GROUP REPORTS FOR APCM

**FLOWER ARRANGERS ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE APCM**

Our flower arranging team have had a very productive year with lot of events being covered by them.

The Flower Festival was successful and very well organised by Brenda and Peter.  Harvest is a special time when we 'do our own thing' with autumnal flowers and greenery.

We have arranged flowers for several Memorial Services, two weddings, and it was our privilege to arrange the flowers for Annie's service with our love to a wonderful friend who will always in our hearts and many happy memories of the time we spent with her.

Rachel Townsend and Carol have joined the team during the year and I am sure they will enjoy being with us.  We were sorry that Janet and David Barnes are not able to be on the rota any more and send our thanks for all they have done over the years.

Christmas arranging was simple with white flowers, greenery and silver baubles, the fairy lights around the church enhanced the arrangements and the flowers survived for many weeks.

Easter is the next Festival, which as usual, will be lilies in memory of loved ones.

This is where I bow out after many years of being Flower Co-ordinator.   I have enjoyed being part of the team and thank everyone who has helped over many years, some of our friends are not with us now, but we hold them in our love and prayers.

Thank you for all the support you have given me, and I will see most of you at church, and I am still on the rota!    I wish good luck to Brenda and Peter who I know will be a great help to you all.

Liz Cullen   February 2024

**Lunch Club**

The lunches are going really well , we have an average of 35 to 40 guests each month which is very encouraging and a little up from last year.

I would like to thank everyone involved for all they  do to make the lunches such a success, we could not  do it with out you all.

Children from Chailey Primary School come and help when time allows and everyone loves this and of course extra pairs of hands are a great help !

**Toddler Group**

The group continues to run smoothly throughout the year and we have a really lovely group of Mums and Grand Parents  who come on a regular basis and recently two 5 week old babies !!!!

Thank you so much to Fiona Shore , Lena Broyd and Fiona Robson for all you do.

Fiona Shore has been leading the singing and movement part of the session which the children and adults love !!

A special thank you to Joy for all her help and guidance over the years , who i expect  is enjoying a hard earned rest from the early Wednesday morning  starts !!

**The Bible Book Club.** Report 2024

Another year delving into the Scriptures has rewarded us with much interest and, at times, puzzlement. We have been drawn into vibrant discussion as we share our thoughts and, perhaps, experiences of God’s word. Over the months, much time has been spent reading about the function and influences of Old Testament Prophets, and we have come to the conclusion that not much change has taken place over the years in the hearts and minds of modern civilisation.

I am sure our group value the opportunity to meet and discuss our findings as we dig a little deeper in to these ancient records. Many a treasure is unearthed as we pool our discoveries.

We would like to share more of our inspirational fun and fellowship. We are currently reading the narrative of the Easter Story in the four gospels. Why not come and join us and be part of our St Peter’s programme. We would value you company.

2023/24 Books studied

January – Habakkuk

Feb- June – Joshua

July- January – 1 & 2 Samuel

February - Colossians

St Peter’s Church Choir: report to St Peter’s Church AGM for April 2023-2024

**St Peter’s Church choir** has been blessed with another year of singing together with the guidance and inexhaustible encouragement of our exceptional director of music, Andy Rees. His skill at finding pieces we can attempt with our limited and varying vocal resources, ability to play all our parts at once, and power up the accompaniment if things start to falter, is legendary, and we will be for ever grateful to him.

He enables us to find joy in singing together, and we very much hope that our efforts do enhance everyone’s experience of worship a St Peter’s.

After a few years’ absence due to covid, we were delighted to be able to return to Grantham Close in December to sing carols with some of the residents. Our Christmas services at St Peter’s benefited enormously from the visiting singers who generously gave their time and effort to lift the Christmas music.

At the end of the year we lost our dear Annie Jones. She gave us her wonderful soprano voice for decades and in spite of her many health challenges, her unquenchable vitality and vibrant spirit lit up everyone and every space around her.

We were devastated to lose her, and did our best to sing some of the music she loved at her funeral at St Peter’s in January.

For the past two Easters we have taken part in a special Holy Week choral service at St Mary’s. These comprise Easter hymns for choir and congregation to sing, and a collection of anthems sung by the choirs. It is always a special experience, both because of the meaning and significance of the occasion, and the rewarding experience of singing with another choir with whom we share so much.

This year we have had the good fortune to welcome new choir members. It is very positive to feel we are moving forwards in this way. enabling us to extend the range of music we can bring to the services every Sunday.

We are grateful to everyone, including the congregation, who help to maintain the tradition of choral music at St Peter’s.

**Brenda Ford..Foundation Governor, St Peter’s Primary School**

(Bluebell Federation including Fletching and Forest Row)

I have attended all the Governor’s meetings except January 23rd 2024 when I had just had shoulder surgery.

I have been present at all the end-of-term services held at St Peter’s Church and at the Christmas one, I was able to commend the school, parents and teachers on the way the three pupils, Arwen, Jenson and Poppy, behaved at the filming of the Princess of Wales Carole Service and at St Anne’s Church Kew the previous week. They were a credit to all those involved with them.

The nativity play was well attended by parents and families and it was interesting to see how two of the older girls controlled the performance.

I have enjoyed being involved with the Intergenerational Opera organised by Charlotte Wicks which has brought together the older generation and the top class together for music and chat. It is interesting to hear some of the conversations going on during the break.

Personally I have been involved in listening to the children reading on a regular basis, but not since surgery on my shoulder in January as I was not allowed to drive. But I hope to return after Easter.

I have attended some courses on line, the most recent being on SEND, which I found very interesting. I have also been involved in a course on behaviour problems in school, which seem to have been put on by a private organisation.

As previously mentioned, due to the involvement in the Intergenerational Opera, Charlotte was asked by the BBC if anybody was doing community work as well. I was involved with the school so I was invited, and was delighted to be involved with the three children named above, in meeting the Princess of Wales.