St Michael and All Angels, Atworth

Part of the Benefice with Christ Church, Shaw

In so many ways church life continues much as it has always done with a regular pattern of worship on Sundays –we meet either in the morning with traditional parish communion followed by a more informal contemporary service or on alternate weeks in the evening when we have quiet and reflective times of prayer. On the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays we hold BCP Communion services at 9.30 a.m. It has been lovely to welcome many local people over the festival periods of Christmas and Easter and we are privileged to work with both Churchfields school and Stonar who also hold their own seasonal services in the church. The church continues to be kept open every day so that people can visit, perhaps taking some time to step inside and enjoy the peace and presence of God as countless others have done over the years. It surprises me how often I find people enjoying a quiet moment either in the building or in better weather sitting outside.

We continue to give thanks for the committed team of volunteers who cut the grass in our churchyard, decorate the church with amazing floral displays, and who keep the church clean. Many of them are regular members of the church community but others are simply Atworth people who are willing to help out. We are grateful to all of them.

So that is how things continue as they always have done… and then there are the things that change. We currently have a committed children's and youth worker who gives voluntarily of her time two days per week. This has helped us find a consistency in the work we are able to do for families, she has been able to assist me going in to the schools, and we have re-established our teenage group that meets on a Sunday evening in the church hall between 6.30 and 8 p.m. This group is open to anyone in school years 7 and up. It operates in a similar line to a youth club with table tennis, pool etc and time for conversation on tricky topics. We held a lively holiday club last summer for children aged 5 – 11 and will do so again this summer. It provides good entertainment for the children and helps the parents find suitable childcare provision while they are working.

We also want to support the older members of our community, the vulnerable and the lonely and have a team of visitors who are able to meet with people for a chat on a regular basis. We welcome names of those we could visit so please let us know so that we can try and make suitable contact.

It is lovely to be part of such an active community here in Atworth and I look forward to the years ahead as we work alongside one another and help maintain the sense of welcome that the village offers.