

St Mark's Shared Church, Bordon, Hampshire



Annual Report 2023

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Agenda

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING 2024 – AGENDA

The Annual Church meeting will be held in St Mark's Shared Church, Pinehill Road, Bordon on Sunday 7 April 2024 at 11:30am.

The business of the meeting shall include:

1. The election of Ecumenical Church Representatives of the laity as follows:
 - a. Five church elders
 - b. Treasurer
 - c. Two ecumenical church council representatives
 - d. Two representatives for the Methodist Circuit meeting
 - e. Two representatives for the Anglican Deanery Synod
 - f. Three Joint Church Council representatives

2. To review and formally accept:
 - a. Minutes of the ACM on 23 April 2023
 - b. The vicar's report
 - c. An annual report on the financial affairs of the church by the Treasurer plus the audited ECC accounts for the year ending 31 December 2023
Resolution 2 – this meeting accepts the inspected accounts as submitted to the ACM
Resolution 3 – this meeting thanks Margaret Heathcote, the circuit inspector and appoints her for the next year
 - d. Annual reports from the church sub committees
 - e. Electoral Roll report

Annual Church Meeting Minutes 2023

The Annual Church Meeting was held in St. Mark's Shared Church, Pinehill Road, Bordon on **Sunday the twenty-third of April, two thousand and twenty-three (23/04/2023), at eleven thirty am (11.30am) in the morning.**

Present: Chris & Jane Jaques, Mavis Pritchard, Barbara Horswell, Derek & Dawn Beesley, Faith Thomas, Rob Jeffels, Colin Leach, Jan Knight, Sue Morley – Jones, Patrick Ward, Revd. Iain & Caroline Robertson, Vicki Slater, Anne Pegler, Jo Taw, Walter Cameran Mennie, Joy Smith, Deacon Janice Hacon, Alex Carey, David Arnott, Terry Hoar, Paul & Erica Ratcliffe.

Apologies: Michael Huber, Richard & Sue Shrimpton, Anne Smith

Chaired by Iain Robertson who opened with prayer.

1 The election of Ecumenical Church Representatives of the laity as follows:

1.1 Five Church Elders

Church warden - Robin Jeffels, proposed by Anne Pegler, seconded by Vicki Slater. Carried unanimously and duly elected.

Church warden – vacancy.

Methodist Steward – vacancy.

Methodist steward – vacancy.

URC Elder – Faith Thomas, proposed by Caroline Robertson, seconded by Dawn Beesley. Carried unanimously and duly elected.

1.2 Treasurer

Vacancy

1.3 Six Ecumenical Church Council Representatives

Alex Carey, proposed by Anne Pegler, seconded by Vicki Slater

Anne Pegler, proposed by Vicki Slater, seconded by Caroline Robertson

Vicki Slater, proposed by Anne Pegler, seconded by Caroline Robertson

Erica Ratcliffe, proposed by Sue Hoar, seconded by Derek Beesley

Two vacancies

All nominations were carried unanimously and duly elected.

1.4 Two Representatives for the Methodist Circuit Meeting

Dawn Beesley, proposed by Jane Jacques, seconded by Sue Morley-Jones

Derek Beesley, proposed by Vicki Slater, seconded by Jan Knight

All nominations were carried unanimously and duly elected.

1.5 Two Representatives for the Anglican Deanery Synod

Two vacancies

1.6 Three Joint Church Council Representatives

Three vacancies

Iain to have a discussion with the Elders regarding the makeup of the ECC with regards to a Quorum. Dawn Beesley stated there was a guide in the Constitution.

1.7 Electoral Roll report

54 members up 11 from last year

2 To review and formally accept:

2.1 Minutes of the APCM of 10th April 2022

Proposed by Faith Thomas, seconded by Derek Beesley. Carried unanimously.

2.2 An Annual Report by the Vicar Revd. Iain Robertson.

2.3 An Annual Report on the financial affairs of the church by the Treasurer plus the audited ECC Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2022

Resolution 1 – This meeting accepts the inspected accounts as submitted to the ACM

Resolution 2 – This meeting thanks Margaret Heathcote, the circuit inspector and appoints her for the next year, subject to her agreement.

All jointly - Proposed by Dawn Beesley, seconded by Jane Jacques. Carried unanimously.

Iain updated the situation regarding the Treasurer's position. He is meeting with Margaret Heathcote tomorrow (24 April 2023) to hopefully resolve this matter. The church laptop requires updating with all the accounts from the 01 January 2023 and hopefully with Margaret's assistance this will be satisfactorily completed.

Faith Thomas proposed that a letter be sent to Kay Davies thanking her for all her hard work on behalf of the Church over the last few years. Iain Robertson to action.

2.4 Annual reports from Church sub committees, including safeguarding were received.

Mavis Pritchard stated that the lunchtime zoom prayer meeting was no longer operating and requested it be removed from the monthly newsletter.

Proposal etc was included in that for the Financial Report.

Iain spoke about the initiative with the local mental health groups with a great sense of optimism and hope about the future.

The meeting closed with the prayer.

Addendum

On Sunday 30 April 2023 immediately following the morning service Paul Radcliffe was elected as Churchwarden. Proposed by Terry Hoare and Seconded by Caroline Robertson. Carried unanimously by those members present.

Vicar's report

To all my sisters and brothers at St Mark's. Grace, mercy, and peace from God our father and the Jesus Christ.

In many ways 2023 has been an encouraging year for us. We have overcome many obstacles of congregant ill health, family bereavements and ebb and flow of church membership.

The whole church had been dogged with ill health (including myself) and that has really affected church numbers, but not morale. After showing signs of real growth earlier in the year it was really sad to lose our lovely Indian tribe and then Terry and Sue as well. Also, ill health has kept Mel and Mary away for many months. Others also have had time off from worship this year, and we are pleased to see Derek and Dawn back with us after such a traumatic 6 months.

Another great loss to the church was Kay Davies. It has taken a year to finally fill the huge administration gap that was created with her leaving the church. Kay served St Mark's faithfully for many years, and we thank her for all her dedication and continue to wish her well for the future.

Through it all numbers have remained steady over the year, with many new members stepping up into leadership roles as well as the tried and tested members of the church staying on.

It is at this point that I need to say a huge thank you to all who have supported my ministry here. The list is too long to type out, but please be reassured that I do not take all your efforts for granted and I give thanks for you all.

The Mental Health and Wellbeing Project started in April. A massive word of thanks to Paul and Erica's dedication to run the 'Kettles ON' café on Tuesdays (see their report). It has proven to be a wonderful success, with many different groups bring their talents and skill in mental health care. Many thanks go to Emma Fyfield as our community and family's worker for getting the project off the ground. I would also like to thank the whole church as well for supporting the vision and offering their time and prayer.

Worship: I believe that what we share with each other on Sundays is good reverential informal worship that stirs the soul and lifts the spirit. We are not large in number, but we are huge in praise. Many thanks go to David and Mavis (dream team) for covering the second Sunday and bring something different from myself. Having Patrick and Jane to lead worship is a God send. I must not forget the 'tech' team running the laptop, sound desk and live stream, all encouraged and shepherded by Chris.

One blow in the calendar year was the cancellation of 'A thousand tongues to sing' due to the weather. A decision about 2024 will be made after April.

Finance: In 2023 the church paid half of its expected common fund to the diocese. This is the first time in many, many years that St Marks have moved forward with its giving. Let's continue in this upwards curve of giving in 2024.

As we push into 2024, I am reminded of this piece of encouraging scripture taken from Hebrews 12:1-3. "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart".

Love in Christ and TMV, Iain

Financial Year-End Report

Year ending 31 December 2023, St Mark's Church, Bordon

Having become Treasurer in October 2023, I can confirm that we have finished the year in a positive financial position, albeit with several cheques having been written early in the New Year. This includes a further £7,200 payment towards the Parish share, a donation of £100 to Salvation Army, in thanks for their spirit at the Christmas ceremonies and a £60 shortfall to the Methodist circuit.

You can see from the spreadsheets attached that we have finished the year with £43,867 in total funds, with the unrestricted fund being slightly down on last year, at £16,752.

I am pleased to confirm that the £4k Gift Aid in relation to the 2022 and similar expected amount from the 2023 Gift Aid scheme will both be attributed to the 2024 accounts, as both have only recently been applied for.

A word of caution, we will need to make greater efforts to sustain the Church finances moving forward.

Offerings do not currently cover the annual Parish Share to the Diocese, and we do not currently pay the full amount we are asked to contribute. To facilitate this, we have pleasure in confirming that at the February ECC it has been agreed that we can very soon begin utilising the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), this will enable us to receive monthly Gift Aid revenue rather than annually. We will be encouraging all members who contribute by Standing Order to switch to the PGS, although it will not be mandatory. More information to come soon.

Many groups are now utilising the Church under the umbrella of the Mental Health scheme, such as Kettle's On, I'm all Ears, Youth Café, Wool and Waffle, Bumps and Babies, and Mind. None of these groups provide revenue from venue hire, but they do bring footfall, so we are hopeful of additional donations being made from the new contactless card terminal that will soon be installed in the hallway. Other expenditure in the coming year that will be funded by the Mental Health grant will be a cleaner for five hours per week and a new family worker to support the local community.

In other news, we hope to move to a more flexible banking arrangement in 2024, to provide better access to the bank funds along with the ability to make online payments to suppliers, enable us to know quickly when income has been received, such as fees and charges, so we can provide a better service to our community, we will also be able to monitor expenditure more closely to help with a more risk averse position.

Given the difficulties of cost of living, particularly food and fuel costs, it is vital that we are pragmatic and bold approach to finances over the coming year. Hopefully this will enable us to make a further contribution to the Parish share later in 2024. I am sure with some fresh thinking and ideas on the 2024 ECC we can become even more pivotal in Bordon and Whitehill and we will look to become a Centre of Excellence to our local community.

I look forward to working with Reverend Iain, the Fellowship and community over the coming years.

Karen Booker
Treasurer

St Mark' Church Bordon for year ending 31 December 2023

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Receipts					
Planned giving	20,883.98	-	-	20,883.98	19,338.90
Collections and other giving	4,464.82	-	-	4,464.82	3,147.04
Other voluntary receipts	1,123.70	10,500.00	-	11,623.70	13,914.15
Gift Aid recovered	-	-	-	-	5,256.65
Other receipts	144.82	-	-	144.82	799.66
Activities for generating funds	-	-	-	-	18.55
Investment Income	301.79	-	-	301.79	372.25
Receipts from church activities	1,260.00	-	-	1,260.00	1,168.00
Total income	28,179.11	10,500.00	-	38,679.11	44,015.20
Payments					
Cost of generating funds	124.87	-	-	124.87	189.36
Missionary and Charitable Giving	740.00	-	-	740.00	708.00
Parish Share	19,760.04	-	-	19,760.04	18,245.04
Clergy and Staffing costs	336.95	4,984.97	-	5,321.92	2,299.81
Church Running Expenses	7,733.64	-	-	7,733.64	10,048.83
Church Repairs & Maintenance	-	-	-	-	2,680.00
Governance Costs	90.00	-	-	90.00	105.00
Total expenditure	28,785.50	4,984.97	-	33,770.47	34,276.04
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(606.39)	5,515.03	-	4,908.64	9,739.16
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	-	189.36	-	189.36	4,590.75
Gross transfers between funds - out	(189.36)	-	-	(189.36)	(4,590.75)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Net movement in funds	(795.75)	5,704.39	-	4,908.64	9,739.16
Total funds brought forward	19,807.09	19,150.90	-	38,957.99	29,218.83
Total funds carried forward	19,011.34	24,855.29	-	43,866.63	38,957.99

Represented by**Unrestricted**

General fund	16,752.03	-	-	16,752.03	17,547.78
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Designated

Mission & Development	2,259.31	-	-	2,259.31	2,259.31
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Restricted

Chaplaincy	-	881.44	-	881.44	881.44
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Family Worker	-	11,473.85	-	11,473.85	14,958.82
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Ladies who Brunch	-	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	1,000.00
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Messy Church	-	-	-	-	(189.36)
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Whitehill Chase Community fund	-	11,500.00	-	11,500.00	2,500.00
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Total funds	19,011.34	24,855.29	-	43,866.63	38,957.99
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Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by code)

Class and nominal code	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Last year
Current Asset - Cash At Bank And In Hand						
6501: Bank current account	7,033.65	2,259.31	24,855.29	-	34,148.25	29,541.40
6510: CBF deposit account	9,718.38	-	-	-	9,718.38	9,416.59
Total	16,752.03	2,259.31	24,855.29	-	43,866.63	38,957.99
Net total assets	16,752.03	2,259.31	24,855.29	-	43,866.63	38,957.99

Represented by

General (Unrestricted)	16,752.03	-	-	-	16,752.03	17,547.78
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Designated - Mission	-	2,259.31	-	-	2,259.31	2,259.31
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Restricted - Chaplain	-	-	881.44	-	881.44	881.44
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Restricted - FWorker	-	-	11,473.85	-	11,473.85	14,958.82
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Restricted - LadyBrunch	-	-	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	1,000.00
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Restricted - Messy	-	-	-	-	-	(189.36)
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Restricted - Whitehill	-	-	11,500.00	-	11,500.00	2,500.00
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Total	16,752.03	2,259.31	24,855.29	-	43,866.63	38,957.99
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**Independent examiner's report on the accounts
for St Mark's Church Bordon**

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the members of	St Mark's Church Bordon		
On accounts for the year ended	31 December 2023	Charity no (if any)	Not applicable
Set out on pages	1-2		

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner The church council members are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church council members consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.
It is my responsibility to:

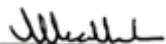
- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view, and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met.

Signed:  **Date:** 26 February 2024

Name: M V Heathcote

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body: MAAT

Address: Circuit Office, 19-21 High Street, Emsworth, PO10 7AQ

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

I need to make St Mark's Shared Church Bordon's ECC aware of some of the limitations in carrying out the examination of the 2023 annual accounts:

1. I have been involved in assisting the temporary Church Treasurer, Paul Ratcliffe, with entering the transactions from the bank statements onto the accounting software until October 2023 when Karen Booker took over as Church Treasurer. I have not been involved in dealing with any monies, bills, invoices, or cheque writing. The ECC need to agree that they are still happy to consider me to be an independent examiner.
2. I have not been able to examine a complete set of paperwork associated with the 2023 annual accounts as due to changes of personnel, it was not possible for everything to be accessed.

ECC Secretary report

The ECC met on 6 occasions during the year between APCM's on 19/06/23, 03/08/23, 07/09/23, 30/11/23, 04/01/24, 29/02/24. One meeting was cancelled in October.

Members at the start of the year: Rev Iain Robertson, Rob Jeffels , Faith Thomas , Paul Ratcliffe , Erica Ratcliffe , Anne Smith , Anne Pegler, Rev Janice Hacon , Vicki Slater, Alex Carey ,Rev David Muskett , Nigel Cox *(Mark Wade)

*During the year Nigel Cox (East Solent and Downs Methodist Circuit Treasurer), retired from his role and was replaced by Mark Wade. Mark has since joined our ECC meetings. Many thanks to Nigel for all the support and wisdom he had offered St Marks over many years.

Erica Ratcliffe
ECC Secretary

Electoral roll report

We had several members leaving for various reasons but many joining – overall the electoral roll is 54 in April 2024.

Buildings and Maintenance report

Once again, we have had a year when the help of the members of the Congregation have made my job a lot easier so I thank you all for your help.

1. We have upgraded the Café area with new tables and chairs. Thanks to Revd Iain for sourcing these items. The previous tables are now stored and are still available to use, likewise the table covers have been kept. The metal chairs that we replaced were donated to British Heart Foundation.
2. In January we had the gas feed pipe replaced as part of the necessary upgrade.
3. We had frozen pipes and no water during the last cold spell. The loft has now been further insulated and hopefully this should resolve this issue.
4. The Wing has had the PIR detector disabled due to the inconvenience of users the cost of heating 2 extra radiators is negligible.
5. The kitchen exit door has been repaired for free many thanks to Dave Cox for offering his expertise and services.
6. All three external fire doors have been repainted as per the QI recommendation.
7. Key case has now been fitted externally and all users have been briefed to keep the code confidential to ensure the security of the building.

Forthcoming expenditure includes:

5 yearly Electrical fixed wire check.

Annual gas and fire extinguisher check.

Biannual test of lightening conductor.

Repair of leaking gutters.

Rob Jeffels
Churchwarden

Church Groups

Whitehill & Bordon Mental Health & Wellbeing Project: “Kettle’s On”

The Kettles On project was started as part of Iain’s vision for a wider mental health provision within the Church. The wider project includes:

- MIND
- I’m all ears [a 121-counselling service]
- Bumps and Babies [Post-natal support group]
- Menopause Café
- Weekly youth café (run by NHS Prescribers)
- SEND [Peer Support for Parents with children with special educational needs]
- The Phoenix Choir soon to be replaced by the Woolmer Forest Choir [Mental Health Support through music and singing].
- Access to the WBCT/EDHC Poly Tunnel at Budds Lane [Mental Health Support through Gardening and Vegetable growing]
- Kettles On [A safe and welcoming space for community members to access where they can speak freely and openly be served hospitality by volunteers and signposted to Mental Health services]

Kettles On has been active since May 2023 after local advertising of the provision and after a gradual start we now see at least 10-12 regular attendees. We are open every Tuesday between 10am and 12 noon except where it falls on Christmas Day/ Boxing Day/New Years Day.

As part of this provision, we support participants with issues that can be difficult for them to manage on their own. This recently included advocating for one of our participants with an appeal to reinstate their Personal Independence Payment [PIP], as this was having a devastating effect on their mental health. I am glad to report that this was reinstated on appeal.

Anecdotally several participants have stated that the Kettles On morning has been and remains a lifeline for them and is a high point in their week, as they get to meet regulars, develop friendships, and peer support. Laughter and friendly conversation are a key element along with great Coffee and Biscuits!

Moving forward we would like to link this provision with other activities going on in the Church. We are aware of at least two participants who would like to improve their Knitting and Crafting. We will continue to encourage participants to get involved with other projects such as this and the poly tunnel as a way of extending the benefits of Kettles On.

We would also encourage church members if they were in the vicinity on a Tuesday morning to come in and meet the wonderful people who attend and who know share common interests and be witnesses to Christ’s Love.

We will start to compile empirical data to support the anecdotal information going forward to report to church in the future and to provide evidence for future funding.

Paul & Erica Ratcliffe
Volunteers Leaders of Kettle’s On

House groups

Tuesday house group

Summer of 2023 our Zoom housegroup continued to 'meet', but because Derek and I were out of action for much of the late spring and summer Mavis led with prayers for which we thank her.

After the summer we got back to studies and we have recently been looking in depth at the 23rd Psalm verse by verse reflecting on God our Good Shepherd. We also continue to pray for our Church, families, ourselves and the wider community. Listening to others and talking with others helps us to get a better understanding of the bible.

We have again joined with others for the Lent course 2024 in Church and look forward to starting housegroup again after Easter.

Dawn Beesley

Wednesday house group

God has greatly blessed us with a vibrant warm supportive house group. The Wednesday group meets, every other week, at a house in Bordon in a beautiful garden house which can easily accommodate 20 people.

There are three people who manage the group Lesley, Anne and Vicki. We gently and prayerfully guide the group to offer a structure but allow everyone to participate and lead the group if they wish.

The roots of the group started as a small house group set up by the Beacon Church in Bordon. Lesley, Anne and Vicki all attended the Beacon Church which was amalgamated with St Marks. The 15 plus members who attend the house group come from various churches. Some from the roots of the Beacon Church others belong to Standford Church, Hope Church, Headley Church, Jubilee Church and St Marks Bordon. Rev. Iain Robertson oversees the group from a pastoral aspect.

Recently when we introduced a new study program Rev Iain Robertson opened the session. He has led the group on several occasions and his wife is a regular attendee. We have social events and are linked on WhatsApp to share prayer requests or encourage one another.

We run all year including during the summer and stop during Lent to be available to attend the lent course run at St Marks by Rev Iain Robertson.

Anne Peglar

Mission Charity: Compassion

During this year I have continued to write to our two sponsored children Priscila and Abigail in Ecuador where there has been unrest and violence. We are asked to pray for the safety of the young people and their families. Priscila is now living away from home and is studying at university. I have been writing to her since she was a young child and she is always very grateful for the support she is given financially and prayerfully through St Mark's Church.

Abigail, is almost 12 years old and wants to learn English better because she finds it challenging! She enjoys her time at the Compassion project and likes going to church. She is also grateful for the help and support she and her family receive from St Mark's Church through the Compassion project.

We continue to pray for them both and their families.

As a church we also send money for them to receive a Christmas present which is usually hygiene supplies and school supplies and maybe an item of clothing. The money we send monthly as a church helps to provide them with schooling and food supplies and their families also receive support with health and hygiene training.

Letters from the girls are up on the board in the coffee bar with some information of where they live etc and a photograph of them too. Please take a little time to look and read and pray.

Dawn Beesley

Wool & Waffle

We are a group of 8-9 ladies who meet at St Mark's on a Thursday morning from 10.00 am - 12 noon.

We take our own knitting or crochet and either do our own projects or sometimes we knit things for Shoe Box Appeal and other good causes.

We do a lot of waffling but also enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits or sometimes cake!

Anyone can come and join us whether they are members of St Mark's or not. They will be very welcome.

Jane Jaques