

## **Pastoral care**

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. Revd Martin Cawte has visited all who have requested it, to celebrate communion with them either at their homes or in hospital. He has also visited families in advance of baptisms and the next of kin following a death to assist in the preparation of funerals and to provide pastoral care to those who are grieving.

## **Mission and evangelism**

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. The church is actively engaged in fund raising. This year we made £100 donations to the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution, the Friends of the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit at Southampton General Hospital, the Children's Society and Christian Aid. Sponsorship for Ride & Stride raised £300 for the Berkshire Churches Trust and half of this was returned to our church funds.

We contribute articles to the monthly editions of Village Views magazine which is edited and distributed by volunteers in all three parishes at an annual cost of £4. The Benefice also has a weekly information sheet, Valley Welcome, which contains notices of importance to the life of the church and includes the collects and readings set for each Sunday. A Diocesan newspaper "The Door" is also made available to those attending services.

The Benefice held prayer walks during the summer months and one of these was in East Garston.

We provided a refreshment marquee at the community Garstonbury musical event in July and the proceeds made a valuable contribution to church funds.

A very successful afternoon concert of "Timeless Classics for Cello and Strings" was organised in September in All Saints Church. The international cellist Philip Daish-Handy and his accompanist Martin Penrose were joined by the West Berkshire Strings under the direction of Patricia Glover.

The church organises East Garston's annual Remembrance Service. This year a service in church was followed by the Act of Remembrance at the village war memorial. The Wantage Academy Brass played for the service and then led the Vicar and over 50 villagers from the church to the war memorial. After the Last Post, the Silence and Reveille, wreaths were laid on behalf of the Royal British Legion, All Saints Church and East Garston Parish Council.

Just before Christmas, after a splendid display by the Garston Gallopers in the car park, our "choir" led the singing of carols in a packed Queens Arms. Thanks to Sue and Freddie Tulloch for publicising and hosting the evening and to Stephen Holmes and some of the Lambourn choir for helping to enhance the singing. A collection raised almost £360 for church funds.

Our team of bellringers very ably support our presence in the village by ringing in advance of our regular services, for weddings and occasionally for funerals. They have also rung a muffled peal on several occasions during the year on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of parishioners who lost their lives during the First World War. These men were also remembered during the service closest to the anniversary.

The church supports the Food Bank by providing a collection point in the porch for contributions from those attending our regular Sunday services.