

Grapevine

St James Family news and PCC highlights

May 2015

Thank you

The Annual Report which has been presented at the AGM of St. James' Church shows how much is going on in our church family. None of it would be possible without the hard work and dedication of (mainly) willing volunteers. So now is a great opportunity to thank one another and recognise what we do for and are to each other.

There are those who keep our building open, clean and beautiful, others who prepare, lead and participate in our worship. There are those who lead and participate in home groups, the prayer group and Cross Club. Some serve through administration and decision making on the PCC and keeping the grounds in good order. Others are involved in the pastoral side, through BeST, CAMEO and helping in the community. Some help in ensuring that our social events are a success. Some quietly befriend and pray for others.

Some work is seen and acknowledged publicly, some of it is not. In doing this we follow the example of the early church who met together to worship God and who cared for one another and those around them. So thank you to everyone for all the work, both seen and unseen.

Editor Gill Thorniley: please use the "Contact Us" page

ARCH Group's aim: "To show our love for God and You"

Family news

In any family there is both joy and sadness, and that has been the case in St. James' family recently.

Sheila Wolstenholme recently celebrated her 90th birthday with a party in the Village Hall, which included both family and friends from many decades of her life.

It was with great sadness that we heard recently of the death of Brian Egan, after a short illness. Please remember Jenny and the family in your prayers. It says something about Brian that even through our sadness, everyone smiles when they remember him.

If you know of any significant events in the lives of members of St. James' or those close to them then please let Gill know.

Activities

The **Winter Lecture** by Tim Porter on 14th February was 'Magna Carta – What it was and how it happened.' As usual Tim brought the Middle Ages alive for those attending, placing the origins of the Magna Carta within its dynastic and religious context. In this anniversary year of the signing of Magna Carta, it was a timely reminder of the origins of some of the freedoms that we take for granted.

The **Half Term Holiday Club**, held in Harvington First School Hall and led by Revd. Thorniley and a team of helpers, was again attended by nearly 40 children. The theme this time was 'God's Building' and the sessions included the usual mix of craft and games activities, a visit to Ellenden Farm on Tuesday to sample pancakes and see some lambs, a Treasure Hunt and on Thursday the children hosted a party and invited friends and relatives. It was enjoyed by the children, young helpers and the adults, with some children already wanting to sign up for the next one, which will be in the summer holiday.

The Annual General Meeting of the **Harvington Youth Project** was held on 28th February. The Youth project has been running since 1994, and is run by a steering group comprising representatives of both St James' Church and Harvington

Baptist Church. The meeting was chaired by Mel Curnock and the financial report was given by Andrew Cracknell. Hannah Owen, the current Youth Worker, was unable to be present at the meeting as she had just given birth to a baby girl. So the report about the Youth Group was given by Mel Curnock. The project is still running three groups, all groups are doing well and are being run by volunteers from both churches during Hannah's maternity leave. The Project had put on several fund raising activities to supplement the money given by the two churches and the grants, during 2014 these included Harvington Entertains, a table top sale and a cycle/canoe challenge.

The **Women's World Day of Prayer** service was held in St James' Church on 6th March. It was organised by members of St James' Church and Harvington Baptist Church, although members of other denominations took part. The service was led by Elizabeth Harrison. This year the service had been prepared by the women of the Bahamas and focussed on Jesus' radical love and issues that concern the women of the Bahamas. The collection raised over £100 which will be spent on one off grants by the national committee to project charities in the UK and the country that has written the service for the current year. A grant of £5,000 has already been sent to Vanuatu which was hit by Cyclone Pam.

The **Coffee Morning** held on Saturday 7th March to raise funds for and awareness of the Alzheimer's Society raised over £350. During the morning John Redman spoke about the impact that a recent Alzheimer's diagnosis had had on their family. This was then followed by a presentation about how to become a Dementia Friends Champion, which many present found very helpful, as most people know someone who is affected by some sort of dementia. The star of the morning was Bramble, Fran and David Battin's dog, whose weight was a mystery, and who raised £50 as people tried to guess it.

Our **Lent and Easter** experiences included a joint Lent Course across the North Avon Group, a Benefice Palm Sunday service at Church Lench complete with a donkey, an interactive family Mothering Sunday service, a meditative Good Friday service based on the Jewish funeral rite and a joyous Family Holy Communion service on Easter Sunday

(PTO for the PCC digest)

PCC Digest

The PCC met on Monday 2nd March, and the following items were discussed.

Finance David Stean reported that the Parish Share goes up year on year, and even though the money brought in by the Summer Fete and the Christmas Fayre is much appreciated, that we should aim for the Planned Giving to increase by about £3,000 to cover our expected expenditure.

Rector's Notes It was noted that Sophie is standing down from organising the summer raffle, and that we would need to find someone else to take this on. Revd. Richard thanked Sophie for all that she has done, including keeping the PCC warm over the winter, by opening her home for the meetings.

North Avon Group Revd. Thorniley explained that we now needed a Group Council for the new group. The Terms of Reference would be drawn up by the PCCs of the parishes, who would all be represented on the Council. He also announced that Revd. Nick Wright would be retiring soon.

Boiler Room John Dumelow stated that he is pursuing making the access to the old boiler room safe with our architect, John Middleton. Quotes are being sought for the work.

The PCC met briefly on Saturday 28th March to approve the Annual Accounts and Report.

The Deanery Synod met on Monday 9th February at All Saints Church and the following items were discussed:

Revd. Richard Court announced his intention to retire at the end of May 2015.

Cost of Synod meeting A small payment was made by the parishes towards the running costs of the Deanery synod. David Stean suggested that the cost should be £4 per Synod Member. This was agreed by a show of hands.

Alterations to Parish Share The method of working out a fairer way to allocate Parish Share is still being worked out. It is anticipated that instead of church attendance figures being used, that regular church membership should form the basis of calculation.