

## REPORT FROM THE EVENTS COMMITTEE 2013/2014

The year began with a new venture for St Mary's. The Hermitage ensemble was invited to perform at the church in May. This involved members of the congregation in many roles, hosting the artistes, ticket and programme sales, transport, advertising, catering, and accountancy! Janet Sharpe was at the forefront of all this, and it is largely thanks to her that the event was such a success. We all learnt a lot from the experience. The event had the desired effect of getting a lot of people into the church who had never entered its doors before and it made a modest amount of profit.

June saw the Dunton Green Fun day. Our congregation generously helped to provide cakes and biscuits plus manpower to run a very popular refreshment stall at this free community event. Gemma Stott acted as the official first aider for the event. Fortunately her medical skills were not needed and she was able to provide stall holders with welcome refreshments on a warm afternoon. Unfortunately there will not be a Fun day this year as their pavilion is being rebuilt and the recreation ground cannot be used.

The end of June saw fine weather and the Sunday school and baptism families' picnic in the vicarage garden. Each family provided their own food and Maggie and Martin organised games for the children and provided drinks for the adults.

Our Patronal service was followed by a bring and share lunch in the vicarage garden. The weather was disappointingly damp, but the food and company were good. The next weekend saw the Annual Riverhead Carnival. As usual we had a homemade and homegrown stall, with the congregation very kindly providing an abundance of cakes, preserves, fruit and veg. We had some competition from the W.I. [many divided loyalties], and a local farmers market stall, but we showed our support for a local event. The weather was cold and windy and many commercial stalls did not show up. Many thanks to all those who risked hyperthermia to help during the afternoon.

Three weeks later it was the Harvest Lunch. This was a well-attended bring and share event, and we all enjoyed a superb lunch. The next Sunday we hosted the NWF Autumn service, providing tea and biscuits afterwards in the church hall.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November we held a commemorative service for the recently departed. This was well attended by the wider community, with refreshments in the hall afterwards. At the end of the month we provided coffee and biscuits for the Women and the Church service which was held at St Mary's.

Our Christmas social was held on 14<sup>th</sup> Dec, and again this was a bring and share event. Unfortunately this clashed with the Christmas Tree Festival so there was a shortage of tables which restricted activities, and to a certain extent the food that could be served.

By the time you read this we should have had the NWF lunch, Passover Supper and Easter walk and breakfast. We hope the latter event is less eventful than last year when we found to our horror at 6.00am that the oven knob was broken and we operated the controls with some pliers and guessed the temperature!

Once again thanks to everyone especially Susan and Olivia Allender, Margaret Nicholas, Ruth Merson, Kathyryn Woodward, and Nicola Joyce.

Margaret Curtis