the town centre and drama on Good Friday, the schools festival for primary school children in June, united services for One World Week and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the bread & cheese lunches during Lent, and co-ordinate the Christian Aid Week collections. We also organise a quarterly lunch for the church leaders, which facilitates good relations between them and mutual support. They all try to come! We have a homeless & hardship fund to help those in need.

A number of major initiatives in the town have first been floated at the quarterly Churches Together forum meetings, at which matters of mutual interest are spoken about and plans made. The forum comprises several people from each member church; however forum meetings have presently been suspended due to dwindling attendance.

The member churches are: All Saint's C of E, Barn Hill Methodist, Christchurch C of E, Free Church Baptist, Great Casterton C of E, St Augustine's Roman Catholic, St George's C of E, St Martin's C of E, St Mary's C of E, United Reformed. Other associated Christian Organisations include Street Pastors, Foodbank, Evergreen & SHEP.

### **Safeguarding**

Most of the work in safeguarding this last year has been ensuring that all those in roles have up-to-date training and DBS certificates, and great progress has been made. With Audrey's help, there's been safeguarding training for many of the Second Helpings volunteers, as well as for the whole circuit. It's quite a challenge knowing all the different church groups and events that take place as we have so much going on – being the church secretary helps to keep me up to date! This way I can check whether the group and event leads have the right checks in place and are in turn doing the same for their volunteers. As per every AGM, may I take this opportunity to remind all group and event leaders that they should carry out an annual risk assessment which includes a final page monitoring their volunteer list. I will happily send you copies of it, as well as the latest Safeguarding Leaflet for your volunteers to read and sign in the absence of up-to-date training.

The district's safeguarding team will soon be sending an audit tool for circuit safeguarding officers to use – this means each church in the circuit will at some point in the next year undergo a safeguarding audit. I will be in touch to arrange a suitable date as it would be useful to have someone from the property committee present as well as a church steward. It will be useful to see what we are doing well and whether we have any gaps to work on.

Thank you to those who have diligently reported any concerns they have about children or vulnerable adults. Most of the ones we have received this year have been regarding Second Helpings as you may expect, but please do continue to look out for our church members and visitors, reporting anything to me or to one of the church ministers, no matter how small it may seem. [smcsafeguarding@gmail.com](mailto:smcsafeguarding@gmail.com)