

The Parish of Badshot Lea and Hale

We are one Parish with three welcoming and inclusive churches.

Our vision is for the growth of God's Kingdom so we aim to:

- Grow in Spiritual Maturity
- Grow in Numbers
- Grow Younger
- Grow in Community Engagement



**Annual Parish Meeting
Reports 2018 – 2019**

Table of Contents

GOVERNANCE	5	FABRIC	22
OFFICERS' REPORTS	5	ST JOHN'S CHURCHYARD	22
CLERGY REPORT	5	SST MARK'S RE-ORDERING.....	23
ST MARK'S CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT	6	ST MARK'S GARDENING CLUB	23
ST GEORGE'S CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT	7	GROWING IN NUMBERS	25
ST JOHN'S CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT	8	LEADING YOUR CHURCH INTO GROWTH (LYCIG).....	25
PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT	11	GROWING IN SPIRITUAL MATURITY.....	26
FARNHAM DEANERY SYNOD	12	WORSHIP	26
ELECTORAL ROLL	12	INCLUSION	26
SAFEGUARDING REPORT	12	ST GEORGE'S WORSHIP GROUP.....	27
HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT	13	ST MARK'S CONGREGATIONAL MEETING	27
ST JOHN'S VISION	13	ST MARK'S SERVICES.....	27
KITTY COMMITTEE	14	ST JOHN'S INFORMAL SERVICE.....	28
THIRD PARTIES	15	ST JOHN'S CHOIR REPORT	28
CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FARNHAM.....	15	ST GEORGE'S CHOIR REPORT.....	29
BISHOP SUMNER EDUCATION FOUNDATION.....	16	ST MARK'S MUSIC	30
NORTH FARNHAM MINISTERS	16	FLOWERS AT ST GEORGE'S.....	31
SOCIAL	17	FLOWERS AT ST MARK'S.....	32
HARVEST SUPPER.....	17	FAMILY BAND.....	33
SOCIAL PLANNING GROUP.....	17	GROUPS FOR ADULTS	33
BEETLE DRIVE	18	ST GEORGE'S HOUSE GROUP	33
PARISH COFFEE MORNINGS	18	ST JOHN'S HOUSE GROUP	34
FETE	19	START / MOVING ON	34
ROUND THE CHURCHES WALK	19	BEYOND BELIEF.....	35
SING AND SOCIALISE	20	LENT GROUPS.....	35
COMMUNICATION	20	BREATHING SPACE	35
WEBSITE/FACEBOOK	20	FELLOWSHIP GROUP	36
MAGAZINE REPORT	21	MOTHERS' UNION	36

GROWING YOUNGER...36

ADVENTURERS	36
LITTLE BEES	37
ST MARK'S TODDLER GROUP.....	37
GOOD FRIDAY CRAFTS AT ST MARK'S.....	38

GROWING IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT39

OUTREACH 39

SCHOOL REPORT	39
OPEN THE BOOK	40
TABLE TENNIS.....	40
THURSDAY COFFEE.....	41
CONNECTIONS	42
TUESDAY DROP IN	43
FAMILIES MATTER	44
MINDFULNESS.....	44
CORNER CHAT	44
CHRISTIAN AID AND CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY	46

PASTORAL 46

PASTORAL CARE.....	46
--------------------	----

OCCASIONAL OFFICES 47

BAPTISMS.....	48
CONFIRMATIONS.....	48
FUNERALS	48
WEDDINGS	49

GOVERNANCE

OFFICERS' REPORTS

CLERGY REPORT

During 2018 we had to undertake a lot of administrative work around Safeguarding and GDPR. The PCC decided that it would be helpful to know about all of our activities, not just those that were subject to Safeguarding. As a result it is possible to report that we have identified 127 different activities (only some of which are reported on here) undertaken in the churches by 120 different people (and there are some who have stopped activities during the year). A very big thank you to all of you who have contributed in one way or another to God's work in this place.

In 2018 Wendy was licensed as an LLM to this parish and Craig was relicensed as an LLM to this Parish at a service in Dorking attended by a number from the parish. A great day for them and us. Stella was selected for training as an OLM (Ordained Local Minister), which means that at the end of her training she will continue in this parish as a deacon and then priest whilst continuing to work in her other career.

Lots of fabric related issues are reported elsewhere in this document, but it is good to report that the fundraising for Emily as achieved its target and the contract for the work signed, to take place in June, and lots more fundraising took place and the heating in St George's was replaced in time for the cold season.

Lots of changes were made to services; we started a regular Healing Service, which now takes place 6 times a year across all the churches, monthly BCP Evening Prayer and Taize services taking place monthly for a trial period, Hymn repertoires being reviewed for most services, and new Ordinary Time booklets have been developed for St George's.

We also had the Thy Kingdom Come Miracle Play near Pentecost and celebratory events to mark the centenary of the end of WWI.

Farnham Mill Care Home opened in the parish, and John Evans visits regularly.

Hannah has steered the parish through Communion before Confirmation and the first children are being prepared soon.

Finances continue to be a struggle, despite a good response to the stewardship campaign. The Diocese has a new Parish Share Scheme for 2019, and despite the fact that our requested contribution has been held constant, it looks difficult to achieve. To help address this the Archdeacon suggested that we should see whether we could utilise parish assets to the benefit of the community, and to help raise funds. This is now underway!

ST MARK'S CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

This year seems to have been dominated by roof leaks and electrics.

It doesn't normally snow in church. It did last March, however. The late snow was particularly fine and found its way through a gap between the main body of the church and the chancel. If one positioned oneself in just the right place and looked upwards, it was possible to see daylight through the gap. A call to Marshels (help!) sorted the problem out with some re-pointing.

For a number of years, the glass roof of the Annex has let water in when it was raining particularly hard and the wind was in a certain direction. I obtained various quotations for rectification work, They were of the order of a few hundred with no guarantee of success to a few thousand for roof replacement. Again Marshels came to the rescue with strategically applied Mastic.

The quinquennial electrical integrity inspection took place in January. It highlighted a large number of deficiencies, accumulated over the years either due to neglect or questionable installation practices. These were corrected in February. Since some of the work was at high level in the church and required a scaffolding tower, the opportunity was taken to replace the tungsten halogen floodlights with LED equivalents. It is generally thought that replacement tungsten halogen floodlight bulbs will no longer be available in a few years, so this is something that will eventually impact on all of us.

Many of the aspects of being a warden have been dealt with above. However, one particular aspect of maintenance is worthy of note. Jenny organised a blitz of the St Mark's grounds on Saturday 29th Sept. We had a great response from members of the congregation of all ages. A huge pile of green waste was generated, added to a couple of days later when Andy and Joe trimmed all the hedges. It cost us £250 to get rid of it all (originally quoted £500), but it was well worth it. It was a wonderful demonstration of the community spirit we have at St Mark's and it was great to be a part of the effort.

Another demonstration of the community spirit was the Arts and music day we had in June, organised by Michelle as part of the Farnham Flash festival. This was well attended and a great time was had by all. We're doing it again this year.

Bob Shatwell

ST GEORGE'S CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

As I come towards the end of my year as your Church warden, I would like to say thank you to the St. George's Cohort who have worked so very hard to organise, plan and run the events and occasions which are so vital for the social, spiritual and financial well-being of our Church. It would be inevitable that if I listed them by name that I would leave somebody out and that would not be fair or advisable!

We started off the new Fiscal year still without a solution to our heating. That became my priority and after many enquiries, consultation and not to mention time wasted by the heating industry I arrived at a solution which was approved by the PCC to install three replacement heaters in the church and Vestry followed by an extra heater in the church. I was encouraged by you to investigate the viability of having fans fitted to the ceiling in the church and as a result of that we are having three de-stratification fans installed. The three replacement heaters have been installed and the fans and further heater have been ordered and will be installed as soon as possible. The total cost of the project was £14,380-00.

The central heating boiler in the kitchen broke down twice last Autumn. This was due to ageing parts and cost us several hundred pounds in repairs. I have been advised that the life expectancy of the boiler is between 15-20 years and

ours is approximately 13 years old. As time goes by the availability and increasing cost of spare parts could become an issue. If a major part fails it might be more economical to replace the boiler rather than the part.

The exterior hard wood window and door frames of the Hall and Narthex were in poor condition and they and the two garden gates were refurbished and treated by Marshels of Farnham. This cost £4,478-00.

The Audio/Visual project is progressing. The mixer unit has been re-tuned to a legal frequency and we now have new microphones. The installation of the projector and screen will take a little longer. This project is being funded by Grant and Donations.

Overall, the condition of the Church and Hall are in good order. There are signs of damp incursion in various places in the church which will no doubt be addressed in 2020 when we have our quinquennial inspection.

The Church Garden and Car Park are in good order.

There have been many varied and memorable events held at St. George's throughout the year. The Top 10 Hymns, The Celtic Service in the garden, the Party in the Garden, the Afternoon of Bridge, The Parish Fete, the Commemoration of the 100 years anniversary since the end of WWI together with Badshot Lea Infants School, the Harvest Supper, the Top 10 Carols and the Snowman Beetle Drive.

May I say in conclusion that it has been a privilege to be entrusted with the care of St. George's.

Bill Thomas

ST JOHN'S CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

I have to admit I find it hard to believe that I am actually approaching the end of my fourth year as Church Warden. Writing an Annual Report means a time of a lot of reflection over things that have happened during the previous year. I probably wouldn't normally take time to reflect on my life in this way but it is necessary to reflect on the life of our Church. What have we done? What are our plans for the future? If our church is to continue to survive and live and if it is to spread the Gospel to other people, then we need to have hopes and

dreams for our Church, it cannot become a sort of Time Capsule or become a fossil for someone to dig up and wonder about in years to come.

First I need to thank all those people who have helped and supported me during this year. Unfortunately I have had another difficult year as I was unwell for a while so I would like first to thank everyone for their support during that difficult time and for their continued support. There are also many individuals who have worked so hard both inside and outside the church. I am not going to try to list all their names as I am sure to leave someone out. However there are, as always some exceptions, those few who tirelessly give of their time to look after the church both inside and out. I am, of course talking about Sylvie and Winston – they really do do a huge amount of work to keep this church and the churchyard clean and tidy. I would also like to thank Vicky who has gathered a small group who come and clean the church, usually on the first Friday of each month, I would also like to thank Bob Shatwell for all the work he does in caring for the fabric of the building and making sure that everything is working properly. I would be lost without these people. I would also like to thank any others who do the gardening, those who do the flowers, sing in the choir, play the organ, prepare coffee after the services, the sidesmen and the readers and all those other people who do the 101 jobs around the church and who probably go unnoticed but who nevertheless work hard to keep everything running smoothly and of course those who decorate the church so beautifully at Christmas and Easter and other festivals during the year. I would also like to thank Christine for her help in organising the sidesmen at our Carol Service. Last but not least I would also like to thank Alan, Lesley and Hannah for all their hard work and for all they have done for this Parish, and also for the help, support and encouragement they have given me.

I must also give thanks to our retired clergy – the two Johns who also give of their time to help with services and also our LLMs – Wendy, Lesley and Craig who also do so much for our Parish.

We have continued to have meetings to discuss the way forward for St John's. Our meetings have been with the members of our regular congregation and so we are as a group aware of our problems and we are looking together to find the way forward that seems best for all of us. In 2017 we discussed our lack of

facilities for disabled people. As a result of our discussions we have now removed the front two rows of pews. It was done as a trial and it has now become obvious that it does make a difference especially at funerals and weddings when there can be a number of people present in wheelchairs. We now have space for them which does seem so much more welcoming. It has become obvious that it does also allow a more flexible use of the front of the church. We did also consider removing the dais but we had no idea what was under it. After some research we were able to track down Niall Lucas who was a member of the church at the time when the dais was put in place. He could not remember why the dais had been built but kindly offered to come and investigate it for us. It was discovered that the dais was covering a rather messy area as there had clearly been water damage to the tiles and the area at the foot of the steps up to the Chancel. This was probably due to a burst pipe in the central heating system. So the Dais will remain. We are now going to have to look at replacing the somewhat worn carpet and also putting carpet on the area in front of the dais and across into the Children's area. The sound system has been updated and is now functioning. It is much improved. A serious leak was found at the back of the church. This was from a pipe leading to one of the radiators. It explained why radiators were losing heat so quickly and the choir vestry was always freezing cold. This leak was repaired.

We have continued to hold an informal service at I I am on the first Sunday of each month which is in addition to the regular services at St John's

At the end of January Lesley, Alan, Hannah and I attended the LyCiG conference in Winchester. It was very inspiring and we came back with lots of ideas as to how to progress. This led to a series of meetings across the Parish when we discussed how we could lead our Churches into growth.

As well as our group who come to clean the church each month we also had a group of 12 who turned up on a rather chilly and wet March Saturday to prepare the posies for Mothering Sunday. Then on Good Friday a group stayed behind after the Service to decorate the church in readiness for Easter. Both occasions had a real feeling of fellowship as we gathered together and worked together for these special events. Then at Christmas Diana once again gave us a wonderful Christmas tree which came from her garden. This year it was huge

but a group arrived to carry it into the church and hoist it into position and then they returned a few days later to decorate the tree and the whole church. They did a great job and once again there was a feeling of fellowship as we all worked together.

One highlight of the year was when we held our event to commemorate the centenary of the end of the 1st World War. The children from William Cobbett School joined in with us, providing art work and singing and giving readings at the Community event on 7th November. The choirs from both St George's and St John's also sang a number of items. Around the church was a display of memorabilia.

As a congregation we need to continue to think about the future of our church, to pray about it and ask for God's guidance in what we should do with our church. I ask that once again you will all join me in the following prayer:-
" Father we pray that you will save us from being inward-looking or backward-looking when we consider what we need to do and that with our vision enlarged and our love rekindled we may go forward to attempt new and greater things to your glory. Send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning, wisdom to our actions, and power to our witness. Help our church to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you, and in service to our local community."

I ask this because I think it is important that we don't forget, it is really God's church.

Pamela Marsham

PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT

The PCC usually meets eight times a year to discuss the business of the Parish. The regular matters of services, fabric, grounds and finance are interspersed with others, some of which have a legal basis. This year they included:

- General Data Protection Regulation
- Safeguarding
- Risk Assessments
- Inclusive Church
- Communion before Confirmation
- Church Development Plan

● Leading Your Church into Growth (LYCiG)

Despite long agendas our meetings are kept succinct due to much of the information being disseminated in advance. This enables questions to be asked before the meeting if anything is unclear or more information is required. Discussions are therefore more fruitful and decisive and we see the results in the advances our Parish has made. We frequently hear that Badshot Lea and Hale are in the forefront of complying with new directives. Copies of the minutes are displayed in each church following the meetings.

We always need new ideas and therefore new members so please consider whether it is really time for you to share your ideas and talents for the good of the Parish. Please speak to one of the Council members or myself in advance of the APCM if you would like more information. **Gemma Brown**

FARNHAM DEANERY SYNOD

This group is like the PCC for about 10 local churches around the Farnham area. We meet three times a year and for the past year have been looking at what our purpose is (Richard Harris ex- Bishop of Oxford once described Deanery Synod as a group of Anglicans waiting to go home). We have a vacancy in our representation and if you would like to know more please ask. **Alan**

ELECTORAL ROLL

The Church Electoral Roll has been completely revised this year. This is part of the regular cycle of renewal where every six years everyone has to make a new application. The Roll now has 94 parishioners with one to be added on reaching the age of 16 (15 of these are not resident within the parish.) Figures cover period up to 10th March 2019.

Gemma Brown

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

We now have 24 people involved in Parish Activities that require and have a current Disclosure and Barring Service (D.B.S) check. This is 10 less than last year due to the ending of some activities and some members no longer carrying out roles that require D.B.S. checks. There were no new applications this year but 8 renewals (each check lasts for 5 years).

A training session led by a trainer from the Diocesan's Safeguarding Team took place on Saturday 27th October 2018 and was attended by 13 of the 14 members of the Parish who have D.B.S. checks and met the criteria for requiring this level of training – Core 2 Lay Leadership. The session was well received, and all attendees received a certificate.

As part of the National rollout we are now able to submit D.B.S. applications and verify documents on line which has led to a fast turnaround for approvals.

There have been no reported concerns of any Safeguarding issues during the year.

With the positive support of all the activity group leaders, the Parish continued to make good progress this year in the implementation of a number of National Safeguarding requirements which has and will improve the safety of the children, young people and vulnerable adults they are in contact with.

Maurice Emberson Safeguarding Officer

HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

The main thing I had to do here was complete a 32 page questionnaire from our insurers on the state of our compliance with their requirements. This was followed by an hour-long phone interview on the subject. Generally we were OK, but it highlighted the need for the electrical inspection and a need for a couple of risk assessments we hadn't done. These were duly sorted out before the interview, which went well. There are always more things that could be done to have effective risk assessment systems in place, but according to the insurers and Safeguarding experts, we're well ahead of most parishes.

Bob Shatwell

ST JOHN'S VISION

During our vision meetings at St John's we have discussed various aspects of ministry, services and community involvement. We have discussed and agreed to the removal of two front rows of pews to create a more flexible and inclusive space. This has now been achieved under a Temporary Archdeacon's Reordering License. We have also set up a parish wide survey to gauge other

possible community uses for St John's. We will be using the responses of the survey to shape our thinking for our future vision of St John's. **Hannah Moore**

KITTY COMMITTEE

At the beginning of 2018 Lesley, myself, Dave and Helena Walker met to discuss what could be done about the failing state of the mural paintings in the Chancel at St. Mark's. The paint is powdering and flaking and their future was uncertain. These have been treasured by many in the community with rumours that the artist used local people as models but there seemed few facts to go on. The booklet produced at St. Mark's gave us a little information that the painter was Kitty Milroy and that the paintings suffered major damage which was restored by Evelyn Caesar in 1946.

I have been a picture restorer for nearly 40 years and had been asked to look at the murals some years before. It became evident that in order to raise the funds necessary we would have to approach specialists in wall paintings. We approached Rickerby and Schekede who had restored the church of St. Martin's in Blackheath.

We arranged for them to view the paintings in February. They really liked them and also flagged up that they had an importance in the greater history of British mural painting. Their subsequent initial report helped us get a grant for £1600 from Church Care towards the cost of a technical analysis and report and with two generous donations the full cost of £2700 was raised.

After spending two days photographing and taking samples in situ in mid July, they produced a comprehensive technical report at the beginning of December. With this in the bag we now have the tools to move to phase 2 which is to consolidate the flaking paint and remove years of surface dirt and candle wax. Cost £40,000 approx.

Alison Ridgeon and Bob Skinner joined the Kitty committee and with the help of Bob Shatwell and Lesley, we had a successful presentation evening on 20th October. Over 50 people attended including local dignitaries.

With Bob Skinner's help and research we have been able to find out about the Milroy family. We know the identity of two of the main figures and a sitter for the 1946 restoration. I have contacted academics about the murals and with Stella Wiseman's help, publicising the story behind the murals, new avenues of

possible research have been opened. The Hale History project has also been an invaluable source of information. Special thanks for earlier research done by Wendy Maddox who died this year.

My journey through 2018 has brought me closer to the history of Hale and the people who lived and worshipped here in 1900s and who showed their faith and hope in supplying the organ and embellishing the church with such a beautiful painted scheme. The Benedicite on which the murals are partly based is such an uplifting prayer that praises God for his blessings. The link between the community and the Church was evident then and hopefully the murals will bring people back into the church in the future.

Thanks to all who have helped us so far. **Nick Seversway**

THIRD PARTIES

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FARNHAM

In October, St Mark's hosted the AGM for Churches together in Farnham. During this meeting I was elected to act as Chair of Churches together in Farnham for the year. More volunteer involvement in Churches Together is always welcome! The AGM provided a good opportunity to hear how Christians across the town are engaging with our community through acts of service and activities. Some of the ways in which Christians share their faith is through the Easter Walk of Witness, Schools work, and providing a Christmas lunch to those people who would have been by themselves. During the year there are opportunities to gather together as Christians in Farnham at the "Love in Action" events. These events provide an opportunity to worship and pray together. The week of prayer for Christian Unity and the Unity Service also opportunities to worship together. During this week, the churches in the town host morning prayer so that Christians of different denominations can pray together. This year St George's hosted morning prayer for Christian Unity.

Hannah Moore

BISHOP SUMNER EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Bishop Sumner was Bishop of Winchester from 1827 until 1869. As was his wish, after his death in 1874, he was buried in Hale churchyard. He is remembered especially for his interest in education.

The Bishop Sumner Educational Foundation (BSEF) was established by the investment of the parish share of the proceeds from the sale of the local church school. The fund is intended to assist with the education of individual students under the age of 25 whose residence is within the bounds of the ancient parish of Farnham with priority for the ecclesiastical parish of Hale.

Under the chairmanship of Badshot Lea and Hale's Parish Rector the BSEF is administered by a Board of Trustees comprising of

- Two Churchwardens
- A representative of Badshot Lea and Hale Parochial Church Council
- A representative of the Waverley District Council
- A representative of Surrey County Council
- Two co-optative trustees

During the last financial year the Bishop Sumner Educational Foundation awarded £1,512 in grants to 24 school pupils in need of financial help who without this support would 'miss out' or fail to be included.

The grants were used to supply school uniform, residential and day trip experiences, ingredients for food tech, music and foreign language tuition.

June Jasper(Secretary)

NORTH FARNHAM MINISTERS

The two main activities of this group are a weekly Bible study on a Thursday morning at St Mark's to which all are welcome and a Lent sermon series at the Friday service at St Mark's. **Alan**

SOCIAL

HARVEST SUPPER

Following the success of 2017, this year's Harvest Supper was again based on the traditional theme of a deluxe ploughman's supper. Thanks to the volunteers, all concentrated on their tasks, the preparation and setting up went smoothly and to time. The tables looked most welcoming to the diners laden with platters of meat, salads, rolls and accompaniments. This was all followed with a variety of cheese cakes and gateaux.

The supper was followed by some excellent entertainment – singing and musical.

A big thank you to all who helped at the event with preparation, tidying up and participating. Post event comments have been very complimentary so here's to the 2019 Harvest Supper. It was a pleasure to organise and run this evening to see all enjoying themselves and much merriment all around.

Gillian Hyman

SOCIAL PLANNING GROUP

2018 was a busy year of events at St. George's – we needed to raise funds to pay towards the church heating, which had broken, leaving us very cold. What better way to raise money than to come together socially? It gives a chance to invite friends and also to get to know each other better.

We had a few meetings and brainstormed ideas. We planned a series of events, trying to 'mix it up' and have something for everyone. First on a beautiful May evening we held the 'Top Ten hymns'. The church was packed. A big thank you to Joy for leading the organisation of this event. We followed up with 'A party in the Church Grounds'. There was a BBQ, teas and Mocktails. The active had a chance to run around and take part in lots of games. The weather was a bit 'iffy' but we had great fun. In September, Gemma and Margaret masterminded a 'Bridge Tea'. People paid for a table and teas were served. Most of the participants were from outside of our congregations, which is always a bonus when trying to raise funds. There were immediate queries of

when the next one would be, as the tea, particularly had been so good. We had planned a 'Big Badshot Lea Bake Off', but realised that it would take a lot of organisation and time ran out on us, so we abandoned the plan. Advent kicked off with 'Top Ten Carols' – again thanks to Joy for her organisation. In January, we decided to hold a 'Seasonal Beetle Drive' which was very well attended and great fun.

Perhaps unsurprisingly we are all somewhat exhausted. The members of the group had also supported with the Fete, the Harvest Supper, the refreshments for the Carillon Singer's concert, the Light Switch on and lots of other things. So, 2019 will probably be a bit quieter on the social side of things – but you know, we have fun getting together to organise – drinking 'mocktails' in my garden on a beautiful summer's evening, is something I won't forget. Maybe someone will come up with an idea..... or maybe someone else might take a lead?

Thank you to everyone who participated in the organisation of all the events, and those who helped in any way.

BEETLE DRIVE

A fun event was the Beetle Drive evening with fish and chip supper. This year a snowman had to be completed with prizes for winners of full house, overall winner and loser. This brought young and old, experienced and novices together for a really lovely evening. There was much laughter and frustration when the die was rolled and the required number didn't show!

This social evening was a huge success with questions asked as to when the next one could be planned. There were many who enjoyed the previous one but were unable to make this evening due to family commitments but despite this there were 40 in attendance. I thoroughly enjoyed seeing so many happy cheerful people. Look out for a special evening in 2019.

Gillian Hyman

PARISH COFFEE MORNINGS

Parish Coffee Mornings have taken place occasionally throughout the year and have been attended well. They are held on a Saturday morning from 10.30 p.m.

to 12 noon. Refreshments are provided and there is a raffle. These coffee mornings are a valuable way of meeting up with worshippers from across the Parish and they are open to everyone. All proceeds go towards Parish funds.

Offers of help to host a Coffee Morning would be greatly appreciated, it would be lovely if we could hold one a month. It can be any Saturday of the month providing it does not clash with another Church event. If you are willing to host a Coffee Morning in your home please contact me. Many thanks.

Jenny Bull 01252 326437

FETE

The fete was held on 9th June at St. George's. We were blessed with a lovely day. Everything was at the front on the lawn, making it feel more inclusive. The bunting, which had been put up the night before, looked bright and pretty. The event was opened by the Mayor and the children from Badshot Lea Village school danced around the Maypole and the band from the Sea Cadets entertained us. The event had a very 'community' feel. The refreshment area, with teas and cakes, BBQ and bar, was busy all afternoon, our thanks to The Shepherd and Flock for once again contributing beer and prosecco. The Grand Draw was very popular as was the auction. Our thanks to Diana Thomas who works hard to get so many prizes from outside organisation – as well as contributing the tickets. Thank you to everyone who worked hard before and on the day. However, we could have done with more helpers, there were games that did not run and some helpers did not have the opportunity to rest all afternoon – so a plug for this year, 15th June – can you help? I'd really like to beat this year's total of £2,500 but we do need everyone to do their bit, as this is the main fund raiser for Parish funds.

Maxine Everitt

ROUND THE CHURCHES WALK

We have had four Round the Churches walks in 2018, in February, May, September and December. We begin in the car park at St. George's then do a circular route round our three churches and back to St. George's. It is a good opportunity to discuss all manner of topics or simply appreciate the lovely area in which we live. There are usually about six of us, but often more and sometimes less! We wear appropriate footwear and clothing as we walk whatever the weather! In December we stopped at various places round the

parish to read parts of the Christmas story and sing carols. I found this to be a good start to the Christmas season, especially gathered at the top of Farnham Park and reading the part of the story about the shepherds and angels, then singing While Shepherds Watched their Flocks by Night. Very special!

Margaret Emberson

SING AND SOCIALISE

We are not a choir! But we do enjoy meeting regularly to sing and chat. We have continued to meet this year on the fourth Thursday of each month, at St. Marks church, at 6pm. We begin with coffee or tea, and biscuits, while we chat, then sing for about an hour until 7:15. There are usually between ten and twenty of us, and we sing rounds and songs in two, three, four, and more, parts. This year we have had a special American Thanksgiving evening in November. In December we visited Beaumont Village, Aldershot to sing Christmas carols, read the Christmas story, enjoy mince pies and chat with the residents there. We sang and socialised with new friends in a new place! A round we often sing is - 'Make new friends, but keep the old, One is silver and the other gold'. It could be our theme song!

Margaret Emberson

COMMUNICATION

WEBSITE/FACEBOOK

Communicating what is happening in church, what we are doing, what we believe and what we offer is vital and also time-consuming. Last June the PCC approved the idea that I should take on some of the communications work for the parish to support Alan and Lesley. My hours have now increased with the need to promote both the plans to make greater community use of St John's and the church's 175th anniversary.

Being able to dedicate more resources to communications has been bearing fruit as we have seen the parish's profile being raised in print, online and on the radio. The local press has regularly run our news stories and Lesley has been interviewed on local radio. A particular success has been the campaign to raise money for 'Emily' the organ at St Mark's, named after the Edwardian local benefactor Emily Mangles. A press release which went out saying that we were

having a last push to save Emily had several results. First, Lesley was interviewed on BBC Radio Surrey, not just about the organ but about plans for the parish. Second, the local group The Lions read the resulting press story and decided to give £500 to the appeal. Third, an email arrived in Lesley's inbox from one Emily Mangles! She turns out to be the great-great-great niece of the Emily who gave money for the organ and she is keen to keep in touch. There should be more about her in the press and online shortly.

Our online presence has increased in recent months with a steady rise of people 'liking' our Facebook page (up to 310 at the last count) and at times our posts reaching several thousand people. A particular favourite recently was a call to help us find the relatives of people buried at St John's which, according to our Facebook page, reached 7,311 people. Of course, the response varies from post to post but we have found that when we can tie a post in with one of the local Farnham sites, far more people see it than might otherwise. The website is also looking healthy with a steady increase in visitors (or 'traffic') - that story about finding relatives of people buried at St John's was another favourite - and some months we have several thousand visits to the site.

Of course, there is no point in doing all this unless we are communicating something worthwhile, and I firmly believe that we are doing so. There is so much going on in this parish, so much to celebrate, and so much that demonstrates that we are loved by an all-loving God, that it really has to be shared.

Stella Wiseman

MAGAZINE REPORT

The magazine continues to be quite widely distributed both from within the churches, and by willing volunteers who deliver to homes in the parish. Around 500 copies are printed for each of the 10 issues that are published per year. Although many people now receive the emailed Parish News, there are still those who do not have internet access, or who prefer to receive a paper copy to leaf through at their leisure.

Most of the articles are related to Parish news and activities, although there are also regular contributions from local organisations. These are very welcome, and it also means that hopefully the magazine will reach a wider audience. My

thanks as always go to the clergy and all the other contributors who send me articles for publication.

Many local businesses continue to be keen to advertise in the magazine, and not only does this cover the cost of the printing, it also provides some additional revenue for parish funds. A small charge is made for the magazine, with a discount for annual payments.

I have edited the magazine for ten years now, and have found it a very interesting way to contribute to the life of the parish, but I feel that this is a good time to allow someone else to move it forwards, with a fresh approach and ideas. I am sure that whoever takes it over will find it as rewarding as I have.

Margaret Dyer

FABRIC

ST JOHN'S CHURCHYARD

There were the on-going jobs which included the regular clearing of tree debris from the main paths, pruning branches and bushes that could be a hazard to visitors and the maintenance team going about their tasks. The main entrance gates collect a lot of muck from the passing traffic on the very busy Hale Road. They have looked in a bad condition for a very long time so were treated to a well deserved clean and repainted with black gloss. It is intended to clean them on a regular basis in future. The large notice board at the main entrance gates was cleaned and given a coat of wood preserver. A hazard warning sign was fixed to the garden shed as petrol, for the maintenance machinery is stored inside; albeit in a small quantity. The grass has been regularly mown by the two members of the maintenance team, who take on this task. Some 'Bug Hotels' were created and placed in various locations on the ground and on trees. An annual clearing of the ditch, that runs between the churchyard and the private residence, was carried out. The ditch requires regular attention to prevent the drain on the boundary of the churchyard and the public pavement from becoming blocked and overflowing, thereby causing nuisance to pedestrians passing by. Small dams were made at intervals in the ditch to allow water to pass but stop the leaves. So far, this has been successful. Some serious holes at

the edge of two old graves were filled in with collected rubble to prevent any injury to visitors and the maintenance team. Also, some holes in the general grassed walking area were filled in, to prevent injury.

General comment - There are only three volunteers for the maintenance of the whole churchyard. Two mow the grassed areas and just one for all other work; which is very varied. All volunteers have a limited amount of time to spare. Coupled to that is the situation; sometimes the weather is good but the volunteers are not available. Sometimes the volunteers are available but the weather is not good. However, under these circumstances we do the best we can. We really do need more regular volunteers, but; easier said than done, of course.

Winston Burrows

SST MARK'S RE-ORDERING

We haven't had a great success in this area. No-one appears ready to hand over the odd £120k to fund the plans we have!

With the publicity recently given to the murals in St Mark's, and the possibility that we should apply for listed status, this whole area is under review at the moment. It seems that a sensible strategy would be to apply for funding for mural restoration, then use this as a lever for funding for building renovation. With the recent success of fund raising for the organ, it may be sensible to set our sights lower and go for specific areas of renovation, e.g. floor/carpets, that have a chance of raising funds within the community. **Bob Shatwell**

ST MARK'S GARDENING CLUB

This has gradually ceased activity through the year. However we had a concerted effort by many of the congregation to tidy things up in the church grounds at the end of September and the PCC has approved expenditure on hiring a gardener in 2019. Andy Taylor has continued to volunteer his services cutting grass. Jo and Andy also did a magnificent job trimming hedges in the autumn.

Our thanks to all our volunteers in the area. Special thanks to Michelle and Paul for all their work throughout the years in the gardening club.

Bob Shatwell

GROWING IN NUMBERS

LEADING YOUR CHURCH INTO GROWTH (LYCiG)

Last year, Alan, Lesley, Hannah and Pamela attended a Leading your Church into Growth residential seminar. We came back enthused and energised as to what church growth might look like in the Parish of Badshot Lea and Hale. We wanted to stimulate, equip and motivate our church members to play a part in leading our churches into growth.

We ran six training sessions over nine months which covered topics such as “our focus, our calling, our plan, our culture, our journey and our heart.” Lycig helped to focus our thinking in terms of who we need to reach out to, so that we may grow in numbers and in spiritual maturity. It also provided some simple tools to help us share our faith in a ‘non cringy’ way.

Although the LYCiG training has been completed, Lycig needs to be regularly revisited to assess how we are reaching out to our local community. We need to assess how we are nurturing the faith of those in our congregations, how we are proclaiming the Good News and how we are inviting others to join us on this journey of faith.

Find out how you can get involved to continue to lead our churches into growth by talking to a member of the clergy, churchwardens or the PCC.

Hannah Moore

GROWING IN SPIRITUAL MATURITY

WORSHIP

INCLUSION

A while ago I went to an evening at St Paul's Cathedral where the Lutheran pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber reminded us that everyone will be at God's heavenly banquet, including those we don't like. God loves and welcomes everyone. Surely not everyone? What about that politician I dislike, that criminal I despise, that murderer, that swindler, that... No, God welcomes everyone and we are asked to do the same, to follow the commands and example of Jesus who welcomed all - even, or particularly, those whom the establishment didn't like. The poor, the weak, the despised were all welcomed by Jesus.

Welcoming everyone - and ensuring everyone can access that welcome - is what I believe inclusion is about. It is harder than we think. When we first discussed joining Inclusive Church a couple of years ago, several people commented that we were already inclusive. I think we try to be, but we often try to be without actually attempting to see the world through the eyes of others. We may, for instance, not realise that someone with learning difficulties might have a hard time following a service, or someone who struggles with sensory overload issues may find some services too noisy. When we invite a chronically ill person to a healing service have we thought about what we are implying? I did that and unwittingly upset a friend. Does a gay person feel fully welcomed in the church? After all they can't marry there so are really seen as 'second class' (not our decision, that comes from the national church).

Those are just some of the questions that trying to be inclusive raises for me as 'Inclusion Champion' for the parish. It is why we have now run two series of sermons on inclusion where we have heard from a range of people and tried to understand more about what it can mean to be in the church and, for example, suffer from a chronic illness, be homeless, be intersex, suffer from a mental illness. I believe the best way to understand how to widen our welcome is to listen to those with other experiences of life, to those who may sometimes find themselves on the fringes of church, or unable to be fully involved. When we

truly begin to hear each others' stories we may begin to understand each other better and both deepen our relationships and be properly welcoming. Who knows? We may even learn more about ourselves and God when we listen to each other.

Stella Wiseman

ST GEORGE'S WORSHIP GROUP

During the last year the group has met and discussed past and future services and events noting what works and what needs to be improved or amended. Dates and times of services have also been discussed with attention paid to comments made by the congregation.

We have focused on producing three booklets to try out with the aim of them replacing the current green service book for use in Ordinary Time. Rev. Hannah has been a great help with this and she compiled the final results from our suggestions. The trial period began on 10th February and feedback forms were handed out to the congregation in order to gauge their opinions.

We have also looked at the repertoire of hymns as at present it is too large which means we don't sing hymns frequently enough to know them well. We had an extra meeting in order to discuss this and were joined by some choir members and musicians whose input was very valuable. This will be an ongoing project as we add new hymns and discard ones less suitable for St George's. Inevitably we won't please everyone with our choices!

Gemma Brown

ST MARK'S CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A number of congregational meetings have been held during the year to plan future worship and review the past. These have been followed by a bring and share lunch.

Alan

ST MARK'S SERVICES

I don't quite know how it happens, but the normal atmosphere at St Mark's on Sunday morning is one of cheerful community. Dave and Helena are generally busy with children's art work at the back of the church whilst the rest of us participate in a service in which we are almost sure something will fail to go

quite according to plan. A little bit of chaos is definitely the norm, not to mention the banter between the congregation and musicians and the odd interjection in the sermon.

This doesn't mean we don't take the worship seriously. Communion is suitably respectful, as are other parts of the service. However, it may be better to regard the sermon as a potential discussion and the hymn singing as having elements of a community sing-a-long.

And why not?

Bob Shatwell

ST JOHN'S INFORMAL SERVICE

St John's for All has been running on the first Sunday of the month for over a year now. We have a few faithful families who attend regularly. We are still hoping to grow into a larger congregation. We have formed a small team to plan these monthly services. The format of the service is very interactive. It includes a craft activity based on the theme, a bible story, prayer and musical worship. We still don't have a musician for this service. Having a musician would enhance the service instead of singing along with a PowerPoint presentation.

Hannah Moore

ST JOHN'S CHOIR REPORT

We have continued to support the clergy in leading worship each Sunday in 2018 and at the occasional wedding and funeral, when requested.

We were lucky enough to be joined in our singing again for the carol service at St John's by Margaret Emberson and Jacquie Munroe. Our honorary choir members enhanced our harmonies and depth of sound. It is a pleasure to sing with them and I would like to extend a big thank you to you both. Luckily the weather was kind to us on the day and everyone kept well for the service which we all considered a success.

Thank you Pamela again for all your planning, preparation and the musical guidance you have given us. We value all the hard work you put into St John's choir.

It has been rewarding to sing with our 'resident organists' Frances Whewell, Alan Whiting and Mary Klymenko . We are very pleased to welcome Mary to St John's and all enjoy her beautiful music. Thank you to you all.

Peter Dyson has unfortunately been unable to play at St John's due to a recent illness. We all wish Peter well.

We have continued to enjoy meals together during the year along with those organists who were free to join us and have thoroughly enjoyed each other's company socially.

We continue to enjoy our choir fellowship. **June Jasper**

ST GEORGE'S CHOIR REPORT

In the 'Church Music Quarterly' last December was an article entitled: 'Faith that is nourished by Melodies'. It is such a lovely phrase, and I wondered if we as a choir are nourishing our own faith, and that of the congregation.

Certainly choir practice each Wednesday feels a joyous thing. Margaret has explored hidden treasures in the hymn book, and led us in singing many new hymns.

So within the choir my faith is greatly strengthened. But introducing new music to the congregation is not so easy. My faith is not nearly so strong on a Sunday morning. I'm not at all sure how much 'hope and pleasure I'm giving to others.' It should be a wonderful thing to give a musical lead to the worship. I think we should communicate far more with each other, *not* by email, but in conversation try to understand our different likes and dislikes in church music, especially hymns.

A choir highlight in June was singing at the Licensing Service at St Paul's church in Dorking for, among others, Wendy and Craig. We first practised with other choirs from the diocese, singing a beautiful part anthem by Martin How: 'Day by Day' which asks us to: 'See Thee more clearly, love Thee more dearly, and follow Thee more nearly, day by day'. The service had some modern hymns including '10,000 Reasons '(to Bless the Lord). This has become a favourite in our parish now.

Another moving experience was the Remembrance event on Thursday 8th November in church, involving Badshot Lea Infants School, to mark the centenary of the Armistice. The choir sang songs of Peace, surrounded by the children's art work and profiles of teenage soldiers from Badshot Lea who'd lost their lives in World War One.

My thanks go to Joy for playing on so many Sunday mornings. Joy's was the wonderful innovation of 'The Top 10 Hymns' in May, and 'The Top 10 Carols' in December. The singing was triumphant and unified the three churches.

And our new comer to the choir, Em, has brought a new dimension to the music at St George's – duetting with Debbie on recorder, and, with a lot of practice, improving her keyboard skills at a terrific rate. Her husband Adrian is a genius at drawing the right stops on the organ for the desired effect. One Sunday, no one realised that one hymn was 'played' entirely through his computer Hautwerk system. No one was playing the organ!

Above all I'd like to thank the irrepressible Margaret whose enormous enthusiasm inspires us to sing new songs in very enjoyable harmonies. If we sing well, it's because of her.

The clergy are a great support. I'm privileged to play at a few weddings, but sadly, more often, funerals. With very sensitive preparation of these services I can see that our clergy afford bereaved families great comfort. It is a precious witness.

Frances Whewell

ST MARK'S MUSIC

This continues in its slightly chaotic manner. I feel very strongly that the music and musicians should be part of the congregation and the general banter that goes with the playing gives a friendly atmosphere to the proceedings. Tom, our young guitarist has moved on to other things, and the junior choir that sings the Gloria has changed personnel slightly, but the tradition continues with new (younger) participants.

As part of the Flash-festival, we've discovered that the left hand side of the church can be cleared to make an excellent dance floor, and we'll probably make more use of that in the coming year.

A tremendous effort, led by Frances has resulted in the money being raised for the organ restoration, which is timetabled for June. This should lead to a greater variety in the type of music the congregation will enjoy (?) in the coming year.

Bob Shatwell

FLOWERS AT ST GEORGE'S

Once again a year of beautiful displays with multiple pedestals for a list of events. Firstly with the celebration of Love Your Church Sunday suggested by Rev Lesley especially for the younger children with large displays of red flowers made from crepe paper and red felt hearts.

This was followed by St George's Day with displays of red roses. Next was our big Easter celebration for the Death and Resurrection of Christ. We had the usual arrangements with large displays of lilies purchased by members of the congregation in memory of their loved ones.

Summer months we had displays of seasonal flowers which led on to the Harvest celebrations – flowers, fruit and locally grown hops. These filled the church with their strong scent bringing back fond memories to the older members of the congregation who went hop picking when The Lea was the centre of a large hop growing area with the village having two working kilns.

Remembrance Day had poppies and a large display of pictures, texts and exhibits of the two world wars. This was set up by Badshot Lea School pupils and arranged by the Headteacher Gemma Ball plus the class teachers. The display was on for nearly two weeks and was a great success being visited by many people.

Finally we came to Christmas and the birth of Christ. We had many displays and arrangements round the church. A large decorated Christmas Tree was in the Lady Chapel and many fairy lights festooned the church. This was the last of a busy and interesting year which was very rewarding.

We are now down to two arrangers – myself and Chrissie. We would like more people to help by arranging a display to decorate the church. If you might be

interested please contact me. I am always at the 10:00 service. We are looking forward to an interesting and eventful 2019. God Bless the Flowers.

I thank you all for your support and comments on the flower arrangements in our Church.

Vicky Boas

FLOWERS AT ST MARK'S

I have a wonderful group of willing helpers who bring their own ideas and skills to the flowers giving us a great variety of colour schemes and designs. The church looked amazing at Easter with the lilies adding scent as well as beauty to the services.

Sadly Tracy moved to the Isle of Wight in the autumn and didn't feel able to return to do the flowers every couple of months! As she was a florist she is really missed.

Luckily Heather has now joined our team and is very enthusiastic which is great but there is still room for more volunteers. No experience needed just a desire to enhance the worship at St Mark's.

We were lucky enough to have the lanterns again for the windowsills at Christmas which really enhanced the atmosphere when put alongside the Christmas arrangements.

Thank you to all the flower ladies who do such a great job.

Anne Boyman

FLOWERS AT ST JOHN'S

We have continued to have a pedestal of silk flowers to decorate the church but during this last year we have also had vases of fresh flowers in the church which makes it look so much nicer. We also like to make sure that the window ledges are all decorated as well.

I would like to thank all those who donated money so that we could buy flowers to decorate the church for the festivals.

I would also like to say a very big thank you to all those who give of their time to do special flower arrangements and who also decorate all the window ledges

with flowers and with greenery to make the church look beautiful at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. We also had a group of 12 who turned up on a rather chilly and wet March Saturday to prepare the posies for Mothering Sunday. Then on Good Friday a group stayed behind after the Service to decorate the church in readiness for Easter. A group turned up to decorate the church for our Harvest Festival. It was the same at Christmas time when another group turned up to bring in the enormous tree given to us by Diana. They plus some others turned up again a few days later to decorate the tree and also the whole church. Each of these occasions had a real feeling of fellowship as we gathered together and worked together for these special events.

Thank you too to Diana Thomas who gave us that enormous Christmas tree from her garden. We had great fun decorating it. It was quite a challenge.

Pamela Marsham

FAMILY BAND

The Parish Family band has continued to play regularly at the 10am service at St George's Church on the second Sunday of each month, at the Crib Service and two of the Carol Services. Two of our players have decided to concentrate more on their school work, but we have gained another very versatile musician. We now practise on Sunday morning before the service and although we may be small in numbers we have masses of ability, skills, commitment and enthusiasm, and have been playing together for over six years. At present we may be few in number but we have loads of enthusiasm!

Margaret Emberson

GROUPS FOR ADULTS

ST GEORGE'S HOUSE GROUP

The group continues to meet, somewhat irregularly, on a Tuesday evening, at the home of various members. In 2018, we found it hard to consistently meet as many of the group were attending the LYCIG meetings and also formed the backbone of the fund-raising group – so Tuesdays became very full. In the Autumn we managed to meet for 6 weeks and complete a course entitled,

‘When the game is over, it all goes back into the box’, by John Ortberg. One picture was of all the ‘stuff’ we accumulate in an effort to make ourselves feel good but that ends up on the scrap heap. It made us realise that relationships, with each other and with Our Lord, are the thing we truly need to work at and are the only things that are every lasting.

We enjoyed a social at the pub in January and then started another John Ortberg DVD course, ‘God is closer than you think’. We chose this as we had all found the first course so inspirational. The premise is that everyone feels that sometimes God is hard to find, but God is always trying to get close to us and we need to work at letting him in.

If it sounds a bit heavy or very ‘religious’, that is the fault of my writing, because it isn’t. We’ve had a lot of fun whilst finding out about God and each other. Each one of the group is valued and hopefully we all feel part of a supportive family. We have a chance to have conversations about belief – something that is hard to do on a Sunday. We are very welcoming, friendly and encouraging, so why not join us? We’d love you to come.

Maxine Everitt

ST JOHN’S HOUSE GROUP

This group started a few years ago as a Lent Group and since then it has continued to meet but only on a once a month basis. The result has been that for most of the year it meets together as a Bible Study Group but during Lent we study the same material as all the other Lent groups. As a Bible Study Group we use the Bible reading Fellowship booklets. Our discussions are usually lively and sometimes lead into interesting discussions of topics that are relevant today.

Pamela Marsham

START / MOVING ON

In the Parish we are using the Start Course which is an introduction to the Christian Faith. It is a six week DVD and discussion based course which covers topics such as Life, God, mess, Jesus, the Cross and Onwards. We have used this course as part of preparation for adult baptism and confirmation.

Another discussion based group has also been set up using the Moving-On material. Moving-On encourages participants to deepen their faith.

If you would be interested in joining either a Start group or a Moving-On group please contact a member of the clergy.

Hannah Moore

BEYOND BELIEF

A small group have continued to meet under the Beyond Belief heading. We meet once a month and discuss a few chapters from a book on religion. In the past year this has included “The Orthodox Heretic” by Peter Rollins and “Why did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha and Mohammed cross the road” by Brian McLaren. Others are welcome to join us and if you would like to know more please ask

Alan

LENT GROUPS

The Lent Groups kicked off with Dave Tomlinson giving an introductory talk about his latest book “Black sheep and Prodigals.” This was a very entertaining evening. This book then became our Lent Groups’ resource. The Lent Groups then met throughout the Parish at various times to work through the book at their own pace. The book covered topics such as the Creation, The Virgin Birth and the Resurrection. It encouraged wide ranging discussion and questions.

Hannah Moore

BREATHING SPACE

Breathing Space continues to meet monthly at St Mark’s centre for Christian contemplation, discussion and prayer.

The group consists of people from several local churches, and meetings are informal. We enjoy the opportunities for varied approaches to looking at God’s word and its meaning for our Christian faith and lives.

For example, in our last meeting in February, we considered the topic of listening, and looked at the things that sometimes prevent us from properly listening to others, and then looked at how these can mirror the difficulties we find in listening to God. We then discussed some simple steps that can help us all in listening to the Lord.

Breathing Space is normally held on the second Friday of each month, starting from 9.30am for about an hour. All are welcome to attend- there is no need to feel you are committing yourself to coming every time!

Bob Skinner

FELLOWSHIP GROUP

It has been a rather quiet year for us. As so many of the regulars have been busy with hospital appointments our meetings have been very irregular. However those we managed followed the usual patterns of discussions and mutual support. We have missed out on our little outings but hopefully this will all be sorted this year as lives get back to normal and our get-togethers follow a more regular pattern.

Mavis Leach

MOTHERS' UNION

At the service on the third Friday of the month we continue to pray for the Mothers' Union and their work in the UK and around the world. We now have only three members who continue to support the aims and objectives of the organisation. The Hale Banner, when possible, is taken to the Lady Day Service at the Cathedral and this year a Mothers' Union Quiet Day of Reflection was attended at the church of St Thomas on the Bourne. Help was also offered at the annual Family Fun Day in Normandy.

Sue Habgood

GROWING YOUNGER

ADVENTURERS

2018 went well at Adventurers despite there being a small but very enthusiastic group. They have contributed to many of the art themes at St Mark's as well as preparing the Christingles and making the harvest loaf. They also took part in the Good Friday workshop and service. Three of our members read at the Carol service at St John's and did us proud.

Sadly I have to report that after over 30 years (not all lead by me) Adventurers is at crisis point. Older members have moved on and a group at the Bungalow clashed with us. We have changed our day to Tuesday but are still struggling to be a viable group as far as numbers are concerned and we may be forced to

close. There are so many after school activities now that children's time is limited. I am very sad about this and would welcome any suggestions as to how closure could be prevented.

I would like to thank my helpers who have been so supportive and without whom I could not do Adventurers at all.

Anne Boyman

LITTLE BEES

Little Bees Group for the under threes and their Mums, Dads, Grandparents and/or Carers continues to thrive at St George's on Monday mornings in term time.

The little ones have fun playing with their new friends, making things in the craft area and having juice, biscuits and fruit whilst their grown-ups have the opportunity to chat and make new friends whilst drinking a cup of tea or coffee provided by the ladies in the kitchen.

A huge thank you to Kay and Trish who help with providing the tea and coffee together with a friendly ear, and to the two Helens who get the hall ready beforehand and provide the brilliant ideas and equipment for the craft area – we couldn't do it without you.

Many of the Mums have said that Little Bees has provided them with a lifeline when they are feeling "down" as they are able to forget about their worries and enjoy themselves for an hour whilst being able to chat to others.

We mention upcoming events in Church from time to time and some of our Little Bees do manage to encourage their grown-ups to bring them along.

Carol Le Page

ST MARK'S TODDLER GROUP

St Mark's Toddler Group has been busy this year with around 25 children attending each week. Children enjoy playing with a variety of toys, ride-ons, books and dressing up. We also provide a craft activity which tries to develop the children's learning and development. It is for both parents and carers to come and support each other helping their little ones to have fun and grow.

The group tries to be a friendly place to give support and a listening ear to the daily struggles having children can bring. **Natalie Murphy**

GOOD FRIDAY CRAFTS AT ST MARK'S

Fifteen children joined us with great enthusiasm at St Mark's for the annual craft session to celebrate the Easter story. Some were old friends and others were new to the experience.

We began by getting together to watch a video which retold the story of Easter. Then we began the activities which included Making Easter cards based on their hands, white chocolate Easter egg shaped lollies, a cross of real flowers, a banner which was cross shaped, and Easter gardens. The children worked really hard!

We finished with a simple service where the children shared what they had been doing with the parents and other adults and a simple liturgy followed by a drink and hot cross buns!!

Thank you so much to all those who helped. **Anne Boyman**

GROWING IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

OUTREACH

SCHOOL REPORT

It has been another good year of the schools in the Parish interacting and visiting our three churches.

Badshot Lea Infants have visited St George's for their Christmas, Easter, Harvest and Leavers' Assemblies. The school provided a choir to sing at the St George's Christmas Carol Service.

Folly Hill Infants visited St Mark's to learn more about the church and what happens there. They learnt about baptism, communion, church vestments and the stained glass windows. They loved trying to find the signature "bee" in our stained-glass window.

As the country marked 100 years since the end of WWI, Badshot Lea Infants and William Cobbett, provided an art exhibition on the theme of Remembrance at St George's and St John's. This formed part of the parish Community Remembrance events. The children and their parents along with the Staff then attended services in the Churches after which we shared refreshments. I would like to thank both schools for being so willing to embrace these community events.

The choir from William Cobbett School sung during the St John's Christmas Carol Service which was lovely. William Cobbett School came to St John's to celebrate a Christingle Service. The special unit from William Cobbett also visited St John's to explore the church and to learn about why Christians pray.

Tootsies Nursery held their Christmas Carol Service at St John's and this was another opportunity to welcome people into one of the parish churches.

We are fortunate to have strong links with the schools in our Parish and with Tootsies and I am always excited when children have the opportunity to visit the churches and encounter them as welcoming places. **Hannah Moore**

OPEN THE BOOK

Our Open the Book team in this Parish is now in the fifth year of story telling in two local infant schools and pre-school nursery. It is a privilege to be welcomed into Badshot Lea and Folly Hill infant schools and Tootsies Nursery throughout the school terms to present well-loved stories from the Bible. The aims of Open The Book are:

- To present the Bible in primary schools in an accessible and enjoyable way and to enable the children to engage imaginatively with the text.
- To assist primary schools in meeting their statutory Collective Worship obligations.
- To contribute to the children's religious, spiritual and moral education.
- To encourage links between schools and church in a local context.

These are our aims too!

All eight team members enjoy meeting regularly to prepare, pray and practise for our visits and stories. We are also invited to each schools' end of term assemblies, nativity plays and other events. We also arrange to meet each other for coffee occasionally and have Christmas dinner together at the garden centre.

It is a delight and responsibility each time we visit each school to put the truth and wonder of the Bible in front of hundreds of children who might otherwise never know about it. Children who are not in our churches or for the most part any church.

We value the interest and prayers of everyone in the parish as we continue to Open the Book.

Margaret Emberson

TABLE TENNIS

I had wanted to start a table tennis club for several years but I never realised that I wanted to start a youth club for all ages. Yet that is what we now have at St Mark's on the first and third Fridays of the month (with occasional changes to the date), run with the help of Robbie Eggleton.

Last summer we received a grant from the Farnham Institute which enabled us to buy a table tennis table and equipment and some soft seating. We were given a small pool table through the excellent online forum Freecycle, the Crawleys dug out a Nintendo Wii and television, my friend Jacqui Searle (now a stalwart of the club) brought some Wii games, I found some board games, Pamela Marsham arrived with a pile of jigsaws. Then it was simply a case of making tea and coffee and providing snacks and we were off.

It didn't take us long to realise that we had more than a table tennis club on the go. We do play - some are good, some are out of practice, some are learning but we all enjoy it and hope to have a second table soon. But we also talk, play other games - the range has increased thanks to people's enthusiasm - vow that we will finish that tricky jigsaw (maybe we will have done by the time you are reading this), and form friendships. We have almost all ages there. We don't tend to have many under-10s but by Friday evening most of them are pretty tired - but otherwise we range from almost teens to late 80s with everyone in between. Some people are from the parish, others come from further afield, everyone is welcome.

We don't talk about faith, that isn't the idea. The idea is to form friendships, to strengthen a community, to offer hospitality. For me that is church, it's living out faith and having fun. I believe God is with us in it. I also suspect that it's the sort of thing Jesus did. I bet he'd be brilliant at table tennis.

As an interesting PS, the table tennis, games and pool table have also been used when we ran a joint day for families with the Sandy Hill Inclusive Partnership, and we expect to do more of these in the future. **Stella Wiseman**

THURSDAY COFFEE

Many thanks to the helpers who serve coffee, tea and home-made cakes every Thursday morning (for the first time in 2018 we stopped in August). We have three new helpers Jenny, Sorrel and Carolyn along with Annie and me. A special thank you to Val who is coming off the rota – we will miss your shortbread Val! Thelma has offered to help out again so thank you Thelma.

Gillian Geraghty

CONNECTIONS

Connections at St George's Church Hall is a fortnightly event for the over 50's but if you are 49 that won't be a problem! It is held on a Tuesday morning 10:00-11:30 but more often than not, the finish time seems to extend later and later. There are various activities, Scrabble, Cards, Crosswords etc. but the favourite seems to be doing a Jigsaw Puzzle, flicking through the daily papers and having a good old natter over tea, coffee, biscuits and home-made cake.

There is a lot of fun and laughter and new friendships have been made by several of our "members". We tend to base our mornings on whatever you want to do and it seems that they are just happy to come and be together.

If there are special events taking place in Church, we try to make everyone aware of them. At the Remembrance event and the Carol service a few of our members attended even though they do not normally go to church.

At Christmas we held a special event at which we sang each person's favourite Carol. We were very grateful to Margaret who kindly agreed to play the piano for us, squeezing us into her busy schedule at that time of year. We also had a Christmas quiz, played Bingo and had a drop of something a little bit stronger as well as the normal beverages!

At the last couple of meetings two gentlemen have attended giving Bill much needed male company as he is normally surrounded by all women. The two chaps tend to sit apart from us ladies (I wonder why?) and settle themselves down to a game of Chess.

The Group appeared in Life in Farnham Magazine with a piece written by Stella who had interviewed some of our Ladies and featured a photograph of some of us.

I am pleased and happy to report that our numbers are slowly but steadily increasing. When we started two years ago, we were only five including Bill and Myself. A couple of months ago we had a grand figure of nineteen.

I would like to finish by thanking Lesley for stepping in for us while we went away on our odd holiday or two!



Annie and Bill Thomas

TUESDAY DROP IN

We tried a new venture at St. George's, partly arising from LYCIG and our desire to grow in the service to our community. Our car park is used by parents dropping their children at Badshot Lea Village School and we thought that some frequently stood having a chat. It seemed there was an opportunity welcome them in by opening the hall and provide a hot drink in the warm. It was hoped that new parents might be able to build relationships – as this can be very hard and the support of fellow parents is invaluable. So, in mid-September we opened the 'Tuesday drop in', serving tea and coffee from 8.50 – 9.30 every Tuesday morning in term time. (The day was carefully chosen as Connections runs later in the morning, so we would not tie up a day when otherwise we might have been missing a 'paying' hall booking).

Numbers grew a bit towards Christmas, with very loyal support from the PTA, who also provided cakes and cookies – but it became obvious that the morning

was not the best time. Everyone was dashing off to drop younger children, rushing to work or to the daily tasks. By the February half-term we had decided that, although the opportunity was very appreciated by those who attended, we haven't quite got it right and so closed.

Currently we are looking at the idea of trying again from next September, but on an afternoon so parents can come before pick-up time. Nothing is certain as yet, but I would welcome any thoughts. **Maxine Everitt**

FAMILIES MATTER

The project has grown again this year. We have had three parenting courses at St Mark's with around 15 attending on each course. Kids with Support group for parents who have a child with an additional need has expanded. We have an excellent working relationship with our local community partners such as SHIP (Sandy Hill Inclusion Partnership) and Hale School . **Jane Voake**

MINDFULNESS

The Mindfulness group has attracted an average of 10 people per monthly session. I had wondered what effect having to move from St Mark's to the Sumner Room at St John's might have on our numbers and although I hear that we have lost some members, we have gained others.

The group is very friendly and we encourage newcomers. I run it as a drop in session, on a "no name" basis which is comfortable for people. It opens up possibilities for pastoral contact with the group and I am humbled by things people have shared with me. I have been told that this group is the only one of its kind in Farnham (that is to say, offering a Mindfulness session, free of charge to all attendees). And I certainly see the value of it within our community.

Lesley Shatwell (LLM)

CORNER CHAT

About a year ago now, I felt that God was encouraging me to welcome a few more human beings to St. John's during the week. My fellow LLM, Lesley Shatwell, had just moved Mindfulness to St. John's Sumner Room on the first Monday of the month. That was proving a big success but met only monthly.

So, we started a fortnightly drop-in coffee and chat session every other Tuesday from 10.00am until 12 noon in the Sumner Room.

We have called this session Corner Chat. We have met fortnightly now since September 18th with a month's break at Christmas and we have between 2 and 7 people attending each time, ranging in age from 4 years to somewhat older(!) but we are happy to grow in numbers and welcome all ages and those with disabilities to join us. We find that God sends exactly the right number of people each time and conversation is easy and relaxed. Those with dementia are very welcome so long as they bring a carer with them.

Vicky Kidney kindly agreed to assist me most sessions and Sorrel Price has also been willing to stand in so that, for safety, we have 2 church helpers each time. If you are ever available on Tuesdays and could be available to help with Corner Chat or if you have any questions about it, please call me on 01252 406772 or 07740 082460 or email me at my llm.wendy@badshotleaandhale.org.

Or please just come along and see what we do, which is not at all formal. In an age of information overload and every conceivable means of communication available, I believe there is still a need for time to simply chat to another human being about whatever is happening in your life.

I was bereaved when the group started (my dad, Ted, died on 15th August) and we have several bereaved people among us, so we provide mutual support to one another. It is not an official bereavement support session, but you will find us having understanding and honest discussion about all the messiness and difficulties of bereavement but also talking of lighter, happier matters too. Grief is something we work through as part of the rest of our day-to-day lives, so it is lovely to have other people joining us who just come to chat, whether they have any particular need that day.

Maybe see you one Tuesday at Corner Chat. All are welcome.

Wendy Edwards

CHRISTIAN AID AND CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY

Having joined the Badshot Lea and Hale Church community in February 2018 we have involved ourselves in some Parish events in order to become a working part of the church fellowship. We have enjoyed in particular becoming the Christian Aid reps for the Parish where we have raised money for this wonderful charity by holding a cake sale in the churches at Harvest Festival, local Carol Singing in Hale, Carol Singing at Farnham Railway Station and bucket collecting in the Lion and Lamb Yard in Farnham. Most of the money raised in future events for Christian Aid will be shared with the church.

We also coordinated the Christmas leaflet delivery in 2018 which was quite a big job but in the end thanks to some wonderful helpers all the leaflets were delivered!

We have enjoyed participating in some of the many groups that exist in this large Parish including Family Matters and the Thursday Coffee mornings as well as the monthly Singalong. All this has helped us to settle into the area and allowed us to gently and with ease move from our last parish in Kent to this new one in Surrey feeling God by our sides at all times. We thank you for the welcome and help we have received.

Carolyn Weston

PASTORAL

PASTORAL CARE

I co-ordinate Pastoral Care in the parish, supervised by Reverend Hannah.

We are not planning any further Pastoral Care meetings because we now record brief details of pastoral need and pastoral visits via an email address whose Inbox is confidential and accessible only to Reverends Lesley, Alan, Hannah and myself. The email address is :-

pastoral@badshotleaandhale.org.

This Inbox is checked very regularly by the four of us so it is the best email address for everyone in the parish to use for pastoral need such as prayer requests (with the permission of the person prayed for), any visiting of the sick

required at home, hospital or care home (also with permission) or in the event of serious illness or death.

We also very much welcome happy pastoral news, recovery from illness, good things that happen in yours' or others' lives, job or exam success, overcoming of obstacles. We tend to receive prayer requests but then not know for many months what is happening to the person prayed for so updates are helpful when you can please.

If you prefer a conversation, please call me on 01252 406772 or 07740 082460 or email me at my personal church email address llm.wendy@badshotleaandhale.org which Inbox is only accessible by me.

If you are aware of someone in need of pastoral care, please let me or one of the Ministry Team know and we will be happy to offer support. If you need pastoral care, please get in touch.

We have only a very few lay pastoral visitors helping us so if you would like to do any pastoral visiting please contact me. Training can easily be given.

Samuel Rutherford (1600-1661) said 'If men smile on you, Christ but borroweth their face to smile through them'. Your smile for others or other kind assistance you offer them may be the best way to love our neighbour as ourselves but we also need to communicate within the parish about pastoral need so, if you see any pastoral need or you have any suggestions as to how we may better care for one another, we look forward to hearing from you.

We also express a very big thanks for all the pastoral care you have given personally this year. Your help is invaluable and much appreciated.

Jesus Christ. They are at the heart of all Christian ministry and especially so in our Parish of Badshot Lea and Hale.

Wendy Edwards

OCCASIONAL OFFICES

The Church of England has noticed that occasional offices have dropped by about 25% over the last 5 years. No firm explanation has been found for this, but we wonder if the difference in belief between those born in the '50s and

the '60s, when some stopped associating with church, and who are now becoming grandparents, and whose parents are dying might explain some of it.

BAPTISMS

Year	Cathedral	St Georges	St Johns	St Marks	Worship for All	Grand Total
2012		9	12	8		29
2013	8	18	2	9		37
2014	8	10	5	20		43
2015	2	12	4	6		24
2016		10	6	9		25
2017		4	5	12	4	25
2018		4	2	5	4	15
Grand Total	18	67	36	69	8	198

CONFIRMATIONS

Year	Number
2013	24
2014	16
2015	11
2016	9
2017	1
2018	8
Grand Total	69

FUNERALS

Year	St George's	St John's	St Mark's	Burial of Ashes	Crematorium	Graveside	Total
2012	3	16	1	1	27	1	49
2013	4	13	1	1	17		36
2014	5	12	2	2	17		38
2015	8	10	3	1	9		31
2016	10	6	6	1	11		34
2017	5	14	2		13		34
2018	6	7	2		10		25
Grand Total	41	78	17	6	104	1	247

WEDDINGS

Year	Blessing			Blessing Total	Wedding			Wedding Total	Grand Total
	St George's	St John's	St Mark's		St George's	St John's	St Mark's		
2012	1			1	5	8		13	14
2013		1		1		9		9	10
2014		1		1		2		2	3
2015		1		1	1	5		6	7
2016	1		1	2	1	4		5	7
2017					1	5	1	7	7
2018					1	3		4	4
Grand Total	2	3	1	6	9	36	1	46	52

More weddings seem to be taking place in licensed venues.

INDEX

Adventurers.....	36	St John's.....	34
Baptisms.....	48	Start / Moving On.....	34
Beetle Drive	18	Harvest Supper.....	17
Bishop Sumner Education Foundation ..	16	Health & Safety	13
Choir		Inclusion.....	26
St George's.....	29	Kitty Committee	14
St John's.....	28	Leading Your Church into Growth.....	25
Christian Aid	46	Little Bees	37
Christmas Card Delivery	46	Magazine	21
Churches Together in Farnham	15	Mindfulness	44
Churchwardens Report		North Farnham Ministers	16
Badshot Lea St George's.....	7	Open the Book.....	40
Hale St John's.....	8	Parish Coffee Mornings	18
Hale St Mark's.....	6	Pastoral Care.....	46
Churchyard		PCC Secretary's Report.....	11
St John's.....	22	Round the Churches Walk.....	19
Clergy Report	5	Safeguarding Report	12
Confirmations	48	Schools.....	39
Connections	42	Seasonal Craft Activities	
Corner Chat.....	44	St Mark's	38
Electoral Roll Report	12	Sing & Socialise	20
Facebook		Social Planning Group.....	17
Families Matter	44	St John's Vision	13
Family Band.....	33	St Mark's Gardening Club.....	23
Farnham Deanery Synod.....	12	St Mark's Music.....	30
Fete	19	St Mark's Reordering	23
Flowers		St Mark's Toddler Group	37
St George's.....	31	Table Tennis	40
St John's.....	32	Thursday Coffee.....	41
St Mark's	32	Tuesday Drop In	43
Funerals.....	48	Website	
Groups		Weddings	48
Beyond Belief	35	Worship	
Breathing Space	35	St George's Group	27
Fellowship	36	St John's Informal.....	28
Lent	35	St Mark's	27
Mothers' Union	36	St Mark's Meeting	27
St George's			

PARISH CLERGY, STAFF AND OFFICERS



Clergy:

The Revds Lesley and Alan Crawley

The Rectory, 25 Upper Hale Road 820537

Curate:

Revd Hannah Moore, 195 Eton Place 659267

Retired Clergy:

Revd John Innes, 67a Upper Hale Road 734597

Revd Canon John Evans, 4 Radford Close 710594

Churchwardens:

Bob Shatwell, 31 Glorney Mead, Badshot Lea GU9 9NL 314703

Bill Thomas, 15 Kiln Way Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 3UG 334462

Pamela Marsham, c/o The Parish Office, St Marks Centre GU9 0LT

Deputy Churchwardens:

Annie Thomas, 15 Kiln Way Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 3UG 334462

PCC Treasurer:

Sarah Kay 07814 501017

PCC Secretary:

Gemma Brown 319559