

**Name of Minister :** **Emily Twigg**—PSALMS Strategic Sports Minister for Stonehouse

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### What's on?

**Monday:** Club pulse (youth group for year 7+). Stonehouse Methodist, 7:30-9pm.

All other activities are currently not able to take place. Keep an eye on our socials for updates.

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) or join the 'PSALMS in Stonehouse Facebook group'.



### Church visits

**St Cyr's:** 25th October and 6th December

**Stonehouse Baptist:** 11th October and 29th November

**Stonehouse Methodist:** 15th November and TBC

**St. Joseph's:** TBC by church

### Stay in touch!

- Weekly PSALMS in Stonehouse prayer email
- Bi-monthly prayer diary
- Termly newsletter
- Annual review

Speak to Emily to sign up

### Emily's update

The summer months brought longer, warmer days and the chance to do some face-to-face work with young people as the restrictions eased. I was also able to take a two week holiday which was much needed and of great benefit to myself as the new academic year came around.



It was an unusual end for the PSALMS intern (Ben White) who worked with me a lot in Stonehouse and all throughout lockdown, however as of September we now have 3 new team members join—see back page. The work we're able to do is currently limited, especially in schools, but our mission and passion remains the same.

### 'Take 10 @ TRAC'

TRAC, PSALMS' 5-day summer residential was sadly cancelled this year, however instead we were able to run a reduced 1-day event featuring paddle-boarding, archery, go-karting, fire-pits as well as several opportunities to reflect on the past 6 months and to explore where God is and the promises of His we can hold onto.



Encouragingly for PSALMS in Stonehouse, 11 young people signed up for the event, most within 24 hours and the most we have ever for a residential from this area. The young people had a really good day, finally catching up after months apart and enjoying the activities. Following this success, we have another date planned for October half-term due to be announced soon.

### New opportunities: Park Junior and Virtual Holiday Club

Sadly we are currently unable to run any of our schools work, however we have had new opportunities spring up in their place.

For the next 5 weeks I have been asked to film 5 'collective worship' videos for Park Jr. This is a fantastic opportunity and a way for the whole school to know who I am and what Christians believe. I'm also going in every Friday to help with lunchtime duty which means the pupils are able to meet and chat with me in the flesh, which we can build on once after-school club is able to resume.

The CTIS summer holiday club also ran differently, over 5 Fridays instead of 3 days. Families picked up their activity bags each week and then headed to our YouTube channel for the story, song, game and craft instructions. 12 adults from 4 churches worked behind the scenes, and 24 children engaged with the programme. 100% gave it 10/10 for enjoyment, and that they would come again. We are currently exploring the possibility of running something similar at Half-term, instead of a light party.

## Meet the new team for September 2020!

We are excited to have two new trainee sports ministers and a new intern join us in September—see below. Dave has also moved up from Trainee Sports Minister to Sports Minister and as an additional bonus to the team, Jon Taylor has started work for the Diocese exploring Health and Fitness in ministry and will be working closely alongside PSALMS

**Lydia Holloway**— joins the team as a trainee sports minister after partnering with the team over the last year in her previous role. Lydia is starting at Ridley Hall in her first year of the Theology, Ministry and Mission specialising in sports evangelism and her passion for football is something she hopes to bring to the team, especially developing women's teams.

**Tim Fletcher**— comes fresh to the team after engaging with sports camps run by PSALMS in the last year. Tim has felt a calling from God to move on from his previous career as a refrigeration and air con engineer and is very excited to combine his two passions of sports and faith together in his new role.

**Laura Gardiner**— comes to the team as an intern, after finishing her degree in Sports Coaching Science and Disability Sports. Alongside PSALMS she will attend the New Wine Discipleship Year. Inspired by Romans 16:20, Laura is passionate about holding onto God continually to overcome any challenge, keeping running the race that God has in store for her.

**Jon Taylor**— is working for the Diocese of Gloucester providing Health and Fitness activities based with families and adults, alongside partnering with PSALMS in key areas to develop the work over this coming year. Jon previously helped set-up and run 'The Armoury' Gym in Cheltenham, so is vastly experienced in this area and is looking to share this knowledge



### Answers to prayer:

- Having such a strong group from Stonehouse attend the 'Take 10 @ TRAC day'.
- New opportunities and relationships
- Churches Together In Stonehouse working well together and partnering in the summer holiday club.
- For 10 young people attending club pulse the first week back, all previous attendees returning and two new joining.
- Volunteers helping with new groups whilst the group they'd normally help with isn't running.



### COVID update:

PSALMS were thrilled to hear that youth provision is exempt from the new 'rule of 6' the Government has brought in, due to it now being classed as 'an essential provision', meaning that we can still meet with 15 young people plus leaders indoors and outdoors.

Before starting back, all activities are thoroughly risk-assessed and run with both the young people and leaders' safety as paramount. We have seen a small drop in volunteers for various reasons, however at the same time seen new people come forward to help.

From the few activities which have happened in person, it is clear how much these have been enjoyed by all, are of great benefit to young people's holistic wellbeing and together we are slowly getting used to the new normal.

Throughout it all however, we choose to;

***'...hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.'*** (Hebrews 10:23)