

Events at All Saints 2019

The events hosted by the All Saints community serve multiple functions among which are the opportunity to meet in an informal setting and enjoy each other's company, to invite friends and neighbours to join us and find out a bit more about us and also to raise much needed funds.

2019 was a busy and productive year on all counts. A group of very committed people worked very hard to organise and prepare events, to provide the catering, and to be on hand at all times. Many, many people in the congregation offered help when volunteers were needed.

The year began with the January Jolly, an event specifically organised to brighten the stretch of long, dark and sometimes lonely evenings after Christmas when we wait for spring. A delicious meal and lively entertainment certainly hit the spot.

Through the year, Coffee Mornings were regular events that provided an opportunity to meet and chat while enjoying coffee and delicious cake, as well as other stalls to browse. The May Coffee Morning and Plant Sale was a welcome event. Similarly in September, when the Church was open for the Historic Churches Trust Bike'n Hike, the Coffee and Ploughman's Lunch provided sustenance to the riders but also an opportunity for a social gathering. Having the tower open for visitors was an added bonus.

New in 2019 were the Craft in Church sessions – another welcome opportunity to meet with friends, welcome visitors and enjoy numerous crafting activities. The annual Harvest Lunch was looked forward to by many – an enjoyable social gathering while celebrating God's bounty.

A highlight of the events calendar, the All Saints Quiz night was a great success, so much so that a second one was requested, and the depth of our knowledge was severely challenged in the most enjoyable fashion.

Starry Christmas was the final event of the year. Building on a tradition in Goa and Kerala, where the symbolism of the star leading to the stable features very strongly in Christmas decorations, the All Saints Starry Christmas consisted of festivals of stars, wreaths and Christmas trees, with plenty of stalls and family games, delicious food, a visit from Father Christmas, and a puppet show telling the Christmas story, provided by puppeteers from the Baptist Church.

The hard work, commitment and generosity of the All Saints community shone through all these events; a communal effort achieving great things!

Nerine Chalmers