Services



February 2023

5th 10:30 am Revd Sharon Gardner (Holy Communion)

12th 10:30am Mary Elms

> 6:30 pm SCT service at our church

10:30 am 19th Kim Tame

26th 10:30 am Pauline Matondo

> 6:30 pm Film night

For (nearly) up to the minute news, visit our new website: www.sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

If you're on Facebook—then 'like' our Facebook pages and join in the conversation -

Sandhurst and Yateley Methodist Church And Babes and Tots—Sandhurst And if you tweet, we're there too: @SandYMethChurch

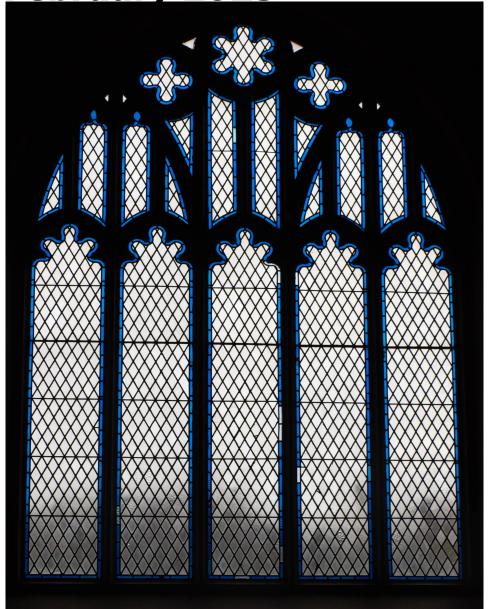
To get in touch email:

Stewards: steward@sandhurstyatelelymethodist.org.uk Hall hire: halls@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

Babes and Tots: babestots@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk Weekly notices: notices@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk
Monthly Newsletter: newsletter@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

Multimedia: multimedia@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk Musicians: musicians@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk Website: siteadmin@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk Anything else: info@sandhurstvatelevmethodist.org.uk

Sandhurst and Yateley Methodist Church Newsletter February 2023



The Minister writes...

Dear friends,

Back in 1997 a book entitled '*The Bible Code'* by Michael Drosnin was published. It drew a lot of attention at the time, purporting that within the Hebrew Scriptures of the Torah it was possible to decipher a secret code to historical and contemporary events.



Drosnin had based his book on the research work of an Israeli mathematician, Eliyahu Rips, who, with his colleagues, had performed an experiment in which they took all the letters of the Torah and then conducted an 'equidistant letter sequence' search. Various resulting combinations of words caught their attention: "Mozart" was found embedded near the terms "music" and "composer," "Edison" was encoded near the words "electricity" and "lightbulb," "Kennedy" appeared near the word "Dallas." Hitler's name, written upside down, appeared 20 rows from "Nazi," written backwards. And so on.*

Although critics considered Drosnin's book unscientific, demonstrating that *any* book could reveal intriguing word groupings if looked for, and Rips himself denounced Drosnin's interpretation of his work, still the book became an international best-seller.*

Around that time I was standing in WH Smith's, looking at a copy of the book and debating whether to buy it. I was curious, albeit a bit sceptical. I also felt rather uncomfortable. Something didn't sit right and so I prayed a silent prayer. In answer these words came to my mind: 'Which book contains the words of truth? Which book has the power to change a person's life? In which book can you find God speaking from the pages?' Needless to say, the answer was not the Bible Code – but the Bible itself. I didn't buy the book.

The Hebrew Scriptures are, of course, the source of our Old Testament and they, combined with the New Testament, reveal truth in a very different way. Not in a secret code, hidden from people's understanding unless they possess the 'magic' key to unlock them, but in words that pour from their pages, recounting the story of God's love for humanity from the beginning of time to its end. The writer of the 4th Gospel even calls Jesus the Logos, the Word, and we think of Jesus as God's Word incarnate.

If we allow them to, the words of Scripture have the power to change *us.* They have brought people to their knees in wonder and worship. They have brought criminals to repentance and new life. They have brought comfort and hope to the despairing. They have brought joy to the believing.

Scripture is not without its challenges though! Sometimes we must grapple with it, pray about it, and seek understanding through study with others to discover its truth for us. To this end, every Tuesday evening a small group of us meet via Zoom and study the Bible. We would love it if there were more of us. You don't have to be an expert on the Bible – none of us are – just have an open heart

Rotas

Flowers

5th -

12th Pam H 19th Diana M 26th Robert G

Cleaning

w/c 13th February Sandra F and Mary A

Coffee

5th Cynthia R and Ann H
12th Phil T and Cynthia R
19th Alison B and Sandra F
26th Cynthia R and Margaret H

Lifts to Church on Sunday morning

If you require a lift to church and you live in Sandhurst or Yateley, please ring through the listed names. They are happy to give lifts if they are available. Please alternate between the names if using the service regularly.

Please do take advantage of this service—people really do want to help.

Yateley

Pam Hardy 01252 870468 Tricia Needes 01252 658350

Sandhurst

Graham Fradgley 01276 36631

Barbara Rush 01252 876051

Douglas Brown 01252 655419

Spiritual Development Group



The spiritual development group organise:

Regular Prayer meetings and evening Bible Study, every Tuesday evening Rejoice! (1st Tuesday)

Please join us
—or speak to Keg, Sharon or Sue for more details.

The Tuesday evening prayer group and bible study will continue to be on Zoom for now.

Join Zoom Meeting

https://zoom.us/j/2799549300?pwd=YjVCazFHR0NwZE50OEhaRzhMdm13UT09

Meeting ID: 279 954 9300

Passcode: 3v25BE

This is the same link for Stewards meetings and Church Council.

See p10 for more information about the Lent study course which begins on 21st February.

February	2023	
7th 2:30 pm 7:45 pm	Rejoice! No Bible Study/Prayer Group (Church Council)	Schoolroom Probably by Zoom
14th 7:45pm 8.00pm	Prayer group Bible Study	Zoom Zoom
21st 7:45pm	Lent Study 1	Zoom
28th 7:45pm	Lent Study 2	Zoom

and mind to read, learn, discuss and receive from God. Please do consider joining us. I promise you it is NOT boring!

If an ongoing weekly commitment is more than you can commit to, perhaps you would prefer to join just for the six-week Lent Study? This Lent we will be looking at Jesus' Final Week. Please see elsewhere in the newsletter for details.

As we delve deeper into the Bible and discover more about it I believe God increases our hunger for it. And, as we encounter it, so we grow in understanding and wisdom. So why not make 2023 the year that you *really* engage with God's Word? With every blessing,

Sharon

*Background information from an article in New York
Times by Steven Kurutz, 19 June 2020 and referenced in
an article by Roy A. Reinhold: The Hidden Codes in the Bible.
Image: https://cdn.pixabay.com/photo/2016/11/29/08/17/bible-1868359 960 720.ipg

World Leprosy Day

Sunday 29th January was World Leprosy Day—a day to raise awareness of the disease, share the stories of those it affects, and call for an end to the stigma and discrimination they so often face. This year's theme for the day was 'Act Now: End Leprosy'.

Leprosy continues to devastate lives, but it is preventable - and treatable.



Together we can work to make sure as many people as possible get the help they need.

Support The Leprosy Mission if you possibly can.

What's on?

February

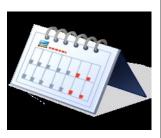
1st: Wednesday housegroup

7th: Rejoice!

10th: Diane Knight's funeral **11th:** Sponsored Hymn Sing

12th: SCT service at Sandhurst and Yateley

16th: Thursday housegroup **21st:** Lent study starts **23rd:** Coffee morning **26th:** Film night



Jen and Grant



guests congregated outside the church for more photos, and fortunately by this time the rain had stopped!

The celebrations continued at Cantley House Hotel, and a good time was had by all!

The wedding of Jen and Grant was a perfect joyous occasion, supported by family and friends.

The bride looked beautiful in an ivory chiffon dress with a long train and carried a bouquet of white and burgundy roses with lily of the valley. Her three bridesmaids were very elegant in long, off the shoulder burgundy dresses and held white roses. Grant and his groomsmen wore dark grey suits with burgundy ties.

The marriage service conducted by Sharon Gardner was traditionally reverent, but interspersed with sensitivity and humour. Jackie - mother of the bride, read the lesson from 1. Corinthians and Neil Davis read a sonnet by Shakespeare. David Markby played the organ with his usual professional touch.

The photographers took many photos as unobtrusively as possible and after the service the wedding



Minister

Rev Sharon Gardner

minister@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk 01344 774967

Pastoral leader Margaret Picken pastoral@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

Church Stewards—steward@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

Karen Glossop 07934 144322 Senior Steward

 Sandra Wooledge
 01344 775177

 Heather Brown
 01252 655419

 Matt Rowell
 01344 775744

House Fellowship groups providing a friendly platform for discussion ...

Thursday House Group (third Thursday)— at 15:00

Robert Godden, 11 Scotland Hill, Sandhurst. 01252 872503

Next meetings **Thursday February 16th.**

Wednesday House Group:

at Alison and Graham Fradgley's 3 Forbes Chase, Sandhurst

Next meeting **Wednesday 1st February** at Alison and Graham's.

Newsletter and Website newsletter@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

Contributions for the **March 2023** Newsletter (in church on Sunday 26th February 2023 or website) should be with Sue Truby by **Sunday February 19th 2023**

Contributions should either be: Handed to Sue at Church, Emailed to: newsletter@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk Or posted to 58 Crowthorne Road, Sandhurst GU47 9EP (01252 879236)



Rejoice!

October 5th saw our first Rejoice session since before lockdown.

It was lovely to have several new faces and I think we all enjoyed being able to sing favourite hymns once again.

Thank you to Mary for taking over on the piano and allowing me to have a sing.

The next Rejoice! will be on **7th February**



Wednesday house group

Graham and I host a Housegroup on the first Wednesday of every month at 8.00pm. However, numbers have dwindled recently due to people moving away or are not keen to come out at night especially in the winter. It is now headed up by Karen since Diana said that she is now working from home a lot more so was unable to carry on. The subjects are interesting and a great source for discussion.

If you would like to join us you would be very welcome - just e-mail Graham or I so that we can cater for the correct number.

Thank you – look forward to seeing you! Alison Fradgley

alison@gfradgley.com graham@gfradgley.com 01276 36631 (only five digits)

Film night

The next Film night is on the 4th Sunday in February—26th

Do join us for fellowship and pizza (we order in)

The film will be chosen by Heather :-)



Circuit Sponsored Hymn Sing 11th February

The Hymn-Sing will take place at Crowthorne Methodist Church on **Saturday 11th February** from 3 to 5.30 pm.

Our Circuit has six churches and each church is asked to choose 6 of their favourite hymns, and also to ask folk from their congregations to come to the event and SING!

There will be refreshments during the break - tea, coffee and cake!

Each church will keep their sponsor money and this will help with paying its own Circuit Assessment. So please be generous.

Keg and Heather certainly are hoping to sing for two hours - but we need more singers as well. If you would like to come along and sing - please let Keg know - If you would like to come along anyway to enjoy the event - please do so. Maybe we can car share as there is limited parking.

This will be a lovely opportunity to sing for your own enjoyment and also to worship the Lord through the music and song. However even if you cannot attend, then please consider sponsoring those who are going to sing.

There will be a sponsor form circulated during refreshments, please consider putting your name down, if you feel so led.

Please ask a Steward if you want more information. Email Keg with your favourite hymn kegferretfan@aol.com

Opportunity

A rare opportunity has arisen to join the Communion Stewards at Sandhurst & Yateley Methodist Church.

The role is not too demanding as you would normally only volunteer on 4 Sundays a year (once a quarter) and arrive 30 minutes before the service starts and finish about 30 minutes after the service ends.

Full training, mentoring and support will be given but it's not too arduous or rocket science.

You too can be a star!

To find out more please contact Wilf Hardy on wihscot@aol.com

Flower rota

For various reasons, there are a number of Sundays available on the flower rota.

If you would like to take one of these, please let me know.

You can buy a bunch of flowers to put in a vase, or flowers for an arrangement (Oasis is always available), or make a donation (via the stewards) and one of the silk flower arrangements will be used that Sunday.

Gil F has some tips:

It is tradition in our church not to use just red and white flowers—if you particularly want to use red and white, then please also include flowers of another colour.

Because the wall behind the communion table is black, some flower colours (dark red, blue or purple—receding) don't show up very well unless very carefully surrounded by light foliage. It is

probably better to use white, yellow, orange, pink—bright (advancing) colours.

It is lovely to be able to give flowers to members of the congregation—a ministry of flowers.

Dates available:

2023

April—2nd, 9th, 30th June—25th August—13th

Thanks. Sue T

Please note:

Please use the front entrance to the church when arranging the flowers if there are any hirers in the hall. The oasis and pot will be either in church or in the vestry once flowers have been distributed on a Sunday.

Thanks

have had a donation of electric blankets, flasks, gloves and hot water bottles and will soon be receiving a batch of slow cookers to give away. People will be invited to join community groups on how to use them and will be able to access packs of ingredients from a community fridge at the church.

"I do worry if the worst of the financial crisis is yet to come."

The Beds, Essex and Herts Grants Committee offered churches £1000 if they were able to open up their premises as a Warm Space for at least four hours each week.

So far grants for 32 churches have been awarded in the district, including Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church where Revd Gill Hulme is superintendent. Here, the church has expanded the welcome of some of its existing outreach projects and room-hires to ensure that the church is open for as many days as possible across the week.

Gill commented, "The synergy of working with charities has allowed us to open up our Oasis lounge to more people as a warm space and to offer a range of support for people involving organisations such as the Bishop Stortford Foodbank and Citizens Advice Bureau who also use our space. The organisations and charities we partner with have been very accommodating, opening themselves up to new people. We are fortunate that the layout means you can rest and relax in one part of the lounge whilst activities, like our Tuesday craft mornings go on, and so families, men from our local night shelter and of course the ladies who are knitting all have the space to be included in the activities or simply have soup and a roll.

"Spaces have to be warm, safe and welcoming. Having things like jigsaws and newspapers around means that people can feel involved without having to hold conversations with strangers. However, I do go in there with my collar on and talk to those who want to chat, but I don't ask why they are here.

"One woman who came to us is now a volunteer. She said to me, 'This is what church should be, this place has been a lifesaver."



During January 2023, the Methodist Church will be saying goodbye to Methodist Church House in Marylebone

Our new building is currently undergoing a complete renovation, which is due to last between 12-18 months. Whilst this work is being undertaken, we'll be sharing an office space with our ecumenical friends, the Church of England at Church House Westminster

Methodists offer warm welcome

Methodist churches have responded to the cost-of-living crisis by opening their doors to ensure that communities are not left out in the cold. More than 450 Methodist churches have now registered on the Warm Welcome website as being willing to offer somewhere for people to find heat, comfort and companionship. This makes the Methodists second only to the Church of England in uptake of the scheme.

Opening a church as a Warm Space can come with additional costs, not least that of heating. Some Methodist districts have made special grants available to those churches who are offering warm spaces including Isle of Man, Sheffield, Lincolnshire, Liverpool, Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury, Yorkshire North and East, and Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire. Different districts have different guidance on eligibility and how the grants can be used.

The Revd Jade Bath is the District Grants Officer for Lincolnshire, where five churches have applied for grants of up to £1,000. Jade commented, "These grants are from the District Advance Fund and Mission in Britain Fund and are offered to help churches offset the additional costs of new initiatives that are operating as a warm space. Our grants cover up to a third of the cost of the schemes for six months and help pay for additional heating, food and refreshments, promotional expenses and activities such as newspapers and magazines. Emergency welfare grants have also been used to help provide for other essentials where people may be struggling, such as sanitary products or school shoes."

"Public transport can be difficult in districts such as ours with rural communities. We are pleased that two of the churches who are participating are in villages where there is limited access to public spaces."

In the Liverpool District, Grants Officer Revd Helen Jobling processed 26 applications for grants to support Warm Spaces in November last year, with applications from all circuits. She said, "We were aware that the need was urgent if we were to ensure that our churches were ready for the coming winter. We encouraged our churches to work ecumenically, expand existing outreach projects or start something new."

One of those churches in the Liverpool District to receive a grant was St Luke's Methodist Church, Hoylake, where Cate Warbrick is the Church and Community Lay Development Worker who is coordinating the initiative. She commented, "We have been very busy with people coming in for conversation as well as comfort so we have been providing spiritual as well as practical warmth. There are many who come to us who are on the edge financially and emotionally. Projects like Warm Spaces can help people feel less fearful about the immediate future. Knowing that they can get food and warmth tomorrow relieves, in some measure, the anxiety of today.

"Our Warm Space is helping the community come together to fight the cost-ofliving crisis. Working with recipients of Council funding and other churches we



The Leprosy Mission is a Christian charity that works in countries where leprosy is prevalent, offering treatment, supporting those affected and seeking to remove the stigma associated with the disease. Our church has for many years supported the Leprosy Mission (TLM) both financially and by raising awareness.

It's now time for someone new to take on the role of Leprosy Mission representative at our church to continue this valuable outreach.

The role is very much what you want to make of it, so hopefully a new face as the church's contact will bring renewed enthusiasm and fresh ideas. As for financial support, this could simply be a matter of organising retiring collections, or combining purchases from the TLM Christmas catalogue to save on postage, but what about organising a fund-raising event such as a social or a meal that uses a current TLM project or featured country as a theme? As TLM rep, you will be sent copies of their magazine to distribute at church, and this will give ideas for fund-raising. Staff from the TLM are very willing to come to churches to participate in or to lead Sunday worship, and these provide an interesting update on recent TLM activities and a good precursor to a retiring collection!

Robert

Diane Knight's Funeral

Friday 10th February at 11am at our church.

Please do come to say farewell to our good friend Diane who will be sadly missed by us all.

After the service there will be tea/coffee and cake in the hall - just as Diane would have enjoyed - and then everyone is invited to the wake at The White Horse pub, Easthampstead Road, Wokingham, RG40 3AF. (15 minutes' drive from the church.)

For catering purposes, please can you let Paul know if you plan to attend the wake? His email is: myprkhome@gmail.com

If anyone has any stories or memories of Diane, Paul would very much like it if you could share them with him. Please could you let him have them by 23rd January?

In memory of Diane, the family have set up a page for donations to the Motor Neurone Disease association. If you would like to make a donation, this can be done via the link below and you can leave a message if you would like: https://diane-carol-knight.muchloved.com

Recycling for Good Causes

In the vestibule you will notice a largish box which advertises 'Recycling for good causes.'

Please donate your unwanted items from the following list. There are some leaflets available which tell you about what can be recycled but basically it is: Unwanted jewellery - including damaged items and costume jewellery and watches

Coins and currency - any age and UK and foreign both acceptable

Mobile phones, cameras, video cameras and gadgets including ipods, tablets but NOT laptops.

Stamps - single, loose and presentation packs.

The box contains a sack. When the sack is full Recycling for Good Causes will collect it and the church will receive 75% of the proceeds from the sale of the contents within about 8 weeks of collection. (As a guide, at High Cross they received a cheque for £80 - so it is definitely worth doing this!)

Thanks, **Sharon**

Reminder of more recycling

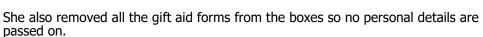
And of course you can still recycle medication blister packs, Pringle tubes, bras (any condition), pens (working or not) and Ferrero Rocher boxes (probably empty!) in the other box in the foyer!

Thanks Sue T

Link to Hope Shoe Box Appeal 2022

I am sorry this thank you for your Link to Hope contributions is so late but it completely slipped my mind even though I had left the list out to remind me!!

Thank you for the Shoe Boxes you filled for Eastern European Families and the Elderly this year. There were only 7 boxes but a lot of monetary donations totally £70.00. This was down on last year – I'm not quite sure why this happened but the lady in Ascot was very grateful as this money can be used for other projects that they have in Eastern Europe.



Hopefully, we can do better next year when I shall start reminding people earlier!!
Alison Fradgley

Linkto

Camberley & District funeral directors

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- 24 hour service
- Free bereavement advice and support
- Pre-paid inflation proof funeral plans
- Wide choice of memorials for burials

Sandhurst

337 Yorktown Road, College Town, GU47 0QA

01276 33241



www.camberleyanddistrict.co.uk

Babes and Tots

Wednesday mornings 10:30 to 12:00



If you know of anyone in the community with a young baby or child, please invite them to attend.

Small friendly group, all welcome, mums, dads, grandparents.

Book via the FaceBook page please: Babes and Tots—Sandhurst.

Sandhurst Churches together

12th February 2023 at Sandhurst and Yateley Methodist Church

12th March 2023 at St Michael's 2nd April at St George's 14th May at the Baptist Church 11th June at Sandhurst and Yateley Methodist Church 9th July at St Michael's

Sunday Coffee Rota Volunteers—urgent

We now have even fewer people on the Coffee Rota and it is becoming much more difficult to find enough volunteers to fill out the rota.



If you feel you are able to help it would be very much appreciated.

Please contact me for more details. Alison Fradgley 01276 36631 alison@gfradgley.com

In memoriam plaques



I am delighted to be able to tell you that **Camberley and District Funeral Directors** (Yorktown Road, College Town) are now sponsoring our memorial plaques.

Just talk to Sue T about the words you'd like and they will provide the plaque for free! Doug W has been attaching them to the seats once done. Thanks Doug!
A donation to the church of £50 is suggested but not required.



Bringing Christ and His love to our communities

Could you help SOL?

We would welcome more helpers to support

Speakers of Other Languages

to improve their use of

ENGLISH.

We meet at

Sandhurst Baptist Church
10.00am-11.30am on Thursdays
during school terms.

'Classes'

- adult learners, mostly Nepalese
- very informal activities
- not aimed at qualifications

Helpers

- > need to be fluent in English
- do not need knowledge of other languages
- > need no teaching qualifications
- do need to be supportive and adaptable

Offers of help on a regular or occasional basis are welcome.

For more details, please call 01252 879 088



Newsletter contributions

Newsletter contributions are (nearly) always gratefully received, especially when received well in advance of the copy date :-)

Please only include in your contribution any contact details that you are happy to have shared with the community. A paper copy of the newsletter goes into Sandhurst library each month, and the electronic version is on the website.

If you can, please put the text of anything you write either in the body of an email to me, or, if as an attachment, then as a Word compatible file—not as a 'pages' file. I can extract a Word compatible version from 'pages' but it takes ages....

Thanks Sue T

Lent Study 2023

Jesus' Final Week Topic:

Start date: Tuesday 21st February (This is actually Shrove Tuesday so officially a day before Lent begins, but experience has taught me that we almost always lose a week for one reason or another so I hope by beginning a little early we will manage to complete 6 sessions by Easter!)

Time: 7.45pm

Session 1 Triumphal Entry **Session 2** Clearing the Temple **Session 3** The Last Supper **Session 4** Betrayal and Arrest

Session 5 Trial

Session 6 Crucifixion

There is a 7th session: Resurrection which we will look at *after* Easter to conclude our study.

Study booklets: We will be using Cindy Bunch's 'Jesus' Final Week' as the basis for our study and there is an accompanying booklet. These retail new at £6.99 but I have obtained good quality second hand copies for £3.50 each. If you would like a printed copy, please let me know. Or speak to me about an online copy (F.O.C.).

Zoom link:

https://zoom.us/i/2799549300?pwd=YiVCazFHR0NwZE500EhaRzhMdm13UT09

Meeting ID: 279 954 9300

Passcode: 3v25BE

Crowthorne Foodbank



Current shortages -

Custard, Rice Pudding (tinned), Sponge puddings, Fruit Juice, Pulses.

Washing tablets, Fabric Softener.

Men's Deodorant. Women's deodorant.

Note: the foodbank update

their needs weekly here: Crowthorne.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/

Thank you so much for your ongoing support.

Note—they currently have plenty of coffee, porridge, pasta, pasta sauce, general toiletries, soup.

Please do consider the food bank when you do your food shopping. There are collection points in most of the major supermarkets. E.g. Tesco, The Meadows—please only place Tesco bought items in these bins. Co-op, the High Street, Crowthorne.

Coffee mornings

Coffee Mornings every **fourth Thursday** in the month. Note the change from being on the second Thursday.

We have started a monthly Coffee Morning at church for members and visitors. The first one was held in January and we had a dozen people attend. It was a lovely opportunity to catch up over coffee and cakes. These coffee mornings are now up and running again.

Do put the date in your diary and pop along if you are free between 10:30 and 12 míddav.

The next coffee mornings will be on Thursday 23rd February

