

LYON ANGLICAN CHURCH



March 2017

It's often been said that the hardest part of a project is starting or the hardest part of getting fit is putting your shorts on! So it is with the chaplain's report! Where to start? I guess the best place is at the centre, at the heart and it is with gratitude and thanksgiving that I praise the one in whose name we live, serve, act and roll! I praise the Lord for his faithfulness and generosity over the last year as I look back on some of the challenges and concerns we have had as a church which have been responded to by His grace and provision.

Looking ahead, our mission remains the same - to help English speakers in the Lyon region engage with Jesus and where possible, support local churches as they do the same in French. As ever the harvest is plentiful (Luke 10:2) and as I type an advert will be appearing in the Church Times in the UK advertising intern posts around the diocese of Europe - our church features as a possible destination - watch this space prayerfully!

As a church family we have been steadily growing, we are regularly more than 100 people gathering on a Sunday morning and interestingly over 30 percent of 'us' are under 18. Over the next year we will continue to develop in our key areas:

- Corporate worship - being the best we can be, reflecting our diverse styles and traditions.
- Prayer - as a council and as a ministry we offer people on a Sunday and in small groups.
- Engagement and outreach with English speakers beyond the fringes of our church through Alpha courses at the UCly, through our small groups and social action projects.
- Expanding and developing our network of small groups around the city - enabling us to look out and care for each other and invite others to join.
- Investing and nurturing our young people in their faith.
- Continuing partnerships with other communities around the city to combine forces and complement giftings and create a crowd (or a cloud) of witnesses!!

Looking back over the last year some of the highlights have been:

- The outdoor baptisms of the summer and the night walk for our winter confirmations. It was great to welcome Bishop Robert and Helen to Lyon and for them to see how committed, animated and creative we are as a community.
- Seeing LAC council continue to grow into their role as prayerful co-leaders, seeking to remain faithful to God's calling on us as a church. The two council away days have been an important time together.
- The variety of small groups around the city that mean that people are able to keep connected around the city in a way that is impossible on a Sunday morning, our strength seems to be in our network of relationships, rather than our geographical situation.
- It has been a year since Kingdom United kicked off - literally! It's been a joy to see members of the church family putting on track suits and overalls so that they can blend, art and craft, sport and faith and work out what it looks like following Jesus on and off the sports field!

As John says at the end of his Gospel,

"there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. (John 21:25)

I feel much the same, I know that there has been so much happening in the life of our community, there have been breakfasts, breakdowns and breakthroughs and I know that Jesus has been active in so much of our shared life. I consider it a joy and a privilege to witness and serve alongside Him and our chaplaincy, in Lyon at this time.

BEN HARDING

<http://lyonchurch.org/Wordpress/about-us/>