

# CHRISTCHURCH DEANERY SYNOD 2022

## *Report for APCMs*



Deanery Synod is a link between our PCC and the Diocesan Synod. Its role is mainly to look after mission and pastoral matters in the Deanery, help parishes deliver the Diocesan strategic priorities and to monitor and support the allocation of Parish Share across the Deanery to the Common Mission Fund.

Christchurch Deanery Synod met four times in 2022, in February, June, September and November.

The year began with a February Zoom meeting, when Rev Dr Jason Roach gave a thought-provoking presentation about God's vision for racial unity and justice.

In June St Mark's Highcliffe hosted an evening where Synod welcomed Rev Canon Charles Stewart (Vicar of Christchurch Priory) as the new Assistant Area Dean. A presentation was also given inviting exploration of mental wellbeing and reconciliation.

The annual Saturday Synod was held on the morning of 24<sup>th</sup> September at St Mary's New Milton. As well as breakfast and worship, some excellent workshops were provided for participants to learn more about church planting and re-vitalization.

An additional meeting was held in November to explore the book *How Clergy Thrive* (postponed from the June meeting) and those attending were treated to an informative talk by Archdeacon Richard Brand.

The Deanery overseas companion link with Kinkiizi Diocese Uganda continues to operate. More help was sent for their recovery from the extensive covid lockdown endured by all of Uganda. Our support was particularly focussed on helping the schools return to normal. The Health Centre asked for help equipping their new Maternity Unit and some funds were provided towards that. Our regular support for ordinands' training and priests' pensions was also sent. In total we gave £8037 to Kinkiizi in 2022 from across the Deanery.

The Deanery has launched a support group for churchwardens, particularly aimed at those new to the role. It also now provides opportunities for those working with children and families to benefit from sessions run by Lighthouse Ministries led by Andy Saunders.

Deanery Synod meetings are now all open meetings for anyone to attend should they so wish. (Only if a vote is called are restrictions in place for elected members only to cast such a vote.) I would encourage everyone to consider coming along to hear interesting speakers, have a chance to meet other people from across the Deanery, and to share experiences for mutual support.

*Gill Tybjerg*

*February 2023*



## **St Mary's Breamore**

### **Churchwardens report on services, events and Pastoral Care within the Church –April 2023**

Since the last APCM, we have held a variety of services, including the Patronal festival of the Church in September, Harvest Thanksgiving in October, an All Soul's Service, and the traditional Remembrance Day Service in November. In December, we celebrated Advent with special readings and hymns, and then a traditional Carol Service with Nine lessons, followed by 'drinks and nibbles', in church after the service.

In January, we welcomed the Three Kings at Epiphany, in February, we held a Snowdrop Sunday Service, starting in the Churchyard and processing into the Church to celebrate Candlemas. On Palm Sunday, the congregation of St. Mary's Fordingbridge joined with us for a procession of Witness beginning at the Village School to the Churchyard gate, where the Palm Crosses were blessed a procession into the church, followed by a Dramatic Reading of the Passion.

We have enjoyed several social events including a well-supported Harvest Lunch, and at the beginning of December another pre-Christmas tea and jigsaw puzzle social afternoon, which included a quiz about Christmas Carols – not as easy as it sounds! More recently, we had a Spring Clean here in the church and finished with lunch.

During the year, we have welcomed three new members to the LCC – Gillian Bathe, Jane Whidden and Paul Martin. Their help both on the LCC and in practical ways within the church has been greatly appreciated.

Once again, Breamore has been a popular venue for Weddings, which is very positive because it brings in much needed income for the day-to-day running of the church. This year, Nigel and I met many of the couples at a Wedding Preparation Day, who will be married here in church, and were able to begin to build a relationship with them. Most of the wedding couples do come to church whilst planning their weddings, and last Christmas we sent out invitations to the Carol Service to all those who had been married in the church during the year. A few did attend but it would be good if we could devise other ways to keep in touch with them after the event, encouraging them to feel that they are still part of the church family and welcome to join us at any time.,

Pastoral Care has continued to develop within both the church and the village. A small group visit and keep in touch with those who come to church and those that do not, so please contact me if you know of anyone that we should be visiting or contacting.

Earlier, in the year, we were offered four chasubles from Hyde Church. Thanks to Alison Stevens and Jean Brown, who have overseen the cleaning and repair of three of these garments – which were re-dedicated during the service this morning. Sadly, the green chasuble was beyond repair but Alison is hoping to use some of the material to make a fall for the Legilium, kindly made by David Tappin, and a bookmark for the lectern.

The LCC and congregation are indebted to all those who work so hard to keep the Church and Churchyard clean and tidy to encourage visitors to our ancient Saxon Church, where prayers have been offered for more than a thousand years. Grateful thanks are due to those who clean the church and compose the beautiful floral arrangements, to those who lead worship or play the organ, to those who ring the bells, and to all who come and worship each week and support the church in differing ways.

## **Lowlights & highlights of the year –April 2023**

### **Lowlights**

Sadly, several members of our community have died during the last year, but the greatest lowlight was without doubt the death of Sir Edward Hulse last August. Sir Edward was a great supporter of our church here in Breamore, where he rarely missed a service until illness prevented him, but still attended services when he could, until shortly before his death. His twinkling smile and cheerful countenance is sadly missed, by all who knew him. He was a member of the LCC until his death, and hosted the meetings, always greeting us with a smile, and we have a lovely photo of him hosting a LCC meeting last summer at Topps Farm in the garden. The number of people attending his funeral overflowed from the church into a marquee in the churchyard, and was a magnificent event and a fitting tribute to a true gentleman.

We were also saddened by the death of Joan Creek who for many years had lived at Peasash, and attended services with her husband Michael, who died a few years ago. In addition, most recently, the funeral of Marion Harding took place; in the past, she had been very involved with the church, helping to decorate the church with flowers for festivals. Both funerals was held here in Breamore Church and well attended by family, friends and many people from the village. We miss them all.

The other lowlight has been the fact that the Parish is now in vacancy, and the first advert for a new Rector has not been successful. The eight Churchwardens continue to meet and are working towards re-advertising the position.

### **Highlights**

There have been many highlights for us during the year most of which Andy and I will cover in our churchwarden's reports, but the greatest highlight is that we continue to meet together each Sunday for worship and at other events for social gatherings. Also, the Church continues to attract many visitors during the year, who hopefully find peace and inspiration from this lovely Saxon building.



## Report from the Fordingbridge churchwardens to the APCM May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2023

### 1. Sandleheath Tennis Club & the Village Hall.

This has been the most intense, long drawn out project, the source of constant negotiations, involving telephone and e-mail contact with Martin Short our solicitor, dealing with queries and objections, which the tennis club have raised. Finally, the Tennis Club and the village hall have agreed on the route of the footpaths, the upkeep going forward. The greatest sticking point was the right of the Tennis Club to enforce against the Village Hall should they break the provisions of the agreement. The agreement, a Deed of Easement, granted by the Diocese and the Avon Valley Churches, (Fordingbridge L.C.C) to the Tennis Club in perpetuity, or until the Tennis Club ceases has been agreed and signed by all parties.

### 2. Works to St. Mary's Church.

#### **Heating:**

A new heating system has been installed using 22 ceramic cored radiators separated into two zones with a sophisticated control system. Individually controlled radiators have also been installed in the Sacristy, the choir vestry, the bell ringing chamber and the room above the North Porch. The wiring has been boxed in with Oak timber. The increase in fuel charges has meant that the use of the heating has had to be carefully controlled, with the heating only on when the church is in use and with a max temperature of 15 degrees only in the zone where people are. The old gas powered system was unusable and had to be replaced and the new system was decided upon after thorough and informed research into the best practical system to use. The VAT has been reclaimed which means the total cost to date is £49,430. There is still a small amount of boxing in to do. The total spend will be well below the budgeted £64,000.

#### **Electrical Work:**

Obviously the new heating system has greatly increased the power usage in the building and to cope with that and the projected future power requirements which will be needed, the LCC has agreed the expenditure of £16,800 to bring an uprated power supply into the church. This work will be carried out by Scottish and Southern Electricity and will involve digging a trench across the road. The money has been spent and the date for the work to proceed has yet to be fixed. In addition, we are researching the cost of replacing the 14 Halogen lights in the nave and chancel with LED lights which will make huge savings in our power consumption. The total power usage with the heating off is a massive 22 kw. We have also had a quote to install 32 solar panels on the roof of the South Aisle which would produce 13kw max for a total cost ex VAT of just under £16,000. The LCC have agreed this idea in principle but the decision to proceed will not be taken until we know the final cost of the roof repair.

#### **Roof Repair:**

It was identified in a quinquennial report in 2017 and in a further inspection in 2018 that the lead roofs of the nave, the tower and the lead lined outer parapet gutters of the North eastern chapel and chancel were overdue for renewal. A quotation for £226,000 plus VAT was accepted from Ellis & Co. and work started in March 2023, on the south side of the nave roof. It became apparent very quickly when the lead was stripped from the first 5m of the roof, that the lead lined gutter base is made from concrete which was not expected. The concrete butts up against the oak wall plate beams and to investigate the state of the oak the concrete was cut away from it in a 3-inch-wide channel. Unfortunately, it was not realised whilst the cutting was taking place that a huge amount of concrete dust was ingested into the church, resulting in the church having to be temporarily closed. It was discovered that there is significant rot in the wall plate and Truss ends in several places along the South side of the Nave which will have to be addressed. Preliminary investigation on the North side of the nave and the North chapel and chancel roofs is showing that there is minimal rot in the wall plates. There will be an additional cost following the discovery of the rot and the project end time will be pushed back. It will be necessary to close the church at times during the roof repair, but every effort will be made to keep it open for festivals and large occasions. The dust was cleaned up for Holy week and Easter. Since then, further dust has been blown into the church from the roof during excessively strong winds.

#### **Window repairs:**

The North Chapel window needs to be removed and re-glazed and other repairs to the church

windows are required. A quotation for this work has been accepted from Salisbury Cathedral Glass And the 'Friends of Fordingbridge Church' have expressed an interest in paying the total including VAT - £17490

**New Glass doors for the North and South Porches and improved access for the disabled:**

Architect plans have been drawn and discussions held with a door supplier. Further action held until the final cost of the Roof repairs is known.

**3 Church Hall:**

Architect plans have been drawn to build a new parish Office on the South side of the hall and a new kitchen on the North side with revised and improved toilet facilities and other repairs and improvements. Further action held until the final cost of the roof repairs and other essential work on the church is known.

**4 St. Giles Godshill:**

At a meeting in October 2022 the LCC considered a report written by the Save St.Giles Group and agreed unanimously that St. Giles Hermitage should be a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) independent of the LCC and PCC. The council sent good wishes to the group for the success of their project.

**5 Worship:**

It has been a difficult year without an Incumbent and with illness striking important church officers and disruption caused by the work being done on the building. However, we have been so very fortunate to have a team of people who have been prepared to step forward to help in so many ways. That, with having Tom Burden to work with our wonderful staff team, has enabled us to keep our church operating, providing our usual excellent varied worship pattern, ranging from Allsorts, and the 6 o'clock service with the emergence of the Mustard Seeds, to the BCP 8.15am Holy communion and Evensong. This year has also seen memorable regular special services such as Remembrance Day and festivals, plus of course, the civic services for the Queens Platinum Jubilee and the death of our Queen, all making the last 12 months exceptional. We should be proud of this achievement.

**6 Parish Groups:**

**7 Mission Matters Report for the APCM 2023**

This Group has been meeting since January 2017. It is composed of people with a passion

for Mission of all kinds across our Parish. Group Members during the year April 2022-23 -Alan and Gwenda Moore (Godshill/ Hyde); Sue Ledger (Sandleheath Uniting Church); Sarah Perrelle (on the Kinkiizi Action Group), Rosemarie Price, Beth Du Lieu and Pat Bloomfield (St Mary's Fordingbridge); Heather Clark, Roland Butcher (Hyde); Rhoda Coates (Breamore). Revd Tom Burden is Chair. We lack a representative from Hale & Woodgreen, but they are not inactive.

The Group is supported with interest and the prayers of a number of people from our various churches who cannot attend meetings, but believe in Mission.

Over the last year we have met 4 times: in May, July, September and January.

1. Mission and Social Justice awareness

Open Doors UK We invited a Speaker to come to visit St Mary's FB in May '22 to remind us of the Persecuted Church, our Brothers and Sisters in countries where it is dangerous to be a Christian.

An Open Doors Table Display (spotlighting the ten countries where Christians are in the most persecuted) has moved around the churches in FB, Sandleheath, Godshill, Hyde, Woodgreen, soon to go to Breamore. Open Doors Prayer leaflets and magazines continue to be distributed to the churches. A list of weekly prayers for the Persecuted Church, with some background, is produced and emailed bimonthly for those who lead intercession, including church leaders.

A 'Bingo Night' was held in St M's Church Hall, FB in November, as a result £1192.14 was sent from the Parish. PMMG acknowledge huge support from the Newmans, and helpers.

Kinkiizi: our Deanery Link Parish in Uganda.

'Kinkiizi Lunch' in St M's Church, FB in June, at which Gill Tybjerg, Chair of the Kinkiizi Action Group, gave a talk and slide show. As a result, the Parish sent £560.23 to Kinkiizi.

Smartie Tubes were distributed at Hyde Messy Church in March: donations will come after Easter.



Kinkiizi Lent '23 Appeal: Parishioners given the opportunity to put aside 40 pence for 40 days  
Tearfund: in Nov '22 a Speaker came to visit St Mary's FB  
Posters and cards will be distributed to all churches in our Parish, to publicise the "Let's  
Change the Climate Challenge".

Fairtrade: Our Group encourage Fairtrade, and support, the Parish Fairtraders where they can. The news that the Traidcraft business had folded early in 2023 came as a shock. They have continued to market Traidcraft goods still in stock and hope they can source Fairtrade products in the future. NB The Co-op now have a good range of Fairtrade products.  
(This is not a complete list of organisations supported by our parish churches.)

## 2. Mission & Christian Outreach

St Giles Hermitage: has been open for a year as a welcome Quiet Place, and used by Groups for meetings, holiday visitors, and locals. Information about local Church Services, Church Events and The New Forest is available. 21 free copies of St Mark's Gospel have been taken. Alan and Gwenda Moore are acting as Caretakers.

Books to Borrow have been transferred to St Giles Hermitage, Godshill, where they are accessible on donated bookshelves to church members, villagers and visitors. Books available can be viewed on the AVC website [www.avonvalleychurches.org.uk](http://www.avonvalleychurches.org.uk) under 'Resources', requested online for personal delivery, or collected personally from St Giles.

Fellowship Walks, organised by Tom, had a regular following from August to October '22, and offered friendship with exercise: with a meal at the end as a reward.

"The Six O'Clock" The PMMG members help with the meal, teas & coffees and transport, as needed. The start up of "The Mustard Seeds" music group has enhanced the informal services, and the service now has a regular following.

Alpha Tom has run 2 Alpha courses in the last year, and one group has continued to meet together after the course, as a House Group.

## 3. Looking to the Future

A Parish Link with a Parish in Newcastle Diocese? The Group wish to explore whether to renew this Link which has lapsed for a few years. When a new Incumbent arrives, we hope to look at this possibility together. The Next Parish Mission Matters meeting is at 7pm on Mondays 22 May. Our meetings are open to all interested in 'Mission'.

Pat Bloomfield (01425 837735) 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023

## **Michaelmas Group Report for the APCM May 3rd 2023**

We were delighted to be able to resume our monthly meetings in May 2022. The topics covered by our different speakers included Fordingbridge Greener Living, Tom Burden's life history (so far) and the life of a ballerina. We took some exercise by walking around Blashford Lakes at the end of one of the very hot days in July, though we were rewarded by a drink and a meal at the Alice Lisle afterwards. Food featured again in August when we met in small groups in members' homes for afternoon tea. In October we went for culture and had a trip to the theatre. We rounded off the year with Janet Newman encouraging us to be creative and make napkin rings for Christmas.

We also joined in two Communion services at St. Mary's on Wednesday mornings in June and October, followed by coffee and a chat. We are already enjoying another interesting programme of meetings this year.

Gillian Benfield 2nd April 2023

## **T.O.F.S.S. (Too Old For Sunday School) Report for the APCM May 3rd 2023**

Our Purpose: to explore the Christian faith through friendship, DVDs, discussion and prayer, over a cup of coffee/tea and biscuits.

TOFSS has continued to meet monthly at 15 Provost Street (except during Lent) with up to 9 people regularly attending. Anglican in origin, we are an ecumenical group.

This year we continued to watch (by popular demand) "The Chosen", and finished Series 2 Episode 8 just before Lent '23, so TOFSS has now watched Series 1 and 2.

This authentically portrayed life of Jesus Christ is helping us to understand the Gospels much better, and the times in which Jesus lived. We intend to start Series 3 next.

In September 2022 we started The Bible Society's excellent 'Bible Course', once a month. We expect to finish the Course at the end of May '23.

During Lent '23 most members of TOFSS, along with a few others, came to a weekly Daytime Lent Course which studied, along with the rest of the Parish Lent Groups, "Not A Tame Lion" by Hilary Brand, based on the writings of C S Lewis, with film extracts from "Shadowlands" and "Narnia".

Newcomers are always welcome to TOFSS and the Bible Course.

Pat Bloomfield

This total report is collated and prepared by Nigel Spratt on behalf of both wardens. It is wonderful to see Ian Newman making such good progress with his recovery.

## Churchwardens Annual Report for Hale and Woodgreen Churches 2022

As we began to return to our pre-covid way of working, we enjoyed being able to meet in person. It has taken a period of time for people to feel comfortable coming back to church in person. We do seem to have welcomed everyone back into the fold at last.

### Community

The **Pastoral Care Team** continued to meet every other month to help monitor and offer support to our fellow parishioners and wider village communities.

The **Fairtrade** support has been a continuing part of the outreach from both churches and the church stall continues to be an important part of the monthly **Farmers Market at Hale Village Hall** and an essential meeting point.

We held a successful **Simnel cake workshop** at St Boniface church leading up to Easter celebrations.

**Palm Sunday walk of witness** from Moot Lane to St Boniface led by Mark Ward carrying a wooden cross.

The April **steam show** held in the Woodgreen car park was a wonderful spectacle involving the hoot of numerous steams whistles accompanying the outdoor Worship Service.

St Boniface church was the focus for the **Queen's Platinum Jubilee**. The church was beautifully decorated by the Ladies from our flower rota. We also received pictures and prose from the pupils of Breamore school. We had '**Beer and hymns**' at The Horse and Groom, together with entertainment for the children from the AVC youth worker.

**St Boniface day** was celebrated during our Sunday worship, with David Mussell giving us an historical insight. The annual **picnic praise on Woodgreen Cricket Ground** was supported by our friends the Downton band.

**St Boniface** was also where people came to acknowledge **The Queen's passing** in September with a **civic service**.

In the middle of the summer, we provided **pop-up cafes at St Mary's Church** and met many people visiting the area who were staying at the campsite in Hale Park. We then **moved the café to St Boniface** for the bank holiday weekend, which coincided with the '**Hampshire Open Studios**'.

A **cello concert** was held at St Mary's in its beautiful acoustic surroundings.

Helen and Mark Clarke invited us to **Home Farm, Hale** to celebrate **Harvest** in style. Downton band played for us. We enjoyed local Lyburn cheese and Downton beers and ciders too.

**St Mary's pet service** was enjoyed by our four-legged friends.

**Remembrance** was marked with help from Hales Angels at St Mary's church.

**All Souls Service** was at St Boniface with the gifting of roses to remember those we have lost.

November saw us '**Make and meet an Angel**' event.

This was followed by our annual **Christmas Tree Festival** at St Boniface.

**Our Advent concert** was held at Hale House, by kind invitation of Sloane and Candida Hickman. It was such a lovely location and enjoyed by over 70 people.

We had **Carol Singing**, accompanied by the Downton Jubilee Band, in the Horse & Groom pub which created a festive feel for all concerned!

We had a workshop to create a **Nativity scene**. This was erected in the redundant bus shelter, by kind permission of Woodgreen parish Council, ably supported by the creativity of Gillian Bathe.

During the months of November, December January and February we opened up St Boniface as a '**warm space**'. These were held on Tuesdays. We enjoyed the delights of home-made soup made by Richard Judd and Jan Brian, and many others and fresh bread rolls made by Lynda Warne. The provision of warm food, jigsaw puzzles and music in a safe place was appreciated by numerous members of the local community who otherwise would have eaten alone. We also met a number of visitors to the area. We were pleased to receive a sum of money from the Woodgreen Village Trust to help with the extra heating costs.

We met one of the King's gardeners outside Rose Cottage, Woodgreen for the planting and  **blessing of the Queen's commemorative Rowan Tree**. made well over 50 pancakes in 2 hours!

The village and church community continue to be amazing supporters of the local **Foodbank**.

## Congregation

Events supporting our congregation have come from the work of our **worship planning group** who meet monthly at St. Boniface. We had an excellent **Parish Vision Day** in January 2022, meeting up with others from across the newly formed Parish.

Both churches were well represented when we had a **combined meeting** in July to discuss ideas for a new Rector, which saw almost all of the congregation attend. This meant that we were able to hear everyone's views, opinions and concerns and take these forward when working on the Parish Profile for our new Incumbent.

**Snowdrop Sunday, Café church, Healing service, Parish Lent group** and **Easter Sunrise** at Godshill 2022 were all great congregational events. We said our farewells to Jo Criscenti, our **Parish Children's & Families worker**, in October.

## Church

The **LCC team** still meet regularly over zoom. This enables Bethan Davies to chair our meetings and remind us of our eco credentials.

All the lightbulbs at St. Boniface have now been replaced with LED to help **reduce our carbon footprint**. Our **Focal Ministry** goes from strength to strength with Ruth leading us up and down different paths of new discoveries.

As part of **AVC Churchwarden's group**, we have continued to meet regularly on behalf of everyone to ensure that we can continue to offer all that we do across the parish. It has led to much mutual agreement as well as disagreements. We represent you, so let us have your views.

### **AND FINALLY:**

The hole in St Mary's church roof. (More in a moment). We need the support of everyone to make sure it happens.

**AND LASTLY**-as your Churchwardens we would both like to express our thanks to all who have supported us and enabled our churches to love, connect and serve our communities, it's been a busy year and we couldn't have done it without you, bless you all...

Lynda Warne & Ruth Crosland  
April 23.

## **Holy Ascension - Hyde**

### **OPEN THE BOOK - Report for APCM 2023**

The Open the Book Team take bible stories into schools. Generally they are enacted while the story is being told, the children being encouraged to engage with an entertaining performance while listening to stories from the Lion Storyteller Bible. This is topped and tailed by conversation bringing out the truths from the story and finished with prayers and a song.

This year the team have been telling stories from the Old Testament, giving plenty of opportunities for drama, awe and wonder! The team has been blessed with more volunteers, there are now four regular and four 'on call' men and women willing to give their time; plus Rev Tom as many times as he can make it. They visit Hyde School, Breamore School and Fordingbridge School on a fortnightly basis and have built a good rapport with the staff and children – who always seem delighted to see them.

The outreach of Open the Book is a great opportunity to bring Bible Knowledge to children, some of whom may not have heard much about God. It is exciting and rewarding, if anyone would like to join, please get in touch.

Roland Butcher

### **REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF HYDE MOTHERS' UNION BRANCH. April 2022 to April 2023.**

During the past year Hyde Mothers' Union have met each month and have enjoyed a variety of Services lectures and social occasions, and have organised a most successful book sale. The proceeds of the books sale were for the Mothers' Union charity AFIA, which sends families who may not be able to have a holiday away for a week, or sometimes gives a family a day out.

Branch meetings take place in the Church Centre on the second Tuesday of each month. From November to March we plan to meet in the afternoon, and the rest of the year our meetings are in the evening.

We have had speakers on such subjects as leprosy, dementia, local history, life in The New Forest during the war, the work of the Salvation Army, the life of our Curate and the carvings in Southwell Minster. In July, we held an evening supper in the Church rooms and in August, combined our A.G.M. with afternoon tea in the garden of a member. September was our Membership Service and we hosted the Lady Day Service this year on March 24th for all the M.U. branches in our area. Also on June 1st Hyde led the Cathedral Prayers at Winchester.

Marrienne Tomkies

Joint Secretary  
Hyde Mothers' Union.

### **HYDE PARISH MEN'S GROUP**

The Group was formed in 2015, and holds bi-monthly Suppers, with a Speaker, at the Old Beams, Ibsley.

To date we have held thirty eight Suppers, and our Speakers have included two Bishops, a retired Dean of Lincoln Cathedral, Clergy of all denominations, and local dignitaries.

We have attenders from all over the local area, not just Hyde, and all are very welcome

### **SMALL GROUP REPORT**

There are now two Church Small Groups at Hyde. The original group at Heather Cottage meets on the first and third Wednesdays at 10a.00am. When the weather is good, we have met in the garden under a very sunny lean-to. Currently there are 6 regular members and we would welcome new participants. In the past year we have studied "Women of the New Testament", the "I am" sayings of Jesus and the letter Philemon.

For more information contact Sheila Collis

The second group is held on alternate Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm in Frogham. The meeting venue has been shared between two homes. The focus for this group is part Christian Fellowship and part Bible Study. The group looked at the "I am" sayings of Jesus and enjoyed sharing experiences and thoughts of the ups and downs of our Christian journey. We welcome anyone who would like to join. When the group broke for the Lent season there were 8 regular members.

For more information contact Jan Butcher

### **BIBLE STUDY NOTES**

During the past year 17 people take Bible Reading Notes, which I get from Keith Jones Christian book shop. This includes people from Ellingham church. Other people use the "Our Daily Bread" notes suggested by Canon Michael. Others access aids online. I am always happy to take more orders.

Sheila Collis

### **MESSY CHURCH**

Messy Church has continued to meet monthly throughout 2022 and each month has greeted between 20 and 30 children of primary age plus their siblings, parents and

grandparents. It is always a lovely experience, with very supportive parents and a great atmosphere. We begin with a number of craft activities in the main hall and with more boisterous physical games upstairs – both are popular. Then there is always a “celebration” worship session, sometimes with puppets or videos or playlets and ending with a time of prayer. The last, greatly appreciated element is the tea in the hall – after “Messy Grace”. A huge thank you to all the helpers who make this such an enjoyable experience and who come up with wonderful ideas for crafts, food and games,

If you would like to join us please let me know – you would be VERY welcome.

Heather Clark

### **REPORT RECEIVED FROM BETHAN DAVIES ON 25 APRIL 2023**

A small and brief update from Hale and Woodgreen is that as the rep for BCM Creation Care, I have been involved with this year's Prophetic Activist scheme with Christian Aid. As a group we have created a Climate Justice Toolkit for churches to explore climate issues and think about how they could be more involved in climate justice campaigning. The link is <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/get-involved/prophetic-activist-how-be-climate-justice-steward>. Woodgreen church is renewing their commitment to Christian Aid and holding an Iona service with a climate justice and Christian aid theme on the 21st May. We're also running a 'nature count' on the 4th June as part of the Gods Acre survey at Hale Church.





# Parish Mission Matters Report for the APCM 2023

**The Aim of Mission Matters is  
to bring a focus in our churches on Mission & Social Justice awareness.**

This Group has been meeting since January 2017. It is composed of people with a passion for Mission of all kinds across our Parish.

## **Group Members during the year April 2022-23**

Alan and Gwenda Moore (Godshill/ Hyde); Sue Ledger (Sandleheath Uniting Church); Sarah Perrelle (on the Kinkiizi Action Group), Rosemarie Price, Beth Du Lieu and Pat Bloomfield (St Mary's Fordingbridge); Heather Clark, Roland Butcher (Hyde); Rhoda Coates (Breamore).  
Revd Tom Burden is Chair. We lack a representative from Hale & Woodgreen, but they are not inactive.

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Over the last year we have met 4 times: in May, July, September and January.

## **1. Mission and Social Justice awareness**

**Open Doors UK** We invited a Speaker to come to visit St Mary's FB in May '22 to remind us of the Persecuted Church, our Brothers and Sisters in countries where it is dangerous to be a Christian. An Open Doors Table Display (spotlighting the ten countries where Christians are in the most persecuted) has moved around the churches in FB, Sandleheath, Godshill, Hyde, Woodgreen, soon to go to Breamore.

Open Doors Prayer leaflets and magazines continue to be distributed to the churches.

A list of weekly prayers for the Persecuted Church, with some background, is produced and emailed bimonthly for those who lead intercession, including church leaders.

A 'Bingo Night' was held in St M's Church Hall, FB in November, as a result of which £1192.14 was sent from the Parish. PMMG acknowledge huge support from the Newmans, and helpers.

## **Kinkiizi: our Deanery Link Parish in Uganda.**

'Kinkiizi Lunch' in St M's Church, FB in June, at which Gill Tybjerg, Chair of the Kinkiizi Action Group, gave a talk and slide show. As a result, the Parish sent £560.23 to Kinkiizi.

Smartie Tubes were distributed at Hyde Messy Church in March: donations will come after Easter.

Kinkiizi Lent '23 Appeal: Parishioners given the opportunity to put aside 40 pence for 40 days

**Tearfund:** in Nov '22 a Speaker came to visit St Mary's FB

Posters and cards will be distributed to all churches in our Parish, to publicise the "Let's Change the Climate Challenge".

**Fairtrade:** Our Group encourage Fairtrade, and support, the Parish Fairtraders where they can. The news that the Traidcraft business had folded early in 2023 came as a shock. They have continued to market Traidcraft goods still in stock and hope they can source Fairtrade products in the future. NB The Co-op now have a good range of Fairtrade products.

(This is not a complete list of organisations supported by our parish churches.)

## 2. **Mission & Christian Outreach**

**St Giles Hermitage:** has been open for a year as a welcome Quiet Place, and used by Groups for meetings, holiday visitors, and locals. Information about local Church Services, Church Events and The New Forest is available. 21 free copies of St Mark's Gospel have been taken. Alan and Gwen-da Moore are acting as Caretakers.

**Books to Borrow** have been transferred to St Giles Hermitage, Godshill, where they are accessible on donated bookshelves to church members, villagers and visitors. Books available can be viewed on the AVC website [www.avonvalleychurches.org.uk](http://www.avonvalleychurches.org.uk) under 'Resources', requested online for personal delivery, or collected personally from St Giles.

**Fellowship Walks,** organised by Tom, had a regular following from August to October '22, and offered friendship with exercise: with a meal at the end as a reward.

**"The Six O'Clock"** The PMMG members help with the meal, teas & coffees and transport, as needed. The start up of "The Mustard Seeds" music group has enhanced the informal services, and the service now has a regular following.

**Alpha** Tom has run 2 Alpha courses in the last year, and one group has continued to meet together after the course, as a House Group.

## 3. **Looking to the Future**

### **A Parish Link with a Parish in Newcastle Diocese?**

The Group wish to explore whether to renew this Link which has lapsed for a few years. When a new Incumbent arrives, we hope to look at this possibility together.

**The Next Parish Mission Matters meeting** is at 7pm on Mondays 22 May. Our meetings are open to all interested in 'Mission'.