

## St. Barnabas Church, Gillingham

### Social Committee Report April 2015

The past year has been a busy one for everyone on the Social Committee; we have continued to hold Jumble Sales, Indoor Boot Fairs, the Harvest Supper and Christmas Fair and also held our first Craft Fair in February. We have welcomed visitors from both in and out of the parish, which has helped us to raise approx. £2,100.00 since the last APCM.

Some of this money has enabled us to buy extra trestle tables, which means we are able to offer more tables to rent at the Boot Fairs and Craft Fair.

The Craft Fair was successful and we received good feedback from the 14 stall holders, who have expressed interest in us holding others. One drawback was that not many members of the public attended, however we will encourage stall holders to advertise it themselves and also to extend the times of the event.

The Harvest Supper was an enjoyable evening with a Bring and Share supper and entertainment was provided by Lizzi whose singing was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Money raised from the evening which included a raffle was donated to the charity Footsteps.

The Christmas Fair in November 2014 was well attended and we were able to offer a wider range of stalls including Craft stalls.

Our Jumble Sales and Indoor Boot Fairs have again proved popular, attended by both regular and new visitors. We have had positive feedback from the visitors who enjoy attending our events.

At Christmas we again supported the Blythswood Charity with parishioners and the Wednesday Club filling approx. 19 shoeboxes of essentials to be sent abroad for people of all ages who are less fortunate than us. These were as always very much appreciated.

Members of the Social Committee have continued to support Belinda and Natasha in the decorating of the Church at specific times of the year. Through a lot of

hard work from a small band of people we have been able to make the church look beautiful, especially at Harvest, Christmas and Easter.

I would like to thank Timothy who has designed our Facebook page, through this we are able to advertise our Social events and keep the public up to date with St. Barnabas news. We are reaching a lot more people and have received positive comments.

We as a committee are now looking forward to helping organize our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> June 2015. This will be another busy weekend and we will be looking for volunteers to help out so please keep the weekend free.

I would personally like to thank the Social Committee for all their hard work and support they have given me during the past year.

We as a committee would like to also thank members of the congregation, Wednesday club and friends and family for all their contributions to our events, without their help we wouldn't be able to continue to run these events and support our community.

**Elizabeth Walkiden, Social Committee Chairperson**