

THE ARK TODDLER GROUP

2016 REPORT

The Ark continues to thrive. We had the usual group of children leave to start school at the end of the summer term, but their places were soon taken by new families, and we have had quite an influx of babies, some joining us when they are only a few days old. Some of our members are very regular, never missing a week, and some are very sporadic, but that allows us to welcome more families. Our record attendance was at the start of November, when we had 39 children (plus their carers) but we usually have around 25 children.

We have had some changes to the team. Sadly, Andy Stratford and Nick Hemsley felt it was time for them to move on, but the remaining team of Elaine Davenport, Jane Hill, Bob Jay and myself have been joined by Jenny Dickin, Sue Williams and Fiona Ryder. However, there is always room for more on the team – would you like to join us?

This year's outing was to Staunton Country Park and despite dreadful weather, the children met and stroked (if they were brave enough) a giant snail, centipede, guinea pigs (much more cuddly) and goats. We ate our picnics together in the shelter of one of the buildings. At Christmas we showed the Bible Society's "The Well Good News of Christmas" animation, and every family was given the accompanying book, as well as each child receiving a Nativity Story book.

Our big news is that from Easter, the Ark will be moving to the church hall. The government is offering some parents 30 hours childcare a week from next September. Consequently, the pre-school who use Westbrook Hall for 4½ days need the extra session. The Ark team and the PCC felt it would be wrong to put that charity's business in jeopardy when we have the church hall that we can use.

Jo Snares

Fellaship 2016 Report

During 2016, 'Fellaship' has continued to organise inclusive, affordable and predominantly social events to appeal to those on the fringes or outside of any formal church group or meeting.

Our events during 2016 were mainly for men and due to various reasons were unfortunately fewer than those actually planned for the year.

Only one event was 'joint', with wives/partners attending.

Depending on the event and venue, attendance was from a handful to a dozen or more.

Besides our Annual Planning Meeting, the events organised and held by Fellaship during 2016 included:

- 'Christmas' Meal (January)
- Southwick Map Room Tour
- Ballards Brewery Tour
- Day trip to France (Caen)

Due to the nature of the events organised and those attending, no collections were taken for our nominated charity during the year.

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SWIFT REPORT 2016

We have had a very successful year and have enjoyed several good speakers who talked on a variety of subjects. These were: Tony Finlay who spoke about “Growing old disgracefully”, The Rainbow Trust- an outline of the valuable work it does, PARCS (Portsmouth Abuse and Rape Counselling Service) who told us what they do for both adults and children who have been abused and Smile. Smile is a charity which exists to support and raise funds for a respite facility for disabled children. Dave Allport gave a very interesting talk on “Life in a blue suit” and we also heard a talk from “Hearing Dogs for the Blind”. During the year we had two trips to the theatre, one in March to see “Anything Goes” and one in September to see “The Full Monty” and these were enjoyed by all members who attended. We also had a skittles match with the Men’s Group which was a really good evening. In addition a Christmas meal was well attended at The Ship and Bell in Horndean in November. The two charities we particularly supported in the year were PARCS and the Rocky Appeal and we were able to give a substantial donation to each. At our meeting in December we played several games and enjoyed a bring and share supper. Our group meets once a month on the third Monday at 8pm in the upper hall and new members are always welcome.

Chris Foyle

Chairman

Social and Fundraising

Reports 2016

Church Fayres

2016 has seen a transition in the church fayres as the 'reins' of management were handed over to a fresh team between the Spring and Christmas fayres.

So the May fayre followed our traditional pattern with good use made of both the hall and outdoor space (as we can only do in the spring), and with our usual tables of plants, ever popular bacon butties, crafts, raffle, bric-a-brac, children's activities, treasure hunt in church and an appearance from our local community police.

The fayre was well attended and raised close to £1500..... *Denise Willaims*

Under new management the Christmas fayre aimed to offer some extra attractions to young families and bring in some new ideas and focus, whilst continuing to support the traditional elements of the fayre that had been enjoyed by so many over the years and were important to the senior patrons.

The layout of the main hall replicated previous years. The upstairs hall, children had the opportunity to visit Santa's grotto, make Christmas crafts and play all sorts of games.

Financially we raised £1600, our achievement was the response.. Families had felt comfortable the children were kept occupied which enabled the families to stay longer. The senior patrons enjoyed the tradition and felt the environment was more relaxed.

Overall a great start for us as a new team, 2017 we have signed up to support the continuation of the fayres and are in early stages of planning.. *.Hayley Parker*

Denise and Val have continued to organise the popular fish and chip quiz in April with Steve and Joy Day masterminding the quiz.. It was great fun and raised £495 for the much needed funds of Community Coffee Cup. The Friday Group agreed to run the Autumn quiz..... *Val Strutt*

Havant Deanery Synod – report for the year 2016

Synods took place during the year on 3 February at St Faith's, Havant; on 9 June at St Thomas, Bedhampton; and on 22 November at COGS. The principal feature of each synod was the addresses from visiting speakers.

In February, Archdeacon of Portsdown Joanne Grenfell and diocesan head of mission Anthony Rustell spoke in detail on the Portsmouth diocesan strategy 'Live/Pray/Serve', stressing its strategic importance. In June, the speaker was Robert Sanday, diocesan advisor to people with disabilities and also vicar of Netley Abbey, who spoke on ministry to deaf persons and to disabled persons more generally. In November, retired priest Giles Harris-Evans, formerly serving at Petersfield, described the troubled life of Palestinian Christians, while diocesan youth adviser Ben Mizen commended the 'Pray. Break. Read' initiative for creating pastoral links between parishes and local schools. Summaries of all these addresses are available.

At each meeting, a representative of the host church described features of local ministry. Thus, in February, vicar of St Faith's Tom Kennar described his parish's social outreach work and local mission development plan. In June, churchwarden Sandra Matthews profiled the shared but varying ministries at St Thomas and St Nicholas churches in Bedhampton, while in November Andrew Goy showcased COGS' chaplaincy project for the South Downs College and also its Wilderness project designed to create a helpful space for people struggling with mental health issues among other difficulties .

In November, synod members received the Havant Deanery Plan (July 2016), which had been previewed at the February synod. This contains the deanery review of 2014, summarises the deanery's current state, and sets out recommendations for the future. With regard to ministry and vocations, these include the establishment of clusters and shared posts; a 'reimagining' of ministry alongside traditional models; and urges encouragement to individuals to consider God's calling. The document, regarded as important, is available.

During the year a total of £2000 was provided to the Koforidua diocese in Ghana for its ongoing building project. Of this sum, £1000 was transferred from existing deanery funds: therefore, as at 31 December, the deanery's cash balance was £1368, a reduction of approximately £1000 on the previous year. Deanery expenses in 2016 totalled almost £336.

EBH 18.02.17

Women's Fellowship Report for APCM

From January 2016 to December 2016

2016 has been a good year for St Wilfrid's Women's Fellowship, we have had a variety

of both entertaining and thought provoking talks.

These include a talk on the work of the Leprosy Mission, and more locally on Hannah's Holiday Homes.

At the beginning of the year, Maureen Adrous told us some funny stories and later

in May comedian Tony Findlay entertained us.

Julia Smee from Portsmouth College came to show us how to do various crafts, and

came again to help us decorate a Women's Fellowship Cow for the annual Cow Trail.

In the Autumn Edinburgh Wool Mill shop came to give us a couple of demonstrations

of their latest styles, and members were able to purchase clothes at a 20% discount.

In September we were entertained by Cowplain Ukelele Band, and in November we

had a lesson in Hand Bell ringing, by the Petersfield W.I.group.

We held a Strawberry Tea at Erica Close in June, and raised £173-80p for W.F. Funds.

In October there was our annual Craft Competition which this year was ably judged by

Susan Williams, and was won by Maggie Mobsby with a beautifully knitted Black

and White man's jumper.

Another highlight of the year was a party to celebrate the Queens 90th Birthday, in which

the national colours of red, white and blue were prominent, and a topical quiz was organised by our secretary Allison Gale.

We have had an average of 22 members per meeting bringing in an income of £443

Other income has come from bi-monthly raffles, prizes donated by members, and a

sales stall run by Eileen Gordon.

Rental charges were £160

We have donated £100 to the Rosemary Foundation

£100 to Messy Church
and £100 to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance

Service.

Throughout the year members bring all their spare small coin which is collected by

Susan Wilkinson and donated to the MacMillan Nurses. In total this came to £91-53 in 2016.

The Women's Fellowship bank account showed a balance of £1787-87 in December.

I think this report shows that St Wilfrid's Women's Fellowship is a thriving and happy group and a valued part of St Wilfrid's Church.

Safeguarding Report 2016

We have continued during 2016 to be up to date with our safer recruitment and have written policies for both children and adults who may be at risk.

We have been asked to place even more emphasis on safeguarding adults who may be at risk. We have been told by the Diocese it is "about identifying gaps in safeguarding and plugging them."

We have also had a high percentage of people trained, either online or face to face. The training dates are posted on the notice board in the foyer and it is everyone's responsibility to ensure they attend where applicable.

Mary Daisy, from the Diocese and myself met with Yvonne Carter who trains in recognising domestic abuse. The Diocese then put on a pilot session which has since become mandatory for leaders. A good number of us from St. Wilfs attended this pilot session and found it very informative. Leaflets are available in the foyer.

We were audited by the Diocese and I am pleased to say we were given an excellent report. However, that does not mean we can ever be complacent. Safeguarding is known for continually changing and there is a big need to keep informed. Ian and I continue to chat with or meet with Mary Daisy from the Diocese to ensure how we can provide up to date best practice at St. Wilfrid's.

As always my thanks to all those who work with children or adults who may be at risk, and for undertaking the various checks and training. Without you all, we could not undertake this valuable work.

Val Strutt

Safeguarding Rep



Little Fishes Under Fives 2016

Our second year of Little Fishes began in April when our numbers swelled to well over (a somewhat noisy) forty and we saw some of our original 'bumps' become beautiful little one year old characters in their own right. What a privilege to witness such miracles! And what fun sharing Teddy Bears' Picnic and Easter.

When pre-school claimed many of our original group in September, we were excited to welcome new friends with babies and, in fact, most Friday mornings bring new toddlers to swim in the ball pool or demolish the pop-up house. Thankfully for them, but sadly for the Little Fishes, Racquel and Fiona have now found work. We miss them a great deal and treasure our faithful, loving, supportive and prayerful team.

Sonia Passingham



St Wilfrid's
Cowplain

Want to Paint? 2016



I believe that each member of the group continues to be surprised by their own growing capabilities.

It was certainly worth while spending a whole term working with the realities of perspective and thought provoking that the laws even apply to cloud formations and waves.

We've experimented with figures in the landscape – also victims of the laws of perspective!

But, of course, it's really all about colour—beautiful, mouth watering colour, be it pastels, acrylics, watercolours, pencils or inks. Come and try; that's why we're called Want to Paint? You'll find us in the upper hall on Thursdays between 1.30 and 3.30 pm. Welcome.

Sonia Passingham

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St Wilfrid's
Cowplain

Community Coffee Cup Report 2016

We continued to have our regular visitors to Coffee Cup and especially during the better weather we attracted visitors from the nearby park.

We celebrated our 2nd birthday in February, with a good crowd and the Deputy Mayor Councillor Faith Ponsonby helped us celebrate, asking to be invited back in 2017 for our 3rd birthday.

We have managed to be self sufficient this year, with kind donations of food from Co-op at Cowplain. We need to pay rental at just over £100 per calendar month, and fund raising is very important. We were very fortunate to have been chosen as one of Waterlooville Waitrose's chosen charities for their Green Token Schemes in December and were given £196.

Although we place emphasis on fundraising , we also work hard at getting ourselves known, so we would appreciate the whole church helping us to do this, as we seek to bring God's love for his people into the community.

We are so blessed with a wonderful team of volunteers who give their time, and importantly enjoy doing so, and we cannot thank them enough.

Val and Dave Strutt

WESTBROOK CHURCH REPORT 2016

It became increasingly clear to the Westbrook Committee, and the majority of the wider congregation of Westbrook Church, that we needed to be honest about the sustainability of the Westbrook Church Sunday morning fellowship.

Many people were feeling the pressure to continue with the status quo of the church but the reality was that the manpower needed for delivering a worthwhile, meaningful service was decreasing rapidly.

Several conversations were held with Ian and it was with reluctance that Westbrook Church morning services were suspended in June 2016. We held a thanksgiving service that morning and then retired to the Plough and Barleycorn to enjoy lunch and fellowship together.

The Ark Toddler Group continues to be held at Westbrook Hall each week. (see separate report)

The Community Coffee Cup (CCC) also continues at Westbrook Hall each week. (see separate report)

The monthly evening service of praise & prayer continues on the 3rd Sunday evening at 6;30pm.



This year saw us making new friends and welcoming established ones, we have always tried to keep our subjects as varied as possible, and are encouraged to try new media and subjects to keep our selves fresh and challenged, which keeps the group young at heart!

Debbi Hide (Feb 19th) was a new guest, and we tried our hand at, a fox in water colour, the twist was this one took on an abstract form and was only painted in blue! Despite us using the same image everyone's came out slightly different, which was a surprise.

Melannie Cambridge (March 14th) held a workshop 10 to 4pm this time using acrylic, inks and pastels we were encouraged to produce a large picture mainly featuring trees, but we could put in various textures and colours as our personal choice. Melannie has visited us before and it quite a character, so we had an enjoyable day, producing expressive bold paintings.

Elizabeth Baldin (May 27) this time a return to watercolour, and large sunflowers, Elizabeth was a breath of fresh air, showing us how to paint with plenty of water, and dropping in colours, painting negatively behind our subject to make the flowers "stand out" emphasis was on "loose" interpretation, and she gave a critique of everyone's work which helped us to appreciate the finer points of the day.

This year we held a summer workshop for the first time, inviting Debbi Hide back in August, where we used the fox image again but this time used inks, acrylic and oil colour to produce a more realistic image, and she showed us how to produce lifelike fur with oil over painting, I know some would have preferred to do a new subject, but I feel it was helpful to use a familiar subject in the time allowed.

Our final guest was our favourite Dave White (Sept 9th) making his 6th appearance, this time we used acrylic for pure abstract work, pouring, scrubbing, and marbling the paint which produced a good back ground, and could be developed into a strong image, being an all day workshop gave us plenty of one to one time with Dave, although we were quite messy at times it proved useful for all those who find backgrounds difficult.

Our annual exhibition, in October, saw us with new faces at the tables, and although the days seemed quiet, with a smaller footfall, we took more than last year raising £500 to be split between St Wilf's and The Hants and I.O.W Air Ambulance, thanks again to the support of the group members, and all the visitors who supported us a BIG THANK YOU !

Church Partnership Youth Group Report for APCMs 2017

St. James, All Saints and St. Wilfrid's



← our new logo – designed by the young people!

Every year I start my report by saying that it has been a busy and exciting year at The Friday Group, and this year is no exception! The group, open to all, whether church-goers or not, is for 14-18 year olds, and continues to meet on a Friday evening at St. Wilfrids, Cowplain in term time and often in school holidays too. The structure of the evening remains generally the same: a shared meal, teaching and discussion followed by hot chocolate and cakes with either games or chill time. About once every half term we have informal games nights. We always have fun together!

The group leader continues to be Jenny Tait (SJ*) with Robin Jones (SW*) as deputy leader. During this last year, Lucy Tait (SJ*), who was in the role of assistant leader, left to get married and move away, and Stephen Bolton (SW*) was made up from assistant leader to leader. We would really like to bring in another female leader, so if you feel that youth work might be where God is leading you, please speak to one of the leaders. Our work with the group is very relational, coming alongside the young people and providing them with space to explore the Christian faith and its application to their culture and life experience, as well as opportunities to encounter God through our discussions, reflection times and worship. To this end, we also attend the Joint Youth Celebration once every half term, which is an ecumenical gathering for youth groups in the area, hosted each time by one of the participating youth groups.

Our sessions this last year have continued to be under the theme of discipleship, and have included finishing the Prayer Course (an HTB video and questions resource); looking at different old and new testament bible characters, and the aspects of discipleship they demonstrated; and prophecy and incarnation in the context of Christmas. In Spring 2017 we've explored practical aspects of Christian living, eg our attitudes/behaviour regarding gossip, alcohol and pornography, along with looking at topics chosen by the young people themselves, eg the Persecuted Church, different denominations, Lent, and facing preconceived ideas from others about our Christian faith. We plan to re-run Youth Alpha after Easter and, very excitingly, a weekend away in the New Forest in the summer! We hope to lead morning worship at each of

the three churches that form the youth group partnership at some point this year. We also prepared and ran a quiz night at St. Wilfrid's in September, something we'd like to offer all the churches at some point in the autumn term.

Since last year's APCM, we have lost a few group members due to work, moving away and outgrowing the group. Two new people have joined, so we still have seven very regular members. A highlight of 2016 was the baptism of Jenny Dicken, in a paddling pool in the garden of St. Wilf's. Jenny is now doing the Diocesan Discovery Gap Year at St. Wilfrid's. Last summer, for the second year running, Sophie Inwood did a week's mission work with United Beach Missions at Lyme Regis. We saw Sophie come back hugely encouraged and strengthened in her faith.

My personal thanks go to co-leaders Robin and Stephen (and formally Lucy), whose support of me and commitment to the group make them a joy to work with, as well as to the young people themselves, who weekly inspire us and bring us great joy and laughter.

I finish with my usual request to all church members of SJ*, AS* and SW* please, for prayer for the young people and leaders in the group as we seek God and grow together.

Jenny Tait

10th March 2017

* SW – St. Wilfrid's SJ – St. James' AS – All Saints'