

AGM report 2017/2018 – Jenny&Sam Rankin

It's been an encouraging and fruitful year in our ministries at St Paul's.

Last summer we were both heavily involved with the planning and running of Holiday Club and St Paul's Fest. Once again, we worked with Pulse Ministries to run Holiday Club in the church with the aim of gathering in children from the local community to share the love of Jesus with them, through a fun week of games, Bible stories, crafts and activities. We were delighted with the response last year, as our numbers nearly doubled from the previous year. We are looking forward to running Holiday Club again this summer, and hope to see even more growth. We also took a lead in organising July's inaugural St Paul's Fest; the weekend was a real joy, and we hope that the upcoming festival – for which Jenny is the planning committee chair - will build on last year's success.

Challenge and DMC (our Thursday night youth groups) continue to thrive. Jenny runs Challenge, the group for older teenagers, and has been really pleased with the way that the group has gelled together and deepened in their faith over the past year. The aim of our Thursday groups is that community will be formed and that the young people will grow as disciples. Jenny also meets with some of the older teenage girls for one-to-one mentoring sessions. Sam continues to lead DMC – a youth club for school years 6 to 8 – on Thursday evenings with the invaluable help of Richard and Tess Grant. The club has seen a step up in quality over the last year, offering loud music, mood lighting, football, café space, inflatable-sumo-suit-wrestling, team games and good conversation. DMC typically hosts approx. 15 young people each week, around half of which do not regularly attend church. We are keen to embrace this as a missional opportunity, and as such we have led the young people through an Alpha Course, and are currently establishing a number of small groups. We have also arranged a number of social events (such as games nights and a trip to laser quest), with 'DMC's Grand Day Out' set to be launched in the near future too.

In October, Sam launched Holgate Community Gospel Choir, inspired by positive feedback after a successful workshop at St Paul's Fest. The choir meets weekly in St Paul's Primary School, with the aim of building community in the local area and making connections with those in the parish. All are invited, regardless of age, ability or faith background. The choir is an absolute joy; friendships have been formed, and the singers have grown in number and confidence. Connections have been strengthened with the school and the local community, particularly with the choir having enjoyed a number of opportunities to perform both inside and outside of the church.

We have continued to build on our good relationship with St Paul's School. Jenny and one of the clergy still go in to school to take a weekly assembly, Sam has recently started a 'School of Rock' group for the children on alternating Tuesday lunchtimes, and Jenny has joined YoYo in St Paul's on multiple occasions over the past year to assist with lessons, assemblies, and a Prayer Spaces in Schools day. The school also have been very accommodating with the Community Choir, allowing us to use their building and advertising the choir through their

newsletter. Jenny also has links in Milthorpe Secondary School, and helps YoYo to run a weekly lunchtime club for those in years 7 and 8 where we play games and explore Christian ideas.

Jenny is very involved in the Unite network of youth&children's workers across the city. As well as meeting to pray together regularly, the group has also run some citywide youth events (some of which have been hosted at St Paul's) and is currently in the process of preparing for evangelistic youth events to happen as part of Thy Kingdom Come and the Archbishop's Mission.

Our Sunday morning groups look much the same as last year, they provide space on Sunday's for our children and young people to explore the Bible and grow as disciples. This is only possible because of a dedicated team of volunteers who give their time, energy and enthusiasm to these groups and to serving the children. We are immensely grateful for them. However, this is an area where we need to develop, we are very aware that for these groups to continue and to grow we need new leaders and helpers to join the teams. We would really appreciate it if the congregation could keep this in their prayers and if individuals could consider whether this might be right for them.

Jenny has recently taken on new responsibilities alongside her work with children and young people. Since February half term, she has been working full time for St Paul's (her 15 hours a week has been increased to 30 hours), and her new role incorporates coordinating the Discipleship Groups, leading the Evening Service and chairing the Festival Planning Committee. We are both excited for what God has in store in the year ahead.