



**St Michael's, Betchworth**  
**Report on Church & Village Activities**  
**2018**

## **BELLRINGERS**

**Hugh Frayling**

Betchworth ringers have continued to ring for most Sunday Services this year despite a shortage of numbers. Our Tuesday practices have been well attended throughout the year with regular help gratefully received from Buckland, Charlwood and Reigate towers.

Martin Higgins stood down from the captaincy at our annual general meeting in March 2018 after 30 years in the post. He was succeeded by Hugh Frayling, who has introduced three new ringers to the band. Two completely new to bellringing and one returning after a number of years absence.

The Tower was open with demonstrations of bellringing during the Flower Festival weekend at the end of May. Around one hundred visitors came up to the belfry and clambered up on to the roof to see the view from the top of the tower.

The band also rung for several weddings, funerals and quarters peals and enjoyed a sunny outing on in July to six churches in the Maidstone area, finishing with an evening barbecue back in Brockham.

During the year the ringers became involved with a national initiative to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the First World War. This aimed to recruit some 1400 new ringers to belatedly replace those known to have perished in that conflict. They also took part in the ringing timed to coincide with the lighting of celebratory beacons across the country.

Recruits are always welcome, and anyone interested in bellringing should contact me on 07519 595801 or just come along at 8pm on a Tuesday night and have a go.

## **BETCHWORTH MAGAZINE**

**Ros Rokison**

There has been a Parish Magazine in Betchworth since 1892! Beautifully bound copies of all these magazines can be viewed in the Hamilton Room. Parishioners and their helpers have always run the collating of articles, editing and publishing the magazine on a voluntary basis. Printing has always been done by an outside firm.

The magazine's aim is to give information to and about the whole village. As well as Church matters we report on village activities such as the Parish Council, WI, North Downs Primary School and the Betchworth and Buckland Society. It also embraces any local, non-political news, events and activities that it is felt might be of interest to the readers. The magazine is delivered to every house in the village by an invaluable team of 32 people headed by Susie Redburn. We are always delighted to receive articles, including photos if relevant, which would be of interest to parishioners for possible inclusion in the magazine. If anyone has any good ideas for what might be included which would be of interest, please let us know. Several copies have now been complemented by colour photographs.

Articles for the magazine now arrive exclusively by email to [betchworthmag@hotmail.com](mailto:betchworthmag@hotmail.com). We also will publish appropriate small ads from parishioners at a nominal cost for a limited number of issues, proceeds going to church funds. There is still a waiting list for commercial advertisers, which is always a good thing.

Our editors, Ros Rokison, Sian Winter and Tim Warren have the task of collating, editing and sometimes retyping all the various articles, putting everything into the correct format and font. The articles are then numbered in the correct appropriate order before sending them to the Desk Top Publishers. Their job is to put them all into the magazine template. This is a lengthy process as articles have to fit exactly into the correct number of pages and we try where possible not split articles over the page. This work is done by Ros Rokison, Alison Higgins, and John Scotcher. Photographs also have to be manipulated to fit and we badly miss here the expertise of David Hill who sadly died in Spring 2018. The magazine continues to be very professional in its construction and production.

If anyone is interested in joining the team we would be delighted to hear from you. We would be particularly interested to hear from anyone who would like to join the team of desktop publishers. The more people involved in the production of the magazine the easier it is for everyone involved. Training will be given if anyone is interested in joining us. In fact, if we had a few more volunteers, our hard working team might even be able to take the odd holiday now and then.

As in many local communities, ancient endowments have been brought together in Betchworth to create Betchworth United Charities. The principal source of income in the past, and now, is from the Henry Smith Charity which dates back to the 16th century and makes an annual grant to BUC. This grant is the only source of regular income and is intended to be distributed to the “poor and needy” to alleviate “the need, hardship or distress of local people”.

What these definitions mean has changed over the centuries and trustees must use good judgement to interpret them for our own day when allocating grants.

The charity is able to do this within the ancient parish of Betchworth which in effect is the now two parishes of Brockham and Betchworth. In the light of this the two incumbents of these parishes are ex-officio trustees along with one representative each from the two parish councils and six other appointed trustees.

The trustees make annual on-going grants to between 25 – 35 local beneficiaries, who have been commended in need of support, as well as others in their catchment area who may have current one-off needs. Sometimes these recipients are to be found within local institutions and sometimes they are private individuals who have applied or been commended.

The trustees are always ready to receive applications from local residents.

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

### **Betchworth and Buckland Children’s Nursery**

**Alison Hedges**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Toddlers**

**Debbie Jones**

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

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

## CHARITIES

### St Michael's Charity Donations 2018

Margaret Miller

Some years ago, St Michael's PCC agreed that a proportion of the Church donations should be sent to other outside Charities, this generally amounts to approximately £5,000 per annum.

Most donations are to recognised organisations, such as Royal British Legion for the Remembrance Day service and Poppy Collection, the Bishop's Lent appeal, which is split between UK and overseas charities, Welcare which also receives tinned goods and toys, and at Harvest-time we support Farming Community Network. However, on a three-year cycle we support less well-known Charities, which included this year in a donation to Practical Action, finding Practical solutions to fighting poverty, through Sustainable Agriculture, Urban water, sanitation and waste, Access to Energy and Reducing Vulnerability to Disasters. We have also continued our support for Lungi Sierra Leone Charity, set up by the Evans family from Betchworth. This supports an area in Sierra Leone with a school, hospital and medical centre and providing bicycles for ambulance transport to hospital (see the December Magazine for more details). Full details of the amounts and other smaller donations are on the Notice board. Thank you to all who contribute, through regular and weekly collections.

### Welcare

Anne Forrest

£340 has been donated by St Michael's to the work of the East Surrey branch of Welcare in Redhill.

The mission of Welcare is to work alongside the parents of families in difficulty, to give children secure and confident childhoods, and to enable them to thrive in the future.

In practical terms the congregation has donated really good toys to the Birthday and Christmas present store they have for families in financial trouble, and food packets and tins to the ongoing much needed food store.

### The Children's Society

Margaret Miller

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

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

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

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

### Christian Aid

Tom Briscombe

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

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

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

Christian Aid activities that can be suitable for money raising initiatives. See: <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/inyourarea/news>

## **CHURCH FLOWERS**

**Jackie Ellison**

We have had another great year of flower arranging in the Church. Our team of lovely ladies worked hard to create the beautiful displays that adorn the Church every week.

In addition, we had a marvellous Flower Festival weekend in May masterminded by Sara Smart. The theme of All Things Bright and Beautiful resulted in 24 amazing interpretations. The hard work creating the flower displays was supplemented by a great team of locals who made the weekend run so seamlessly, together with those who provided music and refreshment and much more.

Thank you to our regular stalwart flower ladies and to all those who contributed to the Flower Festival.

## **CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER GROUP**

**Tom Briscombe**

Contemplative prayer in the Lady Chapel continued as a 'silent' prayer initiative during 2018 and invites individuals from our joint benefice and outside the two parishes. Our prayer group meets on a Wednesday afternoon and on some Sunday's on the 4th week of the month. The first session held on Wednesday 14th Feb 2018 at 4pm. (Ash Wednesday). Attendances have varied from between 2 and 8 individuals seeking to draw closer to God and to experience Christ's presence. Our last prayer session was held on the 10th October 2017 with over 10 sessions held during the year.

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

## **FAIRTRADE**

**Tom Briscombe**

The Fairtrade Fortnight 2018 took place between Monday 26 February - Sunday 11 March

Betchworth and Buckland joined forces with the rest of the country to help ensure a fair deal for disadvantaged farming communities by holding a Fairtrade Sunday at Betchworth on Sunday 4th March during the Sunday service. Coffee, Tea, biscuits and Fairtrade goods were available. A good contribution to Fairtrade was raised.

The traditional Iris Fairtrade stall was unavailable this year, but a plentiful supply of Easter Eggs supplied by Ginny sold well. A good contribution to Fairtrade was raised. The focus this year was on the Coobana Fairtrade banana co-operative in Panama. Marcial Quintero a member of the co-operative stated that the Fairtrade system closed the door on exploitation of farmers like him and ensured that they could become entrepreneurs and not just workers.

## **GIRL GUIDING IN BETCHWORTH AND BUCKLAND**

**Jane Stewart**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **HAMILTON ROOM**

**David Hill**

This small hall in Church Street now in its 29th year is part of the Goulburn Estate and is provided for the use of the local community and Church.

In the Hamilton room there is the Meg Ryan Room which houses many archives detailing local history. Our archivists meet once a week and continue to do a sterling job, sorting and filing our good collection of church village history.

An archives exhibition was hosted on the 10th and 11th November and provided visitors with insights into our local history.

The hall is hired out to various users every week groups like Beading and Singing and forms a part of the regular income for the room.

One of the most popular events continues to be the "Drop in Teas" the last Wednesday of the month afternoons and is an important meeting point for the local community, enjoying tea, cake and a chat.

St Michael's enjoys the use of the room for PCC and various church meetings, fund raising and charitable events. It has been used on some Sundays and festival days for Children's church activity sessions.

The room is particularly useful for its facilities when the church is hosting a concert, festival or indeed one of the numerous weddings.

We are fortunate that we have regular users of the hall and little space for other hirers.

Those people who book the Room are highly thought of by us, for the way they respect the room, leave it clean and tidy and most importantly enjoy using the room.

Our Bookings last year maintain a good level, and our income provides the funds for the continued archive work, maintenance and running costs of the hall.

The Hamilton Room is managed by a small dedicated band of volunteers and is a valuable asset to the community and church offering an easily accessible meeting Room in the centre of Betchworth.

Thank you to the hard-working volunteers who run the room.

## **HOUSE GROUPS**

**June Letheran**

We had a small but very enjoyable group, lead competently by Margaret Miller.

We discussed The Lord's Prayer using the Pilgrim Course It was interesting and informative and enabled us to share experiences.

There were six sessions each lasting about ninety minutes.

Hopefully we can start again after Lent.

## **JUNIOR CHURCH**

**Sarah Munro**

### **Sunday Club**

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

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

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

## **LENT LUNCHESES/DROP IN TEAS**

### **Lent Lunches**

**Linda Slater**

Lent lunches provide the opportunity for our lovely hosts to open their homes and serve a delicious range of soups to anyone who would like to attend. The lovely thing is that it is not difficult to get people to volunteer for this annual event but my thanks go to everyone who was generous enough to do so.

Last year's Bishop's Lent Call raised the total of £550 for initiatives supporting agribusiness, education and infrastructure in Zimbabwe; improving leprosy affected communities Sri Lanka and projects within the diocese .

### **Drop In Teas**

**Margaret Miller**

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

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

- MacIntyre - supporting those with Learning difficulties, home for Ian Forrest
- ESDAS - East Surrey domestic abuse services
- From Fear to Friend - introducing frightened children to friendly dogs
- Wayside Community - a Women's shelter in Reigate
- LeatherHead Start - a Night shelter and support in Leatherhead.

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

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

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

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

## **MUSIC: CHOIR & ORGAN**

**Melvin Hughes**

### **Choir**

At Betchworth the choral and musical resources continue to strive to present in our worship music that makes a worthy offering. Church music needs to be special – an offering back of talents received from God – an act of worship that gives adequate expression to spiritual thoughts and feelings. It is not the dumbed down contemporary music that is flooding the wider church, which manages to be both irritating and meretricious in equal measure. The canonical Gospels are clear on what we should offer - the woman who anoints Jesus in accounts in all the Gospels, uses expensive perfume, the best she can offer. Similarly, in the main liturgical services at Betchworth we strive to offer the best music that our talents permit.

St Michael's Choir at maximum strength consist of 15 Members who sing at the main Services each Sunday, at many Saturday Weddings, Funerals and Memorial Services. However, the variable availability of permanent members means we increasingly have to call on a pool of 'extras' to reinforce the main body to cover these many Services (particularly Choral Evensong). We would be delighted to hear from anyone willing to help in either capacity.

The Service of Nine Lessons with Carols remains the musical highlight of the year. Careful planning ensures that a balance is maintained between old and new. The Choir is to be congratulated on continuing to tackle new items (although less this year), which included carol settings by Malcolm Archer, 'A Coventry Carol' (2018) and Mark Wilberg, 'Wexford Carol' (2017). It also included 'evergreens' – 'In the bleak midwinter by Harold Darke (1909), 'Christmas Lullaby by John Rutter (1990) and 'Bethlehem Down' by Peter Warlock (1927).

The Good Friday Service of Passiontide Readings and Music covered the Passion narrative with suitable hymns and anthems.

## Organ Recitals

It was an immense honour to welcome the International Concert Organist, Richard Hills on 22 September 2018. Richard Hills is one of the very few musicians to have truly mastered the divide between the world of the classical organ and that of the theatre organ. He was organ Scholar at Westminster Abbey and is Organist at St Mary's, Bourne Street. In the theatre organ world he has numerous prizes and awards to his credit, both in this country and in the USA. As the Reviewer in the Betchworth magazine put it "*From the first notes of his recital Richard displayed unusual and varied colours from the Betchworth Tickell organ. Richard ... gave ebullient introductions and demonstrated that a good organ is capable of a wide range of music. His programme ranged from the obligatory major Bach work, to familiar tunes from musical theatre..... This recital by a versatile organist.....would have been enjoyed by anyone.*"

## MUSIC GROUP & FAMILY SERVICE PLAYERS/CRIB SERVICE

### Music Group & Family Service Players

Tom Briscoombe

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

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

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

Some Special Services included:

- Passion Sunday - 18th March (Betchworth)
- Christian Aid Week - 13th May (Buckland)
- Messy Church - 6th October (Reading Room)
- Christingle - 16th December (Buckland)

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

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

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

### Crib Service

Julie Hardy

The Crib Service was held, as it has been for the last few years, in the barn / garage next to Garden Cottage, Church Street on Monday December 24<sup>th</sup> 2018 at 5.30 pm.

The programme of poems, readings and carols has also been the same for the last few years;

This year's instrumentalists were Electric piano (Julie Hardy); Flutes (Rachel Thornhill, James Hardy, Alice Grassly and Eloise Hamilton) and Oboe (George Grassly).

## NORTH DOWNS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Jane Douglass, Headteacher

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

Since Reverend Carol Coslett's departure, Venerable Moira Astin has joined us at each of our school sites, leading interesting and thought-provoking assemblies, often linked to our Whole School Values; 'Care, Respect Honesty, Freedom, Resilience and Trust'. Our pupils have enjoyed her Harvest assemblies too and we are very grateful to her for accepting Reverend Coslett's request to support our school in this way.

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

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

## **PARISH OFFICE & WEBSITE**

**Hilary Ely**

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

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

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

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

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

## **SERVERS/SERVICE ROTAS & AFTER SERVICE COFFEE**

### **Servers**

**Jane Forrester**

At St. Michael's we have five servers – Ginny Eaton, Hilary Ely, Jane Forrester, Brenda Judd and Graham Williams. Their function is to assist the clergy at the altar. Usually we have two servers on duty. They receive the offertory, assist the presiding priest with the preparation of bread and wine, administer the chalices and help the priest clear up after communion. It is a privilege to be chosen to become a server, with permission needed from our Archdeacon for each appointment.

In January each year a Diocesan Servers' Festival is held in Southwark Cathedral on a Saturday. This starts with a communion service at midday, followed after lunch by a talk or discussion, usually led by one of the diocesan clergy. The afternoon is brought to a close by Choral Evensong sung by a visiting choir. This is always an enjoyable and rewarding day.

### **Service Rotas (Lay)**

**Hilary Ely**

Every 4 months a new Service Rota is published for Betchworth and Buckland. This lists all Services with their Officiants, Preachers, Sides-people, Readers, Servers, Intercessors and Coffee hosts. During this year of interregnum, Canon David Eaton has done a wonderful job in building a service plan with neighbouring clergy and readers, leading the majority of the services himself. Sincere thanks go to him for his loving care and hard work in ensuring that St Michael's has had a full pattern of worship each week, and to all the clergy and readers who have supported us through the interregnum.

Once the Service Plan has been created, I add the lay roles for each service in St Michael's. I am so grateful to have such a helpful and committed team to call upon for all the different roles. Thank you all for your immensely valuable contribution to the quality of our welcome and worship, and your prompt responses to my requests for help and information.

We always welcome more volunteers to take a role in our worship, in any of the capacities listed above, but particularly Sides-people and Coffee hosts. All the tasks are very rewarding, and integral to our offer of worship and welcome. If you would like to find out more, do please talk to Hilary about what we do.

## **Coffee and Tea in Church**

**Hilary Ely**

One of the most important aspects our worshipping community is friendship and hospitality. Thanks to a small team of coffee hosts, ably supplied with Fair Trade coffee and tea by Brenda Judd, there is a friendly, happy meeting point after each morning service.

No charge is made for coffee & tea, but a donation is requested to cover costs, any surplus funds going towards flowers for major church festivals and for our periodic Flower Festival. In May 2018 your kind donations during the past two years provided over £600 towards the flowers for the spectacular Flower Festival on the theme All Things Bright and Beautiful. Thanks to all who host our coffee times and make them such a happy occasion, and thanks to Brenda and Margaret for organising provisions. If you would like to join the rota to host coffee time, please talk to one of the churchwardens, or to Hilary.

## **SOCIAL ACTIVITIES & FUNDRAISING**

**Pam Armitage**

As always, the Church has been busy with social and fund-raising events this year.

In January we said a final farewell to Carol, Martin, David and Clara in St Michael's with the tradition drinks and nibbles.

The now annual Wedding Preparation day held in Brockham at the beginning of the year and attended by all the Upper Mole Churches, is proving to be a worthwhile and informative event.

In March a group of parishioners travelled to Chesterfield for Carol Coslett's induction service at Chesterfield Cathedral. It was good to see Carol settling in to her new role and I am sure that she appreciated the support from her old parishes.

In April St. Mary's and St. Michael's hosted Teas on the Green in Brockham and raised funds for both churches to help in their work with children

May saw our amazing Flower Festival at St. Michael's with breath taking arrangements on the theme 'All thing Bright and Beautiful' on the Saturday evening BODS treated us to a splendid concert which was enjoyed by all who came.

July arrived and the village came together as always, for the annual Betchworth Tennis Tournament. A wonderful lunch on the Saturday was hosted by Ed and Sian Winter at Woodstock Farm and then on Saturday evening a splendid BBQ at Ravenleigh by kind permission of Julie and Charles Hardy. The weather was kind to us and the finals on the Sunday at The Red House, with quintessential English afternoon tea, was and is, one of the highlights of the summer.

On 5th October we held our Harvest Supper in the village hall. The theme this year was Old Time Music Hall. The standard of entertainment under the supervision of Ros Rokison was, as always, very high indeed and the food, thanks to Jeannette Forman was just superb.

On October 22nd we were treated to a wonderful organ recital by Richard Hall.

On November 3rd, 2 intrepid teams of folk one from St. Mary's and one from St. Michael's manned road closures and shook collections bucks for the Brockham Bonfire Team. A very handsome donation from the bonfire committee is always worth turning out for.

November also saw our 3rd annual Alternative Christmas Tree Festival take place. 21 village groups provided an amazing array of Alternative Christmas Trees. The main attraction being our knitted tree this year which consisted of 159 knitted scarves!

Again, in November a party was held for 'Mrs. Betchworth' Eiluned Slot to celebrate her 80th birthday. A wonderful turn out in the village hall where villagers were able to express their grateful thanks for all she has done and is still doing in our village.

December was the time for our Crib Service, which has been running for 40 years now and on Christmas Eve over 400 people attended this service, which hopefully brings the real meaning of Christmas to so many.

Villagers and friend still collect rose petals throughout the summer which are dried and sold as confetti to our wedding couples, raising much needed funds for St. Michael's.

And finally, Margaret and John Miller with their team of willing helpers continue to hold the Drop in Teas in the Hamilton Room and have just held their 7th birthday party!

## **SUBCOMMITTEES: STEWARDSHIP/EDUCATION & OUTREACH/CONCERTS & RECITALS**

### **Stewardship Committee**

**Bernard Hawkins**

The Stewardship Committee has only met twice in the year as further meetings were delayed due to ill health. The committee has concentrated this year on the development of a Friends Scheme and has not yet had a chance to look at the wider issue of church fundraising. Happily, St Michael's has been able to fully meet its Parish Pledge commitment in 2018 and is in position to do this again in 2019 in accordance with the PCC's resolution to increase this by £1,000 to £35,000.

Late in 2017 the PCC agreed that a 'Friends' group similar to the one at St Mary the Virgin, Buckland should be set up for Betchworth. The Stewardship Committee was tasked to explore the issue further and bring a proposal back to the PCC as soon as possible. Accordingly, the Committee met in June and concluded that it would be beneficial to initiate a Friends Group which was independent of the PCC, although there would always be one member of the Committee who would be a member of the PCC. The Friends would have nominal charitable status initially and would need to seek formal charitable status if and when its income approaches £5000 per year.

A draft constitution was duly drawn up and discussed line by line at our meeting in September. This was presented to the PCC on 24<sup>th</sup> September and unanimously approved. It was anticipated that the Friends Group would be inaugurated in 2019 once the New Rector was in position. The selection of a Chairman for the Friends was a critical factor along with the co-option of additional members to the Stewardship committee to help co-ordinate the resulting fundraising. The committee looks forward to moving forward in 2019 with the added guidance of our new Rector

### **Education & Outreach**

**Margaret Miller**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Concerts/Recitals**

Normally, 2 Organ Concerts/Recitals are organised by this Committee during the year in aid of Church Funds customarily in May and September. The Flower Festival (and a Concert organised by others to go with it) trumped any idea of a May recital and only one was held during September (see Music: Choir & Organ). Two recitals are being planned for 2019, the first by the International Concert Organist, Anne Page on Sunday 23 June 2019 at 4.00 pm.

Ever since our Rector left for Derby and Chesterfield, everybody has pulled together to help St. Michael's through yet another Interregnum. At last we have our new Rector Anna Moore, who will have started by the time the reports are issued. A very big thankyou to all those, particularly Canon David Eaton and the church wardens, for making it as painless as possible.

Already we have eight weddings and five baptisms for this year. Despite the popularity of other places to get married (my daughter Jess for one...Florida Keys beach!) it's good to see that church weddings mean something to some people.

Josh Flynn has, once again, done a wonderful job of grass cutting and general maintenance in the churchyard.

I would like to wish Anna every happiness for her time at St. Michael's, St. Mary's and the villages of Betchworth and Buckland.