

**St John the Baptist Chapel**  
**Reports to the Special Parochial Church Meeting**  
**11<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

**The Context**

The PCC of St John the Baptist Chapel has the responsibility to promote the mission of the Church throughout the Parish in all its forms, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The past year has seen a continuation of this work and also a care for the physical structure of the church and churchyard. An important duty of the PCC is to be aware of the concerns of the congregation and to provide a place for discussion on all aspects of the Church's work in the village and beyond through regular meetings.

**Membership of the PCC**

All membership of the PCC is elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. Up to nine members can be elected along with the Churchwardens, Deanery Synod members and Vicar who are ex-officio. The tenure is for three years with approximately one third standing for re-election each year. The Churchwardens are elected annually.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:-

Vicar and Chair	Revd. Liz Richardson	(ex-officio)
Churchwardens:	Norman Ede	(ex-officio)
	Dineke van den Bogerd	(ex-officio)
Representative		
Diocesan Synod:	Mary Huggins	(ex-officio)
Representatives		
Deanery Synod:	Liz Wombwell	(ex-officio)
	Andy Carr	(ex-officio)
Elected		
Members:	Pamela Cuthbert	
	Andrew Forsyth	
	Joy Harman	
	Sarah Pusey	
	David Silliman	
	Eric Sutcliffe	
	Jessie Sutcliffe	
	Debbie von Bergen	

## **Report from the Vicar and Chair of the PCC**

We have had a very full and lively year in many areas of PCC responsibility and church life both here and in working towards a successful and painless transition in our unification with St Margaret's Parish Church in Ockley. As announced previously the pastoral scheme for the parishes of Ewhurst, Forest Green, Okewood, Ockley and Capel was passed without any objections on the 27<sup>th</sup> December 2017 by the Church Commissioners and it officially came into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> January this year. We are looking forward very much to working with our friends at St Margaret's and in the wider parish of Ockley and are all agreed that there is much to look forward to as we help one another to grow our churches and provide pastoral care and ministry along with regular worship and everything else that being church covers – which is a lot as these reports will tell you!

So in looking back over these last ten months or so I will begin at a wonderful time – Easter. Beginning on Palm Sunday for the first time ever (?) we held a Palm Sunday procession complete with donkeys. Moving on to Good Friday the choir sung the story of Jesus' passion by means of word and music from Bach, followed by the annual Good Friday village walk and teas. As ever Easter Sunday was a joy much increased by the magnificent flower decorations created by Betty and Joy and their team. We welcomed Dorking Deanery Synod shortly after Easter and were given a very informative talk on stewardship by the Diocesan Stewardship Advisor. This has enabled us to move forward in the important area of how we can encourage regular giving to the church. Dineke has done sterling work and achieved much in this area and her report is further below.

2016/17 was a very challenging time for us as we had not got a treasurer in place. As I have explained in last year's report, this responsibility falls to the Churchwardens to organise and Dineke very bravely stepped in to keep our financial affairs in order and was able to pass this role over to Debbie von Bergen in September. I wish to personally thank Dineke for her hard work and dedication to the task in what was already a very challenging year. Debbie has continued to transform our accounts and financial planning to a new level and we are extremely fortunate to have her as our honourable treasurer!

In my own ministry and on behalf of the church, I have continued to be fully engaged with my governance duties at Scott Broadwood and to support the school and parishes through what was a difficult consolidation process. I am glad to report that the school last summer successfully maintained their 'good' status which was well deserved. I have also when I have been able to helped out in the vacancy for the parish of Ockley, Okewood and Forest Green, conducting funerals, a wedding and other services. This has served as a good preparation for my role now as the Team Vicar of St Margaret's. We have also met with the Churchwardens and others from both our churches from the summer onwards to explore merging our parishes. These meetings were always very positive with a real sense of fellowship and mutual vision which was and is a joy!

In our church here at Capel, I have conducted three weddings and welcomed several young children for baptism. We have also had some memorable funerals for some memorable people, in particular for Duncan Jennings in the summer and Muriel Dale in December. Both

of these used the church for the reception afterwards which was lovely for everyone. Our annual service for the bereaved provided a quiet oasis for those who wished to remember their loved ones and was well attended along with our annual Remembrance Day parade. Both such poignant occasions.

We are very fortunate to have such strong young people's uniformed groups in our village and further afield. They absolutely make our festival services such as Christingle, Mothering Sunday, Harvest and Nativity, along with their wonderful support of our Remembrance Day service when they lay their own wreaths at the war memorial. We are also very fortunate to have our Capel Standard bearer and other members of armed forces and British Legion representatives.

Our more informal service of Café Church and other one offs such as the Pet Service have been a source of thanksgiving and joy too. We are developing our more informal worship and events with the assistance of fairly new Capel residents Bob along with his wife Judy. Bob is a professional musician and guitarist and is using his gifts and skills to reach out and connect with the wider community. Bob has also been assisted in this task by fellow guitarist Dik Hoogmoed and violinist Clare Robins providing us with an impromptu band! We look forward to the new Sunday Sessions which will be a monthly evening event in the Parish Hall and other projects to come.

Our more formal weekly worship continues to go from strength to strength under the leadership of Anthea our organist and our choir. It is lovely for me to be a member of the choir when I can and I have thoroughly enjoyed weekly practice with them. Anthea is a wonderful choir leader and we learn so much. She also expands our horizons and our lungs (!) with her choice of music for us to learn and so I thoroughly recommend becoming a member. Music in worship is so important and we are fortunate in having a choice with traditional and now a more contemporary style on occasion. Preaching has been a weekly event for me and I am sure you must be fed up with only hearing my voice, but hopefully others will feel moved to go on the Occasional Preachers Course run by the diocese so we can all have a break!!

The church is well maintained and as you will see when you read the reports we have made several small groups and committees in order to assist your hardworking churchwardens and me. With so much work to consider with the boundary wall repairs and maintenance matters on the church building itself, a building committee was formed which has been so helpful. Another small team of people have met to plan the church calendar of key dates and events, so that our forward planning may be more effective. Again, thanks to Dineke for encouraging us to do this. The annual Vicarage Fete was able to be held this year once more in the Vicarage garden and instead of the previous year's torrential downpour we had what must have been the hottest sunniest day of the year! It was a great success and enabled us to raise much needed funds for Scott Broadwood, Capel Pre-School and The Weald School. Planning will no doubt soon be beginning for this year!

Safeguarding has also been a regular on our PCC agenda. Fortunately we have not had any particular concerns but it is important to be aware of any potential safeguarding problems.

Liz Wombwell is now our Safeguarding Officer and several of us have updated our training and attended courses in order to improve our skills. Liz took over from Joy Harman who quietly has fulfilled this role for many years and I wish to thank them both for their hard work in this important area.

We repeated last year's success with the Murder Mystery Play again at Harvest. This year we invited Capel Cricket Club to join us as the play was set in a village cricket club! Yvonne Featherstone took the helm once again with the assistance of our own Sylvie Beckett and directed a cast which included some church members, cricket club members and Ockley Dramatic Society members for what were two very memorable performances! A huge thank you to all who were involved. Sylvie is also training to be a Diocesan Pastoral Assistant and we wish her well with her course this year.

It certainly has been a very full year and we have been much helped in our communication of all of our varied events, our regular worship and other matters of interest by our new website. Dik gave us some very interesting figures for the number of times the website was visited in the last few months and the peak at Christmas time was incredible. This has been very encouraging and along with Suzanne's ingenious and beautifully creative InSpire 'in house' magazine, which of course you can also access online through the website, it feels as if we are really beginning to join the dots together in our administration and publicity. So a huge thanks to both of them for their time and creativity!

So life has continued and will continue at St John the Baptist, with our wonderful Capel teas again another good year – thank you Joy and Betty and all who volunteer to serve at teas. That as well as an ever increasing festival of flowers each year from the weekly arrangements to weddings and other special occasions. I know Betty and Joy appreciate so much all the help they receive on these occasions so thank you all. Others are grateful that at last they and passers-by and visitors can rest their weary limbs on the beautiful new bench just up the church path in the churchyard. This was made possible by the generous donation by the Dowling family and given in memory of their little boy Oliver. We will always think of him and his family.

Inside church we have also been given much joy and enchantment by the Craft Group and their displays of wild birds, mice in various guises and the beautiful Christmas trees display not to mention the wonderful community Christmas trees shining light upon us each December. Thank you again to all who work tirelessly to make these events happen. The churchyard has again been wonderfully looked after by Andrew Forsyth, Chris Coke and the Horticultural Society as well as many others. We are very grateful to them and to Sally for redesigning the circular flowerbed by the South Door and look forward to everything coming into bloom once more.

Finally many, many thanks on behalf of everyone to those who welcome us as Sidespeople, make us coffee and teas, make our building clean and pleasant to use, inspire us by their intercessions and readings, assist me at our altar, ring our bells, make us laugh, get Messy, make music, support us with prayer and with their generous giving of their time, money and energy. Doug and I continue to feel blessed by being called to serve in such a wonderful

church and village community and thank you for your prayers and support as we endeavour to lead and support you all through the year ahead and into our new adventure as a united parish with St Margaret's Ockley. May I commend the individual and group reports to you and in particular the set of accounts which explains how we have used your very generous gifts.

Last but not least I would like to complete my report by acknowledging my thanks and esteem for those who will not be standing for office or election to the PCC this year. Firstly Dineke who has completed nearly two years as one of our Churchwardens but is not seeking to be re-elected. Dineke has worked tirelessly in what has been at times challenging circumstances to serve us in her role which has included finance and stewardship. She has brought many good ideas and initiatives to our organisation and we will miss her energy and attention to detail. We wish her well in whatever projects she is involved with. Pam Cuthbert is standing down from PCC after another stint as our PCC Secretary and we thank her for all her hard work and dedication both in recent years and in the past. Thank you for your experience and wisdom. Andrew Forsyth is also not seeking re-election and he is someone else who has served for more years than he probably cares to remember on the PCC and also two years of that as Churchwarden. Andrew of course continues to head up the Friends of Capel Church and their support of us is invaluable and much appreciated. Eric Sutcliffe is also standing down from PCC in order to concentrate on his membership of the Friends of Capel Church and the many other invaluable church and community tasks he plays a vital role in. Thank you all and especially those who I have not managed to include by name. As our own dear Christopher Drummond wanted this congregation to know - that although he is so sorry not to be able to come to church as he did and be with us all, we are all one though in Christ. Amen to that and as Chris would say "Hallelujah"!

### **Churchwardens' Report**

Having referred back to last years' report, your Churchwardens were hoping for, "lots more visible work to take place during the coming year". Unfortunately this has not quite happened. With no treasurer to the PCC and none on the horizon at the start of 2017 the financial responsibility fell to the churchwardens. Dineke took on this task and when our new treasurer started in September 2017 a lot of her time was still taken up by handing over the finances. This meant that Norman took on the lion share of the churchwardens' duties and there was only so much that could be done.

The (potential) rebuilding of the Churchyard wall has caused much consternation when quotations from selected contractors came in at anything up to 6 times the figure estimated by us with the help of our quinquennial inspection architect. Following the installation of the new building committee, quotations from further contractors are now being assessed by its members (who are much more experienced in such matters than your Churchwardens!), and recommendations will be made as to which sections of wall we can afford to repair and when.

We have decided to follow the advice from our quinquennial architect, given in 2016 and appoint an architect following a selective process. This will save us having to select an architect for each project where the architect cost is likely to exceed £10,000. Once the appointment is official we will pursue quotations for the repair/overhaul of our rainwater goods, which we are now in urgent need of completing.

We have permission from the DAC to replace our old heating control system with one that can be extended to control lighting as well. This is pending a proposal to be perused by the PCC (not all quotes had reached us by the time of the last PCC meeting in January). Improvement to the lighting provision in the North Aisle is also pending.

Earlier this year we did have an outside water tap installed, which will be a great boon for external works. Also we were granted permission and placed a new bench in the churchyard. This is now much in use.

Our amalgamation with St Margaret's, Ockley has taken up a lot of our time too.

Dineke will not stand again as churchwarden but with good finance people in Ockley and in Capel willing to serve on the new PCC and most of the work for the merger out of the way here's hoping to more visible progress in the coming year!

Norman Ede & Dineke van den Bogerd  
Churchwardens

### **Building Committee**

Committee Members: Sarah Pusey, Doug Richardson, David Silliman

Also (but not always available to attend meetings)  
Liz Richardson, Norman Ede, Dineke van den Bogerd

### **Appointment of Architects for the Church**

Rena Pitsilli-Graham has been acting for the PCC as architect for the Church since being referred by the Parish in Newdigate. She prepared the Quinquennial Report in 2016 and the specification for repairs to the boundary wall in 2017. It has been recognised that an architect should be selected in competition with others following an interview process. In that regard, a list of approved architectural practices was obtained from the DAC. Four possible candidates have been shortlisted from that list. Three have accepted invitations to be considered and one has declined due to their present work load.

The three to be interviewed are: Robin Nugent, John Bailey, from Thomas Ford, and Rena Pitsilli-Graham. Interviews are being arranged for late January and early February 2018. Following which, it is anticipated that a recommendation for the appointment of an architectural practice will be made to the PCC.

### Repairs to the boundary wall

Rena Pitsilli-Graham prepared a specification of works to repair the boundary wall. This was commented upon by the DAC and approval given to competitively tender the works by stonemasons. Three tenders were received, which far exceeded expectations.

The three tenders received (with qualifications and comments) were:

C Ansell & Sons           £245,227.

SR Shields                 199,458.

Traditional Stone         95,847.

Subsequently two further stonemasons were invited to tender, their tenders (with qualifications and comments) were:

Shawn Williamson     £80,000. - 100,000. to specification, or £62,000 with changes

Ernest Barnes           79,225.

Some preparatory works have been carried out to clear weeds from the boundary wall. Discussions have taken place about the temporary removal of the damaged sections of wall for safety reasons. Discussions have also taken place regarding the possible removal of the west wall between the Church graveyard and the Council cemetery as a cost-cutting measure but this seems to be increasingly unlikely as it will require the approval of the DAC, the MVDC Conservation Officer and English Heritage.

No further decisions have been undertaken with regard to the acceptance of tenders pending appointment of additional members to the Building Committee, following the resignation of Eric Sutcliffe and raising of additional funds. Doug Richardson volunteered to join the Committee in January 2018.

### Boundary wall funds to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017:

Balance at 1.1.2017           £2,075.59

Incoming resources           4,085.40

Resources expended         2,174.55

Transfer from general fund     768.00

Balance to 31.12.2017       £4754.44

The Building Committee should not be solely responsible for raising funds for the boundary wall; this should be the responsibility of the entire church.

### Quinquennial Report – 2016

The Quinquennial Report has been reviewed and a list of projects and priorities has been drawn up. It is intended that these will be progressed following the formal appointment of an architect, with the majority of the funding for repairs and upgrade coming from the Friends of Capel Church.

D Silliman

## **CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL - February 2018**

The Electoral Role was totally renewed and updated in 2013 and is done so every 5 years.

2015 figure was 68.

2016 figure was reduced to 62

2017 figure has increased to 63

2018 figure is reduced to 61

I have not been advised of any other changes.

This list is currently available on the porch notice board.

Andrew Forsyth Electoral Roll Officer

## **Treasurers report**

I took over as the new treasurer at the beginning of September and would like to say a huge thank you to Dineke for making the transition as smooth as possible. Peter Bradley and Stuart Cole have also been very generous with their time clearing up any queries I have had. Many thanks also to Nick Ward FCCA for independently examining the 2017 accounts.

The finances continue to be a challenge, with ever rising costs for utilities, the welcome move towards Liz being awarded a half stipend, and the drive to raise funds for the perimeter wall. We finish the year with a deficit on unrestricted funds (those that can be used for the day to day running costs of the church) of £3,143. The PCC has taken action to reduce this deficit over the next two years, principally by running a successful stewardship campaign which started at Easter 2017 and continues into 2018, and reviewing in detail all costs to see where savings can be made.

Since the beginning of 2017 the way we record all our income has been overhauled, all collections are now counted by two people, banking is done weekly, many of our regular givers have moved over to the Parish Giving Scheme, which claims the gift aid monthly on our behalf, and the introduction of more detailed accounting has meant that we can identify and thank our very generous givers more readily.

The plans for 2018 include introducing monthly accounts for St John the Baptist, budgets for all key areas, quarterly claims for gift aid, the continuation of the stewardship campaign and with the merger with Ockley, consolidated accounts for the two churches at PCC meetings.

I look forward to working with the new combined PCC and my counterpart in Ockley – Helen Burt - to provide the financial information in an understandable format that will allow our churches to move forward together.

Debbie von Bergen BA ACA



## **Safeguarding**

A new Parish Safeguarding officer has been appointed by the PCC, Liz Wombwell takes over from Joy Harman who had fulfilled the responsibilities for many years. The PCC wishes to thank Joy for all her hard work.

The PCC has reviewed and adopted the Guildford Diocese Safeguarding Statement and policies in line with Diocesan guidelines. DBS check have been undertaken for church members taking on new roles as appropriate and renewed in line with Diocesan expectations.

Safeguarding training has been completed by the Incumbent, Pastoral assistant, Safeguarding officer and members of the PCC.

During the next year:

Further training modules need to be undertaken by some key people as part of their specific roles. Safeguarding risk assessments should be reviewed

Liz Wombwell

## **Stewardship report 2017**

At the first PCC meeting in January it was decided that a stewardship campaign leaflet would go out to every household in the ecclesiastical parish to explain the financial situation of the PCC of Capel. This leaflet was to be distributed together with the Easter cards, a couple of weeks before Easter.

£60 and a lot of work from Suzanne Cole and our vicar produced a professional looking leaflet. Even though distribution was a little hit and miss, the village responded and several people made one-off donations and some regular givers upped their Standing Order amount. We also welcomed two new regular givers.

Unfortunately it was not until just after the leaflets were distributed that we heard about a new Direct Debit system, endorsed by the Diocese of Guildford. We did set up with PGS (Parish Giving Scheme) who operates the system immediately and started campaigning for people to sign up.

As per January 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 thirteen regular givers donate using the new DD scheme of which five are new regular givers. The monthly amount coming in (including GiftAid) via PGS is now just over £1000 per month, a significant part of our regular income.

The distribution of cards in the village was changed for the 2017 Christmas issue and every household received a card in advance of the first event advertised inside. This bodes well for the follow-up campaign, which was initially scheduled for coming Easter.

The imminent merger, however, requires a re-think of how to move forward with the Stewardship campaign: why do things separately as a village if we can do them together as a parish? Also, PGS has informed us that they aim to have internet sign-up in place by the end of this year and your treasurer and Stewardship officer felt it would be worth waiting for this before we start a follow up campaign.

The other leg of stewardship, involvement of the congregation and indeed the village in running the church, should be addressed as well but was left last year because of the need to lift the PCC out of the red.

Dineke van den Bogerd, Stewardship Officer.

### **Choir Report**

2017 was another successful year for our choir and the standard of the singing was raised yet again. We concentrated our efforts on music for Good Friday and the nine lessons and carols. We had very few choir weddings.

Throughout the early months we rehearsed the chorales and the last chorus from Bach's wonderful St. John Passion. We soon found that some of them were not as easy as they first appeared! On Good Friday we sang them with the remaining music being scripted and read by choir members. This made for a truly wonderful service. It was apt as some of the congregation had been studying the Gospel of St. John and Liz let the gospel speak for itself. The choir sang really well.

We sang a few anthems during Communion throughout the spring.

After the summer we started on the music for Christmas. I know it sounds early, but to perform at our best we must learn everything properly which always takes time and work gets in the way for some members to attend rehearsals as often as they would like. We had the music for the Nine Lessons and Carols and for the Team Advent service to learn so we had plenty to concentrate on. For our Nine Lessons we performed 'The Story of Christmas' which was a good sing for the choir and congregation, with the story being told through the music, script and bible readings.

As always, we'd love more members to join us. Have you considered it? Please think about it and join us for Christmas after the summer. All are welcome but regular rehearsal attendance is required to keep our standard rising. We rehearse on Thursday evenings between 7 and 8pm in the church.

Anthea Smallwood

### **Bellringers**

Another year with very few services missed. We rang for all the weddings, at least 2 funerals and the midnight mass at Christmas. With only 6 ringers from Capel plus Kathy from Dorking, Tim from Ockley and Ros from Forest Green I think we do well!

Do come and join us: practise nights in Capel are alternate Wednesday evenings – the bells are easy to master which is why our tower is popular for visiting bands who often visit on weekdays or Saturdays.

John Dale

## **Messy Church**

Unbelievably Messy church is now in its fifth year – I wonder exactly how many children, parents and carers have come through its doors in that time?!. We meet once a month on a Tuesday afternoon after school, with breaks for the school holidays. Participants come from Capel, Newdigate, Beare Green and even some from Dorking.

A typical Messy Church meeting begins at 3.15pm with people drifting in for the next half hour as they come from their various schools. A welcome cup of tea and squash and fruit is offered to all and then everybody eagerly takes part in the wide variety of crafts and games available. Last month we did Jacob's Ladder – people were invited to compare sleeping on stones or a pillow, make angels, a ladder from junk, discuss awesome places throughout the world and make ladder cupcakes. There is always a food related activity – one of the most popular. We usually get 15-20 children plus a dozen or more adults.

Then we settle down for the 'Celebration' – a talk based on the theme, usually with enthusiastic participation, a prayer, a song, birthdays celebrated and then our grace before a delicious tea – which Joy always delights us with – macaroni cheese, sausages, party food, fruit, delicious cakes – you name it – there is always something different.

Thanks must go to all our helpers – a stalwart band who engage and ensure that the children (and their parents) have the best time ever. I won't name them all as I don't want to run the risk of missing anyone out. Some come occasionally, others every month – all are much appreciated.

The activity is completely free, although donations are requested. I am very pleased to say that we rarely have to ask for financial input from the Church. The generosity of participants, helpers and small inputs on a regular basis from the Drop-In Coffee mornings held every month for people who have dropped their children off at school ensure that there is enough to cover costs.

Here's to the next five years!!

Mary Huggins

## **Craft Group**

The Craft Group has continued to meet on Tuesday afternoons in Church from 2.30 – 4.30pm. The members have enjoyed decorating one of the Church windows from time to time. The Group has about a dozen 'regulars' and is always open to newcomers who enjoy making things and the company of others!

Gwyneth Drummond

## **The Children's Society Support Group at St John the Baptist, Capel**

It has been another successful year of fundraising with our annual coffee morning in November raising over £600.00 including over £290.00 worth of Christmas card sales. These mornings would not be possible without my fantastic team of willing helpers – Joy Harman, Betty Mitchell, Wendy Birch and Liz Wombwell. Quite simply, it wouldn't happen without their willingness to help set up, run the morning and help clear away. I am indebted to them. The houseboxes raised approximately £495.65 which is lower than previous years and may well be a reflection on hardships for a lot of people at the moment. But there are about 30 box holders locally who collect all year for the Society. At the time of writing, Christingle 2018 is fast approaching. This is the only service every year where all the money taken in the collection is sent to The Children's Society. Last year's Christingle raised £210.93. This is in no small part to the Guiding and Scouting units who take part in the parade service and collecting in their candle money pots at home beforehand. My thanks to all the Leaders of these groups for their unstinting support of this service and the raising of money for the Society itself. There is something particularly poignant in children helping to raise money for other children in the UK less fortunate than themselves. All in all a successful year and a total of over £1,300.00 raised.

Suzanne Cole

## **InSpire monthly publication**

Last February saw the launch of our new monthly church and faith-based publication entitled InSpire. The title seemed particularly apt and we did take a vote on it in church. This is something I felt called to do and Rev Liz was very supportive and has continued to be. I wanted it to be something for us to share as an existing congregation but also to serve as an important outreach tool. The magazine has grown to approximately 24 pages each month which include our local News from the Pews, together with broader news from the church in the UK and around the world. It also features articles on notable dates in the church diary, pages for our Junior readers, puzzles, informative articles, humour and letters from Rev Liz and myself as Editor. I have access to a wonderful website Parish Pump which is there to provide information and a service for Church magazine editors such as myself. We have taken a yearly subscription for approximately £40.00 and this has been an invaluable resource for me to delve into at regular intervals. Currently the cost of producing the magazine has increased to approximately £68.00 per month for 50 copies. We have been seeking sponsorship from members of the congregation to enable us to keep producing the magazine. I did put feedback forms in a recent issue and only received one back and all the comments were favourable and hopefully that means I'm on the right track in getting the balance of content right for all our readers! I continue to enjoy producing it, although it takes many more hours than I anticipated! I would very much welcome more input from other members of our congregations, both at Capel and now Ockley. However, I am proud of the publication that continues to develop and evolve and very much hope that my readers are too!

Suzanne Cole

## **Art Group**

The St. John's art group is now in its 5th year. We now have a regular number of members meeting every Wednesday morning in the Capel memorial hall. The group has had a very interesting and successful year. We enjoyed 3 demonstrations in Watercolour and gouache and acrylic. There will be another in February.

The many varied cards that the artists produced were very successful raising the art group profile, and helping to raise money for the church boundary wall fund. For the first time, the art group had a gazebo at the Capel summer show in August 2017 selling their cards and paintings.

We staged our second art exhibition in the parish hall on November 5th, attracting a large number of exhibitors and visitors who enjoyed delicious free cream teas.

The exhibition was very well received and enjoyed by both the village and the exhibitors.

Julia Horrox.

## **Lunch Club**

Herewith details of the Lunch Club:

Total donations to charity during 2017:- £972.50

Details:- St Catherine's Hospice £63.50

Capel Sports Pavilion £126

Capel Cricket Club £115.50

Alzheimer Research £370.50

Capel Friends of Guiding £ 84

Homewood Friends of Guiding £40

Born Free £100

Little Hearts Matter £ 73

Eric Sutcliffe

## **Traidcraft.**

I have been selling Traidcraft produce for a few years now, and once again the turnover of one thousand pounds of stock in one year, from January to December 2017 meant I was able to give a cheque to the church for one hundred pounds. This is because when I sell the products of clothing, food, cleaning agents, and ornaments or specific objects that customers see in the catalogue, then ten percent of the cost of the sale goes back to the church. Thank you to the continued support of the regular customers. If anybody wishes to receive a catalogue, please let me know. The next one is due in the spring...ready for Easter! Many thanks.

Sue Partridge

## **Christian Aid**

Christian Aid had been running nationally for at least sixty years. It runs every May for a week, and with a band of volunteers, envelopes are collected from almost every resident in Capel with a donation to Christian Aid. The money is used to support people in and resource poor countries affected by war, or are subject to extreme poverty or are caught up in humanitarian or environmental crisis. In May 2017, the total collected from Capel was almost one thousand pounds: nationally eleven million pounds was collected. So, every envelope counts!! Thank you to the collectors. Without your help it would not happen. If anyone would like to come on board this forthcoming May, please do get in touch with me. Many thanks

Sue Partridge