

Dear Friends,

## **STANFORD-LE-HOPE FLOWER FESTIVAL**



The theme of this year's Saturday flower festival and accompanying quiz was musicals.

We had a book and games stall outside which gave us opportunities to speak to passers-by and invite them in.

Inside we had a variety of stalls, including plants and homemade jams, plus some homemade gifts. There was also an opportunity to buy Dave Amis' photographic related items.

It was extremely hot and England were playing in the Quarter Finals at 3.00pm, so we decided to close at 1.00pm. We had a chance to chat to people and invite them inside: some asked what we believe

## **HORNDON'S FEAST AND FAYRE**

At this year's Feast and Fayre the theme was "Remembering the First World War".



Our chapel contained an interesting exhibition and explanation of WWI with a special focus on its affect on the inhabitants of the village.

There were beautiful flowers arranged by Daphne and a collection was taken for the Royal British Legion. As usual we hosted refreshments, and our facilities were open for the half-marathon runners. For a small chapel we were pleased to be part of something that let us share our faith with the wider community. Over £1,000 was raised selling refreshments.

## **TUESDAY MORNINGS AT GRAYS**

For several years now a small but loyal group have been meeting for bible study from 9.30am. We have enjoyed some sessions led by Rev Brenda e.g. at Christmas and Easter. However on other weeks we meet and study together via the use of several of the many printed bible study books available. Recently we have been a little more daring and have written material ourselves which has proved to have produced some very interesting discussions, and productive contributions from those attending. Recently Maggie Watts prepared a series for us looking at the book of Nehemiah, so many of the situations were comparable to life today, and everyone agreed that it had proved to be a very worthwhile study. (I

am sure Maggie would be happy to share these study notes as she obviously spent a long time preparing them) We enjoy studying Gods word in this relaxed format and people are comfortable to suggest ideas, ask questions etc without feeling intimidated. We follow this with a time for coffee, toast, cake and chat. All are welcome.

*Margaret Fowler, Grays*

Following the successful Jazz Concert in April, along with a number of guest preachers this year, St Paul's continued to celebrate 50 years with a Flower and Craft Festival on the weekend of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of June. This was the anniversary of the opening of the building.

The theme of the flower festival was 'The Journey of Life' that began with 'birth' and ended with 'retirement and old age'. There were also floral contributions from three organizations that use our hall: Pre-school, The Wednesday Club and Slimming World

Not only was the sanctuary transformed with flowers, crafts and a prayer labyrinth; it was also an opportunity to fully appreciate the creativity and commitment the event inspired from the many who worked hard to make it a success.

We were delighted with the attendance that was perhaps helped by good weather and free ploughman's lunches! With garden games, a craft table for children and a photo display of the last 50 years there was something for everyone.

The congregation from Langdon Hills (St Paul's was originally a church plant of Langdon Hills) worshipped with us in an uplifting service taken by our minister, the Rev Dr Marion Cole who later welcomed, by transfer, Abigail Gbadeboh, into membership at St Paul's.

A wonderful weekend and an encouragement for the church family as we move forward together.

*Rev'd Kathleen Allen*