

CTIP AGM Report January 2014

In the year 2013, once again we praise God for His love that reaches the heavens and his faithfulness to the skies. We thank God for the life of Christ we share as Christians Together in Paignton

2013 began with the energy and enthusiasm of the gathered Paignton youth who had been meeting together during the year for events activities retreats and now led our annual unity service in song dance and creative activities-it set a good tone for the year ahead. They came together again for their retreat to Lea Abbey in March. Then out of the meetings of leaders and youth workers an outreach into Victoria Park began by a small team, given the name Streetbase, linked with Youth Genesis of Brixham. Each time they go out into the Park to make contact with young people they are covered in prayer.

The churches worked together in practical service for the Saturday Kitchen at the Haven. Having realised that there was nothing in Torbay, or the S. West provided for rough sleepers or vulnerable groups, teams from churches provided food, company and shelter from 2-5 pm through the winter at the Haven.

We gathered across Paignton for our preparation for Easter through Lent groups based around the York course. On Good Friday a good number again walked through Paignton town centre for the annual walk of witness in freezing cold conditions and then again in Palace Avenue for a short act of worship. Easter Sunday evening being a 5th Sunday saw us celebrating the risen Christ through Easter Carols at St Pauls.

Silence was golden again for the Christian Aid sponsored silence when a large amount of money was raised. The Regatta service in August was ably led by Rev A Stark Ordish at the end of Regatta Week.

Our 5th Sunday worship gatherings during the year took on a new flavour in 2013 with news from around CTIP and its projects given in the service as well as financial updates and other business items being available to those present.

The ministers monthly lunches were a source of encouragement as well as practical concern for the life of our town where many ideas and possibilities were shared, some of which we have already mentioned and others yet to come, this was aided by the executive joining the minister meeting at several points through the year.

At the end of November, this time in marvellous late autumn weather there was a brief gathering in Palace Avenue to kick off the town centre Christmas celebrations, with carols an advent reflection and refreshment's at Winner Street. On Christmas day a number of our churches supported a Christmas Day lunch for vulnerable people in our community.

We are grateful to God for both the old and the new of 2012, grateful for the faithful witness of his people and for the life of Jesus in our communities as we serve Him in the world.

Lorna Sylvester for CTIP Executive January 2014