

Bodmin Way Progress Report January 2024



Recent Achievements | Ongoing Progress | Future Plans

The directors of Bodmin Way have been monitoring the excellent work of staff and their projects. This brief update provides some insights that I hope will be of interest to members of our churches. We want to convey the value and potential of our work in the community. There is great opportunity not only to support those in need but also to strengthen the sustainability of our churches. There's much more to be done to realise our full potential, but here is an account of some recent progress. For more insight and information, check out bodminway.org

Revd Paul Holley, Chair

Stories

Established Band and Young Choir



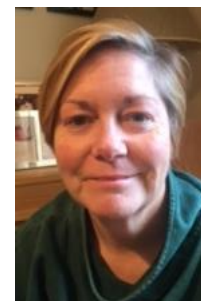
Bodmin Town Band invited Bodmin Way Community Choir to perform in concert with them in *A Christmas Festival*. The choir, established last autumn, was thrilled to be invited to sing at the concert of Bodmin's popular and award-winning band. Caroline Bailey, musical director, took it all in her stride and prepared the choir expertly for their first major performance. More than 130 people attended the concert. The intergenerational choir meets for Autumn Song, Spring Sing and Summer Singing. It aims to have at least 40 regular singers going forward and

undertake fundraising to become self-sustaining.

Photo credit: Paul Kenealy, Bodmin Camera Club

Bodmin Way Parish Nurse

Revd Geraldine is both a priest and a nurse. Working with Bosvena Health and with Bodmin way, she is able to provide an integrated service for people's health and wellbeing. She provides a clinic regularly at Time Together and at Community Space. People can share some of their health challenges and gain her support as they navigate the NHS. This support has been highly valued and provides an excellent basis for partnership between our community outreach initiatives and health service agencies. We expect a good deal more to develop from this initiative. Watch this space!



External agencies support Community Space

Established as a Warm Space at the end of 2022, this weekly Friday gathering has consistently drawn a following for food and friendship. The committed volunteers cook week after week to provide wholesome food for eating in and taking out. Recognising some of the needs and opportunities, social support agencies have begun to provide additional support. These include Energy Plus, Council Representatives, an NHS homeless initiative and the Grace Project from our friends at Wadebridge Parish. Added to this, Elaine has been able to host a monthly 'Cook-up' session to encourage people who want to learn more.

Statistics

Total number of people impacted by Bodmin Way's projects and events is 3000+

Total number of volunteers across the team is 117

Circle

55 participants over the year
with average 35 per week

Larder

90 average weekly visits out of a total
membership of 475

Community Space

180 to 200 attendees per month

Choir

50 contacts over the year

Events

total fees & profits £30k

Life Celebrations

22 weddings, 41 baptisms & 47 funerals

Progress

Growth in sustainability and impact

The **larder**, **circle** and **choir** are now well established. More than 500 people have participated in these initiatives. The directors are working with staff to secure long term sustainable growth for each project.

New staff members are in the process of being recruited:

1. An assistant to the **pioneer minister** is in the final stages of appointment, initially for a 6 month contract. This role will offer Elaine a significant increase in capacity, allowing her to help many more people.
2. The deanery mission fund has provided £30k over 3 years to appoint a **schools officer** to the team. The role will be complementary to Elaine's and will focus on visits to churches and support for religious themes in the classroom.

Funds for schools have been secured from the Church of England's Low Income Communities Fund (LICF). A total of £5500 has been secured to distribute via headteachers of each primary school in the team. Those on low incomes in special need will benefit from discretionary grants.

Plans

A second **community space** session will open if funding can be secured.

As the **events** programme grows, the team is becoming more ambitious. A next step will be to add a hospitality business so that a profitable line in refreshments can be offered.