



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 23 April 2023 at 11.00 am
following the Parish Eucharist

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 2022,
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 of St Francis Hammerfield for APCM 2023

1. The numbers of people attending SFH has increased by about a third within the last year. This is from all age groups.
2. The Church has been very active in raising money for The Hospice of St. Francis with monies from the Carols by Candle Light and coffee monies totalling around £500.
3. Repair work will commence in the spring on the flat roof to the hall.
4. Job will also examine ways of treating the fenestration so as to make it less susceptible to heat-loss.
5. We are very grateful to the Vicar for securing priestly cover for the masses at the church and to himself, Fr. Dr. Digby Anderson, Fr. Martin Banister and Fr. Malcolm Grant (and more recently from Fr. Jonathan Smith) for their continued ministry to the church.
6. There have been various services throughout the year from other visiting Clergy. For instance Fr. Benjamin Weitzmann has presided at a service for The Guild of the Servers of the Sanctuary, and the Bishop of Richborough presided and preached in January. The latter mass, which was well attended was followed by a very well attended lunch (including from several congregants from the wider Parish). The Bishop will be with us again early next year (he has offered 28 January), before his retirement in April.
7. Income from the hall lettings continues to be good and the underlying finances of the church are sound.
8. We are very grateful to Jo Fisher for her continued overseeing of the financial records of the church.
9. We continue to be grateful to Paul for his commitment to playing the organ. Gruff has assisted also on a few occasions for which we are most grateful and it is re-assuring to know that Nicholas King has offered his services if needed, subject to his own availability. We are grateful to Paul also for his overseeing of the hall lettings.

REPORT FROM St STEPHEN'S 2023

As a congregation we try to minister particularly to the elderly which is a great joy and we continue to be a witness to the Church of England in Chaulden. We always ring the bell before services.

We are small in number but our members come every week and enjoy the worship and the fellowship. We appreciate Mike's regular visits which enables us to celebrate Holy Communion at least once a month: on the other Sundays we welcome Carole Lewis to lead worship and to preach. When they cannot come, then Richard, Anne and I have permission to lead a service and give a message.

During Lent we again welcomed a number of our friends from St. John's for a Lent group on Thursday morning, this year led by the vicar and including Holy Communion.

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 2023

Report from the Communications Committee March 2023

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 have held 6 meetings since the last APCM. It was intended to hold our meetings in the summer months in the church hall rather than via Zoom, but in reality we only managed one “live” meeting, on 19 July, for practical reasons. We hope to do better this year.

Our remit includes the monthly parish magazine, the weekly newsletter, the design and distribution of the Christmas and Easter cards delivered to every home in the parish, the issue of press releases and articles about special services and events (for the parish magazine and to Boxmoor Direct and the Gazette/Hemel Online for example). Sally-Anne Bates has ably edited the magazine for 31 years now (and typed it up for many years before that), and recently also took on responsibility for liaising with advertisers. The magazine is produced eleven months of the year, always on time, despite provocation from the rest of us! Sally is also the super-efficient secretary of the Communications Committee. The newsletter is produced in the Parish Office by the Vicar and Parish Administrator (thank you Mike and 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.

The parish Christmas and Easter cards are intended for delivery to every home in the parish, to send seasonal greetings and to inform residents of the times of services and of parish activities. The 2022 parish Christmas card used a design by Lizzie Martell, suitably brightened from her original “Shining a light in the darkness” picture from 2020 to herald more cheerful times. The card was printed by Kallkwik (who can do it cheaper than we can in-house now). The local cards were delivered by volunteers within the parish, but the outlying areas which we find difficult to cover were outsourced to Dor2Dor. We acknowledge that this is not a perfect system, but it is the best we can do. The parish Easter card was also printed by Kallkwik, and we are grateful for volunteers from the congregation who delivered them. Without their help our work would be in vain. 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”.

The functions of Comms have now evolved to include the parish website <https://stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk/> and social media (our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsChurchBoxmoor>). The recently formed Web Team (Stacey Barton, Rosie Shaw and Sally-Anne Bates) endeavour to keep the website up to date and we are grateful for their time. If parishioners would like to add material, including photos, or make a comment regarding the website, the Web Team now have a dedicated email address webteam@stjohnsboxmor.org.uk

I do the day-to-day operation of the Facebook page, using .jpeg or .png versions of the posters we produce for the various special services and events. I then share these to other local Facebook pages, as appropriate. For those who don't know, that is how Facebook works. I also share to our Facebook page every day the Church of England Prayer of the Day and any other CofE or Diocesan material which seems appropriate. It is necessary to post on the page regularly to keep our information appearing in the Facebook "feeds" of our followers. We have now built up a substantial following on Facebook. We seek to portray ourselves as an active and welcoming parish.

The Comms Committee always needs to be aware of parish events and decide what level of publicity is required. We do make use of posters and publicity material supplied to us from other committees and branches of parish life, but it is not our function to create posters for other parish groups. Where necessary, we can generate press releases.

For event publicity, we are indebted to Alan Munford, who still frequently undertakes the tasks of designing posters and designing and procuring 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 banner 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. If anyone else feels they would like to help in any way with event publicity, then please let us know.

Our 21st century communications have been greatly enhanced by our ability to live stream services via YouTube and our website. It is a pity that the use of this facility is hampered by the church's poor broadband connection and we look forward to the day when improved connectivity will make the system commercially viable as intended.

Anne Lyne
(Chair)

2022 Report from the Finance and Giving Committee

The Committee met regularly during 2022, mainly on-line. Energy costs and electronic giving were reviewed with new energy contracts being agreed for the PCC's approval and the continuing use of various electronic giving methods confirmed, despite the costs and limited use of some. Regrettably our bankers, NatWest plc, decided to impose full commercial bank charges on the PCC's accounts and mitigating actions were discussed and agreed with the PCC in consequence, including paying some expenses in cash to avoid, in part, the high cost of banking cash takings. It seems inevitable that the PCC will soon be forced to adopt electronic banking but, despite the advantages, the impact of the loss of the protection afforded to both the Treasurer and the PCC Members (as Trustees) by the longstanding dual signature cheque system should not be underestimated.

Bucket collections were organised in support of various Disasters Emergency Committee appeals. 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 these special collections.

Chris Angell, Chairman, March 2023

The Fundraising Committee Report 2022

This is a very busy and active committee which met under the chairmanship of Cathy Shaw on 8 occasions in 2022. As the name suggests we have the very important task of raising money for the church and this year our budget was £16,000 – a considerable sum!

In 2022 we organised 3 major events: a Summer fete, a Christmas fayre and a Christmas Tree Festival which together raised just under £10,000. In addition to this we held 3 quiz nights, raffled a painting and held a cocktail evening. Our aim in all these events is not just to raise essential funds, but also to connect with the local community and encourage people into the church.

We are proud of our efforts but would welcome the support and involvement of more members of our congregations. It is hard work and new ideas and new helpers would ease the burden.

Please look out for news of events both in the magazine, in the newsletter and on Face Book, and do all you can you ensure success.

Jean Garner
March 2023

Friendship Tea Report for 2022

Friendship Teas have gone from strength to strength in 2022 and numbers have increased steadily with some months us hosting up to 40 people, which has been delightful.

We introduced a slightly different format this year as we have taken to inviting different charities from in and around Hemel Hempstead to attend, bring a team with them and give us a short talk or presentation on what they offer to the community and how people can get benefit or get involved should they wish to. This has been received most favourably by the folks attending as many have learned things which they previously knew nothing about.

Among the charities and organisations, we have invited so far are the following:

Hertfordshire Police Constabulary - A team of policemen and policewoman, attended and gave a most informative talk on how to keep safe in our homes and when we are out and about on the street. They brought with them lots of interesting 'gadgets' and devices which were distributed to those who wanted or needed them, including a remote alarm device which when activated draws attention immediately.

Druglink / Oxygen Breathe - Addiction Rehabilitation and Counselling Support for the local community and greater London area - A most interesting presentation was done by their team and a really interesting discussion followed with all attending participating. Since this presentation, an invitation was extended for the 'clients' at the Rehab and Abuse Shelters to attend the Friendship Teas monthly and they have been doing so every month. It has been an opportunity for them to interact with friendly compassionate people whilst they are going through their recovery process. This has also been an 'eye opening' time for many of our regular folks attending to come face to face with people who have come out of desperate situations and for them to encourage and accept them.

Cherished - This is a charity organisation run out of South Hill church. A program for women recovering from domestic abuse and violence. Since starting the work over 500 women have attended this life changing course. The folks attending were riveted by some of the life changing testimonies given by the team who attended and had tea & cake with us.

Jamie Johnstone - Bereavement Counsellor – Jamie, who is a bereavement counsellor at the Great Ormond Street Hospital and at St Francis Hospice in Berkhamsted, is a local resident and agreed to come and give a talk

on bereavement, the process it takes and how to navigate through it. This was a most timely talk as many in the room have suffered bereavement in the recent past, and so the discussion was engaging for all.

Liberty Tea Room & CAP - Kerry-Ann and Owen from Liberty Tea Room & Christians Against Poverty attended with their local manager Jaqui and absolutely astounded us all with the impact they are having on the local community with the programs that they run. Life changing Life Skills course and Money Management Programs which are free for all to attend. It was such a joy to meet these people who are having such a positive impact on the community and changing so many lives. They encouraged all present to pop in at Liberty Tea Room and visit them too.

Age UK - Last but not least we had a team from Age UK join us for a most interesting talk on the services and benefits offered to the senior citizens of Hemel Hempstead. Many who attended were not aware of the vast range of services offered and were encouraged not only to make use of the services but to also offer their time and skills to Age UK for the benefit of others.

So yes it has been a very full, productive and interesting year for Friendship Teas, we are becoming quite popular and we are seeing new faces every month.

We are not a 'natter' club, we are an interesting, surprising, and welcoming group of people who love being friendly and compassionate to all who walk through the doors.

Our helping team has been amazing in getting everything set up in time and as usual at the end of the afternoon, everyone 'mucks in' to help clear out the hall and get everything clean and tidy. All who have attended in 2022 have contributed to us having enjoyed such wonderful times of friendship, fellowship and also being educated on what is happening in our community this year and we hope that 2023 will be equally enjoyable.

St John's Hall Management Committee – Annual Report for 2022

The St John's Hall Management Committee met on four occasions during the year, all the meetings were held 'live' in the hall.

At the start of the year, due to Covid safeguards, only the main hall was available for bookings. However, as the Covid restrictions were generally relaxed, it was decided from 28th February to re-introduce the Hall Dividing Partitions and accept bookings into either of the two halls again.

Despite losing one or two regular bookings as a result of the Covid pandemic, it is pleasing to report that bookings are on the increase again. This positive position remains in place despite the large increase in booking charges we had to implement from 1st January 2023 to cover the high energy costs we are now incurring.

Our Bookings Secretary, Graham Liddle continues to manage all the hall bookings extremely efficiently and our sincere thanks go to him for the commitment he gives to the role.

Our continued thanks go to Di Tovey for the work she undertakes as our Hall Caretaker. In addition to managing the opening and closing of our hall facility, she is the link between the church and our cleaner Jean, ensuring that our facilities are maintained at a high standard – thank you Di.

Throughout the year Mark Harbour ensures that any decorating or minor maintenance required to our facilities is undertaken. Mark is usually joined by Andy Fisher when work is required, and we are grateful to them both for the time and effort they give to this role.

Our Hall Kitchen is in constant use by most of our hirers and we are so grateful to both Lorraine Ioannou and Di Tovey for seeing that the kitchen area is kept clean and tidy. During the year we had a new set of sink taps installed and they have been a great success – thank you Lorraine and Di.

The regular lubrication/greasing of the Hall Dividers is now undertaken by Job Rombout and his 'Thursday Team' and this has saved us employing and paying a specialist company to undertake this task and we are grateful to them for their work.

Peter Garner
Hall Co-ordinator.

JUNIOR CHURCH

After the hiatus and slow start when we welcomed everyone back in September 2021, we started the year with a very successful and well attended Messy Church. Numbers on a Sunday morning fluctuated from 1-4 with the youngest participant being 2 and the oldest 8.

Since September 2022 we have seen numbers steadily increasing on both Sunday mornings and at Messy Church and we look forward to doing more with the children.

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

The Knitting Circle

The Knitting Circle has continued into its tenth year and meets from time to time on a Monday afternoon at Marion Roff's flat.

This year we are again knitting Easter Chicks and Bunnies to sell in church. We produced a variety of goods for our stall at the Autumn Fair but 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.

Jean Garner
March 2023

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC'S REPORT

Since my last report I'm happy to report that musical life at St John's has recovered effectively, post-Pandemic. I am confident that all we have produced has been of a consistent quality and standard of which we can all be unquestionably proud. We have maintained regularly monthly musical services, either of Choral Evensong or another seasonal service such as Advent Reflections, a concert of sacred choral music last May, our enormously popular orchestral Carol Service, a Deanery Choral Evensong. In March this year, a much-praised service in which the Mozart Requiem with orchestra and four superb soloists, was presented complete, within the context of a Eucharistic Mass, as Mozart intended, even though he died before the work was complete. The choir is now looking forward to delivering a Festival Evening Service in May to celebrate the Coronation of Charles III.

The shape and formulation of musical offerings has become somewhat different during my time as Director of Music. I recognise that we no longer operate the traditional format where local children, particularly from church families, form a junior section of the choir that is hoped will lead to progression to the senior choir. Some churches still work this way but even those with fine reputations such as St Peter's Berkhamsted and St Nicholas, Harpenden are, I understand, finding this model challenging in our time, where there are so many potentially competing activities available on Sundays. With financial support from the PCC and MASJ, plus, recently, ongoing support from the Jennifer Worth Trust and a number of generous personal donations, the adult choir has moved towards a more realistic model for our day, whereby the loyal amateur singers are bolstered by the addition of a small number of professional singers. Added to this, we are fortunate in being able regularly to welcome guest singers from several other local churches which no longer or only occasionally hold evening services. In turn, St John's choir itself has benefited in the past year from a number of new regular members. If someone attends only our special services, the personnel is now so stable they could be forgiven for thinking that this IS St John's Choir! As Director of Music, I feel able to programme quite challenging repertoire, confident that the resources, both human and financial will be on hand to produce the goods.

Looking around our district, I think St John's is in an enviable position. Not only is the choir producing exceptional work, MASJ continues to deliver a wide-ranging programme of music, and most recently, the Hemel Hempstead Symphony Orchestra has decided to make St John's

its home base. This excellent development has already led to mutual benefits- I played the organ in their concert including Elgar's Enigma Variations, and in our Mozart Requiem, four of the sixteen orchestral players were sourced via the HSO. In terms of the Choral Evensongs alone, hardly any other churches now hold them regularly.

Developing a new-style Junior Choir has not by any means been neglected. Once a month the regular and evolving group has produced a winning anthem at All Age Services, invariably attracting a spontaneous round of applause for its efforts. JC also sung at both of the Christingle Services last year. While Katherine Boyce is busy bringing up George, Helen Isaacs has brought whirlwind energy to this really successful and burgeoning little unit. They all now sport smart blue tops for singing. We still need to address the issue of revitalising the choir at the remaining morning services. This is a challenging matter, and an initiative is still continuing to identify potential young singers from local schools. One round of auditions has been held and more are planned. I hope that next year it will be possible to report that this is under way.

I must express personal thanks to Nicholas King for his continuing and invaluable contribution, both through playing and all-round encouragement. The operation of music is significantly different now from when he was Director, yet he has found it possible to accommodate the various changes and flow along with the tide in the direction in which it is now moving.

Finally, I'd like to express my appreciation for the support of the vicar. The success of music in any church is absolutely dependent upon it, and St John's is exceptionally blest in this regard.

Keith Beniston
March 2023

MUSIC AT ST JOHN'S 2022/23

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 significant grants of £900 to the church for extra musicians at the Christmas service of Nine Lessons and Carols in December 2022 and more recently a further £750 for the liturgical performance of Mozart's Requiem on 12th March 2023.

Lunchtime concerts: Two series of Friday lunchtime concerts took place in Spring/Summer and Autumn of 2022 and these proved popular as ever. The next lunchtime series will commence in May 2023.

For other concerts (normally held on Saturday evenings) we continue to use TicketSource to make ticket purchases really simple for everyone coming to our events.

Educational events: UniSound and Unisong events took place throughout the year. The Unisound String Day in March had gone well, although it was noted that possibly with lockdown as a factor, there were more beginners and less advanced children than in previous years and for many of the children, it was their first opportunity to play in a group. The Unisound Wind Band event took place in May. In June we held two Unisong days on 9th and 16th and they went well. In September a Unisound Recorders event took place and in November another Unisound Strings day. These had been attended less well than previously, largely because of problems in getting participants released from their schools whilst teaching was still trying to catch up on pandemic limitations.

Dacorum Music School continue to work closely with us for all of these events.

The popularity of the WOOFYT day held on 31 March 2022 meant that we held two consecutive days in March 2023 with 7 sessions in total. The teachers' strike on those days only caused one session to be cancelled which was fortunate. The March 2022 event and the March 2023 two-day event were again largely funded by the Institute of Physics.

The educational events involve many local schools including South Hill, Boxmoor, Pixies Hill and Great Gaddesden.

Bursary Scheme: During 2022 we had only two applications early in the year and they were successful. But we have had no further applications in spite of continuing 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 a Spring Concert on Sunday 27 March 2022. This had been poorly advertised and was not well attended, although the feedback from the musicians was that they had enjoyed the event. Even though it had been promoted as a Mother's Day Event it was thought that this was actually a factor in the poor turnout.

We again held our annual 'New Year's 10k Run and 4k Walk' on 31st December 2022 and this attracted over 100 runners, a larger number of serious runners than the previous year as well as a good crowd of 30+ walkers. Overall the event was very successful with many participants staying afterwards to socialise and the event raised a good sum towards future MaSJ events.

We held our most recent Annual General Meeting on Friday 7th October 2022. This took place after the lunchtime concert that day (after lunch) but was not well attended.

Trustees: We bid farewell to Clara Wilmott-Basset who emigrated in December. We are grateful for all the help she provided to MaSJ both through liaison with the Music School and taking minutes at our board meetings.

Please visit our website at www.masj.org.uk for details of future events and activities promoted by Music at St John's.

Mark Harbour, Chairman 25 March 2023

PARISH MAGAZINE

240 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, also sending out the postal copies and being my proof-reader! I would also personally like to thank Anne Lyne 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. Also thanks to the Reverend Michael Macey, Carole Lewis, Alan Munford, Peter Garner, Jean Garner, Graham Gibbs, Chris Angell, Mark Harbour, Paul Davies, Dee Fisher, Richard Lyne and the various Groups and Organisations for all their contributions on a regular basis and 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 a copy to St John's website together with Clergy Letter and Parish Diary monthly. Thanks also to all the distributors who work so hard in delivering the magazines monthly and would always welcome anyone new who wanted to join the team.

I have also undertaken the position of Advertising Manager and pleased to report that we have received new advertisers and occasional one-off adverts for Concerts being held in Church or forthcoming performances at Boxmoor Playhouse from Hemel Hempstead Theatre Company. If you would like to enquire about placing an advert or know of anyone who would like further details, please contact me by email to: magazine@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk

Items can be e-mailed direct to me at magazine@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk 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". Also 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

ST JOHN'S CHURCH POETRY SOCIETY

Second Monday of every month

With St John's Poetry Society

We meet from two to four thirty p.m.

Reading poems of infinite variety

Our subjects this year have been varied as ever

Easter, Sea and Seaside, Autumn, Wind and Weather

And we then choose a subject for the following month

When we meet again together

We love reading the famous poets

Wordsworth, Shelley. Betjeman, Byron and Housman

To name but a few among many and with subjects so very diverse

Anything you can name looks better in verse

We are few in number these days

So be sure of friendly greetings

We would love to see you join us

And enjoy our poetry meetings

Ken Farmborough

Treasurer of St John's Poetry Society

Poet in Residence at St Stephen's

Social Committee and St. John's Lunches

The social Committee and lunch club try to hold a lunch every 4 - 6 weeks with a variety of menus and prepared and cooked by a different team each time. To make life easier, with certain exceptions, we have now limited the numbers to 36 in the hope that more people will volunteer to help. We did two 'big lunches' last year, one for the late Queens Platinum Jubilee where we put the tables outside and we all sat on the path leading from the west door, a real show of Parish strength. There were 70 adults and 8 children at the lunch. The other meal with a larger number of guests (46) was the Parish Christmas lunch where we served a traditional Christmas menu of turkey with all the trimmings followed by Christmas pudding and trifle and coffee. This is the second year we have held this event and we hope this may become an annual event.

We held our usual summer barbecue and family fun day and thanks go once again to the Hart family for providing and manning the bouncy castle. Many sausages were consumed and lots of activities and chat took place.

This year we again held the children's pancake party, which the Vicar has now got down to a fine art, as even with 30 plus children all ran smoothly. As we have held a cocktail and pancake party for the adults for the previous two years we opted to hold a cheese and wine party instead which was very successful, a lovely social evening and not nearly as stressful as making pancakes and cocktails.

We are slowly trying to build up the social element of Church life again and we help out in any way we can at fundraising events. If anyone has any ideas events we can lay on, either in the daytime or evening that they would like to see arranged please speak to one of us or the Vicar.

Lorraine Ioannou, Diana Tovey, Vicar

TINY TOTS REPORT 2022-3

During the past year our term-time weekly Tiny Tots has been starting to get back to some normality after the disruption of the Pandemic. We are continuing to attract new families to our weekly meetings, and it is good to see new mums and dads, grandmas and grandads and childminders bringing their little ones along on a Tuesday morning. We currently have about 44 names on our Register, including some new-born babies, and have been getting between about 16-25 Tots coming to each session, starting off with toys and activities in the hall, followed by refreshments and then our little service of action songs and prayers in church led by Father Mike – the ‘froggy prayer’ where they get to jump off the chancel step being as popular as ever! We are so grateful to Auntie Mary who plays the piano for us every week - the little ones really enjoy joining in the songs and its a real joy to see them!

We were disappointed that our summer picnic did not attract more families, despite being combined with Junior Church on a Sunday afternoon. Perhaps a Tuesday lunchtime, as in previous years, would have proved more popular. We were able to reinstate our New Year Party in January with a good turnout and lots of fun and food enjoyed by all who came.

As always we are extremely grateful to our team of regular helpers, especially Jackie and June, without whom we would not be able to run. We were sorry to lose Yvonne who has been unable to help us since Christmas, owing to other commitments, but we hope she may be able to come back when she has more time. We really miss her crafting skills! And Di has not been able to be with us since her recent accident, but we wish her well and hope she will soon be able to return. Thanks are due, too, to Auntie Christine Waters who is still been coming along once a month to do our refreshments and to Auntie Jean Frith and Auntie Sue Brown for their help.

We managed to run a toy stall at both the Summer and Christmas Fayres and made a good contribution to church funds from both events. Our little ones did a grand job of decorating our Christmas Tree at the Festival, mainly thanks to Yvonne who masterminded the decorations.

Annie Mitchell

TOGETHER ON MONDAY

Our group membership has slowly been increasing since last January. We now have 29 members and 20 plus members come to each meeting.

We started the year with a lunch at Little Hay Golf Club which was enjoyed by everyone.

We celebrated our late Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a buffet followed by excerpts from 1960's 1970's T.V. shows put together by Ian Packe

An enjoyable afternoon was spent at the Chiltern Open Air Museum finishing with a cream tea. We ended our year with a Christmas buffet on 5th December.

Our charity for 2022 was Signpost, which helps youngsters with a wide range of problems.

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays in the Church hall at 7 45 pm. There is a varied programme with speakers from the community as well as church members.

My thanks, as always, goes to the committee for their help and support throughout the year.

New members are always welcome and our subscription for the year is £12.

Di Tovey