

**St Barnabas Church, Gillingham**  
**Parish Lunch & Church Building Care Report**

The Parish Lunch is held monthly on the last Sunday of each month at 1pm, after we have done some cleaning in the Church. This is how our Church stays looking cared for, attractive and welcoming. Numbers attending varies from between 20 to 45. We have our regular church attenders and also some new people who would otherwise be eating on their own and have said that they like the friendship, company and welcome St Barnabas extends to them. We hope to extend this to include the vulnerable in our parish who are facing financial challenges.

St Barnabas has an amazing interior, built we believe to contrast the severity of emptiness against the beauty of being filled with flowers and decorations, with music and people. At St Barnabas, we make the most of this having periods of time without flowers in our church, then at special times filling the church with flowers and decorations appropriate to the season. We are very grateful to a group of people who come together to decorate the church for special services at Easter, Pentecost & St Barnabas day, Harvest, for Remembrance day and Christmas. For many who have had no experience of flower arranging this was quite a challenge but through everyone working together and listening to advice from the more experienced we have gained confidence and enjoy making our Church look so beautiful.

Thank you to the many people who regularly donate money specifically for flowers in our Church.

**By Pat Stears**