

Wednesday Work Force Report for Annual General Meeting 2018



The small group of dedicated volunteers came together on the second Wednesday of the month to provide coffee (or tea) together with biscuits and a chance to meet and chat in an informal way. It was also an opportunity to buy hand crafted greetings cards, purchase some home-made cakes and preserves or chance your luck on the raffle, all to raise funds for St .Mary's.

In 2017 we held six lunches during Lent and three during Advent. During these periods the small nucleus of the Wednesday Work Force was supplemented by others in order to provide simple lunches of home-made soups, bread and cheese, all washed down with unlimited quantities of tea or coffee. During Advent there was the additional attraction of mince pies. All the soups are made by volunteers, to their own particular recipes, in their own kitchens and then brought to the Church Hall ready for serving from 12.00 noon. The lunches also attract sponsorship from our Church community which adds considerably to the overall total. As with the monthly coffee mornings cakes and preserves are always on offer, as are bespoke cards for all occasions. The raffle is always a popular attraction and no one escapes without buying a preowned gift from Mike! During the Advent Lunches Malcolm Brownlee announced he wished to retire as Raffle Organiser Extraordinaire as he had reached a milestone birthday. We will very much miss his expertise in running the raffle which he has done for more years than anyone cares to remember. We have, however managed, to persuade Shirley to attempt to fill Malcolm's shoes and she will start with Lent 2018. We have been thrilled by the number attracted to the Lunches from outside our Church community. It gives us the opportunity to express that the Christian Faith is alive in Acklam.

We have welcomed new members to the team this year but would always welcome "new blood" to reduce the load on the existing volunteers particularly during Lent and Advent. Some of us have been doing these events for a long time and would welcome some additional assistance.

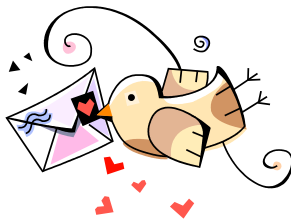
The money raised from all these events totalled £4167.10 (an increase of over £545.00 on the last year), this, in spite of an increasing number of people in our congregation who had become too ill or infirm to attend and others who have sadly left us and are now at rest.

As has become a tradition with the money raised during Lent, we not only supported the Church and Church Hall but also charities suggested by members of the team. These well deserving charities received a total of £1400.

The work of the Wednesday Work Force goes largely unrecognised as the money raised is drip fed into Church Funds during the year rather than as one large sum as happens at a major fund raising event.

Our thanks must go to all those who helped in any way and to all those who so generously supported the Coffee Mornings and Lunches.

Bespoke Greetings Cards



As an integral part of the Wednesday Work Force, Lyn Hunter and Shirley Audsley have continued to devote a lot of time and effort making and supplying lovely bespoke greeting cards for just about every occasion. In addition to being on sale in church they have been on sale at all fundraising events. **The sale of cards raised an amazing £278.00 in 2017.** This figure is included in the Wednesday Work Force totals. Lyn and Shirley appreciate all the encouragement and support they receive from everyone.

Tony Carr