



APCM Report 2015-2016

Administrative Information

All Saints' Church is situated in the village of Botley in Hampshire. It is part of the united benefice of Botley, Curdridge and Durley, which share a single ministry team and collaborate on many parts of church life. All Saints' Church is in the Deanery of Bishops Waltham and the Diocese of Portsmouth within the Church of England.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the incorporated body that administers the activities of the church. It is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served from April 2015 until the date of this report are:

Incumbent: Revd. Gregg Mensingh (PCC Chair)

Curate Rev. Amy Webb (from July 2015)

Retired Clergy: Revd. Jim Brasier
Canon Jenny Lowater
Revd. Martin Hughes
Revd. Di Townsend

Offering Assistance:

Revd. Elizabeth Groves
Revd. Peter Crick
Revd. Anne Boggust
Revd. George Gebauer
Revd. Canon Peter Kelly
Revd. Canon Anthony Hulbert
Mr Norman Chapman
Mr Stephen Champion
Mr Graham Parr
Rev. Mary Morfill
Mr Bob Thomas

Reader: Mrs Janet Clarke

Church Wardens: Mrs Lynn Gosden
Mrs Angela Adams (Vice-Chair PCC)

Church Warden Emeritus: Mr Jim Wilson

Assistant Wardens: Mr David Burgess
Mrs Veronica Mason

Parish Administrator: Mrs Beverley Thomas



Elected PCC Members:

- Mr Richard Adams
- Mrs Sue Bailey (Treasurer)
- Mr Robert Jackson
- Mrs Elspeth Lamb
- Mrs Mary Leahy
- Mr Tony Seaman
- Mrs Catherine Tribble
- Mrs Kate Waller
- Mrs Helen White (Secretary)

Deanery Synod:

- Mrs Elizabeth Townsend
- Mr Anthony Gosden

Co-opted: None

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Church Attendance

The number on the Electoral Roll is 113 (as at 22nd March 2016).

The Statutory Notice has been displayed since 10th March 2016. Copies of the Electoral Roll have been available in the Church from February 2016.



REVIEW OF CHURCH ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR

Introduction

The PCC have met 6 times since April 2015/2016. Joint PCC meetings were planned but due to unforeseen circumstances not all meetings were able to take place. The PCC has transacted business across the whole spectrum of church life, the major issues being:

- support for Children's Ministry, in particular Provision of Sunday Club and support for Messy Church, BCD Searchers and School Visits
- Implementation of Bishop's 'Ministry for Mission'. Discussions on ways we can reach out to wider community especially during the Transforming Church section of PCC meetings
- Introducing the Leading your Church into Growth course to the Parish
- Appointment of new church Architect and discussion of findings of his Quinquennial report of June 2015

Rector's Report – separate report

Finance Report - separate report

Churchwardens' report 2015-2016

Report authors: Lynn Gosden and Angela Adams

On behalf of our fellow deputy wardens and Warden Emeritus, Jim Wilson we once again report on another busy year for All Saints' Church Botley.

Under the continued leadership of our rector, Gregg Mensingh and his clergy team we are led and spiritually nourished week by week in our mission and outreach to the wider community. In July we welcomed Rev Amy Webb and her family as she started her Curacy training in our three parishes and look forward to her priesting this July. On Easter Day we will be saying farewell to Canon Jenny Lowater as a member of our clergy team (but no doubt she will be popping back to see us) and on behalf of the PCC, we should like to express our thanks for her special ministry over a number of years and for all the support she has given in the development of our church community here in Botley. We must also thank Peter, her husband, for his diligent support along the way.

We continue to be assisted by a number of retired clergy for our weekly services and occasional offices and we thank them for their commitment and support.

The Parochial Church Council (The PCC)

The PCC have met bi-monthly throughout the year in the same format as previously with an open style meeting, entitled Transforming Church, followed by a closed meeting where church business is discussed, reports given and decisions made. Prior to each PCC meeting the standing committee (which includes churchwardens and deputies, PCC secretary and treasurer) holds pre-meeting discussions on important topics and plans the agenda.



In the last twelve months there have been a number of presentations including: the role and responsibilities of the PCC, including the key statutory responsibilities of keeping the Terrier, Log book and inventory up to date; Faculty applications and Quinquennial review; Safeguarding responsibilities and the role of the safeguarding officer. An action plan is underway to meet all aspects of the diocesan safeguarding policies and procedures. We were also pleased to invite Mike Gurman to speak to us about his leadership role with Sunday club, which we found both entertaining and enlightening.

The PCC members also attended a 5 week course, together with the Curdrige and Durley PCC's, entitled Leading Your Church into Spiritual Growth (LYCIG) and developed an action plan to look at the issues raised in the discussions from the course. This will be an ongoing project for 2016/17.

Fabric report (includes church building and churchyard)

There have been some significant and unforeseen maintenance costs this year. During the church's overdue electrical test there were found to be problems with the electrics in the church room that required urgent attention and cost in the region of £4000. Remedial work to the church room roof, which is now in a sorry state, became necessary after ingress of water. Following complaints from our neighbours, work in the churchyard was undertaken, to crown lift two oak trees that were overhanging our boundary.

The three parishes have funded work to be carried out in the Rectory garden as it had been sadly neglected for some time and was totally unsuitable for family living. This has now been achieved and there are further discussions to be had about how this will now be maintained as it is the responsibility of the PCC's of all 3 churches.

The Quinquennial.

This is the 5 yearly detailed review of the church building, undertaken by the church's appointed architect. It is a statutory requirement.

Our church was inspected in June 2015 by our new Architect, Simon Goddard of The Goddard Partnership and a report has been sent to the PCC. A copy is available for inspection in the Church Log Book held in the Church Office.

Although the PCC is well aware that the church room is badly in need of refurbishment and that our heating system is elderly and needs to be upgraded, the Quinquennial inspection has highlighted other parts of our Grade II Listed building which require urgent attention, since the architect is able to inspect areas not visible to us from the ground. There are a number of minor but significant repairs to the bell tower and guttering, in particular, which must be addressed. The wardens and PCC will be taking advice from the architect, in order to find the best way forward to ensure our building remains in good repair and properly heated, while drawing up plans for future work over a five to ten-year period, as indicated in our Quinquennial report.

Our Heating team, a sub-committee of the PCC, has been active in seeking advice from an independent heating consultant about a replacement heating system and the wardens would like to thank them for the work done so far. Their findings will now be discussed with the architect, as part of the post-Quinquennial planning.

Fund raising

The church needs to raise funds throughout the year both for our outreach initiatives in the local community and for the upkeep and maintenance of our wonderful building and we are



indebted to a number of people who organise our fund raising events. In particular we thank Pam Davies who continues to coordinate our popular monthly church coffee mornings and also the Social Committee, led by Stephanie Hall, which organises fundraising and social events such as the recent curry night and harvest lunch. This committee will be renamed the Events team and will work in a slightly different format this year so watch this space (and read Stephanie's report)!

Services

We have been blessed yet again with some wonderful services in the last 12 months starting with a successful Lent and Passiontide, continuing to attract new people on our Good Friday walk.

In the lead up to Christmas we held our Nativityfest followed by a special service on the Sunday evening looking at the Advent journey which was led by Rev Amy Webb. Over 90 Nativity scenes of all shapes and sizes were on display for NativityFest at All Saints Church from 4 to 6 December 2015. Some had been made specially, including sugar craft, silk painting, crochet, knitting, and broom handles. There were sets from far and wide - France, Rwanda, Nigeria, South America, Slovenia, Tibet, Peru, Portugal, Mexico and Bethlehem. We had precious altar cribs from our linked churches of St Peter's Curdridge and Holy Cross Durley and glittering angel montages and mobiles from Flutterbies and Messy Church groups. More than 280 people took time out from their hectic Christmas preparations to visit the exhibition. Thanks are due particularly to Stephanie Hall who co-ordinated the event and all the volunteers who helped.

We also continued with our Christmas events e.g. baking the Christmas cake and sending Posadas, our knitted figures of Mary and Joseph, out into the community. In February we held our Christingle service in aid of the Children's Society and our Candlemas service and these brought to its close the Christmas season, during which our parish cake nibbles and bucks fizz had been enjoyed in abundance!

Our Children's Ministry

Sunday club

On two Sundays a month we offer Sunday Club led by Mike Gurman. These include craft activities linked to bible themes and VegeTales- televised bible stories. This year we have also been able to offer (often drama-based) activities on the third Sunday, thanks to Lisa Robinson-Grindey. A new rota of helpers for each Sunday has also been set up. We are always in need of more people to assist with our children's ministry so please consider any ways you might be able to help.

Messy Church

This very successful part of our offering to young families across our three parishes takes place in rotation across BCD after school on a Friday. Marcia Cook stepped down from her leadership role this year and an enormous thank you is due to her for her inspirational vision for this form of worship that was set up by her and involves the wider community. The Messy Church Team is now led by Ellie Mensingh, Lisa Robinson-Grindey and Simon Powell with a team of volunteers and we thank them all for the planning, creativity and enthusiasm that they bring to every session.

BCD Searchers- a monthly youth group for school years 5-8

Natalie Heppell stepped down earlier this year, having re-established this group so our thanks go to Natalie for her enthusiasm and hard work. We are very grateful to Marcia Cook who has now taken over the lead role and young people from across our 3 parishes enjoy meeting together to take part in a variety of activities.



In the past there was also a follow-on group from BCD Searchers for the older year groups. The Wardens and PCC will need to give priority to discussions of what we can offer to this age group, for whom there is currently no provision.

Flutterbies

Flutterbies continues to flourish on a Tuesday morning providing a meeting place predominantly for young mum's to meet on a regular basis and for their children to play together and do crafts linked to a Christian theme. The PCC have taken over the responsibility of the activity from the Mothers' Union and would like to thank Angela Brombley and Elizabeth Townsend and the other volunteers who support this group.

School days

The Botley C of E school visited the church on 4 occasions over the past year to learn about Holy Week; The Bible as a special book; weddings and Epiphany. We are very grateful to Pam Davies and her team for all the work they do to organize and run these School events, which are an immensely important outreach into our village community. (Please refer to Pam Davies's separate report for greater detail).

Conclusion

Our church would not function as effectively without the role of our Parish Administrator, Beverley Thomas, who continues to keep the parish running smoothly and supports Gregg in his ministry. We thank her for all that she contributes to church life.

Botley church is an amazing place to worship with a wonderful congregation, many of whom volunteer to undertake numerous roles throughout the weeks to ensure that it is a place of welcome and of support to those in need.

On behalf of the PCC, thank you for all that you do and we look forward to another year of spiritual growth and outreach in our mission to serve our local community here in Botley.



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All Saints Church Choir

Report author: David Burgess

About the Group

The Choir at All Saints rehearses weekly, on a Friday evening, and sings at Parish Communion Services and Choral Evensong. In addition to this, the Choir sings at weddings in all three churches, and gives occasional concerts. All Saints Chamber Choir performs each Good Friday, as well as giving other performances from time to time.

Achievements 2015-16

- Junior Choir now singing regularly in Parish Communion Services on 2nd and 4th Sundays, with parents being very supportive
- ordering of new Choir robes - Feb 2016
- new adult member - Kate Phillips (Soprano) welcomed - Jan 2016
- Botley Music Festival 2015 attracted a large number of people
- monthly concert series still running successfully
- following the LYCiG 'invitational' model for musical events and special services

Objectives for 2016-17

- to promote our 'Music 2016' programme
- to have a music page on the All Saints website
- to have a new choir photograph taken
- to continue to strengthen our musical links with Botley Primary School

Challenges

- although the Choir now numbers 38, we still are very short of tenors and basses
- keeping our work-load realistic!

Once again, I would like to use this forum as an opportunity to publically thank our wonderfully supportive choir for all they contribute to life at All Saints, as well as those who so willingly come along to help us out for various services and concerts. They work hard, and strive to make our musical offering of the highest standard we can achieve in order to enhance the worship on Sundays. I would also like to thank the congregation at Botley for their continuing support and encouragement.

All Saints' Reading Group

Report author: Catherine Tribble

About the Group

The group consists of ten people. The number is limited to ten as the group can only borrow books from the library in sets of ten.

Achievements 2015-16

- The group has continued to meet monthly to discuss the merits (or otherwise) of the book chosen for that month.
- The group continues to read books from wide ranging genres.
- The group took part in the 2015 Music Festival, presenting a lunchtime concert entitled *A musical and literary walk through Botley*.
- A resumé of the meetings, written by Martin Mills, appears each month in the Botley Bridge magazine.



Objectives for 2016-17

- To continue to use the services of Hampshire County Library.
- To continue to read and discuss books of differing genres.

Challenges

The only real challenge for the group is to find the time to read larger tomes.

BCD Fair Traders

Report author: Elsa Montgomery

About the Group

The group was set up nearly seventeen years ago to raise awareness within Botley, Curdridge and Durley of the issue of fair trade as an important weapon in the fight against worldwide poverty and to be part of the Fair trade Diocese in Portsmouth. The group numbers some seven people from Botley and Durley. We are currently without representation from Curdridge.

Achievements 2015-16

Achievements in Botley include:

- Stall at All Saints Advent Coffee Morning
- Successful Christmas launch held at Portland House
- Twice a monthly stalls held after the 10.00 service
- Total donations of £600 made to Traidcraft Exchange

Objectives for 2016-17

- Promotion of Fair Trade throughout the year and especially during Fair Trade Fortnight
- Maintain regular Fair Trade stall after the morning service
- Organise Christmas launch

Challenges

- Traidcraft is struggling and has made trading losses for the last four years due to sale of Fair Trade goods in supermarkets. If Traidcraft is to continue helping vulnerable small-scale farmers and artisans who cannot cope with the demands and scale of large supermarkets, they need our support. In Botley, Curdridge and Durley we are asking our valued customers to consider buying fairly traded goods from us rather than supermarkets. This will help to ensure that some of the world's most vulnerable people have a fair chance to provide for their families.
 - Finding representation from Curdridge
-

BCD Mothers Union

Report Author: Elizabeth Townsend

About the Group

Met once a month until September 2015 when there was a vote taken as to the future of the branch. There was an unanimous vote that the branch should close. This is very sad, especially as Botley was one of the first M U branches formed in Hampshire. However, the majority of the current members are getting elderly, are coping with illness and have transport and mobility challenges. Those "younger" members are already very committed to other activities in church and in the local community to take on the work of running a branch. As is stated in the MU handbook six months' notice of the closure of the BCD Branch was given to Portsmouth Diocese.



Achievements 2015-16

- Maintaining the branch up to September, thanks to Cath Tribble for organising the programme of meetings and Elizabeth Townsend, Treasurer and group contact person for the Deanery and Diocese.
- 2 members supported the AFIA holiday project and have attended meetings.
- Some members have continued to knit garments and blankets for the Roberts Centre in Portsmouth.
- Members have continued to provide toiletries in bags for emergency admissions to Queen Alexandra Hospital.
- 3 members have transferred to being Diocesan MU members and one person has decided to become an indoor prayer member

Objectives for 2016

- To close the MU bank account with Santander. A donation of £50 has been sent to the Roberts Centre. This has been collected from the branch Tea money over the last few years.
- To sort out and store the BCD photos, minutes of meetings, MU branch archives and banners.
- Elizabeth Townsend, now a Diocesan MU member will remain the named contact person for any future MU enquiries.

Challenges

- Increasing age, frailty, illness of existing members and lack of recruitment of younger members e.g. under 55 year olds - this is also the case across the Portsmouth Diocese and is not only applicable to BCD.

BCD Searchers

Report Author: Marcia Cook

About the Group

Searchers is a youth group run for students who are in years 5-8 at school. The group has a good make up of students from Botley, Durley and Wildern. We have recently noted a fall off of students from Curdridge attending possibly due to people who have moved out of the area. We have several students who attend who are members of different churches and of different faiths. It is often difficult to predict numbers as it varies between 6-26. It has a good mix of both males and females. I have been supported by Amy Webb, Gregg Mensingh and Russ Daniels.

Achievements 2015-16

- We have spent the year looking at refugees and what we can do to make a difference and to share God's love for all people. The first session we talked about the refugee camps and how they live in their day to day lives. We also had games which either relied on teamwork to complete, would leave the person disorientated or else left someone else in control of what happened as well as being able to get an idea across without using any words. Afterwards we talked about how the refugees must feel upon arrival in a foreign land.
- Had a blanket drive at the Advent Market collecting nearly 100 blankets which were passed on to the refugees in Calais. They were originally scheduled to go to Syria, but their container filled up and so shipped early before we had the drive.
- Progressive meal where we had three groups of approximately 5-10 people who each visited three houses. The first house served a starter dish, the second a main and the third a dessert. We talked about the difficulty of not knowing when you would



next eat, what you would be served and how awkward it can feel to be in an unfamiliar setting/house. Then we talked about how it must feel for the refugees. This was a huge hit and the students are all begging to do another one. The hosts were spectacular, and I was pleased that people stepped forward, sometimes out of their comfort zone, to host.

- Muriel Wilson came along to talk to the students about the work her son does in Tanzania as well as the many things she has done while she had been there. The kids were fascinated and sampled the soup that they serve the street children in Tanzania. Gill Mulley was meant to speak as well but unfortunately fell ill. I stepped in and did her presentation (very poorly compared to how well Gill presents) and spoke to the students about the work she and Andy do in Uganda. We had a junk modelling session to see what the students could make out of the rubbish after seeing some of the samples of toys the children in Africa had made. They made everything from a thumb harp to wind chimes to a giant dinosaur. I was very impressed.
- Gregg led a group with the students on journeys and why people might make such a dangerous journey and how you would have to decide what to take and what to leave behind. The students played a game where they were given a list of various items and they had to decide which to take and which to leave behind and ranking them in order of importance. The students really got a lot out of this talk and about what an upheaval in someone's life this must be.
- We have invited Searchers to join us for the Good Friday walk. Many have said that they would like to come, but are unfortunately away.
- We are planning an outing as well as a summer BBQ/Sports day.

Objectives for 2016-17

- Find the best route to communicate the dates for students who attend Wildern.
- Try to encourage students from Curdridge to participate.
- Invite students from Woodhill if possible.
- Create an email database to keep the parents informed.
- Continue to register the students with our safekeeping guidelines.
- Establish next year's rota of DBS checked adults to help.
- Plan another outing – possibly camping as they are all very keen to do so.
- Plan another progressive meal.
- Plan another BBQ.
- Help the students to plan how they are going to make a difference in the world this year (i.e. raise funds for Water Aid, help at a local soup kitchen, do another clothing drive, etc).

Challenges

- Currently, I take on the year 5/6 assembly or speak to the year 5/6 class in each of the three primary schools the week of Searchers to let them know what we are doing and encourage attendance. With my new timetable, that won't be possible, but I feel the email database will help with getting the word out, possibly more effectively. Banners like Messy Church ones might be a good idea.
- I've not come up with any sort of theme for the following year yet.
- Make sure we have enough DBS checked adults to attend on the rota – this is not overly tricky as we have several who are willing to step up.
- To be honest, there are not many challenges affecting Searchers other than publicity to remind and encourage students to come along.



Bell Ringers

Report author: Anthony Manship

Every week the bells are rung @ 3 parishes with the same band. Practice night for Botley is Thursdays for new ringers to have a go!!!

All ages welcome - 01962 777264 to warn us and we will prepare a welcome.

The annual ringers outing in a minibus is taking place on Saturday July 9th from Botley church. Touring locally finishing in a garden centre for High tea.

Botley Book Circle

Report author: Kate Waller

About the Group

The group continues to meet in the church foyer the first Monday of the month. The aim of the group is to read and discuss books from different genre.

Achievements 2015-16

- The books we read come in sets of 10 from the library and as no one is responsible for a specific choice, unless there is something which they particularly want to read, we have the freedom to be totally honest with our comments.
- Some of our reading has led to us going to the cinema i.e. to see Lady in the Van which we read as part of the Alan Bennett short stories book "Untold Stories".
- There is also the almost traditional Christmas meal/get together which this year was ably organised by Rachel.

Objectives for 2016-17

- To continue to read and enjoy a lively discussion about some interesting books and perhaps have one or two other outings to the theatre on cinema based on the literature which we will have read.
-

Botley Bridge

Report author: Beverley Thomas

Achievements 2015-16

A group was formed to look at the magazine and fed in new ideas which were adopted and the magazine was reformatted accordingly. Sadly the new sought-after editor was not found and Ken Thomas has taken over from Bev which was not really the idea.

Despite the changes the numbers delivered have dropped again and we now distribute just 423 magazines.

One of the ideas that the committee had was to make it a more village centred magazine but this has been hard to achieve.

Advertising in the magazine remains as popular as ever.

Objectives for 2016-17

To find a new editor

Challenges

To try to get more village groups to send in articles



Breakfast@Botley

Report author: Janet Clarke

Breakfast@Botley is well established for 8am worshippers. Efficient and resourceful helpers Mary and Jean have enthusiastically joined the rota, along with Anthony and Trevor assisting when they can. From time to time Derek provides wonderfully tasty pastries and croissants so do come along and experience a 'feast of a breakfast'. Breakfast is provided for our gallant bell ringers as a way of thanking them for their faithful service week by week. We have started to keep a record of the amount of money which is contributed each month and to make sure it is put in the collection for blessing before it is added to parish coffers. I would like to say a big 'Thank You' to everyone who helps and partakes.

Brookside Gang (Memory Loss Group)

Report authors: Julia Hayes

About the Group

The group consists of people with memory problems and their carers. It is a social group, meeting in each others homes or going out for pub lunches. It is a self-help group where people support each other.

Achievements 2015-16

- We have successfully managed the group, having outings/get togethers monthly. We have also been able to offer friendly support to individuals between events.

Objectives for 2016-17

- To continue as before.
-

Café Chat

Report author: Muriel Wilson

About the Group

Café chat runs every Thursday morning between 10am -12 noon. It is open to everyone, and is an opportunity to make and meeting friends in a friendly and safe venue.

Coffee and biscuits are available.

Thanks to Pam Davies cards, cakes and produce are often on sale.

Many people come in to change library books.

Achievements 2015-16

- In spite of a dwindling group of volunteers Café chat has been held every Thursday morning throughout the year.
- All who attend are made welcome, numbers vary from 6-20 depending on the weather!

Objectives for 2016-17

- MORE VOLUNTEERS
 - Continuing publicity in the Botley Bridge and by use of the Café Chat banner.
-



Challenges

- NEED FOR MORE VOLUNTEERS
I am grateful for the support and kindness of the few volunteers who are on the rota.
 - To be able to continue to have a 'police surgery' once a month
 - Café Chat is an outreach for the church and is attended by many people who are not regular members of the congregation.
-

Charitable Giving

Report author: Teresa Boden

About the Group

Each year the PCC chooses a range of charities and makes a donation to them from Church funds. The aim is to give to a range of local, national and international organisations. This year the following charities were put forward by parishioners.

Achievements 2015-2016

The following Charities have been sent a donation this year

LOCAL
Botley Neighbourcare
Community Playlink
Diocese Mission Fund
Mothers Union – Away from it all Project
INTERNATIONAL
Mission Aviation Fellowship
Embrace the Middle East

Botley Neighbourcare – A village group providing driving, errands and befriending service to all in Botley village. On December 3rd they provided a Christmas party for all who have used their services over the last few years.

Community Playlink – A local Toy Library which is really struggling for funds. BCD Churches benefit greatly from its resources for Make a Joyful Noise, Messy Church and Family Games night.

Mothers Union – Away from it all project- This MU project is a way of providing days out for families who would not otherwise have any break from their regular routines.

Mission Aviation Fellowship –This is a dynamic Christian organisation operating more than 130 aircraft in around 25 countries in the developing world. Flying across hostile environments to reach the world's most isolated people. They partner with over 1,000 organisations to bring physical and spiritual care to those who need it most.

Embrace the Middle East - Aims to improve the lives of vulnerable and disadvantaged people in the Middle East. They do this by partnering with local Christians who provide health, education and community development programmes to those in need - regardless of their faith or nationality

Objectives for 2016-2017

- The PCC will consider increasing the amount donated.
- Parishioners will again be asked for suitable local, national and international charities.

Challenges

The challenge is for the PCC to balance the wish to give to charities with other competing financial priorities.



Christian Aid

Report author: Angela Adams

About the Group

I represent BCD on the Deanery Christian Aid group and last year joined their committee to plan the 2015 walk. The group are represented by members from churches around the deanery to plan the Christian Aid walk in May each year.

Achievements 2015-16

- The walk took place at Swanmore on May 10th 2015 and attracted a wide age range of walkers.
- 10 miles; 5 mile and family walks were available.
- People invited to have a picnic prior to walk for the first time in the Vicar's garden.
- Questionnaires were completed for the first time which reflected that the majority of walkers thought the event worthwhile and well organised. A few positive comments were received and ideas for the next walk eg to inform people that there will be stiles to negotiate etc.
- Over £5,000 raised by Deanery at this event.
- Majority of people sponsored individually but some group sponsorship also.

Objectives for 2016-17

- The walk will take place in May 2016 and posters will be available at the end of April.
- Widen the advertising of the event to other walking groups (not necessarily church related)
- Encourage newcomers to join the planning committee.

Challenges

- Finding volunteers to join the committee for the various roles and to help on the day to organise the setting up of the routes.
- Advertising and communication across the deanery and beyond
- Raising the profile of Christian aid in the deanery

If anyone would like to take on the role of Christian Aid representative for Botley please let me know as I intend to stand down this year. It is not an onerous role and mainly concentrated around the walk in May.

Church Cleaning

Report author: Helen White

About the Group

There are 38 people on the church cleaning rota who on average clean the church 2 or 3 times a year.

The church building remains a welcoming place of worship and is generally kept tidy throughout the week.

The use of the church has expanded in recent years with many more people using the building throughout the week

A big thank you to everyone who contributes to the church cleaning



Achievements 2015-16

- The church has been cleaned on a regular basis and some general tidying of church areas has been carried out.
- The new extension continues to be cleaned and is paid for separately

Objectives for 2016-17

- To maintain the rota
- To encourage new volunteers so that people don't have to clean so regularly

Challenges

- To organise a big church clean including the high beams and every part of the main building

Churches Together in Botley, Hedge End and West End

Report Author: Tony Seaman

About the group:

From the Churches Together web site - <http://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/42314/Home.aspx>. - Churches Together in England is a visible sign of the Churches' commitment as they seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another, and proclaim the Gospel together by common witness and service. Its strength comes from people from different traditions finding new ways to work and worship together.

Churches represented include:

St John the Evangelist (Anglican), Kings Community Church, United Reformed Church, St John's Road, Methodist Church, West End Christian Fellowship, St Luke's Church (Anglican), St James Church (Anglican), Salvation Army Church & Community Centre, Our Lady of the Assumption Church (Catholic), St Brigid's Church (Catholic), The United Parishes of Botley, Curdridge and Durley, (Anglican). All Saints Church, (St Peters Church and Holy Cross Church are represented where there is a joint venture.)

The bi-monthly meeting venues rotate around the churches.

See the web site - <http://www.c2ghe.hampshire.org.uk/> for more information.

Purpose:

To share the vision of Jesus in our community by churches working together with mutual support and prayer. I feel that this is working well and I am pleased to be part of the group which shows much encouragement and sharing. To try and share church's programmes and aims.

Achievements 2015-16:

Events which included participation and presence of our congregations included:-

1. All Saints produced and had printed 2000 Christmas cards which this Christmas included a 600 word introduction to Christmas. These were distributed at local churches, pubs, shops, libraries and at the festival at the Ageas Bowl.
2. Carol singing in Hedge End.
3. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.
4. Woman's World Day of Prayer.
5. Healing on the Streets
6. Working towards being Dementia Friendly Churches.
7. Holding events supporting Christian Aid.



Objectives for 2016-17:

As I understand it to continue as we are but with more involvement including more involvement with HOTS - Healing On The Streets and ARC - Acts of Random Kindness. To be more involved with exploring joint ventures such as the Summer Picnic and Christian Aid Lunches.

Challenges:

- To maintain and increase our participation.
- To embrace the practice of churches working together in the care of our society and mutually promoting knowledge of our Lord Jesus. Working within our various histories and traditions by promoting unity but not necessarily uniformity.

Coffee mornings

Report author: Pam Davies

About the Group

We are a team of members of the congregation of All Saints' Church, and of Holy Cross, who regularly help at the Monthly Coffee Mornings by hosting, making/donating items to sell, or serving on a stall.

Achievements 2015-16

These events have continued to provide an opportunity to reach out to those living locally and further afield. We are pleased to have been able to welcome people from the village as well as members of our congregations. Despite very adverse weather conditions on the day of the Afternoon Tea in August at Sue Bailey's, those who attended enjoyed the comfort of her home even if they were unable to explore the garden. Sue has kindly agreed to host an Afternoon Tea in August this year - more details nearer to the event.

A total of £2731 was raised at the ten events held during the year 2015. Many thanks to those who have helped in any way to achieve this grand sum.

Objectives for 2015-16

We will continue to host these events in order to provide more people with the opportunity to spend a convivial time in a warm friendly environment where tea/coffee and biscuits are offered for a small donation. The calendar for the Year 2016 has been drawn up to include Coffee Mornings (held in the Foyer at All Saints' Church) and the Tea Party in August.

All of these events will be advertised in advance of the day; why not come and join us? You will be very welcome as will your family and friends. We usually meet on the THIRD TUESDAY each month from 10:30 until 12 noon.

Challenges

To encourage more people to help by hosting one event each year. We need hosts for 21 June, 19 July and 20 September. If you are able to help then please let me know.



Communication Team

Report author: Angela Adams

About the Group

Set up in 2015 in response to the PCC Awayday to develop our mission and outreach to the community.

Have met on 6 occasions.

Members of group- Lynn Gosden, Beverley Thomas, Angela Brombley, Elspeth Lamb and Angela Adams

Achievements 2015-16

- Face to face interviews with people selected randomly from the Electoral roll to embrace worshippers from across all 3 congregations at Botley, in order to review current ways of communicating with the church membership
- Updated and redefined Noticeboards and picture boards of PCC membership and Ministry team.
- Developed new style Christmas and Easter cards across the three parishes, in conjunction with other BCD wardens, to inform them of the seasons' events.
- Updated the church website to reflect the ongoing changes in the church community, communicate major events and implemented a facebook page etc.
- Invited the congregation to have the weekly pew sheet emailed to them

Objectives for 2016-17

- Launch new welcome card
- Develop a church membership list
- Develop closer links with Curdridge and Durley and share some of the communication responsibilities to reduce workload for all 3 parishes.
- Continue to develop communication boards in church
- Review of printed service books

Challenges

- Keeping information current and appropriate in all its formats.
- Time to develop changes and meet regularly as a team.
- Time to research topic and find information from other churches to add to the debate.

Counting Team

Report author: Jim Wilson

About the Group

There are now only 9 members in the team

Two long serving members, Joan & Stan Hoare, have resigned and will be missed. One new member, Daphne Pierce, has joined.

Two members count the collections and other income each Monday and pay the cash into the Co-op Bank via the Post Office

Achievements 2015-16

- The collections were counted successfully each week.

Objectives for 2016-17

- Continue during 2016./2017



Deanery Synod

Report author: Elizabeth Townsend

Deanery Synod has met on 4 evenings at various locations across the Bishops Waltham Deanery throughout the period April 15-16.

Main Focus - the main focus this year has been on Mission and the Deanery Plan. The aim is for a 3-5 year plan to be drafted in 2016 and rolled out across the Deanery in 2017. LyCIG (leading your church into growth) a course which stresses growth is both Spiritual and numerical, is to be introduced across the Deanery. BCD 3 PCCs were the pilot group having attended 6 sessions of this course last Autumn. The Deanery plan links in very well with the latest Diocese mission initiative "Live, Pray and Serve"

Hackney Link. Thanks to Norman Chatfield's dedication the Hackney link continues to thrive. Folk across the Deanery were very generous in donating food, clothes and toiletries for the annual Christmas collection delivery. Grateful thanks were expressed by the night shelters and parishes this link supports.

Wiawso - There has been very little communication from Wiawso in Ghana since the last Deanery visit. Revd Stuart Holt is about to visit the Bishop of Wiawso and hopes to explore what is happening in our link parishes. NO money is being sent out from our Deanery until we receive paperwork about how the previous money has been spent. I have had no e-mails from our link vicar Father Richard Andor.

Foodbanks - Foodbanks have been introduced at various locations around the Deanery.

Newsletter - a Deanery newsletter is now circulated to improve communications between the churches. This has been warmly welcomed.

Revd Gregg Mensingh, as Area Dean, has been involved in the vacancies of incumbents. Revd Tony Forest has been appointed for The Bridge parish of Exton, Corhampton, Meonstoke and Droxford. We await Wickham and Soberton to appoint.

Finance - The Diocesan budgets have been approved and the new parish share calculation is being introduced, staggered over 3 years.

Flower Guild

Report author: Veronica Mason

The Guild has had a very busy year particularly as we have added two additional 'festivals' to the usual ones. We feel having extra flowers in church for the Service for the Bereaved gives a more welcoming atmosphere and we now celebrate our Patronal Festival which is certainly a very welcome plus. Additional apart from other usual events we had a Music Festival too.

All this involves a considerably amount of input by the Guild but at the end of the day we feel it is all worth it not just the flowers but the friendship and comrade spirit which prevails. With other commitments it is not always possible to work together as a group but try to do so when time allows and we naturally bask in the praise we receive!!

Wedding also are another highlight and feel privileged to be included in the couple's special day. Mother's Day posies again bring us all together which is good and they are always well

received. Hopefully there will still be daffodils available this year with the very mild weather we have been having.

The rota works well but now we have to look for extra help due to illness and advancing years. We plan to do this by personal contact alternatively use the medium of the Pew Sheet and Botley Bridge if necessary.

We would certainly welcome the proposed Flower Guild Room as and when it is decided to go ahead. The condition of the shed if not good but do not think it practical to spend money on replacing same if there is hope in the reasonably near future for the preferred option.

Financially we are healthy but as it now means some members are arranging more than one position and as we pay for the flowers ourselves it does mean financing additional requirements from our funds. Hopefully this will soon be remedied.

Flutterbies parent/carer toddler group

Report author: Elizabeth Townsend

About the Group

Flutterbies meets every Tuesday during school term time 09.45 – 11.45a.m. and caters for parents and carers with children under 4 years old.

Elizabeth Townsend leads this group and is helped by Angela Brombley. Sadly Pam Davies left the group of helpers after many years of loyal service. We thank her for all she has done. Ellie Mensingh, Nicola Coppin and Catherine King provide valuable help and support. Since Christmas Annette Ridout and Jean Travers have joined our team to make drinks. We aim to offer a friendly environment where parents/carers can socialise and children can play with a variety of toys, make new friends and explore craft activities. The morning ends with a group sing song with percussion instruments and a simple prayer.

Achievements 2015-16

We have an average of 12 families each week-one week 17 came!. We still have a short waiting list because of the size of our room and demand.

- We have a core of regular attenders and some of these have been exploring Messy Church with older siblings. Some Flutterbies' families came to the Crib service.

Objectives for 2016-17

- To continue to offer a friendly, welcoming group.
- To publicise all church events, especially Messy Church, Family service, special services and encourage and invite folk to attend.
- To continue to recruit a bank of helpers able to do leader's holiday relief time.

Challenges

- THE CHURCH ROOM- needs cleaning, renovating, decorating etc etc etc. The new lighting is dimmer than the old lights.
- Having a waiting list. We do not like turning folk away but we need to keep everyone safe in a small space.



Fourth@Four

Report author: Rev. Amy Webb

About the Group

Fourth@Four is a new service happening on the fourth Sunday of the month at 4pm, and which takes place at St. Peter's Church, Curdridge. The service uses contemporary, band led worship, which is mostly facilitated by other churches which we have invited to support us. The service also includes some testimony, prayer activities and tea and cake afterwards. The aim of the service is to be accessible to all ages and to be an addition to the styles of worship we already provide at BCD churches.

Achievements 2015-16

- So far we have only had two services of Fourth@Four but both have been well attended, attracting between 50 and 60 people.
- A small team of leaders, helpers and supporters is developing.
- Relationships with other churches has been begun, developed and strengthened as we look to support one another in the work of God's mission to our communities.

Objectives for 2016-17

- To grow! Both in spiritual depth and numbers.
- To work out what it means to be a community of believers in BCD parishes in 2016

Challenges

In line with contemporary living, this service uses a fair amount of technology which we are working out how best to use as we go along. There is already a good sound system in place at Curdridge but we struggle with not having, microphones, microphone stands, music stands etc. which we have to ask musicians to bring with them every time. Working with the space at the front of the church is also quite challenging as the pews run all the way up to the chancel steps. This service has the potential to grow and introduce new people to St. Peter's Curdridge but it will need the support of the existing congregation members of BCD for this to happen.

Hackney Link

Report author: Val Dean

About the Group

The group consists of representatives from most of the churches in the Bishop's Waltham Deanery. We meet 4 times a year to hear reports on some of the outreach work taking place within the Hackney Deanery, especially with disadvantaged people and we discuss how we can best respond to their needs.

Achievements 2015-16

There was a very successful visit from St. James, Lower Clapton in May. The Revd Prebendary Rosemia Brown brought a coach of 29 people for a hot lunch in the Paterson Centre. They were then taken to Newtown Church Fete and finished with a short service at St. Barnabus, Swanmore.

We had another good Christmas collection despite concerns about the impact of local food banks.

Grants and donations in 2015:

- St. Saviour's Priory - Jan £625 / July £350
- St. James' Lower Clapton. - Jan. £625 / July £350

- Hackney Doorways (Winter night shelter) Jan £1250 / July £350
- St. Michael's, London Fields to support children going to Scripture Union Summer Camps. £1500

Objectives for 2016-17

1. To share faith and friendship between the two Deaneries. To that end, a prayer walk is planned for Saturday August 13th from St. Saviour's Priory to St. Michael 's, London Fields to St. James, Clapton. It is hoped that younger people from our congregations will be able to come and join in fellowship with our friends in Hackney.
2. To continue our annual Christmas collection of food and warm clothing.
3. The committee will recommend to Deanery Synod that if funds are available similar gifts should be made in 2016 as in 2015.

Challenges

As the future of Bishop's Waltham Deanery is being considered, what will be the place of the link?

Health and Safety

Report author: Richard Adams

About the Group

- I monitor and record on a monthly basis, First aid boxes, Fire extinguishes, Fire Notices, and Bi Monthly Emergency lighting, visual inspection fixed electrical wiring sockets etc.
- I also change the floodlight bulbs in church and am responsible for the sound system and hearing loop.
- My role includes risk assessing church activities such as 3 parishes Good Friday Walk
- I also deal to the best of my ability with any other health and safety concerns people bring to me.

Achievements 2015-16

- September 2015 First aid boxes renewed and updated now in date until 2019.
- November 2015, a NICEIE approved electrical contractor undertook a periodic 5-year inspection of the whole church fixed electrical wiring; this highlighted potentially serious wiring faults in the old church room. As a result for a short period the old Church room was taken out of action, until remedial work was done to comply with modern safety standards.

Objectives for 2016-17

The Hearing aid loop is 25+ years old and does not function correctly at times, this requires replacement, however on researching and obtaining professional advice the physical wiring loop needs to ideally be at ground level not up in the rafters where it is installed. This I hope to address in the coming year.

Challenges

The non-functioning gas water heater in the old church room still appears to be a challenge; presently the gas supply has been turned off to this unit. It is uneconomical to repair, I have not been able to find a firm that will repair and certify it for safety because it is connected at source to the main incoming gas supply that feeds the Nave warm air heater.



This main gas supply is of a commercial size therefore domestic firms will not work on it since a recent change in gas regulation; the job is too small for firms that are commercially certified.

Homegroup Monday

Report author: Lynn Gosden

About the Group

We are a small group of 7 ladies drawn from our 3 parishes who meet fortnightly (but flexibly) on Monday afternoons from 2pm to 4pm in the foyer of All Saints or in the Maffey Room, when the foyer is unavailable.

Unusually we are a self-help group, with no appointed leader and no “experts in the field” but we share a common desire to study the Bible regularly and to discuss how what we learn can influence our own lives and those of our three churches.

We have been using study guides published by **thegoodbook company**. These focus on a small number of chapters from a selected book from the Bible, with detailed study of the text, notes to encourage us to explore more using other biblical references and finally a challenge to apply what we have been studying to our daily lives and the life of our church in the 21st century.

We also appreciate the “Leader’s Guide” notes at the back of the book for the many times when we are perplexed by a question or a reference that none of our little group can fathom!

Achievements 2015-16

- We continued to study 1 Corinthians 10-16 entitled “Loving Church” and found a number of sections challenging both intellectually and spiritually. We enjoyed some good discussions, as ever benefiting from the wide range of experiences that our small group brings.
- We also continued to find the help of our “Life Application Study Bible” invaluable as it provided excellent insight into the problems of the Early Church and some thoughtful pointers towards discussion of today’s challenges.
- Once that study guide was complete, a lively discussion about what to do next took place and everyone had a chance to make suggestions. The overall desire was to choose another study guide in the series, as it gives an invaluable framework to our meetings.
- Bravely (and some may say foolishly!) we decided to choose “Revelation 2-3, A Message from Jesus to the church today”. Most of us admitted to never having read very much from Revelation and we decided we needed to challenge ourselves. We were not disappointed!
- This is proving an interesting and at times, demanding study. We are finding it necessary to be focussed in our meetings, to ensure that we can get to grips with the message that the risen Christ sent to his early churches and to appreciate its continuing relevance to us today.
- On a lighter note we always enjoy a bring and share lunch at the end or beginning of our new term!

Objectives for 2016-17

- To complete our current study of Revelation.
- To agree on a new study guide to follow on.



- To try to grow our little group, as one member has had to leave and another may well leave soon, due to other commitments.

Challenges

- To make sure our group continues, even if only two or three are able to be at a meeting.
- To encourage others across our three churches to consider joining us or starting their own group, during the day or in an evening. Self-help groups can work well and in our busy world, it is good to take time out whenever we can, with no pressure to attend every session, to read our Bible, to discuss and to exchange views. Why not try it?

Messy Church

Report author: Elinor Mensingh and Lisa Robinson-Grindey

About the Group

Messy church provides a relaxed and creative space in which children and their families can worship, learn more about the bible, have fellowship and engage in fun activities together at a time that suits them. It has become a congregation in its own right and some members follow Messy Church from location to location and are not bound by parish. Those attending sessions are regularly invited to BCD services and events but most choose to stick to Messy Church sessions. This is not a failing – the connection between Messy Church and our 3 churches is maintained by the leadership team and most of the volunteers being church members.

There are now three co-ordinators: Lisa Robinson – Grindey, Ellie Mensingh and Simon Powell (who has very recently offered to be the third person).

We have a loyal team of volunteers who do anything from cooking food, to preparing crafts at home ready for each session. We have volunteers who attend every planning meeting and those who attend every 'service' that we run too to help with crafts and refreshments.

The 3 local schools are extremely supportive and generous with their facilities enabling us to reach out to this otherwise, largely, non-church going congregation. We have a loyal following from families and, in this informal and fun setting, have found a platform to gently introduce the love of Christ.

Achievements 2015-16

- We have an average attendance of 60 people, including volunteers, children, parents and carers.
- We have identified a strong format that works, including more recently a drama activity slot.
- We have refined the planning process and are slowly allocating specific roles to volunteers to try and make this ministry more sustainable
- We have brought 'church' to the community in a format, venue and at a time that seems to work!
- Messy Church is helping to build stronger links with our village schools.

Objectives for 2016-17

- To maintain and enhance the efficiency of the voluntary team.
- To encourage attendance to as many other church activities as possible to our congregation so as to give them a strong sense of belonging.
- To successfully communicate the Gospel in a fresh and engaging manner.



- To serve the children and their parents and meet their ever changing needs to the best of our abilities.

Challenges

- Messy Church is extremely labour intensive and we are constantly looking for ways to spread the work and lessen the load.
- We have to work hard at ensuring the parents are actively involved in the sessions and don't just see it as an 'after school club'.
- We only have a short amount of time once a month to reach people who otherwise have no real contact with our churches so what we do has to be impactful but not be overbearing.
- We rely on goodwill to run this hugely important provision. We are all volunteers, giving up a great deal of time, to run an incredibly important ministry: there is an inherent frailty in that.
- We need a clear youth ministry strategy that Messy church has a firm and clear place in so as to fully illuminate its worth and possibilities.

Occasional Offices

Report author: Beverley Thomas

Achievements 2015-16

In the three parishes last year we held:

35 Baptisms
25 Weddings
36 funerals

Objectives for 2016-17

To maintain the really good rapport that we have with all of the families and people that we contact through our occasional services.

This is achieved by the system of Baptism Teas, Baptism Links and our annual Baptism Bear Picnic, which was a big success last year. The Baptism Bears are very well received by all Baptism families.

If anyone would like to volunteer to be a Baptism Link I would be very grateful to hear from you. It is not an onerous job. It just involves keeping in touch with the baptism families assigned to you whether by text, email, a phone call or a note! Whatever suits you all best. This idea does seem to be working as several baptism families have become involved in events and services in our churches.

Wedding couples receive a lot of support and help leading up to their weddings in the form of an Admin day where they meet the clergy who are going to take their service, the organist who is going to play for them and they hear the choir singing hymns and anthems that they might like during their service. They also have a 'Space to Think' session which is literally that! A space to think about wedding vows and what being married means. in all the hustle and bustle involved with organising weddings. They also receive an anniversary card on their first anniversary.

Funeral families naturally get a lot of support from the clergy taking their services and they are offered the opportunity to come to an annual service in October at All Saints and remember their loved ones



Challenges

To come up with ideas to keep wedding couples in the loop about what's going on in church and to try not to lose sight of them, though of course we all hope that they and their families might be inspired by their services to go and become involved in their local churches.

Prayer Ministry Team

Report author: Julia Hayes

About the Group

There are now only 2 of us in the group. We meet fortnightly to pray for the church and local community. We still welcome requests for prayer, but no longer feel we can call ourselves the 'Prayer Ministry Team'.

Achievements 2015-16

- We have met together to pray regularly for church and community

Objectives for 2016-17

- To continue to meet fortnightly for prayer as above.
-

Reader

Report author: Janet Clarke

For many reasons I have asked Gregg if I can take a sabbatical from leading worship until October this year so, even though I am not on the rota, I will be around the parishes as usual. As an update please read on...

- This is now my tenth year as a Lay Reader in these parishes – I wonder...are you thinking about training as a Reader? Do speak to me if you are.....it is an engaging and nurturing role.
 - I am in my third year as a Foundation Governor of Botley Church of England Primary School
 - I have finished the mentoring course and received a certificate of successful completion – do contact me if you would like more information about mentoring from either the training or taking part angles
 - In January I attended the Annual Reader Weekend on the Isle of Wight led by Father Nicholas King speaking about St Paul and his significant teaching about Jesus.
 - I attended a Diocesan Healing and Wholeness Training Day in February at St. Jude's Southsea. I travelled with Joyce and Tony Seaman and experienced a day to remember.
 - In March I went on a Silent Retreat at Green Pastures, soon to be renamed Greenhouse. I can highly recommend this Retreat Centre as the food and the care was exceptional
 - I have almost completed the Diocesan 'Inspire' Course which has covered many aspects of Christian Spirituality. By the time of the APCM I will have two sessions and a Week of Accompanied Prayer to experience before the course ends. I was intending following the 'Engage' course from September but this has been postponed so I am looking into different ways of continuing my training to become a Spiritual Director.
-



Safeguarding Adults and Children in church

Report author: Angela Adams – Safeguarding Officer (Voluntary role)

About the Group

The role of the safeguarding officer is appointed by the PCC and is responsible for ensuring that the diocesan safeguarding policies and procedures are adhered to and that people who are responsible for running groups within the church are appropriately recruited and checked as suitable for the role.

Achievements 2015-16

- Mandatory Safeguarding training attended April 2015 and renewal of DBS check.
- Presentation to PCC July 2015 to update them of the Diocesan policies and procedures and agree an action plan for Botley church to achieve.
- Development of a DBS procedure for all new volunteers and renewals.
- Updated Safeguarding Board at back of church
- Identified list of volunteers responsible for groups within the church who should undergo relevant safeguarding training and how to provide them with support.
- Diocesan safeguarding handbook available (kept in church office) and Safeguarding matters leaflets emailed to PCC members and available to congregation upon request

Objectives for 2016-17

- Continue to implement relevant paperwork as required in the diocesan policy and ensure this information is secure
- Continue to develop safeguarding information so that everyone is aware of its importance in the life of the church and how to report any concerns etc.
- Liaise with Curdridge and Durley Safeguarding officers to offer support and ensure availability for any queries.

Challenges

This role is an important one within the church and Botley has been slow to rise to the challenges of the Diocesan policy for a number of reasons. It is everyone's responsibility to be vigilant and feel able to report any concerns in a timely way.

I have been in this role for a number of years and am happy to step aside should anyone feel able to take on this role in our church.

School Days - Annual Visits of children from Botley Primary School to All Saints' Church

Report author: Pam Davies

About the Group

The aim of these visits has been developed to be:

- to share with the children the Good News of the Gospel

In order to achieve our aim, the children have the opportunity to take part in varied, interesting and dynamic activities to

- learn about the work and mission of the Christian Church,
- visit the church building and hear about what takes place there
- meet with the clergy and lay people who lead the planned activities
- take part in an Act of Worship



Achievements 2015

Each year, in the Autumn Term, a meeting is held with the RE coordinator at the school to ascertain what we can offer in the way of support to them in the teaching of their RE curriculum. For each of the year groups we agree on a theme and also discuss what should be offered in the various activities. The dates for the four visits are decided and usually take place in March/June/July/Dec.

Every child has the opportunity to attend a morning session annually with their peer group. For each of the four occasions we have a total of 90 children, with the exception of the reception class who number 45. The 90 children are divided into 5 groups and there are 5 activities on offer which every child experiences in their respective group. At the end of the morning the children and adults take part in an Act of Worship during which the children make an offering of whatever they have made in the activities and sing the songs which they have learnt.

We had a very successful series of visits in 2015 which were enjoyed by all those involved – children, teachers and activity leaders. I would like to record my grateful thanks to all those who have willingly given up their time to support these events by leading/taking part in the activities. Without your help this valuable link with the school would not be so firmly established.

Objectives for 2016

- To continue to develop varied activities which stimulate and sustain the interest of the children, while still achieving the aims and objectives of each topic.
- To encourage more members of our congregations to take part in these events, either as leaders or assistants.

Challenges

Although we have repeated many of the Topics/activities we have, in response to feedback from the RE coordinator, changed some. This year we did have to plan and deliver the five new activities for the Epiphany Theme for Year 5/6 which proved to be a challenge.

If you are interested in finding out more about these events then please contact me.

Simply Prayer

Report author: Tony Seaman

About the Group:

Simply Prayer meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday in All Saint's Foyer between 6.00 pm and 7.00 pm. It comprises 6 regular members who pray for the church's work and ministry, individuals and the community. The regular members are two each from Botley, (Tony and Joyce), Curdridge, (Roger and Trisha), and Durley, (Andy and Gill). More are always welcome.

Achievements 2015-16:

- Answers to Prayers - The Lord knows what He has done regarding our prayers.
- Prayer Board - The prayer board continues to be regularly used with about 3 to 8 new requests each week. Simply Prayer aims to pray for each request at each of three Simply Prayer sessions after which the prayers are respectfully disposed of at Hopeweavers weekly prayer meeting. (<http://www.hopeweavers.co.uk>. See also Hopeweavers@Home on this site.)
- Pew Cards (General) - The displays for Pew cards have been well used. A fourth is being considered. The 'Glossy' cards are still in short supply and we need to update and



increase these as they give more information about our Christian faith. The amount of cards being taken is still encouraging with about 25 being taken in one recent week.

- Pew Cards (Prayer) - These continue to be created to help people to pray. New or updated cards are introduced as and when considered appropriate
- Pew Cards (Seasonal) - These cards continue to be produced.
- Pew Cards ('Is') - These seem popular with now ten titles. More are planned and 'Heaven is...' and 'Joy is ...' are being considered. We welcome comments, assistance, or suggestions for more new cards and Tony's email address is on the cards.
- North Aisle Prayer Area. - We continue to try and ensure that this area is always available, respected and neat. We are trying to keep the small light in this area on when the main lights are off. The loss of the display board which 'screened' off this area to make it more private is regretted and we would welcome alternative suggestions.

Objectives for 2016-17:

These are similar to last year but we would like to make more progress.

- To encourage those who wish prayer for the world, themselves, family and friends to attend prayer sessions or use the Prayer Board.
- To further increase the profile of prayer by asking for Simply Prayer and similar to be raised on the occasional Sunday.
- To continue to encourage others to catch more of the vision of prayer's importance as Jesus did. To seek ways in which this can be facilitated and publicised.
- To encourage and prioritise individual, group and church wide prayer by exploring opportunities to teach more about praying to help others relax into chatting or being silent with our Heavenly Father.
- To encourage catching the vision of individual prayer being the bedrock of daily church life rather than being optional or as only to be done during church services on a Sunday.
- To make available confidential 'questions on prayer' such as:-
 - Where and how do you pray?Hope to do this this year. Last year was a bit full!!

Challenges:

- To demonstrate the importance of prayer.
- To help those who struggle with praying in a way that is relevant, gentle and caring.
- To reduce apparent inhibitions in praying and to grow the membership of Simply Prayer perhaps by more publicity including by the clergy.
- To encourage users of the church to ensure that Pew cards, Bibles and kneelers are not left on the floor after services or events.

Social Committee

Report author: Stephanie Hall

About the Group

The All Saints Social Committee organises a range of social events for members of the congregation and the wider community in Botley. We aim to bring people together in fun and fellowship and to raise funds for the Church.

The committee has consisted of the following members during the past year: Lynn Gosden, Stephanie Hall (chair), Natalie Heppel, Robert Jackson, Veronica Mason and Catherine Tribble, with Kate Waller joining in February 2016.



Achievements 2015-16

- We'd like to thank everyone who has helped in any way to support the social committee with the events programme in 2015-16
- We organised the following events in 2015-16:
 - the Spring plant sale in May – approx. £600 raised
 - All Church picnic in June
 - publicising the Church at Botley School Summer Fayre
 - Harvest lunch held in the Botley Centre in October
 - “Spice is right” Curry and Quiz night in January 2016
- The All Church picnic was a new idea. People from across all the All Saints services met on the Botley recreation ground at lunchtime on 21 June. We enjoyed conversation and games over our packed lunches before moving on to Lynn and Anthony Gosden's garden for afternoon tea. Children had additional challenge of a scavenger hunt and the adults tested themselves with “Dingbats”
- We organised a stall at the Botley School Summer Fayre on 27 June, and encouraged families to add a coloured finger print to decorate a banner with a picture of All Saints. Although we enjoyed the opportunity to be at this event, we didn't get as many children taking part as we had hoped – it seems people are sceptical when you are offering something for free!
- We raised over £950 from the “Spice is right” night, and were extremely pleased to see families with children and people from around and outside the village pack the Market Hall.
- Three new members joined the social committee in 2015/16 – Catherine Tribble and Robert Jackson in April 2015 and Kate Waller in February 2016. They are all making a great contribution to the team
- Natalie Heppel stepped down from the committee at the end of 2015. We will miss her energy and creativity, along with her fantastic organisational skills at our events.

Objectives for 2016-17

- To continue to offer a range of events which people enjoy and to contribute to the ongoing running costs of All Saints
- Our annual and ever popular Plant Sale will be held on Bank Holiday Monday 2 May 2016
- We're planning for an “open gardens” event in Botley in the summer, dependent on getting enough support from local residents who would be willing to share their gardens however small or large with interested visitors
- To hold a Harvest Supper with entertainment instead of a Harvest lunch. It's been a number of years since we've had an evening Harvest event and we are optimistic that this will be a success. We've booked the Market Hall for Saturday 1 October and hope that this will be a great family evening. Book the date in your diaries now!
- The feedback from the “Spice is right” night was very positive and holding this event early in the New Year worked very well after initially having to cancel in October, due to poor ticket sales. We plan to organise a large event of this type again in January 2017

Challenges

- The committee have been discussing the ongoing challenge of a small group of already busy people being able to deliver a wide enough range of events through the year.
- If there is a fundraising drive to raise money for replacement heating or refurbishment of the old Church room, we would need close alignment with that team to ensure we are not trying to call on the same groups of people for too much – either those who support events by buying tickets, or those who volunteer to organise events.



- The pressure on social committee was discussed at the PCC meeting in February. There is a lot of expectation on a small group of people to cover social, fundraising and catering activities so we are looking at alternative approaches to getting more people involved.
- One of these proposals is to get a larger group of people to become part of an Events Team, who would offer various types of help rather than being part of a committee e.g. setting up tables, making cakes, running raffles, or cooking for events with catering. Our idea is to hold a list of volunteers who we would then contact via e-mail when an event is planned. There would be no obligation to provide support for everything; occasional help is always very useful to us.
- If anyone would like to be on the Events Team list, join us to help organise a one-off event, or be part of our regular informal social meetings which last for around 2 hours once a month, they would be very welcome. Just get in touch with Stephanie Hall or any member of the committee for more information.

Stitchers and lent knitting

Report author: Iris Combes

About the Group

Originally an offshoot of the Mothers' Union, ladies who meet to make baby clothes, incubator blankets and specially designed hats for the local maternity hospital and larger garments and blankets for the Roberts Centre at Portsmouth.

Achievements 2015-16

- One thousand, one hundred and forty-nine items were made which were sent to the hospitals and Roberts Centre.
- Over 200 small dolls were made for the Advent Fair, also Baptismal Bears and Sheep for projects within the Benefice.
- Hats, socks, vests and blankets were made and sent to Refugee centres.
- Donations were made (from our tea money) to children's groups in all three parishes.

Objectives for 2015-16

To continue to knit and crochet for the hospitals, Roberts Centre, for things needed within our three parishes, and for wherever we can help to meet demands for comforts for people in an ever -changing world.

Challenges

We are challenged to recruit more younger knitters – a good number of us are now 70+, and to give instruction to those who wish to participate, but do not have the skills that we have acquired through years of experience.

Sunday Club

Report author: Mike Gurman

Sunday club is going strong and the helper rota is working well.

We are joined by the junior choir for approximately the middle third of each session, which poses some challenges for continuity, but it's been working OK - We are continuing to explore a range of Christian themes and the choir influx has helped to make discussion quite interesting.



I have developed a general purpose theme for any number of participants to act out popular Bible stories using finger puppets - this will be packed up in a grab bag in the cupboard and can be pulled out and used as a standby in case of short notice unavailability of helpers, or may fit into the activities for third Sundays.

In terms of resources and materials, we're managing OK. The portable projector screen that we use on second sundays is starting to show signs of wear and tear - and could do with replacing (maybe with something a bit lighter and easier to carry about).
