

# APCM 2016

---

## 24 APRIL, 12:00

---

GIVING THANKS FOR WHAT HAS BEEN  
WELCOMING WHAT IS TO COME

## CONTENTS

|                                   |                       |    |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|----|
| Vicar's Report                    | Hugh Nelson           | 3  |
| Alpha                             | Ali Williams          | 6  |
| Bellringing                       | Rosemary Southon      | 7  |
| Benefice Office                   | Becky Addis           | 7  |
| Child Protection                  | Andrea Kirkby         | 7  |
| Children, Young People & Families | Hugh Nelson           | 8  |
| Choir and Music                   | Angela Pakenham-Walsh | 10 |
| Church Cleaners                   | Sue Crookall          | 11 |
| Churches Together                 | Sheila Klopper        | 12 |
| Church Flowers                    | Judith Farnfield      | 12 |
| Church Room                       | Brian Ferdinando      | 13 |
| Deanery Synod                     | Hugh Nelson           | 14 |
| Friends of St. Mary's             | Andrea Kirkby         | 15 |
| Goudhurst & Kilndown School       | Lindsay Roberts       | 16 |
| Lend with Care                    | Rosemary Southon      | 20 |
| Parish Magazine                   | David Denton          | 20 |
| P.C.C.                            | Jill Dunstall         | 21 |
| Prayer and Study Fellowship       | Patrice Springett     | 21 |
| Small Groups                      | Ali Williams          | 22 |
| Swattenden Centre                 | Val Lodge             | 23 |

## VICAR'S REPORT TO THE APCM

### Looking back

2015 was another wonderful year for the church community at St Mary's. We continued to grow in faith and in numbers, people were called to explore new ways of serving the church and society, we tried new things out and we continued to do what we have always done - to gather for worship, to pray, to serve our communities, to share God's love and to discover it for ourselves. For all this, and for so much more, we are deeply grateful.



At the APCM in 2015 we said that our theme for the year would be *God's Calling*, and that we would encourage everyone in the church community to spend time discovering what God might be asking them to do in his service. Over the year we have preached on the subject, ran a 6 week evening course, encouraged people to try new things out and prayed for one another. And we have seen more people doing more for God and for their neighbours, as well as greater involvement in church life.

In addition, our priorities for the year focussed on expanding our administrative and leadership capacity, to enable us to grow more. Becky Addis took up a new Church Administrator post, following Rosemary Southon's retirement early in 2015. She has quickly become an essential part of the church leadership, and has freed me up to concentrate on other areas of church life. Becky, Kev and I meet every fortnight as a Staff Team to plan day to day church life.

In the summer, when Dave Lodge took up the Treasurer role, Becky added extra hours and took up the book keeper role as well. This is also working very well.

The new Preaching, Teaching and Discipleship team has oversight over all our teaching, and meets at least termly to look at sermon themes, small groups and extra teaching groups. We have tried to set up a team to look after hospitality and welcome, but have not been able to find a leader yet. This is an ongoing priority for us.

Other teams have responsibility for our giving to charity, our finances and our work with children and young people. A new Property Team, with responsibility for the care of the church building, has just begun work. This will be chaired by Richard Hillier, to whom I am very grateful.

## Looking ahead

This work of growing our leadership capacity will continue this year with the appointment of 2 new Church Wardens, who will carry these critical roles in a new way. They will not be responsible for many of the traditional tasks associated with the Church Warden, including preparing for services, the day to day running of the church community or the care of the church building. Instead they will focus on church vision and strategy, working closely with Hugh and the PCC to enable and lead the church into ongoing growth. I cannot fully say how grateful I am to Angela and Tim for their leadership over the last 7 years, but I cannot think of two better people to take on the Church Warden role at this new stage in our life than Ali Williams and Simon Taurins, and I ask you to join me in praying for them.

As Ali and Simon take up these roles, we look forward to an exciting 12 months with two key areas that we will focus on.

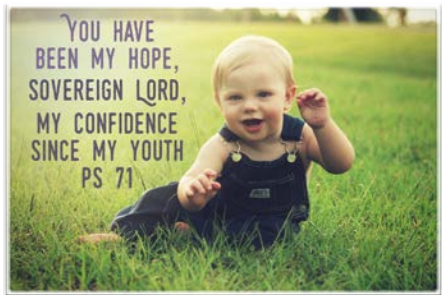
## Children, young people and families

The first has come upon us unexpectedly. As we have encouraged everyone to consider the calling that God might be making to them, we have discerned a calling for us as a whole church. We have become increasingly clear that God is calling us to a bold vision of growth, particularly focussed on our ministry to children, young people and their families. Between 2004-2014 the national church saw a drop of 10% in church attendance by children. Between 2009-2014 Canterbury Diocese saw a drop of 12.5%. Between 2010 and 2015 St Mary's has seen an increase of more than 300%.

The PCC has spent time considering what this call might be, and we have defined our vision for this ministry like this:

*To follow the call that God has laid upon us to build community with the children and young people of the local villages and their families, to introduce them to Jesus Christ, offer them the opportunity to commit their lives to him and equip them to live as disciples who know they are loved by God and are open to the Holy Spirit.*

Psalms 71 says 'You have been my hope, Sovereign Lord, my confidence since my youth'. We want to grow a community of children and young people who one day will look back at their life, and say the same. We believe that we have been given everything we need to do this work and that this is the call that God had made to us.



We believe that this call requires us to invest significantly in our ministry with children and young people and to look to grow this area of church life, and to

have high expectations for what God might do. We have defined 6 priority areas which will need attention and work, including giving love and attention to our Sunday Club leaders, who are the key to everything we do with children and young people.

One practical way in which we will invest in this work is to set up a new post for someone to work full time (or more than one person to work part time) for the church with children, young people and their families in a new way. We are working on a detailed plan to make all of this a reality, and I am very happy to tell anyone interested more.

This work with children and young people will only affect some people in the church - and much of the work will go on behind the scenes. The second priority for this year though is for the whole church community.

### **Love much, love well**

Just as we concentrated last year on *God's Calling* and in 2014 on *Getting to know God and each other better*, this year we are also offering a whole church theme for the year - *Love Much, Love Well*. This phrase is taken from St Paul's letter to the Philippians. In the Message translation, the verse reads



*“So this is my prayer: that your love will flourish and that you will not only love much but well. Learn to love appropriately. You need to use your head and test your feelings so that your love is sincere and intelligent, not sentimental gush. Live a lover’s life, circumspect and exemplary, a life Jesus will be proud of: bountiful in fruits from the soul, making Jesus Christ attractive to all, getting everyone involved in the glory and praise of God.”*

This is a wonderful description of how to serve God and his people. We want to love our neighbours in a way that Jesus will be proud of, making Jesus attractive by loving those around us in sincere and intelligent ways, and getting everyone involved in the glory and praise of God.

And so we will encourage everyone in church to consider who they could particularly ‘love much and love well’ for the next 12 months - certainly with prayer, perhaps with practical help, maybe with an invitation to Cafe Toddlers or a church service or Alpha. We will invite everyone to commit to loving a small group of people - probably no more than 4 or 5 - for a whole year, and to see what emerges.

And just imagine what might happen. There are about 170 people who are part of the wider church community. If every one of them prayed consistently for 4 or 5

people for a year - for their neighbours, the person they see in the shop every day, the Mum who always looks a bit lonely in the playground, the kids that play outside your house at the weekend - just imagine what God could do.

The picture of St Mary's as a light on the hill is one that many people have talked about recently, especially following the 24 hours of prayer. That image is important. We want the church to be a bright light in our communities, shining out with the goodness and love of God, but we don't just want the light to stay on the hill. We also want it to go out into our streets and schools, our shops and homes. And that means each one of us taking the light with us - the light by which we can 'Love much and love well'.

Jesus said, *'To everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded'*. We have been given much, and we want to make the very best of those blessings.

Please pray for us all as we step out in faith and hope to love much and to love well to the glory of our great God.

God bless

*Hugh*

## **ALPHA**

Alpha this year has once again been extremely well supported, with guest numbers settling at about 45, and 25 leaders and helpers.

In light of the feedback from last year and our awareness that the kitchen team performed well beyond the call of duty, the food for this year has been supplied by a local outside caterer who has been most generous and flexible in catering for our needs. This has worked well and meant that Alpha this year has been something that can be enjoyed by all who have wanted to participate, without being a burden for others. Having said that, the whole event couldn't possibly take place without the tireless effort and dedication from all the leaders, helpers, welcomers, speakers, and some guests who participate in the setting up, taking down, washing, suppling, baking, flower arranging – the list goes on.

The format this year has changed slightly in as much as we have used live speakers for the talks each week. The majority of these have been from our own community, with two or three exceptions. This has meant that the course feels fresh for those attending a second time, as well as enabling guests to feel the content is relevant to us and the environment we live in.

Having the village hall full and buzzing on a Tuesday night in winter, full of people from all walks of life coming together in their search or in their joy of knowing Jesus Christ is tremendous, and something to be celebrated.

*Ali Williams*

## **BELLRINGING**

Ringling continues in much the same state as last year. Visiting ringers are always welcome particularly on a practice evening when their expertise can be utilised. We rely very much on members of the band who live outside the village leaving us with only just enough ringers from the village. We have 1 senior person learning to handle a bell and 1 junior who is learning through the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. Also not to be forgotten are the “mini” ringers (under 11 years old) who arrive on a Sunday morning to ring the 5 minute bell s(s). More recently we were saddened to learn of the death of Alan Kemp, our most senior member of the band.

*Rosemary Southon*

## **BENEFICE OFFICE**

Life in the Benefice Office is extremely busy but great fun. I am now working 17 hours a week which I work over Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings. There are lots of different parts to my job but here is an idea about a few things that I do. I spend my time working on the weekly email that people receive on a Wednesday morning, the weekly sheet for Sunday mornings, helping with the administration involved in weddings, baptisms and funerals, preparing information for the Parish magazine on a monthly basis and also organising all the rotas for our Sunday morning services, which as our congregation continues to grow involves more and more people. There are also other events that need organising, for example the Big Church Day Out, the annual cricket match and our new Film Afternoons in the school holidays. I have also taken on the book-keeping side of the church accounts which amongst other things involves paying all the invoices. We have also started something new called ‘Tea at The Vicarage’ which happens twice a term to welcome new people into the church. I have to organise the invites and then rally together a team of people to prepare cakes, sandwiches and flowers – I’m always on the look-out for people to help with the baking, so please do get in touch if you are able to help – the teas are a fantastic way to make people feel welcome and also introduce them to some ‘older’ faces in the church. I’m also part of the staff team that meets every other Tuesday morning to plan future. I’m so grateful to everyone for their kindness and generosity when I’m asking for their help with various things. I absolutely love coming to work and being part of God’s work here in Goudhurst and Kildown.

*Becky Addis*

## **CHILD PROTECTION AND SUNDAY CLUB**

During the past year I have carried out various DBS checks including Arabella Hastie, Freya Dawes, Natalie Garstang, Harriet Stanford and Emma Sibree, who have all kindly offered to join the Sunday Club team.

In June I attended a training session in Canterbury to ensure that we were up to date with our procedures. The recruitment process we currently use meets all the Diocese's stipulations. The Guidance Notes we use are very competent and only needed a few minor alterations. The Diocese now stress that all these procedures must be followed for anyone wishing to be involved with Sunday Club.

This year we renamed the groups and changed some of the ages in an attempt to make the numbers more manageable.

Creche continues to grow in the Children's chapel. Most parents go into the Creche with their children but a few stay in the service.

Climbers and Pathfinders have now been using the Village Hall for over a year and the venue works well. The Climbers meet in the Jessel room as they are the smaller group and Pathfinders have the use of the hall. Due to the size of the Pathfinders group (sometimes as many as 18) it has been necessary to, wherever possible, have an additional helper. Two of our older Explorers group have kindly offered to be the second helper, which is much appreciated.

The Pioneers meet in the Vicarage and have been doing Youth Alpha for the past term and the Explorers meet in the Church Rooms.

The leadership team meet on a regular basis and are continually monitoring each group to ensure that there are sufficient helpers and leaders and will make any changes necessary should they become too large.

*Andrea Kirkby  
CPO St Mary's*

## **CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES**

When people first come to a service at St Mary's, one of the first things they comment on is the number of children and teenagers in church. These children are one of our greatest blessings - especially at a time when the Church as a whole is seeing a worrying drop in engagement from young people. We are currently averaging 60 to 65 children at Sunday Club each week which is an increase from 45 last year.

Over the summer last year we reviewed our vision at Sunday Club, as well as the make up of our groups.

We concluded that we want the the same for our children and young people as we want for everyone in church, which is:

for them to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ, who know they are loved by God and are open to the Holy Spirit.



In order to do this well we know we need:

1. To provide age appropriate groups in which the children and young people can pray, learn, worship and grow in friendship.
2. To equip our leaders and helpers to grow in their faith and in their abilities to lead their groups, recognising the importance of our children having adult models and mentors whose faith is alive and whose lives point towards Jesus.
3. To recognise that every child is at a different point in their faith journey, and that we need to support them where they are at.
4. To see Sunday Club as one element of a child's growth in faith and to support families in the crucial role that they play.
5. To see Sunday Club as equivalent to the small groups in adult church - as crucial places of prayer, learning and fellowship - which are part of the whole church community.
6. To find ways and places in which the children and young people can receive from and contribute to the life of the whole church community.

We now run 5 groups for different age groups, starting with Scramblers for children aged 0-5. This group started in September and has been very successful in supporting parents with small children to be able to join the adult service.

Climbers is for children in Years 1 to 4 (ages 6 to 9). Pathfinders, which was also started in September, is for Years 5 and 6. These two groups meet in the Village Hall. Pioneers is for Years 7 and 8. They meet in The Vicarage and have been doing Youth Alpha for the last few months. This has been very successful with this large group of twelve and thirteen year olds. Our older teenagers meet at Explorers in the Church Room.

We have run extra sessions for Explorers, focussing on some of the very real challenges and issues that they face in day to day life, including relationships.

Our Youth Group meets every fortnight in term time for Secondary school aged children, running a variety of activities and sessions around the villages and further afield.

Our involvement with the Primary School is significant. Hugh and Kev continue to take Collective Worship at the Primary School every week, as well as a weekly 'Tuesday Club' which uses Godly Play to explore the bible and faith. In addition we ran a Lent group for Year 5, sessions on Holy Communion with Year 6 and regular tours around the church for different classes. The school come to the church for services throughout the year and, until Jeffrey left, the school choir came to sing at the Family Services once a term.

Hugh also takes assemblies at Bethany school and Marlborough House as well as visiting Little Squirrels and Goudhurst pre schools.

Cafe Toddlers continues to be a crucial part of our provision for children and families, and you can read a report from them elsewhere.

As you can read in the Vicar's report, the PCC is clear that we are called to grow this area of our ministry and to invest significant resources in our work with children, young people and families. We look forward to everything that the Holy Spirit will do over the next 12 months.

*Hugh Nelson*

## **CHORAL MUSIC AT ST. MARY'S, GOUDHURST**

It was with great sadness that the choir and congregation said goodbye to our Director of Music and Organist, Jeffrey Gray, at Christmas 2015.

Jeffrey was with us for just over three years, and during that time coached and inspired the resident St. Mary's Choir, made successful inroads to the musical input at our Primary School, and enthusiastically encouraged the formation of a band. Jeffrey also persuaded a loyal quartet of choristers from Rochester Cathedral to join our monthly Evensongs, producing music of an extremely high calibre on the second Sunday evening of each month. There were occasions when the choir members outnumbered the congregation!

The choir, and augmented choir, were extremely grateful to Jeffrey for his time, dedication and energy, and it is proving extremely difficult to find a replacement for him.

Since the New Year, the services in the Benefice have been rearranged to provide a warmer welcome for young families and Sunday Clubs. The Band has grown in size and confidence with the help of Wes and Wendy who lead the congregations on the First and Third Sundays in the month in modern worship songs.

The Choir sing on the First and Third Sundays of the month at Christ Church, Kilndown and at the more traditional Sung Eucharist services on the Second and Fourth Sundays of the month at St. Mary's, Goudhurst. These services include traditional four hymns, sung Mass and an Anthem.

On the Fourth Sunday we are continuing the tradition started by Jeffrey, of attracting an "augmented" choir i.e. singers from afar a field as Hastings and Tenterden who come to sing with us, more challenging music in Cathedral choir style.

## **NEW DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST**

With this new arrangement of services, we are now looking for a Director of Music and Organist at St. Mary's who may only be able to take the choir for two Sundays a month at St. Mary's, although ideally we would like them to be with us for all four. In the meantime, we are relying on the kind and able support of organists both in the Parish and local, with the back up of David Denton from

Christ Church, Kilndown.

Our weekly choir practices continue at St. Mary's at 10am with the kind help of David Denton.

The Easter services were enhanced by Jeffrey kindly returning to take the Good Friday and Easter Eve services, together with much augmented choirs, which proved very moving and beautiful.

### **CRIE DE COEUR**

It is vital that the choir holds together during this period of musical upheaval and interregnum, but with older members of the choir less inclined to attend the early 9.15 services at Kilndown, especially in the winter months, it is important that we encourage new singers to join us. We also lose a couple of singers to the Family Service to sit with their little ones.

We know that there are good voices and singers in the congregations at both Churches and would ask that they really consider giving of their talents and joining our very friendly and welcoming choir. Whatever the commitment, even if it is only one Sunday a month or so, would be very much appreciated by the choir; it is fun and there is a great sense of camaraderie and joyful worship in the choir vestry!

### **CHURCH CLEANERS**

Since last year Julie Blackford plus a friend have changed their times to 3.5 hours per week in term time and 2.5 in holidays, when there are no Café Toddlers. In this time Julie aims to do: Children's Room, toilets, porch including doors (washed completely when time and weather allow), hard flooring between doors and pews are always washed; brown porch carpet, blue carpet right through; kitchen; tidy and pick up litter between pews. When necessary they sweep or Hoover between pews and wash all aisles. If time allows they dust all information tables around. They generally do this on Tuesdays, to fit around their other workloads.

Other cleaning still takes place during the week before specific Sundays. The Wives Group have redeployed themselves to take part in these areas, rather than the back which is now covered by Julie and so they now cover the Bedgebury Chapel, blue carpet in Chancel and Sanctuary and Choir Vestry on a weekly basis. Brass cleaning is undertaken by 2 ladies once a month and another who faithfully does her stint in her own time.

With so much activity now going on in our church, just general tidying and cleaning up has become more demanding. General help from the congregation after services would be welcomed.

We are grateful to the PCC for their help in employing Julie.

Many Thanks to you all.

*Sue Crookall 211710*

## **THE CHURCHES TOGETHER**

For more than 20 years, members of the Anglican and Catholic Churches in Goudhurst and Kilndown have worked and prayed together, with the guidance and encouragement of their Parish Priests, in order to share as far as we can the Faith we have in common, and in our own small way, to help the Churches to grow closer together. This year we were very pleased to welcome a new member to the group from the Sacred Heart, Peter Albertini.

Over the past year, we have followed our now traditional shared services, on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Easter Eve and Ascension Day. We have also offered a free lunch of soup, bread and cheese on each Saturday in Lent, provided by teams from the two Churches. Donations this year came to £349, which will go to help support the work with unaccompanied immigrants at Swattenden. Our joint Lent study groups this year were based on the Pope's recent encyclical "Laudato" whose theme was "care for our common home".

Everything we do together is a sign of our existing friendship, and a commitment to Jesus' prayer that his followers will be One Church.

*Sheila Kloppe*

## **CHURCH FLOWERS GROUP**

We are grateful to our team of volunteer flower arrangers who have kept the flowers at St Mary's looking so good month by month throughout the past year.

We were particularly pleased to be able to put on a wonderful display of lilies at Easter and thanks are due to all those who contributed so generously to the Easter Lilies fund. We plan a good display in Church at Harvest.

We welcome anybody who would like to volunteer to join our friendly group. You do not have to be an expert flower arranger and we find that it is very satisfying to care for our Church in this way. Mostly we work in teams of two and each team is allocated about 2 to 4 weeks a year to 'do' the flowers. If you would like to be involved, even in a small way, do please put your name on the rota which is on the Bread Tomb in Church. Call Judith Farnfield (01580 211457) if you would like to know more.

Judith would like to retire from her role of organising the flower ladies rota. It has been very satisfying and enjoyable but after more than 15 years or so she feels she should hand over the baton. She is looking for a volunteer. Meanwhile she will of course continue to do her share of arrangements on the rota.

Meanwhile the Group would like to pay tribute to the commitment and enthusiasm of Angie Withers who will soon be moving away from the Parish. Thank you Angie for all the good teamwork over the years and the wonderful arrangements you produced for our beautiful Church.

*Judith Farnfield*

## **CHURCH ROOM REPORT TO A.P.C.M. 2016**

### ***Maintenance***

The surface of the disabled ramp at the main door was breaking up and has had to be resurfaced costing £516. The contractors have advised that the break up was caused by the use of salt on the ramp during icing conditions, users have been told of this and to use alternatives such as builders sand.

Upholstery on the 50 Room chairs have been cleaned at a cost of £100.

The car park adjacent to the Room has been resurfaced at a cost of £3180.72. This car park is for the use of visitors to the burial ground and not for the exclusive use of Church Room users.

Generally the building appears to be in fair condition but the brickwork will need re-pointing fairly soon.

### ***Finance***

I am pleased to report that the receipts and payments account for January to December 2015 shows a surplus of £6039.64 of income over expenditure for that year. However, despite strenuous efforts by Rosemary, we have been unable to obtain arrears of £516 from the K.C.C. for Room rental by the Youth group and they have been advised that the room will not be available to them in the future unless they pay up.

*Brian Ferdinando. 5th April 2016*

### ***Goudhurst Pre-School***

During 2015 Goudhurst Village Pre-school has gone from strength to strength. January saw the introduction of Monday to Friday afternoon sessions that included half an hour stints of signing, cookery, French and Spanish, as well as a 'playdate' with the Reception Class at Goudhurst and Kilndown Primary School on the last Friday of every month which proved to be very popular, especially among those children who were soon to leave at the end of the Summer Term and who relished an opportunity to experience 'big school'.

Numbers of attendees increased throughout the year and at their height totalled 46. Leavers were somewhat satisfactorily replaced by new attendees at the start of the academic year with children joining us in spurts until the end of the year.

Fundraising events for 2015 included a Quiz Night, the village fete, a Sponsored Go Ape Fancy Dress, a Halloween Party and there was also the annual Nativity Pageant at St Mary's Church.

Two staff left in July to further their careers and were replaced by two new members in September. At the same time, another part-time member of staff increased their hours and an apprentice was taken on, increasing the staff to a collective of 6. All staff are undergoing additional training to further their personal development and improve the overall calibre of the pre-school. One new member of staff is a trained ballet teacher and so we were able to offer mini-ballet sessions as an afternoon past time to replace Spanish which we hope to reintroduce in 2016.

The pre-school is financially stable, morale is high and positive feedback abounds. Projects for 2016 include a vegetable patch, a 'woodland experience area' and there is an urgent need for an awning to provide protection against the elements during outside activities, especially the forthcoming sunshine in the summer months.

*Alison Clarke*

*Chair/Trustee Goudhurst, Village Pre-school.*

## **WEALD DEANERY SYNOD**

Goudhurst and Kilndown churches are part of the Weald Deanery - the local grouping of Anglican Churches. The Deanery Synod is the local level at which church communities can contribute to shaping the direction and policy of the Church of England. Rev Ali Duguid, the Vicar of Marden, is the Area Dean, and works closely with the Lay Chair, Sandra Marsh from St Dustan's, to lead the Deanery.

We have defined the purpose of the Deanery as:

*To work together for the growth of the Kingdom in the Weald*

The specific priorities for the Deanery are under review at the moment and will be approved at Deanery Synod later this year.

The Deanery will become increasingly important as the level at which local churches are supported by the Diocese. Our Deanery remains healthy and supports a proportionally high number of clergy per church - this is likely to change over the next 5 to 10 years, as a national shortage of clergy kicks in, and as church groupings are reconfigured.

We should have 2 Deanery representatives, who take part in decision making for the Church of England in this area. At present Jane Wickham represents us, and I am very grateful to her for doing so. If you are interested in getting involved with the church in this way, please let me know.

*Rev Hugh*

## FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

Membership is currently at 144 members.

At this year's AGM Andy Payne stepped down as our Treasurer as he has now moved away to Lymington. David Nichol has taken over the position on a temporary basis and therefore, we are actively looking for a new Treasurer to take on the role on a permanent basis. Over the past couple of years Andy has worked very hard in computerising and updating our membership list and has made the job of Treasurer a lot less onerous. Andy has very kindly offered to continue maintaining the website for us. Gill Wallis-Hosken also joined our Committee.

In April we organised a working party to tidy up the south side of the Church and to keep up the work we started last year. We are planning to make this an annual if not bi-annual event. Thanks to everyone who attended.

Our fund raising began last year at the Village Fete. Once again we had our "Human Fruit Machine" and "Guess the Wine". Both have proven themselves as very popular in the past. We raised £278.40 at the Fete.

Andrea Kirkby hosted a "Vintage Garden Tea Party" one hot, sunny afternoon in late June. The weather was on our side, if anything perhaps a little too hot! We then made afternoon tea for over 60 guests to eat whilst enjoying the sunshine in the garden of Grand View. One person said it was better than Tea at the Ritz, a lot to live up to! We raised over £850.

In late November we held our Christmas Fair and Village Night. Again most businesses opened later, Nick Seymour brought his Street Organ and there was a very festive atmosphere in the Village. The Goudhurst and Kilndown Primary School and the Kilndown Community Choir once again sang for us. Nearly £2500 was raised which was an excellent result.

A big thank you to those of you who hosted a Carol party and thank you once again to Jill Dunstall who co-ordinates the evenings for us. A total of £1072 was raised over the various evenings.

Many of you will already have seen our lovely new brochure. We have cut down on the wording and produced a completely new design. We have had 1000 printed and intend to actively start recruiting new members.

This year our fund raising item was a Jute Bag. We decided to use the Village sign as the picture on the bag. We purchased 750 and so far they are selling very well. Thanks to Donald Sargeant and Carol Buckland who both worked very hard producing the design for the bag.

As of Easter this year the Friends have taken over running the tower opening. However, the rota for the next three months still has many empty slots so we will be emailing all our members to see if they would like to volunteer to help out.

Last year we paid over £2300 to the Church - for repairs to the Clock and we purchased new bell ropes. We await further requests from the PCC.

*Secretary: Mrs Andrea Kirkby, 2 Grand View, North Road, Goudhurst. Kent TN17 1AS*



## **Goudhurst and Kilndown Church of England Primary School Headteacher's Report to St. Mary's A.P.C.M-Spring 2016**

Since April 2015 I am delighted to say that we have successfully interwoven 'Forest School' activities within our curriculum to the benefit of every child in our school.

'Forest School is an inspirational process that offers ALL learners regular opportunities to achieve, develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a woodland or natural environment with trees. Forest School is a specialised learning approach that sits within and compliments the wider context of outdoor and woodland education.' The Forest School Association

Each week these sessions are led by Mrs Stanford, our fully trained Forest School Leader and are supported by myself, Mrs Mileham and a band of enthusiastic parent volunteers. Indeed throughout the year we have welcomed many visitors to our sessions, including teachers from neighbouring schools who are now following in our footsteps and are in the throes of setting up their own 'Forest School'. We are extremely grateful to Joe Meyer who continues to allow us to use his woodland, in Ladham Lane for all our future activities and to the Kilndown Education Trust who once again provided a grant towards our Outdoor Learning Programme.

30 Year 6 pupils moved to a variety of secondary schools last summer. We celebrated the achievements of each at our leavers' service and gave everyone a Good News Bible, paid for by the PCC.

We started the new academic year with a full complement of staff and in addition this year we have welcomed Mrs Blanter, Mrs Lawson and Mrs Moger to our teaching team and Mr Coleman and Mrs House to our Administration team. In February we said a fond farewell to Mrs Collins who decided that the time was now right for her to return to work full-time. She has joined the office staff at Dulwich School and we wish her lots of luck in the next phase of her career.

Academic standards continue to remain high; indeed we are fortunate to have an experienced and committed teaching staff that work incredibly hard every day to ensure that the children in our school receive the very best Education possible. This year we have not only embedded a new primary curriculum and assessment system but also introduced new and exciting Science and Reading Schemes both of which the children and the parents, I might add, are all talking about!

We work very collaboratively with our local schools and in recognition of the



excellent school to school support we provide to colleagues, I was approved as a National Leader of Education and Goudhurst and Kilndown Church of England Primary School has been designated a National Support School. We are extremely proud of this achievement and will continue to use our success and professionalism to provide additional leadership capability in other schools both locally and now nationally.

In addition to the statutory curriculum we try to provide our children with a wide range of extra curricular experiences to help enrich their learning. We continue to offer a wide range of clubs to all our children. A new club introduced this year for both KS1/2 was the Young FilmMakers Club, run by the LCA Group. The children and staff in KS2 put on a wonderful performance of 'Porridge' at the end of the summer term. And once again sports day was a huge success. Year 5 completed their two night residential trip to Swattenden during the middle of September and for the first time in the school history, we are taking Year 6 to France for their final residential trip in June 2016. The children will have an opportunity to practice their French and combine learning about French culture and outdoor adventurous activities; we are all excited about the forthcoming trip and are really looking forward to going. Year 1 and 2 have received weekly whole class djembe drumming lessons and Year 3 and 4 are enjoying learning how to play the flute; all tuition is provided by our amazing music teacher, Cheryl Blake (Kent Music School). In addition some children are learning to play the guitar and trumpet.

It has been another year of great sporting success. We secured 1st place for the 7th time in the Julie Rose Athletics in June 2015; the question is will we be able to win it this year for the 8th time? Other events entered included the Rawlinson Run when we won a trophy for Sportsmanship , Basketball (2nd), Netball (3rd), Hockey (Silver Medal), Football (2nd), New Age Curling (Bronze Medal), WOKSSA Swimming Gala (1st), Infant Agility (2nd), WOKSSA Cross Country Festival where we won a gold, a silver and 2 bronze medals and we won the overall year 3/4 competition and The Kent Junior Schools Cross Country Championships where we competed against hundreds of children taking part from all over Kent (9th and 16th out of 127; 28th, 38th, 63rd and 77th out of 152 and 22nd out of 165. Indeed this year we have introduced 'the mile run' into our curriculum. Every class (including the teacher and even the headteacher) tries to run for about 10 mins every day. The children love it and the teachers are telling me that they have noticed that the children are listening and concentrating better as a result of the daily exercise.

In recognition for our commitment to the development of high quality PE, Sport and competition across the school and into the community, we were awarded a Gold School Games Kitemark. This is an improvement on last year when we were awarded the Silver Kitemark! We are one of the only school in our area to achieve this.

A big thank you to Mrs Mileham for all her hard work coaching and supporting the teams and for

leading the school to success. Particular thanks must also go to all the staff and the parents for their commitment and involvement in the many sporting activities on offer at our school.

Every year the children contribute either by their actions or by raising money for worthy causes. This year is no exception but we are particularly proud of the amount they recently raised towards Sports Relief – an amazing £1918.85! Well done and a BIG thank you to everyone.

Our strong partnership with Canterbury Christ Church University continues and once again we have had a variety of PGCE students working alongside us sharing good practice and complementing teaching and learning across our school. We are thrilled that one of our TAs Nicky Curry has successfully completed a part-time teaching degree and has now achieved qualified teacher status.

We recognise the importance and value our strong links with St. Mary's Church. The School/Church Link Group has already met a number of times this year and the meetings have been most productive. Both Kevin Draper and Reverend Hugh lead our Wednesday Collective Worship Services; they have also lead Lent information sessions for some of the older pupils; ran a worship after school club and I am delighted to inform you that our 'Reflection Area/Prayer Space is now complete'. We intend to start using it during the summer term and I am hoping to secure a visit from +Trevor to officially open it. Watch this space! In addition a regular prayer group has been set up in the school, if you are interested in attending please contact the school office 01580 211365 for more information.

Our Harvest Festival took place on Friday 2nd October in St. Mary's Church; the children performed beautifully and filled the church with their music, poems and prayers! It was a delight to see so many parents and members of the community coming together at the service to help us celebrate. We held a Community Harvest Shared Lunch in the school on Wednesday 14th October. The children had grown pumpkins as part of a PTFA competition. The entries were then made into pumpkin soup and served at the shared lunch. The school laid a wreath, as usual, on Remembrance Day as part of the Sunday Service after joining the procession through the High Street; some of our children were invited to read at the service. In addition our Year 5 and 6 pupils attended the official Remembrance Day Service at the War Memorial in the village.

Our Choir performed at the village late night shopping event held in St. Mary's Church on Friday 27th November and this year we ventured into the village and sang at the tea shop and the Social Club. I would like to thank Jeffery Gray who has given generously of his own time to attend our choir practice every week and more recently to lead our whole school hymn practice alongside Ms Lane. We have been very sad to see him go and we miss his expertise. However, we wish

him best wishes for the future.

KSI performed a wonderful Nativity Play entitled 'Prickly Hay' on 10th and 11th December which was very well attended by parents. The dress rehearsal on 8th December was watched by KS2 alongside members of the community who had first enjoyed a delicious lunch. On Friday 19th December we had our end of term Carol Service which was again very well attended and a lovely end to a very busy term.

In January we opened our doors to the Village Community Lunch Members; once a fortnight about fourteen members of the village join the school children for lunch. The older children meet and greet our visitors and serve them a delicious roast lunch. I would like to thank Mrs Atkins for giving generously of her own time organising the lunch arrangements, Mrs Khan who enjoys lunch with our visitors each time and Contract Dining Company who kindly provide the lunch. We are looking forward to this being a permanent event within the school calendar for the foreseeable future.

Again this year we held our Christingle Service in St. Mary's Church on Friday 5th February. The Year 6 pupils led the service very confidently; every child was given a glow stick to hold whilst the year 6 pupils were given a real candle. When the candles were lit and the lights turned out, silence filled the church and there was a sense of awe and wonder in the air. It is moments such as these that really help to deepen the children's spiritual development.

Due to the inclement weather this year, our annual Ash Wednesday service, led by Reverend Hugh was held in St. Mary's Church rather than Christ Church. Following the service, Reverend Hugh pulled on his wellies and joined 'Ash' group in the Forest and led an Ash Wednesday service for the Year5 Forest School group. In his words he was delighted to bring the 'church to the forest.' It was a wonderful experience, tranquil and reflective for not only the children but also the adults! We then shared hot chocolate and pancakes and remembered that this was the time that Jesus went into the wilderness for 40 days and 40 nights and successfully resisted temptation.

Finally on Thursday 24th March we held our Easter Service in St. Mary's Church. Many parents and family members joined us; it was lead confidently and capably by our Year 6 children, each class prepared a prayer to be shared and the beautiful singing by all the children filled the air. It was a wonderful way to conclude yet another busy and successful term.

Please visit our school website to keep up to date with all the latest school news and events.

*[www.goudhurst-kilndown.kent.sch.uk](http://www.goudhurst-kilndown.kent.sch.uk)*

*Lindsay Roberts*

*Headteacher April 2016*

## **LEND WITH CARE REPORT**

It is now about 7 months since we set up an account with Lend with Care for GKChurch. Through fund raising and donations we raised £587.74, however we have donated £934.13 to various Entrepreneurs. These are people in various countries who apply to Lend with Care for a loan of money to enable them to start up or expand a business. They then set out a “business plan” to show how much they would like and how many months they will take to repay it. We then decide who we would like to support and give an amount in multiples of £15. As the money is repaid we can then support further people. We currently have 19 people / groups we support - this breaks down as 21 loans, 65 entrepreneurs helped with 162 family members and 45 jobs created. Have a look at the display board at the back of St. Mary’s or speak to Norma or Rosemary.

## **PARISH MAGAZINE**

Magazine numbers still seem to be falling as annual subscriptions are not renewed. I suppose with copies available on line at the Parish website and the Church website, for some the need is no longer there.

The Trade Directory continues to flourish under the care of James Cooke. It now occupies twelve pages of the usual total of forty pages with the possibility of including occasional pages for special events. This is so important as the income from advertising enables us to keep the cover price of the Magazine down.

In the past a number of organisations have submitted full page items (effectively posters) for special events and these have been printed. However, a number of other organisations have decided they would like this coverage each month. Last year it was necessary to ask these groups to submit their items in two formats such that everyone has the chance to get their information in, even when space is very limited. Although it is possible to increase the number of pages we soon hit the limit for posting at second class to those subscribers wishing to receive their copies by post. This has worked quite well with shorter items when space is in great demand.

The success of our Magazine is down to the tireless effort of many people who give their time freely to ensure you get your copy. Special thanks goes to Anne and Joe Meyer (assistant editors dealing with items left at the Newsagent), James Cooke (Trade Directory and advertising), Richard Vinton (What’s On - centrefold), Pam Stubbs and Hilary Bird and their delivery teams (distribution in Goudhurst and Kildown), our advertisers in the Trade Directory, and, of course, to all who contribute items of news or pictures for publication in the Magazine.

*David Denton  
Editor/Printer*

## **P.C.C.**

The P.C.C. met for Business meetings 6 times during the year, with 4 Strategy Planning meetings held alternately, plus the A.P.C.M.

In January, we were pleased to welcome Jeffrey Gray to our meeting to discuss the way forward for music in our church,

At this meeting Hugh reported that Becky Addis had been appointed as our new Benefice Administrator.

At our March meeting Hugh advised us that Rev. Craig Huxley would be joining us as a part-time Assistant Curate to further Craig's training.

Plans for 2015/16 entitled "God's Calling" were discussed.

In May, following the A.P.C.M. the Officers were elected, and the Alpha course was reviewed.

We are obligated to have "Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults" on our agenda once a year, and in July Andrea Kirkby, our representative, attended, and the P.C.C. adopted the new Safeguarding Policy.

At this meeting we were also pleased to welcome David Lodge as our new Treasurer.

The leasing of the Glebe Fields was also discussed.

In September the P.C.C. agreed to support Readycall at their meeting in October, to renew the organisation.

Before every Business meeting, reports from Hugh and others are circulated to P.C.C. members and items regularly on our agenda are Mission and Ministry, Service to the Community, Teaching and Worship, Community and Belonging, Fabric and Finance, and the Church Room. Reports on these subjects are to be found elsewhere in the Reports Book and Annual Reports.

*Jill Dunstall – P.C.C. Secretary*

## **PRAYER AND STUDY FELLOWSHIP**

The Prayer fellowship continues to meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 2.00 pm

We have just completed reading "Acts for everyone part one." Cultural information, thoughtful questions, Prayer suggestions, and useful insight into the background of the early church have all helped to guide us into a deeper understanding of the Christian life and story. Jesus becomes a living, powerful reality. Our December meeting was very special as twelve of us gathered at Sheila's for House communion, Hugh was the Celebrant and Richard read a passage from one of his favourite books about love. The mysterious presence of Jesus as ever with us as a living powerful reality.

*Patrice Springett*

## SMALL GROUPS

Since April 2015, the number of groups meeting regularly has increased by three. Two new groups were set up post Alpha, and another group slowly came together and began to meet in January 2016. The numbers in all the groups have remained fairly constant with only one or two people either dropping out or joining the meetings irregularly, but all have a solid core group of members and committed leaders. Some of the existing groups would like to add to their numbers, an opportunity for this will happen as Alpha 2016 comes to an end.

We had a leadership 'get-together' in June 2015, which was well attended, and I hope helpful, there is another planned for 21st April 2016. There was also a 'training' session in St Mary's in September with Laurence Singlehurst from Cell UK for all the leaders, co-leaders and a few other potential future leaders. Again, this was really well supported and proved informative and helpful. I have set up another training session for September this year with Andy Peck from CWR which I will confirm once I've been to his 'Small Groups Re-Booted' one day course in May to make sure his teaching style and small group ethos will fit with St Mary's.

We are currently promoting the benefits of belonging to a small group, with posters, wallet cards and testimonies from existing group members in church and at Alpha. We already have two leaders in place for a new daytime group which will start towards the end of April, and I'm confident we may be able to get an additional two new groups off the ground too.

All the groups have been asked to participate in the nationwide request from the two Archbishops to pray for revival in May. If this is successful I'm hoping it may raise the profile of our groups, and demonstrate another aspect of their value.

Some of the groups have begun to use Hugh's sermons as the resource for their group study. This is a great way of utilising the sermon, as well as taking its message to those who attend a small group but who don't come to church. From feedback I have received, this works well.

The aim for 2016/2017 is to continue to build and strengthen our existing groups and develop new groups around the needs of those that would like to participate. Finding leaders and venues is challenging, but prayer in this respect has proved fruitful, having had positive and enthusiastic responses from people I have approached as potential leaders. I want to develop a small group leaders 'information' pack, something I am working on at the moment, and hope to report as in place over the coming months.

*Ali Williams*

## **SWATTENDEN REPORT**

### **Helping Local Refugees - April 2016**

As most of you will know, St Mary's has been supporting Kent Kindness (the name says it all!) a voluntary organisation, which assists the work at the Swattenden Centre near Cranbrook. Unaccompanied refugee boys between the ages of 16 and 18 are housed here while they are assessed for eligibility to remain in the UK. It is a very unsettling time for these young people as they begin to face the trauma of their past lives and the probable horrors of their journey here to Britain. Most will have spent at least some time in the 'jungle' in Calais, as well as the uncertainty of their future in a very different culture from that which they've previously known.

Volunteers, and there are several from the congregation, offer regular English lessons to equip them as best we can for integration into British life. Most are certainly very keen to learn! With your generous donations we have acquired much-needed stationary – we have just bought a second white board, more bilingual dictionaries (the boys speak a variety of different languages) English language books and pens/pencils/paper.

In December, Harry Mills, a member of our Sunday Club Explorers, undertook a sponsored bike ride through Bedbury Pinetum, raising a staggering £500, which was used towards buying Christmas presents, organized by Kent Kindness. Every boy received a new tracksuit, warm hat, scarf, shoes, a sports album and a little game. In addition, at St Mary's we collected 40 little gifts of fun socks, Christmassy choccies and a personalized card, all beautifully wrapped and sent with love.

With Spring have come some new projects for the boys with the help of volunteers: bringing an old allotment to life, playing friendly football matches against a local school, and the offer of yoga sessions. The cakes provided on Tuesday afternoons, continue to be a high spot of the week, St Mary's bakers playing an important role. We are also exploring the potential for continuing to support refugees once they are placed in the community.

More donations have come in from the Lent Lunches, which this year chose to give to this work. We are so grateful for this thoughtfulness and generosity.

Finally, is the amazing news that Dr Ana Draper (Kev's wife and mum to Skye and Luke) has been appointed as the Clinical Lead to the mental health team working with asylum seeking youngsters in Kent. Ana is a psychologist and leading authority on dealing with traumatised young people – in fact she's off to Sierra Leone in May to lecture on this. We all feel that our God is at work here, holding up these young people that He has brought so close to us, in order that we can care for them.

Ana has only been in post since the beginning of April and is currently putting

together her team. There is potential for this to include legal support and Ana has been exploring this with a Christian specialist children's lawyer, who has specific experience in trauma victims and refugees. Archbishop Justin has expressed deep concern for the refugees and the Diocese of Canterbury is looking to see how they can support the work at Swattenden and also in Ashford, where there is a second assessment centre.

Please pray for Ana, her team, and all who work at the Centre – care workers, social workers, translators, lawyers, security, admin staff and volunteers. It's through your prayer support and donations that so much worthwhile work is being done.

A huge Thank You to you for all your generosity, from the boys, workers and the volunteers at Swattenden.

*Prov 31:8-9 Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice.*



... and finally we want to say THANK YOU to all those who:

- ★ Change the light bulbs when they break
- ★ Look after the churchyard and flowerbeds
- ★ Plan, speak at, lead groups, pray for and love Alpha
- ★ Remind us of the people and situations which need our prayers
- ★ Make the coffee and serve food on Sundays – and all the other days of the week
- ★ Run the rota that makes sure there are people preparing and serving food after the service each week
- ★ Set up for church each week
- ★ Twiddle the knobs on the sound desk
- ★ Welcome people, especially visitors and new-comers, to church with big smiles
- ★ Understand how the dishwasher works
- ★ Clean the Church when no-one's looking
- ★ Polish the brass
- ★ Organise the rotas (and there are lots of them)
- ★ Preach and teach in their differing styles
- ★ Lead the prayers and read the lessons
- ★ Sing in the choir
- ★ Play in the band
- ★ Play the organ and piano
- ★ Arrange beautiful flowers
- ★ Prepare and print the notice sheets and all the other paper notices, fliers and posters
- ★ Lead small groups
- ★ Say 'yes' when asked to do something at the last minute
- ★ Invite friends to church
- ★ Ring the bells so everyone knows it's Sunday and that God is alive
- ★ Go to meetings ... or don't go to meetings but pray for them

- ★ Take the minutes and make sense of the meetings
- ★ Imagine, plan and lead our worship
- ★ Provide shoulders to cry on and hands to hold, or someone to laugh with
- ★ Run Cafe Toddlers so brilliantly well and love the children, parents and carers who come each week
- ★ Lead and help at Sunday Club, pray for the children in their groups and love the kids in their care
- ★ Hand out books, take the collection and make sure the service runs smoothly
- ★ Take photos
- ★ 'Like' our posts on Facebook and spread the word about what's going on
- ★ Keep developing our brilliant relationship with Sacred Heart
- ★ Run the Youth Group
- ★ Provide food for Sunday Club (30 teenagers eat a lot of breakfast!)
- ★ Produce and deliver the Parish Magazine
- ★ Can no longer get to church but support everyone else by their prayers
- ★ Give lifts to church or activities to people who wouldn't get there otherwise.
- ★ Give money sacrificially
- ★ Love, walk alongside, and try to organize our young people
- ★ Make food, serve it or wash up at church events
- ★ Organise Barn Dances, Film afternoons, cricket matches, Passover meals and all the other events that build up community life
- ★ Bake endlessly for Alpha, Tea at the Vicarage and a thousand other events
- ★ Provide flowers for Alpha and other social events
- ★ Keep the church finances in order
- ★ Count the cash and bank it every week
- ★ Offer prayer ministry in all sorts of settings
- ★ Represent the church in our communities
- ★ Run Tuesday Group at the Primary School and come along to pray for the school
- ★ Prepare the Church for weddings and funerals

- ☆ Run the bookstall
- ☆ Organise social activities of all sorts
- ☆ Do something when it's needed simply because it needs to be done.

*Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.*



Goudhurst  
& Kilndown  
[www.gkchurch.org.uk](http://www.gkchurch.org.uk)