



St Stephen's Shottermill

Annual Thanksgiving and Review

*for the year ended
31st December 2013*

(Registered charity number: 1134016)

*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it
again: Rejoice!*

Philippians 4: 4

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Welcome to this Annual Thanksgiving Review

I said last year that a church is not primarily about buildings, it is about people. It is a living organism - the body of Christ. As a living organism, we are constantly changing, responding to new challenges and growing - this is a sign of health. I am struck, as I read this year's review, by how much goes on as part of the St Stephen's family and the number of people involved. These reports only represent some of the mission and ministry that has taken place over the last year. I am reminded of the 5 Marks of Mission that we studied last year.

1. **TELL:** To proclaim the good news of the Kingdom. Proclamation may be in words - effective communication of the Gospel - but also in actions, by living the Good News we preach.
2. **TEACH:** To teach, baptise and nurture new believers. Christian discipleship is about lifelong learning, so we all need formal and informal resources for growing in faith, so that the Church is a learning environment for all ages.
3. **TEND:** To respond to human need by loving service. Churches have a long tradition of care through pastoral ministry. Christians are called to respond to the needs of people locally and in the wider human community.
4. **TRANSFORM:** To seek to transform unjust structures in society. Jesus and the OT prophets before him challenged oppressive structures in God's name. Christians should not only press for change, but also demonstrate justice within Church structures.
5. **TREASURE:** To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth. The Bible's vision of salvation is universal in its scope. We are called to promote the wellbeing of the human community and its environment, so that Creation may live in harmony.

It is encouraging to see how we are covering each of the five marks in our mission and ministry in the parish and beyond. When you get weary in service - we all do (!) - remember that our service is part of our participation in the mission of God. He is a missionary God who seeks and saves the lost and calls us to be partners in the Gospel with him. May I extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for being partners in the Gospel. It is through service that we grow in love and depth 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. As we respond to GOD's invitation to join in his mission to his world, we journey together 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, resources 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
March 2014

WORSHIP & MEDIA REPORT

As usual this year, we have lost some musicians and gained some. In particular, we have lost Jane Kent (who has moved away), Ella Caie and Sophie Long, who are at university. Also Paul Bowers and Sally Carruthers. However, we have gained Marie Curtis, and there are a few new people who are interested in joining the group soon.

Remember - If you have a musical ability - even if it seems inadequate to you - we would love to hear from you to see if it can be nurtured!

The 2013 Christmas Carol service was a highlight again this year. It was encouraging to welcome several new singers into the choir. Once again, Louise Stevenson did an excellent job of organising and leading us all. Let us remind ourselves that this service is an important point of contact with the local community.

We also provided bands for Prime-Time, the Crossways Counselling AGM, led worship twice at an ecumenical event in Elstead, and helped Jim Honeywood with his annual drummers' concert.

Also, Jim and Andy have both helped to provide music occasionally at the Orchard Club during the past year.

Equipment

The only major change/purchase this year has been swapping the drum kit for a smaller one (hands up if you noticed this one!) - we were able to sell the old kit for more than the replacement one cost, thus putting some funds back into the worship budget, for a change!

The organ does not fall within the remit of the worship budget. It continues to need major work to try and resolve all its faults. We are assured that the "final" visit from the organ engineers is happening on March 7th. There will then be a period of assessment to see how effective these repairs have been in terms of stability, reliability and playability.

Media

Dave Mitchell continues to do a fantastic job in keeping the church website up to date, and adding all the weekly sermon recordings to the site for those who want to listen from home. He has also recently added a very active Facebook page, to keep people aware of events and other news.

Summary

I continue to be amazed at the diversity and quality of our musical worship. We only have a very small number of volunteers, yet we always seem to bring God the very best that He deserves. Most of the musicians have demanding family lives and jobs, yet manage to somehow carve out time to help us all connect with God and bring him all Glory, Honour and Praise.

Blessings, **Andy Rigby**

YOUTH & CHILDREN DIRECTORS' REPORT

Within church life...

Bible Tots - Bible Tots is thriving as our new group for younger children. Please see *Michèle Webb's Children's Minister's Report* for further information.

Freerunners - Freerunners (formerly Junior Church) has experienced an exciting time of change. Please see *Michèle Webb's Children's Minister's Report* for more news.

Rainbow & Kid's Praise - The last two years has seen a lot of development and growth occur in our link with Rainbow Nursery and in particular Kids Praise. We've had the opportunity to continue to attend a session of nursery and play with the children, lead a bit of prayer and worship and have a story time together too. This has also helped our monthly fun morning service with Rainbow called Kids Praise because the children are already connected with us.

We have a great team that serve on Kids Praise and who also have regular contact with the nursery throughout the term as well. We have a fun morning where we sing songs, have a drama and story and create a fun and interactive environment for the children, parents and teachers to all be involved in. The numbers who attend has grown and the doors have been opened to those in Noah's Ark and church too who have children nursery age.

We look forward to seeing how Kids Praise continues to grow and develop over the remainder of this school year and we feel it's a great privilege to be able to serve the children, teachers and the parents alike with the way we run the morning.

By Jack Robson

Amplified - Our youth group for ages 10-14 runs during church on Sundays, and a cell group meets on Thursday nights for social time, games and informal mentoring. This year we changed the age bracket slightly and have now got a wonderful core of young people who explore faith, church life and prayer.

Amplified Youth Residentials - Our Amplified youth residential takes place each June, uniting with the other similarly-aged groups in the area from St Bart's and 3 Counties churches. This involves a weekend in the Isle of Wight with beach trips, swimming, activities and faith-based teaching.

Liquid - On Sunday nights our '*Liquid Youth*' congregation for 14-19 year olds has continued to grow in depth and numbers through a successful '*Youth Alpha*' course during the Autumn Term of 2013. This term we've been exploring different forms of worship, including a Taizé service and a fantastic '*Unite*' Worship event where over 60 young people from 7 different parishes and 5 different youth groups gathered in Church Centre Liphook for a dynamic night of praising God together. Next term we will be delving into the theme of spiritual gifts, so please pray that the young people will continue to experience the Holy Spirit in new and exciting ways as they discover Jesus' love.

Prayer Please! We're working increasingly closely with the youth workers from Liphook, Hindhead and Grayshott, and the young people are mixing and growing in new friendships. Please pray that this wider ecumenical work will continue to grow and flourish.

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 meet to worship, pray, discuss and go deeper into the Word. There are plenty of opportunities to really allow the youth to begin expressing their own thoughts on God and to express their relationship with God a bit more and the smaller group size allows for a lot of honesty and in depth conversation. These last couple of terms

in particular have been great opportunities to explore some deeper topics and allow them to begin exploring their leadership by having them direct the sessions and lead segments.

By Jack Robson

Liquid College Cell - Our Liquid cell group for the sixth form has been an area of celebration this year with increased leadership from the members, (this has spilled over to other areas of church life with members preaching at Liquid, leading worship and prayer meetings). The cell group is a safe place for members to explore their gifts, talents and callings, while enjoying a relaxed and informal environment for teaching and mentoring.

Liquid Youth Residential - Last October we partnered with 'Ichthus Youth' from Busbridge Parish (Godalming) for a joint weekend away at Dalesdown. It was superb fun and a great opportunity to praise God and grow in faith and love together. We had a fantastic visiting worship team and speaker from Soul Survivor, who engaged with the young people and leaders superbly - a real team effort. We will again be having a joint weekend away in October 2014 and this residential time gives the young people precious space and quality time with each other and with God.

Prayer Please! We are exploring the option of joining with 3 other youth groups (as well as Ichthus) for a mega weekend away in 2015. Please pray for wisdom and guidance for the leaders as we plan.

Soul Survivor - Our annual trip to Soul Survivor with Liquid is always a residential that the young people look forward to; we gather with 10,000 other people of similar ages to worship God, join together in teaching, relationship building and having fun camping in a big field! This summer we will be joining with youth groups from Busbridge, Liphook and Grayshott to continue to strengthen the relationships between the groups.

24-7 Prayer Room - Our 24-7 prayer room ran this March in St Peter's, Camelsdale with creative and interactive prayers available 24 hours a day; this was attended by many churches in the area and had a reflective feel as we focused on Ecclesiastes 3. The prayer stations concentrated on how we spend our time, placing God at the centre of our lives, and minimising distractions in our hectic 21st century existence. We hope that all who attended received some sort of blessing from this week, and that God brought about healing, wholeness and his presence to all who attended.

DNA Gap Year Program - We have continued our links with DNA through Jack Robson completing the DNA+ (Plus) course, which has built on his first DNA and challenged him in new ways. Please see Jack's DNA+ report for more news.

Prayer Please! We are looking to recruit a DNA student (or two) for the next academic year 2014/2015. We need God's guidance and provision in this process. Please also pray for Jack as he explores his options for next year.

Serving the community...

Messy Christmas & Easter - Our first 'Messy Christmas' event kicked off the festive season last year in style, with a great turnout and fun for all the family. Santa made his much anticipated appearance amongst a busy schedule for him at this time of year, and the children had a great time making Christmassy crafts which revealed the true meaning of Christmas - the message of Jesus. Messy Easter is fast approaching on Good Friday 18th April. We always looking for helpers and leaders, so if you want to join the fun contact Eliot on 07786 252721.

Shottermill Infants' and Junior Schools - We run assemblies with the clergy at both schools once a term, as well as class lessons on faith, and a session on 'moving on' at the end of the year. The school children also enjoy educational church visits at Easter and Christmas. The links with the Shottermill schools have grown from previous years and the use of the Junior School for The Wave's holiday club has increased our presence in the parish community.

Liquid - 'Girls Night In' - This is one of the most important outreach events we run for girls. We spend the evening eating dinner, watching a movie, creating crafts and praying. Each event has a relevant theme that we focus on and explore the Christian view of (body image, self esteem, friendship, relationships etc) and direct conversation towards God's love and affirmation of each young person. The girls in the community seem to really enjoy these events and they cause a social media buzz each time!

The Basement @ the Wey Centre - Our fun and engaging open youth Café session runs every Wednesday at the Wey Centre from 4-6 pm (local government run youth centre). A wide range of activities encourage and inspire the young people to learn new skills, games and grow in confidence towards adulthood. The Liquid Team lead the program, supported by older members of the youth.

Woolmer Hill - Our link with Woolmer Hill Secondary School continues through lunch time visits on Thursday afternoons, to build relationships with new young people, and of course keep a caring eye on members of Amplified and Liquid Youth groups. Many of the Woolmer Hill kids come to the Basement at the Wey Centre on a Wednesday, which continues to be a success.

Boys' Royal School - Our link with the Boys' Royal School has been a source of excitement and growth. The Head teacher James Hanson (a parishioner at St. Stephen's) has been open to the Liquid Youth Team delivering God-centred assemblies with a fun and sporty twist. They also visited the church recently to learn about places of worship, and how the church is so much more than just a building. We hope that the young people who attend the school will begin coming to Amplified.

Girls' Royal School - One of the most fruitful years at the Royal School has seen 5-10 new girls attending Liquid's Youth Alpha in autumn term, in addition to the social events we run (Girls Night In, Playzone etc.). The Liquid aged girls have become increasingly involved, having joined the cell groups, as well as signing up for our residential weekend and Soul Survivor camp in the summer. Several of the younger students attended Amplified social events such as our moonlight treasure hunt walk, campfire and bake-a-thon. This is as a direct result of the lunch club, assemblies, teaching and relationship building we do in the school week. We look forward to continuing to build relationships and see more students attending Liquid and Amplified events.

The Wave - The Wave continues to run each year in the summer with ecumenically-run community events which serve the local area. These involve acts of service, a community holiday club, an affordable Fairtrade café, and care home visits.

Becca and Eliot Ambrose

DNA+ (Plus) Student's Report 2014

DNA+ has a number of differences to the first DNA year. One being that we choose, in conjunction with the DNA team and the church we're based in, a project that we're going to dedicate the year to studying and building a theoretical and practical assignment out of.

Over my year I'm looking at discipleship and the context in which we do that and cultivate an atmosphere and culture of discipleship. This is also helpful because it has allowed me to broaden my experiences and range of work too and take on some new responsibilities this year that have helped me focus and learn a lot around this particular topic.

We also have training with DNA still. We attend all the residentials and have a few teaching blocks in Bromley as well. Our teaching is centred upon leadership, whether that be church, workplace, family etc. and also as part of that we're covering two books over the course of the year that are helpful to our own leadership and personal growth. This also aids my own project and gives the DNA+ group a number of opportunities to share about our project and receive external input too.

Within St Stephen's I've taken on a number of additional responsibilities along with a lot of the work from last year which has all changed in positive ways. I've felt privileged to be able to see how each youth group has grown and developed, yet also how St Stephen's and the work of the Church as a whole in Haslemere has continued to grow and expand!

Jack Robson

CHILDREN MINISTER'S REPORT

Freerunners (formerly Junior Church) and Bible Tots (formerly the Crèche)

In response to changing circumstances over the past year, Junior Church and the Crèche have new teams, names and groups. It is an exciting time! A number of faithful, elderly crèche helpers retired at the same time as a number of new families arrived, with fresh ideas and vision. Meanwhile, new children were arriving in Junior Church, and the age range was widening. We needed to look again at how we managed our groups.

We decided to amalgamate the younger element of JC with the crèche and change the format to include a simple teaching/praise/craft slot. This is now headed up by Lana Kelsey and a brilliant team, who came up with the name. Parents are welcome to stay or come and go. Our wish is to serve them as well as the children, so Bible Tots and parents come out of church, together, after the songs and notices.

We decided it was also time for a new name for JC, and a competition was set, the winner being Freerunners. We have some new team members, and it is good to have them on board! At present, we are still using the same teaching material: Friends and Heroes, which focuses on characters and stories from the Bible, within an ongoing story based on the lives and adventures of child characters from the time of the early church.

It is always a joy to see the emerging faith of the children, to hear and join in with their prayers and share their experiences. I am so grateful to all fellow team members too, without whom it would be impossible to run our group. You give so generously of your time and energy. Thank you!

Finally, Eliot, Becca and I would like to extend our thanks to Vanessa Clothier Pratts, our DBS validator, who, for the last 9 months, has worked tirelessly on putting all aspects of St Stephens' Safeguarding Policy, (for Children and Young People in Church), in place. This has involved many, many hours of hard work, facilitating the updating of all DBS certificates that are required for everyone involved in work with children, young people (and vulnerable adults).

Although, Eliot, Becca, Danny and myself have liaised with her on this, (and thanks to Hilary Bicknell too, who has trained as a validator in June, and who has also been involved since then), Vanessa has borne the brunt of the work.

It is due to her commitment, and attention to detail, that we now have a Safeguarding Policy in place at St Stephen's which we can be proud of, and which we now need to maintain! So, thank you Vanessa, we really appreciate all that you have done!

Michèle Webb, Children's Minister

RAINBOW NURSERY REPORT

Staffing update

Since last year we have had some staff changes, Emma Thompson is expecting a baby and has taken maternity leave, as from January. Laura Evamy has stepped into the deputy role for the year, a homecoming for her, as she was deputy before her son was born, nearly four years ago.

The new member of staff, Kate whom joined us last Easter has settled wonderfully well .We can't believe she hasn't been with us since- forever! The nursery is lucky to have employed two new ex-parents Kim Nkegbe -Lea, as a practitioner into the butterfly group and Debbie Rowland as a lunchtime supervisor and as caterpillar group support staff. They are calm, willing and capable individuals and the nursery is a richer place with them aboard.

The Rainbow has always been very lucky to have a wonderful team, which is evident in feedback from parents and Early Years professionals that visit. This is a huge 'selling point' when showing prospective parents around the nursery, our quality and quantity of staff, something that other nurseries have compromised on for the sake of profit. I'm not prepared to change the whole ethos of the nursery from an educator of children to a glorified crèche, a situation which is being allowed to happen elsewhere, due to the combination of relaxed Ofsted adult -child ratios and the quest for more profit.

Finances

As a not for-profit nursery we do however need a healthy bank balance, to give us the security of being able to ensure the staffing levels are maintained and resources and equipment are replenished and replaced as necessary. Emma Andersen is still supporting me with the fee invoice spreadsheets. This has been a whole new learning curve for me and Emma has been very patient and giving of her time in showing me the ropes, frankly she has been a godsend! She is willing to set up a few training sessions to enable me to become more independent.

The new methods of payments have proved popular and most parents have taken up the monthly option as a way to budget their finances. More and more parents are paying via childcare voucher providers, which are again a monthly option, but tax free at source. This has produced mixed results as some providers are more 'nursery friendly' than others to deal with, so not always as straightforward or efficient as it should be.

The next major hurdle to deal with is the voluntary Contribution (VC) this we require to top up the difference between the government's funding and our fees. As a charity we are not allowed to invoice parents for the difference as additional fees, we are however allowed to ask for a VC for the difference and send an invoice stating that. We do expect parents to pay the VC payment in full, but over the years we have had more and more parents asking to make a part contribution or no contribution at all. I'm unable to demand the payment, just request, as it is deemed voluntary. The trend is starting to change, the tipping point is approaching and we are going to have to look at other areas to recoup the losses that impact on the nursery bank balance.

I will be having a financial advisor from Surrey Early Years to look at options available to the nursery. Also Danny and I have spoken about the church having some possible fund to aid parents unable to pay their fees. I don't want to penalise parents who, through hardship are unable to offer payment, most are very supportive of the Rainbow and have not taken the decision lightly, but I feel this needs to be addressed before it becomes a major worry and starts to have a serious implications.

Our links with St Stephen's

These links remain strong and healthy with continued support, practical and spiritual. We have frequent visits from Michele Webb and Danny and Giles, with invaluable input from Jack and Eliot

for Kid's Praise, which is growing in popularity with advertising and encouragement from the nursery to get more parents involved. Numbers are improving and audiences at the interactive service are enjoying the fun dramas staged by nursery staff and church members, excellently planned and scripted by Jack. Giles moving to new pastures will be our loss and their gain, as he has proved very hands-on and popular addition to the St Stephen's family, we wish him and his family well, with their new adventure by the sea!

I would like to take this opportunity to mention the fantastic work carried out by Duncan and his Band of Merry Men (and women) at the maintenance day recently. There were a considerable number of volunteers involved and the work done was needed and well received. As the prime users of The Cross building we notice the small and large repair jobs needing attention before everyone else, but we always greatly appreciate the tasks undertaken to make ours a better working environment, thanks gang!

Rainbow Social and Fundraising Group (SFG)

The SFG is back in full force!

After a fairly inactive and ineffectual SFG last year, the newly formed group has hit the ground running! Fronted by Caitlin Farren Butterfly Group parent, and ably assisted by a strong posse, they are fully supporting the nursery with a variety of social engagements and fundraising events. New additions and ideas for fundraising have been a successful: 'For sale' board with a percentage of the profit going to the nursery, regular cake sales, 'bags for schools' clothing collection and a large Spring Fair for March (Saturday 29th, at the Cross and church, all invited!)

They have regular meetings and discuss what help and support they can give the nursery and I receive feedback from these meetings, giving me a valuable insight into matters that concern the parents. To this end, the staff and I have put together a nursery wish list as requested by them, for the SFG to be able to target and aim their fundraising efforts over the coming year. Things are looking very bright and I will be looking to build on this now strong foundation once Caitlin moves on to school with her son, Luke, in July.

The Rainbow Support Group (RSG)

This continues to offer vital support and practical assistance to the Nursery. We meet regularly at Ann Fitchett's house; she is such a wonderful and welcoming host. We discuss matters that are pressing and forthcoming developments. There is a wonderful air of 'what can we do to help?' At the meetings all matters big or small are given attention.

Ann continues to be a regular visitor and my first port of call if I need another opinion or advice. Emma A always helps with all matters concerning spreadsheets and invoice related. Robin is marvellous at returning a phone call or e-mail if I need advice or assistance with financial matters. Louise Stevenson will even drop in on her way home just to offer help or advice regarding matters of Special Educational Needs, which is invaluable, when reports or forms require completing, to get that all important support a child may need and this only names a few of the group, but I can assure you they all come together to help make my role which is full of responsibility, sometimes lonely, but always fulfilling and rewarding an easier one.

Since last time...

We have achieved many of the goals that I was looking to implement, these include:

- Choice of fee paying options to help parents to budget
- External Parent Noticeboard for improved communication
- E-mail correspondence to make a further step towards being paperless
- Mobile text messaging to parents for important reminders and for emergencies

3 members of staff training for their Children and Young Peoples Diploma Level 3

All members of staff have accessed a variety of Surrey Led training courses, ranging from Safeguarding to Developing Practice. I have completed Inclusion & Code of Practice for SENCO training and Child protection Liaison officer training module 1. We have nearly all undertaken a Surrey online food handling course too.

The staff training I felt was a major undertaking, but vital one, to support the team with their professional development. This has sometimes proved to be a struggle to manage the staffing of the nursery, not to mention the disruption of the assessor in for training days. But I'm convinced the nursery is starting to reap the rewards, with staff displaying their new knowledge and confidence in the workplace, and I'm extremely proud of their all their efforts.

For the future

This coming year I would like to take stock and consolidate on the considerable change and improvements which have already been made. I will continue to evaluate practice and make notes of any areas I feel are not performing and need attention for the future. There are always room for improvements and I intend to act on them once they have been identified- I'm not a "resting on ones laurel's" kind of girl!

On the last report I mentioned a parent survey going out and attached the results for you to see. We are very proud of the results and the few areas needing attention are being addressed.

Kim Windebank

The Rainbow St. Stephen's Nursery School Parent survey results

The results are in!

We are very happy with the findings, as they reflect the professionalism and hard work that the staff and I put into making The Rainbow the successful nursery that it is. That is not to say there is no areas of improvement, there are. I'm always evaluating and looking to improve on work practices. Parents who submitted a survey with specific comments have been, or are being approached. These comments, on the most part, have been talked through to a satisfactory outcome for both parties.

Marked on a scale of 1-10, number 1 the lowest score, and number 10 the highest.
64% of you returned the survey.

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	How safe do you think we keep your child? Do you have any comments?									9.8	
2	How would you grade the quality of education your child receives at the Rainbow. Do you have any comments?									9.6	
3	Do you think we offer a broad and balanced curriculum? Do you have any comments?									9.6	
4	How would you grade the quality of the environment (the variety of toys and activities available for your child to access) Do you have any comments?									9.7	
5	How would you grade the staff for their support and approachability? Do you have any comments?									9.9	
6	How would you grade the staff for their standard of professionalism Do you have any comments?									9.7	
7	How well does the key worker meet your child's individual needs? Do you have any comments?									9.7	
8	How would you grade the information you receive on your child's progress? Do you have any comments?								8.7		
9	How would you grade the quality of information you receive generally – newsletters, diary dates etc? Do you have any comments?									9.3	

NOAH'S ARK REPORT

This has been a year of change at Noah's Ark. We started the year running with limited helpers meaning the fort was being held by Ann, Holly, Maddie and Marge with support from Eliot, Jack, Danny and Giles when they were available.

We had a small but regularly attending set of families who enjoyed the warm atmosphere of Noah's Ark. We held our annual summer party and teddy bears picnic in the Vicarage and said farewell to our school starters and Vanessa who after many years organising Noah's Ark has now stepped down.

Returning in September we welcomed Priscy, Emma, Jackie and Lana to the team and were delighted to start seeing many new families joining us on a Tuesday afternoon.

After a busy term we had a very well attended Christmas party in Church with entertainment from Jiggy Wriglers, a visit from St Nick, crafts, telling the nativity story and lunch. We also sadly bid a grateful farewell to Holly after 10 years of helping with Noah's Ark.

Since January we have been getting continually busier and now regularly welcome over 25 families each week with nearly 50 families on our books. We have been delighted to welcome Jude and Nick to our team and thank Marge for the time she has shared with us.

We have had some wonderful feedback with much encouragement about how welcoming and friendly the group is. The children really enjoy our play facilities, song time and snack time. (We have been told that our range of finger food has a reputation for being the best in Haslemere!)

This year we have plans to re-introduce story time, some simple children's worship and prayer snugglies for new babies or those in need. Thank you to all who have been involved in the smooth running of this great community ministry. We are always in need of more hands on deck so if you have been thinking of getting involved, please get in touch!

Lana Kelsey

CHURCH OFFICE REPORT

"May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations."

Psalms 67: 1 - 2

2013 has been a year of encouragement, commitment and investment by St Stephen's leadership in the functioning of the Church Office by:

- ❖ extending the office opening hours and my working hours
- ❖ enabling the office to have 2 computers with improved and updated systems
- ❖ providing a new printer/photocopier shared with Rainbow Nursery

As well as improving the day to day operation of the office, the decisions on these matters serve to value the administration role as part of the life and ministries of this church. My role is divided between the internal management and administration 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.

Although much of the role is inevitably routine and cyclical, there are always highlights and special moments since people are at the heart of all we do. Additionally, having just completed my third

year in post, I am more knowledgeable about the life of St Stephen's, so better able to support all the varied ministry areas of our church,

I am ably and consistently supported by two regular office volunteers, Mary Cripps and Jim Honeywood, whose valuable service is a real blessing. Mel Phillips has also kindly assisted for a period last year. With the Youth and Children team continuing to be based in the office, old baptistry and church during the week, this greatly adds to the sense of staff team, mutual support, interest - and enjoyment!

I would also like to thank Anne Laver who produces the termly 9am rota, Sarah Weldon who compiles the termly Home Communion rota, Jill Soar and Fran Oldroyd who produce the Welcomer and Prayer Ministry sections of the 10.45 rotas. Also, we are grateful to those who have trained in 2013 as Communion Assistants and all who have assisted at a number of funeral services in various capacities.

Engagement with our local and wider community is both interesting and rewarding. The primary outreach function of the church office is pastoral ministry, being privileged to assist people in their key lifetime events: baptisms, thanksgivings, confirmations, weddings and funerals including our annual bereavement service.

Local community contacts continue with a number of schools including our Rainbow Nursery as well as managing The Cross bookings for children's parties and local events. St Stephen's is now both a Foodbank referral agency and collection point for donations of items. Connections with the Orchard Club are growing as is the involvement of a number of our church members. I also experienced arranging my first Mayoral Civic Service.

I continue to value and enjoy the involvement and communication with our local and overseas Outward Mission Partners, including our regular weekly Mission Prayer focus supporting each of them in turn which helps to keep us in touch with our Mission Partners.

As we consider and discern God's plans for St Stephen's, we rejoice in our ministry service for God's kingdom.

Jenny Parsons

HEMGRUP REPORTS

The LADIES MONDAY HOME GROUP meets weekly on a Monday lunch time, for food, fellowship and reflection on the sermon from the day before.

The ladies, plus various children, have found this group a great support throughout the year and have welcomed new members and lost some due to work commitments. It continues to be an open, honest forum for the issues people are facing and how we practically live out our faith in our day to day lives.

We are fairly small in number and would always welcome new ladies who are around during the day, babies and children very welcome!

Jenny Hanson

The TUESDAY AFTERNOON HOME GROUP meets fortnightly for prayer, bible study and fellowship.

When asked to comment on what the House Group means to the members the following responses were elicited: "a place to be honest about ourselves"; "a place to be able to come with any

problems"; "a feeling of unity of spirit"; "a time and place to pray together"; "a place for learning more about God's Word and having interesting discussions about what it means".

We support Michael and Jean Clark (as temporarily absent members) in their work in Cambodia by prayer, and also want to support Canon Andrew White in Iraq as his mother is a group member. We are also making a commitment to pray for our country every day, whatever we are doing, at a certain time.

It is a pleasure and a privilege to have input into this group.

Vanessa Kemp

The BILL and ROBIN HOME GROUP became the LOUISA and BILL HOME GROUP at the beginning of this year, as Robin stood down after co- leading for several years.

We continue to be thankful to Robin and Emma for making their home at 3 Priors Wood our venue each Wednesday evening. Our meetings always start with a meal and the opportunity to enjoy good conversation before discussing the week's Bible reading.

As well as deepening our knowledge and relationship with God, we also have fun. Each term we make sure there is at least one social evening when we invite family and friends to join in our hotly contested board games! We're a friendly group seeking new members so please come along any Wednesday.

Louisa Mason & Bill Kennedy

BRAMBLEDOWN HOME GROUP is a group of 13 Church members who all meet regularly on a fortnightly basis on Tuesdays at 8.00pm. Venue is usually the Laver's house, Brambledown, Priors Wood although we do occasionally vary it and visit other members' houses.

We endeavour to follow Danny's teaching for "Up" "In" and "Out." Each session encompasses study of whatever sermon or course we are following with discussion, Bible study and prayer.

We have close contact with our two separate mission partners. We do try and meet up with them as a group whenever either of these mission partners are on leave!

As brothers and sisters in Christ we see ourselves as a unit within our larger family and give support to the Church and each other whenever we can!

A group of us went to see the Christmas Nativity Play at Wintershall last Christmas and we also felt the need to start our Christmas celebrations with respective other halves at a restaurant on our last meeting of the year.

We do see fellowship and lots of laughter as a very important part of this group so coffee and cake (if we are lucky!) before our meeting sets the tone for a relaxed and enjoyable evening!

Anne and David Laver

TUESDAY EVENING HOME GROUP: LEADER NEIL CAIE

This year has been challenging!

As we've followed the sermon series on weekly basis - with the odd cake and haggis thrown in for good measure - we really enjoyed the Emotionally Healthy Spirituality course and the Pilgrimage. Both challenged our day to day faith and have allowed us to go 'deeper' in our relationship with God and each other.

Our numbers have fluctuated over the year, as members have helped set up new groups and support Alpha & Start! At Christmas we sent Jane Kent off on her 1st missionary journey to Yorkshire - and we're 'proper' looking forward to hearing her stories and reading her letters to the seven churches of Leeds. God bless you Mark & Jane..... abundantly!

We will also be saying goodbye to Giles & Rachel in a few months - we have loved their company and know God has much in store for them.

While it's sad to lose friends it's been good to welcome two new couples and we look forward to the added breadth they bring and to deepening our relationships over the coming year.

Neil Caie

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

A group of 8 of us meet every week to study and pray together. 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. We always get excited about something in the passages we are going through and it is amazing how even very familiar scriptures speak to us afresh as we go through them slowly.

We are all getting more and more enthusiastic about the bible as we share together and there is always something new and uplifting from others in the group. We are a very supportive group and pray for each other during the week as well as offering practical help where possible.

We have been exploring different ways of praying and value having a short time of quiet as well as sometimes using Northumbrian midday prayers as part of our prayer time.

Over the last year we finished our study of Matthew then moved on to Esther, followed by Thessalonians. We are now looking at the life of Simon Peter. It has been great to welcome Jean Burchell back to the group now she is available again on a Friday mornings, as well as welcoming Helen Brading to the group.

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

MISSION ACTION PARTNERSHIP REPORT

The mission of the church to proclaim the good news of Christ persists unabatedly and St Stephen's continues to play a tiny, but God-appointed part. The remit of MAP remains unchanged:

- 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 still consists of: Jenny Parsons, Neil Wilson, Giles Carpenter, Tim Standing, Danny Wignall and Dave Mitchell. **We really would like two or three more people to join us.** You don't have to be an expert but just have heart for the gospel to be proclaimed in whatever way. Please talk to any of us for further information.

News from the last year:

We have had visits from a number of our partners:

Douglas & Maria Cowan joined us on a Saturday evening in November for a Latin American evening. It was great to hear how the Lord has been working in their lives and of their plans for the future. We finished with a time of prayer for them and their family.

It was wonderful to have Michael & Jean Clark home for a short time in the summer, to catch up with them and hear of God's plans for them and the school in Cambodia.

Church members involved with the Orchard Club shared some of the exciting things that are happening right on our doorstep and of the prayer needs.

It was exciting too, to hear from Adam & Karina Martin serving some of the immigrant community in Derby.

Other items:

- Crossways counselling held their AGM and Celebration Service at St Stephen's at the end of November
- Jenny Parsons took over as the Open Door representative for St Stephen's
- One off donations were made to Tear Fund following the Typhoon Hainan disaster in the Philippines and to FRRME following serious problems in Baghdad.

MAP group progress:

In early December we met together with Andrew Wheeler who is the Diocesan Mission advisor. He shared some of his ideas about the church and mission and made some suggestions as to how we could progress as a steering group and as a church, regarding how we partner with missionaries and missionary organisations.

We've had some good follow up discussion - there was plenty of 'food for thought'! One outcome is that we have put together a *Partner Review* form to send to our current partners. We trust that the responses will help us to move forward. Some of our aims include:

- Improving communication
- Identifying ways we can better support and learn from our partners
- Exploring possible visits (these could take different forms)
- Educating the church regarding current trends in world mission and understanding the world church - trying to remove our 'western spectacles'

Our supported groups currently are:

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/

CHINA HEART

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.

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

CHRISTIAN MISSIONS CHARITABLE TRUST

Serves the needs of the poor in Chennai, India through a broad range of ministries.
www.christianmissionindia.com

CROSSWAYS COUNSELLING

An outreach to the local community providing affordable professional counselling.
<http://www.crosswayscounselling.org.uk/>

CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY (CMS)

St. Stephen's supports the work of Grace (nee Guinness) and Pete How in the north of Afgh through CMS.
<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.
<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.

LATIN LINK

St Stephen's supports the Cowan Family.
<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.
<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.
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. Nicky Lee is chairman with Hilary Owen as manager of the Orchard Club which is based in the Haslewey Community Centre. They are both of St Stephen's and welcome involvement from ourselves and other churches.

HOPE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Hope International School is a vibrant, nurturing school community with a vision to see students impact the world for Christ. It is based in Phnom Penh, the capital city of Cambodia. Michael & Jean Clark from St Stephens are currently serving there.
<http://www.hopeschool-cambodia.org/>

HOPE ACADEMY

Bruce and Louise Nadin in Capetown, South Africa.

<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.

Neil Wilson, Chair

OUTREACH REPORTS

ALPHA



Alpha can well be summarised as follows:

INTERNATIONALLY: 20 Million people have done Alpha in 169 countries

LOCAL COURSE : (September to December 2013)

- 3 Training sessions for helpers
- 20 Participants (guests, speakers & helpers) on 10 Wednesdays and 1 Saturday Away Day,
- 160+ delicious meals eaten in church (with very grateful thanks to House Groups and others who helped Maura Howard, Jo Long and Penny Baker with catering)
- Probably well over 1,000 chairs moved (thanks to all concerned)
- 9 different speakers including Jonathan Carter (3 Counties), David Muskett (Methodist), Danny, Giles, Aptin & Paul, and 3 video links
- 1 Worship leader (Jack Robson), 1 Bookstall (Andy Rigby)
- 2 discussion groups led by James Hansom & Eileen Grant every week
- 1 strong Alpha family who all grew in relationship with each other and with the Lord.

We are grateful to God for what he did among us during the course. We mourn with those who mourn in the sadness of one of our guests who died suddenly in February, but who greatly enjoyed earlier sessions and grew in the faith. We rejoice with another Alpha guest, who is being baptised by full immersion on Easter Sunday. To God be the glory!

Paul Grant (Alpha Course Leader)

BAPTISM MINISTRY

Sadly during 2013 there were no baptisms at St Stephens. I am pleased to say that this will be different for 2014 and we are also looking forward to the baptistery being used on Easter Sunday.

I send out to families of previous baptisms our Service Postcards and Erika sends baptism anniversary cards throughout the year. This year we are planning to invite baptism families to attend the Noahs Ark summer party.

Jo Long

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

This is the second year of the Sssh Group. We oversee hospitality within the church as well as possible outreach opportunities. Current members of the group are Debs Wignall, Nik Owen, Louisa Mason, Penny Baker, Rachel Carpenter, Ann Fitchett, Donna Rigby and Emma Andersen. We meet about once a term and our meetings usually involve cheese and wine!

This summer the Sssh Group hosted an amazing picnic in the vicarage as a send off for the pilgrimage. This was really well attended and the weather was perfect! We also helped with the annual cream tea at the vicarage, which again, was well attended as always and a pleasure to be a part of.

We kicked off the new academic year with a BBQ, in the vicarage garden, which was blessed with amazing weather as well as an abundance of hotdogs and burgers and fresh coffee.

The Sssh Group now oversee the Sunday morning coffee which means we no longer need to ask for donations. We have also introduced a brilliant new coffee machine which has had some very favorable comments and produces very nice coffee.

We were privileged to be involved in both the Good Friday Family Morning and Messy Christmas where we served refreshments for the adults.

We also provided homemade mince pies and mulled wine after the Carol service. 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, but really do need more members to be able to put on more events. 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) You do not have to be a full time member, but it is really helpful to have people we can call on for certain events.

Emma Andersen

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

The Men of St Stephens have had 7 great events this year. We started in May with a fiercely competitive go-karting night, it was a bit more wacky races rather than F1 but Eliot took home the trophy and will be looking to defend it in 2014.

We have had three curry nights in July, October and March all of which have been really well attended and have been a brilliant opportunity to have some fun, share some fellowship and welcome people outside of St Stephens socially (special mention to James Stevenson who seems to bring half of his street to each event!). We also put the world to rights, developed some ideas for world peace and identified our favourite pale ale at the Haslemere Beer Festival in September.

In January we rolled back the years to play board games and eat crisps - there was a huge table of dice players and some more refined tables of Poker, Risk, Chess, and even Pass the Pigs! We also managed to squeeze in a superb evening of cheese and wine organised with Louisa Mason - our eyes were opened to some quality cheese and the Bible related cheesy quiz was definitely no Stinking Bishop.

Thanks to everyone who has attended the events and for inviting people along.

Robin Andersen

PRIME TIME

During 2013 we had a good variety of events, one of the highlights being enabling many people who would otherwise not have been able to participate in the Pilgrimage, the chance to join in the lunch and service at Canterbury Cathedral. We were again fortunate enough to receive a grant from the Shottermill Great War Memorial Trust which helped pay for the coach for this event and also the trip to Littlehampton.

Because the committee felt there was a decline in numbers, we gave out questionnaires asking people for their opinion on the activities we did, the way forward and why they thought people might not be coming. We had 19 responses - the majority in favour of continuing monthly events with a mixture of full and half day events, with the majority, just, in favour of always including a meal! We had a suggestion for other things to be included - matinee performances at the Haslemere Hall which we have taken on board, and visits to gardens. There were many reasons given why people thought attendances were down, economic climate, not everything appeals to everyone, family visiting at weekends, cost of eating out, health reasons and of course all getting older!! We found it a very useful exercise but were pleased to learn that on the whole people felt we were getting the mix right.

We have been encouraged by having people outside the church coming on several events, one being very up front about not being 'religious' - but who knows!!

During the year Barbara Gittins felt she was unable to continue on the committee but still felt well enough to come on some outings with us. David Laver also stepped down as a committee member but is still continuing to help in the organisation of events.

We have some good events lined up for this year, and although there are leaflets available, things might change!

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 approximately 8367 times this year (February to February), which is over 23 visitors a day. Even I am staggered at that! 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 through 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 by viewers, and that which is most often changed, is on the Front page. On there is a rolling text banner that describes upcoming notices and events along with a slide show selection of our latest photographs, it also includes all of our latest sermons and written communications (pew leaflets and magazines etc.).

Other pages of course are rather less dynamic. The Church history page for example doesn't tend to 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. I should add that generally I don't oversee a page's content, particularly if it belongs to a specialist group such as for example infants, children or youth, and this means I am rather reliant upon your contributions.

Similarly, if you are organising something and want it publicised, please let me know by sending any material that you want incorporated. Indeed, I am keen to encourage individuals to provide input and ideas as much as possible; this may be as simple as sending me details of events by a quick email, to writing precisely what you would like to see on an existing or even new page you'd like to add. Often though it's just a case of copying me into requests sent to the office for inclusion into the weekly notices, magazine or Calendar, and I can do the rest.

Facebook:

This last year I have worked to increase the use of our Facebook group. Facebook provides a live conversation venue where we can all share in an interactive, live and safe environment. I'd really like to encourage you to get involved; you can add relevant 'events', and can then report on them with photographs or videos afterwards. You can safely make requests for sponsorship, baby-sitters or prayer, ask a question, or just get news of what is going on. It is definitely something I feel we can develop, and so far we are 72 members strong. Please check it out and visit sometime.

(By the way, to join the group you need to have joined Facebook; simply search for "St Stephen's Shottermill" and press the "Join Group" button under the photographs on the right hand side of the page. Someone will then validate your request as coming from St Stephen's and you'll be in.)

I should add for peace of mind a comment on the visibility of the groups posts, photos and comments. In Facebook there are 3 levels that address this; Secret, Closed and Open. We have opted for 'Closed'. In this case people can find us by searching on Facebook and can see sufficient basic information to enable them to request access to the group. However, they cannot see individual posts, comments and photos etc. unless they become a member. This way all that is posted can be safely assumed to be seen as safe within our community.

Dave Mitchell

Haslewey Community Centre

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

Over the last 12 months we have been providing a service of Holy Communion, once a month, to residents at Home Green, Holy Cross Hospital, Chase House, Brownscombe House, Shottermill House and Rolston House. The team consists of Danny and Giles, Vanessa Kemp, Val Porteous, Maggie Grimshaw, Jean Burchell, Aptin Samadi and me, and in this way we have served between 25 and 30 Christians who are no longer able to get to church.

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 Chase House, at the request of the managers we have been conducting a slightly longer service which includes 3 hymns and a short sermon and we are extremely grateful to Brenda Petrie for her kindness and generosity in giving her time to support us at both Homes in order to lead the singing.

The Service is an extension of the Communion service conducted in church. Under the Bishop's authority we use wafers that have been intincted with Communion wine, by Danny, Giles or Chris.

The staff at all the Homes we serve are always extremely kind and helpful 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 meaningful as if it was taking place in church. Sadly, in October Chase House was obliged to close down because the owners were unable to meet the Government's latest health and safety requirements and the residents were dispersed to other care homes, only one or two remaining within our parish. However, in the summer we were very pleased to add Rolston House to our rota. At present only one, very charming, lady resident receives Communion from us, but we are praying that in the coming year more of the residents will follow suit.

Sarah Weldon

Chestnut View Care Home

Chestnut View Care Home is a Nursing Home next to Tesco in Haslemere with 60 Rooms. I lead a small team of only three people, Maggie Grimshaw, Margaret Costagliola and myself, who have been visiting Chestnut View Care Home every week over many years taking posies of flowers to all the residents. Our visits are very much welcomed by residents and staff alike.

Once a month I also visit with my Dog Tarka who is a Pets for Therapy [PAT] dog to visit some of the residents who get a great deal of pleasure and benefit from contact with animals. Tarka is very much loved and enjoyed by the Residents.

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. They very much like the posies of flowers we take each time and for us to talk to them. We also sometimes pray with people if there is need. Some of the residents come to the church service with Holy Communion we run at the Home on the fourth Sunday of every month, which is shared between St Stephen's and the Methodist Church.

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 is needed as we make and take 50 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. I am also very thankful for Maggie and Margaret.

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

Erika Glaysher

THE PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM

We have continued to offer prayer, normally in the Chancel, however this can still 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 people requesting prayer but we feel that the teaching often prompts a response which sadly is not responded to. It would also be an encouragement to us to receive feedback about answers to prayer.

Fran Oldroyd, continued to lead the team until January 2014; assisted by Anne Laver who arranged the rota for the 9 a.m. service. Fran and Chris have returned to Farnham Vineyard (the church they planted some years ago) in order to support the new pastor, however they look forward to maintaining their links with St. Stephen's when Chris takes some services from time to time.

Since the last report we have said goodbye to Jane Kent who moved to Yorkshire to take up the post of head teacher at a school there. Towards the end of 2013 Hilary Van Klinken also left the team as she and Jap are returning to a church they previously attended and where they can be of assistance. We shall miss them both and are grateful to them for being part of the team. We know that God will greatly use them where He has chosen to place them.

Vanessa Kemp returned to the 9 a.m. team for which we are very thankful. Marie Curtis and Marion Fairbairn have joined the 10.45 a.m. team. This team was somewhat depleted for a time when some had moved on. Ross Cunningham needed to take time out to recover from his back injury. We are pleased to say that he is now up and functioning once again. Amber Beresford also took some much needed time out during the latter part of her pregnancy. David and Helen also, understandably needed a break due to bereavements in the family. Thankfully they are all able to minister once again.

We met with Danny for encouragement, support and training but it became increasingly difficult to get together for meetings during the past year. Sadly our planned retreat in June (booked to take place at Hurst Barn near Petersfield) had to be cancelled due to lack of attendance.

Once again, I, Fran, would like to say what a privilege it has been to be part of the team and to serve in this way. I am pleased to say that the team is now to be led by Marie Curtis and I am thankful to her for saying that she will take over.

Fran Oldroyd

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, Hilary 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.

Please let Hilary know if you would like to join this important ministry.

Hilary Bicknell

PRAYER

AWESOME	ESSENTIAL
TOGETHER	PRESENCE

Prayer! Essential to the health of a human being. Essential to the health of the church. And at St Stephen's, everything is built with a foundation of prayer, on our knees (well at 1:1:1 we mostly sit in a circle!) praying about individual ministries and the church as a whole. Each month, on the first Monday, we gather together for just one hour from 7pm to 8pm and pray.

WALK

PEACE

So what does it involve? We usually spend the first half of the hour in quiet, just resting before God, listening and maybe thinking about a particular bible passage or theme. After this, there is an opportunity, if you want, to share what we might have been thinking about, praying about or what God has put on our hearts. In the second half we usually split into small groups to pray for individual ministries. Very occasionally we mix it up and might pray walking round the church or by candle light.

Who can come? Anyone. We are always calling everyone who loves St Stephen's and feels in their heart that they want to pray for the church.

What has happened this past year? Well we have just been so blessed by each other and by the Holy Spirit. When two or more gather in His name, He is so AMAZINGLY with us! The words of truth and the feeling of love for the church are inspiring.

GROWTH

LIVE

We have prayed for a growing and changing church, we have covered Alpha in prayer, we have prayed for Youth, for all our leaders, for our teachers, for our administrators, we have prayed for our parish and all coming into our Christmas services. We prayed deeply for journeys, joining with the Pilgrimage in prayer.

In Advent we had weekly prayer reflections which were extremely moving and peaceful.

Some have felt God give them pictures and words, and here are a couple of the many we are blessed with every month.

"Crossroads - look - for Jesus, along the ancient paths - spiritual history of St Stephen's - recognising where the Lord has been at work before, giving thanks for those who have gone before and being inspired for the next steps."

" Ephesians 2 19-22 " You are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In Him the whole building is joined together and

rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit"

Things to look out for: 24/7 Prayer Room, Lenten Prayer Reflections, Holy Week Reflections and of course meeting every first Monday of every month to pray 7pm to 8pm.

"As two people who are physically not able to do a great deal, we really count it a privilege to pray with others for St. Stephen's each month. We have spiritual responsibilities here where we live and find 1:1:1 is strengthening and encouraging. " Thelma and John

POWER HOUSE

STRENGTHENING

ENCOURAGING

Amber Beresford

WELCOMERS' REPORT

First of all, many thanks to the teams for both the 9:00 & 10:45 Services for the welcome they have provided with such commitment and warm enthusiasm! They have helped establish the reputation of St Stephen's as an open, friendly and caring place to belong, and in doing so, reflect the open arms of Christ himself.

9:00am Service Welcomers by Anne Laver:

The 9:00am Welcomers are always glad of newcomers to join the team! Welcoming is such an important part of introducing ourselves as a church to newcomers! Welcomers who attend regularly are really helpful in watching for and identifying newcomers on a regular basis and being ready to welcome them whether on official duty or not!! Welcoming is an ongoing task and if you feel you would like to use your time and talents in this way do please join us!

9:00am Service Welcomers are: Daphne Holden, Diana Harding, Anne Laver, Eve Austin, Bill and Ruth Harding, Brenda Petrie, Richard Hite, Lorna Alcorn, Jean Van Jefferies, Maggie Grimshaw and Keith Webster

10:45am Service Welcomers by Jill Soar:

The 10:45 Welcome team has expanded to replenish openings and to have more people available for greeting at the busy start of services, and follow up at the end. In the autumn, we met with our new and serving team members for training and discussion of how we can improve the welcome we provide, and to encourage newcomers as they make their first visits to us. Name badges have been introduced to help identify team members during services. The "Hello" manual has been written for Welcoming training and reference, using the graphics of our Hello cards for newcomers.

We hope to expand the hospitality of our welcome at St Stephen's, providing a bridge into church for newcomers, and to foster the relationships which are at the heart of our Church family.

10:45 Team members are: Lisa and Peter Aucamp, Amber Beresford, Hilary Bicknell, Marie and Richard Curtis, Ian and Sandra Gee, Eileen and Paul Grant, Claire Honeywood, Victoria Leake, Louisa Mason, Hilary Owen, Jenny Parsons, Mel Phillips, Jack Robson, Susie Rusby, and Jill Soar. Reserves: Brian and Penny Baker, Jackie and Nick Kelsey.

Anne Laver and Jill Soar

TESTIMONIES and PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

I moved to Haslemere in 2010 to be near one of my sons, Derek, as I was then nearly 80 years of age. I had lived in Crowborough, East Sussex for over 20 years and was a regular worshipper at All Saints Church near the centre of town. As well as this I have been a regular churchgoer for many years.

When first attending St Stephen's I felt very welcome and the warmth of the welcome was tangible. Since then I have regularly attended services as well as enjoying Prime Time events very much, and helping here and there (steward at the Counselling service etc) when I can.

I would like to thank Danny and Giles for their ministry and the congregation of St Stephen's for their help and friendship at a difficult time for me.

Doreen Day

I have been a member of St Stephen's Church for many years. I very much love the Friendship of many people which is great. We are very blessed, with our clergy. If some times I am not well that I can not go to Church I miss it so much. I feel very blessed to be able to help, for what ever needs to be done.

Erika Glaysher

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

For many crossing the threshold of a church building is a daunting prospect. It has been described as comparable to a lifelong devoted Christian entering a betting shop for the first time, totally unfamiliar with the procedures or significance of betting odds etc. However alluring the ads or the claims of joy, pleasure and transformed material benefits to be found in betting, betting shops remain a closed book to such people.

Sadly, churches are closed books for many people. They are places of uncertainty, confusing and unwelcoming. Not so St Stephen's!

It is nearly a year since we first ventured across the threshold of St Stephen's. Coming for the first time the issues for us were not the unfamiliarity with the ways of church but more about how do those from the silver haired generation become integrated into a lively new church fellowship. We found a warm and generous welcome which quickly led on to joining the Pilgrimage from Winchester to Canterbury Cathedral, membership of the welcoming team and then into Alpha.

From this a natural step was 1:1:1 Prayer and House Group membership. We were thrilled to become part of the prayer life of the Church (surely 1:1:1 Prayer is the engine room of church and life centred in God), share caring fellowship with others including Home Group, and a general openness to the movement of God's Spirit in a vibrant community. Emmanuel, 'God with Us' - Praise God! We delight in a balanced congregation of all ages from babies to mature seniors which is surely a mark of a healthy church. We appreciate the encouragement to go deeper with God and the growing sense of vision and purpose for the future.

Thank you for embracing newcomers! God bless you all and may we be as 'lights on the hill' for Jesus in the Shottermill community.

Eileen & Paul Grant

Ministry to Farsi speaking church in Derby

(at the invitation of Adam and Karina Martin - Mission Partners at the INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CHURCH in Derby)

After receiving an invitation from leaders of a Farsi speaking church in Derby I arranged 4 services to minister to them on 6th -7th February 2014. Topics were: love of God, forgiveness, intimacy with the Holy Spirit and answering to questions.

The presence of God was very strong in all services and almost everyone was touched by the Holy Spirit. We had many testimonies of transformation in personal and family lives in the end.

A couple who had problems in their marriage in last 4 months and were planning for divorce, were able to forgive each other and start a new relationship by God's grace. They learned how to forgive from heart on the first day and they made lunch together next day for all of us, which was a good sign of reconciliation and unity between them.

Another person said he was full of hatred and he couldn't forgive his wife and brother, but in the end he testified how God has helped him to forgive them and be free from hatred. On the second day, his face was changed and he seemed so relieved and happy.

Another person came with a broken heart from his wife as he told that he was living with that pain for many years, after praying with him, he testified next day how presence of God and principle of forgiveness helped him to forgive and bless his ex -wife. After service he was forgiving all other people who had hurt him in the past and this continued whole night till the next morning.

A lady was in sorrow of losing her brother for the last 12 months and she was in such a broken situation that others should help her to walk in to the service. In the end of second service, they brought her to receive a prayer ministry. After the service, she was walking around freely and serving others with smile.

An elderly man testified that how he has experienced God's healing in his body. He was suffering from many sicknesses but he shared that power of God has enable him to walk and live in the hope and joy of Christ.

An Afghan man gave his heart to the Christ after one of the services. Others shared how the presence of God has touched their hearts and revealed different parts of the Gospel for them which has created a new passion in them for the presence and the word of God.

Aptin Samadi

One footstep at a time!

As we approach the end of our 7th year here at St Stephen's I personally continue to feel incredibly thankful to be part of such an amazing community of *Faith Full* people. I certainly could not have anticipated this time last year the road I was about to embark on, which began with our Parish Pilgrimage last May.

I was able to set aside several days to join in with the walking. We had an array of Spring weather, as might be expected, but for me walking through beautiful, bluebell woods surrounded by the silence of torrential rain was a particular highlight. Honestly! Conversation with fellow pilgrims wasn't possible as we were all buttoned up against the elements and absorbed by the concentration required to put one slippery foot in front of the other without falling over! I cannot say that I remember in any great detail the thoughts that wandered across my mind, only that they did. Looking back I know it was part of my preparation, getting me to a place where I could listen and be aware of a new Call on my life.

In May this year I will be setting time aside again, for a Bishop's Advisory Panel in Staffordshire, where a decision will be made whether or not to recommend me for training for ordination.

I share these thoughts with you because alongside the children I teach and the colleagues I teach with you have been part of my journey that has brought me to this point. Some of you are aware how the things you have said, both in challenge and encouragement have enabled me to learn. Others of you may not be aware, so thank you.

My prayer for us is that wherever we see ourselves on our own journeys of Faith, that we continue to set aside time for prayerful reflection individually and with others. That we remember that what we say does impact the lives of others and that however unsure or slippery the road might feel at times to remember that our confidence is in the Lord, the one who it says in Psalm 121 "will not let your foot slip."

Debs Wignall

Why do I love St Stephens?

Having been in the church a year now, I can honestly say it's the church where I've most felt at home! The people of St Stephens are so friendly and the church offers a place to journey together as people of God. St Stephens does real Christianity, with real people experiencing a real God, acting in real love and celebrating a real hope of the gospel. No place I'd rather be!

Louisa Mason

We would like to give thanks for all the members of St. Stephen's church, who have become our close family and our friends over this past two and a half years. The last year in particular has been very difficult for us, with Eliot being off work for 3 months with Post Viral Fatigue and Depression.

However, as is so often the case with our God, he has brought great goodness out of a bad time, and displayed His glory and love through the people He has created - you guys! We are still struggling in some areas, and it will take time for us both to be 100% again, but we so value and appreciate your ongoing prayers. Becca and I have been overwhelmed by the love that so many of you have shown us; emotionally, practically, financially and most importantly spiritually. So many families and individuals in the church have blessed us abundantly in these ways, showing us the love of Jesus and the strength of His church.

Thank you, we love you St. Stephen's! We are passionately committed to serving you - our church, our family, our friends - for as long as the Lord allows us to. With much love in Christ and immense gratitude for how you've supported us in this past year.

Eliot & Becca Ambrose

Giving thanks for Pilgrimage

Every time I look at our beautiful altar cloth, I am struck by all of the different life journeys it represents. I think of all the individual strips of fabric and the special messages that people have written on them, and how woven all together it is such a powerful form of worship—a testimony of our faith and thankfulness to God. It was really moving to see how much people enjoyed contributing to the weaving as we took it out to nursing homes, schools and community events (even getting people we met on the Pilgrim's Way to contribute) and how it helped connect people to the idea of life as a pilgrimage. Symbols can sometimes be far more powerful than words! And now it's so wonderful to have this visible reminder of a special time for us as a congregation.

Our time of pilgrimage brought so many blessings to so many people, be they walkers or those who used the prayer booklet or who came to Canterbury for our special celebration service. I will never forget the joy on Barbara Gittins' face to be in the Cathedral and able to take Holy Communion with Danny officiating! Or to hear about Brenda's amazing God-incidence of being welcomed at Canterbury by her old house group leader. For many others, too, the pilgrimage has been a time of joy and transformation. Helping to organise the pilgrimage has certainly taught me to trust in the Lord and work in his power and see blessings flow as a result.

Following our pilgrimage, it has been a real privilege to use our experience to help Canterbury Cathedral to develop its own pilgrimage outreach. Danny and I were thrilled to be asked to attend a pilgrim's conference in November where we were able to share the story of our own pilgrimage, including a booklet that I have written about it which I hope will help other congregations to do something similar. A website is now being developed by Canterbury to help more pilgrims to walk the Pilgrim's Way, using some of the insights gained from our own experience. Photos of the St Stephen's pilgrimage will probably be included in the website and there may be a special event this summer involving the Archbishop of Canterbury to launch the website and welcome lots of pilgrims into Canterbury. Watch this space!

Our pilgrimage was an answer to prayer but also the result of much love and dedicated service. My thanks to Maura for coming alongside me in planning the walking pilgrimage, to Danny and Giles for sharing and encouraging the vision of pilgrimage as a whole congregation, and to Helen, Brian, Penny and Jill for their inspirational and artistic ways of making pilgrimage 'real' to so many people.

Coming back from pilgrimage marks new beginnings and it will be exciting to discover what the Lord has in store for us as his pilgrim people at St Stephen's!

Jean Leston

PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

During 2013 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.