



Parish of Boxmoor

St John's Boxmoor,
St Stephen's Chaulden & St Francis' Hammerfield

The Parish of Boxmoor Annual Parochial Church Meeting

In St. John's Church, Boxmoor
Sunday 24 April 2022 at 10.00 am

Contents

Reports from our daughter churches, PCC
committees and other church organisations.

Please see the main booklet for the agenda, minutes of the last
annual meeting, Treasurer's report & audited accounts for 2021,
reports on fabric goods & ornaments, Safeguarding, the Deanery
Synod and PCC proceedings.

The contents of this booklet are available to be read on the parish
website at www.stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk

REPORT ON ST FRANCIS' CHURCH

1. Over £400 was raised for St Francis Hospice. Over the last 4 years about £2,350 has been raised. The Bishop of St. Albans has written to congratulate. The church on this.
2. The Bishop of Richborough preached and presided in January and after the Mass, a very well attended lunch was held in the hall.
3. Hall bookings are now firmly back on track.
4. On 26 March the Aeolian singers performed at a very well attended concert in the church.
5. Numbers attending masses are good. (There are one or two people who have yet to return after the pandemic, but others are joining).
6. it is the intention to have some fund-raising events in the summer and autumn.
7. We are very grateful to the vicar for arranging the rota of priests to SFH. Each priest brings something different, and this helps the ministry.
8. We are thankful to Jo for attending to our financial needs and to Paul for his weekly playing of the organ.
9. Evening Prayer is held every Wednesday and it is hoped that Evensong and Benediction will soon return.

Trevor Standen

REPORT FROM St STEPHEN'S

This has been an unusual and difficult year. Lockdown was a very strange experience and we were happy when it ended and we were able to resume our Sunday worship. Our congregation is small but we will continue to be a witness to the Church of England in Chaulden for as long as possible. We hope that when people hear our church bell they realise that worship is taking place in St. Stephen's

We appreciate regular visits from our vicar which enables us to celebrate Holy Communion: on the other Sundays we welcome Carole Lewis to lead worship and to preach, otherwise Richard, Anne and I have permission to lead a service and give a message. This all works out very well.

St. Stephen's Day fell on a Sunday this year and we enjoyed the joint service.

On Thursdays during Lent we are able to have a service of Holy Communion before hosting the Parish Lent group.

The hall lettings have been slow to recover from Lockdown but we do have a few. Expenditure on the building has been minimal. Please see the full financial report on St. Stephen's which is included in the annual account and which shows that the congregation contribute generously to parish funds.

Why not come and join us one Sunday at 11.30 a.m.

Jean Garner

March 2018

Report from the Communications Committee March 2022

The Communications Committee has overall responsibility for all aspects of communication within the parish and for media representation of the parish. The work of the committee has changed over the years with the development of the internet and social media. We meet roughly every two months and as of now this is still on Zoom rather than in person. Since May 2020 all our scheduled meetings have taken place on Zoom.

As with all aspects of the church's work, we have been affected by the pandemic, but perhaps in a different way. Media and communications were vital during the worst times and our thanks go to the Vicar, to Keith Beniston (Director of Music), and Stacey Barton (Webmaster) for their work in pre-recording services and putting them on our website, once the church was allowed to reopen. Now we have the capacity to live-stream, hopefully less of their time is demanded.

The magazine, weekly newsletter, parish Christmas and Easter cards, our website and Facebook presence are all within our remit, as is press coverage and publicity of our services and events. Sally-Anne has been magazine editor for many years and is also the super-efficient secretary of the Comms Committee. The weekly newsletter is now drawn up in the Parish Office by the Vicar and the Parish Administrator, Hilary. We are very grateful to Paul Davies for printing the newsletter and service sheets every week and to Alan Munford for sending it all out by email. We also produce press releases when necessary, mostly to publicise events. These are sent to the parish magazine, the Gazette and Boxmoor Direct, with whom we have developed a good relationship.

The parish Christmas and Easter cards, which should be delivered through all doors in the parish to send seasonal greetings and inform residents of the times of services and of parish activities, are produced by Comms. Historically, these were printed in-house (thank you Hilary) but in December 2020 when it was not safe for us to deliver, we used a commercial company, Dor2Dor. There was no Easter card in 2021, but the Christmas card was printed for us by KallKwik more cheaply than we could have done in the parish office and was delivered by volunteers as in the past. Once more we are very grateful to Alan Munford who, though no longer a member of the committee, bundles the cards and organises them for distribution into numbered "walks". Many thanks indeed to those who deliver the cards. Unfortunately, there were still no volunteers to deliver to certain areas of the parish.

One of the parish MAP goals has been to increase our social media presence and we do try to publicise any special or seasonal services on Facebook as well as upcoming events. Facebook works by developing a following for your page. During the pandemic I started sharing the Church of England Prayer for the Day, posted on their Facebook page, on to our page, and sometimes Diocesan posts, therefore trying to ensure something goes out every day. Social media publicity involves the "sharing" of information from our page to other groups' pages to spread our news. One area in which we hope Facebook publicity has helped to spread the word is the growth of "Messy Church," as social media tends to reach a younger generation. We seek to portray ourselves as a caring parish which is active both spiritually and socially. Very necessary safeguarding regulations mean that we often cannot publish photographs of successful events, particularly where children are involved.

For event publicity, we are indebted to Alan Munford, who still frequently undertakes the tasks of procuring posters and banners, sometimes liaising with the likes of David Doyle to gain sponsorship. Alan has to reserve the prime location on the Moor opposite the station for the Christmas Tree Festival a whole year in advance. We also thank those such as Peter Garner who ensure the A3 posters are printed and laminated and displayed on the trees and elsewhere.

The Communications Committee try very hard to ensure our communications are effective and efficient, but we can only process and pass on information which is given to us, and in time, in the first place! We accept that we struggle at times to keep the website updated. We do not have enough people who are website-literate. If anyone can offer some help, it would be greatly appreciated by the team. This is an important part of our communication in the 21st century.

Anne Lyne

2021 Report from the Finance and Giving Committee

For the first part of the year the Committee's activity revolved around monitoring the Treasurer's monthly cashflow statements to ensure the continued solvency of the PCC and agree the timing of Parish Share contributions. Full payment of Parish Share was achieved but the last quarter was, of necessity, paid late as it was dependent on the outcome of November and December fundraising.

Receipt of two legacies enabled the Committee to recommend completion of the St John's boilers project with repayment of those Parishioner Loans that were not converted to gifts. Financing of a Broadcasting project to facilitate live streaming of services and events from St John's was also achieved utilising monies raised from the Easter Churchwardens' Appeal and the balance of the legacies together with close control of expenditure. Completion is expected early in 2022 once issues over the reliability of broadband connections have been resolved.

Going forward the Committee intends to review the use being made of on-line giving facilities, energy costs and potential fees for live streaming of services and events at St John's.

Note 11 to the Annual Accounts sets out the outward giving recommended to the PCC by the Committee, detailing the Charities supported either directly or through special collections.

Chris Angell, Honorary Treasurer, 11th March 2022

FRIENDSHIP TEAS

After a long and isolated 'covid lockdown', Friendship Teas started up again in October 2021 with only a handful of people attending. It has grown steadily every month since then and we are now averaging around 16 people every month and hope that more will be joining us as the daylight hours increase. Friendship Teas are held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month and is a wonderful time of friendship and fellowship, providing comfort and support to the lonely, bereaved or those experiencing difficult times, over a cup of tea and some delicious food.

Our slogan for this year is "Hear a story, tell a story - Bring a friend, make a new friend". It has been wonderful to see old friends reunited after such a long time of isolation. There has been a lot of catching up on news and views. Although there is no set pattern for the afternoon, we have introduced a "Glory Story" slot during the hour and a half that we spent together to share stories that give God the glory for the amazing things he has done in our lives. This has been so inspiring and enlightening as many share fascinating stories from their past with the whole group.

For the December Friendship Tea gathering we had 'live entertainment' as two local musicians joined us to lead us in some Christmas Carols. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all and we welcome any local musicians to feel free to attend, entertain us and join in the fellowship.

We are very grateful and blessed to have some faithful and dedicated folks who are a tremendous help in assisting with preparations before and after the event. They make it very special and welcoming to those who attend - there is a standard of excellence which is much appreciated by everyone.

Our doors are open and everyone is welcome to our Friendship Teas.

If you would like to know more about our Friendship Teas or would like to be of assistance in some way please contact Sandy Cutts at cuttssandycutts@gmail.com or contact the St Johns Church Office.

Sandy Cutts
Lifepath Resources
Restoration Facilitation
Website:

St John's Hall Management Committee – Annual Report for 2021

The St John's Hall Management Committee met on five occasions during the year either on Zoom or live during the back end of the year.

Recognising that due to Covid restrictions only the main hall was in use, obviously bookings were restricted through the period. This put an extra workload on the shoulders of our Booking Secretary, but we are very grateful to Graham Liddle for undertaking this workload very ably – thank you Graham. I am pleased to say that as I write this report both halls are now available to accept bookings.

We are extremely grateful to Di Tovey for all the work she undertakes as Hall Caretaker, this duty not only restricted to ensuring that the Hall is clean and tidy but also involves opening and closing the facility before and after bookings – thank you Di.

Although the kitchen was not in use for most of the year due to Covid restrictions I am pleased to say that the Kitchen was inspected by the Local Health Authorities in September and a 5 Star Rating was awarded. Our thanks go to Lorraine Ioannou and Di Tovey for their work here.

We do employ an agency cleaner who has been with us now for some years and we are thankful for her work.

Through the year some decoration was needed to both the Hall and Kitchen, this task was undertaken gladly by Mark Harbour and Andy Fisher, we are grateful to them both for the time and skill they gave to the tasks.

In previous years we have had to spend money in having the 'Hall Dividers' serviced. This year we are grateful to Job Rombout and his 'Thursday' team for undertaking this work for us.

As we look forward to a more 'normal' 2022 we are grateful to all who help in keeping our Hall facility clean and 'open for business'.

Peter Garner
Hall Co-Ordinator.

JUNIOR CHURCH

Whilst we were unable to meet for a large part of 2021 due to the pandemic, things have restarted with Junior Church. From September 2021 we commenced the sessions as part of Sunday Morning worship, and whilst it was slow to begin with it was nice to have a couple of children each week. We are excited to head in to 2022 and have already held 2 Messy Church services and are looking forward to hosting more over the year.

A huge thank you as always go to Rosie Shaw, Mary McCluskey, Yvonne Munford, Annie Mitchell and all the others who help make this all happen.

Joanna Fisher
March 2022

The Knitting Circle

The Knitting Circle could not meet because of Lockdown but happily we had our first meeting recently with 8 people present. We are knitting chicks and rabbits for Easter at present and will then decide on future plans.

In spite of not meeting, we produced a variety of goods for our stall at the Summer and Autumn Fair. Our most successful item is still the knitted crib which sells well so we are knitting away on the crib figures throughout the year.

If you like knitting, come and join us for a chat and a cup of tea and know that at the same time you are using your talents to help church funds. We meet on a Monday afternoon at the home of Marion Roff so please contact her regarding dates.

Jean Garner

St John's lunches

We restarted lunches at St John's in the Autumn 2021. It was obvious that people were very happy to be back socialising and enjoying a meal together.

The numbers have been increasing and all that is holding us back is a lack of volunteers in the kitchen.

Any offers of help with serving and clearing up would be gratefully received.

Marian Davies

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Perhaps the most exciting choir development this past year or so has been the foundation of a Junior Choir. Starting just before the Pandemic ravaged normal life the Junior Choir had come into being, superbly led by Katherine Boyce/Cox. This has been a challenging and often exhausting project to get off the ground, yet Katherine has forged ahead with determination. There is now a regular loyal band of about a dozen vivacious children, equipped with matching blue T-Shirts and regularly delivering their own special anthem at All Age services. This project couldn't happen without full support by parents of these children, who bring them to rehearsal every two weeks. There is always have a fun element with some "down time" for games and a bite to eat provided by Marian Davies.

On the one hand the adult choir has done some absolutely magnificent work during the past year. It has taken on some really challenging music and delivered it with polish and panache. Most of this has been in services of Choral Evensong which can still be recalled from the church's website. Choir numbers at evensong have been boosted by regular able and enthusiastic singing friends, usually with just one or two paid voices (e.g. tenors). Regular home-team choir membership has also increased this past year with rehearsals once more taking place on most Friday evenings. On the other hand however, we have not yet been able to secure a regular group to resume singing at morning services. There are numerous good reasons for this: organ playing elsewhere, family commitments and in the case of most regular visitors, involvement at other churches. This has given the morning congregation the chance to enjoy some fine recorded performances of anthems by cathedral or other professional choirs. The recordings of Lamb of God (Thorne and Archer) which are heard on most weeks are by St John's Choir itself. It has remained possible to gather a viable choir for most of the festivals, as we shall for Holy Week and Easter coming. Perhaps the most notable of these is the Festival of Lessons and Carols with orchestra, which are becoming quite a focal point – a USP for St John's, perhaps? It is perhaps a pity that attendance at Choral Evensong could not be more robust. Like a good wine, you don't really know what it's like just by looking at the label! Outstanding musical flavour is guaranteed at each and every one of these services. I must express on behalf of the choir and the church great gratitude for consistent support from Nicholas King, not only through playing the organ but also in the form of ever-ready encouragement and sound advice based on a lifetime's experience.

When choir activities resumed after the Pandemic Peter and Jean Garner made an understandable decision to retire from the choir, though their voices are still much missed. Happily, they both remain actively involved in the musical life of the parish in a number of ways. It has also been great to see Trevor Boyce back with the choir for most of the recent activities. The choir recently revived an older tradition of the Annual Dinner, which was admirably hosted by the nearby Boxmoor Steakhouse – a successful and most enjoyable event.

As the resumption of normality continues, on April 10th at 6.30 we shall be giving a performance of The Crucifixion by Stainer which like so many events, had to be postponed last year. Local star singer Thomas Isherwood from far-away Kings

Langley will be the bass soloist for this. On Sunday May 8th at 6.30 he choir will be giving a choral concert as part of the MASJ Festival.

The choir appreciates the financial support from MASJ which helps to facilitate some of the more adventurous projects, in particular the cost of the orchestral ensemble at the Festival of Lessons and Carols.

Keith Beniston
Director of Music

MUSIC AT ST JOHN'S

Our charity Music at St John's (MASJ) has continued to promote music for all in the local community, especially the younger members.

MASJ has also helped to enrich the music at services in the church, including providing a significant grant of £950 to the church for extra musicians at two Christmas services in 2021 and also £1,000 towards the cost of Audio Visual equipment to enable recording and streaming of events at the church such as services and weddings. This will be of particular value to people who are unable to come to church but still wish to enjoy events from the church or people who wish to record an event to keep as a memory.

Lunchtime concerts: Due to COVID we continued with recording the concerts in the summer of 2021 and putting the content online, however we were disappointed with the low viewing figures. The good news was that by September we were able to resume live Friday lunchtime concerts and Paul Davies had put together a good line-up and they proved very popular with between 21 and 47 at each of the concerts which is a good number. The next lunchtime series will commence in May 2022.

We have also set up MASJ on TicketSource to make ticket purchases really simple for everyone coming to our events.

Educational events: These were also affected by COVID and were only resumed recently, however the Unisound (String Day) on 17th March was very popular and the children greatly enjoyed playing their instruments and being together in groups after such a long time. Dacorum Music School continue to work closely with us for these events. The very popular WOOFYT day will also be taking place this year on 31st March when we expect 120 children from 4 local primary schools to come along to St John's and enjoy the activities which is supported by the Institute of Physics.

Bursary Scheme: During 2021 we had no applications as COVID was still preventing normal activities. In early 2022 we did have two applications and they were successful. We continue to promote the scheme at the Education events hosted at St John's and with help from the Dacorum Music School.

Other Events: We held an Organ Concert on 27th November to commemorate the day 10 years ago when it was inaugurated, the turn-out was a bit lower than hoped due to COVID. We held our annual 'New Year's 10k Run and 4k Walk' on 31st December 2021 and this attracted a large number of serious runners as well as a good crowd of walkers (some with dogs). Due to the good weather we were able to put refreshments outside the church and many of the runners/walkers stayed for a while afterwards to socialise. Overall the event was very successful and raised a good sum towards future MASJ events.

We had hoped to hold a New Year Concert on Saturday 8th January 2022 with Keith Beniston, Director of Music at St John's Church having put together a programme of popular music including the Hayden Trumpet Concerto and songs from Musicals, however, again due to COVID this has now been moved to 27th March and is re-branded as a Spring Concert. We have kindly been sponsored by J Worley for this event.

Please visit our website at www.masj.org.uk for an update on the situation regarding future events and activities promoted by Music at St John's. We held our most recent Annual General Meeting on Friday 1st October 2021. This took place after the lunchtime concert that day (after lunch) in the hall and was quite well attended.

Trustees: We welcomed Katherine Cox (nee Boyce) to the MASJ Board as Treasurer and she has done a great job throughout the year.

Mark Harbour, Chairman 23 March 2022

PARISH MAGAZINE

220 magazines are printed monthly in-house by Hilary Kemp, Parish Administrator. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Hilary for undertaking this task and to Alan Munford for all his hard work in making up the bundles for distribution and collecting the money in and being my proof-reader! Thanks also to Gill and Ian Williams who send out the postal copies. I would personally like to thank Annie Mitchell for the support she gives me on the editorial side and to Janet Packe and other members of the congregation who provide photos from the different events held. I would also like to personally thank Reverend Michael Macey, Anne Lyne, Carole Lewis, Alan Munford, Peter Garner, Jean Garner, Graham Gibbs, Chris Angell, Mark Harbour, Paul Davies, Richard Lyne and the various Groups and Organisations for all their contributions on a regular basis and also to Hilary Kemp, Parish Administrator for her monthly support in preparing the Parish Diary and Registers to send to me and to everyone else who supports me as Editor of the Parish Magazine.

A special thanks to Chris Lyne who uploads to the website on a monthly basis the Parish Magazine, Clergy Letter and Parish Diary. Thanks also to all the distributors who work so hard in delivering the magazines on a monthly basis and would always welcome anyone new who wanted to join the team.

I am also responsible for the advertising side of the Parish Magazine and again would like to thank all our advertisers who have continued to support us through these difficult times.

Items can be e-mailed direct to me at _____ which helps to make my job as Editor much easier but, of course; items can still be left in my pigeonhole or delivered direct to 27 Beechfield Road. I would welcome any ideas, comments or even complaints regarding the Magazine (how it can be improved) or to receive "letters to the Editor." If you know of anyone who would like to receive this publication on a regular basis, please contact either Alan Munford (242543) or myself with their details or ask them to complete the slip which appears in the magazine, our distribution numbers are still low and we would welcome new readers or any suggestions on how to promote the magazine to reach more members of our local community. The monthly price has remained at 60p or £6 for the year.

The Magazine is a very important "vehicle" for communicating what is going on in our Boxmoor Parish including any fund-raising events towards the upkeep and running costs of our three Churches and promoting community spirit. Please keep reading the Magazine! and let me have your suggestions of what you would like to see appear, which I will try to accommodate, space permitting!

Sally Bates, Editor HH 266912

Pastoral Report – 2021

With much of the early part of the year spent in Lockdown our Pastoral schemes continued in much the same vein as in 2020. The “Buddy Scheme” that was set-up at the start of the pandemic continued to enable interaction despite us not being able to meet together. This has been a very valuable scheme and now incorporates a broad selection of the church membership and not just those who the government classified as ‘vulnerable’ in the early days. New members have also joined as ‘buddies’ – sharing the load of engagement. As time went on the need to call as frequently waned, especially when folk started to return to services, but this is still a very valuable network of interaction, and it has enabled those who feel isolated and disconnected to remain in-touch. Towards the end of the year plans were put in place to evaluate the “Buddy Scheme” and see if it has a place within our common life post-pandemic. The fruits of this work will be seen in 2022. Special thanks to Carole Lewis for taking over from Canon Ruth Goatly in heading-up the “Buddy Scheme” and to all our ‘buddies’ for your care, concern, humour, and attentiveness.

With funerals still on-going throughout the pandemic our Bereavement Team has continued their excellent work – either meeting on Zoom or in-person when allowed. This contact with bereaved families is really valued and sets us apart from funerals conducted by civil celebrants.

As restrictions eased we were once again able to lead worship within Mountbatten Lodge Nursing Home. It has been a real joy to reconnect with this community and our visits are very much appreciated. Home Communion has also restarted. Sadly it was not always possible to offer this ministry but with an increase in testing and vaccinations confidence grew in being able to visit people in their own homes. Please do let the Ministry Team know when you are unwell and unable to attend church as we would be only too happy to pray for you and offer you the Sacrament.

Friendship Teas also recommenced. Although this is principally a social occasion there is a great deal of pastoral work that goes on, particularly with those who are lonely. We are most thankful to Sandy Cutts for taken over the mantle from Ian and Gill Williams who led Friendship Teas with great distinction for so many years.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Social Committee has reformed and started organising events from where we left off in 2020. On Shrove Tuesday we held a Pancake party for children of primary school age and Pancakes and cocktails in the evening for the adults. There were approximately 20 children at the Pancake Party and the Vicar did a sterling job supervising the races up and down the church aisles while the team in the kitchen produced stacks of pancakes. Some of the very little did not seem to grasp the concept of tossing the pancakes - they sat down and ate them instead which meant several dashes to the kitchen for replacements. The children consumed copious amounts of pancakes and like Oliver Twist kept asking for more. The parents commented how nice it was for the children to be doing something so normal and enjoyable, without a mask in sight.

Although the numbers were slightly down in the evening compared to 2020 it was another very enjoyable evening. Pancakes came a very poor second to the cocktails and I don't think people would have noticed if we didn't serve pancakes at all! The Parish lunches have resumed once a month and have been. Very well supported. We need to expand the pool helpers so that all the cooking does not fall to the same few people.

We have been very lucky to find Sandi Cutts to take over from Gill and Ian Williams arranging and running the Friendship teas and they are also attracting a healthy number and are very much appreciated.

We are slowly trying to arrange more non-profit making events to enhance the social life of the Parish. One event we have already in the diary is the big lunch on 5th June to celebrate the Queens Platinum jubilee. We look forward to seeing everyone there. More details to follow in due course.

Lorraine Ioannou

TOGETHER ON MONDAY

Owing to COVID restrictions our group did not resume meetings until September 2021. For various reasons the membership has decreased and we now only have 26 members but we have between 15 and 20 at each meeting.

Talks have ranged from Denise Chenelle regaling us with tales about her volunteering activities, Jean Garner speaking about some of the statues in St. Albans Abbey to Carole Lewis telling us about her visits to Lourdes. Alan Munford devised a quiz for us and Ian and Janet Packe showed us a short film about Cirque du Soleil. We ended in December with a social meeting enabling people to sit and chat while enjoying a sherry and a Christmas buffet.

Our charity for 2020/21 was the Herts and Essex Air Ambulance and we will be giving them a cheque for £200 at our meeting on 21st March 2022.

My thanks to the committee for their help and support during the past year and to the members who felt able to attend the meetings.

We meet on the first and third Mondays in the month at 7 45pm in the church hall, anyone wishing to join us would be most welcome.

Di Tovey

Women's Fellowship

Sadly the Fellowship has not been able to resume meeting since Lockdown.

Jean Garner