

**AGENDAS FOR  
THE ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING OF PARISHIONERS and  
THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING of  
ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Buckland  
Tuesday April 23rd, 2019 at 7.30pm in The Reading Room**

In 2017, we launched the Southwark Vision - that we seek to be a Diocese:

- **Walking** with Jesus and getting to know Jesus better as we journey on
- **Welcoming** all, embracing our diversity and seeking new ways of being church
- **Growing** in numbers, generosity, faith and discipleship as we grow God's Kingdom

Our vision is founded on mutual commitment from all who make up the Diocesan family to walk together in the pilgrimage of faith, supporting, encouraging and resourcing each other in our common task



**Hearts on Fire**  
with a Vision for growth

**ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS**

1. Prayers
2. Apologies
3. Appointment of Secretary for the meeting and for PCC
4. Minutes of the 2018 Vestry Meeting of Parishioners
5. Election of Churchwardens for 2019-2020

Those on the Church Electoral Roll and those who live in the ecclesiastical parish area and whose names are on a register of Local Government Electors, by reason of such residence, are entitled to vote on the election of Churchwardens.

*Only those on the Electoral Roll may vote on agenda items in the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) that follows.*

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

1. Minutes of 2018 Annual Meeting
2. Presentation of the Annual Report **(Part 1)**
  - Report on the Electoral Roll page 6
  - Report on the proceedings of the PCC pages 3-6
  - Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments page 6
  - Report on the Diocesan & Deanery Synod page 7-9
  - Report of Financial Statements pages 9-20
3. Appointment of the Independent Examiner for the 2019 financial Statements
4. Elections:
  - Parochial Church Council
  - Sidespeople
5. Annual Report from Church & Village Activities **(Part 2)**
6. Pastoral Report 2018 **(Part 2)**
7. Discussion on matters of general parochial interest. (It would be helpful, although not essential; if you would notify Liz Vahey (churchwarden) or Hon. Secretary of items before the meeting starts).

## **REPORT OF THE CAPTAIN OF THE BELLS**

**David Sayce**

We have managed to ring for most services and all festivals. We have 11 band members but illness and unavailability has meant we have had to rely upon Betchworth from time to time. We rang for the centenary of the armistice and held a recruiting campaign allied to the national but were unable to attract any new recruits. We rang with Betchworth a quarter peal to celebrate the Rector's promotion to Archdeacon of Chesterfield. Practice nights on Fridays are normally well attended albeit the occasional practice has been cancelled. We had an annual outing shared with Betchworth in Kent, and held our annual dinner in January. We have visiting ringers from time to time.

## **BUCKLAND PARISH MAGAZINE**

**Richard Wheen, Editor**

The Buckland Parish Magazine continues its role as a monthly church magazine, but also as a magazine for the whole village. It is delivered by 15 distributors to about 210 households (ie all households in the village unless they have requested otherwise) and quite a few copies are also posted to others, especially ex-parishioners, outside the village. We are again asking all households to contribute £10 for the 12 issues of the magazine. This leads me to thank most sincerely all of our magazine deliverers for the work they do in delivering the magazine and collecting whatever payment they can!

For 11 months of the year I do the editing but am very grateful to Duncan Ferns who for many years has stood in for the September issue.

Once again we have had interesting articles in the magazine about village matters, including gardening contributions from David Hogg of Buckland Nurseries, a children's section and a puzzle corner, as well as many announcements and reports by charities and other societies.

We have 12 pages of advertising comprising 54 ads by local tradespeople and service providers, plus occasional small ads. Bernard Hawkins has responsibility for magazine advertising, conducted jointly with Betchworth, where he is ably assisted by Karen Munroe, who organises the artwork and layout. We thank them for their efforts, as well as our excellent printers, Vincent Press of Dorking.

Advertising revenue in 2018 amounted to £3,532.80 and subscriber contributions were £1,353.20. So with printing costs of £3,010.00 the magazine made a net profit of £1,876 for the year



Loving God  
Walking with Jesus  
Led by the Spirit

*Luke 24:13-35*



**BUCKLAND PAROCHIAL CHARITY**

**Ianthe Cox, clerk**

**Trustees:**

- Chairman:** Ann Adams
- Treasurer:** Philip Haynes
- Clerk:** Ianthe Cox
- Trustee:** Deborah Jones
- Co-opted:** Susan Fellows  
Liz Vahey

**The Charity**

The Buckland Parochial Charity has been operating since 1889 when it brought together the entitlement to an annual grant from The Henry Smith Charity and several small local charitable endowments. The Henry Smith Charity was founded by Henry Smith, a Salter who was born in 1545 and died in 1628. Through his trade he became very wealthy and purchased several Estates. Having no family issue he created a number of charitable trusts for the relief of the poor and needy. The Charity consists of a mixture of properties and investments and, among other beneficiaries, makes grants to over 200 Parishes. The Henry Smith Charity Trust Deed is very specific regarding how the annual grant is distributed to recipients by each parish charity and this is reflected in our own Trust Deed:

**‘The object of the Charity shall be to relieve, either generally or individually persons resident in the area of the Parish of Buckland as constituted in the year 1889, who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress’**

**‘Grants can be made either by money or providing or paying for items, services or facilities, calculated to reduce the need, hardship or distress of such persons’**

**The Trustees**

Four trustees are nominated by the Parish Council, and usually are resident in Buckland and serve for a four-year term unless appointed during such period. However, there is no requirement in the Trust Deed they have to live within the village.

In May 2019 three of the nominated Trustees are due for re-nomination or replacement. They are Ann Adams, Philip Haynes and Ianthe Cox. Additionally Debbie Jones, having been appointed in March 2017 is also due for re-nomination or replacement. All four Trustees are willing to be re-appointed and to continue in their present roles.

Two Trustees are co-opted as Trustees by the nominated Trustees and serve for a five-year term.

The Charity meets twice a year in May and November. All roles are appointed within the Charity and monetary or other distributions are agreed at these meetings. **It is important to stress that the content of these meetings is totally confidential and names of recipients are never divulged to any outside source.** It is the responsibility

of the Trustees to 'keep their ears to the ground' to identify any need within the village. The name of the Clerk and contact number is always on the back of the Parish magazine. During 2018 there were distributions in May and December to village residents plus some specific assistance for special cases. The Trustees anticipate that the Charity will continue to flourish and identify and provide assistance as it becomes apparent.

#### **BUCKLAND ONE WORLD GROUP**

#### **Jim Docking Chair**

The Buckland One World Group organises talks and entertainment to raise money to support people in under-developed countries. The Group also organises talks about other vulnerable people such as refugees. Our core charity is Money for Madagascar, which is one of the few organisations that sponsors projects to "help people help themselves" in one of the poorest countries in the world. We also support charities nominated by the speaker.

Our main event over the last twelve months was on 16th November when we were entertained by the Singing for Fun group, which presented a most enjoyable programme of popular music by the three greatest songwriters from the Golden Age of Hollywood – George Gershwin, Cole Porter and Jerome Kern. The choir, led and accompanied by Gina Easom, clearly lived up to its name since the members obviously enjoyed what they were singing and performed with great gusto. Additionally, Rose Wyatt, a most accomplished soprano soloist, gave a beautiful rendering of "Summertime" by George Gershwin.

Everyone is warmly welcome to come to any of our meetings, which are held on Friday evenings in the Reading Room, Old Road, Buckland, as announced in the parish magazines and on posters. Those who would like to be placed on our mailing list should get in touch with me at 01737 843260.

#### **CHURCH FLOWERS**

#### **Jean Cooke**

The St Mary's Flower committee is headed up by Jean Cooke.

We are very grateful to the small group of volunteer flower arrangers who maintain the floral displays in St Mary's. The Church has many visitors who appreciate the sight of a fresh arrangement by the altar. In 2018 the Church was beautifully decorated with special arrangements throughout the Church for the main Festivals; stunning displays of white lilies at Easter, a myriad of colours and a host of fresh produce for Harvest followed by very traditional red, green and gold at Christmas.

We would like to say a special thank you to Liz Caldwell, who sadly passed away in 2018. Liz helped with the floral arrangements in St Mary's for several years and made fabulous contributions to the Flower Festivals in 2012 and 2016. She will be greatly missed, her creativity and design ideas were so inspiring.

vacancy occurs, and everyone is to be congratulated.

We are indebted to Clergy and Readers from across the Deanery who have been willing to take services to a high standard. In particular I would like to commend Revd David Evans and Revd Neil Vigers, from the clergy and Anne Currie and Ann Wright from the Readers, who have been more than willing to help and whose ministry I know has been much appreciated.

It has meant that that the occasional offices of baptism, marriage and funerals have continued to be covered along with Sunday services. It has also been possible to maintain services at Broome Park Care Home and the Old Wall Nursing Home as well as home communions for the housebound alongside pastoral visiting.

In all these ways parish life is well placed and in good heart to begin an important new phase as Anna joins us. We wish her and Alistair and their family God's blessing as they move in and settle into life in Betchworth and Buckland.

## **WINTER LUNCHEAS AND LENT LUNCHEAS**

**Carol Leeds**

In 2018 the lunches took place on the second Thursday of the month starting in September and going through to Lent. They are well attended with 14 to 22 ladies and gentlemen coming from the villages of Buckland and Betchworth and friends who used to live in Buckland all coming together for lunch and a good chat. The charge for this year has been £3.50 per person for a main course, pudding and tea or coffee afterwards.

Because of everyone's generosity we always seem to make a profit. This money is then sent to Charities which have been proposed by all who come to the lunches. In June we held a Midsummer lunch which was again very well attended. Christmas lunch was a happy affair with turkey and of course all the trimmings. Thanks must go to all the helpers, Liz Vahey, Margaret & John Miller and Mary Hooper. Thanks also go to the waitresses and waiters and also the washeruppers!!!!

## **PASTORAL REPORT**

**: Interregnum**

**Canon David Eaton**

When an interregnum occurs it is a challenging time for everyone. The incumbent is no longer in place which means there is no one there as a focus of parish life and also that all the things which Carol, in this case, did behind the scenes do not get seen to.

During the interregnum at St Michael's and St Mary's, which we have shared in together, there has been a real sense of team working. Carol left the parishes in good order. It has been a tribute to all who make up and love these parishes that in many ways life has gone on as normal.

When a vacancy occurs what isn't always realised is that there are not enough clergy on the ground and sometimes parishes receive no applicants at all. We have been fortunate that this hasn't been the case here. An attractive Parish Profile compiled by both Church Councils and the careful attention of the Churchwardens has meant Revd Anna Moore will join us in April. We much look forward to her arrival. She comes strongly recommended, is likeable and concerned to develop parish life.

The Wardens from both parishes have worked well together and created a strong bond in doing so. This has helped to bring the parishes even closer and has taken forward the life we share together. The Wardens have overseen the appointment process but also made arrangements for the Induction on 10<sup>th</sup> April, which are no small tasks, as well as seen to the day to day running of church life.

Many others, too many to mention, have played a part in this and the result has been the maintenance of church life, which can have easily fall apart when a

A rota has been agreed and the committee has apportioned responsibility for the main events in 2019. If anyone is interested in arranging flowers and would also like to join the rota, they would be very welcome.

## **CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER GROUP**

**Tom Briscombe**

Contemplative prayer in the Lady Chapel continued as a 'silent' prayer initiative during 2018 and invites individuals from our joint benefice and outside the two parishes. Our prayer group meets on a Wednesday afternoon and on some Sunday's on the 4<sup>th</sup> week of the month. The first session held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018 at 4pm. (Ash Wednesday). Attendances have varied from between 2 and 8 individuals seeking to draw closer to God and to experience Christ's presence. Our last prayer session was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2018 with over 10 sessions held during the year.

We pray in the presence of many small candles that are symbols of love and hope, and of light and warmth and our sessions begin and conclude with the gentle sound of Tibetan singing bowls. We have heard excerpts from John Bell, Stuart Townsend and the poetry of Anam Cara. Hilary Ely has held the Sunday evening sessions. We continue to pray for and remember Revd Helen Burnett for her instigation of these prayer sessions.

## **CHARITIES**

### **THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY**

**Margaret Miller**

2018 has been another year when the people of Buckland and Betchworth have been very supportive of the Children's Society.

With the box holders raising £137-69p, the Christingle service, this year at St Mary's, raising £87-14p, added to the North Downs Primary School donations of £133-20p and Christmas collections from both Churches and St Mary's carol singers too, St Michael's and St Mary's understand the great need of the Children's Society in various part of this country.

Children's Society staff are able to provide mentoring and a safe contact for many young people who feel isolated and unable to cope with family disputes. They are also supporting many Young Carers, those children and young people who support and care for a family sibling or parent, and sometimes both.

If you would like to support these Children and young people, please contact me, Margaret Miller on [jma.miller@btinternet.com](mailto:jma.miller@btinternet.com) or 01737 842098, and I can provide you with a collecting Box.

## CHRISTIAN AID

**Tom Briscoombe**

Christian Aid Week was with us from 13<sup>th</sup> to 19th May and traditional door to door collections in Betchworth and further afield was most successful. The key theme in 2018 was to support the storm ravaged homes in Haiti, some 7 years on from the devastating hurricane where over 30,000 people are still displaced. New technology means disaster proof housing can now be constructed.

To further benefit the CA Charity we held a 'Big-Brekkie' on Thursday 17th May in the Reading Room Buckland. Almost 30 people attended with the first through the door at 7.30am. Traditional breakfast with Coffee, tea and juice followed. Thanks to Liz, Carol, Everett, John, Mary H, Margaret and Tom. £270 was raised including gift aid.

Grateful thanks were conveyed to all collectors and contributors during CA week with special thanks to Carol, Tom, Liz and Anne with £1,787.85 raised from our Joint Benefice.

CA activities that can be suitable for money raising initiatives – See below.

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/inyourarea/news/>

## DROP- IN TEAS IN HAMILTON ROOM

**Margaret Miller**

The Afternoon Drop-In Teas started in November 2011, with a small group of cakes and biscuit makers, assisted by washers-up and those who help set up tables and chairs, provide transport when needed, and Most Importantly make all our visitors welcome, with time to sit and chat to those who came on their own or with a friend.

Donations this year have amounted to £400.00, and have been sent to:

MacIntyre – supporting those with Learning difficulties, home for Ian Forrest.

ESDAS – East Surrey domestic abuse services

From Fear to Friend – introducing frightened children to friendly dogs.

Wayside Community – a Women's shelter in Reigate.

LeatherHead Start – a Night shelter and support in Leatherhead.

The total donations since November 2011 is an amazing £1,796.00

Thank you to all our visitors, for their generous donations.

I would like to thank all who help with the running of the Drop-In: Carol, Liz, Anne, June, Linda, and Brenda. Everett and Alice are also valued members of the team, ensuring that the Hall is clean and tidy for the next users, and John, who ensures that our 'annexed visitors' are kept supplied.

If you are in Church Street, Betchworth between 2-4pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday each month, call in at The Hamilton Room and receive a cup of tea or coffee, sample the home made cakes and biscuits and spend a while chatting to friends old and new.

in 2018 was a deficit of £3,846, compared with a surplus of £4,497 in 2017.

We have more limited plans for improvement projects in 2019 and expect to produce a modest surplus this year, assuming we are able to maintain income at or close to the recent level.

During 2018, we reached agreement with the PCC to contribute to Church funds 25% of the adjusted surplus from hire activities each year. For this purpose, the surplus is adjusted by adding back the cost of major projects such as those undertaken in 2018, in order to reduce fluctuations in our contributions. Payments will be made only if we are able to retain a Maintenance Fund of at least £10,000. A payment of £1,124 was made in relation to the 2017 accounts, and a further payment of £779 is due in respect of 2018.

Our Maintenance Fund at the end of 2018, after providing for this further payment, stood at £14,321.

I would like to record my thanks to all members of the Committee for their continued hard work and many hours behind the scenes over the past 12 months.

## ROTAS

**Philip Haynes**

**Church Service Rota** – Our thanks go to all those who participate as sidesman, intercessors and procession members. We are always happy to hear from members of the congregation who would like to participate in our services in this way. The rotas are generally prepared for four-monthly periods throughout the year so if you would like to join in and help spread the workload please let Philip Haynes know; his contact details are in the magazine.

**Brass Rota** – The brasses continue to be maintained by our splendid team of volunteers, for which we are very grateful. We would be delighted to welcome anyone who would like to join the rota; please contact Sue Haynes whose contact details are in the magazine.

## SERVERS

**Liz Vahey & Carol Leeds**

Throughout 2018, both Liz Vahey and Carol Leeds have continued to serve by assisting the clergy at the altar and feel it is a privilege to be able to serve God and the Church in this special way. The tasks we perform are to receive the Offertory, assist the presiding Priest in the preparation of the bread and wine, bear the Chalice, offer the wine to communicants and assist the Priest after communion.

We were pleased to welcome Caroline Gale as a chalice assistant who took up this role in support of Buckland St Marys. We hope she finds it very rewarding

At St Mary's we do value the opportunity to attend the cathedral at Southwark and we attended the Diocesan Servers' Festival on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

or email. One of her busiest tasks each year is producing this Annual Report. We are indebted to her for her skill and hard work.

The other major task is editing and refreshing the websites. St Michael's and St Mary's each has a separate website, but they work very much in tandem, each promoting the activities across the benefice. All special events and regular activities are publicised on the Events and Calendar pages, and each month's services can be found on the Home page. Keeping the Calendar up to date is very important, so if you plan an activity in either of the parishes, please let Christine know and she will make an entry. If you have a poster or artwork, that too can be posted on the Events page. Photos of our activities can be found in the Gallery, the current month's Pews News sheets are available to view, and there is a growing archive of parish magazines.

In 2018, St Michael's Church website received 3274 visits with 10974 pages viewed, and St Mary's 1855 visits with 5363 pages viewed.

In addition, the Parish Office has a Facebook page for the joint benefice where we publicise events and post photos and reports of happy occasions. So far, the page has 35 Followers – we should very much like that to grow. St Michael's Church also has its own Facebook page, currently with 48 Followers. Please Like or Follow us on Facebook, visit our websites, and let Christine or Hilary know if there is anything you would like to see posted there.

## READING ROOM

**Tim Howe**

Our income from lettings in 2018 was £8,040, an increase of 7% on 2017, with an additional weekly Bridge Club session and a 15% increase in casual bookings, thanks to improvements in the bookings process introduced by our Bookings Secretary, Stella Cantor. As a result, we have been able to hold regular user charges constant for a fifth successive year.

Our overall income, including the feed in tariff for our solar panels and a most welcome increase in fund raising by Tilly Mitchell through plant sales, rose to £8,650. During 2017, we had developed plans for a number of major projects: redecoration of the Reading Room, improvements to the toilets and sanding down/resealing the Reading Room floor. All these projects were completed in 2018. We also dealt with decayed timber over the storeroom at the rear of the building. The total cost of these major projects was £6,751.

Given the increased use of the building, we have increased the frequency of cleaning from once to twice each week. This, together with some other smaller expense items, increased our expenditure on routine repairs, maintenance and utilities from £3,599 to £5,536 in 2018. The result of this increased expenditure and major projects

## EDUCATION OUTREACH COMMITTEE

**Margaret Miller**

Education / Outreach committee, made up of representatives from both parishes has in 2018, chaired by Sarah Munro and with Rev David Eaton's guidance, continued to hold activities for adults and children. A talk, organised by the Parish Council and PCC, on dementia, brought in others from the villages, and provided more understanding of this condition. A day-time Lent course on The Ten Commandments was held in the Choir vestry, which then led to the Housegroup meeting later to study the Lord's Prayer. The Sunday Club leaders, Sarah, Amy and Rachel attended a Diddy Disciples training course, introducing young children to the Bible. Lent lunches, around the village, were enjoyed by many. Thank you to the hostesses. Good Friday and Easter Sunday saw a large number of visiting children who were creative in the Hamilton Room, before joining the service.

Thanks to Ginny and helpers who organised a Church Teas at Brockham Church in April. Christian Aid week, starting with a CA Breakfast in the Reading Room, thanks to Liz, Carol and Tom for organising this.

Four Angels Corner, the Children's area in St Michael's, is well used during the week by families, especially during the very hot summer as this proved to be the coolest place around.

Harvest activities were organised in the Reading Room, led by Rev Anna, with the Altar cloth made in 2017 being displayed at St Mary's with items made by the children.

Welcare Toy service and the Christingle service were well supported, and the Sunday Club Alternative Christmas Tree received a certificate and book.

We look forward to welcoming Rev Anna in 2019, and building on the contacts we have with Sunday Club and local families.

## FAIRTRADE & TRADICRAFT

**Tom Briscombe**

**FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2018 – Monday 26 February - Sunday 11 March**

**Betchworth and Buckland** joined forces with the rest of the country to help ensure a fair deal for disadvantaged farming communities by holding a **Fairtrade Sunday at Betchworth on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March during the Sunday service**. Coffee, Tea, biscuits and Fairtrade goods were available. A good contribution to Fairtrade was raised. The traditional Iris Fairtrade stall was unavailable this year, but a plentiful supply of Easter Eggs supplied by Ginny sold well. A good contribution to Fairtrade was raised. The focus this year was on the Coobana Fairtrade banana co-operative in Panama. Marcial Quintero a member of the co-operative stated that the Fairtrade system closed the door on exploitation of farmers like him and ensured that they could become entrepreneurs and not just workers.

## **FAMILY & IONA SERVICES & the Music Group**

**Tom Briscombe**

The Churches of St Michael's Betchworth and St Mary's Buckland were supported in part or throughout 2018 by the following musicians and singers: Martin Coslett - Guitar. Clara Coslett - Violin. Nikky Briscombe - Piano. Barbara Green - Piano. Chris Wheen - Piano. Mair Fairbanks - Piano. Tom Briscombe - Flute/Clarinet/Percussion. Hannah Wilson - Flute. Guest appearances: Roy Newstead Remembrance Day and various accomplished singers from both parishes. With special thanks to Richard Wheen/Jeanne Cooke and the Buckland Iona Choir. Guest Appearance: Peter Cowley - Guitar (Buckland). Jacqueline Dean - Lead Singer (Betchworth). Further thanks to all singers, woodwind and keyboard at the Christmas Crib Service.

During the course of the year over **20 services** were played or supported by the **Music Group**. We had to say farewell to Martin Coslett in March, Barbara Green and Hannah Wilson at the August IONA. Mair Fairbanks joined us in September and Chris Wheen in July.

**Buckland St Mary's: (14) Services:** Joint Family: 18/02-JF 15/04-JF 21/10-JF 16/12-JF

**Some Special Services** included:

Passion Sunday - 18th March (Betchworth)

Christian Aid Week - 13th May (Buckland)

Messy Church - 6th October (Reading Room)

Christingle - 16th December (Buckland)

Remaining **(10) Services Buckland** were **IONA** based. 14/01 - 11/02 - 08/04 - 13/05 - 10/06 - 08/07 - 12/08 - 09/09 - 14/10 - 09/12

**Betchworth St Michael's: (6) Family Services:**

21<sup>st</sup> Jan - Joint Family, 18<sup>th</sup> March - Joint Family, 20<sup>th</sup> May - Joint Family, 17<sup>th</sup> June - Joint Family, 15<sup>th</sup> July - Joint Family, 18<sup>th</sup> November - Joint Family (Toy Service).

## **FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S**

The committee is made up as follows:

Chair - Roger Daniell;

Treasurer - Simon Thomas;

Secretary - Richard Wheen;

PCC member - Rosey Davy

Duncan Ferns

Resilience and Trust'. Our pupils have enjoyed her Harvest assemblies too and we are very grateful to her for accepting Reverend Coslett's request to support our school in this way.

At North Downs we believe it is important for our children to gain an appreciation of the lives of children who are not so fortunate. The members of our school community have been very active in their fundraising this school year and since September we have raised funds for three charities; Save the Children, Children in Need and Cancer Research UK - raising a staggering total so far of £5,2971.

I very much appreciate our links with our local churches and look forward to continuing our work together in the future.

## **ORGAN & CHOIR**

**Melvin Hughes, Director of Music**

St Mary's Choir is small in number but serves an invaluable function in leading the main liturgical Services at Buckland.

For the Service of Nine Lessons with Carols (20 December), an augmented Choir of friends and supporters were able to enhance the familiar Readings and seasonal Carols with selected Choral items. These included 'Adam lay ybounden' by Boris Ord, 'The Colours of Christmas' and 'The holly and the ivy' by John Rutter, 'In the bleak midwinter' by Mack Wilberg

An Organ Committee, comprising representatives of the PCC, St Mary's Friends and the Organist is now actively pursuing the restoration of the pipe organ with the assistance of a professional organ adviser available on request. The total cost of the project has been scoped, plans are being made to raise the necessary funds (including applications to grant making bodies) and the process of securing a faculty for the work commenced. It is hoped that the organ can be put back into full working order sooner rather than later.

## **PARISH OFFICE/WEBSITE**

**Hilary Ely**

Christine Deards, the Parish Administrator, operates the Parish Office for the joint benefice in the Buckland Reading Room, on Mondays and Wednesdays, providing invaluable support for all our parish worship and activities.

The Parish Office is kept busy with the regular work of creating the weekly Pews News, drafting and producing special orders of service, printing out and distributing music lists and rotas. Every month there is a flurry of activity around the time of the Parish Magazine deadline, to make sure that all the church notices and reports are sent in on time. In addition, Christine prepares and prints publicity for our special occasions and events, and fields enquiries made to the parishes by phone

Our themes this year have included: Ourselves; Traditional stories and rhymes; Mick Inkpen Books and the books of Julia Donaldson.

We also had a 'Grandparents Week' and were delighted to welcome many grandparents into the Nursery to come and play.

We had our traditional visits to the Church at Easter and Christmas and are grateful to the church ladies who provided refreshments for the children and their parents on these occasions. We also collected provisions for Welcare at Harvest Festival and, in the absence of a Rector, Anne Forrest kindly read us a Harvest Story. We look forward to welcoming our new Rector in the Spring and wish her well in her new post in our beautiful village.

#### **BETCHWORTH & BUCKLAND TODDLER GROUP**                      **Debbie Jones**

The group is on a Tuesday morning 10 - 12 at £2 per family. All are welcome including mums, dads, grandparents and childminders. We have a different craft activity every week - these have included painting, colouring, gluing, sticking and seasonal card making. There is a baby corner, ride on area and yummy and healthy snacks for both adults and children. We finish with a story and songs. At Christmas we all went into the church and the Churchwarden told us the nativity story and lead the singing. We also entered a tree in the Betchworth Alternative Christmas Tree festival. Our tree was decked with pine cone decorations that the children had made – and we won!!

Numbers fluctuate as children leave us to go on to nursery but numbers have again built and we have a small but loyal following. The children and carers particularly like that we are a bit smaller (and friendlier) than many other groups.

#### **NORTH DOWNS PRIMARY SCHOOL**                      **Jane Douglass, Headteacher**

I find it hard to believe that I am now half way through my fourth year as Headteacher at North Downs; it continues to be something which I consider a great privilege. One thing I value greatly is the close links North Downs School has with our churches at Brockham and Betchworth. Once again, our Reception children from both Brockham and Betchworth attended a Christingle service at St Michael's and we also held our very popular carol service at Christ Church in Brockham, led by lay preacher Jacqueline Dean. In addition, our Infant Christmas nativities were held in our beautiful Churches and it was wonderful that so many families and friends were able to join us.

Since Reverend Carol Coslett's departure, Venerable Moira Astin has joined us at each of our school sites, leading interesting and thought-provoking assemblies, often linked to our Whole School Values; 'Care, Respect Honesty, Freedom,

In general, committee meetings are held quarterly, following the Parochial Church Council meetings, so that consideration can be given to any requests for financial assistance with Church maintenance needs. Our members currently number around 135. Subscriptions during the year amounted to some £1736 supplemented by a private donation of £1750 and a donation from B&B society of £600. We are grateful to all our members for supporting us in 2018 and hope that they will continue to do so in 2019.

The only fund-raising event during the year was an Open Gardens event in July, kindly organised by Duncan Ferns. This raised £1450, which was divided equally with the PCC. Our finances are currently in a healthy state and sufficient to cope with the regular demands made by the church for repairs etc. We must, however, continue to raise money when we can, particularly in the light of the latest quinquennial report. We hope to be able to help subsidise the cost of repairs to the organ and will assess the position when this is known. Meanwhile we gave some £1960 to the PCC during the year for items including organ maintenance, churchyard tree work, the new church sign by the main gate and one half of the cost of the quinquennial inspection.

#### **Buckland Rainbows and Brownies**                      **Jane Stewart**

Buckland Rainbows meet on Monday evenings and run for girls aged between 5 and 7 years of age. Rainbows are all about the girls developing self-confidence, building friendships, learning new things and having fun. The girls get their hands dirty with arts and crafts and are able to get in touch with nature and play games, sing and cook.

Every term, the Rainbows work towards earning their Rainbow Jigsaw, which covers four areas: **looking** at both the local environment and the wider world, **learning** through crafts, cooking, games and visits, **laughing** and having fun and showing **love** by caring and sharing, working together and helpful to others.

The highlight of the year was when the girls were invited to attend Bazzaz by the Beavers section of Surrey Scouts. The girls had a brilliant sunny day at Merrist Wood, with 3,000 other youngsters and spent the day playing games, making crafts and trying out enormous bouncy castles.

Buckland Brownies meet on Monday evenings and is for girls aged between 7 and 10. Brownies is all about introducing the girls to the world of new opportunities, challenges and fun. As the Brownies come from several different local schools, it is good to see them form friendships, which will hopefully last throughout their Guiding life and beyond. The Brownies learn new hobbies, get creative, explore other cultures and have outdoor adventures.

This year we held a sleepover at The Reading Room and the Brownies decided that they wanted a Unicorn event. We spent the evening making unicorn crafts, cookies and playing unicorn games. In the morning, having made a packed lunch, the girls followed the Greensands Way from Buckland into Reigate Priory, where the girls were able to picnic and play before they were met by their parents.

It would be lovely if anyone has any hobbies, craft skills or pastimes that they would like to share with us on a Monday evening

## **HARVEST CELEBRATIONS**

**Carol Leeds**

On Sunday the 7th October 2018 after our Harvest Festival service in the beautifully decorated St. Mary's Church, For the first time we held a Harvest coffee morning. Tea and coffee was available served with toasted teacakes, toast and lots of cakes and goodies made by our group of cake makers. What will it be for 2019? Harvest coffee morning, lunch or supper. We need a team to put their thinking caps on!! If you can help please let us know.

## **HOME COMMUNIONS/PARISH VISITING**

**Carol Leeds**

Every month we have visited a small number of residents at the Old Wall Cottage and conducted a small service of either Holy Communion or a Songs of Praise. We also visit Broome Park once a month giving Communion to about 20 ladies and gentlemen. These services are led by Revd. David Eaton with Julie Hardy playing the piano for hymns. Ginny Eaton, Carol Leeds Liz Vahey are there to sing and help in the giving of Communion. The Sacrament is also taken to people in the villages who are unable to attend Church. Pastoral visits have also been undertaken to those in hospital or care homes. Thanks must go to John and Margaret Miller who have been a great support in pastoral visiting. June Letheren is also a telephone contact for anyone who has need for a car to church or visiting.

## **Sunday Club**

**Sarah Munro & Amy Jago**

Sunday Club has been moving along steadily in 2018 with a small but dedicated group of parents who take it in turns to run craft activities and stories in the Hamilton Room on the first Sunday of every month, after which we join the service in time for communion. We are currently looking at ways to boost numbers because there are certain occasions during the year (particularly when there are a larger number of visiting children due to a baptism) when we have much greater attendance and it would be nice to encourage more of those families to attend more regularly. We try to mirror occasions in the church calendar as inspiration for our Sunday Club activities and this often ties in with what the children have been learning at school/ clubs and enables them to be familiar when the story is retold in church.

We attended a training session on "Diddy Disciples" and were pleased to be able to purchase those resource books which are excellent for helping to plan the Sunday Club activities.

We have also had a small number of events aimed at children from the parish and surrounding area, although the number of these was scaled back in 2018 to enable the small group of volunteers to cover these events. We are very grateful indeed for those who support these events, from providing craft supplies to supervising enthusiastic children! We held craft activities during the service on Easter Day and the children proudly paraded their Easter bonnets when they rejoined the service. We also held a Messy Harvest activity session in the Reading Room in September, with some impressive handmade results!

We also try to ensure that the are included in wider church events such as preparing an entry for the Alternative Christmas Tree festival and showing their artwork or selling biscuits we have made. This helps, we hope, to bridge the gap between the older and younger members of the congregations and we are very grateful that the children are always made to feel so welcome.

## **NURSERY AND PRE-SCHOOL GROUPS**

**BETCHWORTH & BUCKLAND CHILDREN'S NURSERY** **Alison Higgins, Chair**

In June 2018 we celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a Garden Party on the school field attended by present and former members of staff, pupils and friends. It was great to see so many 'old faces' and we took a photo of children who had attended the Nursery over the years, including some of the first children in the nursery 25 years ago, some of whom now have children of their own! There was lots of reminiscing over old photo albums accompanied by tea, cake and Pimms and it was good to see the younger children playing on the bouncy castle and enjoying the entertainment which was laid on.

During the year the children have visited Broome Park on several occasions for music sessions and singing as well as an Easter Egg hunt (organized by Broome Park for the Nursery) and a visit at Christmas when the children took along star biscuits and a decoration for their tree.

Being a rural Nursery, we like to take advantage of our local environment and have watched the farmer ploughing the field and cutting the hedges. We have also seen the new born calves and cows in the field on our regular nature walks.