

## Social Committee report 2018/2019

On behalf of the Social Committee, which has been chaired throughout the year by Simon Preece, I report on activities during the last year as follows:-

- May 12<sup>th</sup>      **May Fayre in Blacksmith's Meadow.** Although the weather forecast was a cause for concern, in the event, apart from an early morning shower, the weather was kind to us once again. We had more stalls than ever before and a major part of the event was the dog show. More dogs than had been anticipated took part and in truth the show ring was too small. This will be rectified next time.  
The Lymphstone Training Band were with us all afternoon and they played all the usual fete favourites to keep visitors in a 'jolly' mood. They were quite superb and it was a pleasure to have them with us. Some of the band members were very young.  
The Countess of Devon (AJ Langdon), performed the opening ceremony and visited all areas of the fayre, talking to so many people on her tour. She was a delightful presence, showing genuine interest in the exhibits. I was a bit worried when she arrived only just in time for the grand opening ceremony. Overall the fete was seen as a resounding success and as usual a substantial sum of money was raised for the church - £2,920. I think we would all agree that apart from raising money for the church the event has now become a cherished community get-together.
- June 16<sup>th</sup>      **Cream tea at the home of Sue Bretherton.** This was a most enjoyable event with excellent numbers attending. The cream tea itself was very well organised, Sue having enlisted the services of some of her W.I. friends to help. The weather held up well with most people sitting outside in the sunshine, occasionally holding on to the gazebos in the face of strong gusts of wind. There was a particularly impressive table of raffle prizes with the raffle seeming to go on for hours. The event raised approximately £500 for the church.
- July 14<sup>th</sup>      **Great Village Sausage Sizzle.** This was organised by Samantha Chalmers and husband Ross with the aid of family and friends. A wonderful event with very large numbers attending. Although the Sizzle was initially designed solely to raise funds for the Dystonia Society, Sam and Ross kindly donated £500 to the church with a balance of approximately £900 going to the Dystonia Society. The delicious sausages had been donated by Ed and Emma Mortimer and there was a huge number of puddings on offer prepared by ladies from the village. It has now been confirmed by Sam that another similar event will be held this current year.
- July 22<sup>nd</sup>      **Songs of Praise.** It was a most enjoyable service but disappointingly not enough people attended. It emerged that other churches within the benefice were also holding services on that evening and the committee felt that the Songs of Praise event should be the only service available on future occasions. Members of the congregation were invited to choose their favourite hymns giving reasons for their choices. Particular mention should be made of the excellent questioning technique employed by John Wood.
- September 9<sup>th</sup>      **Ride and Stride.** I regret that I have no information for this event.

- October 7<sup>th</sup> **Harvest Festival followed by Bring and Share lunch.** An enjoyable service with the church looking splendid but once again the service was not particularly well attended. The committee is looking at ways in which more people can be encouraged to come to the service. In the meantime it is grateful to all those who provided items for what was a very impressive table of food.
- October 12<sup>th</sup> **Quiz Evening in the Kenn Centre.** There were 18 teams compared with 14 in the previous year and it was, once again, an evening of great fun and enjoyment especially when the pasties arrived. The evening was fronted by the ever professional question master, Kelvin Boot. Some negative feedback was received regarding the type of questions this time where it was felt they might not have been sufficiently challenging. I have to say that I found them extremely challenging.
- November 24<sup>th</sup> **Christmas Fayre.** This really has moved on apace over the past 3 years under Paul Rycroft's control. The hall was superbly decorated with many stall holders wearing traditional Christmas costumes and there was the usual buzz of excitement throughout the entire morning as children waited for the arrival of Father Christmas.  
Although there was a perception that visitor numbers were a bit lower, this was not reflected in the generated income which reached £2,131 – a record. There is a feeling that the fayre is held too early and a December date would be better. The committee is trying to find a later date and I think this will now be on 30<sup>th</sup> November in 2019.
- December 16<sup>th</sup> **Carol Service.** The church was full for Carols by Candlelight and most people agreed that it was the best carol service for many years.
- January 25<sup>th</sup> **Kate & Sally's Bacon Bap lunch.** This was not a church sponsored event but the church still gained from it. There were not as many diners as in the previous year but the Kenn centre still looked very busy as we all enjoyed our bacon rolls. The main beneficiary was the Dystonia Society but Kate & Sally kindly donated £380 to the church.

**The Charity Lunches** during Lent held in March and April will hopefully be well supported. This year the proceeds will be divided amongst four charities, namely Water Aid, Red Cross, Mercy Ships and Sight Savers.

**Coffee mornings** have continued in Church on 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. Whilst the numbers attending has increased, we would still like to attract greater numbers, especially the elderly who live on their own and would, perhaps, benefit from some company.

On behalf of the Social Committee Chairman I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has made time to provide help to the Committee for the last 12 months.

That concludes the report from the Social Committee.

Mervyn Hosking

17<sup>th</sup> March 2019