



Windmill United Benefice

The parishes of Burstow, Horne and Outwood

Rector: Revd Nicholas Calver
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Summer 2017

The Mothers Union summer garden party was held on a hot afternoon in mid June. The many visitors who enjoyed the tea and delicious food helped raise a total of £270, half of which will go the Mothers Union 'Summer of Hope' appeal and worldwide fund and half will support the local group.



CAMEO enjoyed its annual tea in the Rectory garden in early July. After two years of terrible weather, it was good to be outside! CAMEO stands for Come And Meet Each Other and all are most welcome. The next meeting will be in Smallfield Church Hall at 2pm on 4 August when there will be a talk from a fire protection officer.

then burst into tears. He asked if he could help and learned her sister had just been diagnosed with cancer so he hesitantly offered to pray for her and ended up with ten others also asking to be prayed for. What a revelation on what can happen when we are brave enough to admit to our faith.

The lunch was great despite the long queues (gave time to chat to more people – chatted to one with memories of the greasy spoon at Gatwick). I did take a while to realise that the chairs were all a little lower than I was used to. The stewards were great at letting everyone know which way to go for the various workshops and even found an

extra chair for me on one occasion. Kay very kindly undertook to change my workshops to ground floor locations to save long walks and this meant I went to great courses which I had not originally chosen and Jo took notes for me on one that I had missed. The chauffeur was great too, even though he forgot his cap. Thank you, Moira, for your inspirational part in the proceedings. I will be going through the notes and papers and thinking about the course for ages. I expect others attending with have come away with lots of other things to think about, there were so many things to choose.

Margaret Hobson



The Archdeacon of Reigate, Ven Moira Astin, made her first visit to the Windmill United Benefice at the joint Trinity service on 11 July. Trinity celebrates God as three in one – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – and is a good time to celebrate the creation of the benefice when three churches came together as one. Moira encouraged us to consider the importance of names and how we can be known by different names and in different ways, and yet still be the same person. Some people you meet, she said, will say they don't believe in God. If they do, ask them which God they don't believe in. The chances are that you don't believe in that God either – you are a follower of the God who is, and has chosen for us to discover him as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, full of love and grace, and who brings us together.

Serve, Enable, Lead

The benefice was well represented at the Croydon Episcopal Area Lay Conference, held at St Bede's School on 10 June. Here, three of those who attended share their experiences

The Conference was great. The corporate worship was uplifting – so many voices praising God. I attended three workshops which were all fulfilling: Leading intercessions; Sage and ministry to the elderly; and Connecting with your community.

The last workshop was very dynamic. Our first exercise was to hold a smile for 30 seconds which most of us attained. We learnt how to be more welcoming and unwrapping, learning the story rather than judging the appearance, along with many other

things, and remembering that we are all different but just as loved in God's sight. We were given smile stickers and suggestions of where to put them. I very much liked the suggestion of placing a sticker on our steering wheel to remind us to smile whilst stuck in traffic or when someone doesn't obey the rules of the road. It just makes you feel better when you smile.

We learnt different ways of making our church more accessible to the community we live in and hopefully to encourage more people to join us in



Looking at Pentecost and the prodigal son



June Messy Church (above and right) focused on the power of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Activities included making doves – birds of peace but also of power, said Nicholas; icing flame biscuits; seeing the power of the wind; and writing flame prayers. In July the theme was the Prodigal Son (left and below). After looking up at planes outside and checking where they were coming from, just as the father looked out for his son, we decorated biscuits as guests to the welcome party, created the father’s welcoming hands and realised that multi-coloured Smarties are all the same on the inside. God waits to welcome us and loves us all equally, even though we’re all different.



Successful summer events have taken place in all three churches recently. The Outwood Summer Fair (right) was held in conjunction with the Horticultural Society Early Summer show, the Burstow quiz was a evening of brain challenges, while the Horne Barn Dance (below) saw dancing to the live, home-grown band. All raised much-needed funds but were also great fun community events



worshipping the God of ALL. I am so glad I was able to go.

Jo Coulson-Davies

This was a day that was packed with interesting and informative activities, excellent, entertaining and inspiring keynote speeches given by Mark Russell (CEO of The Church Army) and Bishop Jonathan and two services of worship that seemed to me to be the

glue that bound the day.

In particular, I found the afternoon worship service a profoundly expressive spiritual experience when we renewed our baptismal commitment to Christ. This included making the sign of the cross on our neighbour’s forehead. Later water was blessed and Moira did her best to sprinkle it over as many of us as she could! Profound but in a different way!

For me it was a day that fed the mind, body and spirit during which I experienced the joy of worship with 250 of my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, the generosity of the refreshments and a wonderful lunch and I collected useful practical information that can help us to take St Mary’s forward as our place of worship and the centre for our community.

Sue Wates

We had a really good day at St Bede’s School. The services and Christian fellowship were wonderful (I have already used some ideas in my intercessions at Burstow!)

Mark Russell (chief of The Church Army) gave an inspiring address and I was lucky enough to have chosen a workshop which he led. When he was on a train journey he saw a women sitting opposite answer her phone and