



## Forward Momentum

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE WAY FORWARD PROJECT



It was a nail biting few weeks during the time of Lent; the days were chilly and the rain was ever present. **Would our first Way Forward Community Activity Event be a wash out?** Thankfully the sun came out just in time and as the Palm Sunday service finished, people from the village and its outskirts started to arrive. A heroic band of volunteers helped to: put up gazebos, organise a very popular Easter egg treasure hunt, (over 70 children participated), assist in the craft tent with the making of bug hotels and willow stars, demonstrate bell ringing, enable folk to play some tunes with the hand bells, allow young and old to try the organ, show off the heritage of the church, encourage indulgence at the chocolate fountain, serve refreshments and everyone had their fill with the delicious hog roast and cakes. Friends from Kintsugi Hope were there with a table of information and things to buy and Stebbing School showed off the best of the pupils' artwork from their "Community Month".

**It was a great afternoon; so many people turned up and there was a wonderful atmosphere. The event was very well received - see next page!**



This was the project team's first use of the online ticketing app, Eventbrite, to encourage people to sign up (so that we had an idea for numbers for catering and the egg hunt). 150 tickets were pre-booked almost half of which were not regular visitors to the church. It also enabled us to send out a post-event survey and the response was overwhelmingly positive. Our volunteers seemed to enjoy it too as they all said they would like to help with something like this again.



**What else has been happening?** There has been a lot of **writing of documents** for the NLHF second round bid. Some by the project team, others by professional bodies. In particular, the architectural design drawings for the building must be got right and a faculty (a permissive right to undertake works to a church building) obtained from the Diocese to make changes to the building. The PCC are reviewing all documents and special meetings have been assigned to go through them. We are 2 meetings down with 4 more to go!

Since December 2022, **our appointed consultancy firm, Tricolor, has engaged with more than 160 people in and around Stebbing** through online surveys - public, schools, volunteer/congregation; children's worksheets; phone and video calls; 2 focus groups; and 1 drop in public consultation afternoon including a pub quiz in the village pub. The team has talked with people in our church community plus key stakeholders in the village: the school, families, local businesses and organisations. The resulting Activity Plan (another NLHF document) will be used to develop the project interpretation, learning programme, volunteer programme and wider activity plan. More will be shared in our next issue!



The Way Forward  
At St Mary's Stebbing

# FUN ACTIVITY EVENT

at St Mary's Stebbing

SUNDAY  
2ND APRIL  
12:30-4:00 PM

Family Hog Roast and jam packed afternoon!  
Have some fun and ring those bells, or play a tune on the organ, make a willow star, create a bug hotel, join the Easter Egg hunt and so much more...

**FREE** Use the link to sign up!

# FEEDBACK & PHOTOS



"Busy, varied,  
good food.  
Different activities  
for all"



"It was a great day and well organised. We had the opportunity to see the church inside, enjoy the different activities (including ringing the church bells, which was very interesting and the people involved - bell ringers, person at the bottom of the stairs giving the explanation - were really knowledgeable and friendly."



"Wonderful how  
everyone came  
together and worked to  
serve the community!"



"It was great to see  
everyone enjoying  
themselves."

"We were so impressed with the Easter egg hunt for the kids the generosity was really amazing and it was good that they didn't get just chocolate. The hog roast was lovely too everything you put on made it a really wonderful day and everyone was so friendly and inviting."

"Great to have a  
community based  
activity in the church and  
meet so many familiar  
and new faces"

"My grandchildren tried all the activities and enjoyed them. Also my son in law loved bell ringing in the tower."

"I thoroughly enjoyed  
going round talking  
with a lot of people .  
Some who I had not  
seen for a while"



"Thank you for a  
brilliantly  
organised day  
with lots to do."

