

The Parish of Badshot Lea and Hale

We are one Parish of 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 2022 – 2023**

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Governance

Officers' reports

Clergy Report

I am immensely grateful to everyone who has helped this year – it has been a time of transition out of our 'Covid-normal' into our 'New-normal' and like every other transition over the last three years, it has taken a lot of managing. Hence, I am once again deeply indebted to the PCC Standing Committee who have worked to make so many changes – Kris Lawrence, Simon Alexander, Richard Myers, Michelle Chapman, Stella Wiseman, Pamela Marsham and Sarah Kay. I am also very grateful to June Jasper who is our new PCC Secretary and Jo Taylor who has done and does an outstanding job as our Safeguarding Officer (this is so much work and completely vital to the running of the parish). Thanks to Bob Shatwell who continues to be our Health and Safety officer.

This year, Sarah Kay stood down as Treasurer after many years of sterling work. It is a role that is mostly unseen, but relentless in terms of paying the bills, answering inquiries, balancing the books, paying in monies, providing the PCC with good information and so many other tasks. I am immensely grateful to Sarah for all her hard work.

Also, a big shout out to Michelle Chapman, who is our Youth Minister, and has been going into schools, doing assemblies and 'experiences' and doing the Online Toddler Service (alongside Jacqui Searle), she has run our youth confirmation group and started a monthly family service at St John's. Thanks to Anne Boyman and her helpers for running Adventurers (group for 7-11s) and Good Friday Crafts, thanks to Maxine Everitt and her helpers for running Little Bees (baby and toddler group) and to Margaret Emberson and her helpers for running Open the Book (taking Bible stories into schools). An area that has grown is the Friday Night Games Night at St Mark's – which is a bi-weekly youth group for all ages. Thanks in particular to Stella Wiseman, Pamela Marsham and Jacqui Searle for working with the young people who attend that group. All

these groups would welcome new people to help so please don't be shy – if you would like to help please ask for more information!

In the spirit of being an Inclusive Church – a number of the leadership team have been given neurodiverse diagnoses. I won't 'out' anyone else, but I have been diagnosed dyslexic (yes, I know you can all tell!!). The diagnoses of autism, ADHD and dyslexia has led us to think much more about accessibility for everyone, and we have invited a speaker – Alexis Quinn – to come to speak to us about this (in particular autism) on 21st July at 7:30pm at St Mark's – please put the date in your diary, Alexis is an amazing speaker and campaigner.

We are now reliably paying our Parish Share – which is the monies that we send to the diocese to pay for our clergy, clergy housing and pensions, bishops and some other overheads such as diocesan safeguarding training. We have really struggled for many years with this and it is a huge achievement, much of which is as a result of using our buildings to generate funds – particularly turning the curate's house into a house of multiple occupancy (thank-you Richard Myers) and renting out St Mark's and St George's churches more assiduously (thank-you Stella Wiseman and everyone who puts chairs out and back each week).

It has been a year that has seen our monarch have her Jubilee, then sadly die, and then we have just had the coronation of King Charles. It has also been a year in which we have had three prime ministers – it has been deeply destabilising for our collective psyche. We have seen the ongoing war in Ukraine, the appalling treatment of the people in Afghanistan, the awful earthquake in Turkey and Syria and deepening problems all over the world in terms of the climate crisis. In the UK, inflation is high and we are in the middle of a cost of living crisis and a mental health crisis, with children's mental health being a significant concern. Many are still suffering post covid with ongoing health issues. Coming out of Covid, we find the 'New normal' a bit like the old normal but honestly, there are so many more issues with the economy, health and world politics. It can feel depressing.

However, we are people of hope and prayer. Mercifully, we know that God loves us and all people, that God weeps when we are weeping, that God knows

what is on our hearts and knows our prayers even before we pray them. So, we look forward. We have put together our Church Development Plan for the next two years and it has three areas:

1. Discipleship – we will be focussing on Home groups and Prayer
2. Diversity – we will be focussing on engaging with children and youth
3. Community – we will be making the most of our existing events as outreach and thinking about being communities that are invitational. If we are all disciples that make disciples then that is how the Kingdom of God grows.

Finally, a big thanks to the team who contribute to or lead our services – especially our wonderful musicians, especially Margaret Emberson who leads the choir and plays every week, Frances Whewell who oversees our musicians, Bob, Lesley and Roger who play each week, Mary and Barry who also play regularly. Thanks to Gemma Brown and Pamela Marsham who sort out the rota for us, and thanks to all those who read, serve at the altar, act as sidespeople, make coffee, clean, garden, tidy, put bins out, arrange flowers, polish brass and do all the other jobs that need doing. Thanks to our LLMs – Lesley Shatwell and Craig Nobbs, or preachers – Kris Lawrence, Richard Myers, Pamela Marsham, our ordinand – David Camp, our curate – Stella Wiseman, our youth minister – Michelle Chapman, our clergy – John Evans and Alan Crawley

And also thank-you to you – whatever you do or don't do – thank-you for being part of this parish – everyone adds to the life of the churches simply by being themselves.

The Reverend Lesley Crawley – Rector

LLM Report

Community Engagement

Since retiring from the Civil Service, I have been working to make the St George's church more visible to Badshot Lea and Weybourne. I'm simply exercising 'presence' in the liminal places where church and world intersect, for example, visiting the village pub and café, places where I can 'listen' to the hopes, gripes, and the 'heartbeat' of the community. I have good and interesting conversations about faith matters with a variety of folk, and just try to be a normal person without projecting a 'holy' image. One outcome has been a wedding coming up in June. I represent St George's at the Community Association and visit the Nature Reserve and Community Garden regularly and undertake prayer-walks around the new and sterile housing developments.

We are called by Jesus to go out and make disciples: some imagine that Jesus is hammering on the doors of our churches to get in. Maybe: but through prayer I sense Him hammering on the door to get out! A verse that keeps coming to mind is Isaiah 43:16a;18-19: it speaks of a renewal that is beginning to happen whether we can discern it or not:

*'This is what the Lord says—
"Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.
See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland."*

Preaching, Teaching, and Spirituality

My preaching and teaching will focus on discipleship, and how we can become Jesus-centred people. I think it's fair to say that Jesus loves us just as we are, but He doesn't want to leave us that way! This is where we really need to grow. I have hosted Quiet Mornings at St Johns, to take time out help deepen our relationship with God and begin to gain the mind of Christ. I'm planning to host a Quiet Morning four times a year, with the hope of developing that into a full

day of quietly listening to God. A sound and deep spirituality is vital for us to grow into effective disciples.

Onwards and Upwards

Without a clerical collar Licensed Lay Ministers bring blessing by ‘working undercover’ to take the church into the world and vice versa, striking up relationships, and inviting conversation that hopefully shows that Christians are ‘normal’ after all! But there is much that we must engage with, by making relationships, just as Jesus did. Face-to-face invitations enable people to feel comfortable to come to church events.

We are also unpaid volunteers, qualified to diploma level, excellent value to the Parish! I look forward to being re-Licensed in June of this year so that I can continue in the adventure and privilege of serving all God’s people, to His praise and glory, for a further five years. Finally, thank you to all of you for your love and support.

Craig Nobbs - Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)

St George’s churchwarden’s report

It was good to have more normality in our church life this year. COVID has certainly not gone away, but we have managed to learn how to live with it and take the necessary precautions when appropriate.

COVID has helped to facilitate some changes – our services have become more accessible to those not familiar with ‘church jargon’. I am aware that some church members regret the introduction of less formality, but I genuinely believe it is important for us to go in this direction if we want our churches to continue to provide a worship place for the future. On the whole, I believe this change has been well received.

COVID also, I believe, has influenced the growth of our Parish Choir. I for one would never have joined the choir, but it was the lovely evenings singing hymns outside that encouraged me to join. The Parish choir is thriving!

The lifting of the COVID restrictions has meant that we have managed to enjoy some great national events as well as our own social/outreach events.

2 very contrasting national events

Firstly, the Queen's 70th Jubilee celebration. What a joyous weekend that was. At St George's it all kicked off with a wonderful community tea as well as entertainment from some of our church hirers and the Parish Choir. It was a truly British event and was very well attended and enjoyed.

Then Bishop Jo was already in the parish and available to lead the worship at our outdoor service on the Sunday morning. I'll never forget that image as she got 'mucked in' with the rest of us as we set up and cleared away, lugging tables & chairs.

But later in the year the mood was completely changed at the sad passing of our most loyal sovereign. Queen Elizabeth II had looked very frail at times on her celebratory weekend, but the passing still shook the country. Once again, our churches opened their doors, but this time for the community to spend time in personal reflection, grief, respect, thanks – just as they saw fit.

St George's social/outreach events were on the whole very well attended and much enjoyed as well as helping with boosting our funds. Those that come to mind:

- Gin evening
- Plant Sale
- Christian Aid Musical Evening (raising funds for Christian Aid)
- Carillon Singers Concert
- Community Fete
- Harvest Supper
- Christmas Crafts
- Singing round the tree at Christmas (charity donation)
- Snowman Drive

If I've forgotten anything I apologise, especially as none of these events happen 'by chance'. I am so grateful that we have a wonderful team of people that are prepared to put in the effort. The team meets regularly to plan events. Never feel afraid to offer to help or to put your own ideas into the mix!!!

I felt that we had a much better mix of Christmas events and services across the parish this year and was extremely grateful that Lesley's operation was postponed so she could enjoy the festive time. We had a combined Crib Service & Christingle at St George's this year and although the two are well matched, my preference for the future is to celebrate Christingle at Candlemas as has been our tradition at St George's for some years.

We have had some maintenance issues this year.

The wall dividing screens are used much more regularly due to the number of hirers using our building, so they had a much-needed servicing.

We seem to have called out the plumber rather more often than I would have liked as the pressure keeps dropping causing the boiler to switch off.

I have been a bit slow in doing something about the deterioration of the chairs at St George's, but have now secured a grant to replace some of the worst of them. Although I would like to replace them with something more robust, concerns about them constantly being put out and then re-stacked before and after our weekly service, the weight and storage of an alternative leads me back to our current solution. I hope to obtain replacements in the near future.

The gas meter has not been operating for about 18 months. I am really grateful to Richard who is working hard to get this resolved with minimal assistance from me and I am hopeful that we will not be landed with an unreasonable bill.

Some training sessions have been available regarding intergenerational worship and preaching. This is a direction that we have been following since the opening up of society since lockdown – in the aim that the whole family can feel comfortable and can gain something from our time our worship together. I felt that this was working well at St George's with families attending regularly albeit not all every week. However, family attendance has dropped off recently and I am concerned that the work we have been doing to make our services accessible to all may decline, then on that off-chance when a new family does join us, they will find there is nothing for them. I would like us to keep in mind those members of our worshiping community that are yet to come through our

doors and keep working at making our services intergenerational and open to all.

We have been working with the diocese on the 'Parish Needs Process', putting a plan into place to help our parish thrive. Now is time for action as we move forward to the next stage of the process.

Entering into this year as churchwarden, I was a bit concerned that we only had one other church warden and 2 deputies. Exiting the year, we now have just myself as churchwarden and 1 deputy. Worrying as that may appear to be, I come back to the amazing teamwork of the parish. I cannot possibly do everything that I maybe should be doing, and I am so grateful for everyone for their support, willingness, talents, energy, love etc. etc.

Many Blessings

Kris Lawrence

Church Warden – St George's Church

PCC Secretary's report

I accepted the position of PCC Secretary in January 2023 on a trial basis. This of course works both ways.

I am now learning the ways of 'Church Life' through the different subjects that are brought to the PCC committee and my email inbox.

I have chosen to be a secretary with non-voting rights.

June Jasper

Youth Minister

Schools

It has been a real privilege to be invited into the infants and Junior schools within the parish to take assemblies. Assemblies have taken place over the year at William Cobbett, both infants and Juniors, Hale Academy, Folly Hill and Badshot Lea. I have been able to take assemblies once, on occasions twice each term.

The schools have also been invited to the church for Christmas and Easter services. Badshot Lea have taken up the offer.

The Year 4s at Hale school came and participated in the Harvest experience in October 22 at St. Marks Church, it was a great success. All students were engaged and thoroughly enjoyed the session.

Pentecost Experience saw a year group of William Cobbett at St. John's Church, again the children were engaged throughout and asked lots of questions within the safe space.

I would like to be able to extend the experiences so both Junior schools are supported in both the harvest and Pentecost experience. The session involves about 6 stations. The students are split and rotate around the stations. We are always after volunteers to man the stations, put across a part of the story using the resources and answer any questions the students may have.

Family service.

For those seeking God, or seeking a deeper relationship with God. (that's all of us)

This is a family service running on the 1st Sunday of each month. Suitable for families and children, churched and non-churched. Adults are also very welcome. We have mix of bible stories, videos, children's songs, worship songs and prayers. Very often there is a craft to make or a reflection. Sandwiches and cake after the service so the younger ones don't need to be fed on their return home.

Confirmation classes

It is always a real privilege to be involved with those going deeper with their faith.

This year we have seen 3 young people participate in confirmation classes. By the time this report comes out they would have been confirmed at the cathedral, the service being 8th April 23.

Toddlers service.

A toddler friendly service online with a short welcome, story in the form of fuzzy felt, short animation, puppets. A song, prayer and craft on a biblical theme. A service which appears the 1st Tuesday of each month.

SHIP.

The parish has provided activities and hot food for the Sandy Hill Partnership group on two occasions during the school holidays at St. Marks Church. Both times we catered for about 50 people.

Report by Michelle Chapman

Farnham Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod meets about 3 times a year. All licensed clergy are members, and we can elect 2 laity from the electoral roll. People who are on Deanery Synod are also ex officio on the PCC. This year is a new election for a three year period. We currently have no elected members from the parish. If you are interested in this then please have a word with me.

Alan

Electoral Roll

The Church Electoral Roll now has 109 parishioners (17 of these are not resident within the parish.) 5 names were added during the year and 8 were removed. Figures cover period up to 30th April 2023.

Gemma Brown

Safeguarding Report

Since last year's Safeguarding Report in April 2022 I have continued to be busy, ensuring that Church of England Safeguarding procedures are followed in our Parish.

DBS checks

Many roles, including PCC members and those involved in activities for children, young people and vulnerable adults, require a Disclosure and Barring (DBS) check. Prior to a DBS check a Confidential Declaration Form (CDF) must be

completed. A copy of the Parish policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders is sent out with the CDF. I processed nine Confidential Declaration forms, sent out a corresponding number of Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) online applications and organised virtual meetings to check each person's ID.

It has been good to keep in touch with those people in our Parish who run and take part in so many varied activities on behalf of the church.

Training

The Church of England has set out a training pathway detailing who needs to do which Safeguarding training courses depending on the person's role. The roles range from Licenced Clergy, through to Churchwardens and PCC members, to children's, young people's and vulnerable adults' Activity leaders and helpers and many other roles.

Some roles require completion of one or more of the safeguarding core training courses (Basic Awareness, Foundation and Leadership). Other roles need additional training courses such as: Safer Recruitment and People Management, Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse and Bridges Introductory training.

The Church of England safeguarding team state:

"Ensuring that Safeguarding Learning is up to date helps embed a culture where people feel safe and abuse can be spotted and dealt with in an appropriate and timely fashion all current safeguarding policy and practice guidance has been approved by the House of Bishops and must, where relevant, be followed by all Church Bodies and Church Officers"

Thank you to everyone who has spent time completing the correct level of training.

At least 52 Safeguarding training courses have been completed in the Parish since March 2022. Each course is a minimum of 1.5 hours long, so well done to you all!

The Parish Dashboard

This is an online system that helps parishes comply with statutory requirements and Church of England policies, and explains what actions need to be taken. It enables dioceses and the national church to oversee compliance. There is a video explaining how the Parish Dashboard works. See [Parish Safeguarding Dashboard - YouTube](#)

Our Parish has reached Level 3, the highest level.

I regularly review and update the information on the Dashboard which has nine areas:

- Policies and Action Plan
- Safeguarding Procedures
- Safeguarding Roles
- Reviews and Reports
- Learning and Development
- Church Activities
- Learning and Development
- Non-Church Activities
- Prevention

Thank you

I feel very supported as Parish Safeguarding Officer by everyone within the Parish, the wider Farnham Community and the Diocesan Safeguarding team. Thank you to Stella for her work, including putting up Safeguarding posters in all 3 Churches and to Alan who is the Safeguarding Lead on the PCC.

Thank you!

Jo Taylor
March 2023

Inclusion

We continue to work at being inclusive, aiming to welcome all and ensure that everyone who wants to come to our churches and associated activities can do so without barriers or prejudices. This is harder work than it sounds because

we often do not see the barriers we put up, or the barriers which are inside us, so we are continuing to try to educate ourselves through articles, sermons, services, and listening to others. One area we are working on at the moment is neurodivergence as churches and groups often cater more for neurotypical brains and we don't always realise how hard it is to be in a group if, for instance, you have to move a lot, or become overwhelmed by sound. We also continue to work hard at welcoming LGBTQI+ members of the church, some of whom have been rejected elsewhere. We held Pride services last summer and will do so again this summer, and have taken part in the Living in Love and Faith discussions which were set up to discuss matters of sexuality and gender in the church.

We continue to support Inclusive Church and its guiding statement:

We believe in **inclusive church** – a church which **celebrates and affirms every person** and does not discriminate.

We will continue to challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on grounds of **disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality.**

We believe in a Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.

Stella Wiseman

Health and Safety Report

The main activity in this area has been to rationalise the many risk assessments we have. The intention was to create a reduced number of assessments, of a generic nature where possible, in order to avoid the extra work involved in creating assessments for specific events, with the inevitable duplication that would involve. This activity has been led by Alan Crawley, with contributions from Richard Myers and myself.

The way in which we have done this varies with the type of assessment. In the ones I've been involved with, I have taken existing assessments that seem to describe similar events or tasks and incorporated what seems to be the most pertinent risks from each, and condensing others. This is particularly the case for the assessments created during lock down, where the vast majority of the itemised risks were concerned with controlling COVID spread. I have largely reduced this to one task associated with following current Diocesan/government guidelines concerning COVID.

Bob Shatwell

Lay Training Pathway

We have 3 people who are authorised, and currently exercising a ministry in the Parish. Kris Lawrence is an Authorised Worship Leader, and Kris Lawrence, Pamela Marsham and Richard Myers are all Authorised Preachers.

These are over and above those who are licensed, who are the clergy and LLMs.

Alan Crawley

Worship

Parish Choir

The Parish Choir has had another very busy year.

We sang at a jubilee tea party for the Queens Platinum jubilee, took part in a concert with the Carrillon Singers, and a concert for Christian Aid. We have sung at weddings, funerals and memorial services, and the Harvest supper. We also do regular services at Bankside, for the residents, and we sang carols for the local Christmas lights switch on.

All these events are in addition to singing every Sunday at our three churches.

Some special services have included an outdoor songs of praise at St. George's and a Thanksgiving service at St. John's both with Bishop Jo, for the Queen's platinum jubilee. And in September services for the Queen's funeral.

We had wonderful Carol services at St. Marks, St. George's, when children from Badshot Lea school sang, and St. John's when William Cobbett school choir sang and some members of Heath End school choir joined our choir.

We all get together every Monday evening at 6pm for an hour in St. George's church. There are usually about sixteen of us and we may not all be nightingales but we all enjoy singing together and "all God's creatures got a place in the choir"!

Margaret Emberson and Frances Whewell.

St Mark's Music

The music for services on Sunday is largely provided by Roger Sanders on keyboard and Bob and Lesley Shatwell on fiddle and bass. It has it's own eclectic feel about it!

Frances generally takes the music for the Wednesday lunchtime services.

The craft fairs, held every three months also have live music provided by the above, augmented by Roger's saxophone quartet, Wendy Edwards, Frances Whewell and Margaret Emberson.

My thanks to everyone who contributes both to the services and craft fairs!

Bob Shatwell

Farnham Mill Nursing Home

Covid restrictions, more limiting and longer lasting than in the community at large, have prevented me visiting the Home for parts of the year. At these times some contact has been possible by telephone and even ZOOM; "Activities" staff have given much help. Parish musicians and choir members have taken part in one or two group occasions, which are useful for opening contact with residents that is not always achieved through individual approach. Staff, almost always sympathetic and helpful to me in dealing with residents, rarely themselves seek ministry from me. Some I am able to ensure have spiritual contacts when at home; this can be difficult with those who come from non-Christian backgrounds. Dementia gives great difficulty to all those

associated with its victims, not just with the sufferers themselves. Please give this ministry the support of your prayers.

John Evans

Outside Organisations

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 (2021-22) the Bishop Sumner Educational Foundation awarded £2,000 in grants to 23 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 residential and day trip experiences.

June Jasper (Secretary to the trustees)

Outreach

Adult Study Groups

St George's House Group

'What is a Home Group?'

'They must be for people who really know a lot about 'religious stuff.'

'Sounds a bit boring and I'm much too busy!'

Years ago, I thought all the statements above but over the years I have discovered just how powerful belonging to a Home Group can be. Home Groups are a great place to build friendships, find a support network, have a bit of a giggle but much more they help to steer us along in our faith journey. You don't need to know 'religious stuff' and in my experience everyone has doubts sometime and a home group is a compassionate, non-judgemental and soft place to discuss all sorts of things. Groups tend to have between 6 and 10 people. Sometimes, such as Lent, the groups follow the Parish choice of material, at other times it is up to the group members. The Tuesday evening group has looked at the Psalms, Talking Jesus and the Miracle stories. All very different but equally enlightening. As I write this there are 4 Lent groups operating in the parish. It would be great if we could have even more.

Maxine Everitt

Bible Book Club

Bible Book Club has continued through the year, meeting weekly, except when there are Parish Groups when we have become one of them and welcomed others to join us. We have nearly finished all the books in the Bible and haven't decided what to do next!

Alan

Beyond Belief

Beyond belief has continued through the year, meeting monthly. However, following the latest book, there were insufficient members to continue. If you would like to join, please let me know and I will see if we can become quorate.

We meet monthly and read religious books of a challenging nature. We read them a few chapters at a time, so a book can last quite a long time. If you would like to know more, please ask me!

Alan

Lent Groups

This year we took as our theme for Lent *The Chosen*, a drama series about the life of Christ seen through the perspectives of those who surrounded him, in particular Mary Magdalene, Peter, Matthew and Nicodemus. There are now three seasons of this, available on the internet and on DVD, and four groups (three in person, one online) watched season one, continuing after Lent as there were more episodes than weeks in Lent. Each episode raised questions about life and faith which were relevant to today so there was plenty to discuss, so much so that at least one group is moving on to season two.

Moreover, there are plans for the groups to keep meeting so that there are more opportunities for home groups in the parish.

Stella Wiseman

Questioning Faith

Questioning Faith in the parish means just that – you can ask any questions here. Nothing is too simple, silly, controversial, outrageous. The only provisos are that they should be about faith in some way and that we treat each other with respect and, where necessary, maintain confidentiality. We ran a Questioning Faith course over Lent and our discussions included ones on what happens after we die, the gender of God, the devil, suffering and prayer. Our ages ranged from teens to 70s and our views ranged widely too. It was a fascinating and encouraging few weeks and we are planning another one this summer.

Stella Wiseman

Social Groups

Connections

2022 was another successful year for Connections. Through the year we welcomed three new members. On a good Tuesday we can now reach the dizzying heights of twenty members!

The format of Connections remains basically the same with coffee, cake and chat. On alternate sessions we play a couple of games of free bingo and on the other have a quiz. Prizes in the form of fun chocolate bars are given to the winner`s. Daily newspapers are provided and not to forget the Jig Saw puzzlers who beaver away.

It is very rewarding to hear the buzz of animated conversation and laughter.

Everyone is very happy with and grateful to have Connections as it is and they are not looking for any changes!

Annie and I are extremely grateful to Kay Eastman who stands in for us when we are away. Thanks to Kay cancellations of the running of the group are rare.

Bill and Annie Thomas.

Events

Harvest Supper

The Harvest Supper was, following the success of previous years, again based on the traditional theme of a deluxe ploughman`s supper. Despite only 30mins for setup and prep this year, the many volunteers worked really well on their various tasks and all was completed in time. The tables looked most welcoming to the diners, laden with platters of meat, salads, selection of rolls and accompaniments. This was all finished with an apple crumble, cheese cake, gateaux and fresh fruit salad.

The supper was followed by a quiz, run by Maxine.

This harvest supper was well attended, with members and friends from the three churches well represented.

A big thank you to all who helped on the event from preparation to tidying up afterwards and taking part. Post-event comments have again been very complimentary, so here's to 2023's Harvest Supper (date tbc). It was a great pleasure to organise and run this evening to see all enjoying themselves and much merriment all around.

Catering coordinator, Gillian

Badshot Lea Community Fete

Another great community event. The Sea Cadets came along and gave invaluable help setting up. We were entertained by the children of Badshot Lea Village school with their lovely Maypole dancing as well as our friends from the Farnham and Aldershot Karate Club and later in the afternoon by the beautiful lovely voice of Wendy Edwards. The Badshot Lea Bloomers advertised the work of the Community Garden and the Tice's Meadow Birders described their wonderful progress on the nature reserve. There were several independent craft stalls, on the car park and inside the church. The main area was filled with chat and laughter as people sat to eat cream tea, sip beer and Pimms and enjoy the BBQ and wandered around the stalls. The day was exceptionally hot and visitor numbers were down on 2021, the 'credit crunch' had an impact too so takings were a bit lower. However, when the profits from the Plant Stall, which was held in May, were added almost £2500 was added to Parish Funds. Thank you to all those who worked so hard on the day to make the event such a success. Looking forward to this year when the fete will be held on June 10th.

Maxine Everitt

Artz at St Mark's

In July 2021 I was invited to co-ordinate an exhibition for 'Artz at St Marks' to display the creative work made by local people during the Covid lockdown. It ran for 3 days and was visited by around 200 people. This marked the start of new friendships for me and getting involved with fund raising for the preservation of the Kitty Milroy Murals by helping at the Arts at St. Marks group meetings, the Craft Markets and the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

In June 2022 I co-ordinated and promoted The Queens Platinum Jubilee weekend at St Mark's which started with a great barn dance on the Friday evening and attracted some folk who had never been inside the church before. The music was provided by Bob and Lesley Shatwell's group 'Cajun Boogaloo' and refreshments were served by Jean Saunders. Saturday was the Big Jubilee Lunch. We catered for over 100 people by using free food supplied by The Hale Community Fridge and many volunteers who made up the sandwiches. Refreshments were served again by Jean Saunders and Chriss Green. The success of the free lunch was repeated in September to provide a free harvest lunch at the craft market.

The Arts group who handmade and decorated the bunting have gone on to design and produce collaborative collages on canvass for display in St Marks. We felt pleased with our efforts and have reproduced the images for greetings cards which are selling well.

Since January we've increased the meetings to twice a month. We've produced a St Valentine's hanging mobile for the serving hatch and are now working with variety of crafts materials including hand weaving with ribbons to create a collaborative fabric wall hanging to mark and celebrate the King's Coronation to hang in the church. The membership is growing and is attracting new people within the parish.

Elaine Fell

St George's Social Committee

As well as the Summer Fete, this group, which consists of anyone interested, have organised several events of the last year, including The Jubilee Tea, the Badshot Lea Light Switch on, The Beetle Drive, The St. George's Barn Dance, The Plant sale, A gin night and The Quiz.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all those involved – it's a real team effort.

Primarily these events are socials, open to everyone. Many have been free and any funds raised have been via donations or through raffles. Our intention is to build community, both with those who are already part of the Church community and the wider community of the Parish. We have raised substantial

amounts towards Parish funds and hopefully those who have attended have had fun. The 'committee' is open to all not just St. George's people, we tend to meet at a pub. If you are interesting in coming along just speak anyone who looks like they are doing some of the work on one of the social evenings. We'd love to have you.

Maxine Everitt

Youth & Children

Groups

Adventurers

Adventurers have been a struggle especially after Easter last year.

We only had 3 children attending and then quite spasmodically.

There was a family fun day in August which gave me the opportunity to speak to children and parents and promote adventurers. This resulted in four new children coming to Adventurers in September and though small is very enthusiastic group who attend regularly and are great fun.

The main problem is getting helpers. I have three amazing ladies who are wonderful but with four weeks in the month it involves constant juggling to cover all the meetings.

I feel we are re-establishing Adventurers slowly and hope to grow the numbers over time.

Anne Boyman

Good Friday Craft

For the first time in three years we managed to have a Good Friday workshop. We had twelve children attending and it was a lovely morning. They made Easter nests, cards, a cross of flowers and a banner for church. the children worked with enthusiasm and although they did not know everyone they worked together really well. The morning culminated in a service attended by their

parents and some other adults, followed by a drink and hot cross bun. It was a morning we all enjoyed and I found it really heartening to be able to do this again.

Anne Boyman

Little Bees



Little Bees is a parent and baby group, very much at home in St. George's hall. Since restarting in May 2021 there are three very loyal volunteers from the congregation who ensure the group runs safely and very enjoyably. We could do with a few more volunteers, as we struggle when someone goes on holiday or is unwell. Our numbers have settled at around eleven families each week, although these come from about twenty regular attendies. We have room to grow a bit but the present numbers allow lots of space and the parents have made good friends through the group. The atmosphere is quiet and friendly, we have lots of toys, we have hot drinks for the adults and always end with singing and sometimes we brave the instruments. It is excellent outreach and a great thing to be involved in.

As I am moving from the area before too long, we are currently looking for a new leader. Please don't hesitate to speak to me or Rev. Lesley about the role.

Maxine Everitt

Friday Night Games Night

Friday Night Games Club, aka Table Tennis Club, aka 'The Youth Club for All Ages' continues to evolve. We meet on the second and fourth Friday of the month at St Mark's from 7-9pm and restarted in September 2022, offering table tennis, pool, board games, jigsaws and snacks. Since then we have seen a steady increase in young people coming to the club, and, in addition to the other activities, we now offer art and craft, gardening, a quiet area and a meal. It remains intergenerational and lively and we have been looking at how to make the club more welcoming for people with neurodivergent conditions as well as other needs.

Stella Wiseman

Activities

Open The Book

We have had an Open the Book team in this parish for over eight years now and we regard it as a privilege to be invited into local schools to present the ancient and timeless Bible stories to another generation of children.

We visit Badshot Lea infant school, Folly Hill infant school and Tootsies nursery.

We go regularly, alternate weeks during school term time , and tell one story each time. We use drama, mime, props, costumes and the children themselves, to present the Bible stories in ways which are lively , engaging, informative and good fun for everyone involved.

At present our team is Margaret and Bob Skinner from Weybourne community church, Tricia Carter, Maxine Everitt , Michelle Chapman and myself from St. George's.

However, we cannot all do every time, for various reasons.

We are praying for more people to become involved with Open the Book so that we can continue to enable our local children to hear the story of the Bible at school in their primary years.

Margaret Emberson

Bridges

Bridges provide mentoring to students at Farnham Heath End School on a weekly basis. We currently have 9 mentors, and are mentoring 22 students on a weekly basis. If you would like to become a mentor, or would like to know more about it, please contact me.

Alan

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