

Ladies Group – Chairman’s Report (from our AGM October 2019)

Section 16

We began the New Year with lunch at ‘The Three Horseshoes’ in Knockholt. An enjoyable meal and a good get-together. Thank you Val Westwood for arranging this. In February Chris Miller from Court Lodge Farm was unwell so unable to come and give her talk. We held an impromptu meeting with a quiz and games arranged by some of our members – well done. John Tranter our Rector, or Priest in Charge now, talked to our group regarding future changes and his forthcoming retirement.

In March Christine Cookson once again organised the Mothering Sunday posies thank you Christine for that and also for the work you do regarding our programme. Venturing out the Ladies Group visited Down House in June, Jean Pemberton’s garden in July and Val Westwood’s garden in August. All nice occasions with good weather. We had interesting talks on ‘The Mistresses of Charles II’ and ‘Digging for Victory’. Once again a good show of cakes and help for our cake stalls at St Martin’s Fete and Chelsfield Village Fair. Proceeds to St Martin’s Church. Still to come, a talk on 12th November regarding literacy support and perhaps a Christmas get-together.

So thank you once again to everyone who contributes to our meetings, our social outings, prayer readings, t.l.c., booking speakers, baking, selling raffle tickets, thank you all. Our chosen charities for this year were: Shelter box, Womankind WW, Living On and Build Africa. We also gave donations to the church for flowers, the End Polio campaign and the oak tree for Leslie Virgo.

Stepping down now I thank you all for the different ways the Ladies Group have helped me these past four years.

Jackie Church (October 2019)

Memory Café – report to APCM 2020

Section 17

We have now been running for three years.

The aim of the Memory Café is to provide a safe, friendly place where those living with dementia can have a relaxing social time together and their carers can relax in the company of those in a similar situation.

A typical afternoon sees us prepare a number of activities that can be undertaken. They include table quizzes, craft work, some ‘sing-along’ music and materials to support the day’s theme.

Tea and cake is served in amazing quantities and a constant buzz of conversation fills the room.

The afternoon is closed with a short act of Worship; a hymn, a prayer and a few words from the Rector, which all present seem to enjoy.

While most meetings followed our usual format, following discussion with the band of volunteers we felt we could organise a Christmas lunch for members. A full roast Christmas lunch was produced (cooked at home and quickly brought to the Brass Crosby Room), with crackers etc, and we received wonderful appreciative feedback from all who attended – and ALL did attend. Such a great time was had by all and it is definitely something to be repeated.

It is always lovely to welcome people referred to us by Bromley Dementia Hub and Churches Together in Orpington.

Finally I would like to thank all the volunteers for their contribution to another successful year.

Jackie McCann

Music Report to APCM 2020

Section 18

Throughout 2019 the choir provided beautiful music for Sunday services. We typically had about 14 singers at evensong and a smaller number at morning services, enabling us to perform in four-part harmony. Hymns, canticles and a broad selection of anthems were sung at services each week, adding a distinctive feature to worship at St Martins. The Advent carol service and Nine Lessons and Carols at Christmas were particularly special and uplifting for both the performers and also hopefully the congregation. Thank you to all choir members for their loyal support and particularly to Gwen for playing the organ at practices and services.

Chris Mead

Social Committee Report to APCM 2020

Section 19

The Social Committee was formed by the PCC to organise and co-ordinate, as necessary, the various social functions, held during the year. Paul Gosling continued to lead this group throughout 2019 and wishes to thank all the Committee for their hard work on all endeavours throughout the year.

The Fete is, of course, the largest function organised by St Martin's and 2019's Fete saw a good turnout with slight changes to format.

Other events successfully concluded during the year were:

- Guided Spring Walk and Summer Walk
- Afternoon teas at the Rectory,
- Stalls at Chelsfield Village Fair
- Help at the Heritage Open Day

Paul Gosling
