ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

2020

ANNUAL REPORTS

From the Secretary to the PCC, Churchwardens and Church Groups

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HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Annual Parishioners Meeting took place on 3rd April 2019 and was conducted by the Vicar. The meeting was attended by Fr Stephen Mills and 38 parishioners. John Downe and Denise Bedford had been proposed and seconded as Churchwardens and there being no further nominations the Vicar declared that they were elected to serve another year. The Vicar thanked John and Denise for their hard work and this was endorsed by the meeting. That concluded the Annual Parishioners Meeting which was followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

The Vicar declared that written nominations had been received for Jackie Flowers-Leek and Derek Vine and he was delighted to declare them duly elected to the PCC.

PCC meetings took place on 15th May, 3rd July, 18th September, 2nd October and 20th November 2019, and the 22nd January and 11th March 2020 and were all conducted by the Vicar.

Steve McGrath

PRAYER VIGIL

The Prayer Vigil had become a regular part of the worshipping community and had taken on a life all of its own. It offered a time of stillness to wait on our Lord as we sought His guidance both corporately and individually. Services were held on 7th April, 5th May, 30th June, 1st September, 6th October and 24th November 2019, and 2nd February and 1st March 2020. Each vigil was planned around a particular theme, one of which included a popular healing service including the laying-on of hands by clergy.

I would like to offer my deep gratitude to the planning team: Mary Penley, Brian Hanson, Neil & Fiona Aiton, and to the musicians that have supported us. My thanks to all of you that have continued to support this highly valued service and I would encourage all of you to attend future services, just to come as you are and to be still.

Steve McGrath

SAMS

The inaugural meeting took place on 11th September with a presentation by Gavin Flowers-Leek about his battle with prostate cancer. Further meetings took place on 13th November with a presentation by Jim Lang about his life as an hotelier, and on 15th January by Michael Walter and his musical memories of the fifties.

David Lawrence had been prepared to make a presentation on 18th March but this had been postponed due to the virus pandemic.

I would like to thank the planning team of Brian Hanson and Len Warner and all the men that have supported this new group.

Steve McGrath

FABRIC

This year has been another busy year dealing with ongoing maintenance and trying to plan for the future improvements to the church. Extensive repair work to the high arches above the north side of the nave has been completed, together with similar repair work on the outside of the arch on the north side of the church. In addition, considerable work has been undertaken to repair the stones on the steps leading to the bell chamber, including reinforcing the roof above them with steel supports. This has been a larger and more expensive task than was anticipated. We are also waiting for a new fire door to be installed in the boiler room. Our architect has advised that a drone survey of the church be carried out in the autumn to ascertain if further ongoing maintenance will be necessary.

However, as many of you are aware, our major project at present is church lighting and matters have progressed quite a way in this area. The major part of the work is the rewiring of the nave and chancel which are in a poor and somewhat dangerous state. Whilst undertaking this it was only appropriate to undertake new lighting as the present system is now very old and needs improving. Fundraising is well underway, an appeal being launched in October 2019.

John Downe

FRONT OF HOUSE

Another year on and we are pleased to be welcoming new people to both the 8.00am and 9.30am services. On the third Sunday, what was originally called the Family Service is now called Music Group Eucharist which is joined by the Open the Book team. This service does bring more young people into church. Evening services vary in attendance – the time of these services changed from 6.30pm to 6.00pm from the 1st January. Fr Stephen, our Curate, was due to go on a placement in April 2020 and then sadly leave us later in the year but because of Covid-19 this has been put on hold. Thank you to David who has taken on many roles to support the church community.

Thank you to the servers who prepare the altar and we welcome Judie and Bill to the team. Thank you to the EMS who attend both at 8.00am and 9.30am Eucharists and greatly assist by taking Home Communions. We welcome Sarah and Wendy as Deputy Wardens. Thank you to the Welcome team who greet the congregation; to Frances, who continues to care for the altar linen laundry; to Ruth and her team of Holy Dusters who keep the church spotlessly clean; to the Flower team who bring joy to us all with their beautiful arrangements; to the Catering team who continue to achieve high standards both in preparation and presentation of refreshments for any occasion, be it for events or fundraising; to the Friends of the church who help with fundraising; to Wendy and Sue and the team who provide coffee and biscuits after the 9.30am Eucharist and also to Wendy and Sue for all the work they do to help with family support. Thank you to Brian and Marion and the choir who contribute so much to our worship and we also appreciate greatly the dedication of the bellringers. Thank you to Simon, Vanessa, Elaine and all who are involved with Messy Church, which brings children and their parents/carers into church for activities, prayer and fun. Thank you to those who help during the 9.30am Eucharist in the Children's Corner; to the Prayer team, the vergers and those who volunteer to read lessons and intercessions and all who help behind the scenes. Reg Strong is always willing to make and repair woodwork within the church and his work is much appreciated; to Barry New who assists with health and safety; to the Parish

Secretary, the church Treasurer, Office Angels, the Adult and Child protection officer, handyman Neil and PCC members, thank you to each and every one of you.

My apologies if I have missed anyone's name from this long list of 'thank you's'. If anyone would like to join any of the above teams, please do get in touch with me.

Steve McGrath, who is training for the church ministry went on a parish placement from 12th January to 1st March. He has now returned and we wish him all the best with his further training.

A special 'thank you' to Fr Mark for all that he has done and is doing to keep us together during the Covid-19 pandemic, bringing the church into our homes with regular services and prayers. Thank you also to Fr Stephen, Canon Nigel and Fr Ray for all their contributions.

Denise Bedford

SENIORS

The Seniors group started under the working title 'Older People Group'. It was prompted by the GPs at the Steyning Medical Practice which highlighted the needs of people in our community who may be lonely or isolated. The main focus for 2019/2020 has been Dementia Friendly initiatives. We were supported by Horsham District Dementia Alliance through which we had Dementia Awareness sessions provided by Debbie Wood. The welcome team, the catering team and the PCC had the opportunity to participate in a one-hour session followed by a Parish Breakfast in July when all members of our congregation were invited to join in. We are now registered as a Dementia Friendly organisation, and this can be viewed on the Horsham District Dementia Alliance website.

With support and advice from The Hub at Beeding, a Time Travellers Cafe has been set up. We meet on the third Thursday of every month to welcome people with age-related memory problems or a diagnosis of dementia together with their carer or a friend. We share a bowl of soup and a roll and coffee, tea and cake. This is followed by a session during which we can all participate in a craft activity or another stimulus for conversation such as Nativity sets at our December meeting or memorabilia such as photos or magazines.

It is not just awareness, but also other initiatives have grown out of the Seniors group such as a seat by the lychgate, useful for car drivers to leave their less mobile passengers on the way to church services. An information board with leaflets and other resources useful for older people will be added to the boards in the church porch.

The Catering group have been very supportive and have recently purchased useful resources such as large pans for cooking the soup. The Seniors group continue to look at ways to enhance the lives of members of our community. The Time Travellers team is not a closed group. We are all active members of our congregation and would welcome anyone, especially men, who would like to help in this initiative.

Elizabeth Brown

CHURCHYARD

We are enormously grateful to Horsham District Council (HDC) who have again given us very good service over the last year. Trees have been cut back and those growing near and in graves have been removed. This has helped to open up the floodlighting of the tower. They have kept the grass very short and made it all look nice and tidy, and work has been carried out in repairing some broken gravestones.

A bench by the lychgate has been made and installed by John Edwards to enable people to sit and wait for car lifts.

We have been looking at the path in the Churchyard and a number of stones are loose and particularly dangerous towards the lychgate. HDC have agreed to lift and reset them as this is a health and safety issue.

We are grateful to the Gardening Team who tend the garden by the path and keep it looking so good and we hope some new volunteers will come forward to join the very faithful but small group.

John Downe

SAFEGUARDING

This year we completed a thorough review and updating of all the policies, risk assessments and other documents relating to Safeguarding and these are now all placed in a folder which is available at the back of the church. We have also reviewed our processes for Safer Recruitment and the induction of volunteers. Several people have renewed their training and a large number of DBS check have been renewed this year. Unfortunately, some training sessions to help those people who find it difficult to do on-line training had to be postponed due to the Coronavirus but we will reinstate these once it is safe to do so. We continue to consider how we might provide a service to give lifts to church for those people unable to get there by themselves. I am grateful for the considerable assistance of Fiona Aiton and Carol Mitchell throughout the year. Despite the church building being closed, we are mindful that our safeguarding responsibilities, including the requirement to report safeguarding concerns remain as important as ever.

Christine Aubrey

THE CUTHMAN LECTURES

There have been no Cuthman Lectures this year. Sadly, the one that was arranged for early April had to be postponed due to the Coronavirus but I have provisionally re-scheduled this for the autumn.

Christine Aubrey

DEANERY SYNOD

27 February at Ashington

Revd James di Castigione talked about a Kingdom approach to Finance, linking money to discipleship, mission, outreach and growth. At Ashington 20 years ago the annual income was £1,400 and that last year it was £270,835! The church works in partnership with the parish council, youth groups and a toddler group. There are now just over 40 teenagers involved in the church. There are also over 60 children at the 11 am service on a Sunday. We need to adopt a vision for the future. From April 2019 the parishes of Ashington, Washington, Wiston with Buncton will combine and will be known as Chanctonbury Churches with one PCC.

27 June at Storrington

Guy Leonard, Lay Chair who had returned after illness, reflected on the purpose of a Deanery Synod, the first rung in church governance. Members of Synod should encourage people in their parishes to attend meetings and to participate in the discussions.

Bishop Mark talked about the meaning of the word ‘visitation’ and used the strapline “to know, love and follow Jesus” as the basis of what he was seeking to find in the Deanery. This was followed by a discussion of initiatives in parishes across the Deanery. The Bishop was presented with 4 bottles of sparkling wine from local vineyards as a leaving gift from the Deanery.

14 November in Steyning

Archdeacon Fiona Windsor introduced a Diocesan video ‘Sharing in the Household of faith; stressing the work with youth and the needy as part of Christian faith’.

Catherine Dawkins (Diocesan Finance Director) explained the Diocesan Budgets for 2020 pointing out that ideally Parish shares should rise by a further 15% to enable a Diocesan break-even. She appreciated this was unachievable but asked those Parishes who could manage should pay an extra 3% in 2020 which only represented an allowance for inflation. If everyone on the electoral rolls contributed an extra 61p per week this would clear the £1.7m Diocesan deficit.

Revd Kathryn Windslow was congratulated on her appointment as a Canon of the Cathedral.

John Edwards

BELLRINGERS

The past year has seen the bells at Steyning being regularly rung every Sunday morning. In addition we have rung for extra services, especially over the Christmas period. We have hosted a number of visiting bands and a special occasion when the local Sussex ringers held their Christmas Carol Service at Steyning. Father Mark led this and Brian played the organ with his usual gusto. The candlelit church made this a particularly enjoyable prelude to Christmas, we are grateful for the support from Steyning for this; many who were present commented on the welcome received.

We have had some new recruits to our band and others have made good progress in their development and provide valuable numbers. In fact this enabled us to also ring at Upper Beeding on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, otherwise their bells would have been silent.

The bells remain in a good serviceable condition and we have a new set of bell ropes on order for delivery later in the year. Prior to the Coronavirus lockdown we were developing our plans to hopefully install some training aids to help with teaching and development of our band in the future.

On a happier note in partnership with the Social Committee, the ringers arranged two successful Quiz Nights during the year which raised over £500 for the Church Building Fund.as

With the church currently closed the bells have not been sounding out but we trust that before too long this will change and when it does the ringers are all very keen to get back to practising and ringing on a Sunday as part of the Ministry of the church in Steyning.

David Kirkcaldy

STEYNING & DISTRICT CHURCHES TOGETHER

This has been a busy year for Churches Together with the following events and activities:

- We shared in the following services: Darkness to Light in Steyning, the Agape Meal at the Methodist Church and The Sheep Shearing Service at Botolphs.
- All churches helped with the Christian Aid Week Collections.
- We were asked, by the organisers, to run a café during the Steyning Country Fair in May. Although it was hard work, it proved to be very popular. Proceeds were shared between Steyning First Responders and The Methodist Church Toilet Fund as the Methodist Church would normally have run their own fund-raising event on that day.
- Debbie Wood has run several talks and training sessions to help us become Dementia Friendly Churches and set up the Time Travellers' Café in Steyning.
- A very successful Barn Dance held at The Towers in October. The profit was donated to Turning Tides, the homelessness charity in Worthing.
- Community Carols at the High Street Bus Stop which was very worthwhile and enjoyable despite dreadful weather.
- We agreed to take on a project to distribute Christmas Hampers to identified families and individuals in the community which had previously been undertaken by Steyning Rotary. Generous donations enabled us to distribute several hampers and these were very well-received.

At our meeting in July, facilitated by Rev John and Rev Diane Marchment, we considered how we had fulfilled the pledges in the Churches Together Covenant during the previous year. They are:

1. To join in occasions of prayer and worship
2. To join together in house groups
3. To see greater understanding of our several Christian traditions
4. To work together in caring for the community
5. To promote justice and offer help to meet the needs of the peoples of the world

Our deliberations concluded that while we fulfilled pledges 1 and 4 (either individually or as a group) pledges 2, 3 and 5 need further consideration.

Christine Aubrey

PENFOLD HALL

Since the last report, the website has been useful for booking services and for retaining an online presence in advertising our facilities. Our self-employed caretaker, Neil Chappell, with his attendant skills and repair knowledge has continued to be a valuable member of our team. The previous cleaner, Linda Miller, stood down from her valued endeavours at the beginning of 2020, and we now have a new cleaning lady, Gail Awcock, who attends to these duties on a self-employed basis.

The question of hirer late payers has further been pursued and the position is totally up-to-date as at February 2020. In the wake of Amanda Sawyer's departure as the valued Administrator, John Edwards undertook the monthly hiring fee billing of the Hall for January 2020 and in February this was a joint effort between John Edwards, Mary and Ian Ivatt. In March the billing was undertaken by Mary and Ian Ivatt and was brought forward (up to the date the Hall closed because of the Coronavirus threat) and at this stage almost all the March hiring fees have been paid. Neil Chappell has taken on the task of Booking Clerk in addition to his normal caretaking duties, which seems to be working well. Thus we have virtually redistributed the Hall tasks that previously fell within Amanda's remit.

Therefore, to conclude, the finances of the Hall are better placed, although with the closing down of the Hall on 19 March 2020 the future holds no regular fee income, only recurring expenses, ie insurances, utilities, together with reduced caretaking and cleaning costs.

As before, the Trustees have continued with regular meetings (now by email/telephone) to monitor the financial aspects of the Hall. We can only hope the return to normal activities will happen as soon as possible, and that we retain the previous hirers in the process.

Ian Ivatt, Treasurer

WEDNESDAY COFFEE

Wednesday coffee mornings have had a successful year and we are pleased to have been able to send donations to: Ashurst CofE Primary School, Autism Sussex, Riding for the Disabled, St Barnabas Hospice, Herondale Primary School, Steyning Minibus and Canine Partners. We have enjoyed some good social events including our popular Christmas Carol morning.

With continued thanks to the loyal band of helpers who serve coffee in the Penfold Hall every Wednesday from 10.15am. Please join us.

Carole and Team

CHURCH FLOWERS

Margaret Burgess, Gillian Downham and I have continued to organise the flower arrangements in church with the assistance of a team of 18 helpers. The altar flowers are provided every week, apart from Lent and Advent, and the church is decorated for Easter, Harvest Festival and Christmas.

We are also willing to undertake by prior notice any particular arrangements for weddings, funerals or other special occasions in the church. Everyone gives of their time freely so any profit made from this charitable enterprise, the Church Flower Fund, is used for the purchase of flowers bought during the year.

For anyone who would like to have fun with flowers and can spare whatever time they have to assist us, there is always a member of the team who would happily give help and support. We have recently welcomed back into the team Christine Aubrey and Kate Williams, a new member Sue Harris, and Sus Clark who came 'recruited' from the most successful Flower Festival of 2019.

In January we have our Annual Supper get-together, which gives us a chance to thank all the Flower Ladies who generously volunteer their time.

Carol McKechnie

HOLY DUSTERS

Once again we have had busy year with Flower Festival and a few weddings with confetti. We have lost two valued members: Eileen Buckley has retired and Leslie Coyne to look after her husband, but we manage and enjoy each other's company. We could always do with some more help!

Ruth Norris

CHOIR

There are currently 33 members of the choir including three juniors. There are four associate members, who sing regularly at the monthly Choral Evensongs and there are also a number of past members, not on the current register, who sing the major services and at the Sacred Concert on Good Friday.

The music performed on Good Friday 2019 was John Rutter's 'Requiem'. As usual there was a large and supportive congregation, who gave generously to the retiring collection in aid of the choir fund. The choir had begun preparing for a performance of Gabriel Fauré's 'Requiem' on Good Friday 2020, but the closure of the church due to the Coronavirus Pandemic has meant that the concert had to be cancelled.

The Director of Music continues to support the Chorister training scheme of the RSCM, and the Junior Choristers are now using the Voice for Life books for their training which has specific targets. At the moment the position of Head Chorister remains vacant.

Social events this year have been the annual Summer Barbeque and a party after the Carol Service held in the Penfold Hall. These are always popular and eagerly anticipated by the choir, and I'm hoping that we might still be able to hold the barbeque which would be a good way of celebrating a return to normality.

Recruitment has been rather disappointing over the last year as it is difficult to attract young choristers into the choir. Also, some of the senior members are now finding it difficult to commit fully to the choir. Work patterns are changing which also affects some members.

At this point I should like to record my thanks most sincerely to Diana Hewlett for her continual care of the choir robes and the considerable amount of time she spends making the choir look as good as they sound. Finally, I must also thank Dr Neil Aiton for his work with the Music Group and playing regularly for the Family Eucharist Service and Choral Evensong, and Marion Sawyer who conducts the choir for the Eucharist service anthems.

Brian Sawyer (Organist and Director of Music)

STEWARDSHIP

It is indeed unfortunate that our planned giving **DECREASED** by 0.4% this year.

There are now 106 regular donors (down by 4 on 2018) donating a total of £54414 during the year (£54620 in 2018).

42 of our donors contribute by weekly envelopes.

27 pay by monthly banker's standing order direct into the Church's bank a/c.

35 pay monthly by banker's standing order through The Parish Giving Scheme.

2 pay quarterly by banker's order through the Charities Aid Foundation.

The weekly envelopes produce an average of £835 per month (10000 pa).

The standing orders to the Church a/c produced an average of £1500 per month (£18140 pa).

The standing orders to the Parish Giving Scheme produced an average of £2190 per month (£26250 pa).

The Planned Giving and the recovery of gift aid thereon totalled £68,850 representing an overall **DECREASE** of £1,480 on 2018.

Cost have continued to rise and in spite of efforts to keep these under control, expenditure in the General Fund exceeded income by £8,066. An increase of 11% in planned giving with Gift Aid would be needed to avoid this deficit in 2020.

It is incumbent on each and every one of us to annually review our weekly and monthly donations to the Church to ensure that our committed giving increases year on year to keep pace with our Diocesan commitment for our clergy, for salaries of the organist and the office administrator, for running costs and Church repairs. **May I implore you to consider increasing your committed giving and changing to** t**he Parish Giving Scheme in order that the Church can benefit from the monthly recovery of the gift aid as opposed to twice a year.** Please ask me for a form.

Leonard Warner (Stewardship Recorder)

SOCIAL & CATERING GROUP

There are 9 full-time members. Eight meetings were held throughout 2019.

Events during 2019

January

New Year's Day Service followed by sherry and nibbles

Parish Lunch

February

Messy Church

'With Love From…' followed by tea and cakes

'Some Winter Flowering Shrubs' with light refreshment

March

Launch of Lent course followed by frugal lunch

Mothering Sunday (simnel cake)

April

Messy Church

May

Bellringers Quiz with light refreshments

Chanctonbury Chorus concert (serving wine)

Christian Aid light lunch

June

Bernardi Concert (serving wine)

Father's Day (doughnuts)

Fr Stephen's barbeque

Messy Church

July

Parish Breakfast

Sing Out Sisters concert (serving wine and nibbles)

August

Flower Festival Preview event (extensive refreshments)

Assisting with Flower Festival Café (Penfold Hall

September

Messy Church

October

Ecumenical Barn Dance at The Towers (jointly provided puddings with others)

Harvest Festival (serving cakes with coffee)

November

All Souls Commemoration Service (followed by tea and cakes)

December

Holly Fair (running various stalls)

Bellringers Quiz (serving nibbles)

We would like to thank all those members of the congregation who supported church events throughout the year by making assorted cakes, and to those who served drinks at the various celebrations. We are grateful to five members of the congregation who have volunteered to assist the Catering Team whenever extra help is required.

Donations received, over and above running expenses, were passed to the PCC. During 2019 social functions contributed £65 to Chestnut Tree House, £160 to Christian Aid and over £1000 to the church Building Fund. In January 2020 £75 each was donated to Red Cross Australia Disaster Fund and Chestnut Tree House.

Denise Bedford & Rosemary Windebank

MESSY CHURCH

This has been an interesting year in the life of Messy Church, as we tried different ideas out to see what would create the most interest. These included a Messy Art and separate Garden session, plus our Christingle Service in early December.

We had already decided as a group to hold every session on a Sunday, in Church, for two reasons. Firstly, many of our members work and therefore could not make Fridays after school and secondly, we felt that 4pm on a Sunday was when many families had concluded what they were doing that day and would then attend. We also felt that by using the Church it became the focal point and hub of our community outreach.

Our Messy Gardening afternoon was not attended by huge amounts of people, but the results can now be seen in our Churchyard with all the bulbs in full bloom. Many locals stopped to talk to us about our grounds and what a worthwhile job we were doing. With Messy Art that worked well with the Flower Festival and many people commented on the beautiful pictures created by young and old. Recycled bottles, shaped and painted as flowers, were also used round the pulpit, created by Year 2 at the Primary School, which forged yet another link within our community.

After this our team put together a wonderful session using for the first time, Open the Book, telling the story of Daniel. Parents loved this style of teaching and learning, which forged our thoughts for the December service. Twelve adults attended bringing nineteen children and a baby, wonderful.

Our most rewarding session was the first ever Messy Christingle Service, which really, maybe showed us the way for the future. We had 28 children plus 28 adults. It was a very prayerful and moving service, appreciated by parents and children alike.

Our plans were then thwarted by Storm Ciara and then unfortunately by Covid 19, which meant that we have not been able to carry out our work further. I strongly believe that Messy Church is still the way forward and further links to the school must be made to bring people into our Church community. This work could not carry on without the incredible dedication of our committed team, as without their support and prayers it would be impossible to carry Messy Church out.

Simon Knowles

REPORTS FROM STUDY GROUPS

Grove Home Group

Early in 2019 Fr. Mark celebrated Home Communion with us prior to a 'sharing lunch' indoors where we normally meet. (This year, 2020, we are planning a similar event, but in June so that, hopefully if the weather is fine, we may be able to celebrate in the open air.)

We enjoyed doing the Lent 2019 video-based study course, 'Living Christ', which was part of the Chichester Diocese's 'Year of Vocation'. We followed this, during the Summer and Autumn, by studying the Bible readings taken from the Church Pews News for that week Currently, we are enjoying a York Course, 'Praise Him', which we started as a Lent 2020 study but which will actually take us well beyond Lent as we are taking our time to do an extensive study of each of the five sessions. (Of course, the Corona Virus has since added to our uncertainty of a completion date!)

We meet at 25 Saxon Road on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 10.00am and aim to finish at midday. For further information contact me on 01903 814551. .

Terry Clarke

Penfold Hall House Group

We have continued to meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, taking breaks near Christmas and in August.

We are a diverse group of 9, meet prayerfully, and have a tradition of mutual love and support, and enjoy an occasional sociable and shared meal together.

During the year we took part in the 2019 Diocesan lent course, followed a second York course on the Psalms, and in between have used the pew sheets to further study the previous Sunday's readings.

We ceased meeting on 10th March due to the coronavirus outbreak, but we intend to follow the York course Superstar when it is safe to meet in groups again.

Mary Travers

The Emmaus Group

The group met weekly during Lent 2019 to study the Diocesan Lent Course 'Living Christ'. Father Stephen kindly hosted these meetings at his home. Meetings resumed monthly after Easter 2019 at 35 Penlands Vale.

During the past year the York Course 'Glimpses of God' has provided ample material as a base for prayer, study, reflection and much discussion.

Lent 2020 started with weekly meetings for quiet reflection based on the book 'Walking the Way of the Cross.' - Playing sacred music during the pauses between each station. Unfortunately, meetings have now been suspended as all members have to self-isolate due to the current Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic. We will resume when it is safe to do so.

This is a very friendly group and we will continue to keep in contact by telephone during the crisis.

Any enquiries please To Barbara 01903 812823

Beta Group Report

We studied the Diocesan Lent course in 2019. We have also studied ‘Life to the Full’ and have just started ‘Superstar’, both York courses, the latter postponed until social distancing measures have ended.

We are a regular group of 5-6 members meeting every 3-4 weeks, in our homes. Our study material is from the Church Office and available for others.

Nick Middleton

The Study Group

During this last year the Study Group has welcomed new members and although some would like to meet more regularly, just once a month still feels right for the majority. We have continued to look at New Testament books, and have finished Acts, and, by looking at a chapter an evening, we have studied the letters of James, and just before Lent we were studying the letters of Peter. The Lent course we chose was a meditative look at the events of Holy Week and this has been used weekly by us trying to be quiet on a Tuesday evening when we all would have met together. Very powerful to have joined-up individual prayers. As I write we are seeking ways to provide spiritual help for the group until this pandemic ends.

Chris Fitton