

## **Parish of Capel and Ockley**

### **Reports to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**for the year 2022/23**

#### **The Context**

The PCC of the Parish of Capel and Ockley has the responsibility to promote the mission of the Churches throughout the parish in all its forms, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenically. The past year has seen a continuation of this work and also a care for the physical structure of both its churches and churchyards. An important duty of the PCC is to be aware of the concerns of the congregation and to provide a place of discussion on all aspects of the Churches work in the villages and beyond through regular meetings. The PCC has met in full 6 times from May 2022 to March 2023. The Standing Committee has met 5 times in the same period.

#### **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 the Vicar who are ex-officio. The tenure is for three years. The Churchwardens are elected annually.

During April 2022 to April 2023 the following served as members of the PCC:-

Vicar and Chair	Revd Liz Richardson	(ex-officio)
Churchwardens	Joy Harman	(ex-officio) St John the Baptist
	Norman Ede	(ex-officio) St John the Baptist
	James Lee-Steere	(ex-officio) St Margaret's
Deanery Synod:	Andy Carr	(ex-officio) St John the Baptist
	Shirley Dean Webster	(ex-officio) St Margaret's
Elected members:	Helen Burt	(Joint treasurer) (2021)
	Deborah von Bergen	(Joint treasurer) (2021)
		resigned August 2022
	Margaret Zandona	(Secretary) (2020)
	Gordon Lee Steere	(2021)
	Wendy Goddard	(2021)
	Suzanne Cole	(2025)
	Gillian Christie	(2025)
	Sarah Pusey	(2021)
	David Silliman	(2021)
	Jessie Sutcliffe	(2021)
	Leigh Smith (Safeguarding Lead)	(2020)*
	*eligible for re-election for a further 3 years	
Electoral Roll Officer:	Rosemary Relf	
Parish Safeguarding Officer:	Leigh Smith	

### **Vicar's report April 2022/3**

Another busy year in the Parish of Capel and Ockley. Busy but enriched by our busy-ness we have provided worship, ministry, community service, love and care through our regular Services of Worship and Holy Communion at both our churches of St John the Baptist and St Margaret's. None of this would have been remotely possible without the dedication and commitment of our church members and others.

The year April 2022 to April 2023 has been somewhat extraordinary in the sense of celebration and mourning as we celebrated Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee in June which was sadly followed by her death in September. Now, as I write we are in the final stages of planning church and community events for the Coronation of King Charles III. Books of mourning were placed in both churches and many made heartfelt entries for the loss that they and our nation have felt at the loss of Her Late Majesty. During the period of mourning we held both a Service of Holy Communion during the time of Mourning and a Special Commemoration Service marking the death of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at our churches. We also took part in A Moment of Reflection on the Eve of the Funeral at the front of Capel Memorial Hall. Along with Brigadier Ret'd Roger Hood, villagers gathered together to hold a vigil, joining in a minute's silence along with the rest of the United Kingdom. Our trusty and dedicated bellringers marked the beginning and end of the silence. All in all it was a very special and poignant time to give thanks for our late Queen's long victorious reign as we found ourselves singing a new national anthem - God save the King. This I had to do, just a couple of hours following the announcement of the Queen's death, at a service to licence and install the new Vicar of Westcott, along with other clergy and the Bishop of Dorking, Bishop Jo. An evening I will always remember I think.

Our parish has worked hard in the wake of the pandemic to try to boost our finances. Fundraising activities had to cease in the previous two years or so. In order to try to hold back the tide, we took on a new fundraising venture in the shape of serving cakes, pastries, and liquid refreshments at the Military Show. Our great gratitude goes to our Churchwarden Norman Ede for masterminding and organising the very efficient stall and necessary equipment needed to serve many visitors over two days. Our efforts were rewarded with a large amount of money raised. Its efficiency was also down to our friend Debbie von Bergen who sadly we said goodbye to last summer as she moved to the West Country. Thanks too to Leigh Smith who organised cakes, and to those who cooked loads of wonderful tray bakes. It was a massive achievement by all involved and I cannot thank everyone enough who was kind enough to volunteer or support in other ways.

Raising funds for other causes has always been an important part of our remit. The annual Vicarage Fete was once more a great success with the awesome team of Debbie von Bergen, Suzanne Cole and Gill Christie leading the event. The Weald and Scott Broadwood Schools entertained us with their performances and along with several interesting stalls plus favourite usual attractions, particularly John Dale's animals, ensured everyone enjoyed themselves. The sum of £2325 was raised for the above mentioned schools and Capel Pre School. Collections were also taken for the devastating situation in Ukraine via the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) of £1373. Harvest collections were donated to Christian Aid to support their East African appeal. Our Remembrance appeal raised £491 to The Royal British Legion and £203 was raised at our Christingle service for the work of The Children's Society. Please do see the accounts section for more details of our charitable giving.

Our outward giving as a parish has been an important part of our mission and ministry in Capel and Ockley. Regular donations of foodstuff are given to us in our church which go to those most in need via the Dorking Foodbank and Leatherhead START with a bumper collection of goods for Harvest and also Capel WI who gave so generously as part of their Christmas donations. Everyone is always

so generous and these items are sadly so badly needed by our local agencies. Another initiative which has become very important has been the putting together of Christmas hampers for local families and individuals in need. Sponsorship from our Chapel Community Chest and generous donations from others along with the love and care of those who make this happen.

The PCC has met and discussed many issues throughout the year. My thanks go to Margaret Zandona who has been our PCC secretary for the last three years, arranging and organising our meetings and writing up Minutes. Margaret has now decided to stand down from her role. PCC secretary is such a vital role and in seeking a replacement Sir Richard Winter - Stanbridge has offered to take on this position. We look forward to his joining the PCC in due course and in the meantime Richard will take minutes for us. Another issue which we have had to discuss has been the possible pastoral re-organisation of churches within the Surrey Weald Team. It had been proposed that St Mary Magdalene South Holmwood explore a possible unity with St John's North Holmwood. A process of exploration and discernment went ahead and it has been decided that the two churches will not join, thus St Mary Magdalene will continue to stay with the Surrey Weald Team. We are also delighted to announce that Revd Jane Schofield is to be licensed to serve as a self supporting minister within the Surrey Weald Team, with responsibility for St Mary Magdalene along with our Team Rector Revd Andrew Coe. More good news too as after a period of discernment and lots of hard work by Gill Christie, we can now confirm that Gill has been accepted for ordination training. We rejoice that her calling has been affirmed and that all being well Gill will be ordained Deacon in July 2024 and Priest the following year.

As a parish we try our best to help and support those in need and all of us are involved in this work as part of our service to Christ. Many have been assisted and supported by Sylvie Beckett our parish Pastoral Assistant who visits certain parishioners in a more focused way. Sylvie is very popular and aside from her PA work is a supervisor at Dorking Foodbank and is often headhunted for other similar projects in her hometown of Dorking! Sylvie is also a talented actress and has helped to direct and masterminded our very popular Murder Mystery plays which we perform at Harvest time. This year's play was another classic, this time set in the world of fashion and we had a lot of fun and enjoyment eating a delicious supper in-between the various acts of this fashion drama. Huge thanks to Yvonne Featherstone also for directing the play and to all the cast. They were fantastic. The play is a great fund raiser and this year raised £2343 before expenses for church funds.

Requests for baptisms were down a little from previous years but we were delighted to welcome five infants into our church family. Several baptisms have been requested for the year ahead which is wonderful news. Requests for weddings are also generally down - a trend in the last few years - I think due to the fact that couples can now be married at their reception venue. However being married in church is still very important for some couples and even though we only had one wedding this last year, we have two future bookings.

Sadly as always we have to say farewell to our loved ones as their lives draw to a close on earth. We remember with love and gratefully give thanks for the lives of:

Colin Warner, Barbara Lawrence, Angela Broster, Barbara Rankin, Alma Baker, Margaret Dale  
Doreen Campbell, Winifred Wright, John White, Eileen Steeden, David Waugh, Terry Tucker  
Eva Maria Ball, Donald Wales, Mary Campbell, Sally Connor, Diana Duffin and very recently our dear friend Wendy Birch.

You will see elsewhere in this report that during this year we have been planning to develop the north west corner of the church yard into a garden of remembrance for the interment of ashes. Our stonemason and sculptor friend Shaun Williamson has also worked hard restoring much of the churchyard stone wall. The front wall is left now to finish. However, these are projects that now need further funding and the Buildings Committee will be advising the PCC on the next steps.

The choir have worked hard to provide memorable sung services at Christmas, Good Friday and other occasions. During this year they have joined with the choir of St Peter's Newdigate to sing Choral Evensong. It was pleasing to see good sized congregations at all these occasions. My thanks to Anthea and the choir/s for all their hard work and the lovely sound created! I thoroughly enjoy singing at these events too.

We are also blessed by the music and worship produced and led by Bob and the Cafe Church team. During the finer months we are welcomed by The Crown at Capel to gather in their garden for Cafe Church. Colder months we have kept warmer inside church. Always thoughtful, relevant and inspiring this monthly service offers a really gentle church worship experience. It has been awesome to see how peoples gifts have developed because of this format. Thank you Cafe Church!

I have been ably helped in leading and presiding at our weekly services by Licensed Lay Minister Graham Everness from St Paul's Church in Dorking, Revd. Jo Elvidge and local worship leaders Gill Christie and Shirley Dean-Webster. Thank you to all who have led intercessions so beautifully throughout the year - your prayers have been wonderful. We have also welcomed visiting clergy in Revds Jenny Firth and Martin Gilpin.

As I began this report by speaking of busy-ness and the richness within, I hope you will agree that we are a vibrant village parish, welcoming to all and looking outwards into the world in which we seek to serve. What I have just described in our activities is just a snapshot of the week by week busy-ness in running a parish. To add to this our wonderful church teas at both churches, the amazing flowers which aid our weekly worship and prayer, those who faithfully clean and care for our churches, with particular thanks to those who have kept up the churchyard grass for so many years; a special mention to Andrew Forsyth and Chris Coke. Our fabulous Bell Ringers at both St John's and St Margaret's call us to Sunday worship each week without fail! We just couldn't do it without it being a team effort. I also wish to thank the Church Wardening team at St Margaret's Ockley; Dineke who edits and publishes our weekly news sheets, all those who serve on the PCC, our Churchwardens, PCC Secretary and to Helen our treasurer who has courageously stepped into Debbie's shoes to become treasurer for both churches now.

Finally my report would be incomplete without paying special tribute to Suzanne Cole who produces the most beautiful, inspiring monthly faith magazine for our parish. This is truly a wonderful publication which documents our life of faith in this parish. Please do sponsor an edition if you haven't already!

Revd Liz Richardson.

### **Churchwardens Report**

2022 was a fairly peaceful year for us as churchwardens as our " Church life" continued to recover from the restrictions of Covid- lockdown. Most Services and activities are restored whilst letting go some which were less successful for the effort required to continue.

Unfortunately, the current economic situation as it is for many organizations and most people, prevents the go-ahead for various works in the Church building---e.g redecorating of the walls of the "vestible"--indeed redecorating of all of interior walls of the Church, more comfortable padding of the pew seats or maybe moving-on to "chairs" and many other improvements that we can only dream of at the moment!

Hopefully, during Services this Winter you have been able to feel "just about" warm enough?! We can only apologise and hope for the best or rather the least demand for payment of the gas bill.

A big Thank You to all who volunteer as side-persons, readers and servers--- there are plenty of vacancies if you feel able to help, just let Dik know.

Also, Thank you for all the help, support and friendship that we receive from our PCC colleagues and our congregation, it is all much appreciated.

Above all, our immense thanks to Liz for all the guidance, help and encouragement that she gives to us, making our privileged position as her Churchwardens a great honour and pleasure.

Norman and Joy

### **St Margarets Churchwardens' Team Report**

We have been blessed at St Margaret's during 2022/23 with steady numbers assisted by a loyal band of friends from Forest Green Church. Encouraging, as the willingness of the congregation to volunteer for service preparation, reading, sides person duties, cleaning, flower arranging and of course Church Teas (cake making, serving and washing up). These fortunately being well attended, raised almost £1000. Plus volunteers made themselves available to support Parish events such as the Vicarage Fete, the Military Show, the Chapel Show, the Murder Mystery and the Christmas Fair.

There has been one baptism and one wedding but sadly we have lost quite a few members of our congregation, which include, Tim Pryke, John Dendy, Terry Tucker, Eileen Steeden and Dave Waugh, plus village folk Kevin Sutherland, Donald Wales and Sharon Wannell's father.

In June to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee we hosted a very successful service in the Marquee on the cricket green which was repeated on Sunday morning after Ockley's cricket sevens match. We will be following this up on the Sunday following the Coronation of King Charles III and also on the 11th June when the Barbadian cricket team come to play at Ockley.

During 2022 various people in the village filmed local events, contributing towards a film entitled 'A Year in the Life of Ockley'. This was the second such film, the first one made 25 years ago in the 1990's. St Margaret's is featured alongside an interview with our vicar Liz. It was screened over two nights in the Village Hall, it was well attended and greatly enjoyed.

Harvest at St Margaret's was generously supported and we were able to distribute numerous gifts to local residents. This was followed by the Murder Mystery play which proved to be wonderful fun, and the evening's menu was much appreciated.

In the Autumn a PCC trip to Rochester Cathedral gave us an amazing insight, not only of the history but the actual complicated workings of the Cathedral, led for us by the architect John Bailey, who is also Guildford cathedral's architect. A very valuable piece of information was discovered by Wendy Goddard, who bravely accosted the Cathedral's brass cleaner for her exceptionally shiny brass trade secret!! We now have brilliant brass at St Margaret's thanks to Wendy.

In November we met up with the Churchwardens' team of Ockham who are currently in vacancy and are joining up with another local parish. It had been suggested they meet with us to discuss how the merger of parishes works in practice and in particular how to achieve a successful outcome, recognising and affirming different congregational viewpoints.

At the beginning of December we held our Christingle in the cricket pavilion as a form of outreach. This was largely attended by adults who thoroughly enjoyed the service! Everyone learnt a lot from Gill's explanation of the Christingle oranges.

Our outreach within the community is consistent and ongoing encompassing Village teas, Mums and Toddlers, Carols at the Cricketers, Kindred Spirits which runs the Wednesday morning cafe in the cricket pavilion, and supporting the young people at the Amber charity (which is situated at the end of Ockley) by helping them serve at the cafe, and joining in the sleepover outside on the Green (despite the downpour!!)

We enjoyed an open Deanery Synod meeting held at St James' Abinger. It was a welcome set of talks and discussions about prayer. One presenter was our friend Graham Everness who kindly comes to take services at St Margaret's once a month.

This Spring, several of us from St Margaret's have appreciated the Lent Course set by Liz on Living in Love and Faith. A very necessary introduction to looking at worship from other Christian viewpoints.

Finally, huge gratitude from the Churchwarden's Team towards everyone contributing to St Margaret's especially to our bellringers who were very much missed during their recent spell of Covid, and our organist Andrew Collings, whom we couldn't do without. His commitment is exemplary, and is so appreciated. He was commissioned to play for Eileen Steedens memorial service which meant giving up a day's work. Also the wonderful Maureen Farley who willingly steps in to play for us when Andrew is away.

Thank you all.  
SDW

### **Safeguarding report 2023**

There have been no safe guarding investigations since the last APCM. There has been one concern reported. This was investigated appropriately. DBS checks in our churches are up to date. There are two checks, which are currently ongoing and waiting for confirmation with appropriate documentation. There is a new Diocesan Secretary Geraldine Newbold and new safeguarding and DBS coordinator appointed to our safeguarding team.

Leigh Smith – Safeguarding Officer

### **Friends of St Margaret's Church**

The wiring in St Margaret's was checked and repaired last Autumn and brighter lighting installed, with extra lights added thanks to a donation from a parishioner.

The plan to build lavatories in the Churchyard are progressing slowly. This is the final project planned some years ago to make the Church available for wider use, with the emergency door, new heating and better lighting completed. We need to get approval of the materials and archaeological investigation signed off by MVDC planners before we can start. We also need to raise more funds to complete it. The plan is to build the foundations this summer, to lock in the Planning approval and to complete the building when we have the funds.

GEL-S

## **Capel Church Teas**

Church teas nowadays provide more of a Sunday afternoon venue rather than being a fund raiser, although we are very grateful to our loyal and very welcome visitors from outside of the village. Soup lunches during Lent were reasonably successful--- our Church was able to send £350 to the Bishop of Guildford's Lent Appeal, maybe next year we can extend this effort in some way. With much gratitude for all your kind help and support.

Joy

## **Building Committee Report**

### **Repairs to the roof and spire**

In 2021 the Architect carried out a survey and submitted the required Quinquennial Report. It highlighted the need to carryout repairs to the main stone roof of the church and parts of the wooden shingle covering of the spire. Those works are recommended to be carried out sooner rather than later in order to prohibit deterioration of the roofs and their supporting structures. The Architect has subsequently carried out a more detail survey of the area and has provided a specification of works to be submitted to the Diocese for approval and then to specialists for competitive tendering. It is understood that the Architect is searching for competent and experienced contractors to carry out this work. No date has been set for the commencement of the works. An application for funding will be submitted to the Friends of Capel Church in due course.

### **Remembrance Garden**

A Garden of Remembrance has been planned for the burial of loved one's ashes. It will be located in the southwest corner of the church yard and will include a secluded garden area. A preliminary clearing of the area has been carried out. A plan has been prepared and agreed. It will be submitted to the DAC for faculty approval soon. One quotation has been obtained for the works and other competitive quotes are being sought. The Parishioners will be kept informed of the proposals. The means of funding is being discussed.

### **Repairs to the boundary wall**

Following the completion of the west and north walls, the Stonemason has completed approximately half of the south wall, which includes the area next to the proposed Remembrance Garden. The work has been financed through donations and grants; more of which are required to continue the work.

### **Repairs to the church paths**

Discussions have been on-going and are continuing to take place between the Architect and specialist installers regarding changes to the main path in order to make it less slippery. The Parish Council will be re-surfacing and funding the path from the south door of the church to the civil cemetery beyond the west boundary wall of the church yard. That re-surfacing has been put on hold pending the anticipated works for the construction of the Remembrance Garden.

D Silliman

## **CHURCH CHOIR REPORT 2022**

2022 was good for us all. In mid-January we started rehearsals at Capel joined by St. Peter's choir for Stainer's 'The Crucifixion' for the service on Good Friday. All the hard work was worth it as it was a very moving service. Rehearsals began for another joint service but this time the service was to be sung at Newdigate led by their organist. The music was specially selected to celebrate Ralph Vaughan Williams and included his music. We also supported Liz and Jo at St Margaret's at Parish combined services.

We joined with members of Capel Choral and Warnham church choir to sing at Margaret Dale's funeral service. Our church was packed, the bells rang, and Margaret had a wonderful send off with some of her favourite music.

Autumn was busy. We sang an anthem at the Service for the Bereaved and then started work for the Christmas services. Once again, the choir worked hard, and we had a very successful Christmas services. We were all so pleased to be back singing as a choir again.

I hope rehearsals are fun, informative, and regular progress is achieved through hard work – but it's worth it! Come and join us. Thursday evenings from 7 – 8pm. We'd love to see you. No audition, just the enthusiasm to sing regularly on Sunday mornings.

Anthea Smallwood

## **Vicarage Fete 2022**

We had another very successful event with large numbers of people coming to enjoy a day out. As usual it was held in the Vicarage garden which creates a lovely atmosphere that visitors comment on. There were wonderful performances from the school children of both Scott-Broadwood and The Weald to keep us entertained, whilst there was another successful visit from The Cat's Grin Theatre Company for the children to watch. However, we did say going forward that we would not be booking them again for the time being as they charged considerably more and did not generate as much interest as the previous year which was a shame. There was a lovely range of stalls again, together with games to take part in and plenty of refreshments on offer including the barbecue, church teas and ice creams from Martin King who journeys up from Shoreham to join us! After expenses were deducted, we were able to distribute £2,725.00 between the local schools as follows: Scott-Broadwood £1,100.00, The Weald Primary £1,100.00 and Capel Pre-School £525.00.

## **InSpire magazine**

Another successful year and now up to issue 71 after six years! My thanks to our generous and loyal sponsors for enabling us to keep the magazine free of charge to all our readers. I'm glad to hear that people who do not worship in either of our Parish churches are coming in to pick up a copy. It's good to hear that the outreach it is intended for, is having an effect, even if it is just a modest one! We have gradually increased the print run over the years, despite the fact the publication is available online. Many of our readers still wish to have a paper copy. Looking forward, I would still very much welcome input from our readers themselves with articles but am grateful for the continued use of Parish Pump which we subscribe to annually. It is specifically aimed at church publication editors, and I would be lost without it and only be able to produce a very slim publication!



### **Capel Christmas Fair**

We held our second Christmas Fair in aid of both of our Parish churches and the Motor Neurone Disease Association in November 2022. This time we were able to increase selling space. In total we raised £1,017.50 for each charity. This was sadly down on the previous year's Fair, but still a good amount in a very uncertain financial climate, where everyone is trying to be more careful. With Debbie von Bergen moving away last year, it was a huge amount of work to put it on by myself and am very glad to report that this year we have a small committee. I am immensely grateful of the help! We are looking to keep the same format overall but are looking at ways in which we can again increase the selling space. We have already secured our first stalls. We have had fantastic feedback from our stallholders each year which is wonderful when you consider that a lot of them attend many other events. We will again be promoting the Fair on social media and advertising widely as we did last year. We know from a survey done with visitors at the entrance that this worked so will hope to build on the number of visitors this year. My sincere thanks to the volunteers who gave up their time to help and a special thanks to Stuart and my sister Joanne for their help beforehand, not to mention both our sons who took a day off from their work to help with the setting up on the Friday. Here's to 2023 and an even better Fair and hopefully even better takings!

Suzanne Cole

### **ECO team**

The ECO church initiative never quite recovered from the COVID lockdowns. Rather than try to revive it we should now concentrate on the Church of England's pledge to become Carbon net zero. ECO church is recommended by the Diocese to be one of the pillars of our churches' care for God's creation but in order to work it would have to be part of the day-to-day decision making of the PCC. The ECO team or its individual members can then continue in an advisory role.

Dineke van den Bogerd

### **Electoral Roll**

Since my last report we have sadly lost 8 members of our congregation, either through death or having moved away. We have had one new member join the electoral roll and the number registered for the Parish of Capel and Ockley is now 91. If any members of our congregation would like to have their names included on the Electoral Roll please ask them to contact me for a form.

Rosemary Relf

### **Traidcraft**

Capel has supported Traidcraft for over 30 years. Unfortunately, at the start of this year Traidcraft went into administration due to its weak financial position. This was primarily brought on by Covid rapidly followed by the financial pressures and interest rates felt by us all. We have considered attempting to source our own Fairtrade products from suppliers, but we would have to buy wholesale quantities in order to make any return for the church. Whilst there are wholesalers, we could deal with we would not be able to sell enough before the sell by dates. This is therefore not a feasible course. We should remember that this has affected not only the suppliers to Traidcraft, but also Traidcraft's staff who have now all lost their jobs.

In response to Traidcraft going into administration and other like-minded companies struggling, Transform Trade, a trade justice charity, has launching a new fund to support the people that

Traidcraft was about - the makers, growers and artisans. The world of ethical trade is under threat. In these circumstances, the already marginalized producers will be the ones that will lose out. Transform Trade has relationships with many producer groups, and they intend to invest in equipment, training, product development and access to new markets. Transform Trade are seeking donations, and you can donate to them at Transform Trade, 5th Floor, 7-15 Pink Lane, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 5DW.

Thank you for your support of Traidcraft over the past years, we hope that you are able to support Fairtrade through the links we included in April's Inspire and other retailers in the future.

Stuart and Suzanne Cole

## **Financial Report 2022**

Finances have not been easy year for anyone in 2022 and 2023 isn't looking much better. The rising cost of living, particularly in respect of fuel and food, has inevitably impacted on church finances. Nevertheless, we generated a small surplus in unrestricted funds of £3,292. Once Covid restrictions were lifted, fundraising events were again possible and helped to balance the books. For example:

- In June, we held a very successful Vicarage Fete and were able to make much needed donations to our local schools and pre-school.
- We were fortunate to be offered the opportunity to provide a stall selling teas and cakes at the Military Show over the first weekend in July. A huge thank you to all those who baked cakes and to all those volunteers who helped over the weekend. But especially to Debbie and Leigh for their huge input to ensure the event was such a success. The good news is that we have been asked to do it all again this summer!
- The return of the Murder Mystery Plays – with a performance in each village - in the Autumn were well supported and again generated much needed funds.
- A particular thank you to Suzanne Cole and her family who masterminded a second Capel Christmas Fair where 50% of the profits were again donated to the PCC.
- Church Teas and Concerts have also helped to provide much needed additional funds.

We value every single donation, no matter how small, and continue to work towards the day when our voluntary income is sufficient to cover our regular church activities and running costs. This can most effectively be achieved by expanding our regular donor base. Our thanks to all those who already give in this way. If you currently only give when you come to services, please consider becoming a regular donor – a monthly, quarterly or even yearly amount really helps us to plan. This can be done by a standing order or, more easily, by setting up a payment with the Parish Giving Scheme, a National Church recognised system that we have had in place for some years now.

Another way of giving is by leaving a legacy in your will. Charitable legacies fall outside the scope of inheritance tax and can result in a lower rate of tax for the other beneficiaries of the estate. A gift in a will has been described as 'an expression of thankfulness for a lifetime worth of living' - Something you choose to do whilst you are alive which is activated when you die:

- St John the Baptist was fortunate to receive a legacy this year. Some of this has already been put towards essential repairs to the Church Wall. The remainder has been put to one side to help finance the establishment of a Memorial Garden in the Churchyard where ashes will be placed.
- We have been told that St Margaret's is included as a beneficiary in another estate and anything we receive will be available for much needed improvements at the Church. After the construction of a fire exit, the installation of a new central heating system and the rewiring of the church with some improved energy efficient lighting, projects which have been carried out in the last couple of years, our thoughts are now turned to the construction of a toilet facility.

These and other legacies make a lasting difference to our churches, for which we give thanks.

Finally, a particular thank you to Debbie von Bergen my former co-treasurer who, as many will know, left us for pastures new in Somerset at the beginning of last September.

Helen Burt BCom ACA

