

All Saints' Church
Springfield, Chelmsford

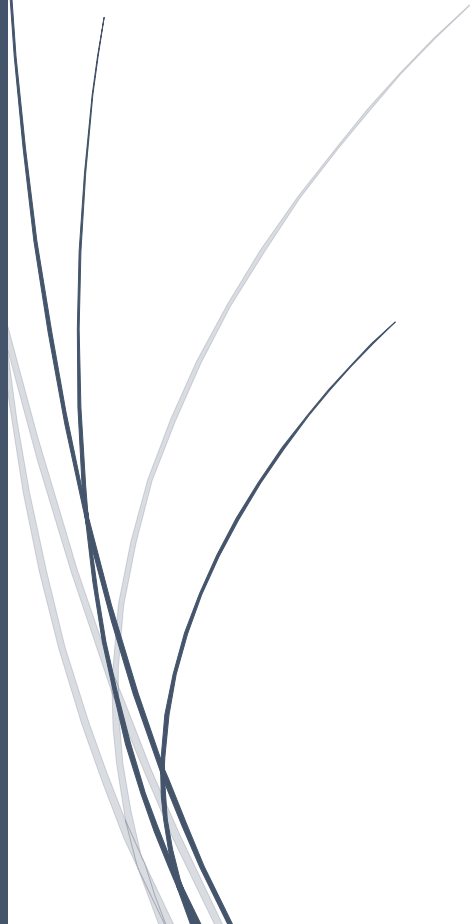


*A friendly, welcoming church for everyone
in the heart of the community*

April 2024

REPORTS FROM PAROCHIAL ORGANISATIONS FOR 2023

Annual Parochial Church Meeting



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All Saints' Band (The ASBs)

The ASBs continue to lead the music for the monthly Worship Together services, support the Communion Together services and play for the Christmas Crib Service.

Julian, Duncan and I are working well together and enjoying the challenge of choosing suitable music and performing it well.

We have been supported by Ben on the drums and David on the guitar. Paula and Beth provide much needed vocals.

We would welcome any singers or musicians who would like to join us.

Lynn Gauld

All Saints' Choir

The Choir leads the singing at 10.30 am Sunday Services in the church and sings for special occasions and weddings and funerals.

Paul Strong continues as our Director of Music, and we are enjoying the new music he is introducing into the choir's repertoire. Four new members joined the choir in 2023- including a young chorister- bringing the number to 17. We hope that we can encourage more young singers to join the choir. As ever, we are always on the lookout for new altos, tenors and basses- otherwise known as the 'Back row of Power'.

During 2023, the choir sang an Anthem at every Communion Service, 50% being new repertoire and three newly commissioned works by living composers for Mothering Sunday, King Charles' Coronation and RSCM Music Sunday. Compline was sung during the Monday Choir Practice in Holy Week, and the choir led the worship at the Good Friday Meditation, supported by cello and flute, and sung a choral evensong in July. On the 19th of October the Choir led the worship at Rev. Sally's Collation Service.

On 22nd October, and at Rev. Sally's first service, we recognised the dedication of one of our members, Gina Shadrack, by presenting her with a long service award, certificate and medal, celebrating 87 years of singing in All Saints' Choir.

The choir has started getting 'out and about' again and in May sang in Chelmsford Cathedral at the Essex Change Ringers service. Members of the choir also joined the choir of St. Mary's Dunmow, led by our previous Director of Music-William Warns, in a choral evensong (October) and Nine Lessons and Carols (December) held at St. Mary's, and sang with them in an Advent Service held at St. Andrew's Barnston in November.

Members of the choir and the All-Saints' Band sing at our Worship/Communion Together services in church, and in December sang carols at The Tulip pub.

The choir What's App group continues to allow members to keep in touch and socialise remotely as well as during our time together at practice and services.

We look forward to a musical 2024.

Paula Hiatt, Choir Secretary

All Saints' Orchestra

All Saints' Orchestra continues to meet monthly in the Church Hall and its membership has expanded to bring in some younger players and those from a wider area. There are regularly around forty players who come and enjoy making music on a Saturday morning.

During the year, as Joy Bome MBE, the founder of the orchestra, decided to ease out of conducting, we celebrated her achievement and legacy with a special tribute in music and the gift of a trophy.

The orchestra gave a performance of seasonal music in the run up to Christmas and the enthusiastic audience joined in singing carols and in assisting the percussion section in taking over the responsibility of playing the whip in "Sleigh Ride"!

We do encourage those of you who play (or used to play) a musical instrument to come along and listen to one of the rehearsals on a Saturday morning between 09.30-11.30. The dates we meet this school year are March 23, April 20, May 11, June 15, July 13, August 17. Please contact Peter Cross if you would like to come (see 'in touch').

As an orchestra we are keen to explore ways in which we can raise money for All Saints Church and become more fully involved in the local community.

And finally, our sincere thanks go to all those who have helped in so many ways during the year, especially Lynn and Dave Gauld.

Peter Cross

The Guild of Bell Ringers

At the Annual Meeting of the Guild, held in January 2023, there were no further elections to Ringing Membership, so we started the year with eight Ringing Members and two Associate Members on the roll.

In 2023 the Guild rang for all of the morning services and attempted 2 quarter peals after evening service with success in both. We were also asked to ring for 4 weddings with only one of these taking place on a Saturday. Grateful thanks go to Michael Turner for arranging all of the bands to ring for the Weddings and for the support of ringers from surrounding towers to cover Weddings held during the working week.

Seven successful Quarter Peals were rung in 2023; these are continuous sessions of ringing lasting roughly 45 minutes and are rung to mark special services and occasions of local and national importance.

Two of these quarter peals were rung by bands composed entirely of Guild members.

The first of these: 3 methods Doubles, was rung for St. George's Day and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting that day. The second, also of 3 methods Doubles was rung for Harvest Festival and in thanksgiving for the life of Marion Hodges. Marion was a founding member of the Prayer Ministry Team and regularly contributed the Prayer Corner article in the Church Magazine. She was the wife of Peter Hodges whom some of you will remember as a ringer in this band between 1989 and 2007. Peter rang over 60 quarter peals with us, his last in 2003.

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Five of our quarter peals had visiting ringers in the band hence are classified as non-guild quarters. The first of these: 7 methods Doubles was rung in thanksgiving for the life of Vic Leverett OBE. Long time Youth and All Saint's Band Leader who died 2/1/2023. Also, birthday compliment to the ringer of 2 (Ian Calvert) for 15/1/23. The second: of 2 methods Doubles was rung in memory of Cedric Arthur Filby 22/12/1939 to 22/01/2023. A 25th birthday compliment to Daniel Howell for 28/2/23. The third: Plain Bob Minor was rung for the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla on Bell Sunday. The fourth: 4 methods Doubles was rung to mark the appointment of the Reverend Sally Ann Croft as Rector of All Saint's Springfield. The fifth and final non-guild quarter peal of 7 methods Doubles was rung to mark the first service conducted by the Reverend Sally Ann Croft as Rector of All Saints' Springfield that day.

Following the Ringing World encouragement to ring Eighth Peals we reported a 720 of St Clements College Bob Minor rung for the feast of St. Barnabus and on Music Sunday, also a birthday compliment to Andrew Raymond learning to ring at this church.

One other notable piece of ringing was performed as part of a nationally co-ordinated event. On the 6th June General Ringing was performed prior to the service of Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla by the local band including our two "Ring for the King" trainees – Hannah Bome and Andrew Raymond.

After a gap of three years, we were able to enjoy a ringing outing this year. We visited 6 towers in the Harlow and Epping area plus a Pub for Lunch. The whole day was arranged by our Guild Secretary Richard Carson and much enjoyed by all who attended.

Richard Wilson and I spent much of the year teaching new recruits: Initially Andrew and Hannah. Although we haven't seen Andrew since he came on the outing, Hannah regularly attended practices since completing her Level 1 bell handling lessons in June and also made time to sample practice nights at Sandon, Writtle and Chelmsford Cathedral. By the end of the year Dalham and Artem were also learning to ring and making good progress with their Level 1 training. We hope to continue this momentum into 2024, if there are any of you that would like to learn, please make contact. My details are in the magazine or refer to our notice in the porch.

Philip D. Saunders Ringing Master

Christian Aid

Support for Christian Aid at All Saints' and, to some extent, across Chelmsford, has been difficult to organise in recent years. People no longer carry cash and so the delivery of giving envelopes is not as efficacious as it once was. Christian Aid HQ tried to encourage carol singing and fund raising at Christmas on the back of raising awareness of the need to support the young women in Bangladesh, "who have become a guiding light in their community - leading the way out of poverty". Against the background of Ukraine and Gaza, this didn't take off.

This year we plan to publicise the QR code for an 'e-envelope', which is an online donation page. We will also have envelopes available in church and we hope to hold a themed service in Christian Aid Week (12-18 May 2024).

Robin Stevens

Church Mission Society (CMS)

Our Mission Partners, Chris and Veronica and their three children are based in Spain. They have not visited us in 2023 but on their next visit they plan to be with us for a weekend. Their way of building friendships and then sharing the good news of Jesus and bringing people into a Christian community is one which we can all follow. Their visits in 2023 were mainly to Egypt where Chris supports new Christian communities and USA to teach people about good Christian-Muslim relations.

If you send a gift to CMS do include the name of our church and 'Chris and Veronica'. In their case CMS does not use their surname in communications. CMS as a whole is now very active in supporting mission partners who are 'working on the edge' with disadvantaged and young people overseas and in this country. There are still opportunities for young people to travel and work overseas for short period, so do check their website.

For more information about CMS and their outreach and training and gap-year opportunities, please see the website: www.churchmissionsociety.org

Pat Otter

Chelmsford Food Bank (H4H)-

The Chelmsford Foodbank is a charitable organisation which comprises of six distribution centres across Chelmsford and a warehouse based in Beehive Lane.

The Foodbank provides 3 days' worth of emergency food supplies to those who are struggling to put food on the table. Families and individuals in need are given vouchers by Citizens' Advice or Children's Centres to enable them to collect the boxes from one of the distribution centres.

The Foodbank is dependent on the generosity of the public. Donations come from many sources including donations from us, here at All Saints'.

Thank you for continuing to support the Foodbank. Food donations from our Harvest Festival were especially generous and generated a letter of thanks from Ruth Leverett, the Project Manager.

There is a Food Bank Donations box in the church porch which is regularly taken direct to the Food Bank Warehouse in Beehive Lane. Alternatively, please donate directly.

Shirley Duggan

Postage Stamps

Over the years our church has sent millions of stamps to the Children's Society Stamp Appeal, who send grateful thanks to everyone. But the project closed in January 2023 as it had become non-viable. Therefore 2023 was the last year we were able to support this charity.

Many thanks for your valued help.

Gina Shadrack

Communications

We continue to communicate with the congregation and the wider community of Springfield with

- Our posters and occasional fliers for special events.
- Our weekly news sheets.
- Our monthly magazine 'in touch'.
- Our website – allsaintsspringfield.org.uk – that includes the calendar, weekly sheet and monthly magazine.
- Posts on Facebook.

I'm grateful to Roger McFarland and Nicola Howard who assist with this.

For those who are not able to get to church, we record the main Sunday service and make it available on YouTube, accessible from the church website. During 2023 each week they were viewed on average 37 times – but one as low as 12 and one as high as 110 times. We need to think about how we communicate in the future because the world is slowly moving from printed information to electronic and because the editor of our publications will not be able to go on for ever!

Robin Stevens

Prayer Ministry Team

The team did not manage to resume face-to-face meetings during last year following covid, and because Marion was very ill.

We continued to pray for people who contacted us for prayer and held each other up in prayer. We also kept contact by email and phone.

For most of the year Marion continued to do the monthly Prayer Corner for the magazine, to help people on their journeys at special times. The last one was in July, after which Marion was too ill to continue. Marion sadly died at the beginning of September last year. She is sorely missed by all of us, a dedicated leader, supporter, and an inspiration to us all.

Discussions are taking place to reinvigorate the team and to introduce new members.

Lynn Gauld – on behalf of the Prayer Ministry Team

House Groups

Lawn Lane House Group

For many years we have been a lively, friendly and interesting house group, meeting every other week except during school holidays. We've had a lot of fun and laughter, as well as serious conversations of the kind which are easiest between people who are close and know each other really well. We have explored and shared our faith, and the way it connects with our daily lives, in many different ways – with study guides, topical discussions, occasional guests, and times when we have worshipped and prayed together – not forgetting the Christmas celebrations and the annual summer parties! And we have supported and cared for each other through good and not-so-good times, which has been a great help to us all.

Since the pandemic it has been difficult to meet regularly in the way we did before. We have welcomed some new members, but some of our former members are no longer with us, and others are less able or mobile than they used to be. The group has been such a blessing, and I would like to say how much I have personally appreciated the support, friendship and fun we have had. Although we are not able to meet as a group in the future, I do hope we will keep in contact as friends, either in person or on the phone. God bless you all.

Liz Belsham

Chichester Drive Group

The Chichester Drive group ceased to exist at the end of December 2023. The numbers had shrunk, and it only needed a couple of people to be unable to attend and the group wasn't really viable. We had become a very supportive group and still maintain the friendships that were formed whilst in the group and we continue to support one another.

Anne Walton

Green Close House Group

With breaks for holidays, we have continued to meet in the afternoons of the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. We have 8 members. In 2023 we did a York Course concerning Caring for Creation. This was followed by our usual practice of studying the 10.30 readings for the following Sunday. At the end of the year, we did a course about Old Testament Characters and what they can teach us in our Christian lives.

Hospitality has been shared between Jane Britter and Keith and Pat. We are very grateful for our supportive fellowship.

Keith Otter

Christians Together in Chelmsford (CTiC)

Its stated aim is “to see the name of Jesus Christ made famous in our city.” Its standing committee believes that everyone can play a part in blessing and encouraging positive change in our city. To that end three activities were arranged during the year.

- An evangelistic event was held in the High Street on Good Friday.
- Occasional informal gatherings of church leaders are held for mutual support.
- An “everywhere prayer” initiative has been running where Christians are invited to pray for the streets of Chelmsford.

Looking forward, there are plans for a Good Friday event once again this year. It has been observed that it is a considerable expense and effort for a one-hour (approx) event. So the thinking has been to simply run a very similar hour long gathering (minus ToughTalk this year), then to have a short break and continue through the afternoon with a rolling programme of music and other items/contributors which have an evangelistic focus. They believe this remains a wonderful and unique opportunity for celebrating and sharing the good news of Easter.

Robin Stevens

Social Committee Report

During the past year the Social Committee served tea and cakes to around 50 people after the Memorial Service which was held on the afternoon of the 17th of September 2023. On the last Friday of September, the committee hosted the annual Macmillan Coffee Morning. There was a large selection of homemade cakes enjoyed by many. The amount of money raised was £550.00. This was an excellent result, and raised money towards the work of Macmillan. On Sunday 22nd October after the Worship Together Service, a ‘Bring & Share’ lunch was arranged for Sally Croft our new Rector and the congregation. There was a varied amount of food to be shared and the afternoon went extremely well.

The Social Committee would welcome more people to join them with some new ideas and possibly with some organisational skills. It would be good to encompass the wider community of Springfield with new events and to also raise funds for All Saints’.

Elaine Sadler, Chair -Social Committee

The Lunch Club

Unfortunately, it was not possible for this club to meet during 2023.

Paula Hiett.

“Cuppa and Chat”

We were very pleased to be able to resume meeting in April 2023 after a three-year break and for the time being will meet once a month except August on the first Tuesday between 2.30 and 4pm in the Paynter Room.

Our numbers are small, usually about eight of us, but we enjoy tea and cakes and the chance to sit around the table and have a chat together and would welcome anyone who would like to join us. Please contact me if you are interested- 01245 257362.

Jane Britter, Co-Ordinator

"Chat and Do".

This group has met throughout the year, and we busy ourselves with knitting, sewing or colouring, or just come for a chat together over tea and biscuits. Several in the group avidly knit woolly hats that are sent each Christmas to sailors at Felixstowe or Tilbury. We meet on the third Thursday each month between 2-4pm in the Paynter Room and would love to see more members joining us. Please contact me if you are interested. (01245 257362)

Jane Britter, Co-ordinator

Women’s Fellowship

The Women’s Fellowship continue to hold their meetings in the church hall on the second Thursday in the month starting at 2.30 p.m. We start with a short opening service with hymns, prayers and bible reading.

This year we have welcomed several new ladies to our Fellowship. Due to moving away, death, ill health or mobility problems several of our older members have left. Our membership now stands at 35 with an average of 25 members attending each month.

After many years of playing the piano for the Women’s Fellowship Barbara Anderson decided to retire and we now welcome Gina Shadrack as our pianist. There was a variety of speakers during the year including from Farleigh Hospice, as well as on craft, etc. We had a musical afternoon when 60 members from the Bishop’s School choir entertained us with a selection of lively songs; this was enjoyed by all.

We welcomed Sally Croft our new Rector to our January meeting who told us about herself and how she came to be ordained. During our time of tea and biscuits Sally went around to every table speaking to every member which was very much appreciated, especially those with no church connections except for the Women’s Fellowship.

Social events included a cream tea, and, of course, our annual Christmas lunch which was well attended with 34 people sitting down to a wonderful Christmas two course meal, followed by tea, coffee and after-eight mints. A big thank you to Sue Chorley, Elaine Saddler, Liz Stevens and Sally Smith who stepped in at the last moment to prepare and cook the meal for us.

The year finished with our annual Carol Service, which was very well attended and again thanks to Roger McFarland for leading this service and Lynn Gauld for playing the piano.

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Thanks to all who have helped to make this past year run smoothly, including the writing of the monthly reports for the Church magazine, the arranging of speakers, the help with tea making, the preparation of the Summer Tea and, finally, the clearing away after meetings.

New members are always welcome or if they just want to pop in occasionally, they will find a poster with a list of speakers on the noticeboard. If you are interested in coming to our meetings, then please contact me on telephone number 01245 355227.

Doreen Cox

Church Garden

The gardening team met on most first Saturdays in the month during 2023 when the weather cooperated. We have a good number of regular members, as well as some who join us when they can. We do enjoy our break time for coffee, a chat, and a warmup in the winter chill or cool down in the summer heat!

During the past year we have continued to maintain the outside areas as best we can in the time available. As with most gardens there is always more to do than we can hope to accomplish. As usual the planters in the inner courtyard were filled with summer colour.

The kind comments about how good the grounds look are most welcome, and I am very grateful to those who turn up ready to work, whatever the weather forecast.

The team of grass cutters kept the large lawn areas mown throughout the season. Cutting all the grass every 1-2 weeks is a big job but makes such a difference to the look of the grounds. My grateful thanks therefore also go to them for their hard work last year, and to Tim who makes the arrangements for the mower servicing. We still have only two in the mowing team with one covering two areas, and I am most grateful for that. Do let me know if you can join either group - gardeners or especially the grasscutters.

Barbara Garside

Flowers in Church

Our many volunteers have kept the church pedestal decorated throughout the year. We have also been able to arrange flowers for the special church festivals when all our flower volunteers are needed to help.

We have a good number of ready and willing helpers, but we would always welcome more people.

The cost of flowers is still high, but we have kept costs down by using foliage and flowers from our gardens and the churchyard.

We have experimented with a different type of foam which works well and is sold as being 50% biodegradable, and we also tried a type of flower arranging wool which was a complete disaster. In future we will not normally use foam in the pedestal, only chicken wire secured in vases, so this will alter the look of the arrangements. Oasis will continue to be used, however, for the three main festivals of Christmas, Easter and Harvest.

My thanks go to all those church flower arrangers and the many people who give donations for the pedestal through the year and those who donate to the Easter Lily fund. In fact, of the £670 spent on church flowers £425 was donated.

Chris McFarland

Children-in-Church

I have very much enjoyed co-ordinating Children-In-Church this past year during term-time and meeting various children, parents, grandparents and carers, with the help of Pat Otter, Sally Smith, Jackie Poston and Ann Salmon. Not everyone comes each week but there are those who do and we continue to offer a safe play space for children – supervised by the adult who brings them - including a craft activity and, of course, a short service in church with singing, action rhymes, prayers, shakers and an occasional story or relevant thought-for-the-week. During the service the larger toys are tidied away and then everyone is able to share in a drink and biscuit.

Just before Christmas we celebrated with Revd Sally retelling the Nativity story in the hall with us, whilst Roger McFarland kindly played the piano for carol-singing and Chris McFarland came to join us too.

Jan Penney

All Saints Pre-School

After a turbulent few years due to the COVID -19 pandemic and its aftermath, it was wonderful to return to a full timetable of pre-school activities in 2023. We were able to get 'out and about' again, including a trip to the police museum and to Maldon promenade for our family summer outing. We also enjoyed celebrating the crowning of our new King with a coronation tea party in the spring.

At the end of the summer term Doreen Cox stepped down from her role as a reading helper after giving 7 years of her time to the pre school. We were all very sad to see Doreen go but feel extremely lucky to have had her support for as long as we did. Doreen was adored by all the children at the pre-school and made a real difference to their learning journeys. We are so grateful for all her help over the years.

We also had some staff changes in 2023 but we remain a very strong team and embrace the enthusiasm, ideas and creativity that new staff members bring.

We ended the year with our Christmas party and Nativity play, which are always very popular events. It was wonderful to welcome families into the setting to watch their children perform at such a special time of year.

2024 heralds the much-anticipated childcare reforms. No doubt there will be challenges ahead, but we hope in the long run the changes will enable more families to be able to access the pre-school and all the learning opportunities we offer.

Charlotte Lemonde (Supervisor)

2nd Springfield (All Saints) Rainbows

No report was available at the time of finalising report.

Jyoti Fisk, Woody Owl 

2nd Springfield (All Saints) Brownies

No report was available at the time of finalising report.

Vicki Knight (Brown Owl)
2nd Springfield All Saints Brownies

2nd Springfield (All Saints) Guides

2023 was another good year for the guides

We have spent the year working on the guide program doing lots of different activities including learning new skills, cooking and crafts.

In February we celebrated Thinking Day as a district with the Brownies and Rainbows. We attended the gang show at Chelmsford theatre in which two of our girls took part.

This year we managed to camp for the first time in several years. We went to Suffolk and camped on the edge of the River Orwell and had a day out at Jimmy's farm.

At the moment our numbers are small but we are looking forward to another fun packed year including going to Essex Jamboree.

Andrea Jennings -Guide leader

The Boys' Brigade – 7th Chelmsford Company

Our Company is divided into four sections; Anchors and Junior Sections meet on a Monday evening during term time. Nicki Lee is Officer-in-Charge of Anchors with support provided by David White and James Russell. We were pleased to welcome Luke Russell from our Senior Section who helps on a regular basis. The Officer-in-Charge of our Junior Section is Stuart Powell, and he is supported by David Winter, Liam White and Mick Splarn. On Fridays, our Company and Senior Sections are led by Officer-in-Charge, Martin Smith with support from Rob Dickson, Jonny Saunders and Daniel Howell. The Company is fortunate to have the use of the hall, Committee room, Paynter room and the kitchen in the Church centre. These premises afford us the opportunity to run activities and games sessions as well as the occasional cookery classes. We make regular use of the churchyard during the spring and summer months and the easy access to Springfield Green means we're able to play cricket, football and other sports outside.

During 2023 we had 25 boys supported by 11 officers. Recruitment comes from two main sources. We hold regular 'bring-a-friend' nights in all sections where boys will earn a coveted recruitment badge if their friends stay. We've also had some good success by promoting ourselves with targeted boosts on the Company Facebook Page at facebook.com/7thchelmsford. We welcome all boys aged 5 to 18 and we take every opportunity to promote the work of Boys' Brigade within the local community.

We are fortunate to have a very high-quality programme of creative materials, games and crafts which are developed at a national level by the Boys' Brigade. Everything is coordinated and supports the various awards and badges which are blended across the age ranges into six key topic areas: Get Active, Get Adventurous, Get Creative, Get into the Bible, Get Involved and Get Learning. All sections earn bronze, silver and gold level badges by completing work in each of these topic areas. Senior section are also able to obtain a platinum award. Senior boys focus on the major awards which require many hours of hard work and dedication and are rewarded with the President's Badge and the ultimate award in Boys Brigade - the Queen's Badge.

There are also badges to recognise years of service, membership in each section, recruitment, volunteering, nights away and occasional special 'one-off' commissioned badges including a

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celebration of the King's Coronation. Boys are encouraged to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and there is specific support through our Battalion and District colleagues to assist and support this too.

Anchors and Juniors did several joint evening events including a visit from two guide dogs in training and visited the Essex Police Museum. Anchors got creative and submitted photos to celebrate the 140th anniversary of Boys Brigade whilst Juniors took part in Parliament Week.

On Fridays, our Company and Senior Sections focused on their annual bronze, silver, gold and platinum award schemes alongside the new staged badges covering specialist interest areas. The Company and Senior Section had a successful year in winning the following events; Top Team Challenge, Company Section Cyclo-Cross, Senior's Cross Country, Company Section Swimming and Battalion Squad Drill regaining the Queen's Colours.

Company and Senior Section also ran a weekend camp at Skreen's Park in Roxwell which 9 boys attended. The activities included crate stacking, fire-making and cooking their own breakfast amongst others fun activities.

As we approach our Company's 30th anniversary on 13 March 2024, we look forward to more fun and fellowship and working with Sally as our new Company Chaplain.

The Officers of 7th Chelmsford Boys' Brigade