

St Peter and St Paul Wadhurst APCM 2025

Afternoon Fellowship and Senior Lunch Report

This report covers the period January to December 2024

Afternoon Fellowship continues to be a well-attended monthly meeting for mainly elderly people which takes place in the Commemoration Hall. We have 45 members and a team of helpers led by Jackie Scott and Chris Bithell. Other regular helpers include Polly Bradford, Sharon Price, Jean and Gary Sermon, Suzanne Munday, Pamela Holyday and Jane Spurr is our regular and much appreciated pianist. The majority of our members need help to attend meetings and a team of drivers provide lifts. We are very grateful to all the helpers and drivers, and we would welcome more volunteer drivers.

Our meetings comprise of at least three hymns, a Bible reading and a time of prayer. This is usually followed by a speaker. Then there is tea, cake and time to chat. It is a warm and friendly meeting where members really connect and care for each other.

Our speakers in 2024 included Andrew Goy, Jackie Scott, Peter Thompson, Betty Payne and Chris Bithell. We usually have one musical event each year and in July we enjoyed a recital of light music by Diana Simmons (flute) and Jane Spurr (piano). The year finished with a Carol Service and Christmas tea at which the Vicar was our speaker.

Meetings in 2025 continue to be well-attended, and of course we always extend a warm welcome to new members.

Senior Lunch takes place twice a year in April and November in place of Afternoon Fellowship. Members of Afternoon Fellowship join members of Cameo and several more elderly people from the village who may not otherwise be able to get out easily for a home-cooked two course meal followed by musical entertainment. In April this was provided by Jane Spurr (piano) and Clare Lees (cello) and in November by the choir Wadhurst Aloud.

Numbers are approximately 85-95. Detailed planning and execution are required in order to cook and serve a meal for so many. The team has been led for several years by Jackie Scott, who has now handed over to Sonia Hobbs. We are most grateful to Jackie for her years of service to both Senior Lunch and Afternoon Fellowship and wish her well as she leaves the village. The long-standing Senior Lunch team are Liz Thompson, Ro Mackinnon, Yvonne Tudor and Lynn Tucker and we are most grateful to all of them for their continuing generous commitment to make this a most enjoyable village event for our older residents.

Chris Bithell

April 2025