



2025 Reports to the APCM April 2026



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1. Volunteers at St Peter's

We continue to be very grateful for volunteers from the congregation who help at St Peter's in a wide variety of roles, supporting our worship and outreach. They help look after people, the environment, worship and prayer, the church and community centre money, the paperwork and administration, and they give their money, time and talents as well as supporting God's work through their prayers and listening skills.

All the people attending church help in various ways, but we would especially like to thank the Assistant Church Wardens, LWA's (Lay Worship Assistants) and LPA's (Lay Pastoral Assistants), church committee, PCC and Deanery Synod members, and our treasurer. Together with the parish office administrator, youth and family workers, the Centre staff and the clergy, we all help with the smooth running of our church and its outreach. We are especially grateful for the practical help of Ivor Jones, one of the Church Wardens from St James, as we have no church warden ourselves at the moment, and Jackie Perryman our Safeguarding Officer, ably assisted by Sue McFadden.

More volunteers are always welcome, if you feel led to help in any way, please let one of us know. Thank you

Kristi Baker, Verger

2. Prayer

Prayers for Wider Westfield

The Prayers for Wider Westfield group has been meeting monthly for around 19 years. We currently meet on the second Monday of each month at St Peter's Church, at 6.30pm for supper (bring your own- or from Polat's!) and a chat, and then for a brief time of reflection and worship followed by open prayer, especially for our area of Yeovil. We also pray for any special prayer requests from the prayer table and prayer box. We usually end around 8pm.

The group is open to all Christians and is currently administered by Sue Chapman (YCC) and Kristi Baker (St Peter's). We would love more people who share the vision of God at work in wider Westfield to join us- the next

meetings will be on May 11th and June 8th at 6.30pm at St Peter's Church. Do let me know if you want to be on the email list for invitations! Thank you.

Kristi Baker

Prayer Chain

We have six members that pray, all fine.

Alannah Boyt

Thy Kingdom Come 2025 (29 May - 3 June)

Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) is an ecumenical prayer movement that was launched in 2016 to invite Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. The vision of TKC aligns perfectly with our vision to be a Wholehearted Church - encountering God, gathering community, growing disciples and living the Gospel. Our prayer that people who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and His love for the world, will hear it for themselves and respond and follow Him underpins our mission as a church, and we are committed to joining with over a million Christians throughout the world during this season of prayer. Prayer Journals were available both at St James' and St Peter's for the 11 days of TKC and St James' was open for a special day of prayer on Saturday 31st May 2025. TKC encourages Christians to 'pray for five' as the principal focus of prayer, and we would love to invite everyone to do the same during TKC 2026 (14-24 May). St James' Church will be open for a day of prayer 10am - 4pm on Saturday 23 May 2026.

Mark Felstead

3. Fundraising

Bingo

Bingo is still a very popular local community event. Tesco's Asda and the Coop continue to support the event. The church and community centre also contribute every time with donations and practical help and support. Our team are happy to continue providing bingo, all being well.

Tracey Taylor

4. Community Coffee

Community Coffee continues to meet every week on a Monday morning. It is popular with both church members and people from the community. Thank must go to the wonderful team of volunteers who make the drinks and act as welcomers. Of course, we could always do with more people on the rota for both these roles. The hope for the future is that the church itself will be used more for those that find the hubbub in the Centre a little overwhelming!

Caroline Turner

5. Church Groups

St Peter's Sowers

We are a small, friendly group who creatively produce hand and machine sewn altar cloths and banners for the Church.

Currently we are producing a White and Gold altar cloth.

Anyone is welcome to join the group however much sewing experience you have.

We enjoyed a day out recently viewing the wonderful tapestries that inspired our Creation banner.

Rhoda Wilson

6. Pastoral Care

Cookson Court going well, the Residents do really like it when we have the organ.

Have had a few Home Communion this year.

Alannah Boyt

7. Agusta Park

Wow! God has continued to go before us in the outreach in Agusta Park.

So, a week in Agusta Park:

Take 5: Biscuits and coffee being served from 8:30 on Mondays to children and parents as they start the school week, followed by a coffee morning in Lufton Community Hall. During the holidays there have been Take 5 "specials", where activities have been put on for primary aged children. Yeovil Baptist Church have been leading this initiative. With Dave the leader leaving last summer, the biscuits were dropped at Christmas and the group will close at the end of this summer term. The group was key in starting things going on the estate, building up relationships and putting a Christian footprint there. The estate and Yeovil

Baptist Church are now in different seasons and it is right for it to draw to a close. Thank you to the Baptist church for all their support and work on the estate and we pray that their resources will continue to be used to build God's kingdom.

Lufton Little Lambs: This toddler group started in September 2025 on Tuesdays 10-11:30 after a request from mums on the estate for a group. The group has now joined with the breastfeeding baby cafe, which was meeting on the estate, and so a breastfeeding support counsellor visits once a fortnight. The toddler group has free play and finishes with singing, bible story and prayer. We have a varying number of parents, grandparents and childminders although a core group from the estate is starting to emerge. We pray that this group becomes an established worshipping community on the estate where carers feel comfortable and supported and friendships can grow.

Lufton Prayer Group: A group of faithful intercessors have been gathering monthly on Tuesdays to pray for the estate. It has been encouraging to see how our prayers are being answered. Pray for wisdom as to how to continue to pray for God's kingdom to come on the estate.

Pupil Chaplains: Rev John Hanson and I started pupil chaplaincy in January 2026 with 12 year 5 (aged 9-10) children at Kingfisher school. We meet fortnightly on Tuesday lunchtimes to teach them the Christian faith and encourage them in their support of Christian and school values in the school community. They have been really enthusiastic about reading their bibles (thank you to all those who contributed) praying and joining in the activities. We pray that these children know more of God and are able to share that with others in the school community.

Kingfisher School: I go into Kingfisher school on Tuesday lunchtimes with cake and conversation for the staff and chats with the children. I also have the privilege of standing on the school gate with Dan Glenworth (head) on a Wednesday morning to welcome the children and parents into the school. These have both been great ways to build up relationships with the school community. As a result, I am often greeted by children, parents and teachers while out and about. We continue to pray that a second class will be added to each year group as a lot of children on the estate have to travel to other schools as there are not currently enough class spaces.

Pints of View: This is not technically on Agusta Park, but started out of a home group that was meeting on the estate! The home group no longer meets, but on

the last Wednesday of the month we have gathered in the Arrow on Abbey Manor to drink pints and discuss points of view on different topics. This group is open to all and aimed at something Christians can invite their friends to and discuss interesting topics. As a result, we have had some interesting conversations ranging from our views on the U.S.A., can you have a just war, freedom of speech among others! We took a break over Lent for the Bible Course but hope to restart at the end of April. We pray this group enables those who are not in church or on the edge of church to start engaging with God through this.

Food and Faith: After being offered a cooking course by Somerset Food Foundation, Ruth and I started a group called Food and Faith in November. The young people (aged 12 and upwards) cook their dinner and then learn about the Christian faith as they eat their food. We started with the Alpha Course and then have moved onto “Energize” sessions. It has been great to help young people with their cooking skills and to enable them to engage with spiritual questions of life. We pray that the young people have a revelation of who God is and His love for them.

Lufton Youth Group: Having taken over the group in January 2025 this is an open access group where the young people (aged 11-15) come to meet friends. We have tuck, football, board games, pool, Xbox etc on offer as well as a number of specials - fencing, disco, karaoke, competitions, cooking, crafts etc. The group has continued to have 40-50 young people each week. Although it has been fun to engage with the young people, see their friendships (across age groups and schools) grow and watch them develop into young adults, it continues to be a challenge to build a team of volunteers to support this group. We pray for an established volunteer team, with fun, friendship, safety and a hunger for God for the young people.

Lufton Church: It was lovely to see Lufton Church flourish over the summer with a number of baptisms, a marriage blessing and larger congregations. The winter has proved harder with long term illnesses and cold, dark nights. This was interspersed with a large joyful number joining us for Christmas services. We are hoping the lighter and warmer weather brings people from the estate back down to the church. There have been a number of “hunts” around the church for the children to do during the longer holidays which have been enjoyed. We also had a very successful Easter Monday community day which, as well as raising money, raised huge awareness across the estate and beyond of where

the church is and what we can offer. We pray that the church continues to flourish and that people will be drawn to God through their prayer and work.

As the estate nears completion we are still waiting for a shop, play areas, surfaced roads and a more regular bus service. However, it a welcoming multicultural place to live, where children are able to play outside together, a community library has been started, and free things are often offered outside people's houses! We pray that it continues to grow into a place where people feel safe, loved and supported.

Rev Sarah Sanderson

8. Children and Families

Toddler Groups

Toddler groups have all been running well and families really appreciate the groups. Toddler groups are a great place to get to know families, and to offer support and encouragement.

A number of families have come to Messy Church and Lego church through our toddler groups.

Abbey Toddlers, at Abbey Manor Community Centre, meets on a Wednesday morning and has 15-20 families attending regularly. There are plenty of toys and activities for families to enjoy together, and we finish with a singing time. This is a busy group but I have a good team of mums running the group with me.

Tots and Toys, at St James, meets on a Thursday morning and has 6 -8 families attending regularly. This is good as a smaller group, suiting the size of the room, and offering a quieter group for children and families that prefer this. Jo runs the group with me, and it is a very friendly welcoming group, with everyone pitching in together to help. There are plenty of toys for the children, and opportunities for the adults to have some deeper conversations.

Tots and Toast, at St Peter's, meets on a Friday morning and has 5- 6 families attending regularly.

This group was busier when it first began, but has been in a quieter patch these last few months. Trish runs the group with me, and we have great support from Ivor and Lizzy in the centre. We've had a couple of new families come along recently, and we would love to see more families attending. We are planning to give flyers out again. We also had a film made about the group (made by Trish's daughter Hannah as part of her university course) to help with advertising!

We provide breakfast at this group, and have a singing and story time at the end of the session, with a chance for families to explore simple Bible stories.

Junior Church

Junior church has been going well at both churches. Numbers vary each week, but Trish and I have been encouraged to have families coming along whenever they can.

We normally follow the sermon themes and adapt these for junior church. The children enjoy the crafts, games and prayer activities, and it's encouraging to see them taking steps in their journeys of faith.

Trish and I would both welcome more volunteers to help with junior church.

Bible Verses and Prayers WhatsApp Group

More mums have joined my "Bible Verses and Prayers" WhatsApp group. There are now 15 mums in the group who have links with either St James or St Peter's. I hope this group is an encouragement to them in their faith, as we share daily Bible verses and prayers together. This group works well as an online group, as it has been difficult to find times to meet face to face with each other, due to everyone's work and family commitments. Through this group we can stay in touch regularly with each other.

Messy Church

Messy Church has been going well with 30-40 coming each month. Recent themes include; Being a new creation, God's love for the world, Easter, and Prayer. Families enjoy exploring these themes through craft activities, games, stories, songs, drama and prayer activities. Then we all enjoy lunch together to finish.

For many of the families, Messy Church is their church, and it's a great opportunity to encourage these families in their faith.

We have a strong team, and good support from St Peter's, but always welcome more volunteers.

Lego Church

Lego church at St Peter's has moved from the 4th Sunday of the month, to running in the school holidays. Trish and I ran the first one in the February half term holiday and it was very successful. We had 25 children and 10 adults attending. The families came through the toddler groups, messy church, and junior church. Families enjoyed exploring the story of Noah's Ark, and appreciated having something free to go to in the holidays! We also ran one in the Easter holidays which was quieter, 10 children and 8 adults, but enjoyed by

everyone who came along. It's great to be able to offer families another different way of doing "church".

Holiday Activity Mornings

I work with Marie, the centre manager at St Peter's Community Centre, and the team there, to run holiday activity sessions in the summer holidays. We are just beginning our planning for this summer.

Previous years these sessions have been really appreciated by the community, providing a fun, free, safe space, for families to bring their children, and play together.

We have had a range of themed activities, including crafts, games, Lego, and outside organisations including emergency services, reptile handling, circus skills, nature activities and more! The children also received a free packed lunch at the end of the session.

It's a great opportunity to serve the local community, to meet new families, and to stay in touch with families from our other groups over the summer.

I'm excited to continue building on all the different groups and services we have for children and their families.

Thank you for your prayer and support.



Laura Broome
Children & Families Worker

Primary Schools *(See also Agusta Park for Sarah's report on Kingfisher Primary)*

We continue to have a close and fruitful relationship with our church school, Preston CofE Primary. The Vicar joins the headteacher for prayers at the beginning of each school week, takes assemblies every half term, and we have school visits to the church throughout the year. In 2025 the school refined its vision and values, making them more overtly Christian, with 'let your light shine' (Matthew 5:16) as the new school motto. Each classroom has a Christian focal point with prayers and Bibles on display, and the school has a 'prayer box' for children to submit prayer requests, which is well used.

David has also taken termly assemblies at Oaklands community primary school, as well as a Q&A session with year 6 children along with Ruth, our youth worker. There is a growing partnership between the school and St Peter's Community Centre in support of families in financial difficulties.

Rev David Keen, Vicar

9. Youth

The Hangout

The younger Hangout has changed a little over the last year. We ended up only having three or four regulars a week and when that dropped to one, we knew we had to do something. We originally started this group to meet the young people earlier and give them a space to hang out. This group was not meeting that objective, either due to people not knowing about it or people not wanting to attend. Each year we ask both Preston Primary and Oaklands to hand out our flyers with no avail so I thought it may be best to try something different. I reached out to Oaklands and asked if I could do an assembly with year 4 – year 6. This was a massive success and had 20 plus attend that same night. This has levelled out to 10-15 attending each week. This has highlighted a few issues in how we run the group, mainly that we definitely need more adults which is a problem we have not yet resolved.

The older Hangout has been going very well it is probably the best attended with not just our core group of teenagers attending. We have some extra young people attend some who are part of their core groups friends who can't attend other nights, then a few others who have just heard about the group elsewhere. The young people like the freedom to do what activities they like with the various equipment we have out. We find this group is where we bond most with the young people and have those important one-to-one or group chats with them about life. This year we were given some funding to take the young people on three trips, we took them bowling, to Kaspas and to laser tag. The young people really enjoyed being able to go and do activities that they either haven't done before or haven't done for a while. We hope to be able to do more little outings over the next year. The only issue we have doing these is the lack of transport, meaning we have to keep it local limiting what we can do.

Drop Into

Drop Into has changed a bit since last school year, before the summer holidays we were really into having different activities each week which the young people were really keen in joining in with. The young people especially enjoyed the baking that we were doing. Since the change of leaders, we have not done as much as it isn't one of our current leaders' strengths. After the summer we very much lost our rhythm with this group and are struggling to get set activities

going. We have managed to do some but not as many as we like. However, this has given us more time to sit and chat with the young people and let them run off some the energy in the hall. We have also seen more creativity from the group with them asking to do certain things and take the lead in that. A couple of weeks ago we got asked to play a game called imposter, everyone took part including PCSO John when he popped in. It was a great time and enjoyed by all, we got to know each other a lot more. It has been great to see more organic moments come from this lack of rhythm. Another session the young people love to do is a music session where we provide instruments and let the young people have a go. Some of our young people are very talented, and can play a variety of instruments, some Graham Perryman has been good at teaching them various things.

Secondary Schools

We still have a team made up of YCC and myself going into both Preston and Westfield schools. Last school year we had 6 of us going into Preston two doing CU, two doing football and two being a presence in certain trouble areas.

Unfortunately, this school year for many reasons we have only 4 of us going in to do football and CU. Preston CU is well attended with 10 or so attending every week. Only two of them attend groups at YCC, the rest attend different churches or are just interested in learning more. The guys who do the football have been making good connections with the lads who play football with them week in week out.

Westfield CU is also well attended with 15-20 attending each week, many of which attend groups at YCC. This group can be a little more chaotic just because of the amount of people attending. As it is the same team that do both CUs, each half term we decide on a topic that we will look at in both schools. The same person will then do the teaching at both sessions and the same person will do a game for the group. This year we have looked at the characteristics of God, Jesus' miracles and the spiritual gifts.

Spree

Last year we took 15 young people 13 of which are non-Christians. We ask the young people to give a few of the sessions a go, they go to the one aimed at people exploring faith, the young people really enjoyed the music and games, so much so they attended 3-4 sessions, which is a lot more sessions than the previous year.

Each year we ask our volunteers their favourite part of the weekend. One reported that she really enjoyed a spontaneous moment with the young people. Normally we ask the young people to wash up their own plates etc, however, one night one of our lads offered to wash everything up and recruited two others to help him. The volunteer said this was an amazing time for them as the young people started to really open up and take an interest in the volunteers and they had great conversation whilst doing the washing up.

We are currently in the process of booking and planning for this year. At the moment we have 19 young people booked on. Some of these young people have not attended Spree before and some are from St James' and from Lufton.



Holiday Activities

Over the summer, we put on various activities for the young people to attend which included our usual session of: arts and crafts (where the air-dry clay was a big hit), Bake off, Movie Night and Sports. We also had a few different activities: one was fire warden training run by Stu Brand. Stu went through basic fire training, showing the young people what extinguisher to use and when, and even taught them how to use fire extinguishers by letting them use out-of-date extinguishers. The second different activity was when we joined the 999 Day

where the young people could explore the police vans and cars. This summer was not as well attended as the previous one, but with the increased number to the younger Hangout we hope for an increase in attendance.

We have just held four activity sessions over the Easter holidays, we did an Easter egg hunt, crafts, sports and made Easter egg nests. These were very well attended, mainly by our usual group of young people, who enjoyed having something to do during the holidays.

Ruth Glendinning
Youth Worker

Tea and Toast

Tea and Toast is continuing to do well with approximately 10-18 children attending each week. Every week we provide fun interactive games, activities and quizzes, which they enjoy! We use our snack time to catch up on any current issues, news and gossip! We then move on to chatting and discussing bible related scripture/verses, such as 'Who is God?', Temptation, Advent, Christmas, New beginnings/New life, Baptism, Mother's Day and Jesus' relationship with his own mother, Shrove Tuesday, Lent and Easter.

This group allows the children to explore their faith in a fun safe environment, allowing time for discussion and questions respecting their thoughts, views and feelings.

Trish Quigly
Assistant Children & Families Worker

10. Home Groups

Over 80 people across both churches are members of a home group, which provide fellowship, learning, prayer and friendship as we follow Jesus together. As well as centrally produced materials (we began the year looking at Bible memorisation and ended with a series on Worship) the groups also choose their own resources and programme. One group closed down during the year with its hosts/leaders moving to pastures new - most of the members have joined other groups, and a new 'twilight' group has started. We are immensely grateful to our home group leaders, for all the time, care and prayer which they put into this ministry.

During the year we have 'rebranded' from Cell Groups to Home Groups: 'cell' needed a lot of explaining, and our small groups never functioned as 'cell' groups are supposed to. Home group is easier to explain, and captures

something of the care, welcome and acceptance which we hope marks our church community.

Rev David Keen

11. St Peter's Community Centre

Over the past year, the centre has responded to increasing financial pressures on households, the cost-of-living crisis, rising food insecurity, and growing social isolation. Through a combination of targeted support and inclusive activities, St Peter's has remained a vital, trusted hub for the local community.

The community we serve continues to face significant challenges, including rising cost of living impacting household food security, increased demand for affordable food provision, social isolation, particularly among older adults and parents and limited access to low-cost wellbeing and physical activity opportunities.

Our provision has been designed to directly respond to these needs, ensuring accessible, dignified, and consistent support.

Community Pantry

The Community Pantry has remained a cornerstone of support for local families, providing access to affordable food in a dignified and community-focused environment. 35 households a week are currently using the Pantry.

Westfield Fresh

Westfield Fresh has expanded access to fresh produce, ensuring families can obtain nutritious food that may otherwise be unaffordable. Westfield fresh now has 2 sessions weekly, one daytime, one afterwork session to reach the working families of the local community. This is used by 50 households a week.

Food Hub – Donation based meals Monday to Wednesday

The Food Hub has continued to provide essential food support through a community meal-based approach rather than traditional food parcels with approximately 3,640 meals a year being served at the centre.

Flexercise Programme

Weekly Flexercise sessions have played a key role in improving physical health and reducing social isolation, particularly among adults who may not otherwise access fitness opportunities.

Community Outreach

In October 2025 we were approached by Somerset community foundation to launch an outreach project in our neighbouring parish in the area of Birchfield.

Project was 6 months delivery of a warm hub lunch club designed to plant the seed of a successful food hub on the Birchfield estate. There was a successful outcome with over 30 people attending each week. Seed planted and is now continuing under a new leadership in Birchfield. This year has demonstrated the vital role St Peter's Church & Community Centre plays within the community. Through responsive, inclusive, and impactful provision, the centre continues to support those most in need while fostering a stronger, more connected community.

Collectively, our food-based services delivered over £66,000 in direct food value to the community this year, while supporting over 8,000 points of access across all programmes. The ongoing demand for services highlights both



the challenges faced by local families and the importance of sustaining and growing this work. St Peter's remains committed to developing accessible, dignified, and community-led provision that responds directly to local need.

Marie Rice
Community Centre Manager