

C. To extend and strengthen our links with the community of New Eltham and with a wider community that are connected to ASNE in many different ways

For over 120 years, All Saints Church of England has served the community of New Eltham. Together, many generations have celebrated the main Christian festivals of the year; services where much loved hymns and carols have always been at their heart.

In November each year, adults and children of all ages gather around our Memorial Area for the Annual Service of Remembrance; and in the surrounding gardens, filled with roses and shrubs, memorial plaques have been dedicated to commemorate loved ones.

Our church has welcomed many at different stages of their lives for their christening, for confirmation, for their wedding; each event witnessed by many more family and friends.

Our Hall has been home to babies and tots, to brownies and girl guides, to youth and sports groups, to fetes and Michaelmas Fairs, to children's parties and celebratory lunches.

ASNE is looking to build on that wide-ranging engagement by focusing on two projects:

1) The development of our annual open day celebrating different cultures.

In July 2022, ASNE held an open day festival which celebrated a range of Asian food, music and dance together with craft stalls and a Burmese democracy photo exhibition. In 2023 and 2024, ASNE intends to build on that success by broadening the cultural mix to include a range of African cultures.

2) The development and opening of a Peace Garden in July 2023.

The Peace Garden is being designed for multiple uses which include:

- A retreat where individuals and organisations can enjoy a wide range of plants, shrubs, climbers and trees that encourage wildlife including bees, birds, butterflies and moths;
- A venue where those attending christenings, weddings and funerals can gather informally;
- An outdoor space where ASNE and other churches can hold services of worship;
- An educational resource for local schools;
- A place where local people can simply come to relax and enjoy nature.

Lead: The MAP Group, through its regular meetings, will continue to oversee the development of both projects with a particular emphasis on ensuring that any resources, connections and learning can be made available for other ASNE events.