

THE Avenue CHURCH

A Christ-centred, Caring, Connected Community



Stepping Stones The Vision

2023 has been identified as the year to focus on 'Children and Families' in The Avenue Church.

This is now continuing into 2024.

Points to consider:

- Without young life the church will die.
- There is a huge legacy from the generations before, but we need to engage with the generation of the future at The Avenue Church.
- Different ages require different approaches.
- To grow the church sustainably – locally and globally
- A 'stepping stones' model will enable gradual change, inviting feedback from those with a 'vested interest' to inform the next steps.
- Other commitments such as upstairs toilet form an important part of the 'stepping stones', enabling growth due to increased access.
- An ageing congregation
- New people joining the congregation

Building on what we have

- An active '**Tea & Tots**' attended by an average of 30 children and 30 parents/ carers – primarily social but with opportunities for meaningful conversations.
- Monthly **Sunday Club** which provides a valuable forum for children in the Church to learn together and play together; but limited numbers attend.
- **Older children** - regular attendance by only one or two
- Occasional attendance of young children with their parents or grandparents at a **Sunday service**
- Occasional **baptisms** – children seldom returning with their parents.
- Successful '**Mini-Messy Church**' at Christmas and Easter
- Connections with **local schools** (Bearnas and All Saints Marsh); but this contact has reduced since the departure of our last Children and Family Worker
- We have **space** which is not always well used.
- Appointment of a new **Children and Families /Family Worker** in due course will provide the opportunity to try new things; in the meantime we have much to offer as the **Church Community**

How does this link with our mission?

A Christ-centred, Caring, Connected Community

Christ-centred:

- Sharing our faith with all
- We aspire to be Christ-centred in our approach to all

Caring:

- Valuing each individual and catering for a range of needs
- Sharing our time, resources, and faith

Connected:

- Coherent plan of activities
- Accommodating different age groups

Community:

- Creating opportunities for meeting between the church family and Newton Abbot community – providing a safe space for fun and fellowship
- Opening the church to a wider network of groups

Stepping Stones for Growth

The Next Generation

These are some suggested stepping stones.

Are they in the right order?

What order would you put them in?

Are there any steps missing?

