

Socials

And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encourage one another. *Hebrews 10:24-25*

Aims

Social activities at St. Mary's have two aims:

- * To help the church family to get to know each other better by spending time and having fun together
- * To provide a friendly, welcoming atmosphere for those on the fringe, new to the church or friends and neighbours.

So it is separate from, but closely linked with the Outreach Group, and we've had various events this last year to try to achieve these aims. Some of these are purely social, others are specifically to raise funds. The Group is currently made up of all women but we would love to have a couple of men join us - any offers?. We meet once or twice a year.

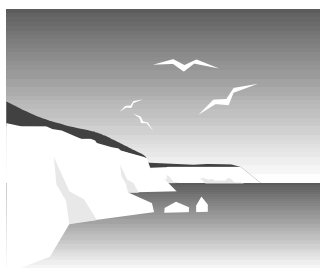
Events Held

The three **Lent Lunches** provided us with an opportunity to learn more from the Petersfield Counselling Service, the Kings Arms and Butser Homestart, each followed by a simple lunch together. The profits from each lunch were given to the respective speakers.

Passover meals were held in several homes, giving us an opportunity to learn and reflect on the Jewish celebration of Passover - a meal and worship, appreciated by about forty people in all.



Coney Acres at Queen Elizabeth Country Park makes a great venue for a **Bar-B-Q**, and about seventy people of all ages enjoyed a lovely July evening there, with plenty to eat and games for all.



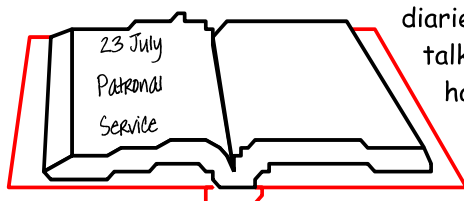
In September we hired a double decker bus to take us to **West Wittering** for the day. Thankfully it was fine, though cloudy and warm enough for most to at least paddle, and it was difficult to get some others out of the water (and that wasn't just the children!). For some children this was their first outing on a double decker, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and considered a great success in furthering our aims. We did make a considerable loss on it, however, making us a little wary of launching into trying something very different again, unless we can be sure of support.

Our **Harvest Supper** included a Barn Dance, enjoyed by many and it was good to welcome a few different faces to this event.

The **Quiz Night** was hailed a success, and there was a request for this to become a regular event, and it's surprising what one learns, not just facts, but about other people!



We try to publicise social happenings in plenty of time so that you can note the dates in your diaries, and we have lots planned for this year. If you have ideas please talk to me and perhaps you may see it happening in the next year! So, have we achieved our aims? Perhaps only you can judge, but when we remember the hundreds of people who have recently moved into the "village" off Ramshill, we realise we have a long way to go. However, we've had a lot of fun, and I would like to say a very big thank you to those who've helped in any way to make these events happen.



What's Planned

We are currently planning and looking at options for a Church weekend away, either at the end of this year or early next year.

We hope to be able to organise a 'Safari Supper', (moving from venue to venue for each course) towards the end of June, and to have a Bar-B-Q for everyone after the Patronal Festival in July. Look out for dates of events in the Sheet Sheet.

Sunday Morning



There is the opportunity to fulfil both aims of the Social Group after the 10am service every Sunday by coming down to the village hall and having a cup of Fairtrade coffee or tea and Geobar or biscuit. You may have noticed the chocolate chip biscuits which have appeared recently - these are new to Fairtrade and have been well received as well as being reasonably priced!

If you see someone new or fairly new at church, please invite them to come to the hall, and even better, walk down with them - there's nothing quite like a personal invitation.

Olivia Tottle (Socials Coordinator)

Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust ~ Cycle Ride

Saturday 10 September 2005

Four cyclist from St Mary's took part in this ride and the weather was very favourable. 19 of the cyclists visited St Mary's and I give thanks to our faithful Stewards, our sponsors and the cyclists. £147 was raised in sponsorship.

Eric Gorvin (Coordinator)

**There is little good in filling churches with people
who go out exactly the same as they came in;
the call of the Church is not to fill churches
but to fill heaven.**

Fr Andrew SDC - The Way of Victory