



Parish of Fleet

All Saints

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St Philip & St James

# Fleet Parish Annual Report 2019

# The PCC

## **Incumbent**

Revd Mark Hayton (Chairman)

## **Associate Priest**

Revd Carol Dunk

## **Churchwardens**

Michael Benham

Antony Jones (Vice Chairman)

## **Deanery Synod**

Jean Carr

Sally Hastings

Jane Jones

## **Co-opted PCC members**

Mike Ford (Treasurer)

## **Elected Members**

### *All Saints*

- James Burke (3)
- Jon Harrow (3)
- Elizabeth Waller(2)
- Darren Wood(2)
- Patricia Brooker (1)
- Dian Eddy (1)

### *Ss Philip & James*

- Rogier Wieffer (3)
- Liz Whiting (3)
- Alison Wyld (2)
- Richard Buller (1)
- Claire Holt (1) – PCC Secretary

*NB Elected members for (n) years from April 2018*

# PCC Highlights

- Met – 6 times
- The PCC has discussed issues surrounding Safeguarding, GDPR and the plans for All Saints Church.
- At the last meeting of this PCC, we looked again at the four key areas of our Mission, Action, Plan, which are:
  - Deepening our prayer life
  - Developing our worship programme
  - Refreshing our ministry to children and young people
  - Improving communication
- The PCC values the visits to the PCC meetings by Tracey Brunton – Head teacher of All Saints School.

## Electoral Roll

- 161 Names on Roll
- Representing 116 households

Forms for membership are available all year round from the Parish Office. New details will be accepted at any time to be included in the 2020 revision of the roll. Please inform Pamela Pimm of any change of details.

# Ministry Team

- The ministry team consists of clergy and readers from the parish – The Vicar and Associate Vicar, and 3 LLM readers.
- The team meet to pray and to plan every Monday morning in FPCC.
- The team have worked hard this year to deepen the spirituality and broaden the worship programme of the parish.
- In addition to the usual programme of Sunday worship, the team have led Lent and Advent courses, and introduced a new Saturday afternoon Café Church service known as ‘Together @ 4’.
- The team have all been involved in ministry to the bereaved and the taking of funerals.
- The team have held several special services and events including services for Baptism families, Bereaved families, Home Group members, Healing ministry and an open discussion event entitled ‘Let’s talk about the hard stuff’.
- The team are also heavily involved in ministry to local schools.



# Parish Office

- First point of contact for most enquiries.
- Produces weekly news sheet and contributes to most parish communications including the parish magazine and website.
- A brief spell in a portacabin at the start of 2019 provided a change of view – special thanks to Darren Wood for leading the project to ensure smooth transition.
- Thank you to everyone who supports the office throughout the year – your time, energy and prayers are all appreciated.

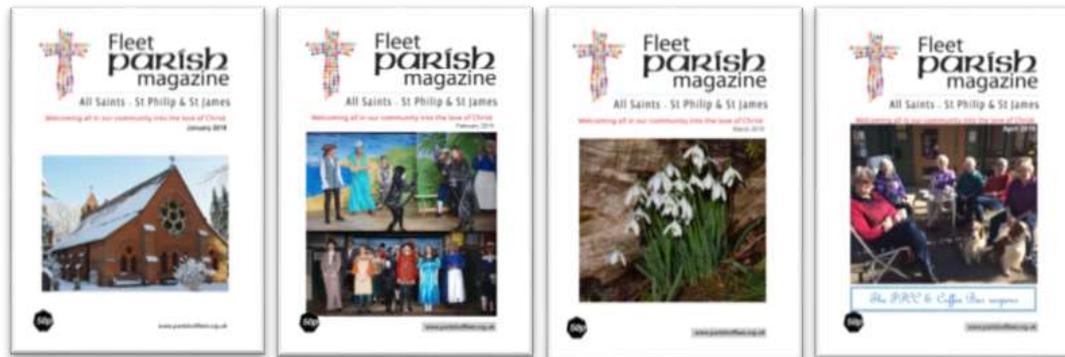


*Chantelle Gardner & Elly Wilson*

# Parish Magazine

- The Parish Magazine has had an update to use the new Parish Logo and to use clearer fonts. Recent issues have been particularly full of news and publicity for fundraising events.
- We'd like to thank our many regular contributors for the thousands of words that you have provided and to the photographers – even if you are just capturing a moment in our parish life on your mobile phone. Particular thanks must go to the Parish Office for continuing to provide all the Parish Diary, Registers, Readings and Eco-Tips every month, as well as organizing all the advertising that continues to make a contribution to parish funds.
- During the year Peter West retired as the joint editor of the magazine. We thank him for all his work on the magazine over several years. We welcome Carolyn Ford to take over his editorship on alternating months. She comes with her “built in” spell checker and proof reader Mike!

*Carolyn Ford and Nic Evans*



# Parish Website

- After last year's APCM we published the new plans for All Saints on the website so they could reach a wide audience.
- To coincide with the new Parish Logo and the launch of the appeal for All Saints, the PCC approved funding for a complete redesign of the parish website. The new website is cleaner and designed to be more welcoming and personal for new and younger visitors.
- After over 10 years I'm retiring from managing the website. If you would like to get involved, please speak to the Parish Office. It doesn't need great technical skills and is very rewarding to provide the parish's window to the world.



*Nic Evans*

# Communications Team



## Welcome

We are a family friendly Anglican parish with Sunday services at 10am weekly and lots more going on.

[Click here for our weekly News Sheet](#)

- The team includes Mark Hayton, Carol Dunk, Sam Lord, Nic Evans, Chantelle Gardner, Sally Hastings and Darren Wood.
- The team meets a few times a year to work on anything relating to communications in the parish.
- This past one has been a busy year, we have worked on creating a new parish website (see right) with the help of Jenny Wilson of Xander Creative and included a new parish logo was created. All of this is key to us reaching out to both new and existing members of our parish.
- Christmas remains a time when we get a high number of visitors to our sites. The team have also been working on social media sites like Facebook to engage with other members of our community. We have seen positive results with this especially with the Family Activity Afternoon, where we welcomed many non church goers to these events over the year.
- The team also helps with other groups in the parish where needed to help promote events are create material for these groups.
- This next year, we plan to continue working on how we engage with our community. We plan to work with other groups on updating the new parish logo on items that contain the old one as it's key that our branding is consistent to prevent confusion.



# Safeguarding in our Parish

- The Diocesan & Parish Safeguarding Policies were approved by the PCC at their first meeting following last year's APCM. At this meeting Alison Wyld was appointed PCC Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- A Parish Safeguarding Audit was carried out in June. Although this showed us to be wholly or partially compliant in all areas, it highlighted some aspects which needed further work in order to fully meet the new diocesan guidelines. As a result of this, work is ongoing with regard to more comprehensive risk assessments, and written job descriptions for all voluntary leadership roles.
- New training pathways were issued during the year and, as a consequence of these requirements, 26 people have completed Core 1 Foundation training, 19 Core 2 Lay Leadership, 2 Core 3 Leadership, 1 C5 Leadership Refresher, 2 S1 Safer Recruitment and 6 S3 Domestic Abuse training this year.
- The new on-line application procedure was adopted by the diocese during the year; 22 people in the parish have used this system for initial checks or renewals and it is proving to be considerably easier and speedier than the old paper-based system. Currently 47 people in the parish have DBS clearance.
- Further information on all aspects of safeguarding can be found in the Parish Safeguarding Handbook 2018. Please be aware that if you have any safeguarding concerns they should be reported to the clergy or to me without delay.

Sheila Buller, Parish Safeguarding Officer

# All Saints Churchwarden Report

- We continue to plan for the rebuilding of All Saints Church, this has been a long, long process but there is light at the end of the tunnel. The planning application will have been submitted by the time you read this. This is the first step towards tendering in order to start the rebuild.
- Everyone involved has given an extraordinary amount of time in order to bring us to the present position. Even more time will be needed in the coming weeks and months in order to achieve our goal to raise £1M for the building of the Annex.
- Many fundraising events are planned or have taken place.
- We have had a very challenging 2018 – 2019, as you know we found a major fault with the F.P.C.C, the floor had subsidence. We contacted Homelodge who built the centre, who I have to say were fantastic in their response to our plight. As such, we closed for around 6 weeks from January, the entire internal floor has been replaced, all internal features were refitted, and I am glad to say we are fully functional once again. Faulty windows have been replaced and the hall repainted. A big thank you to everyone involved!
- We are constantly reviewing costs and so we changed internet provider back in November in order to save 50% of our bill.
- Special thanks go to our gardening team, choir, musicians, sacristans, F&M members, coffee bar team, and finally the lunch club team and all who volunteer their time to the running of All Saints.

Mike Benham, All Saints Churchwarden

# All Saints LCC

- All Saints LCC is an open meeting of the All Saints congregation called to discuss issue relating particularly to worship and ministry in FPCC.
- In 2018 the All saints LCC met 3 times, in February, June and October.
- Meetings were well attended and very positive. Matters of worship, prayer, welcome, and hospitality in particular were discussed, in line with the parish development plan and its priorities.
- Lots of good initiatives have come out of these meetings, especially with regard to how we worship at FPCC and how we offer welcome and hospitality to those who visit us.
- From now on the LCC will be known instead as a 'Church Planning Meeting'.

# St Philip & St James Churchwarden Report

- New gable end double-glazed window installed at hall – with some sponsorship from Fleet Lions.
- Car park drainage issues: concrete barrier constructed to prevent outflow into neighbour's garden seems to be working.
- Church remains open for visitors during daylight hours and in term time (thanks to all unlockers and locker-uppers).
- Banner and frame on King's Road has been put to good use by Playgroup to recruit new pre-school children. Frame soon to be in use at FPCC.
- Smart gas meters installed in hall and church.
- Defibrillator installed at gable end of hall.
- 5-yearly electrical inspection of church and hall successfully completed by contractor.
- Church frontage re-painted with wood preservative along with re-painting of window frames.
- P&J hall kitchen door and car park side window frames repainted by team of Elly's volunteers in summer.
- Carpets in body of church, narthex and crèche industrially cleaned.
- Christmas 2019: new illuminated crib with figures on display outside church.
- Revenue from hiring out church and hall still on target and covering all costs.
- As before special thanks and praise extended to gardening team, choir, musicians, sacristans, collection counters, F&M committee, junior church, youth group and holiday club organisers, Coffee and Play team, volunteer cleaners, flower arrangers, servers and sides people, readers, intercessors, AV operators, social committee and all who volunteer their valuable time and energy to keep P&J going.

*Antony Jones*

# St Philip & St James LCC

- P & J LCC is an open meeting of the P& J congregation called to discuss issue
- relating particularly to worship and ministry in our church.
- In 2018 the P & J LCC met 3 times, in February, June and October.
- Meetings were generally well attended and very positive. Matters of worship, prayer, welcome, and hospitality in particular were discussed, in line with the parish development plan and its priorities.
- Lots of good initiatives have come out of these meetings, especially with regard to how we pray and worship as well as how we offer welcome and hospitality to those who visit us.
- From now on the LCC will be known instead as a 'Church Planning Meeting

*Revd Carol Dunk*

# Standing Committee

- The Standing committee of the PCC exists to make decisions on behalf of the PCC on urgent matters that occur in between PCC meetings
- Your standing committee consists of the Vicar, Associate Vicar, Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary, and chair of Finance.
- All decisions are reported back to a full meeting of the PCC for their information and approval.
- This year the standing committee agreed the following on behalf of the PCC
  - Commissioning of tree survey, heating study and landscaping feasibility study for the rebuilding project.
  - Joining the parish buying energy basket.
  - Settlement of church contents insurance claim.
  - Commissioning solicitors to investigate use of some legacy money for rebuilding project.
  - Setting up of new Nationwide Bank account.

*Mark Hayton*

# Finance & Administration Committee

- The All Saints Building Fund grew by £44K, thanks to the efforts and generosity of many people, and amounted to £124K at the end of 2018. The £127K which was received from our insurers for settlement of contents insurance has been included in the All Saints Consequential and Direct Loss Fund.
- Insofar as our general funds are concerned, we incurred a cash loss of £35K (£40K in 2017). Our general fund disposable cash reserves now stands at £171K.
- Planned giving fell slightly from £97.1K to £96.8K in 2018 which was the second successive annual fall.
- Proceeds from Hall and Church lettings, events such as the coffee bar and midweek lunches and the magazine (cover price and advertising) continued to make a significant and valuable contribution to our income. Thanks to all those involved.
- An endowment legacy (£75K) was received (the Nightingale Fund) which in accordance with the will should be invested and the interest used to maintain the chancel and the chancel arch. Consent is being sought from the Charity Commission to use the capital for the rebuilding of the Church. A further legacy of £20K was also received in 2018 (restricted to P&J).

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# Finance & Administration Committee

- We now have over £425K on short term deposits, most of it committed to the rebuilding of the church. To ensure the monies are protected, it was necessary to open 3 new saving accounts which involved a lot of effort from Judith Astles and Mike Ford.
- We are fortunate to have a first class Treasurer (Mike) and Administrators (Chantelle and Elly) and thanks to them.
- I should also like to thank the other members of the team for their valuable contributions such as Judith Astles for preparing the accounts and to our Independent Examiner Tim Kite for examining them. Also thanks to Juliet Worthington for managing the PCC's payroll obligations and to Jean Carr and David Worthington for managing the planned giving arrangements and to other members of the committee Mike Benham, Antony Jones, Rogier Wieffer and Mark Hayton. I should also like to thank Jim Burke in particular and the many other people who count and/or bank money from say magazine sales and advertising, halls/church lettings, coffee bar and social events, fees and last but not least the church collections. Over 20 people are involved in these activities.

*R.F. Buller, Chairman of Finance*

# Social Committee

- We started our new year by welcoming Carolyn Ford and Liz Whiting to our team and towards the end of 2018 we said goodbye to Tricia White who had been part of the social committee for many years.
- We have tried since last April to provide a billing of varied entertainment which has included a Quiz Night, Parish Summer Tea which for the first time was held in the FPCC, Harvest Supper when we were brilliantly entertained by Graham Hix, Singalong Mamma Mia and finally Beneath the Bowlers presented by Jeremy Dunk.
- Alongside these social events we have served refreshments at the Holiday Club, Yeoman of the Guard, Bereavement Service, Fleet Festivities, two Patronal Festivals and Len Waller's Funeral.
- Everyone has worked very hard and I think we have had a lot of fun at the same time.
- Not everyone can attend every event which shares the load.
- I would to say a huge thank you to the social committee for all their support and hard work through the past year and to everyone else I have asked to lend a hand. As always, we always welcome new faces to join us.

*Karen Kite*



# Discipleship Committee

- We meet termly, supported by Mark and Carol.
- Sally Hastings is co-ordinator for House groups and new house groups have been established in the last year with more people attending. We had another service to celebrate house groups on Advent Sunday followed by tea at P and J.
- We had an open meeting in November 'Let's talk about the Hard Stuff' where people could ask searching and difficult questions about faith and life. We plan to run another session before Easter.
- We will be holding a four session course on Faith Sharing in Lent where we can share our thoughts in the style of café church.
- We look forward to a parish retreat at Douai Abbey at the end of September, to be led by Rev Anne Payne.

*Jane Jones*



# All Saints School & Church Link Group



- We continue to have regular meetings with reps from church and AS School
- Children from school contributed to a joint Harvest service at P and J, sharing the theme of the importance of renewable energy, linking in with the school motto, 'Let your light shine'
- Termly prayer meetings continue to be held for the school and church community and often revolve around a creative prayer space.
- Mark holds a Breaking Bread Together service for the upper and lower school each term where they share fresh baked bread and grapes. These services have a very special atmosphere.
- The Gambia link continues to thrive. Miss Reece and her team visited Soma over February half term and helped bring solar lamps to Sitahuma school and re-furbished the library as well as being involved in ongoing projects at Soma school.
- The school is awaiting a SIAMS inspection in the summer term which will look at the Christian distinctiveness of the school which is an outstanding part of the school's ethos.



*Jane Jones*

# Young People's Nurture Group

- We have met about 3 times over the past year to discuss both Sunday Schools, Dribbles and Giggles, Praise and Play, family activity afternoons, youth group and crèche.
- All seems to be well and most issues have been resolved, apart from trying to encourage more volunteers in Godly Play and Youth Group.
- Each group have their own budget to work from.

*Revd. Carol Dunk*

# Praise & Play

- This year has been somewhat different due to unforeseen circumstances.
- During the Summer and Autumn, we have welcomed new families as well as some that have been with us for a few years. Last year's babies are now charming and energetic little people running around everywhere enjoying our range of toys.
- However, just before Christmas, we were given the news that the FPCC would have to close in January while the floor was repaired. After a lot of thought, we decided that it wasn't practical to move all our equipment to another venue and so we would have to shut until the Hall was available again.
- So, on February 26<sup>th</sup>, we opened again and were so pleased to see so many of our parents and children again including some new babies.
- We'd also like to thank all the kind people who help us pack up at the end of each session as well as those who helped putting all our toys etc., into and then out of storage.

*Kate Wickenden, Bill Wickenden and Jean Hawkins*



# Dribbles and Giggles

- Dribbles and Giggles numbers have always been between 30 - 50 during the term times however, Sept 2018 saw a reduction in numbers to 18 - 28 in total.
- September is always a quiet month as children start preschool or infants. I started a Facebook page which links to the Church Website to encourage families to join us on a Friday.
- Our numbers stayed low up to December 2018. The Community Centre closed for about 6 weeks to rebuild and another 2 weeks for half term however despite this our first couple of weeks back saw numbers rise to 30 - 50.
- Friday 15th March 2019 we had a huge 52 in total.
- 80% of the families attending are new. They have stated they saw us on social media and word of mouth.
- We still continue with fruit to which the donation pot has increased to an average of £9 a week. This covers the fruit and more.
- I have a great team member in Kerry Walker who helps every week.
- We have bought new toys which has been approved by small and big friends.
- We love to go the extra mile with Dribbles & Giggles with things like Easter egg hunts, Santa visit, Mothers and Father's Day gift etc. so a separate budget for this would be a great help.

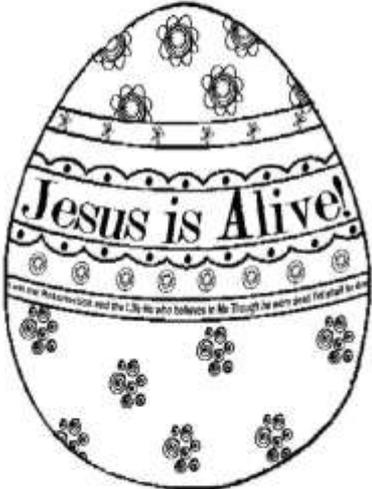
*Cheryl Grubb*



Mary poured her very best perfume on Jesus' feet!



Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey



Happy Easter!



Thomas didn't believe that Jesus had risen until he actually saw him

# Junior Churches & Crèches

## All Saints Junior Church & Crèche

- We meet in the Coffee Bar during the Sunday services at FPCC
- Continues with a small team of leaders and helpers – please speak to Adele Redgrave if you are interested in finding out more
- We use the Young Church Magazine resources which follow the lectionary and tie in with the readings in church.

# St Philip & St James Junior Church

- We have 3 Godly Play “storytellers” (Stephanie, Kim and Chantelle ) 3 Godly Play “doorkeepers” (Rosemary, Ruth and Cheryl).
- We would love to strengthen the team with more people with a heart for our young people.
- Our whole team has done diocesan safeguarding to level 2 and is, of course, fully DBS checked.



We enhanced the curriculum with a new unofficial Godly Play story “Jesus calls the Disciples” to allow us to align with the lectionary while we were all together at P&J at the start of 2019 – and we have a new set of stories about Jesus for this spring called “The Greatest Parable” (pictured).

*Chantelle Gardner*



## Coffee & Play @ P&J

- Coffee & Play has continued on Thursday mornings from 8.45 – 10.00. Although numbers attending are not large at present, those who do come appreciate the opportunity for a cup of coffee and a chat, and a chance for the children to play prior to the Playgroup opening.
- Some of the families have also attended Family Activity afternoons and other events in the parish, so it remains a useful outreach opportunity.
- Many thanks to all in the team who make this happen every week during term-time.

Sheila Buller

# Family Activity Afternoons

Themed afternoons with craft, games, activities and refreshments - suitable for all ages.

- **These have gone from strength to strength just recently with the previous two having 60 + each time.**
- **We hold 3 per year and try to avoid the busy summer months.**
- **Again, a big thank you to all those who help and provide the food and drink.**

*Revd Carol Dunk*

# Hot Potato Youth Group

- We could always do with some more volunteers for the youth group but we have about 5 or 6 helpers at the moment.
- We have 12 children ranging in age from about 9 up to 17 yrs. We tend to have a core group of about 10 children, including some with special needs and the majority of children aren't church children at the moment.
- We usually do a range of craft and activities, chat and specialised talks and sometimes go on visits e.g. Ten – pin bowling.



# Holiday Club 2018

- Again was very successful and we catered for approx. 24 children per day on average.
- We need more volunteers during the week and need to have more continuity with the table leaders.
- But an enjoyable time was had by all.
- Thanks to all the volunteers and the Social Committee for all your hard work.

*Revd. Carol Dunk*



# Parish Youth Pantomime

- The annual Youth Pantomime is an important part of our youth work, and our 43rd production 'Dick Whittington' was staged in January 2019. Written as usual by Peter Rapsey and Bernard Tinker, this had last been performed in 2002. Rehearsals started in September 2018 with the return of many young people who had been with us before, but also with a number of new young - and not so young - actors joining us.
- We again had a good number of willing adults who came along to help with stage construction, costumes, lighting, sound effects, make up, refreshments, etc - we couldn't put on the show without these people, and my thanks go to them all.

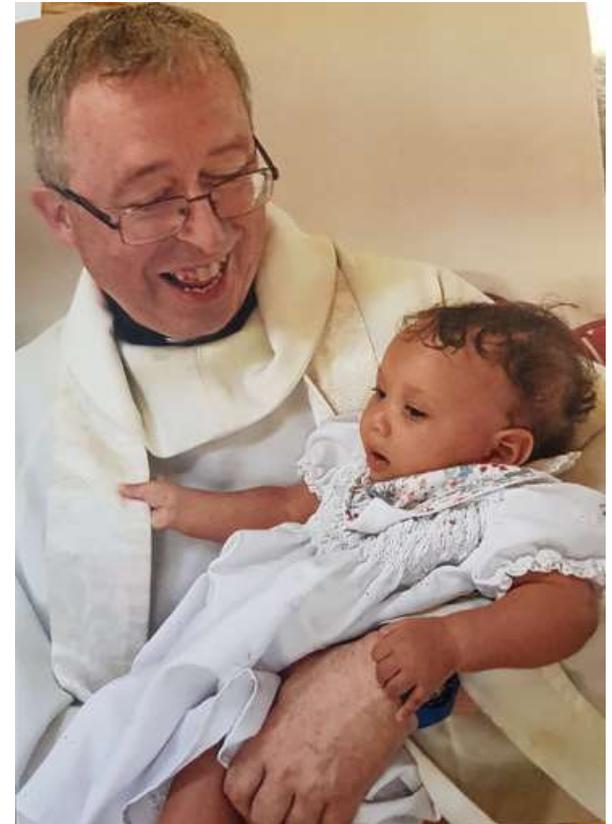


- The performances were much enjoyed by increased audience numbers - for the first time in years, all tickets were sold for one of the shows. This bodes well for the future.
- We were as usual able to send donations to two local children's charities, the Sebastian Trust and Wessex Hospice, as well as to support the All Saints' fund.
- If others are inspired to come along and offer help in any capacity for next year's production, I would be happy to welcome them to the team.

*Carolyn Ford, Director/Producer*

# Baptism Team

- We have a steady number Baptisms they are always joyous and lively services, with often-large numbers of guests.
- We are hold baptism preparation sessions on a Saturday morning, these are fruitful times to meet and get to know the families and alongside the preparation answer any questions they may have for us.
- I am hugely grateful to Sam Lord, Joshua and Karen Kite. For their support and dedication.



*Claire Holt*



# Midweek Concert & Lunch

- Our parish lunches on the first Thursday of every month have been running now for 18 or more years! They continue to be very popular and the volunteer team try very hard to give a variety of dishes all freshly prepared which we know you all enjoy from your complimentary comments. We shop on a Tuesday so it is always good to have cancellations by then if possible.
- We have been very fortunate to have had different musicians come to play for the half hour before the lunch and we are very grateful they give their time freely to be with us.
- Our volunteer team is very committed and we work seamlessly together, you will always hear lots of chat and laughter coming from the kitchen whilst preparation is in progress. The photograph shows us all having a lunch ourselves in the summer sunshine to celebrate our hard work!
- Please continue to sign the sheet in the FPCC if you would like to have lunch either personally or by giving the office a ring who will always add your name to the list.
- We hope you continue to enjoy our efforts!

# Coffee Bar



- Another very successful year has passed and we have been able to offer our usual high standard of coffee/tea/hot chocolate serving ONLY because we have such a wonderful and dedicated group of volunteers – in all our eight full years we have never had to close because of lack of help – SO A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO IS INVOLVED IN ANY WAY IN KEEPING THIS IMPORTANT AREA OF OUTREACH THRIVING.
- Apart from the drinks and cakes our most important role is demonstrating our kindness, love, friendship and support to all our customers.
- THANK YOU

*Elizabeth Waller*

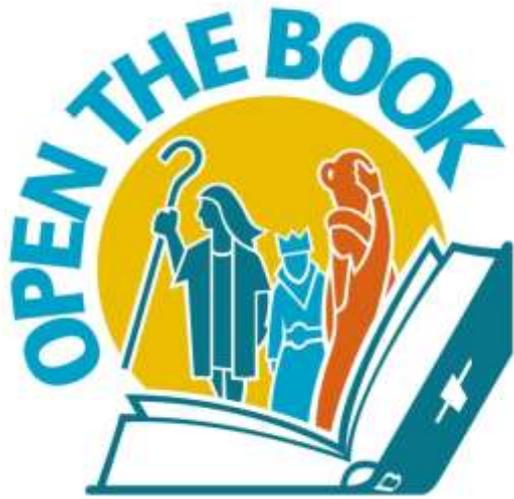
# Craft Group

- The Parish Craft Group is now in its thirteenth year. We meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7pm in the FPCC coffee bar to learn new crafts and enjoy each others company.
- Our number ranges from about six to twelve and we try lots of different crafts, including Needle Felting, Making new cards out of old, fabric crafts and lots more.
- Our number is made up of people from the community of Fleet, some coming from different churches some that don't attend church at all.
- When I set the group up in 2006 my idea was for it to be a sort of outreach group, which it is, offering friendship and support as well as learning new skills.
- Everyone is welcome, you don't have to be arty or crafty!!



- We have had a lovely year of crafting together and are looking forward to more fun in 2019.

*Sue Butterfield*



- We continue to share simple Bible stories at Fleet Infants school as part of a FACCTS initiative
- We presented a story using the Open the Book style at a service at P and J in January and as a result have happily welcomed a new member to the team.
- The children and staff are very enthusiastic about the OTB stories and we are developing a good relationship with the Head, Mrs Clark.
- Parents of Reception class children were invited to P and J church for a Christmas story which the YR children acted in.



*Jane Jones*

# Christian Aid



2018 has been another year of tough fundraising for us all. We did better than 2017 in the Plant and Cake Sale with £708.70. Also in the House to House collections which raised £4071.73. From this our own two churches provided £2194: more than half the total. So heartfelt thanks to all involved. This, together with church, station and street collections, big breakfasts and lenten soup lunches, meant we were able to donate £7,595.97 to Christian Aid from the Churches of Fleet and Church Crookham.

The Carol Concert in December, although well up to the high standard of past years was less well attended. We are in competition with so many other Christmas events. St Philip and St James provides a very peaceful and relaxed setting, but we are handicapped in attracting a audience to the church simply because it is not so central as All Saints and doesn't have a large car park. Our proceeds, £593, were well down on 2017. However this is something for the committee to worry about. We thank our wonderful artistes, Fleet Choral Society and their Conductor, Gwyn Parry-Jones, our soloists Quintessentially Wind, and Roy Woodhams at the organ, for their outstanding contributions.

Together we can make an equal or better contribution in 2019, all it requires is our willingness to witness and to work to give children everywhere the fuller lives that we expect for our own families.

*Jenny Thorne & Peter West*

## Tuesday Prayer Group

- Our Prayer Group meets on Tuesday mornings at 11:00 at St Phillip and St James. The exception is during August when we take a break. There are usually about eight of us who join together for about half an hour. We listen to three chosen readings which are divided by three five minute periods of silence when we pray for people in need. We take it in turns to lead the session but there is no pressure to lead if you would rather not.
- This year we have lost one of the founder members of the group Marguerite Baker who died in 2018. We miss her very much - her friendship, her wisdom and her wonderful humour.
- We welcome with open arms anybody who would like to join us whenever they can.

*Aline Anscombe*

## P&J Servers

- The Ss Philip & James serving team currently consists of up to 10 adult members, who serve at the 8.00 am and 10.00 am Eucharist services on Sundays, and also on major festivals in the church's calendar, when special services take place to celebrate Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and other feasts. We have also welcomed some young servers as acolytes and crucifer for the informal Eucharist services on Sundays.
- Although our numbers are low, we continue to have a team of two, MC and Crucifer, for most services. Amongst our servers we have churchwardens, choristers and sidesmen, who have other necessary duties to perform in our services.
- We continue to be grateful to those All Saints' servers who have been happy to serve at the 8.00 am BCP Eucharist being celebrated at Ss Philip & James every Sunday. This has eased the pressure on our servers.
- Serving at the altar is a great privilege and, if anyone is interested in finding out more about this, please ask for information. Training will be given, but it is also important to recognise the benefit of regular attendance at the Eucharist to enable a full appreciation of the servers' vital role in that sacrament.

*Carolyn Ford, Servers' Leader, Ss Philip & James*

# House Groups

- The number of Housegroups remain stable at seven and continue to serve the parish in promoting fellowship and helping members deepen their faith and understanding of the Scriptures.
- We held our annual Celebrating Housegroups service and bring and share tea at the start of Advent. This was held at P&J and was a very encouraging event.
- We are always happy to hear of anyone who would like to join a housegroup. If you know of anyone, or would like to join one yourself, please phone me on 01252 629205.

*Sally Hastings, Housegroups Convener.*



## GIRLS Group

- Ephesians has been explored at evening monthly meetings, often quite visually.
- Water discussion and even compost prepared us for the retreat topic of spiritual growth – wider and deeper.
- Weekend retreat in sunny Poole with Sarah Hutton for 20 Girls.
- Christmas meal and summer BBQ enjoyed also!

*Elly Wilson*

# All Saints Ladies Group



- Quite a busy year. We have 30 members and attendance at meetings is around 20.
- We have maintained our policy of alternating more formal evenings with speakers with more informal in-house evenings with more chat! We have had outings to musical productions at the Princes Hall and to Diple Mill near Hartley Wintney last summer (see photo) where we were shown round by the owner and designer of the interesting gardens.
- Our chosen charity for this year is Fleet Angels, and last September we presented a cheque for £600 to the local branch of Macmillan Cancer Care. We have supported fundraising for "All Saints Arise" and will continue to do so this year.
- We always welcome new members and visitors. 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month 8pm P&J Hall.

*Barbara Lyons*

# Music & Choirs

## All Saints Choir

- Once again, we can report on a very busy year for All Saints' Choir. In spite of our continual difficulties with buildings we have continued to sing at every parish communion service and maintained our tradition of singing a weekly anthem. Organ music has necessarily been restricted to the early period- Clerambault, Couperin, Dandrieu, Sweelinck, John Stanley, and so on, when the instruments lacked pedals!
- Ecumenical events of 2018 included the Choirs and Musical Evening back in June held in the Methodist Church; our contribution was Thomas Attwood's *Teach me O Lord* whilst the combined choirs delighted in singing Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus* and *God so loved the World from Stainer's Crucifixion*. All Saints' Choir combined with Ss Philip and James' choir were present at the Remembrance Day service, in the Harlington Centre Hall, commemorating one hundred years since the end of the Great War.
- We have also participated in many joint services with Ss Philip and James and have been pleased to join with their choir on these occasions. The wholesale transfer of all services in January and February whilst repairs were conducted in the FPCC proceeded very well and it was truly a joy to sing with a large choir in a well-filled church.
- The usual Christmas services present many challenges – Carol Singing in Fleet Hospital, Argyll Court again, Nine Lessons and Carols, the innovative Midnight Mass in the middle of the evening proving a great success.
- We now look forward to work proceeding in the reconstruction of All Saints and the opportunities this will present for music in the future.
- All Saints' choir is a very loyal and committed group of singers, but would really welcome new voices – any part, soprano, alto, tenor or bass, or anything in between, and any ability and experience would be welcome. We rehearse on Friday evenings, Summer and Winter, rain or shine, and sing at every main service. There are no restrictions on age either – young and not so young are always welcome. No special previous experience is needed – we always work on our planned programme of music several weeks in advance – the odd missed choir practice presents no problem.

*Anthony Cooper*

# Music & Choirs

## Ss Philip & James All Age Band

- Typically we will have 10-15 musicians available for our informal Eucharist worship and occasionally for our normal Sung Eucharist services, as well as the Carol and Crib services in P&J. We also again this year supported the Ecumenical musical evening in the Methodist Church.
- We always welcome new players and are keen to encourage younger members, who would benefit from playing in this environment, to develop their musical skills. If you think this might be of interest to one of your family, please get in touch with either Anne Smith or me, who will gladly advise.
- Adult musicians are also always most warmly welcomed.



*Mike Ford*

## Taize Prayer

- On the evening of the fourth Sunday of the month we hold a reflective and contemplative service at P&J, with candlelight and quiet chanting of music from the Taizé community in France.
- The service is a wonderful opportunity to de-stress in preparation for the following month, and the singing is an effective aid to prayer and to listening to God, with the repetitive chanting becoming in itself a prayer.
- There is continuing support for this service and many of the regular attendees are visitors to the parish and friends from the other churches in Fleet, Church Crookham and around.

*Carolyn Ford*



# Music & Choirs

## **Ss Philip & James Choir**

- We continue to be blessed with a small number of capable and dedicated singers who attend as often as time allows in this busy environment in which we live, giving us a four-part choir most Sundays to support the musical side of worship with the occasional anthem. The quality of music and the way in which it supports our worship is very much dependant on the use of our God-given talents in singing and supporting the choir. If you are a singer please do think seriously about coming and singing with us.
- Outside the normal Sunday morning commitment the choir continues to support the monthly choral evensong services and other joint ventures such as the ecumenical choirs evening and other special services throughout the year in the Parish.
- I would like to give my thanks for the continued support of all the members of the choir. *Mike Ford*

## **Choral Evensong**

- The (almost monthly) choral evensong service, currently at P&J, uses the Book of Common Prayer and is a relaxing and prayerful form of worship. Most of the service is sung by the choir on behalf of the congregation and should not be confused with Sung Evensong where the congregation takes a fuller singing role. The congregation participates through its presence and listening, that the music might become a prayer to contemplate God's beauty and glory.
- Although interest from the congregation is limited it has been pleasing to note an increase in numbers attending, but we still have some way to go to match the national increase in attendances at choral evensong being experienced by our cathedrals.
- However when you add the number of singers to the congregation a total of up to 40 might be at our services, and many churches throughout the land would be very envious of that. The singers come from far and wide because they recognise the beauty of the service and the music, and their support is very much appreciated. *Mike Ford*

# Aldershot Deanery Synod Report

- The year 2018/19 was a busy year for Aldershot Deanery. Most notably, Canon George Newton of Holy Trinity, Aldershot retired after serving an extra year as Area Dean and our own Vicar, Mark, has agreed to become the new one. Congratulations Mark!
- In his final report George Newton said that there have been a number of clergy vacancies in the deanery, four were filled in 2018 and the remaining three, at St Peter's, Farnborough, St Christopher's, Cove and St John's, Cove were in the process of being filled.
- He reminded synod members that with a high number of large housing developments in the deanery there is scope for the parish churches to work together to plan strategically best ways to serve their communities.
- Some 30 people are taking part in a Deanery-run Growing Leaders course, which will finish this summer. If it proves to be of significant benefit it is hoped to run another one, with Diocesan support, in 2020.
- Apart from such projects as food banks and CAP, Synod felt local churches should push to have a stronger voice on local councils and other agencies working in the community. A place on the Strength in Unity meetings, which include faith communities, run by Rushmoor Council, is one example.
- George suggested that an administrative post to support the Area Dean and deanery would be helpful. He also called for a functional, well maintained website to improve communications. He suggested that funding for these could be found from the central diocesan departments or a new deanery resources fund, perhaps match funded by the diocese.

*Sally Hastings, Deanery Synod member*