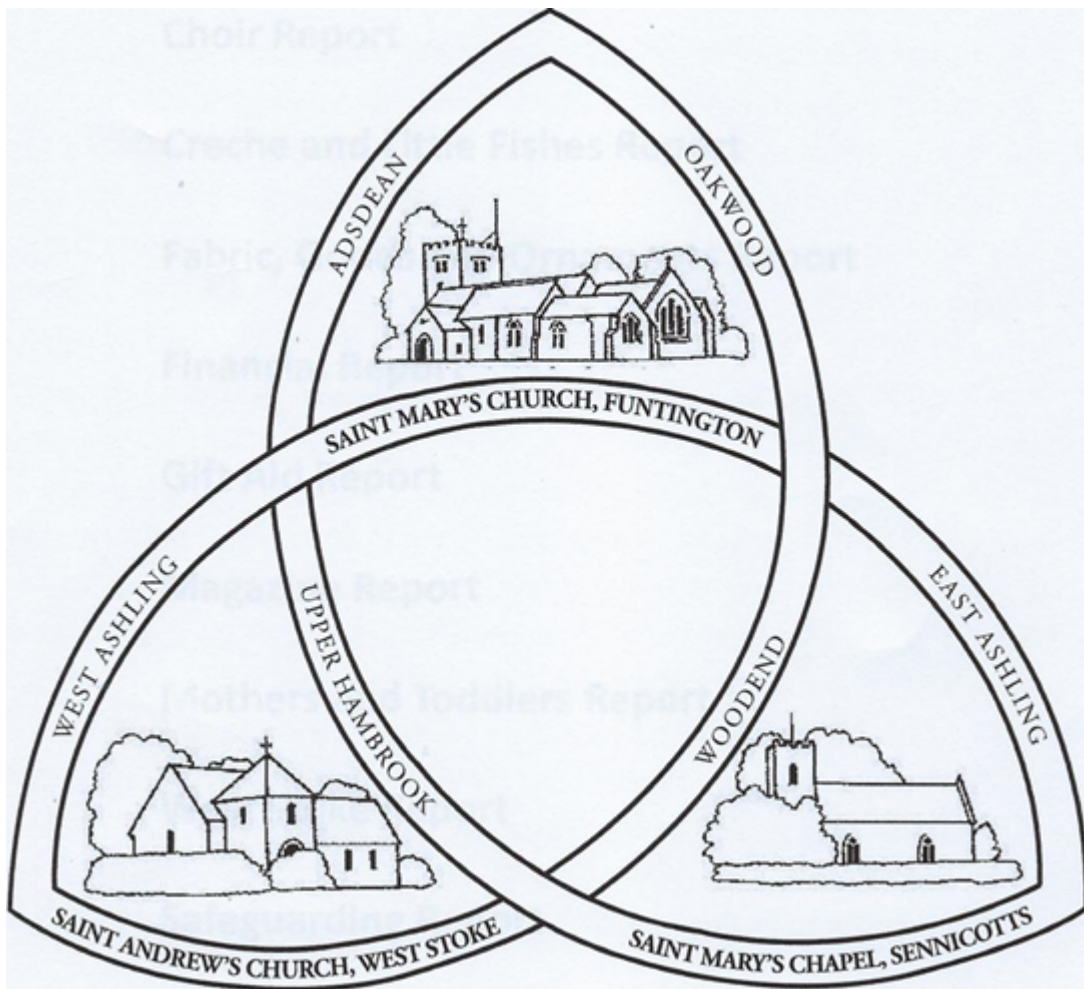


BENEFICE OF FUNTINGTON AND WEST STOKE WITH SENNICOTTS

ANNUAL REVIEW 2023



Annual Review of our Churches' Activities 2023

St Mary's Funtington, St Andrew's, West Stoke, St Mary's Sennicotts.

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Parish Review 2023 – Church Wardens report

We started 2023 with our resident Priest-in-charge, Andrew Birks providing our Ministry. He was in his second year with us but sadly, he resigned in the summer and in November 2023 he left to start a new post in Cambridgeshire. We are now in our Interregnum as from November 2023. During the year from January to October we continued with the established pattern of worship between the two parishes but we continued to need many of the services covered by other priests not only due to the pattern of services but due to our Priest being on sick leave; during these weeks our service schedule was always covered. Our service times were as follows: 10am Sunday service each week at Funtington; 10am service at West Stoke on the 1st and 3rd Sundays and a service at Sennicotts on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. The 5th Sunday was a joint Parish Eucharist.

In November, due to the Interregnum, the PCCs decided to trial a new pattern of services, this was to enable us to provide a Eucharist in each Parish every Sunday and it was a pattern that could be supported by one Clergy in the future which had not be possible in Andrew Birks' time. We now have a joint midweek eucharist at St Wilfrid's Nutbourne as Funtington's midweek service was poorly supported and often cancelled.

So, the new pattern from November 2023 was as follows;

Week 1 :10 am Family Service 10 am - Funtington and 10 am Eucharist - West Stoke

Week 2: 8 am Eucharist - Funtington

Week 3: 10 am Eucharist -Funtington and 10 am Morning Prayers West Stoke

Week 4: 9 am Eucharist BCP

Week 5 :10 am Joint Parish Eucharist alternating with Chidham

At the start of the year numbers attending our services were getting back to the pre covid numbers, especially well attended was the family service led by John Manning. The Eucharist services in all churches maintained their numbers, the Services at Sennicotts and West Stoke were historically not as well attended, however since our new pattern of service this has improved as the parishioners from all churches are mixing more and worshipping in all churches.

Other developments: In February 2023 both PCCs met with Archdeacon Luke for an initial meeting to discuss our future with three options being given by the Diocese.

1. Stay as we are in suspension for the rest of the time left (3 years approx.)
2. One Benefice with two Parishes and two PCCs
3. Becoming one Parish with one PCC

All options to be further discussed, and some members also wanted to have a 4th Option included which was that of a 0.5 part time priest, based in Funtington, this was not endorsed by the Diocese.

Finances:

This year we have seen another deficit, but interest from investments have kept this down. There has been an increase in regular giving during the latter part of the year, so it is hoped that by this time next year, we may break even. No large expenditure was planned this year as we had already completed repairs to the roof and Ratham chapel, but some emergency work on the Bell tower arch was due to falling masonry. Further work is due.

Outreach:

Andrew Birks set up two bible study groups, one for lent and one in the early summer as part of our joint parishes program of mission and ministry. The Church in the Community group was launched this year as a prayer group and has the specific task to promote our Parish Mission Statement and involve people who would not otherwise engage in the work of the church.

While Andrew was still in post Domiciliary visits took place, and Communion services took place in one of our local Nursing homes where some of the residents were from this parish, this is still ongoing using the LaMoc from Chidham parish

Children's ministry has been an ongoing challenge, we had a small group of families regularly attending our services and we had our Sunday school running with an average of 6 children; however, this was increasingly difficult to staff and, in the summer, it was stopped due to the inability of the PCC to staff this on a regular basis, this led to the inevitable loss of the 3 families who moved to Bosham Church.

Funtington School: An assembly was taken 1x a term, and the school held their Harvest Festival and Crib Services at Funtington, with children and parents attending. The school also visited the church in the year as part of their religion curriculum.

Oakwood; There was a dedication service at Oakwood held at Sennicotts in November 2023 and two Crib services were taken in December

Churher's College Founders Dedication took place at Funtington again this year with representatives from the school laying a wreath.

We have had a range of special services throughout the year which have all been well supported.

We held our Ash Wednesday service, Mother's Day service, and Pet and Harvest Thanksgiving Services at West Stoke and Funtington, this was Andrew's final service for the Parish.

Holy Week services: Maundy Thursday service was held at St Mary's with the evening vigil.

During the week the cross returned to St Mary's Funtington from Chidham, ready for our Walk of Witness. We started on Good Friday with Stations of the Cross in Funtington, before walking down to St Wilfrid's Nutbourne where we had soup and a roll and then a period of devotion before setting off with the cross to St Mary's Chidham for Veneration of The Cross and Communion. The cross was left in Chidham and will be returned on Good Friday 2024 for next year's Walk of Witness.

On Easter Morning we celebrated a Joint Eucharist with Archdeacon Luke. This was organised by Chidham on the shoreline at Cobnor where the Paschal Candle was lit. The flame from the candle was transferred to a lantern which was taken to Chidham and Funtington churches for the lighting of the Paschal Candle ready for the services in church later that morning.

Our Advent services included the school crib services, two Candle lit Carol services, Village carol singing in the Pub. The even more successful outside Nativity Service was held at Sennicotts again this year, and a Crib Service followed later at Funtington. Christmas day Service was celebrated at Funtington and Sennicotts. The music has been developing into a more important part of our worship, with the start of the Community Singers under the leadership of Paul Wren. In November St Andrew's, West Stoke organized a concert for all in the parish to attend. All of these services have often meant that we the Churchwardens, sides people, readers and intercessors were given extra duties – we couldn't have done it without each and every one of them and we are grateful for the time, skills and support they give. We also need to thank the wonderful clergy who are supporting the parish encouraging us all in our following of Christ and continuing Mission.

We the Church Wardens; Caroline Noble, Paul Wren and Pippa Kerr all agreed to be sworn in for another year. The PCC are very thankful to all 3 Churchwardens who served during 2023 for their hard work, dedication and support. We still have a vacancy for one Churchwarden.

The PCC had a number of new members this year after the APCM. The PCC has had some very challenging times to deal with, and some important decisions about the future of the parish, and this has been compounded by losing our Priest.

Ongoing projects: We also started the process of seeking permission, for the fence on the eastern boundary from the lychgate round to meet the south boundary, this has not been actioned since losing our Priest. This was to be black metal estate fencing which was to be will be erected once we had the necessary planning permission. We are unsure if this has been agreed by the Diocese via a faculty.

The graveyard maintenance was reviewed and we decided to keep the contractors for another year. The Ashes plot gained the faculty so that now uniform memorial plaques can now be placed in the Plot with permission following application to the Diocese.

There is still a lot of work to do in the graveyard and we will continue to work with the PCC and community working parties to maintain standards and compliance with the Directions of the Diocesan Chancellor.

Charitable giving: The PCC pledged a maximum of £5000 this year to charities, with a total of £4,540 having been reached and divided between three charities. The PCC have committed to continue to support Local, National and International Charities in the coming year.

Over the year, in our parish there have been 1x Baptism, 6x funerals, 3x burial of ashes and 2 x Weddings.

We have continued to maintain a presence in our community with two very successful social occasions going forward. We have some great examples of this in 2023 with the May Flower and Coffee morning, Adsdean Bonfire party, Carol singing, and West Stoke's Concert etc. Also, we were involved helping with King Charles Coronation Party held in West Ashling.

There is so much more to do and we are in a strong position working with focus and a more united front to go forward with full commitment to promote the Gospel of Christ, serving our communities in the name of our Lord.

This is very much a journey we travel together in the life of disciples. We will rise to the challenge of promoting our Christian values, linking our churches and communities together and moving towards a more united parish and working towards installing a new Incumbent and bringing our Interregnum to a close. We look forward to the steps we will take together over the coming year.

This review of last year is not an exhaustive list of all that has been achieved, but it is evident that our numbers are growing again and coming together in fellowship with one another is encouraging. When we do, we are met with beautiful buildings, wonderful floral displays, wonderful music from our organist and the dedication of our volunteers who make our services come together. We want to say a huge "Thank You" to everyone who helps to keep our buildings open and welcoming.

Phillipa Kerr, Paul Wren and Caroline Noble

Church Wardens for the Parish of Funtington West Stoke and Sennicotts March 2023.

St Marys Church Funtington, Fabric Report covering year 2023:

Routine maintenance:

All electrical equipment was PAT tested in November 2023 Fire extinguishers are to be checked Jan 2024

Guttering – cleared in November and windows cleaned externally.

Yew Tree – A Faculty was obtained to remove overhanging branches of the Yew Tree adjacent to the Vestry door, work was deferred due to nesting birds and bats but completed in September 2023

Repairs: Snagging was checked by the Builders, Cousins, before final sign off repairs to the Roof and Ratham Chapel. The quinquennial work needed has been done. Emergency work has been done on

the inside of the church, due to falling masonry around the tower arch. Further work is needed, as all plaster needs to be removed (revealing a pleasant sub surface) and replaced in full, part or not at all. The Architect and DAC have been contacted with regard to the faculty application.

External repairs are needed to an area above the south porch on the eastern side. The gap allowed owls to enter the porch roof and gain access into the church causing considerable mess. Accordingly, once their access point had been established, the boarding above the south door, between wall plate and roof has been replaced.

Solar photovoltaic panels: energy output calculations on these and connection to the grid has not been fully established. However, the benefit of these panels, particularly during the winter months, has been severely impacted due to the reduction in number imposed at the planning stage.

Ground work: The contractor Keith Goacher continued his contract which runs from April to November, although the price had increased this year. The hedge cutting was completed by the end of November.

The paddock was kindly mown by Tim Hoare.

Tree debris from the fallen sycamore tree in the paddock has continued to be cleared and cut into logs. While a quantity has been given away to people in the Parish, the remainder are available for a donation to church funds.

We held 4 x Graveyard "clean up" sessions with thanks to all the volunteers who gave up their time each Saturday for 3 hours.

Some of the car park potholes have been repaired, but the track requires ongoing work.

Domestic Cleaning: The sourcing of a cleaning company has not been easy and we have had two separate companies so far. Currently, the contract is 3.5 hours per week and the church and the Church room being cleaned on a Friday.

Eastern Boundary Fencing: This to be deferred to 2024 and revised quotes obtained.

Vicarage: The Vicarage and gardens are still rented out by the Diocese; we still have use of the paddock but the Stables were emptied in October at the insistence of the Diocese. Temporary storage of garden equipment has been provided by the current tenants and members of the PCC. Waste items have been disposed of responsibly, stored paperwork and documents were sorted and archived by Priest in charge Andrew Birks, prior to him leaving the Parish in November 2023.

Church room: Bookings have remained constant with Fees at £15 an hour. There are concessions for church related groups. Repair work to clear the moisture within the windows is needed and will be looked at in 2024.

Health and Safety: During the year 2023 there were no reportable Health & Safety incidents.

Volunteers: A wealth of people volunteer to help with the running of all three churches so a huge vote of thanks to all those who give their time freely to provide our wonderful flowers, cleaning of the brass, serving coffee and ringing the bells. all our Sidespersons, Readers, Intercessors and Lamocs. Also, thanks to the Editors and contributors of our wonderful Parish magazine. The work and generosity of everyone is so vital especially as we are now in the Interregnum, finally we also must thank the continued generous support of Parishioners, to keep church alive and the grounds looking loved and cared for.

Terrier and Inventory is up to date.

Report Compiled by Phillipa Kerr, Church Warden. March 2023

Churchwardens Annual Report St. Andrew's West Stoke 2023

There were 26 services held at St. Andrew's West Stoke in 2023

2 Funerals

2 Burial of Ashes

A very successful concert on October 6th given by the Sienna Singers raised just over £800.00.

The Carols by Candlelight service on Christmas Eve was attended by just over 100 people and was taken by David Nason.

The fabric of the building remains steady.

Hairline cracks are being monitored and are not changing.

Woodworm are also being monitored with no change or need to re treat at present.

Woodworm dust falling from the beams is seasonal depending on the lifecycle of the woodworm but nothing to worry about.

There has been some shrinkage/movement of pieces of stained glass which means you can see daylight - this can be easily remedied by the application of a liquid lead. Quote to do this is being sourced.

The roof on the north side of the nave needs to be retiled as quoted in the last Quinquennial report and should be done in the next couple of years. Quotes to redo this and remove moss from the tiles is being sourced.

A small number of tiles have slipped off mortar at the joins of the roof and need to be re applied - quote is being sourced.

There is some movement of guttering in two places - these are easily readjusted and will be done at the same time as the tiles if not before.

Graveyard is being beautifully maintained by Liam Orchard Webb who is happy to continue. High hedges are being trimmed by local contactor and the cost donated.

Last year Liam and Caroline put down 2 tonnes of top soil to try to level out some graves and ankle breaking holes, we may need to do this again this year.

St Andrew's is looking forward to hosting a service for The Prayer Book Society Chichester Branch on 16th March,

two weddings, one in April and one in October and a christening in May also possibly another concert later in the year.

Caroline Noble, Churchwarden

St. Andrew's Church West Stoke

St Mary's Sennicotts 2023

Although it was the end of October when Fr Andrew left the Parish, the majority of our services at Sennicotts during the year were taken by John Dane. We're very grateful to him, and also the other retired Priests who take our services, now that we are back in an interregnum.

The new pattern of services introduced following the start of the interregnum has left us with one service a month, but as this is usually the only service in the Parish on that particular Sunday, attendances have been good – approx. 25 for each service. Looking ahead this is probably a sensible level in view of our location, and the traditional form of BCP service which is favoured.

Eloise Rank organised the Christmas Nativity service in early December which was held outside in the nearby fields. It was attended by over 100 and was one of the highlights of the year. One of the few Sundays when it didn't rain! Another highlight was the Christmas Day service taken by Cannon David Nasson, and which was attended by 43, plus at least 4 dogs!

It's now well over a year since the grave diggers attending a funeral at Sennicotts damaged the external railings, and in spite of Fr Andrew apparently processing an insurance claim with the funeral directors, the damage has still not been repaired.

Once again Margaret McMullen has produced wonderful flower arrangements for the altar, and we're extremely grateful to her for this. These flower arrangements, plus the candle light help to make Sennicotts a wonderful place to worship. *Andrew Lillie*

Electoral Roll 2023.

Following the 2023 revision the total number on the Electoral Roll stood at 135, back to the number in 2021.

The Roll will be revised during March 2024 and the total number is expected to be unchanged.

The next complete new Roll is due to be prepared in 2025.

Andrew Lillie

Treasurer's Report 2023

The 2023 Accounts were approved by Chris Pexton, chartered accountant (and Deanery treasurer), and passed unanimously at the PPC meeting held on 29 February.

A full copy of the accounts is available on request.

Income

Planned giving, ie, envelopes and regular bank payments, was £36,264, an increase of £1,671 on 2022. SumUp donations totalled £672, an increase of £404 on 2022. However, cash collections were only £1,927, a decrease of £2,372.

We were able to claim £10,173 Gift Aid from these payments.

We received no legacies.

We received £5,571 in fees for weddings, funerals, etc; £3,302 less than in 2022.

We received £3,386 in fees for the use of the Church room; an increase of £385.

We received £3,760 in sales of the parish magazine and advertising; £493 less than in 2022.

When offset with printing costs, etc, there was a small loss.

We received £17,991 interest on our bank and CBF accounts, an increase of £9,415 on 2022.

We also received dividends from our investments totalling £2,483.

The Bonfire Party, held principally as a social event, made a profit of £625.

The West Stoke Teas raised £326.

Expenditure

We paid £47,277 to the Diocese as our 'Parish Share', an increase of £7,277 on 2022, which was 60% of the total requested for ourselves and Chidham.

We paid £1,647 in salaries, a reduction of approx. £4,000, but due largely to our cleaning / gardening work transferring to external providers.

Clergy expenses were £967, a decrease of £1,400 on 2022.

Energy costs were £4,650, a decrease of approx. £600 on 2022.

The repair work to the roof and Ratham Chapel has been completed, with final costs this year of just over £50,000.

We have reclaimed just under £9,000 VAT.

Charitable Donations

We made donations totalling £4,520, including £2,070 to the Turkey/Syria earthquake appeal, and smaller amounts to support Ukraine, and four local charities: Stone Pillow, Sage House Dementia Support, Four Streets Project and Chichester Area Talking News.

Operating deficit

At the end of year, we had an 'operating' deficit of approx. £8,500, compared with approx £4,000 in 2022, but we were fortunate to benefit from the current high interest rates.

Looking ahead to 2024, our Parish Share is approx £6,500 less, so it is reasonable to anticipate that by continuing to encourage increased giving and watching our expenses, we should be able to break even.

Finally ... I want to thank the Finance Team - Andrew Hughes, Jamie Noble for their time and valuable contributions, but in particular, Neil Watt for his advice and support throughout the year, not to mention the many hours he put into the preparation of this year's accounts.

We also want to thank Chris Pexton for his time, expertise, and ultimately for approving them.

Tricia Dry Treasurer

Gift Aid Report

The Gift Aid refund from HMRC for 2023 was £10,173. This was claimed on gift aided donations of £37,015 from 92 different donors as well as cash collections of £3,620. The cash collections are down significantly on last year. Thank you so very much to everyone who has generously given with gift aid through regular standing orders, envelopes and card payments to make this tax reclaim possible. As the church income is not increasing with inflation, the PCC agreed to send out a letter to 60 regular donors encouraging them to increase their giving in-line with inflation. A quarter of those asked have responded with an increase in their giving by a total of £3,800 per year which shows a generous response from a small number of people. We would encourage everyone to review their giving and respond in a generous way if at all possible.

We now have a card machine at the back of both St Mary's and St Andrew's which can be used to give card payments. It is worth noting that HMRC allow us to claim gift aid on all cash collections in our three churches up to a value of £8,000 per year. We are currently well under this value and are able to claim gift aid on all our open plate and card machine collections. Please let me know if your tax circumstances change so that I can amend our records as appropriate.

Neil Watt

Jesus said "Don't hoard treasure down here where it gets eaten by moths and corroded by rust or - worse – stolen by burglars. Stockpile treasure in heaven, where it's safe from moth and rust and burglars. It's obvious, isn't it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being." Matt 6:21 (The Message)

Safeguarding at Funtington, West Stoke and Sennicotts 2023-24

We have completed 84 DBS Checks since starting the Safeguarding DBS Checking.

99% are for Volunteers with the Good Neighbours Organisation.

There's no Sunday school now and therefore no one working with Children.

Vulnerable Adults are the main concern in the Parish with the Good Neighbour Scheme.

There is a steady trickle of DBS renewals after the 5 year period and the more recent 3-year period, after issuing the certificates.

The recent report declaring that the C of E is still not effective in carrying out its duties ref Safeguarding is of concern, and we now await any developments.

Mother Jessica is reviewing the report and no doubt will be reporting soon. *Tony D'Alton*

Deanery Synod

The synod met three times during the year. The highlight was a visit from the Bishop of Horsham who encouraged parishes to 'Make Disciples' there has also been an encouraging presentation by Stonepillow, demonstrating the high quality of their work .

The Annual Report from Westbourne Deanery has not yet been received.

The new Clergy Chairman is the Rural Dean (Rev. Jessica Reid)

Neil Watt

Bell Ringers report

We are approaching a crisis time for future ringing. Yes, the comments made to us are that people are pleased to hear the bells both for services and at our practices, but our ringing capacity may be reducing from what we at present are able to achieve.

Why? It is the age of our ringers and lack of any new ringers that are our problems. We ringers all enjoy our ringing but many of us are 80 plus and this year one of those was unable to continue and others are finding it difficult. It is becoming increasingly challenging to have the 6 ringers we need to ring the bells to their full potential. Ideally, we wish to have 8 ringers at the tower for us to give the relief that some need a rest between ringing times. On the positive side, we have rung for every service, for a wedding and for the King's Coronation. We have an excellent set of bells all recently installed in 2007 with a ground floor ringing chamber, all of which is so much better than many Churches around us offer. What can we do? We can teach anybody willing to try ringing. This can be for anyone from 9 or 10 upwards at a conveniently arranged time but however we have asked previously, we have not had any success.

If you know of anyone who may be interested, please let any of our team know so that contact and arrangements can be made to suit that person and our ringers.

To help encourage anyone to experience ringing, be that young through to the newly retired, or anyone within that range, we are offering a taster session following the service on the 3rd Sunday of each month as well at our usual practice on a Tuesday.

John Kitchener Tower Captain

Social Committee report 2023

Our social year started in May 2023 with the Coronation for King Charles III when a variety of celebratory events in the community were attended and assisted by members of our congregation.

In July our baking and serving ladies did sterling work on a lovely dry afternoon, serving afternoon Cream Teas at West Stoke Village Hall. They had a very steady stream of customers and were able to reliably take payment by card with the highly competent Sue Smithers' skills. We raised £326 of which £35 was given to the West Stoke Village Hall fund and the remainder divided between three local charities: Sage House, Four Streets project, Talking Newspaper for the Visually impaired and church funds.

There was a Harvest Barn dance in Chidham in September which marked Rev Andrew Birks' last community event with the Parish.

Next came Bonfire Night organised by Tim, Andrew and Neil with multiple helpers. We wanted to hold it in the Church Paddock but the sows remained in situ in the field nearby, so the event was planned for Tim Hoare's Quarry Barn site.

The weather on the due date was rainy but we had kept the bonfire dry and the rain cleared by late afternoon in time for a hugely successful community event with over 60 cars expertly arranged in the onsite carpark by Tony D'Alton.

Tim and Claire once more provided the sausages for the newly purchased Church barbecue and the bar was well stocked. The fireworks were a riotous success and over 200 people attended. We raised £625 which was divided between the three local charities we supported and church funds.

All our events have been profitable for charities and our community as well as a source of pleasure and fun for everyone involved.

We need to make a special mention of Pippa Kerr, our church warden, who is a huge source of calm and dedicated support on every occasion.

Deb and Andrew Hughes

Mother and Toddlers 2023

The numbers significantly fell over last year and as the two or three regulars were no longer attending due to their little ones growing up (!) the group has, very sadly, decided to stop. Occasional attendees through Facebook were sparse and unreliable. It is most regrettable after so many years; there are just so few toddlers in the area who are not otherwise engaged on a Monday.

Julie Morrow

Funtington Parish Magazine

Our circulation is still around the 350 mark – we lose some and we gain some each year. Twenty of those go to postal subscribers, forty copies are on display at the back of St. Mary's and St. Andrew's with an honesty box, which seems to work and the remainder pay the ten pound subscription. We do quite well if there is a wedding or a funeral for those who can't find the offertory plate!

I would like to thank all those who support us so brilliantly. The contributors who we couldn't do without. The distributors – 18 volunteers strategically placed throughout the parish who deliver door to door and who have enthusiastically embraced going to extra households to deliver the May magazine so that as many people in the parish receive a copy of the magazine that month whether they want it or not! Finally, the advertisers who really help us to hit breakeven and keep the cost of the magazine down. We have recently found 3 more businesses who have bought space and Sue Nicholson (who lives in Funtington and is also Chairman of the WI) has volunteered to help on the advertising front to sell more space. Thank you, Sue!

The figures for 2023 don't appear quite as good as in previous years. In 2023 we changed the magazine financial year from 1st April – end of March to tie in with the church financial year (December – December) and it didn't work. So we are going back to the original for 2024.

Sales - £2,570

Ads - £1,190

Printing and misc magazine related expenses - £4,283.56

Despite advertising for someone to take over the editorial there have been no applications. Jo and I took the decision to do a joint July/August and December/January which means we have only 10 issues a year which does take pressure off. What to do? Do more joint issues or stop altogether and hope that someone will come forward? It does need discussing at the PCC or Standing Committee. Jamie Noble has done a wonderful job putting the magazine up on the parish website and we will also have all the back copies for the past 3 years downloaded at some stage soon. I think subscribers still like to have a paper copy. Doesn't anyone have a young budding journalist in their family who would like a project?

Anna D`Alton Editor

Church in our Community Group

This group meets every Monday evening starting at 5:30pm in the church room for notionally an hour but sometimes much longer. The format has evolved and we now meet as follows:

1st Monday in month – Ideas and Planning

2nd Monday in month – Prayer for growth of the church

3rd Sunday in month – Ideas and Planning

4th Monday in month – Prayer for the community (in St Mary's church)

Everyone is warmly welcomed on any Monday evening. We have a good and growing representation from all three churches. Notable successes have included the flyer which was distributed to most houses in the parish in October. As a result of the flyer and of prayer there was an increased attendance at our various Christmas services. If you would like to see our church grow in strength, numbers and influence in our community of villages, and are keen to help in prayer, ideas or action, please don't hesitate to come and join in.

Neil Watt

Homegroup report

A new homegroup was started last October. The homegroups are open to all church members. During the autumn term we studied the 8 sessions of the Bible Society 'Bible Course'. There were up to 8 of us meeting every Monday evening. The format was two video clips separated by a time of discussion supported by a helpful workbook. An optional part of the course is the regular bible readings during the week which everyone was keen to do. This course was very well appreciated by all the homegroup, we all valued the experience, and we hope to offer the same course to a Wednesday afternoon group after Easter.

During the spring term we have been following the Romans' Course, also produced by the Bible Society. The group has grown to 11 for this term. The course is very well presented, very thought provoking and has helped us share with each other more deeply.

Neil Watt