

Senior Pastors' Report

Thank you for taking the time to read this report, which contains just a few snippets of the many and varied activities that the church is currently involved in.

It's been an incredible, fast-moving rollercoaster ride through the last 12 months, seeing many signs of growth indicating the health and well-being of Riverside Church.

The Mission statement of Riverside Church is both simple and challenging:

Transforming our Community with a Message of Faith, Hope and Love

As I look back over the last year I find myself echoing those great words of the Apostle Paul recorded in Romans 15:17

*Looking back over what has been accomplished and what I have observed, I must say I am most pleased—in the context of Jesus, I'd even say proud, but only in that context. I have no interest in giving you a chatty account of my adventures, only the wondrously powerful and **transformingly** present words and deeds of Christ in me that triggered a believing response among the outsiders. In such ways I have trailblazed a preaching of the Message of Jesus all the way from Jerusalem far into northwestern Greece. This has all been pioneer work, bringing the Message only into those places where Jesus was not yet known and worshiped. My text has been, Those who were never told of him— they'll see him! Those who've never heard of him— they'll get the message! Romans 15:17 MSG*

How I would love to bring that report to you as the people of God, year after year. It carries so much the heart of God for people and our communities as we journey together carrying such a great message of faith, hope and love.

We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ 1 Thess 1:3

The word transform means to 'bring dramatic change in form or appearance', which is very much our heart for the city and our communities. It is made up of the word *trans* (where two atoms in a molecular structure are located on opposing sides) and *form* which refers to visible shape or configuration, arrangement of parts, a mould or frame, manifestation, structure, a correct method or procedure, formula and performance. I find this definition particularly inviting as we look as the people of Christ to shape, arrange, mould, structure and correct people's lives towards the ultimate destiny that we believe God has mapped out for them.

As a verb, the word *form* takes on another meaning: To bring together parts to combine or create something, to build/construct, develop, conceive, enter into a relationship, to articulate, to make/fashion, to shape by training and discipline, and to influence. As a church we constantly look to bring people together, creating, building, developing relationships that articulate, fashion and shape in order to bring influence and ultimately transformation.

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We may need to re-shape, re-arrange, re-mould, re-structure and re-correct the way we do that but our focus remains steadfast. We believe that we can *Transform our Communities with a Message of Faith, Hope and Love*,

Community Transformation is very much of the heart of God, transforming troubled lives into doors of hope.

*I will return her vineyards and **transform** the Valley of Trouble into a gateway of hope. Hosea 2:15 (NLT)*

*"On that great day," God says, "I will round up all the hurt and homeless, everyone I have bruised or banished. I will **transform** the battered into a company of the elite. I will make a strong nation out of the long lost. Micah 4:6 MSG*

I would like to encourage us all as a church, in the coming year to seek a personal transformational relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. When Jesus led his followers up the mount of transfiguration (*literally transformation*),

*Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up a high mountain to be alone. As the men watched, Jesus' appearance was **transformed**. Mark 9:2 NLT And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was **transformed**, and his clothes became dazzling white. Luke 9:29 NLT As the men watched, Jesus' appearance was **transformed** so that his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as light. Matt 17:2 NLT*

Having had an transformational encounter they then returned to their communities and shared the story of Christ. As the Apostle Paul requested his people to

*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Rom 12:2 NIV*

Can I ask that we endeavour to commit together to do the same.

*And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being **transformed** into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. 2 Cor 3:18 NIV*

We have such an amazing opportunity this year to make such a difference as we look forward to the imminent return of Christ Jesus our Lord.

*But there's far more to life for us. We're citizens of high heaven! We're waiting the arrival of the Savior, the Master, Jesus Christ, who will **transform** our earthy bodies into glorious bodies like his own. He'll make us beautiful and whole with the same powerful skill by which he is putting everything as it should be, under and around him. Phil 3:20 MSG*

Thank you for this year, we have been so privileged to serve you as Pastors.

Aran and Rachel Richardson

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Assistant Pastors' Report

This past year has been one of discovery, challenge and joy. Since taking up post as Assistant Pastor in October 2008, I have seen and experienced God moving in so many ways; both in the lives of me and my family, but also in the lives of many others - that is a real privilege and blessing!

Pastoral Care & Development

The Pastoral Care & Development Department has continued to grow and broaden its base to meet the needs of more and more individuals within the life of Riverside Church. The Pastoral Care and Development department primarily seeks to address the vision areas of 'Love People' and 'Family Matters' across the church. The following paragraphs provide some summary detail of what has been achieved during the past year through the dedicated team of people who have responded to God's call to reach out to others pastorally in a variety of ways. I am also pleased to be joined and supported by Abbey Ward until July 2010 as she takes on the role of Pastoral Assistant on her second year of the Internship program. She has already demonstrated her worth and I am excited to see her develop her skills and gifts in this area of church life.

The 'Cycle of Growth'

This year has seen the development of the 'Cycle of Growth' framework... a conceptual framework for the Christian journey, through which a range of courses and supporting activities are offered to assist individuals on their life journey with Christ. It has been really exciting to see so many people from within the body of the church seeking to deepen their knowledge, experience and relationship with God through attendance at Riverside and the different courses and supporting activities that take place throughout the stages of Discovery, Discipleship, Development and Destiny.

First Time Commitments and Re-Commitments

It has been an exciting year for growth of the Kingdom. Many of the decisions to follow Jesus are made as a result of encounters with the Living God during our Sunday services. These are recorded on the 'I Said Yes' cards and follow-up support is then offered by the pastoral care and development team and the Leadership Team. During the past year we have seen 20 first time commitments and 14 recommitments to Jesus - Praise God!!! This is what it is all about and this is where the most fantastic journey starts for many.

Baptisms

We have held two baptism services this year and plan a further one in December 2009. It is fantastic to see so many people of all ages make this step of proclamation before their family and friends. So far this year we have seen over 20 people go through the waters of baptism at Exmouth seafront and the Riverside Leisure Centre pool. We continue to pray for those who decide to take this step and look forward to many more in the year ahead.

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New Partners

Following baptism, the next step for many is to make the decision to enter into a covenant relationship with the church; to commit to it and to become a part of the wider body of believers that worship at Riverside and contribute to it's desire to transform its communities with the message of faith, hope and love. During this year, we have welcomed 16 new partners into the church to become part of our family.

Lifegroups

Alongside and beyond partnership is our Lifegroup structure. Lifegroups remain an integral and essential part of our body and are key to the discipleship of our people in a community-based informal setting. During the year a review of the operation of Lifegroups was begun with a brief to explore how these groups may need to evolve to meet the varying needs of those that attend to ensure that they remain relevant, appropriate and flexible enough to meet the growing demand for the groups. I continue to value the support of both the Lifegroup Coordinators and Lifegroup Leaders in this area.

During the course of the year, we have seen a net decrease in the number of lifegroups from 20 to 17. However at the same time, we have seen a net increase of 35 in those attending. The consequence of this is that the average size of the groups has increased. We have been able to absorb this so far, but it has reinforced the need to raise up new leaders to take on new groups to meet the demand that comes through the 'I Said Yes' cards system. See table below:

I Said Yes cards data

1st Time Commitment	20
Recommitment	14
Being Baptised	20
Joining a Lifegroup	35
Getting Involved	52
Become a Partner	16
Prayer requests	255
Newcomers	93

'Live @ Five'

Autumn 2009 has seen the introduction of the 'Live @ Five' program, which supports the 'Cycle of Growth'. We are now running the Alpha and Gateway 2 Destiny courses and Riverside Bible School for the second time this year and have started a new course - Freedom in Christ. It has been a joy to see the Oasis Cafe bursting at the seams at 5pm on a Sunday afternoon with upwards of 60 people talking, sharing and having fellowship with each other while waiting for their courses to begin - in the words of one of our long-standing

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members - "it is great to see that the church has recently moved up a gear - it was both needed and wanted!"

Alpha

The first Alpha course run at Riverside took place in Spring 2009 and guided 16 people through the fundamentals of the Christian faith. It was great to see individuals from outside of our church attend this course, many of whom have become involved in further ways with Riverside and have sought to explore their faith more fully through service and further learning. The second Alpha course has just begun and will run alongside the other 'Live @ Five' courses throughout the Autumn.

Freedom in Christ

Some months ago, the Riverside Board was introduced to the Freedom in Christ ministry and discipleship course. This was something that excited us and generated much discussion about the right time to offer this course. Following much thinking, praying and planning, we embarked upon our first delivery of the FIC Discipleship Course this Autumn as one of the three 'Live @ Five' courses. I am delighted to say that it has proved a huge success. The course filled up swiftly with 18 'freedom seekers' and has been of great encouragement to those attending despite still being in its early stages. The course is led by myself supported by a great team of 10 others who have captured the vision for this excellent new resource. A waiting list is now being held for the next course to be run in Spring 2010.

During the year we have also hosted a training day provided by the FIC team called 'Getting Started with Freedom in Christ' and are in the process of planning a second regional training day to be held in October called 'Helping Others Find Freedom in Christ', hosted by Steve Goss (Executive Director of FIC Ministries), which is due to be filmed for a new training DVD resource for use throughout the UK.

Bible School

The third of our 'Live @ Five' courses is our very own Riverside Bible School led by Dave and Colette Poulson. The first course run earlier in the year was a great success and focused on 'Jesus in the Old Testament' and a thoroughly enjoyable and thought-provoking time was led by a range of speakers from across the church. The second Bible School programme is focusing on the Tabernacle and Temple in the Old Testament and the priestly line. Over 45 people have accessed the Bible school sessions over the year.

Other Pastoral Care & Development Courses

Gateway 2 Destiny

It has been a privilege also to watch people attend the two G2D courses this year led by Frank Bennett. This course is a fantastic way for individuals to spend time reflecting on their 'SHAPE' to understand how God has put us each together with a purpose and plan in mind utilising our **S**piritual gifts, **H**eart, natural **A**bilities, **P**ersonality and **E**xperience for His glory. It

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has been a privilege to then spend one-to-one time with each participant to consider where their 'SHAPE' can be activated and released within and for His kingdom.

Celebrate Recovery

This course originating from Saddleback Church in the US has continued to run throughout the year led by Lynette Molindo and her team. The '12 Step' program leads participants to a place where they are able to overcome the challenges in their lives that are being a hindrance to their lives and walk with God. 22 people have participated in this course during the year and great testimony to the release that has been experienced has been given in church following attendance on the course. This course will continue and is expected to have a particular relationship with the Freedom in Christ and Gateway 2 Destiny courses.

ACC Pastoral Skills Course

This course has been run for the first time this year. It is written and recognised by the Association of Christian Counsellors (ACC) and is being led by myself with the assistance of Bill Hill and Ros Whitehead. The 11 week course addresses areas such as the Philosophy of Care, the Need for Care, the Context and Nature of Care, Qualities and Skills for Care etc. 16 people are now enrolled on the course and studying towards this recognised qualification, including a number of our leadership team. The intention is to offer this course to external participants during 2010 in order to strengthen and encourage the wider church in the Exeter area.

Other Pastoral Care & Development Activities

Prayer Team

The Prayer Team has continued to meet faithfully throughout the year led by Den and Sadie Baxter and Rick and Chris Baker. This has been one of the most exciting activities that I have had the pleasure of being involved in. Every Monday morning, this group meets to pray for the needs of those in the church and known to those in the church. It has been wonderful to see a range of answered prayers over the year. We have prayed for a range of issues from marriage difficulties and chronic illness to families experiencing loss and the salvation of individuals. During the year we have also established the Prayer Support Chain, which enables prayer needs to be passed through the team throughout the week for prayers of intercession and support to be offered. I am excited to see what God is going to do here in the months ahead!

Prayer Ministry

Another development that was undertaken during the year was to revisit the structure and delivery of the 'I Said Yes' teams on a Sunday. Following attending Soul Survivor, a decision was taken to remodel the way we offer ministry to individuals responding on a Sunday during and following the Sunday services. The Soul Survivor model of prayer ministry struck the Senior Leadership Team as being a straight-forward and inclusive way of utilising the

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gifting and calling of a wider range of people involved in leadership and pastoral care to provide on-the-spot ministry. A new set of guidelines have been drawn-up modelled on the Soul Survivor approach for all the Leadership Support Team and others who have been specifically approached for involvement in this area of ministry.

Community Engagement

In many ways, Community Engagement is all about how we seek to look after the needs of our communities in the same way that we look after our own within the church. Throughout the year we have been involved in a range of initiatives and programs that connect with the communities around us, including Street Pastors (see Senior Pastor's Report), 'Hope Where You Live', Oasis Cafe & Conferencing (see Centre Managers' Report), Youth & Schools Work (see Youth Pastors' Report), Holiday Club (see Children's Pastor's Report) and other one-off acts of love and support.

Plans & Potential Developments for the Future

Care for The Family

There are many things that we would like to set up and get running to support the church and community. During this year, we have begun discussions with Richard Hardy (Head of Church Relations) at Care for the Family about developing a 'centre for the family' that will provide a range of support and courses for the families in our communities that require assistance and advice for a range of family matters. Within this, we hope to deliver the CFF 'How to Drug-proof your kidz', 'The 21st Century Marriage/Parent' and 'Quidz In' programs. These are all excellent training programmes that equip families to address key challenges in the area of relationships, drugs and finances and are a key way to engage with our communities. This plan will be progressed further in the year ahead.

Community Support

The development of this support service has been a part of my vision since I joined the team at Riverside. I remain committed to exploring and developing this into a reality to provide support to people in their own homes or in care setting within the community, such as hospitals etc... The needs of those who are house-bound, convalescing or feeling isolated and/or lonely are significant within our community. My desire is to see a team who are able to spend time just 'being with' others and assisting them with some basic practical support where required. I will continue to explore and develop this in the year ahead.

Counselling & Support Service

It has been within my awareness for some time that more and more pastoral needs both within our church and outside in our community are becoming evident. It is also my belief that 'the church' is well placed to respond to some of these and that in addition we are able to bring an extra-powerful element to our support. Pastoral care is about how we bring care through a sense of God's existence and power into the helping situations we find ourselves in. I have been in early discussions during the year to explore the potential to develop a skilled team to respond to what I would describe as 'low-level' support to those in the

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community requiring support, care and counsel. Government policies are being developed that may also open the doors to such opportunities to partner with secular agencies to provide this to individuals as part of a community care response offered via the Primary Care Trust.

Justin Humphreys

All Stars

Parent Toddlers

Parent Toddlers on Tuesdays and Fridays reaches 40 -50 families from the local community. This ranges from grandparents, fathers, mothers and carers bringing children from birth to 4 years. This is a great chance for the team to get to know the people from the local area. Tuesday's parent Toddlers, run by Rachel, has a drop in feel, with the opportunity for the children to play while parents and carers chat and have a coffee. Friday's session is run by Liz Sumner. This session has an activity and craft time where the parents and children can get creative together. This is session particularly reaches and cater for the pre-school aged children.

Schools Work

This term I have been going into St Thomas Primary once a week to support the existing lunchtime club Explorers run by Angela Rogers. This has been a great opportunity to network with the school and develop relationships with the children. In September I became an ICE associate, this now gives me the opportunity to go into Bowhill and Montgomery fortnightly to take and lead assemblies with the ICE team.

Starship Discovery Holiday Club

All Stars launched their first summer holiday club this August. The club ran for every morning a whole week. Over the course of the week the club reached 100 children! Around 15 children made first time response and many more responded to the daily themes challenge. Children who made a first time commitment were given a 'Me and Jesus' book and a bible. The club had team of over 50 volunteers, 14 of which were Junior Leaders from the youth, who all worked their socks off all week. The week was full of brilliant praise and worship, fantastic games, inspiring teaching and so much more. I know many are looking forward to next year! A big 'Thank You' to all who were involved!

Super Saturday!

In order to touch base with the children who attended the Starship Discovery we have launched Super Saturday. Super Saturday will run on a monthly basis, until a weekly evening club is launched. One of the two monthly events has already happened. This was a social morning of crafts and games. 39 children attended the club several from the holiday bring their friends. It is great that we are now reaching more children. Our next Super Saturday is on the 31st October, where we are hoping to have a bouncy castle and face painting as well as crafts and games.

All Stars

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The All Stars team reflects many generations. On a Sunday morning we now have a team of 15 core volunteers ranging from the youth up.

In June the team had an All Stars training day with David Ritchie, this was a great opportunity for them to learn new ideas and feel encouraged. We also went on a team social afterwards.

Currently on a Sunday morning during the Broadband service there are around 50 children attending their age specific groups. These groups are run by devoted volunteers. The children enjoy these groups and are developing their relationship with God.

Next term

After the holiday club we feel it is really important that we are able to keep and develop the relationships that we have built with the children. We are currently getting together an All Stars Team of leaders who can help to run a weekly All Stars Extra on a Friday night (Funky Friday). Through this, with Dave, I will be developing a Junior Leader programme for some of the youth who wish to be involved. We are also researching the possibility of gaining funding from THE Lloyds TSB community programme to help sustain this project.

Rosie Le Puill

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Resonate Youth

This has been a year of growth, in several senses of the word. Most obviously, we've seen numerical growth. All of our internal projects (*x:celerate*, *deeper*, *xplode* and *fusion*) have expanded, largely through peer invitation, which suggests that our young people truly enjoy and value the time they spend with these groups. It's also been great to see young people engaging with the life of the church in so many different ways, including the bands, children's team, community projects, mission fund-raising and school evangelism – seeing young people baptised last summer, over the winter and summer, it is a fantastic encouragement that they are progressing in their faith journeys, and are gaining a better understanding of, and relationship with God along the way.

The spiritual growth of our young people is also important, and is happening on a number of levels. At one end of the scale, *x:celerate* works with many unchurched young people. They are presented with a weekly 'bible slot' as part of the programme, as well as *resonate* and FNX, and we've been able to see signs of an acceptance and understanding of this through responses made, particularly at *resonate*, where these young people have been requesting prayer for issues they face. Further along the scale, there has been a marked change in the way our young people pray together. We have worked hard to encourage praying aloud in groups, and have seen this increasingly frequently. We've also had times where the young people have spontaneously laid hands on each other and offered prayer, which is a fantastic thing to see. Finally, we've had experiences like the recent 'fab' night, where the young people have led and taught their peers (the ultimate challenge!) about what God is saying to them. This comes out of a positive, celebratory culture that we have deliberately developed over the past couple of years, and it is certainly producing fruit at the moment.

In order to pursue opportunities, our schools work has shifted focus once again, and is now squarely centred on West Exe College. We have built positive relationships with a number of the staff there, including the Heads of RE and PE, the wider RE department, the Year 7 iLearn team, the reception staff, the technical staff and one of the deputy heads – a personal highlight of the year was the deputy, Julia, approaching me to ask my help in resolving an issue between a group students! This has meant taking a back seat at other schools, but the wider ICE team has been able to step in to these gaps.

Interns

This year saw a subtle change in the internship, with Ryan staying with us to do a second year. He was joined by three new interns, Kate, Abbey and Sophie. All three were already in relationship with Riverside, and Kate had previously spent time as part of our youth team.

The year included two mission trips, to Ghana (with Janet Wheeler and James Mensah) and Vienna (with Gowan Wheeler). I think that these both provided important learning experiences for the intern group: Ghana acted as an excellent team-building opportunity, and also presented a unique set of challenges (on reflection, Abbey felt that facing up to these left her feeling that she could achieve anything else the year threw at her); Vienna gave the team a chance to put their year's experience into practice in a new setting, independent of the church and their usual support networks.

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Throughout the year the interns developed in all areas, serving the vision of the church and community as a whole. They led teams and supported the work well, developing their gifting and talents. This included work in secondary and primary schools (as ICE associate workers), parent and toddlers, the worship team, the Overdrive team, Fellowship Hour, All Stars, Street Pastors, and the youth team. Next year, Abbey will be working closely with Justin and the pastoral team.

This year is the first time we've been able to offer an NOCN level 3 qualifications in youth work. The interns created extensive portfolios based on the practical work and personal study carried out during the year. I am delighted that all 4 interns achieved the qualification and now hold a recognised Level 3 qualification in Youth Work.

Overall, I believe that the interns have added to the life and work of the church, and have grown personally and in their capabilities. They have played a key role in the youth and schools teams, making the growth that we have seen this year possible, and have demonstrated a great deal of enthusiasm in all that they do.

Dave Poulson

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Overdrive

Over the past year at Overdrive we have seen incredible growth and development in the young people and young adults that we serve. Over the past few months we have seen an increase in new young people and many are bringing friends resulting in new and re commitments as well as many young people challenged to change their lifestyle and cultivate a spirit-led life that glorifies God.

Many of our youth are stepping out and getting involved in the service through the band, tech and café teams on a Sunday night, developing in confidence and maturity. Our core team is continuing to grow and expand with many gifted and talented young adults coming on board full of enthusiasm, a passionate love for God and a call to serve him. Most of our team also serve the youth, children and worship teams in the morning services and are involved in programs throughout the week impacting many areas of church and the wider community with a message of hope, truth and love.

Overdrive not only serves the younger generations, but is reaching out to all with a variety of ages attending Overdrive; it is increasingly becoming a generational service. One of the most encouraging things this year has been to see the young people from Rainbow house (Prospects) involved and accepted at Overdrive and able to share and be a part of the service in a way that is accessible for them. They have been a real example in passion, enthusiasm and love for God.

Our key verse this year for Overdrive is John 17 v 17-19.

“Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth.”

Young Adults

We are looking to further develop the young adults ministry within the church and are launching this on 4th October with a Young Adults buffet. Over the next few months we are looking to develop a social network and get people connected through several events, socials and opportunities to meet up and build friendships with other 18-30's within the church. Look out for 'Adopt a Student', Curry night, Body Shop Party, Fireworks and late night shopping plus lots more!!

Thank you for your prayers and support. Please continue to pray for us and get excited with us at the incredible things that God is about to do in the lives of the young adults in Riverside church.

Hannah Baldwin and Gareth Jenkins

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Worship Team

I took on the role of Worship Pastor shortly after the last AGM and have had the privilege of seeing the team grow numerically, musically and, most importantly, spiritually. The current depth and intensity of the worship at Riverside is a testament to this.

Over the year, the team has grown to over 40 people, some of whom have progressed into the worship team through their commitment to xplode and Resonate, our two youth worship projects. Overdrive currently has a strong core of worship team members who are not necessarily 'Riversiders' but are engaged with the vision of the church and who commit to playing regularly at Overdrive.

Wednesday night practise continues to be at 7:30pm, with an additional practise at 8am on a Sunday morning and Overdrive practise at 4:30 on Sunday afternoon. These dedicated times continue to be extremely beneficial in the growth of the team. We currently operate at a very high musical standard and the atmosphere of worship in all services reflects this.

We have a growing list of capable worship leaders who bring different strengths and styles to the team, enabling our worship at Riverside to be diverse and inclusive. Our worship leaders are Dave Sumner, Louise Allen, Ryan Bennett, Mitch Temple, Jeannine Parkes and myself. I am looking to develop Joel Williams, our intern, and Josh Page into leading roles in the near future.

It has been a pleasure to be able to release people into leadership roles themselves. Mitch and Ryan have recently taken on general responsibility for worship at Overdrive, with Jeannine Parkes becoming a worship leader in her own right. I will be working closely with Joel in developing the xplode and Resonate bands as he leads these during his internship year.

After the huge success of the holiday club and after consultation with Rosie, our children's pastor, we have also taken the decision to form an 'Allstars' band. This band will be made up of a mix of experienced and developing musicians and will, at first, play once a month at Allstars so that the children can engage in live worship, something I feel is vital to their spiritual development.

The vision for the team remains firstly to bring God the best in our own personal, passionate worship and to live a lifestyle that demonstrates the core values of Riverside. We also aim to be a unified, inclusive, generational team, with a desire to reach out to others. Leading them into a prayer-fuelled, spirit led, atmosphere for worship. Thirdly, we constantly look to develop and stretch into new areas of worship through expansion in skill, diversity, sensitivity and creativity.

I would like to personally thank every member of the team for all their hard work and dedication over the last 12 months! You've been amazing. Thank you!

Gareth Jenkins

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AVLS Technical Team Report

Our main aim and focus, is to aid the congregation, to enter into worship, by the use of sound, lighting and visuals without distraction. We believe that many people, especially youth, have come to expect those elements to be there, and without them, they would not feel comfortable in church.

This year, we have experienced great growth as a team, particularly with an intake of youth which is really encouraging to see – but it is always appropriate for us to introduce new team members at any time, especially sound engineers.

We successfully re-launched the website earlier in the year which has had **11,647** visits to date. We have also introduced live streaming of our services to compliment the pod casts, which allow people to listen to the services live at home. This has had on average about **30** listeners per week.

We have also created a YouTube channel where we publish all our video work online – this has proved really popular and some videos have been viewed over 150 times.

We are hoping to continue to develop the technical team's work, by replacing old and damaged equipment, as well as investing in additional equipment such as upgrading our main computer system and a new system to relay information back to the stage.

Church news is due to be refreshed with a new look and feel shortly.

Russ Le Puill

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Fellowship Hour

Fellowship hour continues to meet the needs of people who need regular Fellowship.

Those who live alone need the opportunity to sit around a table, chatting and eating together. We supply this opportunity at the end of each meeting.

We give opportunities for testimonies, singing items, worship and ministry of the word. Our aim is to maximise potential.

We have a dedicated team of caterers, carers and those who offer transport plus those who regularly minister the Word.

Hazel Sumner

Riverside Centre

Riverside, the centre, has continued this year to be the base for a huge variety of activities. We recognise God has blessed us with a fantastic building here and it is our privilege to serve Him and the community to the standard of excellence He deserves.

A snapshot in the week of the life of Riverside reveals conferences from all over the region and beyond taking place, on the ground floor you find people meeting in the prayer room, over 50 families meeting in the Fishtank for Parent and Toddlers and at the front of the building people coming in off the street to eat and drink in the Oasis café. We never underestimate the connections made with everyone by the team who serve here, many faces we meet are regular visitors allowing us to build up quality relationships with them. My thanks to all of the staff team and volunteers here at Riverside, without them the building would not look as and be as fantastic as it is.

The Hospitality team throughout the year has catered for weddings, dedications, birthday celebrations, our first Night of Honour, sleepovers! buffets, Newcomers lunches – you name it we have done it!

In the evenings we see over 80 youth use the ground floor rooms; we see various Riverside meetings and courses taking place, the car park next door full of cars belonging to Riverside people. We are literally at times bursting at the seams.

This year the building was used to its full potential with Holiday club, with all spaces, nooks and crannies either transforming into storage spaces, décor preparation spaces, reception spaces, meeting rooms, games rooms and gunge tank storage areas...

I'm grateful to the unseen heroes of Riverside who come in when no-one else is here to ensure the building is found clean and tidy each day. We really have a great team here who serve a great God!

Colette Poulson

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