

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



(Our Easter Cross with flowers knitted by our Knit and Chat group)

Steward's Report

The Stewards have continued to meet during the year to discuss the life of the Church and items raised both at Church Council and from members of the congregation.

Firstly, the Stewards would like to thank everyone who contributes to the life of the Church whether by volunteering to welcome everyone each Sunday, provide refreshments and flowers, play the organ or piano, prepare for Communion, visit as a Pastoral Visitor or work on our property. By working together, we ensure that the Church continues to be a vibrant community which will hopefully attract people to join us in the future.

Secondly, the Stewards would like to thank Reverend Roger Leslie for kindly continuing to be our minister this past year. We are sure the Stewards speak for the whole Church congregation when we say that his leadership, pastoral care, ministry and quiet, gentle nature have been very much appreciated and we are so thankful for his dedication to the Church.

Over the year Stewards have been working hard to addressing concerns which have been raised not only at Church Council meetings but also by the congregation.

Finances remain an item for discussion at our regular meetings. Whilst the Church's financial position is much healthier than it has been in recent years, it is reliant on the lettings remaining at the current level. Stewards are therefore mindful that we must budget carefully for all major expenditure. The recommendation was put forward to Church Council that we replace all the remaining Crittall windows with UPVC double glazed units and this was agreed after relevant quotes had been obtained. Stewards further recommended that the Church put 'on hold' the refurbishment of the kitchen until we have sufficient funds to pay for the works.

The 150th Anniversary of the Church has been the major focus of the past year and the Stewards would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved with the initial celebration weekends in September and with the ongoing Sunday at Three events. Many people have come into the Church over the past few months who have not visited us before and our outreach has been increased because of this. Stewards feel all the celebrations have raised the profile of the Church in the local community and have engendered a warmth of feeling towards us which had possibly been lacking before. They will be looking for suggestions as to how we can keep this going – albeit on a lower level of activity!

We are looking forward to welcoming Rev Irena Byron who is becoming our Minister from September and working with her to continue promoting the Church's growth and maintaining the vibrancy which has been noticeable in our Anniversary year.

All of the Church events, and it's daily life, have been publicised on the Church's website, Facebook page and Twitter account as well as being advertised in local shops etc. Our thanks to Carole for

keeping the website and Facebook account up to date and to John O'Reilly for his Sunday at Three posters.

Finally, the Stewards would like to thank everyone who has supported them over the past year. As Senior Steward I have been in the exceptionally fortunate position to work with 4 fabulous people Carole, Pam, John and Ian whose dedication to the Church as a whole is heartening to see and I offer thanks on a regular basis for their support. Hailsham Methodist Church has a lot to give thanks for and I look forward to seeing it go from strength to strength in the future.

Jenny Gandy

Senior Steward

May 2019

Property Report

Since the last AGM the following jobs have been undertaken

- A new cooker has been installed at a cost of £869.
- A complete overhaul of the hall including damp renovations, more electrical sockets installed, radiator covers installed, new noticeboards, new carpet and redecoration. I cannot thank the volunteers enough who helped to keep this project on target for our 150th anniversary celebrations, and Allan Honisett did a marvellous job in being the project manager for us.
- 4 new fire doors have been fitted – 2 in the hall, one to the boiler room, one to the cleaning cupboard
- QI jobs done – woodworm treated in the loft, external painting to fire doors 5a and 5b. Cast iron gutters replaced.
- A new piano has been purchased at a cost of £2,000
- A fire drill has been done; the new gathering point is outside Sopers the optician. New fire signage has been erected, the klaxon tested, and fire-fighting appliances have been annually tested. Two were obsolete and one of those is in the boiler room for us to have a practise on.
- A full 5-year electrical test was done on the whole premises on 23.3.18. at a cost of £1490 and no major defects were apparent.
- Electrical work undertaken; New 'outside' lanterns put into the porch to cope with extremes in temperature. New wall lights have been erected in the gallery. New fire escape routes have been installed over doors (13)
- New signs and leaflet distribution boxes have been erected outside church. Wall paint needs a re-touch where the old notice boards were.
- Health and Safety documents have been updated. Fire risk assessment documents are in the process of being updated. We need a Health and Safety Officer, and a person responsible for Fire Risk matters.
- We have a Fire Risk file, kept in the office. This holds records of when fire hydrants were last checked, when smoke and heat alarms were last checked, when last fire drill was held, when fire risk assessment document is next due for update, spare escape maps and instructions for evacuation, spare Fire Notices (where to meet in event of fire).
- A new blind has been fitted in the gallery

- A spring clean has been organised. Both church and hall chairs and carpets were hoovered and shampooed. 3 toilets were deep-cleaned (walls, floors etc) Kitchen floor to be scrubbed once a month.

JOBS TO DO WHICH ARE IN HAND

- 17 windows are to be replaced with double glazing – this work to be done in the summer.
- Hard standing to be created in the garden for a shed to house chairs.
- Fascia boarding to be painted by Allan Honisett in the summer
- New heating/plumbing contractor to be hired when Mitchells contract runs out in July 2019. **NUTRA** has been chosen
- 3 toilets to be painted by Allan Honisett – when we spring-cleaned they were very unhygienic.
- Where the old plastic Fire Escape signs were removed, the walls need a touch-up.

FUTURE JOBS (not including the monthly jobs on the plan)

- Paint the Stewards' vestry
- Paint the kitchen
- Get a quote for painting the church and sorting the damp on the front wall.

Once again, I would like to thank willing members of our congregation who gather to work hard to keep the premises clean, tidy and fresh. It has been an especially hard 12 months, getting the hall refurbished to a deadline, but this space is now an asset and many hirers love their time spent here.

Barbara Edwards
Property Steward
May 2019.

Church Lunch Group

Numbers have been steadily rising this year for the monthly lunch group known as the Fellowship lunch group.

Unlike last year, we have tried several different venues to find one that suits most people. We try to take into account value for money, quality of food and can we hear each other? This last criteria is vital, as the group gives people the chance to get to know each other much better in a social environment. The winning pub is currently The King's Head at Horsebridge; the standard of food has gone up, the service is fast, parking easy and we can be seated in the bar area away from the noise created by forty other diners in a low-ceilinged room. We pay on average £10-12 with a drink on top.

Give us a try! We average about 11/14 people who attend.

Barbara Edwards
Lunch Club Coordinator
May 2019.

Toddlers

The toddler group continues to grow, we now regularly have 20 + children, the highest attendance this year was 26 children plus of course their parent or carer.

They come with their Mums, Dads, grandmothers, grandfathers, carers and even one great grandmother. New people continue to find us and as Hailsham continues to grow so does the need for groups like ours.

The activity table continues to be popular, thanks to Hilary for her imaginative ideas. The children have made snow pictures , firework pictures, and daffodils to name but a few and playdough is always popular.

The cardboard box house made for messy church last year has given hours of fun to many toddlers.

Last September we were delighted when Anita Killeen joined us along with her granddaughter, Poppy and Finley comes along later with his Mum. Anita's energy and enthusiasm are an enormous help.

Sarah is still making countless teas and coffees , drinks for the children and guarding the biscuit box and Pauline helps with whatever needs doing in the kitchen or with the children.

We have a lot of fun and meet and talk to some wonderful people, and watch the children grow up.

Sheila Butland and Sarah Griffin

Toddlers Leaders

May 2019

Messy Church

Messy Church continues to thrive and we have celebrated our 10th birthday this year with bunting, music, games, a giant birthday card and of course a marvellous cake made by Jenny Gandy!



We are fortunate to have our regular helpers who give up their time to help with activities and prepare lunch - Sheila, Hilary, Anita Killeen, Jenny Gandy, Sue, MaryAnne, Rob, Pauline, Sarah, Pam, Jenny Rodemark, Carole, Anita Carter, Ruby, Irene Mead, Irene Cates. As well as helping with planning and activities we also thank Hilary for taking the lead in church.



(We built this house when telling the story of the wise man and the foolish man)

Mini Messy Church

We meet once a month on a Sunday morning and the children have enjoyed taking part in lots of activities based on Bible stories such as The Good Samaritan or on Church festivals such as Harvest. The children then come into Church towards the end of the service to tell everyone what they have been doing.

Although we have advertised it well we have only had a few children come.

Hilary Leslie

Mini Messy Church Lead

Knit and Chat

We meet on the first Saturday of each month. This year we have enjoyed knitting lots and lots of flowers in all different colours and decorated our Easter Cross with them. Some of us still knit squares which go to help local people in need and we are also embarking on a new project - knitting poppies to display in the church during this year's Remembrance Service.

Following requests we organised and held a craft session and will be offering another in the months to come.

Jenny Gandy, Carole Short, & Pam Russell.

Pastoral

We are sorry to report Lily Parrington has died during the past year and we will remember her in our Act of Remembrance during this year's AGM.

Other changes/additions to our congregation: Peter Appleby has moved to be nearer to his daughter, Chris and Rosemary attend regularly. We now have three members living in Bowes House

(Joyce Clacey, Margaret Harmer, Margaret Russell). Margaret Harmer celebrated her 90th birthday last year with a party in the church hall. Pam (formerly Russell) and Arnold Cornish, our newly married couple live in Willingdon. John Griffin still produces our rotas and notices and attends when he can. We have some 'big' birthdays coming up – Audrey and Heather will be celebrating 90 and Jack 100.

Anita Carter and Rev Roger Leslie continue to do a great job visiting our members and keeping the stewards/church council informed of any needs.

Anita Carter

Pastoral Leader



Celebrating our 150th

Many thanks to all who have organised, baked for, and come along to our events. We have had a Coffee Morning in aid of MacMillan Cancer and of course our Sunday @3pm concerts. In particular thanks to Ian, Peter, and John. Thanks also to Paul Endersby for all his hard work in compiling 150 years of Hailsham Methodist history.





(Our delicious cakes baked by John O'Reilly for our 150th)

Lettings

We are thankful our lettings continue steadily to contribute to our church's finances. Our current regulars are: Slimming World; Healthy Living Club; Redefine Fitness; Zumba; U3A; Yoga.

Carole Short

Lettings Officer

Church Fundraising Cake Stall

Many thanks to Sarah and Helen Griffin to continuing to bake delicious cakes each month

Communication

We use a variety of ways to keep everyone up to date and to publicise our events: a weekly news sheet; twitter, facebook, website.

You can find our website at: <https://e-voice.org.uk/hailshammethodist/>



(Hugh Edwards taking part in one of our morning services)