

# The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary-the-Virgin, West Malling

## The Anglican Congregation on Kings Hill

### Sunday worship

In the last year, the Kings Hill congregation has met for worship in the upstairs youth centre room of Kings Hill Community Centre, Gibson Drive most Sundays at 9.30 a.m.

Most services are eucharistic with either Revd David Green, Revd Pat Dickin or Revd Graham Green presiding. The Sunday School have their own class in a separate room during the Liturgy of the Word and returning to join the congregation for Communion and blessings. On other occasions, a Service of the Word is led by Margaret Moore and during school term times the Girls' Brigade had a Parade Service at 4.30 p.m. in the main hall on the first Sunday of the month. Towards the end of the year, we held two joint Parade Services with Boys' Brigade (who come under the banner of Kings Hill Christian Fellowship). We hope that we may be able to do more in 2013.

Our grateful thanks to Jim and Freda Smith who, along with other helpers, prepare and organise the Sunday services, Karen Webber and the children for the Sunday School activities, which always enhance our liturgy, together with our volunteer musicians: Richard and Jo Myerscough from West Malling (who left for India in the spring of 2012) and Tracey Farrington (who plays at Parade Services).

*David Green*

### A choice of name

In early 2012, a chance conversation with Bishop James Langstaff led to his permission for our congregation to seek a 'name' for our church community. Over the summer months, the congregation and Girls' Brigade came up with a long list of names that was then whittled down to three. A public vote in the Autumn garnered a great deal of press interest locally with both newspapers and local radio covering the story and over 100 local residents voted for their favourite.

St Gabriel's, Kings Hill was a clear winner in the public vote and was announced on 1 December. We hope that, in 2013, the Bishop will come to inaugurate our use of the name for our church and that we may begin to 'inhabit' the name as a sense of identity in our mission and ministry to the people of Kings Hill.

*David Green*

### Kings Hill Girls Brigade

The 1st Kings Hill Girls Brigade Company meets every Monday evening during term times for activities: creative, artistic, sporting, cooking, and games, as well as Christian devotions. The Company is thriving with 13 Explorers, 13 Juniors, nine Seniors, five 1st Brigaders, eight Staff and three girls doing their Duke of Edinburgh Award with us, who have all asked if they can stay on to help (none of whom have done GB before).

Parade services were held, mainly in the afternoons, once a month followed by a light tea. We did experiment, towards the end of the year, with joint services with the Boys' Brigade and Kings Hill Christian Fellowship. We have found that over three quarters of the girls regularly attend with their parents. We had an open air service during the summer where we brought our own picnics.

For their badge work, our Explorers have been around the world looking at different cultures, and then looking at 'Our Bodies', various Celebrations and their favourite things. Our juniors have tackled Sharing, Generosity, Love, Service, and Co operation while our Seniors looked at their self-esteem, got creative, took some risks and worked together. This age group is not the easiest to work with but it's great to see they are having fun and bringing their friends along. Our Brigaders are a great group of girls who work well together organising our Christmas party as part of their children's channel award, then some looked at animal care while others looked at what they would wear on the cat walk. Then, as a special treat, they cooked the staff a three course meal as part of their domestic goddess award.

Away from Mondays, we held a barn dance in February as a fundraiser; June was our busiest month with a trip to London for 22 of us where we were lucky enough to be in the youth enclosure on horse guard's parade for trooping of the colour. Then the weekend following 18 of us went on our indoor camp where we went abseiling and crate building, swimming and even had time for some craft and baking.

We also had our Christmas nativity and Badge awards at Pilsdon which as always is magical due to such a wonderful setting. Earlier in the year, at Easter, we were also able to present some more awards and Certificates.

In saying thank you, I'd like to pay tribute to all the staff and parent helpers. 1st Kings Hill would not be what it is without you all. We're also grateful to David Green for his chaplaincy since Fr Peter Barnett retired and also to Rev Pat Dickin for her support.

*Karen Webber*

## **Ecumenical links and neighbouring churches**

In 2012, we shared in worship with the Kings Hill Christian Fellowship (the only other congregation based in Kings Hill) on Christmas Day, Palm Sunday and Remembrance Sunday. We also began to experiment in the latter half of 2012 with *joint* Parade Services which involved both the Girls' Brigade and Boys' Brigade coming together. The Boys' Brigade come under Kings Hill Christian Fellowship and so representatives from both churches as well as the GB and BB were present for services in October and November. Furthermore, we jointly organise the Christingle Service on Christmas Eve with KHCF.

Members of the congregation attend some services at the parish churches from time-to-time and have been glad to participate in the new Cluster services that took place in 2012. The Kings Hill Congregation looks forward to being part of the Cluster Council for all four parishes. Some members support the Churches Together events, especially the Good Friday Walk of Witness

## **New Priest in Charge, Revd Pat Dickin**

The congregation and Girls Brigade very much appreciated being involved in the welcome and Licensing Service for Revd Pat Dickin and her family in April. It is felt that Pat's ministry has continued to reflect her commitment to ministry and mission in Kings Hill that was expressed at her licensing.

## **Administration**

Since Kings Hill is not a separate parish, it does not have its own PCC but some of the Sunday congregation gather every month to discuss issues, plans for the future and financial matters. In addition, we were grateful for the invitation from Revd David Green and the PCC of St Mary's to take up two slots within the governance of their church. In this regard, we thank Lesley Pomeroy (née Leach) for taking up a role as our Deanery Synod representative and Sue Elson for joining St Mary's PCC.

## **Kings Hill Vicarage**

Since Easter 2012, Kings Hill Vicarage has been vacant following the retirement of Fr Peter Barnett. Since that time, gardening contractors have done a minor amount of work and the Diocese have been taking the opportunity to conduct some repairs.

## **Financial Accounts**

The finances for the Kings Hill congregation are held as part of the St Mary's finances and full accounts are detailed in the Annual Report. Kings Hill congregation is financially self-sufficient and willing and able to support new mission ventures with the parishes. We recognise that the eventual recruitment of a third clergy person to work in the cluster will present us with some financial challenges (in regard to the maintenance of the Vicarage) which we will need to meet.

## **Fr Peter & Mary Barnett**

At Easter 2012, we said a heartfelt goodbye to Fr Peter and Mary Barnett. Peter's retirement was delayed due to Mary's ill-health but by April, she was strong enough for their move to Gower, South Wales. We pay tribute to Peter's service over several years to the Anglican Congregation and for guiding our steps, particularly while the traditional benefices were in interregnum.

## **Looking ahead**

We hope that the Deanery Ministry and Mission Strategy together with the Kings Hill Mission Audit will guide future priorities for developments in Kings Hill in cooperation with the local parish churches and ecumenical links.

We hope to move forward together and hope that the more established congregations locally can help us achieve our aims in the coming years.

David Green  
with Pat Dickin