



St Stephen's Shottermill

Annual Thanksgiving and Review

*for the year ended
31st December 2012*

(Registered charity number: 1134016)

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

1 Thessalonians 5: 1 - 18

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Welcome to this Annual Thanksgiving Review

A church is not primarily about buildings, it is about people. It is a living organism - the body of Christ - not just an organisation. As a church family at St Stephen's we seek to grow deeper in our relationship with God, with each other and with those who are not yet part of the church family, 'Up, In, Out'. The reports and testimonies in this booklet are a snapshot of the many things that go on in the St Stephen's family as we seek to grow as disciples, to serve each other and our community. St Stephen's is truly a wonderful community to be part of and we have much to celebrate. God invites us to join in his mission to his world, to be partners in the family business with Jesus as our guide and inspiration and the Holy Spirit to equip and empower us.

So as you read these reports, take time to thank God for this family that you are part of and ask him to show you how he wants you - with your unique, God-given talents, personality, passions and experiences - to serve him in the year ahead. If you are reading this as someone exploring faith or thinking about becoming part of the St Stephen's family, I hope it gives you a bit of an insight into what we are about. We would love you to be part of this adventure of faith and pilgrimage and join with us.

Rev Danny Wignall

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WORSHIP & MEDIA REPORT

During the past year, we have lost a few musicians (Julian Dilkes, Katherine Saunders, Sally Webb), but gained some new recruits (Emma Cunningham, Toby & Amber Beresford, Silas Caie, Ella Caie, Jack Robson). We are short of drummers and bass guitar players, so please let me know if you have experience with either of those.

Our 9am services usually have organ-led hymns, provided by Ken Lockwood or Peter Buckley, or choruses, provided by Jim Honeywood, with Brenda Petrie and other helpers.

The 10:45 services have bands led by myself, Jim Honeywood, Danny, occasionally our youth team, or Neil Wilson.

We continue to provide the worship for the New Wine Leaders lunches, and I am pleased to say that our DNA students (Jack and Ella) led the worship team brilliantly at the most recent lunch (with assistance from Andy and Jim).

We continue to provide an excellent annual Christmas Carol service. The 2012 choir were led by Louise Stevenson (with help from Peter Buckley). Louise also organises all the musicians' rosters for the 9am and 10:45 services, and deserves a special mention.

Other less-well known activities include: providing music groups for a several wedding and funeral services, organising popular music bands for some of the Prime Time events, and helping Jim with the annual drummers' concert (not a church event, but we provide the venue and some of the musicians).

Equipment

We finally lowered the projector screens, to ease the neck-strain! We also installed a large TV screen at the back of the church, plus a permanent video camera for viewing the baptism font. We replaced the church "Song Pro" computer when it died (3 days before Christmas!), and purchased new "Kylie" microphones for the preachers, which give a much clearer vocal sound. Also, we replaced the ancient hearing loop with a new under-floor system (please note that the new loop is only on the LEFT side of the church, as you face the front).

Summary

We continue to provide family-friendly, multi-faceted worship and activities for our whole church family (and beyond). The breadth of our musical worship, and the variety of methods used to communicate God's word, are something to be proud of, and the envy of many other churches. We hope that we can continue to move forward and keep our worship fresh and engaging for all.

Blessings, Andy Rigby

YOUTH & CHILDREN DIRECTORS' REPORT

This report aims to update you on the progress of St. Stephen's Youth and Children's (Y&C) ministry since the last APCM in April 2012. Hereafter, the report will give a brief overview of each group, initiative or event that we are involved in, categorised under the following headings:

1. Detached Y&C Work
2. Ecumenical Ministry
3. Church and Parish Ministry

It is our desire that you will be encouraged by the volume and variety of Christian ministry that we offer to the children and young people of our parish, schools and wider community. Alongside the main Directors' Report are separate reports from the following Y&C team members: Michéle Webb (Children's Minister Report), Jack Robson (DNA Student Report), and Ella Caie (DNA Student Report). Additionally there are reports from the wider team regarding Rainbow Nursery and Noah's Ark.

Our core St. Stephen's Y&C team has grown to five members this year, including; Eliot & Becca Ambrose, Michéle Webb, Jack Robson and Ella Caie. The wider team includes Kim Windebank (Rainbow Nursery Manager), Ann Fitchett (Multirole Superhero), Vanessa Clothier-Pratts (Noah's Ark Co-Ordinator) and the fantastic volunteers who make things tick week-in-week-out. As a team we have worked more closely than ever co-ordinating the youth and children's ministry, and it is an enormous privilege to be part of such a talented and coherent community of leaders. We would like to express our considerable gratitude for the way they give of themselves to further God's kingdom.

Our ecumenical work is also increasing, as we have worked more closely in particular with 3 Counties Church (e.g. Messy Church) and St. Paul's in Camelsdale (e.g. 24-7 Prayer week). In house, the past year has seen the restructuring of age groups on Sunday mornings following the Y&C Review of 2012, with team members that have faithfully served stepping down, and new team members stepping up. We always welcome more volunteers to spend quality time investing in the young lives in our church! If this report sparks something in you, and you fancy giving it a go, then please get in touch with us.

Detached Youth & Children's Work

The Basement @ the Wey Centre - We have worked increasingly closely with our Surrey County Council youth-work colleagues at the Wey Centre on Wey Hill. Every Wednesday we run a drop-in youth café from 4-6 pm. A wide range of activities include; cooking workshops, art & crafts, Wii, table tennis, pool, basketball, football, Sumo-suits, dance, and dodge ball. The Basement has proven a good opportunity for the Liquid youth to mix with un-churched young people and engage in peer ministry. It is an evangelistic outlet for us as a Liquid Youth Team, and a highly strategic link with an excellent facility that is funded by local government and managed by the YMCA.

Shottermill Infants' School - The relationship with Shottermill Infants' is firmly established, and we continue to visit, conducting assemblies with a Christian message communicated via interactive stories, songs and prayers. Our excellent relationships with the Head Jilly Storey, and the children - many of whom we know well from their time at Rainbow - continue to grow and develop through our 'Easter Craft' and 'Time Out for Christmas' events in church.

Shottermill Junior School - Shottermill Junior School welcomes us in regularly for assemblies and R.E. lessons. At Easter time they come to visit the church for their 'Stations of the Cross' project, and at Christmas they come to St. Stephen's for their Carol service. The fruit of this relationship can be seen in the number of Junior School children who attend the Summer Wave Holiday Club, and come into St. Stephen's for our seasonal children's events.

Camelsdale Primary School - Eliot and Becca were recently invited in for a 'Q&A' session with Mrs. Caie's Puffin class. This has become an annual tradition, and we hope to continue building links over the coming year with the school and the church in Camelsdale.

Woolmer Hill - Members of the Liquid Youth team visit Woolmer Hill each week for detached work; we meet with the current members of our groups, and form relationships with other pupils in the hope of drawing them in to our youth projects (e.g. 'The Basement' at the Wey Centre).

Royal School - Our link with the Royal School has grown a huge amount in the past 12 months; we now not only run a weekly lunch club, but a twice-termly prayer lunch (inviting members from the lunch club, Liquid & Amplified to pray and reflect on different aspects of faith). We have taught RE classes on several occasions with different year groups, joined them on a school trip to Westminster Abbey thus developing relationships with teachers and pupils, and for the first time installed many of the stations from our 24-7 Prayer Room into their Chapel for the RE teachers to

take their classes to. The fruit of this year's variety of work has seen the pupils from the Royal School visit Liquid, become regular members of Girls Night In and other Liquid social events, and take a school trip for interested parties to visit our 24-7 Prayer Room.

Written by Becca Ambrose

Ecumenical Ministry

Soul Survivor - Every summer the Liquid Youth team organise a trip to the Christian youth festival Soul Survivor, which takes place in Somerset. Last year we took 32 young people and 7 youth leaders (and several tents!) and had an amazing time worshipping God, consuming colossal amounts of hot chocolate and marshmallows, and seeing the young people grow in their discipleship of Christ and each other. This year we're booked in for SS Week 'B' (13th-18th August 2013) and are praying that we can take even more young people than last year! We're also praying for better weather!

24-7 Prayer Room - The annual 24-7 week of prayer is fuelled by the passion of our Liquid Youth team. Ella & Becca undertook the majority of the vision, set up and preparation for the 2013 24-7 Prayer Room (in St. Paul's Church, Camelsdale), and the wider Liquid Youth team members helped facilitate the practical installation. This year's inspiration was Psalm 103, and featured a variety of interactive stations that captured the heart of this worshipful psalm.

We feel that the new venue of St Paul's (Camelsdale) contributed enormously to the success of this event. Members from even more churches than usual participated in this year's week of creative prayer. Camelsdale School took every class to the church, and many parents popped in with their kids, in addition to the home groups, prayer partners & young people. We felt that increased unity among our community's churches was a direct result of 24-7 2013.

Written by Becca Ambrose

The Wave - The Wave has two expressions. The first is a week-long event during the summer of service, social action, outreach and a Holiday Club. Last year saw a more widespread approach, with teams going out all over Haslemere to show God's love practically to those who needed it most, through gardening, waste disposal, painting and clearing. The ecumenical Holiday Club and on-site Café was run at St. Bart's School, and was a huge success with well over 100 children attending four days of fun, games and Bible based activities. Alongside this was a sports outreach at the Heron's skate park and sports cage, engaging young people in physical activity. The week culminated in an incredibly popular and well attended 'Family Fun Day' on Lion Green, featuring family fair style games of all kinds, sports, a mini Holiday Club song session, and best of all a huge BBQ!

The second expression is a fortnightly Saturday morning outreach and practical service initiative, which meets at 9.30 in St. Stephen's for prayer and preparation, before visiting homes and doing everyday jobs for people who may not be able to them independently.

Messy Church - This is a new and exciting development for 2013. We are working more closely with 3 Counties Church in children's ministry on a termly basis, by assisting them in hosting a 'Messy Church' at their building in Hammer. Eliot, Jack and Ella have all been involved in leading worship for the children and facilitating activities alongside the excellent 3CC children's ministry team.

Liquid - Liquid Youth Congregation meets on Sunday evenings between 7 and 9 pm, and gives the young people opportunity to socialise, engage with God through worship and prayer, and receive teaching from the Bible. In September Jack Robson took on the role of 'Liquid Worship Co-Ordinator', and has summarised progress in this area: "we've been developing the worship in liquid and have begun to steer a new direction in the way we deliver worship to the young people, offering opportunities to share promptings or words they feel they're given from God. We've aimed to make it a space where God can easily move in His Spirit, and added aspects of liturgical worship into our band led worship."

Jack Robson, DNA Student & Liquid Worship Co-Ordinator

We've just finished a term on 'Spiritual Disciplines', and have been encouraged by the level of spiritual maturity and Christian commitment that the young people have displayed. During summer term we'll be doing a series on 'Discipleship & Evangelism', with the aim of running a Youth Alpha in autumn term 2013. We'll be challenging our committed core of 25-30 young people to engage in peer evangelism, and invite their friends to meet with God through Liquid and our other groups.

Liquid Youth Residential - In March 2013 we had one of the best Liquid Youth Weekends Away ever, with new young worship leaders stepping into the band alongside Eliot and the three DNA students Gideon Bridgman (St. Bart's church), Ella and Jack. We had teaching on worship and living for Jesus from guest speaker Ian Stonehouse (Y&C Director; Busbridge Church) and made use of the fantastic facilities at Dalesdown Christian Centre near Horsham. We played the muddiest game of 'capture the flag' ever, and were fed like kings by Mr. Neil Caie. There was a real sense of bonding and unity among the young people, and the next Liquid Weekend Away will be run jointly with the Liquid equivalent group from Busbridge Church (Icthus).

Liquid Immerse Cell - The Immerse Cell is a home-group styled evening for those in their GCSE years of liquid, aged between 14 and 16. Every Tuesday we look in more depth at the talk from the liquid before and this gives us an opportunity to go a bit deeper and look further into topics than may be possible in a big group setting. It gives us as leaders the chances to spark discussions and debates and really allow the youth to begin expressing their own thoughts and relationships with God a bit more.

Written by Jack Robson

Liquid College Cell - Cell groups this year are different as they are no longer split girls and boys, but by age. This was a decision that enabled us to better cater to each group's needs and has helped to build better relationships between the youth at liquid. The college cell has a real family atmosphere despite being made up of young people from a great mixture of churches in the area and the group work very well together in both social and bible study times.

Written by Ella Caie

Liquid - 'Girl's Night In' - This termly Saturday night event encourages girls in Liquid, the Royal School and our detached youth work to explore what it means to be a woman of God. We have a very relaxed atmosphere where we offer pampering activities, crafts, eat together and watch a movie. This is followed by discussion on the selected theme which the film addresses, and prayer together. Our themes this year have included God's plans for us, friendship and the importance we place on possessions in our lives.

Written by Becca Ambrose

Liquid 'Lads Night In' - This termly event gives 'Liquid Lads' group and their friends a chance to get together and reflect on what it means to be a man of God. We recently had a 'Courageous Men' evening with a movie and discussion. The next LNI will involve fish'n'chips, competitive games at the Wey Centre, some testimonies from older Christian men and the main ingredient - plenty of banter!

Church and Parish Ministry

DNA Gap Year Program - Undoubtedly the biggest change and impact for our ministry this year has been having two highly competent and servant hearted DNA students; Ella Caie & Jack Robson. It has been such a privilege to watch them grow and flourish in their gifting and walk with God. They are a pleasure to work with and their presence has enhanced the quality of what we already do, and enabled us to increase our commitment to our youth and children's ministry initiatives across the board, even branching out into new areas. They are two vital parts of the puzzle, and will be hugely missed when their DNA years come to an end.

For your prayers, we are looking to establish an ongoing partnership with DNA. There is no way we can run all the groups we currently do without at least one gap year student (in addition to Becca and I both being full time). So please do pray for guidance over the future, and if you hear of anyone who would be interested in hosting a DNA student for a year in their house, please get in touch.

Crèche - The Crèche has been an area of difficulty. We currently do not have enough volunteers to offer Crèche facilities to parents every week. The vision of having a Crèche is that of wanting to serve parents by freeing them up to be in church for some quality time with God. If you share this vision and want to help make it happen then please contact Eliot or Becca.

Junior Church - Junior Church has continued using the 'Friends & Heroes' teaching material, catering for children aged 3 - 9 on a Sunday morning in the Cross, and is resourced by a fantastic team of Junior Church leaders!

For a full update on Junior Church please see Michèle Webb's 'Children's Minister Report'.

Rainbow & Kid's Praise - The link between Rainbow Nursery and the church is stronger than ever. Kim Windebank has done a superb job managing the Rainbow into a successful new season following last summer's transition, with invaluable support from several key people in St. Stephen's such as Emma Andersen and Ann Fitchett. Our Y&C team work very closely with Kim and the Rainbow staff on a weekly basis, with visits on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from Eliot, Michèle, Ella, Danny and Giles. Extra Rainbow events such as visits to Shottermill House are also facilitated by Michèle and Eliot.

The monthly 'Kid's Praise' services have become firm and popular fixtures in the church on a Wednesday morning, and are well attended. We recently had 95 parents and children in church for the Easter Kid's Praise, and a committed core attend every month. Jack Robson has recently taken over the role of Kid's Praise Co-ordinator from Eliot, and the service is facilitated by the rest of the team including Ann Fitchett and members of the Rainbow Social and Fundraising Group.

For more information on Rainbow please see the Rainbow Manager's report from Kim Windebank.

Noah's Ark - The Mums, Dads and toddlers who come to Noah's Ark get a chance to socialise, let their children play, enjoy some much needed refreshments and have a weekly sing-song! We've seen new families come to Noah's this year, and the Christmas Party in church was a huge success. This year Eliot and Jack have joined the excellent team of Vanessa, Ann, Holly, Barbara, Jean & Priscy on a weekly basis.

For more information please see the report from Ann Fitchett & Vanessa Clothier-Pratts.

'Time Out for Christmas' & 'Easter Craft' - We continue to run two popular children's events around the Christian festivals, which draw children and families into our church for celebration and fun Christian teaching. 'Time Out for Christmas 2012' was great fun, and at the end of March 2013 our 'Good Friday Family Fun' event saw over 150 parents and children in the church engaging with crafts, games, and Easter story...and of course plenty of hot cross buns!

Amplified - Amplified meets in the Portacabin on Sunday mornings during Church, and Thursday evenings, however the group is larger on the Sundays due to the previous Amplified and X-stream ages (schools years 5-6) combining to make better use of the resources and volunteers. Amplified have been using Urban Saints 'Energize' material this year to look at Jesus' life and have touched on areas of mission after they decided to start sponsoring a young girl called 'Juana' from Guatemala. They bring contributions for her sponsorship and have written her letters helping us to look at and explore people in other cultures.

Written by Ella Caie

Amplified Youth Residentials - In June 2012 we ran our first fully ecumenical Amplified weekend away, joining groups from 3Counties Church ('Lava Lads' & 'Seekers') and St. Bart's ('Soulmates') for 3 days of fun on the Isle of Wight. We'll be repeating it this June, and are praying that even more young people can come along and hear a Christian message in a fun and relevant way.

Summary - This past year has been very much a season of growing deeper in relationships across the board, and joining the dots in our community between all the wonderful groups that we are involved with. The increase in ecumenical work with Messy Church, 24-7 Prayer, and Liquid Youth is also an exciting development. It has been invaluable having our two DNA gap year students work with us across the board, and we will miss them sorely at the end of the academic year. Please

pray that we can continue to shape our ministry in a sustainable way that will see children and young people in our community come to know Jesus for years to come!

Becca and Eliot Ambrose

DNA Student's Report 2013

During the year with DNA we have thirteen two day study blocks, where we head up to south Bromley and three residential. At all of these we have worship, training and sessions in a number of different topics; ranging from evangelism (youth, peer, servant hood, friendship), outreach, spiritual gifts, 'hot' topics (women in leadership, homosexuality, modern culture) and also studying biblical and church history. Within the biblical work we all have a small group where we're studying Mark's gospel verse by verse and this stimulates some very interesting discussions. Back at St Stephen's, we're then able to put what we've learnt into practice while also doing ongoing study here. We're greatly involved in the youth work going on, both in church and through links outside of church, such as schools, youth cafes. We've also had the opportunity to work ecumenically too, and I've been able to be involved in both 'The Wave' and 'Healing on the Streets' across the churches. Also ecumenically, I've had the opportunity to get involved in services across churches and lead worship at 3Counties church as well. Within St Stephen's we've also worked with some of the older folk and helped with the services at Chestnut View as well.

Jack Robson

DNA Student's Report 2013

Doing DNA at St Stephens his year has been great, as I've had many opportunities to work in areas I wouldn't normally have the chance to. DNA is a year of discipleship and has taught me not only how to be a disciple but also how to disciple others. Being at St Stephens has given me lots of opportunities to put this into practice in different areas whether that be through one to one mentoring girls at Liquid or spending time with youth at our various events and school visits. The two-day blocks have really helped me to gain new knowledge of the bible and learn many new skills like public speaking, helping me when speaking at Liquid and in church.

Ella Caie

CHILDREN'S MINISTER'S REPORT

Since Eliot and Becca took up their posts, my role has been clarified as a Children's Minister, as I focus on the younger children aged 2 - 9 in St. Stephen's through Junior Church and the Crèche, and the under 5's at The Rainbow.

In practice, this involves resourcing Junior Church's teaching programme, leading sessions twice a month and facilitating fellow volunteer team members. We are all very happy with our current teaching resource "Friends and Heroes" - a series of animated adventures which include Bible stories from Old and New Testaments. All the children have engaged really well with them, and the lesson plans are accessible on-line, and easy to use, and generally work well for the whole group, with some tweaking for the younger members!

The aim is to make JC as enjoyable as possible, and to get a balance between biblical learning and application through a range of multi-sensory activities, spiritual growth, through discussion and prayer and fellowship and team building through games, drama singing, craft etc. My other role in JC and crèche is to forge links with, and support parents.

Twice a year, a major focus has been organising seasonal outreach events: "Time Out for Christmas" and the "Easter Craft and Activity Morning," up until this Easter, in conjunction with The Rainbow and Noah's Ark. (This Easter, the format is slightly different, being one event for all children, 9 years and under, and their families, and has been organised as a team, with Eliot, Becca, Ella and Jack.)

My involvement with The Rainbow is the other part of my role. For the last 6 years, I have been going into The Rainbow, on a Wednesday morning to lead a Bible story and singing session. This has developed, and I am increasingly using puppetry as a teaching aid, which the children love.

'Kid's Praise' is firmly on The Rainbow calendar, and is a team effort, together with Rainbow staff, informal, and enormous fun: Inter-active singing, (which I lead), drama (all involved, including Danny and Giles!) and storytelling from the Bible and prayer. It is aimed at the children and their parents. Once a term, I go with The Rainbow children and parents and staff to Shottermill House, and lead a singing session there.

Acknowledgements

I would like to add my "thank you's" to the long standing JC team members: Louise, Robin and Emma, Emma Cunningham, Rachel, Britta and Jerry, and to all who have helped in any capacity in JC and the crèche, in the last year.

I am really proud of our children's work, and without your help, it wouldn't have been possible.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks go to Eliot and Becca, who work incredibly hard, yet make it all look so easy! You are an inspiration to the children, and to me!

Michèle Webb, Children's Minister

RAINBOW NURSERY REPORT

Introduction

Since Hilary moved onto pastures new, we have endeavoured to maintain a high standard of care, through developing new links between nursery and home and continuing to offer an engaging and interesting curriculum, in line with the government guidelines.

The new EYFS

We have had to come to terms with some changes since my appointment in September 2012, some were planned and expected and some were not. The continuing success of the Rainbow nursery is principally due to the hard-working and diligent staff team that have embraced the new EYFS and associated paperwork since my appointment. The new Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, which was launched in September, was embraced as we had prepared well with staff training in readiness for this. This preparation has ensured for the best possible transition-both for staff and for our children in their first stage of learning.

Finances in brief

With a new payment system put in place for fee invoices now with, monthly direct debit payments as well as the traditional half term and termly payments, the finances are looking healthy. This has helped the nursery and families' budget better in these financially difficult times. Thanks must be given to Emma Andersen for creating spreadsheets to allow for this.

Staff and Staff Changes

We have had to deal with a member of staff leaving at short notice. We have every faith for the future of the nursery in moving forward and going from strength to strength, with our two new part time members of staff in place; one of whom has already started and the other staff member due to start after the Easter break. These are both welcome additions to our strong Rainbow staff team.

Being a part of St Stephen's

The Rainbow continues to have very strong links to St Stephen's under my leadership, with the added support of Eliot as Youth and Children's Director, who is coming in at least once a week to visit. Michele Webb, Children's Minister, is visiting weekly to sing songs and teach from the bible and of course Danny and Giles fitting us into their busy schedules too. Monthly Kid's Praise services

are another way of celebrating our links between nursery and Church. These are now planned by Jack; they continue to grow into well attended and received services under the guidance of Eliot and Michele. This compliments our nursery ethos of acceptance and caring for all, which the nursery staff teaches the children on a daily basis. The nursery wouldn't be the success that it is without the support of St Stephen's and the many people behind the scenes, providing the back up for the nursery to flourish in the heart of the community.

Social & Fundraising Group (SFG)

The social & fundraising group have an important role in providing a social forum for the parents to become more involved with the nursery. It operates a babysitting circle and a contacts register, which all help parents with making contacts and friendships for themselves, as well as helping to raise funds towards extra resources and equipment for the nursery. We try to have a balance of social events for the parents and fundraising. The SFG has helped the nursery make some huge purchases that the nursery would find difficult to find the extra funds for.

A recent big investment, solely paid for with fundraising funds, is a weatherproof, Parent notice board to be sited outside for nursery and Church notices and news for parents/carers. The notice board is now on order and we hope to have it fitted during/after the Easter holiday break.

The Rainbow Support group (RSG)

The RSG, chaired by Ann Fitchett, offers invaluable advice, guidance and practical support in all aspects of the running of the Rainbow. We hold regular meetings, where the Church receives updates on the status of the nursery and any actions are reviewed, enabling us to continue to monitor progress in our aims. The nursery's busy day to day business requires a support group aiding the manager and staff to ensure our ideas and future visions come to fruition. They are often the unsung heroes that work behind the scenes helping to make things happen in a quiet, but all important way and we thank them wholeheartedly.

Parent's Input

The parents have been asked to give us important and valuable feedback regarding our new report writing process. The feedback has been very positive and informative to aid with future planning, with comments being made, with such quotes as:

"We feel you give our daughter the same level of attention that we endeavour to give her"

"The Rainbow is a lovely environment for our daughter to thrive in"

"He loves telling us about his sessions at nursery - it is clearly a caring, nurturing, stimulating and exciting environment".

Many times at the gate parents comment about The Rainbow *"not being like other nurseries"* *"you are more like friends"* This is the valuable connection we have with our families and their children, I will always strive to continue and develop this important partnership.

A parent survey will be going out for the parents to complete in the summer term, let's hope we can add more positive quotes to the list, so watch this space!

Our vision for the future

We will continue to support the staff in developing their professional training to ensure the best possible practice at the nursery.

We will continue to build on our tentative steps towards a paperless communication, to lessen our impact on the environment, making communication easier and more instant.

We will also be developing our own nursery website for our existing parents to stay up to date with news and information, and for prospective parents to find out about The Rainbow nursery, therefore continuing to get the message out in our community. So, the future is bright!

Kim Windebank and Ann Fitchett

NOAH'S ARK REPORT

There has been a considerable change in population since July when a large number of children left to go to school. In addition some have gone to nursery and just come to Noah's Ark occasionally. We have a greater number of babies and lively younger toddlers as well as some of our children from the previous year. They are brought by mothers, fathers, grandmothers and carers who are very appreciative and complimentary about what we offer and it is a very happy atmosphere.

Barbara Gittins is wonderful in the kitchen providing non-stop teas and coffees for the adults as well as healthy snacks for the children. It has been good to have Priscy Burchell helping Barbara when she has been here.

Eliot and Jack are towers of strength (no pun intended). One of them is always with us and they are both fantastic, very involved with adults and children and a huge help in every way. We would have found it very difficult to manage without them this year.

Danny and Giles come when they can and this is appreciated by the adults there and is tremendous outreach to the community. Many of our parents would have very little contact with the church otherwise. Holly Day is inventive with craft activities, sometimes enjoyed by the mothers as much as the children, and she is a stalwart in the team. We finish with singing each time, led by Maddy Shemmans, a carer who has been bringing children for many years.

If you have never seen 15 children being "Sleeping Bunnies" you don't know what you are missing. I think we all look forward to Tuesday afternoons. Having said that, we are desperately in need of a few more helpers either in the kitchen or amongst the children. We struggle if one of us is ill or away for some reason so anyone who could help regularly or occasionally would be most welcome.

Vanessa Clothier-Pratts and Ann Fitchett

CHURCH OFFICE REPORT

*"... so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.
We have different gifts according to the grace given us."*

Romans 12: 5 - 6

I have just completed my second year as the St Stephen's Church Administrator, a year of consolidation and developing further the support the office team provides to all the varied ministry areas of our church.

My role is divided between the internal management and administration of the life of our church and the important outreach to people within St Stephen's parish and community. It is essential to be the central hub of communication and co-ordination to facilitate both aspects of the role and especially the pastoral outreach ministry.

The outreach ministry emanating from the church office may not be so obvious as in other ministries, but I am regularly in direct contact with people within the parish and the wider community, being privileged to assist them in key lifetime events. Primarily this involvement is for baptisms, weddings and funerals. Wedding couples receive support and prayer up to their 2nd wedding anniversary appreciating the continued contact and anniversary cards.

Our annual Memorial Service is an important event honouring the bereaved and providing a tangible opportunity to reveal the compassion and love of our church family. For 2012 we extended

personal invitations to next of kin over a longer period of years with a reply slip [to encourage responses!] which included the option for continued contact with St Stephen's. We received positive feedback, it resulted in several good conversations in advance of the service and an almost doubling of attendees!

Contact with local schools including our very own Rainbow Nursery as well as for frequent Cross bookings of children's parties and local events are all further examples of outreach involvement. The Haslemere NCT branch is currently hiring the Cross for one of their courses and are keen to book again!

Another ministry area it is a huge privilege to be part of is Outward Mission (now called Mission Action Partnership). As well as continuing the regular weekly Mission Prayer focus supporting our local & overseas Outward Mission partners, this last year has seen closer links established with those Mission partners. We now receive regular news and prayer updates for more focussed prayer and our Mission partners are in turn encouraged in their kingdom work.

One of the highlights last year was the wonderful Watoto concert, although I think next time we definitely need a team of people to organise this energetic event!

Publicity within the parish continues to feature strongly throughout our church year. Our embryonic 'road stewards' system with people adopting roads so we can cover the whole parish in prayer & publicity is progressing at a slow and steady pace. Hopefully next year Hilary Bicknell and I can report a full house!

Since Jean Burchell's 'retirement' last March we need to arrange a Verger for each wedding and funeral held in church; a big thank you to those who have assisted in this new way from both congregations. Records are now kept of all our Communion Assistants in accordance with the Rural Dean's wishes! We have also expanded the team especially for the 10.45am service, with a number of us participating in Deanery training events. We were involved in the administration for the Confirmation courses and last October's Confirmation service for the encouraging large number of adult & youth candidates.

In addition to internal developments, we have implemented two Church of England procedural developments. The new Diocesan Safeguarding Policy for Children and Vulnerable Adults needed to be assimilated then presented to the PCC for their approval and implementation. It also entailed amending our terms of individual hire for The Cross and introducing separate terms for regular hirers. The other implementation related to the changes in the national Parochial Fees system for wedding, funeral and burial charges.

2012 also saw a review of the hiring charges for The Cross. As a result of my research into other local hire charges and a report to the PCC, the rates were increased slightly with effect from 1st January as well as policy decisions taken.

Once again I have been blessed to have the assistance of some office volunteers. My originally 'temporary' assistant Jim Honeywood has become a much valued regular weekly volunteer who shares a taste for shortbread! Sally Webb continued to use her computer skills weekly to great effect for several months last year. Mary Cripps has recently been assisting with the additional work occasioned by the Electoral Roll renewal and APCM. Both Helen Mitchell and Priscy Burchell are willing to assist with occasional discrete tasks. I am most grateful to each of them for their valuable service contributing to the Office Team.

On a practical level, I have completed the development of the office as far as possible and now have an adult size desk! With the Youth and Children team largely working out of the office, old baptistry and church this greatly adds to the sense of staff team and mutual support.

As a staff team we participated in the Willow Creek Leadership Conference and the recent 24/7 Haslemere Prayer Week as well as continuing our monthly gathering for lunch, support and prayer.

So as we continue our corporate and individual journey of faith onto our Parish Pilgrimage, my thanks to many of you who actively support, assist and encourage me throughout the year adding to the joy of God's service.

Jenny Parsons

HOMEGROUP REPORTS

TUESDAY AFTERNOON HOME GROUP We have felt the loss of Michael and Jean from our house group, although it does give us a mission focus. We pray for them during the afternoon but also in our private prayer time.

We normally follow the weekly sermons, although we only meet fortnightly and it helps us to remember that we are part of the same church family, those who worship on Sundays and those who are also in other House Groups.

We generally have most of our members coming (10 in all) but during this cold spell we have not always had full attendance. As we meet in the afternoon we do not share a meal but instead have tea and (quite often) cake.

As a house group we pray for one another, support one another, and try and help where and when needed. One of the things I hear most often from the various members is how the house group allows them freedom and a sense of security to speak about anything that troubles them, knowing that what is said is in complete confidence and that love and comfort is going to be our response before offering all to God in prayer.

Vanessa Kemp

The JEZ and ROBIN HOME GROUP that meet at 3 Priors Wood have recently become the BILL and ROBIN HOME GROUP. Jez and Annabelle Ponting's secondment to the Philippines followed Ed and Ali's secondment to Denmark (our home group is becoming a missionary base!).

New members have been welcomed with Jack Robson, Aptin Samadi and Jane Milborne starting at various time in the year and settling in immediately. We are seeking new members so please let us know if you are interested.

We have continued to have weekly home group on a Wednesday with an emphasis on fellowship, deepening our relationship with God, whilst also having fun wherever possible. We always start our evening off with a meal and a chat before discussing the topic of the week (largely following the service plan). Home group socials are often hotly contested board games with only a slight amount of competition.

Bill Kennedy and Robin Andersen

BRAMBLEDOWN HOME GROUP has 13 members and we meet alternate Tuesdays at 8.00pm. Venue is usually the Laver's house, Brambledown, Priors Wood although we do occasionally vary it and visit other member's houses.

Meetings start with drinks and a chat, before following whichever course of study is current and then a time of prayer. We aim to finish around 9.45pm. We all value the supportive fellowship and friendship firmly underwritten by prayer.

The group is linked to Grace and Pete How in Afganistan with CMS and Adam and Karina Martin in Derby working with asylum seekers. Recently Grace and Pete visited us while on leave and we hosted them with Sunday lunch.

David Laver

TUESDAY EVENING HOME GROUP: LEADER JEAN BURCHELL

We are a group of just Ladies, who meet every 2 weeks and usually follow the Home Group series given to us by Danny. We enjoyed the last series, together with the Sunday sermons, and we like the series which are bible based so we learn more about God's word to us and also learn more about the bible itself.

We meet in each others homes on a rota system and enjoy coffee and homemade cakes at either the start or the end of each meeting. Julie recently stood down as leader due to family commitments and now Jean leads the group. She has slightly re-organised things so each member of the group has responsibility for one aspect of each meeting.

We welcome anyone who would like to visit us with a view to joining us.

Maura Howard

KNOW YOUR BIBLE (KYB) Ladies Bible Study Group meet weekly Friday mornings

A group of 8-10 of us meet every week to study and pray together. Being unashamedly biased when it comes to KYB we all agree that we are very blessed that we have such a great and helpful way to study the scriptures. The material is very practical and suitable for all and having studied the passage individually during the week we are able to come together and share it in greater depth. It can be very challenging as we unearth pearls that perhaps we have never seen before and to share with each other our understanding of the passage.

Over the last year we have studied Isaiah, Joseph (a small subset of us over the summer holidays) and Matthew, and will be starting Thessalonians the beginning of May. It is very exciting to see what God is doing within us as a group as we become a closer unit and are all getting more and more excited about the bible! Although we are chiefly a Bible study group, after catching up and sharing practical needs we always have a time of prayer for each other and for giving thanks.

During 2012 we were sorry to lose Jean Clark from our company when she and Michael went to Cambodia but she remains in our thoughts and prayers. Towards the end of 2012 we had a change of leadership with Sarah Weldon stepping back after leading the group so well for several years, and leadership of the group has moved onto the shoulders of Helen Mitchell and Carolyn Nelson.

We would welcome anyone who would like to come and try us out and joining us for a term to study Thessalonians would be a great way to do that, if you are interested and would like to know more or take a look at the material contact Helen or Carolyn.

Helen Mitchell and Carolyn Nelson.

For a complete list of our St Stephen's Home Groups please see our Summer Term leaflet.

MISSION ACTION PARTNERSHIP REPORT
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(formerly Outward Giving group)

This is now our new name. We believe it reflects our purpose as a group and more importantly as a church. The mission of proclaiming the good news of Christ is about action - giving, going and praying. Proclaiming the good news of Christ is also about partnership - partnership with people who are serving the Lord in many different situations.

Our main activities in the group are:

- To ensure the church is aware of the prayer needs of our mission partners.

- To keep a high profile in the church of our mission partners. This is done through circulating prayer needs, newsletters (when available), key news updates and giving opportunities for people to speak at St Stephens (when possible & appropriate).
- To discuss and agree funding, particularly when there is a change in circumstances.
- To ensure the Matthew 28:18 mandate is at the forefront of life at St Stephens. This is done through all the above, plus encouraging short and long term service and seeking other ways to stay focussed on mission.

The steering group currently consists of: Jenny Parsons, Neil Wilson, Giles Carpenter, Tim Standing, Danny Wignall and Dave Mitchell.

We would love a few other interested folk to join us! We generally meet two to three times a year and keep in regular touch by e-mail. Individuals in the group then take responsibility to follow up on certain things.

News from the last year:

We have had visits from a number of our partners:

Grace Howe (most recently), Tim Rocke and David Ryan from China Heart. It's been both encouraging and challenging to hear what the Lord has been doing in & through these folk.

We have had the privilege of commissioning Michael and Jean Clarke to serve in Hope School, Cambodia.

We also had the privilege of sending the short term team to Chennai and sharing in their experiences. MAP discussed how we can improve the support lines all the way through the process, particularly re-entry.

Plans:

To have a 'Sunday for the World'
To continue doing what we're doing & do it well!

Supported Groups:

CHERNOBYL CHILDREN'S LIFELINE

This locally based organisation brings children affected by the 1986 nuclear disaster to Haslemere for 3 - 4 weeks, once a year, to give them respite and recovery time from the damage of radiation in their environment.

www.ccll.org.uk/ho/

CHINAHEART

A mission called to serve the poor, needy and orphaned in China. Projects include child sponsorship and long term visitation of children and their carers, caring for babies in a special unit and practical work in various orphanages. Neil & Jifelane Wilson visited the outreach in China in summer 2010.

<http://www.chinaheartint.org/>

CHRISTIAN MISSIONS CHARITABLE TRUST

Serves the needs of the poor in Chennai, India through a broad range of ministries including an orphanage, schools, professional medical & dental care, soup kitchens, food rations taken to the slums, vocational training, tsunami relief and rehabilitation, wheelchair ministry and work with street children. This Colleen Redit, who established the mission, recently visited St Stephen's reporting on her organisation's work. Members of St. Stephen's are planning to visit Chennai in November to further understand and support their work.

www.christianmissionindia.com

CROSSWAYS COUNSELLING

An outreach to the local community providing affordable professional counselling. Professionally qualified Christian volunteer counsellors work with clients from all backgrounds and with a variety of presenting issues. They are planning to offer a limited number of couple and family counselling sessions from July onwards. Crossways relies heavily on local churches for volunteer stewards and to cover overheads costs. They are most grateful for St. Stephen's help.

<http://www.crosswayscounselling.org.uk/>

CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY (CMS)

St. Stephen's supports the work of Grace (nee Guinness) and Pete How in Mazar in the north of Afghanistan through CMS, an evangelistic mission. Pete is working to improve agricultural development. Grace cares for their young son and is also building bridges in getting to know the local women. They are grateful for our support, particularly in prayer.

<http://www.cms-uk.org/Home/tabid/53/language/en-GB/Default.aspx>

FRRME - Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East.

FRRME facilitates the work of Canon Andrew White, Vicar of the only Anglican Church in Iraq, St Georges Church, in Baghdad's Red Zone. They provide a Christian spiritual home, medical care and humanitarian relief to people of all faiths, as well as promoting reconciliation amongst different religious groups. Canon Andrew chairs Iraq's High Council of Religious Leaders (HCRLI) which includes some of Iraq's most influential religious and political figures.

<http://frrme.org/>

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CHURCH (ICC)

Adam (Liza Caie's brother) and Karina Martin work spreading the gospel with the multi cultural community in Derby, especially with Kurdish people and asylum seekers. St Stephen's support has helped provide resources for their ministry.

LATIN LINK

The mission works with churches and partner organisations in Latin America. They organise short gap year mission visits, (as taken by our own Lizzie Parker), longer visits for post-university or career break volunteers, and have permanent mission partners. St Stephen's supports the Cowan Family's work in Christian Broadcasting and local prisons in Ecuador. We receive regular visits from Latin Link representatives.

<http://www.latinlink.org.uk/>

OPEN DOORS

Open Doors supports the persecuted church, distributing Bibles to persecuted Christians, training leaders, developing livelihood projects and raising awareness. Our giving helps to change people's lives month after month.

<http://www.opendoorsuk.org/>

ROCKE FAMILY

The Tim & Jane Rocke family live & work near Livarot, Normandy, France, doing evangelical outreach through involvement in the local churches, their language courses and B & B business. The Rocke Family was part of the St. Stephen's congregation prior to their calling to mission in France.

TEARFUND

Tearfund is a Christian relief and development agency which works alongside 300 church based partners in more than 60 countries to transform communities and individuals materially and spiritually. It also provides emergency relief in disasters.

www.tearfund.org

***THE ORCHARD CLUB/ (AGE CONCERN)**

Age Concern was relaunched as the Orchard Club on 1st April. It provides activities for older people such as fitness, computer, film & art classes in Haslewey. The Orchard cafe is open to all,

has free wifi and serves very reasonably priced hot lunches and snacks. Many St Stephens members volunteer in the cafe, office and reception, with special thanks to Ross for help with the branding.
www.ageuk.org.uk/

HOPE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Hope International School is a vibrant, nurturing school community with a vision to see students impact the world for Christ. Based in Phnom Penh, the capital city of Cambodia, Hope School exists to support missionary and Christian expatriate families working with the people of Cambodia and surrounding regions. They have also recently established a second Hope School campus in the provincial city of Siem Reap.

<http://www.hopeschool-cambodia.org/>

HOPE ACADEMY

Bruce and Louise Nadin in Capetown, South Africa. The vision is to strategically establish self-sustainable Hope Academies in disadvantaged communities and to uplift children in their football, faith and future. Hope Academy is a project of Ambassadors In Sport International. To offer an intensive & holistic football-based program that provides underprivileged children the opportunity to fulfill their God-given potential on & off the field.

<http://www.aishopeacademy.org/youth-football-academy-africa/drakenstein>

RIVERS OF LIFE CHURCH GUATEMALA

Central American Evangelical Church “Ríos de Agua Viva” in the city of Quetzaltenango, Guatemala. Our connections here are through Simon and Priscy Burchell. This church reaches out to their local community and is developing a medical clinic staffed by doctors from their own congregation, with specialists in paediatrics, gynaecology, and obstetrics, general medicine and internal medicine.

Neil Wilson, Chair

OUTREACH REPORT

ALPHA

We did things a little differently at the previous Alpha in that we made the course into six evenings (plus party and Away Day) and not ten, and gave the talks 'live' rather than by DVD. We did the same again this time, but more differently still; we shared the speaking between Danny, Giles, Ross, Toby, Amber and Chris, which worked well. Some of the Home Groups provided, cooked and served the meals each evening. They did wonderfully: great food and so caringly served - thank you!

A regular core of fifteen guests came on the course and another five came when they could. Every evening started with pre-dinner drinks, an opportunity for everyone to get to know each other beyond those at their own tables. Low lighting, candles and background music made for a warm and inviting atmosphere which everyone commented on. The guests covered a wide age range, from teenagers to the 'more mature' and were well looked after by a great team of table leaders: Ross, Neil B, Danny, Jo, Giles and Fran. We held the Away Day at Hilary and Mike Pettman's beautiful home in Elstead. It was a peaceful and meaningful time and we sensed that everyone who came drew closer to each other and to the Lord.

Salvation is a process and people join Alpha from different spiritual starting points, and none. It was clear that everyone without exception had made discernible progress which was a delight to see and hear. It's also a delight to see some of our Alpha guests regularly in church - welcome! The six evenings cover most of the full Alpha course and we cover the remainder at New Beginnings, a post-Alpha series around the fireside at which there's time to tackle the inevitable outstanding issues and questions in more detail. Ross and Emma are leading New Beginnings this year in their house and there's some interesting and lively discussion. We hope that some or all in the group may wish to continue meeting after New Beginnings' six weeks and Ross and Emma would be

delighted if others, perhaps new to the church or to the Christian faith would like to come along (01428 645105).

On the last evening of Alpha we all complete a questionnaire asking for feedback about the course. Here are some comments from different guests: "I've really enjoyed the six weeks - lovely atmosphere and I feel I have made some new friends.....wonderful time.....great, thoroughly enjoyable experience.....food, company and atmosphere excellent.....really enjoyed meeting others who may be on the same journey.....the food was amazing, thank you very much.....started on my journey in getting to know Jesus....."

It's always a real joy to be involved in Alpha and there are lots of ways to be involved, so do give it a try next year - you'll love it!

Chris Oldroyd

BAPTISM MINISTRY

During 2012 there were 10 infants and 1 adult baptised at St Stephen's. I have the privilege of visiting the families prior to the Baptism with either Danny or Giles. During this time we have the opportunity to get to know the parents and sometimes the god-parents better.

We are able to discuss the order of service and the importance of the promises they are going to make on both their own and the infant's behalf. It also gives them the opportunity to ask any questions that they may be concerned about including practicalities regarding the service. At the end of our time in their homes we are then able to pray with the family and advise them about events that are happening, for example, Men@StStephen's, Alpha, etc.

I send out to the families our Service Postcards and Erika sends baptism anniversary cards throughout the year.

Jo Long

FOOTBALL AT LION GREEN

The "Shottermill Ecumenicals" led by Giles & Ross, play football Saturday mornings on Lion Green, inviting members of the community from age 2 upwards to join in.

This year we have seen several new children and dad's joining us on a Saturday morning and others moving on to clubs with coaching facilities. All the new intake are from families otherwise unconnected with the church and whilst this is good news for the ongoing missional opportunities there are now no other church dad's regularly involved which has implications for the future of the group. Two dad's in particular have been significantly involved and have stood in for me on occasions I have been unavailable. Both these two families and others have attended Church events this year including the Chennai Awareness Week.

If anyone is interested in getting involved in the leadership of this fun and effective means of community engagement why not join us on a Saturday morning and find out why this deserves to be an ongoing ministry for St Stephens.

Giles Carpenter

HEALING ON THE STREETS (HOTS)

HOT's, which is a much easier abbreviation to write than 'Healing On The Streets', has been running in our area now for over three years. It has been described as intended to '...reach the hurting and lost in our town...', and to enable us to 'connect with the community every week, powerfully expressing God's love in the market place whatever the weather'. Nevertheless, whilst such descriptions are true and accurate, they are clearly written by someone else, and are somewhat more eloquent than I could have come up with, so I'm now going to have to shed the glossy-brochure-ish¹ descriptions and give you my rather more earthy explanation without all the polished bits.

Basically the truth is that, Romey does ALL the work. All you have to do is say how little or often you can go out, and then on your day, turn up, help set up the site and be prepared to... well, basically in fact talk to people. On occasions people will ask for prayer, either for themselves or for friends and family, and Romey has many testimonies of healing that have come out of the years that we've been operating. However, more often than not it's just simply passing the time and being friendly with people in the community. All of us have been on a training course, so there is no need to fear that you are just left to make it up as you go along, and all that is asked is that you have a compassion for the community, a belief that God can heal through his Holy Spirit, and then just the normal amount of perseverance and persistence to keep you out on the streets even if it's not a beautiful Sunny Summers day (some of the Summers days in winter are in fact really quite cold).

The team takes anyone aged 16 plus (under 18 with parental agreement), you just need to be available. We need both men and women, particularly now that so many of the old St Stephen's stalwarts have moved out of the area and other long standing members of the team have stood down.

It is a very gentle ministry - we don't chase after people, we simply go at a regularly time and in a regular place so that we are there and accessible, please contact Jack Robson, Dave Mitchell or Romey Christie for more details. We'd love to have you along.

¹ even if 'glossy-brochure-ish' isn't an adjective it really should be.

Dave Mitchell
www.healingonthestreets.com

MEN AT ST. STEPHEN'S (M@SS)

The Men of St Stephen's have had some varied events this year. We started in September with the Haslemere Beer Festival, the thought of beer and live music proved to be a big pull and a great time was had by all (so much so that we couldn't get enough tickets).

In October we shared a Chilli night eating Curry, we were a small but faithful group of 12 including several people new to the church. In January the snow was falling but almost 20 men and a dog rolled back the years (for some it was quite a few years) to play board games - the table playing 'Risk' became quite serious but Jez Ponting was the victor, the Poker players aptly ate the most chips, thanks to Eliot for setting up the Scalectrix!

In the rest of 2013 we already have a packed schedule with Curry in March & July and a Go- Karting event in May. In the summer we plan to do some additional sporty type events as well so watch this space. Finally a thanks to Jenny for helping with the notifications.

Robin Andersen

ST. STEPHEN'S SOCIAL and HOSPITALITY GROUP (SSSH GROUP)

In September we formed a new group to oversee hospitality within the church as well as possibly outreach opportunities. In the group are Nik Owen, Sophie Long, Fran Oldroyd, Debs Wignall and Emma Andersen.

Our first task was to come up with a name, in the end we decided on the St Stephen's Social and Hospitality Group, but this is a bit boring so we have shortened it to the SsshGroup.

Our first event was a Harvest Brunch which was brilliant with lots of bacon and sausage baps and there was a great atmosphere in the church. The next event we organised was a Thank you party for the huge amount of volunteers that we are blessed with within the church. The church staff put on some wonderful "entertainment" and we served cheese and wine. It was a fabulous evening and a chance to really say thank you to everyone who works so hard to make our church family what it is.

We also provided homemade mince pies and mulled wine after the Carol service and in February

we served pancakes with coffee after the 10:45 service which was a bit different. These are all great opportunities to meet people who you don't often get the chance to have a chat with. There will be some more fun events coming up this year, all involving food and drink!

We have a brilliant team and have lots of fun. If you would like to join the team or have any ideas of events that you would like to see at St. Stephen's, please do let me know (Emma@simply-flowers.org)

Emma Andersen

PRIME TIME

Prime Time organises popular monthly events for the over 60s at St. Stephen's. During the year we have had some memorable outings as well as good times in the Cross.

We have had trips to Amberley Museum, Arundel Castle and a visit to the seaside (enjoying fish and chips), our usual theatre visit to see the Pantile Players at The Noah's Ark, Lurgashall, Sunday Lunch and some walks and pub lunches.

We were very thrilled to welcome the Chief Guide, Janet Matthews, from Guildford Cathedral to talk to us and also delighted to have our very own Chris Oldroyd talk about and then play the bagpipe. JimAnDave also played for us, for which we were very grateful. A wonderful fun-filled January revels had to be postponed, because of the snow, to February. However, those who were able to make the new date enjoyed a home-cooked lunch, wine and lots of games.

We have some great outings planned for the coming year including a coach trip to Canterbury to join in the end of the Pilgrimage on June 2nd.

We have been able to gather a list of people who would like to be kept informed of our events which is great news as, of course, Prime Time is also focused on outreach as well as giving entertainment to our own church members.

Vanessa Kemp, Chairman

THE CHURCH WEBSITE

The Church website is not just our notice board to each other, but one of the increasingly important ways that we communicate who we are and what we are doing to the world outside. I have been encouraged to hear that some of the congregation first chose to visit us simply based on this first introduction.

It is difficult to tell who actually uses the web site more, visitors or Church members, but I do have a measurement of all visitors to each page, and this gives something of an indication of what people want and what they are interested in. Indeed it is not just because search engines visit front pages of web sites to see if they are 'still there' that our most visited page is our front page. This has been visited over 8760 times this year (March to March), around 24 visitors a day. Even I am staggered at that! If just a quarter of those visitors were new it is as if they had walked into the church to have a look around, just think of the opportunity that gives us to say hello and introduce ourselves.

But it is not just outsiders who visit our pages, the fact that we have the pew leaflet, church magazine, photographs, listen again facility (available also though iTunes as a podcast), rota's, Church Calendar, prayer garden and so much more that it would be folly to attempt to describe it all here.

Structurally, most of what is immediately required and that which is most often changed is on the front page. There is a rolling text banner that describes upcoming notices and events along with a slide show selection of our latest photographs. Other pages of course can be less dynamic. The Church history page for example doesn't change from one year to the next. But this does mean that when change does occur it can be overlooked and pages become hopelessly out of date or just

need freshening up. Either way, should you see any errors from typos to out of date pages, please let me know so that I can (perhaps with your help or guidance) get them sorted. Similarly, if you are organising something and want it publicised, please let me know by sending any material that you want incorporated.

Just a last word on recent initiatives, these have included the Chennai Blog, a closed group Facebook page (by invite only to St Stephen's members past and present), and the prototype of a password protected on-line church directory. I am also keen to continue to provide links to photographs of our events, so I would be grateful for any you could send.

The general message I want to convey is that we are always open to ideas and suggestions, even if it may take a while to get them implemented! Please remember it is our face on the on-line world, so please take advantage of it.

And just in case you were wondering what the top most visited pages were this last year, they were:

1. Our front page	7900
2. Contacts Page	1135
3. Rainbow Nursery	945
4. Our Photographs	881
5. Children	466
6. Youth	419

(And we had visitors from the USA, Canada, The Netherlands, India, Australia, The Philippines, Germany, Norway and Cambodia).

Dave Mitchell

PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY REPORT

As most of you know I have recently stood down from this role to try to become more of a Mary than a Martha. So this report also serves as an advertisement for my replacement!

The role of pastoral care co-ordinator ranges from bereavement follow up, organising transport rotas for church, supporting and helping to train those involved in pastoral care, keeping eyes and ears open for those in our congregation and in our parish who are struggling to cope in some way and offering appropriate support, and being part of the Leadership team.

I would say from experience that it would best suit someone not in full time employment or with a young or demanding family as there is a need to be flexible and available a bit more than those circumstances allow for. However there are many people in the congregation who do a lot of the work already. Those in difficulty or distress are quietly looked after without a lot of fuss, care homes are visited etc. The role is as much about supporting the carers as doing the actual caring. We have two members of the congregation who have trained/are training as Pastoral Care assistants and many wise and compassionate people who just get on with it!

I have felt privileged to be able to carry out this role over the past few years. St Stephen's is a wonderful family to serve and I have been well supported by the pastoral care team. There is much more that could be done to develop this vital role - much more than I have had the capacity to address - and I do hope and pray that one of you will be inspired to do so. Ideally this would be someone who knows both congregations and who can be around at coffee time on Sundays. I found being on the coffee rota quite helpful! Or perhaps a job share between a 9am and a 10.45am attendee? If you do feel that you would like to explore this further do contact Danny or Giles in the first instance and then come and have a chat with me. I will be happy to still be available for advice on other sources of support, referrals etc.

Thank you all for your kindness and support over the past few years

Jane Saunders

Prayer Chain

Hilary Bicknell co-ordinates this ministry. She holds a list of 38 members of the congregation whose calling it is to respond to specific prayer requests. 32 of these people are contacted by e-mail and the remaining 6 by phone. Hilary's role is primarily a responsive one. She receives requests for prayer. But occasionally where her experience and instinct tells her that a particular person might want prayer but is too reticent to ask, she will offer the service.

Hilary keeps a book of the prayer requests and each new prayer request received is transmitted to her team who will then pray either once or on an ongoing basis according to how they feel called. Once a request is in the book it remains "live" until and unless Hilary learns that prayer is no longer needed.

The pattern of requests is irregular. Sometimes Hilary receives no requests for a month, then she will gently ask around and quite often this produces a sudden small flood. Sometimes there is a steady stream of requests that goes on for weeks.

Please let Hilary know if you would like to join the Prayer Chain.

Refreshments

Donna Rigby organises a rota of half a dozen people to serve coffee/tea and biscuits between the two Sunday morning services and after a joint service, and also at key services over Christmas and at Baptisms. This hospitality provides a valuable setting not only for mingling and fellowship between the two Sunday morning congregations, but also an opportunity to make newcomers and visitors feel welcome.

Haslewey Community Centre

Nicky Lee is chairman of the Orchard Club which is based in the Haslewey Community Centre. Hilary Owen of St Stephen's manages the centre and welcomes involvement from ourselves and other churches.

The centre provides a number of valuable facilities for local residents including laundry, bathing, hairdressing and chiropody, as well as outings, organised by the Orchard Club, for the elderly and a popular and reasonably priced café which serves hot lunches, tea and coffee and is an important hub for the elderly community.

The church's Community Christmas Lunch is held at the Centre. Haslewey is well-used by members of St Stephen's and its volunteer staff includes a number of people from this church. St Stephen's currently supports the Orchard Club in Haslemere through the Mission Action Partnership program.

MINISTRY TO THE CARE HOMES

Home Communion

A service of Holy Communion is provided once a month, on a Thursday or Friday, to those residents at Home Green, Holy Cross Hospital, Chase House, Brownscombe House and Shottermill House who wish to receive Holy Communion. Over the last year a team of 7 people from St Stephens, including Danny and Giles, Vanessa Kemp, Val Porteous, Maggie Grimshaw, Jean Burchell and me, have served between 25 and 30 elderly or disabled Christians in this way helping them to feel that they are still part of the body of Christ even though they can no longer get to church. For 2013 we are joined by Aptin Samadi and are grateful to him for being willing to join us in this ministry.

The Communion service that we use is a short version of the Parish Communion incorporating the Gathering, the Preparation, the Prayer of Penitence, the Collect for the previous Sunday, a Gospel reading, Prayers of Intercession and a shortened Liturgy of the Sacrament, ending with the Post-Communion Prayer and the Dismissal. At Brownscombe House, and beginning this Easter, at Chase House we conduct a slightly longer service which includes 3 hymns and a short sermon. We are deeply indebted to Brenda Petrie for her continued willingness to give her time to support us at Brownscombe House every month - and now at Chase House as well - in order to lead the singing.

The giving of the Bread and the Wine is done by extension. This is a process, authorised by Bishop Christopher, whereby, in advance of the Care Home Communion service, an ordained minister (Danny, Giles or Chris) blesses the Communion wafers and the wine and intincts the wafers with the wine. This is normally done on a weekly basis during the Thursday morning Communion service in church. The intincted wafers are then available for us to use in the Care Home Communion services of that week.

The staff at Holy Cross, Brownscombe House, Chase House and Shottermill House and the residents of Home Green are extremely kind and encouraging in their support for the visits we make, bringing together those residents who want to receive Holy Communion and providing space and equipment to make the Communion Service as beautiful and meaningful as if it was taking place in church.

Sarah Weldon

Chestnut View Care Home

The Miracle of Sharing Jesus' Love

I lead a small team of only three people, Maggie Grimshaw, Margaret Costagliola and myself who visit Chestnut View Care Home every week taking posies of flowers to all the residents. Our visits are very much welcomed by residents and staff alike. Every two weeks I also take my dogs to the Home to visit a small number of the residents who get a great deal of pleasure and benefit from contact with animals.

In addition, we run a church service with Holy Communion held at the Home on the fourth Sunday of every month, which is shared between St Stephen's and the Methodist Church.

We have recently said goodbye to one of our lovely ladies from Chestnut View, Florence Canceran. Florence enjoyed worshipping at St Stephen's during her time working at Chestnut View. Whenever I visited each fortnight she would wait expectantly to see my dog Louie and give him a treat as well as have a jar of water ready for the flowers we took.

It is a great joy and very rewarding to visit our friends in Chestnut View especially as you get to know each of them by name. So it is a great pleasure to write a little about Florence whom you may not remember from her short time as part of our church family.

The three of us found it very interesting and useful to attend with Danny the Diocesan training on Dementia. The session was most helpful and opened our eyes. We now make a point of spending more time with our friends in Chestnut View. They very much like the posies of flowers we take each time and for us to talk to them. Some of them come to our services and sometimes we are asked to pray for people.

We very much need more help from singers and with getting our friends ready for the monthly services as well as to cover times when one of is on holiday. Also help with the posies as we make and take 25 every week.

We would also like to see more people from St Stephen's coming to the monthly service to help with the physical aspects of preparing the lounge and bringing together the residents.

It is a great gift and very humbling to help our friends at the end of their lives. We feel very blessed as it is a great way of sharing Jesus' love.

If you can help in any way please talk to me, Maggie or Margaret. Thank you.

Erika Glaysher

THE PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM

At the end of each service prayer is offered, normally in the Chancel, however this can vary depending on the suggestion of the person leading. Prior to the service those on duty pray for whoever is leading and preaching as well as for each other. It is a great privilege to minister to the increasing number of people requesting prayer.

Fran Oldroyd took over leadership of the team in July from Jean Clark who with Michael moved to Cambodia. At the team meeting on 5th July we thanked them both for their great contribution whilst celebrating the next chapter God has called them to as well as praying for them. Although Fran leads the team she is greatly assisted by Anne Laver who arranges the rota for the 9 a.m. service.

Since the last report we have said goodbye to Julian Dilkes who moved to Worthing when he married Nikki. Toby Beresford has stepped down due to other commitments. Also Vanessa Kemp and Jane Saunders are taking some time out. We are thankful to them all for being part of the team.

Mark and Val Ladd, and John and Thelma Carroll have joined the 9 a.m. team as well as Elizabeth Lockwood and Marje Hitchmough who are also on the prayer leading rota for the earlier service. Jill Soar has returned to the 10.45 a.m. team, and Lillian Van Klinken as well as Ross Cunningham have joined us.

We continue to meet on a regular basis with Danny and/or Giles for encouragement, support and training. We had a day of retreat in November at Hurst Barn near Petersfield which most were able to attend and found it to be up building.

Fran Oldroyd

PARENTING REPORT

We have run two parenting courses this year. In the autumn we met with a group of Emma Andersen's friends at her house. With children age mostly 4 - 8yrs our discussions revolved around getting to school or bed on time, managing misbehaviour and developing mutual respect.

In the spring we met at Warrenden for a teenage parenting course. Discussions still included getting to school on time (!) but we also looked at helping teens to become responsible, listening and encouraging and enabling teens to face the consequence of their behaviour and choices. The courses material is provided by Family Caring trust and involves a video, exercises and book.

In both courses members value the opportunity to discuss with parents of similar age children and the chance to try something new. The courses are good fun and offer suggestions not rules. Parenting is a challenging vocation and we aim to be "good enough" not perfect.

Nicky Lee

TESTIMONIES and PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

As Jean and Maura have explained, all of us going on the pilgrimage to Canterbury are following in a great and centuries old tradition and there will be some wonderfully memorable times along the way (hopefully not breaking a leg or getting lost!) And to go with other people is such fun as Chaucer graphically shows in his classic 'Canterbury Tales', written in 14th century Middle English.

So I thought it may add to the fun if I wrote the first sixteen lines of his 'Prologue' in which he explains the reason and the season for going on pilgrimages and goes on to paint the colourful - and unexpected - characters of the unlikely band of twenty four pilgrims. They included a knight, a miller, a cook, a merchant, a doctor, a priest, two nuns and The Wife of Bath who had had several husbands, most of whom were old men who left her all their wealth! Oh - and also a miller who played the bagpipes, so he must have been a good guy.

It might make it even more fun if I copy his original text from my school Chaucer book lovingly kept over the years and offer a translation which, at the expense of rhyme and easy flow, I've tried to keep as literal as possible so that each line reflects the original line. I hope it gives you a flavour of the coming pilgrimage season!

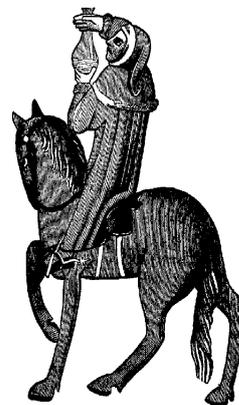
Chris Oldroyd

Whan that Aprille with his shoures soote
 The droghte of March hath pierced to the roote
 And bathed every veyne in swich licour
 Of which vertu engendred is the flour;
 Whan Zephirus eek with his swete breeth
 Inspired hath in every holt and heeth
 The tendre croppes, and the yonge sonne
 Hath in the Ram his halfe cours y-ronne
 And smale foweles maken melodye,
 That slepen al the nyght with open eye, -
 So priketh hem Nature in hir corages, -
 Thanne longen folk to goon pilgrimages,
 And palmeres for to seken straunge strondes.
 To fern halwes, kowthe in sondry londes,
 And specially, from every shires ende
 Of Engelond to Canterbury they wende.

*When April with its sweet showers
 Has pierced March's drought to the root
 And bathed every vein in such liquid
 By whose energy the flower is given life,
 When Zephyr also with his sweet breath
 Has enlivened in every wood and heath
 The tender crops, and the young sun
 Has run half its course in the Ram,
 And little birds make melody,
 That sleep all night with open eye,-
 As nature pricks them in their hearts,-
 Then folk long to go on pilgrimages,
 And palm branch bearers to seek out foreign
 shores.
 To distant shrines in sundry well known
 lands,
 And especially from every shire's end
 Of England, to Canterbury they wend.*



THE WIFE OF BATH



THE PHYSIC

PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

During 2012 the PCC was registered as a charity in its own right with the Charity Commission with number 1134016. The members of the PCC are the trustees of the charity. When planning our activities for the year, the trustees consider the Commission's guidance on public benefit and the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our church community through:

- worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- provision of pastoral care for people in the community.
- missionary and outreach work.