



TO KNOW, GLORIFY & MAKE CHRIST KNOWN

2018 ANNUAL REVIEW

March 2019

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VISION STATEMENT

To Know, Glorify and Make Christ Known

The 2018 Vision of St Andrew's is to bring a broader, larger congregation to Christ; to nurture, feed and serve our congregation and community; and to apply our faith in our everyday lives.

St Andrew's continues to seek to be a Christian community through which all can come to know and accept God's love for them and reflect that love wherever they are.

This Review of all that took place in St Andrew's in 2018 is a diverse collection of articles. It is not an official Church Report. Rather it collects the thoughts of many contributors, each sharing their opinions on particular areas of ministry.

THE CHURCH AND ITS MINISTRY

Vacancy for Incumbent

Report by the incoming Vicar, the Revd Dr Mike Branscombe

On September the 6th 2018 I was licensed as the new Incumbent at St Andrew's at a joyous service of celebration. I had previously served at the city centre church of St Martin in the Bull Ring, Birmingham, since July 2015. My licensing brought an end to the vacancy that began on the 1st of February 2017. A 19-month interregnum is a challenge for any parish, yet I arrived at a parish where ministry was being confidently offered in Jesus' name by many who had "stepped up" and done more during the vacancy. A new chapter in the life of St Andrew's church began.

Ministry Team

The United Benefice I joined had a strong Ministry Team that were effectively leading two churches. Godfrey Hilliard, Associate Rector, ably assisted by Hugh Bryant, Licensed Lay Minister, have provided strong and successful leadership at St Mary's, Stoke D'Abernon. Their skills have brought St Mary's to a place where a future for St Mary's as a single parish became a reality as a Pastoral Reorganisation of the parishes began.

At St Andrew's Charleen Hollington and Peter Vickers have taken the clergy duties of worship services, baptisms, weddings and funerals. They have managed and arranged these important duties with many hours of hard work and in the process have made strong connections with the wider community of Cobham. They have been patient in helping their new clergy colleague to find his way in the early months of his new ministry, for which I am very grateful. The clergy are supported by a very able team of Pastoral Assistants. A report

on their ministry is given later in this Annual Review.

Esther Holley has continued to serve enthusiastically as Children and Youth Minister through the year, diligently organising many youth activities and leading her team of volunteers. Work with our children and young people is exciting and accessible; it is a joy to hear Sunday by Sunday what has been happening in Kids' Church. Along with her church work Esther has been partnering with Elmbridge Borough Council in community Youth Work. As Elmbridge reduced their support for the Youth Work in which Esther was assisting, it was necessary for Esther to step back and take a break from some areas where a lot of responsibility had fallen to her and resources had been reduced. During the vacancy Esther took on new responsibilities and shared in preparing, leading worship and preaching on a regular basis. After a summer break Esther returned and alongside running the usual groups she prepared a number of our young people for baptism and/or confirmation.

Elaine Bray makes a wonderful contribution to our parish life as Communications and Administration Manager. A warm welcome and a helpful demeanour await all who visit Church Gate House. Working with David Greenwood, Elaine has continued to develop the church website and social media presence. Her skills in the office are much appreciated by many in the parish. Elaine also plays a significant role in leading Baby Talk and Messy Church.

Moni Babatunde continued her training for ordination during 2018. Moni also assisted as part of the ministry team and took a full part in the pastoral and liturgical life of the parish. Moni is on track to complete her training and to

be ordained Deacon on June 30th 2019. After which she will return to us as an Ordained Local Minister to St Andrew's, and as a Curate to me.

Cathy Whitnall and David Taylor are both authorised to preach occasionally, and their preaching is appreciated by the congregation.

During a parish vacancy many responsibilities fall to the Churchwardens. Fiona Lascelles and Michael Flaxman worked tirelessly to ensure that the parish did not suffer for the lack of an incumbent. They supported the ministry team and collaborated with deanery and diocesan clergy to ensure that an appointment was made for a new incumbent at St Andrew's. The process was not easy and took much longer than anyone anticipated, yet they persevered and moved hopefully forward even in the face of some disappointments along the way. They have my sincere thanks for helping the parish to remain 'healthy' over such a long vacancy. In September Fiona and Michael were unable to continue as Churchwardens and offered their resignations to the bishop. In November new Churchwardens were elected and on Advent Sunday, Michael Elson and David Taylor were admitted as Churchwardens by Archdeacon Paul Bryer. In the weeks that followed, they worked extremely hard helping with many Christmas services and concerts. For their willingness to fill a gap and their support of my ministry I am very thankful. Our PCC Secretary, Leonard Beighton, and Treasurer, Malcolm Graham, have also given many hours to ensure that our meetings are run well and our finances properly managed.

Kevin Ayton has continued to act as Director of Music and is assisted by Cathy Whitnall. They too have worked very hard during the vacancy to continue St Andrew's strong musical tradition. My family and I were deeply touched by how hard they worked on the music for our licensing service and welcome in September. Kevin has decided to step down from this position at the end of January 2019. His hard work is appreciated, and I will miss his careful guidance as I continue to learn my way through our liturgies.

We have maintained a healthy link with St Andrew's School. Esther, Charleen and I continue to lead assembly on Thursday mornings. Esther also co-leads the Monday Prayer club at the school. Children from the school are encouraged to join us for Family Worship on several occasions through the year. The school bring children to visit the church as part of the RE curriculum.

Many other people take an active role in enabling the mission and ministry of St

Andrew's. Faithful commitment week in week out is what makes a church such a special place. People quietly serving their Lord by using their gifts and talents, giving freely of their time. I am truly thankful to all who have served during 2018.

Occasional Offices

St Andrew's continues to serve many families through baptisms, weddings, and funerals. Along with the clergy a team of people offer hospitality and support to those who come to us for these very important services. Pastoral Assistants work to support those who are bereaved. We also try and stay in contact with the families of those who bring children for baptism. Sue Aitken, a trained Pastoral Assistant, takes on much of the preparatory work of communicating with and coordinating the couples who come to St Andrew's for marriage. Changes to church laws that have broadened the scope of those who are eligible to marry in church, and they have brought with them complexities that take considerable time and energy to work through. Sue patiently and peacefully helps the clergy and couples navigate their way to joyous celebrations of marriage in our beautiful church.

United Benefice

St Andrew's and St Mary's began 2018 as a United Benefice, two distinct parishes that share a ministry team, all under the leadership of a Rector. After two unsuccessful attempts to appoint a new Rector to the United Benefice steps were taken, with the full support of the PCC from each church, to end the United Benefice. A Pastoral Measure was put into effect which prepared the way for each church to become a single parish, no longer united. A consultation period for the Pastoral Measure began, during which comments of support or objection could be made to the Church Commissioners. This Pastoral Measure also suspended the United Benefice which meant that I was appointed as Priest-in-Charge of the United Benefice, not Rector. The consultation period will end early in January 2019, and, if no objections are raised, I will become Vicar of St Andrew's and Godfrey Hilliard will become Rector of St Mary's. From that point on, any benefice-wide shared activities will cease and we will simply be neighbouring parishes.

In closing I would like to report that it is God's grace that has called us together to share in His mission and ministry. He has called us to serve others in His name that the world might know His saving love. Margaret, Ella, Grace and I are thankful for the warm welcome you have shown us since we moved to Cobham and joined you

at St Andrew's. Together, may God lead us forward and help us discern what He is calling us to do, firstly to deepen our own commitment and discipleship, and then to reach out in His name.

Small groups

Report by Revd Charleen Hollington

The St Andrew's small groups have continued to be an important aspect of the life of the church, a forum in which participants can deepen their faith and their friendships. We still have approximately 50 people participating, although the make up of the groups has altered slightly. Following the Slades' departure, the group which they hosted naturally came to an end, but its members were redeployed. A brand new group has got under way, hosted by the Constables, which has seen some excellent and challenging discussion. A women's only group has also begun, which aims to meet fortnightly during the day.

Departing from our practice of using a recent sermon as the basis for study, we trialled a Bible Study format, using a published guide. Very bravely, the groups started with Revelation, which naturally generated quite a bit of discussion. We have now moved onto the study of Luke, since it is Luke's gospel that we will be reading in the course of this Church year.

Charleen Hollington is still responsible for coordinating the small groups.

Spiritual Cinema

Report by Hugh Bryant

It's a simple winning formula. Come to Church Gate House and watch a film - which may or may not be overtly 'spiritual' - and then talk about the issues which it throws up, in the light of our Christian faith, over a glass or two of wine and some of Julie Baird's delicious party food. Usually 20-30 people turn up, so there is a homely and friendly atmosphere.

We enjoy a wide screen and surround sound, although Pullman seating is still a work in progress. Elaine Bray is our very capable technician, ensuring that, despite Hugh Bryant's rather uncertain touch as a projectionist, screening works without a hitch. There is no entry charge, although we rather hope that you will give something as you leave.

Spiritual Cinema happens roughly every month, and there is a brains trust, led by Judy Brickett, who scout out suitable films to be shown - and the brains are open to suggestions.

Hugh Bryant, in succession to Revd Renos Pittarides whose good idea this was, has been introducing each film, having devised

programme notes including suggested discussion topics. Now Revd Mike Branscombe is taking over as host, so look out for some new ideas!

Sacristan

The work continues to be shared between Judy Brickett and Derek Bullman.

Assets and Fabric

Report by the Churchwardens

The quinquennial inspection of the church and its grounds confirmed some of the things that we knew needed attention but also drew our attention to other matters. The Property Committee was already aware that the lead sheeting in the valley between the roofs was showing cracks that would allow damp to penetrate. For knowledge of the full extent of repair that we need to make, we shall have to wait for the report of the inspection.

The inspector spent quite a time in the steeple, which we also knew needed work. We knew that pigeons had penetrated the steeple and deposited much material that needs removal. We shall have this work done together with other internal improvements to the tower for which the bell ringers received a generous legacy. Plans are already well ahead here too. The inspector also noticed that the shingles on the spire contain holes that woodpeckers have made. Apparently such holes are not uncommon in external woodwork! We await the report to see what action, if any, the inspector recommends.

Within the church, in the north east corner of the sanctuary, we have some rising damp, which is normal in a building of its age. The right paint allows the damp to come out naturally into the air without being a problem. The paint that we currently have, however, seals the damp in and does not allow the wall to breathe.

In the churchyard we have several tombs that are on the list of historical monuments. The inspector said that several were in a poor state of repair and in need of attention. The report is likely to include reference to the tombs and an expectation that the church will take appropriate action. Otherwise, the inspector assured us that we faced no major or urgent repairs to either the interior or the exterior of the church building.

Garden of Remembrance

This part of the churchyard provides an attractive focus for remembering loved ones. It was very well maintained by Ray Sherlock for many years before his very sad death. Since then it has been maintained by Mick, the gardener who maintains the garden in Church

Gate House under the supervision of Mabs Ostley.

ADMINISTRATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

Parish Office

Elaine Bray is our Communications and Administration Officer. She runs the Parish Office which is open from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm on Mondays to Fridays, though her own working hours are rather longer. She is responsible for much of the administrative work of the church and its communications, and for handling all enquiries, including bookings and enquiries about the Hall. She looks after the Welcome Café and supports the volunteers who man it.

Church Website

(www.standrewscobham.org.uk)

Report by Dave Greenwood

Did you know there is a calendar of the events at church on the website? Useful if you have forgotten the date of the next Prayer Meeting, Spiritual Cinema or Lunch Club (to name but three). They are all on the website. Did you miss a service? The weekly notice sheets, text & recordings of sermons are on there to download. So are copies of Family magazine and various forms and policies. We aim to make the website a useful resource for parishioners as well as shop window for visitors. Feedback and suggestions welcome, as are any tip-offs about things that have become out of date as it is too big for us to keep checking it all.

Behind the website, there is the church database which covers those on our weekly email list, other mailing lists, the Electoral Roll and people involved in the activities of the church. 2018 brought in the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) so we had a big exercise in obtaining specific consent from people to be able to keep them up to date with news and invitations (fill in a "Keep In Touch" form if you haven't already). Thanks to Judy Franz, who played a key role co-ordinating the GDPR exercise, with Elaine and me, and who continues to look at our forms and processes. This informal "data team" continues to meet as there is more to review.

"FAMILY"

St Andrew's parish magazine

Report from the Editor Daphne McFarlane

10 issues are published annually, with an average print run of 400 copies. It is available on the church website and in large print, and is distributed to all church members, to visitors at

our services and in Cobham Library and Day Centre.

The magazine aims to provide information about church worship and activities. The wide range of articles is mainly contributed by parishioners; included are Christian organisations, Biblical research, local news, personal profiles and spiritual poetry.

The Editor is always glad to receive articles, comments and ideas from readers. The magazine is designed and published by Edna Tipping and David Greenwood, with support from the Parish Administrator Elaine Bray. Zoe Ostley is the Advertisement Manager and distribution is organised by Jenny Masters.

From 2014-18 the magazine was named "Together", as it served the United Benefice of St Andrew's and St Mary's churches. It has now reverted to "Family", the original name of the first issue in 1988.

The magazine is printed by Dyer & Son, Leatherhead. It is partially funded by donations from readers and income from advertisements.

Other communications

A weekly news sheet is given out at Sunday and Friday services with items of immediate interest. The news sheet is also posted on the church website.

An on-line mailing list is maintained, to which anyone can subscribe at the St Andrew's website, allowing e-mail messages to be sent to subscribers at any time with information about church activities and events.

There are notice boards at the south entrance to the Church, at the entrance to the car park, at the lychgate, and in the High Street. There is also a board in Church Gate House for church notices.

An annual parish directory is distributed in June, containing details of church officials, committee membership and organisations.

The Diocese publishes a magazine 'Transforming Church' three times a year.

Archivist

We have not found anyone to take over as archivist since Peter Joce died a few years ago. Between them, David Taylor, Elaine Bray and Leonard Beighton ensure that the records are kept appropriately.

Electoral Roll

Report by Dave Greenwood

A big thank you to Jenny Masters who was our Electoral Officer for many years up to the APCM in 2018. I took up the reins from then, as it fits in very well with maintaining the database (see Church Website). The Electoral Roll is now part of the central database, which should make it easier to keep our records up to date, as it reduces the number of places where we hold address details. We ended 2018 with 247 on the Roll.

2019 is the year when all Church of England Churches have to prepare a new roll from scratch (it happens every six years). By the time

you read this, everyone on the previous roll should have received an invitation and the form to sign up again. Forms are available in church, and on the website, for new people to join too.

Church of England governance processes are enshrined in the law of the land and the Electoral Roll is the legal register of all those who can vote for members of the PCC and Deanery Synod. The latter votes for the Diocesan and General Synod members. However, even if that does not excite you, we would still like everyone who considers themselves to be part of the St Andrew's Church community to "put their hand up" to say so, by being on the Roll.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Membership

The clergy, Churchwardens, the children, families and youth Minister, and lay representatives on the Deanery Synod are members of the Council ex-officio. In addition, 15 lay members are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, in accordance with the Church Representation Rules, making 23 members in all. In addition our patron, Dominic Combe, attends some meetings.

During the year the following served as members of PCC

Priest-in-charge: Revd Dr Michael Branscombe
Chairman (from September 2018)

Associate Rector with special responsibility for Stoke D'Abernon:
Revd Godfrey Hilliard (to September 2018)
Assistant Curate Revd Charleen Hollington
Licensed Children, Families and Youth Minister
Esther Holley

Churchwardens Michael Elson (from December 2018)
Michael Flaxman (Lay Vice Chairman) (to September 2018)
Fiona Lascelles (to September 2018)
David Taylor (from December 2018)

Lay representatives on the Deanery Synod
Leonard Beighton (Secretary to the PCC)
Michael Elson
Geoffrey Morris

Elected members Keith Baird
Elizabeth Bradley
Judy Franz
Malcolm Graham (Treasurer)
David Greenwood (From September 2018)
Peter Kelly
Sue Kilpatrick
Daphne McFarlane
Shirley Mensah
Clive Moorman
Lindsay Sainsbury
Elaine Slade (To September 2018)
Phil Slade (To September 2018)
Carrie Taylor
David Taylor (To December 2018)
David Tipping (From April 2018)

Co-opted Moni Babatunde

The Work of the Council

Report by Leonard Beighton

The Council maintains oversight of all the main activities of the church. It continued to support the previous churchwardens in their work in looking for a new Rector for the United Benefice; and it agreed the Pastoral Measure which subsequently led to the dissolution of that Benefice. It received regular reports from each of the committees and group leaders. All these activities are fully reported elsewhere in this Report.

Leatherhead Deanery Synod

Report by Michael Elson

Mike, our priest in charge, now vicar, received a very warm welcome at the Leatherhead Deanery Synod. Alan Jenkins, the Area Dean, said that, for the first time since his appointment, every benefice now had an incumbent. By the end of 2018 we had no vacancies in the deanery!

Further good news is that Charleen has become a member of the deanery's Mission

and Pastoral Committee, which I too have recently joined. Naturally enough, during the vacancy, the deanery understood that we were having to work hard just to keep things going. We now look forward to making more of a contribution from Cobham.

The deanery is also beginning to change its operation, as people explore ways to do more together. The most obvious area for this deanery is the ministry to children and young people. Leatherhead leads the way. But not just us, the diocese now has sixty five youth ministers. They form a major part of the church's investment in the future.

Large scale developments are likely to occur soon in housing within the deanery. We shall have the opportunity to take more innovative approaches to ministry. The deanery is equipping itself to become more effective, through better organisation and through having its own website. The focus for 2019 will be on making disciples, by developing maturity in those that are already disciples and, then through their confident discipleship, making new disciples.

Guildford Diocesan Synod

Report by Michael Elson

The diocese is shaping up to become more effective. Currently a review is under way to plan the future of the central diocesan teams. Everyone seems to think that these teams could operate more collaboratively. In 2018 a review group began to examine in detail their operation and to identify ways in which they could meet the needs of the diocese and of the parishes, for which their services exist, even better.

Many readers of this review will be glad to know that in 2018 the diocese became an eco diocese, only the second diocese in England to do so. Members of synod showed a lot of enthusiasm and responded with applause. Perhaps partly due to the provision of free cake with which to celebrate!

Bishop Andrew told diocesan synod about his grandfather, who had been a missionary to China. The bishop took the opportunity to say how much Christian mission has changed, and would continue to change. He reported on how the implementation of the diocesan vision was going. Although attendance at worship on Sunday has continued to decline, the diocese is more than half way to meeting the goal of adding a hundred new 'communities of worship' in the diocese. He said that we now had fifty four new 'communities of worship', which seemed a lot, but then every Messy Church is a new community of worship. I have to learn to think outside the box. Spiritual cinema too is a new kind of worship!

Bishop Andrew has a national responsibility to lead on future provision for stipendiary clergy. He told us of success in increasing the number of ordinands and curates. With Peter, Rosemary, Renos, Charleen and Moni, we might think that we have done our bit as a church. We need to note, however, that forty per cent of today's stipendiary clergy are due to retire in the next ten years. The difficulty of recruitment that we experienced as a church when Robert retired is likely to be far worse, much more acute, when Mike retires. So we had better make the most of him!

Another aspect, the first item of the twelve on the diocesan vision, is discipleship. Bishop Andrew emphasised the need not only for us to make disciples but also to help disciples to mature. A disciple is a learner and the journey of faith is a lifelong commitment. A confident and convincing disciple is someone who has developed a mature faith. This aspect of discipleship is something that the church needs to develop at all levels, diocese, deanery and parish. We too need to think how we can be a church that not only makes *new* disciples but also provides *old* disciples with opportunities for spiritual growth.

PCC COMMITTEES

The PCC operates through a number of committees. Each committee includes at least one PCC member (not necessarily the chair) and reports on its activities to PCC annually to ensure two-way communication.

Standing Committee

Chaired by the Vicar

This is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact the business of PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by Council. It also recommends to the PCC the dates for meetings and the arrangements for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. In practice, however, it rarely needs to meet: looking forward, we may be changing that.

Church Gate House

Report by David Tipping

This is my third year as Chairman of what I believe is a small excellent Working Committee who are very 'hands on', giving help in practical ways by, for example, supporting Elaine, our hardworking Administrator.

In November, Church Gate House had its 20th Birthday. There was no cake or bubbly, but perhaps in 2019 when we are 21 years the opportunity will be taken to have a bit of a celebration!

We perhaps didn't know, or perhaps had forgotten, that our excellent facility was made possible by a number of key workers, who at the time obviously had a vision and were prepared to devote some practical time to provide for the future. Peter Ostley for instance, who under many 'hats' was certainly the driving force. He was Clerk of Works, liaising with Planners, which is not always easy! Together with the Revd Barry Preece, Vicar at the time, and other hardworking members, many hours were devoted to ensuring that Church Gate House became not only a Church asset, but also a valuable facility for the community.

We are a popular venue for many organisations and individuals in the Cobham area; from Exercise Classes, the WI, Art Club, Probus, Birthday parties, Wedding Receptions etc. In the last 12 months there has also been an increase in usage of our lounge area by children's groups. Our Welcome Area, manned in the mornings by a team of volunteers, gives support to our busy office, and can provide a cup of coffee for visitors. There is always room for more help in this important area of our work.

We must not forget our own Church activities, especially our expanding work with children and young people under the guidance of Esther and her team of volunteers; Spiritual Cinema; the Lunch Club; T4U; Baby Talk; Curry evenings . . . and many more.

We have plans to further improve the facilities – more details about this in the future. It is important that we ensure our excellent asset is maintained to a high standard, that everything works, and the building is clean and offers a pleasant welcome from the staff and volunteers.

You could say that we are alive and kicking and long may we be so!

Finally, thank you to the Committee: Elaine Bray, Julie Baird, Esther Holley, Mabs Ostley, Gill Sharp and, for part of the year, Fiona Lascelles.

Eco Committee

Report by Clive Moorman

There have been a number of lively meetings for the Eco Committee (Leonard Bightton, Geoff Morris, Sam Acquaye and Wendy Jane Gray) over the last 12 months. There has been quite a lot of focus on what we need to do to achieve Eco Church status when our Eco Congregation award runs out in 2019, as well as other notable events.

We are still keen that St Andrew's invests in a bike rack to encourage more people to cycle to church. This would have the double benefit of saving on fuel if they previously drove to church, and increasing personal fitness. We now need to establish the level of support from the congregation on this and will be carrying out a wider survey this year, including this as a question.

We again arranged for ethically sourced meat, from Chris Donn's farm, to be used at our summer BBQ which was a great success, organised and led by Julie Baird.

We again organised an Eco Committee stand at the Heritage Day celebrations and had a lot of interest from a number of visitors, partly attracted by the smell of Wendy Jane's homemade bread and fresh coffee. We also featured an updated video of some of the eco-focused things we do at St Andrew's.

You may remember that last year we recruited James Moreno to carry out the four annual audits (spring, summer, autumn, winter) for RiverSearch, which contributes to a national database on the health of our rivers.

We are still waiting for an appropriate occasion to use the video we made of St Andrew's youth answering questions, and expressing their concerns about how well we look after the environment and the people of the world.

We were much more organised in the use of the apple press we purchased last year and got a good response from the congregation when we asked that they bring their surplus apples to Church. This meant that not only did the children have great fun pressing the juice out of apples and grapes, but we were able to press far larger quantities and use the resulting juice at a couple of our social events.

One of these events was when we invited Helen Stephens, the Church Relations Manager from A Rocha, to come down and tell us about the other work that A Rocha do to protect the planet we live on. This was a very good evening and was very well attended by our own congregation and a good number of people from other churches in the Deanery.

Following a year with EcoTricity, a 'green energy' supplier, supplying both our gas and electricity, we have signed up with them, at a competitive price, for a two year fixed price deal to take us to 2021.

We have invited Andy Atkins, CEO of A Rocha, to come down and give a presentation at the 10.00 service on 12th May and we are discussing the format of that service with Mike.

We continue to monitor the 300+ trees we planted in St Andrew's field, most of which appear to be doing well and will be a good legacy for future generations that use the field.

There are still many things we would like to do in 2019. We still need to get round to refurbishing the 'bug hotel' which doesn't seem have many residents at the moment as it possibly a bit too 'posh' for them. This is something that Kids' Church could help with, as well as learning about the best environment for our bug friends.

We need to organise our next Eco Service with Andy Atkins and follow up on our recycling visit to Leatherhead Waste Transfer Station. Leonard has written an article on 'ethical investments' for Family. We would like to plant a wild flower border on St Andrew's field, which will help get a good grading in our Eco Church application.

We would also like to thank the congregation for their continued support in our eco activities and would be delighted to have more members on the Eco Committee.

Education Committee

Report by Dominic Combe

The last minuted meeting of the Education Committee was held on 1st February, 2017. Since then, there has been plenty of activity, but not through the Committee.

Faith and Social Action Committee

Report by Charleen Hollington

The committee consists of Charleen Hollington (Chair), Leonard Beighton, David Taylor, Sue Kilpatrick, Geoff Morris and Elaine Bray. Meetings of the committee have been replaced with 'Champions' meetings, in which the committee members and the champions for the various projects all meet to share information and support one another.

In 2018 the committee continued to oversee the activity of the church in supporting its chosen charitable projects.

It was a year of somewhat mixed blessings for those initiatives. We continued to support the following charities, each represented by the 'champion' named:

Operation Mobilisation , Nepal (OM)
Peter Kelly;

Christians Against Poverty (CAP)
Charleen Hollington

The Garden Route Children's Trust (GRCT)
Lesley Flaxman.

However, our support for the GRCT is in a state of some uncertainty at present as Lesley has left St Andrew's and we no longer have a champion to promote the charity. In the months ahead, it will be necessary to find another champion and, failing that, to make a decision as to how to proceed.

Furthermore, the committee failed to find a champion to take up and invigorate our involvement with Prison Fellowship, and it has been decided also that the barriers to involvement are too high. It was felt that it would be best to look for another local charity to support, once we had found a new vicar. Accordingly, in the months ahead, the committee will be considering this issue.

In addition to these projects, the Foodbank has continued its work under the leadership of Hugh Bryant.

A separate report for each project appears elsewhere in this Review.

During the year, we continued with the practice of each project being allocated a 'Project

Sunday', at which the relevant champion gives a presentation about the charity at the 10 am service.

Outward Giving once again provided financial support for the various projects.

Displays for Cobham Heritage Day were mounted in the church for OM, CAP and GRCT.

As always, I would like to thank all the members of the committee and also the champions for all their commitment and hard work in furthering the church's mission to reach out to those in need.

Fellowship & Social Committee

Chaired by Julie Baird

We began the year with our Marriage Preparation Day on Saturday 24th February, where a lunch consisting of mozzarella and tomato salad, chicken paprika with new potatoes and beans, and apple and blackberry crumble and cream was served to the happy couples.

On Easter Sunday after the 10 am service the congregation tucked into canapés and prosecco, whilst the Easter Egg hunt took place.

On May 19th forty plus guests enjoyed the Wedding Celebration lunch for Prince Harry and Megan. The ceremony was shown on the big screen while coronation chicken, quiches and salads were served, followed by wedding cake.

Sunday May 20th. Pentecost was celebrated with a lovely cake made by Helen Amys.

June 4th. We held a celebration to introduce our new Vicar Mike Branscombe to the congregation.

June 24th was the annual Family BBQ. Well attended as always and much enjoyed by everybody. A huge thank you to Chris Donn who organised the BBQ and of course to all who contributed such lovely food.

September 6th saw us all celebrating the Licensing of our Vicar Mike Branscombe. Fortunately the Prosecco that dear Waitrose had donated to us earlier held out for this.

September 8th was Heritage Day and as usual we ran an all day refreshment service in Church Gate House. The church was open to visitors and that generated a steady stream of customers who enjoyed filled rolls, quiches, pastries, cakes and cream teas and made a good profit to swell our funds for future events.

On Sunday 30th September, after the 10 o'clock service, we celebrated Revd Peter

Vickers' twenty five years service as a Minister at St Andrew's, partaking of another gorgeous cake from Helen Amys.

Our Harvest Festival Lunch took place on Sunday 7th October and was very well attended with delicious contributions from the congregation teamed with a tasty chicken dish and fruit salad.

This year St Andrew's hosted the Baptism and Confirmation service for the Deanery, and some 60+ guests attended the candlelit reception with sandwiches, canapés and bubbly afterwards.

Our Time to Remember Tea took place on the 4th November.

St Andrew's Day on Friday 30th November was marked with a soup, french bread and cheeseboard lunch in the Church, attended by 25 people. This was followed on the next day by a family games afternoon with a takeaway supper organised by Esther.

It's been a very busy year. I would like to thank my wonderful team of helpers who have made all these events possible and joined me in bringing fellowship and enjoyment to our Church Family. We could not have done it without your hard work and enthusiasm and it is much appreciated.

Keep checking the weekly newsletter: there will be many lovely events coming up in 2019.

Finance & Administration Committee

Chaired by David Taylor

I have taken over chairing the committee since I became a churchwarden. It is responsible for maintaining, protecting and enhancing the physical resources of the Parish. It discusses and resolves expenditure matters and can approve expenditures up to £750 without further reference to the PCC. Any expenditures in excess of this amount are submitted to the PCC with the committee's recommendation.

Giving Committee

Report by Peter Kelly

The Giving Committee began 2018 with a determination to continue to make progress on the topics of faithful generosity and stewardship, despite the fact that the interregnum period was continuing. Members of the committee at the start of the year included Leonard Beighton, Michael Flaxman and Malcolm Graham, along with the Chair, Peter Kelly.

January brought the opportunity to assess the financial situation of the parish and to use new means to communicate financial health. The team shared various charts and formats during January and February and presented graphical illustrations to the PCC at its March meeting. It was at this meeting that a general understanding among the PCC members emerged that our annual regular running cost versus regular giving was in the area of a £25,000 deficit.

In April, the Giving Committee met to discuss the plans for regular communication and decided to add occasional inserts to the notice sheets as well as provide articles for the church magazine *Together* – both of which were done during the early summer. Updates on the "Operating Deficit" continued to draw members' attention as the deficit was not abating. Additionally, during the April meeting, plans were drawn up to introduce an annual financial plan as well as a budgeting process.

The summer brought mixed news on the issue of Giving. In July, the committee reported to the PCC that run rates of the operating deficit were reaching £30,000 annually and this news was received with concern. This was contrasted to the wonderful news about the selection of our new Vicar who had a deep pastoral experience in the areas of giving and generosity.

It was decided after meeting Mike Branscombe that the annual Giving Day sermon would not be given by Peter Kelly, but instead Mike would deliver it himself. He delivered a two-Sunday series which included a pledge programme and promised giving (mostly among existing regular givers) increased by over £10,000.

The results of the campaign were shared with the PCC at its October meeting and dates for the initial meetings of 2019 Giving Committee meeting were agreed. It was also agreed that the financial planning and budgeting concepts would be pursued in 2019 as the committee had been planning prior to Mike's arrival. Following the departure of Michael Flaxman, the committee welcomed David Taylor and Michael Elson to its ranks. The Committee thanks all members of the congregation for their faithful and sacrificial support as well as the guidance and wisdom of the PCC.

We look forward to a wonderful and generous year in 2019.

Outward Giving Committee

Report by Cathy Whitnall

The Outward Giving Team (Cathy Whitnall, Keith & Julie Baird, Michael Elson and Carrie Taylor) has continued its usual practice of

meeting 2 or 3 times a year, but with some business dealt with by email. During the course of 2018 the team made two presentations to the PCC. In June we asked for approval of the proposal to send £2,000 to each of the four charities supported by the Faith and Social Action Team: Operation Mobilisation (Nepal Project), The Garden Route Children's Trust, Christians Against Poverty, and Cobham Area Foodbank.

The PCC had allocated a total of £12,710; thus after disbursement to these charities we had £4,710 remaining. We asked for PCC approval to distribute £1,000 to each of Oasis (Cobham), Leatherhead Youth Project and Operation Noah. We also asked for funds to support the work of John & Maila Davies in Papua New Guinea, and for St Andrew's School; £500 was sent to both causes. £200 was sent to Elmbridge Rentstart (some of whose clients come to the Christmas lunch run by Shirley Mensah) and the remaining £510 was sent to Crisis, as they were marking 40 years of operation.

The team also put together a statement giving a brief history of the work of the group and indicating the way in which they approached the decisions they made regarding recipients of the church's money. This was presented at the November PCC meeting; copies are available from Cathy Whitnall on request (cathywhitnall@talktalk.net).

The team would like to thank all those who contributed input to the planning, and also to Melissa Kreisa, who joined the team for about a year before returning to the USA. Above all, we would like to thank the many donors to church funds from which the Outward Giving amount is drawn.

Pastoral Committee and Prayer Team

Chaired by the Vicar

The Pastoral Committee of the church meets regularly to ensure that the pastoral care needs of parishioners and those we have ministered to in various contexts are always a priority for St Andrew's. The Pastoral Assistants on the committee are, Sue Aitken, Wendy Jane Gray, Judy Brickett, Dave Greenwood, and Carrie Taylor. Lindsay Sainsbury also serves on the committee as a Pastoral Visitor. The Committee plans and assists the clergy in providing the very popular Time to Remember service for bereaved families held in November.

Our Prayer team offer to pray with anyone who feels a need to pray for themselves or a loved one. Particular opportunities are offered at our

10am Sunday Holy Communion Services. Other prayer meetings have been organised. Prayer meetings during the vacancy were particularly important and provided support to all those involved in the appointment process.

Pastoral Care and Prayer are provided in many other ways and are at the heart of any flourishing church. To bear one another's burdens and to bring everything to God in prayer is in our DNA as Christians. We are all called to this work and I want to make special mention of two loving examples of how this takes place, the monthly Friday Lunch Club and Tea 4 U, both show care through fellowship that is underpinned with prayer. Thanks to Jenny Masters and Jenny Vickers for the lead they take making these gatherings so much fun for everyone who attends.

Property Committee Report

Report by Clive Moorman, Chair of the Property Committee.

The newly reconstituted Property Committee (David Tipping, David Taylor, Keith Baird, Sam Acquaye and Clive Moorman in the 'chair') has now met three times since Mike took up post.

We held our first meeting on 28th September so not a lot was done prior to that, apart from essential items as we went through the interregnum. However we are now moving forward rapidly on a number of fronts and 2019 will be a busy year for the Committee

Items progressed in 2018:-

- **Flood Defences:** We have drawn up a new list of volunteers, who live close to the Church, who will be able to react quickly if we get a flood warning. Mike who is leading that team will shortly be organising a dry run and is one of a number of people who will get an automatic alarm if there is a danger of flooding.
- **CGH Maintenance:** There have been a number of repairs needed in and around CGH. These included refurbishing the gates and the disabled toilet by the lounge. This work has been carried out by Eagle Property Developments (EPD). There is still further work to do on the external door to Elaine's office and the door closers at the entrance to CGH.
- **PAT Testing:** Portable Appliance Testing for both the Church and CGH was carried out on 18th January. Most equipment passed without any problem and there were only three failures - the most notable being the reading light on the church lectern (George the eagle). This light is on a very old design, not compliant with current legislation and therefore will need replacing. We ask 'readers' to bear with us while we find a suitable replacement. In addition at the same time a new gas safety certificate was arranged for the CGH Flat.
- **Green Energy:** A new 2 year fixed price contract was signed up with EcoTricity to supply both the Church and CGH.
- **Carpet Runners for Pew Seats:** We did consider installing carpet runners for the pew seats, similar to those at St Mary's, however at a cost of just under £5,000 we chose to 'shelve' this project until our finances were in a more sustainable position.
- **Lychgate Letters:** New oak letters for the memorial to the Revd E H Loring, on the Lychgate, were fitted by EPD. Mike will arrange a blessing for this memorial, possibly on Palm Sunday when we process from the Lychgate.
- **Grass Protection Matting:** The grass protection matting that we installed in St Andrew's Field continues to work well and Elaine has reported that nobody has become stuck since it was fitted. We will continue to monitor to see if there is any need to install more of this matting in the next 12 months.
- **Carpet Protection:** We have suffered some damage to the carpet in the Church as a result of people moving the piano. To reduce this impact we have fitted a piano mover that has much bigger wheels and this appears to be working satisfactorily.
- **Garden Tidy-ups:** Richard Hollington organised two tidy-ups in 2018 of both the Churchyard and CGH garden, and Keith Baird did a sterling job unblocking all the low level gutters which overflowed in heavy rain.
- **Quinquennial Inspection:** This went ahead on 16th January 2019, and the inspector noted that additional roof works we required as the lead in the valleys is cracking in a number of places (see page 7 above under "Assets and Fabric").
- **Bell Tower Project:** There is much work required to the Bell Tower, and a specification has been drawn up and priced. It is proposed that this project should be part funded by the Harry Saunders legacy, and this project is being led by the Bell ringers. However before this is carried out there needs to be a clean-up of infestation by pigeons, which will be funded by St Andrew's General Fund.
- **Resurfacing CGH Car Park:** Our application for Community Infrastructure

Levy funding has been submitted and acknowledged by the ECC, and we have been invited to present our application to the Council Members on 7th March, where Clive Moorman and David Tipping will attend. Should we be successful, it is proposed that we do this work in the spring of 2019: the works will take about a week, so will lead to some disruption over this period.

- **Unauthorised use of Refuse Bins:** We have had a problem with some of the hirers of CGH putting their rubbish in our bins, despite it being a requirement of hire that they take their own rubbish home with them. In an attempt to prevent this we are proposing to put a fence round the bins, with a locked gate and EPD have been commissioned to carry out this work.

Many thanks to the members of the Property Committee and other members of the congregation who actively support the maintenance of our beautiful church premises, so that we can all continue to enjoy it in the years to come.

Safeguarding Committee

Report by Wendy Jane Gray.

The Safeguarding Committee continues to meet four times a year. Our next meeting is on March 6th. We carry on working towards making safeguarding a part of church life.

Last November we completed the Parish Self Audit and Confidential form. We have had feedback on this from Jane Huttly, the Diocesan Policy and Safeguarding Training Advisor.

Firstly she commends us: "I can see that Cobham have done much to embed and develop best practice in Safeguarding and Inclusion, especially in the area of training, and in the area of Safer Recruitment. This is a good effort from Cobham promoting a healthy culture in parish ministry."

Further comments on our audit are:

There is a new resource available to help with confidential records. This has been developed by Bagshot church and shared with other parishes.

There is additional advice and support through the Diocesan Communities Engagement team. For Health and Wellbeing, Suzette Jones has a background in psychiatric nursing, Clive Richards is a Carers Advisor, and Tony Oakden is the Dementia Advisor.

Jane Huttly noted that we marked our risk assessment ability as amber and she noted that the legal responsibility for this rests with the Churchwardens. The starting point for improving our rating is:

- all new activities need a risk assessment;
- all ongoing activities should be assessed annually; and
- there is a Churchwardens' peer support group. The form for joining has been sent to our Churchwardens at St Andrew's, should they wish to take part.

Looking at the ratio of DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) to trained positions, we are a "tad" low in that we need to improve training. Hopefully the C1 training in January will go towards addressing this as will the C2 training in April/May.

Worship Committee

Report by Dave Greenwood

This has been a quiet year as things have continued during the vacancy and as Mike gets familiar with what we currently do. Ongoing topics include the flow of people during communion, in the different patterns, and encouraging people to be quiet and prepare for worship during the opening song. Other than those, we have carried on our usual reviews of services past and considerations for services to come.

CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

St Andrew's Bellringers

Report by Peter Bound, Tower Captain

2018 has been an eventful year for the ringers.

We can report several highlights of the year, especially the welcoming of two new members into the band.

I can confirm that all that was written last year in the 2017 report we have achieved again, and we are improving in different ways, maybe not seen by the church community weekly.

In 2018, the country documented 100 years since the end of WW1. The ringing fraternity nationwide put out a challenge to all churches to recruit new ringers to collectively match the 1400 ringers who gave their lives in WW1.

Cobham contributed two new ringers, Fred Mills, student, and our own Revd Peter Vickers.

Not only has their passion to learn to ring contributed to the 1400 nationwide recruits but it has also added strength to St Andrew's band. During the Armistice Day of thanks 11/11/2018 we were able to ring at all the expected times, and were recorded in the *Ringling World* with all the other churches that also contributed to this challenge. (See <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk>.)

Guildford Diocesan Guild

Cobham, Surrey

St Andrew's

Sunday, 11 November 2018 (9-3-9 in G)

Rounds and Call Changes

1 Fay Bound

2 Hannah Ostley Tidd

3 Anne Brown

4 Helen Harper-Smith

5 Revd Peter Vickers

6 Peter Bound

7 Fred Mills

8 Zoe Ostley Tidd

*Rung half muffled prior to Morning service,
Ringing with the nation at 12.30pm and 7.05pm.*

Heritage Day, I am singling out as another highlight of the year. The ringers have always contributed to this event. Owing to safety regulations, in the last two years we ceased to provide access for the general public to view the bells in the upper chambers. To compensate for this loss of activity, we introduced '**have a go at ringing a bell**'. This proved to be fun, safe to manage and successful with children and parents. Last year we introduced '**ring a**

handbell' and this developed a keen interest within the band to pursue their skills in handbell ringing. Grateful thanks to Peter Wren for his initiative in reviving this activity. We have since refurbished our set and 2019 Peter Wren and his team will be meeting regularly. Watch out at 2019 Christmas time, we may be making different bell sounds.

With the good comes the bad. Regrettably on New Year's Eve we were unable to ring the old year out and the New Year in. It's not an easy task to put together a band for this, for several practical reasons, but as a team we haven't abandoned it as an objective.

We are looking forward to the minor refurbishment works commencing soon to the ringing chambers. Various tasks are being investigated and hopefully this time next year all will be complete.

Promotion to encourage new members is always active, Leatherhead District of the Guildford Guild of Ringers, which Cobham belongs to, organises practice sessions at different churches within the district on a monthly basis for all standards of ringing levels.

Church Cleaning

Report by Mabs Ostley

Grateful thanks are extended to the Revd Mike Branscombe for joining the team. We enjoy having his company as much as he is another pair of hands. The present team consists of David Tipping, Barbara Lemmer, Gill Sharp, Sheila Bonny and myself. The present team are depleted in numbers and new members are urgently wanted.

Church Flowers

Report by Mabs Ostley

St Andrew's team of flower arrangers has had a busy, but an enjoyable year. The team regularly do wedding flower requests in addition to any special wishes. Memorial flowers are occasionally requested, and the team can arrange these too.

Anyone interested in flower arranging, but hesitant to go solo, can be paired with an existent flower arranger to build their skill and knowledge. If interested, please ring Mabs Ostley for further information on how the rota works and the flower arrangements we provide.

Friday Luncheon Club

Report by Jenny Masters

As in previous years the Lunch club is still well supported with around 30 to 35 people

attending each month. In spite of recent rises in price of many foods we are still able to produce a 2-course lunch for £3.00 per person. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Gill Sharp, who helps with the cooking each month, Judy Brickett who helps set up the tables, and those who clear away at the end of the meal.

Mothers' Union

Report by Jenny Vickers

We had a variety of speakers over the year, including a most moving talk by a member from West Horsley on her involvement in a charity in Uganda. As well as MU speakers, we had a talk by Peter and Wendy Jane Gray about one of their voyages on their yacht "Cherish", Mike spoke about his family and one of our members, Irene Johnson, told us about her happy years with "Auntie" the BBC. In February we met at St Mary's Church where Stephen Chater completed his talk from the previous year on the history of the Church.

We attended the annual tea parties at Great Bookham and Leatherhead branches, the Lady Day service and the Pilgrimage of Prayer at the Cathedral. We visited Arundel Cathedral to see the carpet of flowers and then went on to Nymans Gardens. We had a tour round the Royal Pavilion at Brighton and some of us enjoyed fish and chips or an ice cream on the pier! We had a very tasty Christmas lunch prepared by the committee.

We are fortunate that our clergy support us and take our short services before our meetings and this is much appreciated.

Music

Report by Kevin Ayton, Acting Director of Music.

We have continued through 2018 with our interim arrangement, with Kevin Ayton as Acting Director of Music, and with locum organists/pianists. This has worked well, but with the arrival of our new Vicar, the appointment of a new leader for our music will be addressed early in 2019.

The music (chosen each week by Cathy Whitnall) is designed to be a balance between traditional and modern, familiar and new. But above all the music is chosen to support the theme and style of the service, and – as far as possible – to fit in with any special requests from the preacher.

The choir currently numbers just seven, so new members are always welcome. I am very grateful and thankful for the commitment and hard work shown by this loyal band.

The music group has continued to play at the Family Worship services. The opportunities to play at other services are somewhat constrained by the difficulties of arranging practice times with the music group and that week's locum organist, but we will continue to be as flexible as we can. We currently have five instrumentalists – a bassist, a saxophonist, two drummers, and most recently Mike Branscombe has joined us to play guitar.

SAY Choir has continued to make use of all the combined talents in this small group. In addition to singing at Family Worship services, they have sung at a wedding, provided music for the Easter Tea and helped one of the group to write and record a song with piano and percussion for a school project. However, as the year has gone on, various members have gone on to other things - including one girl who has now joined Guildford Cathedral Choir - and so the regular rehearsals were phased out towards the end of the year.

Highlights of the Musical Year:

Our Good Friday Devotional Concert "*From Gethsemane to Calvary*" took the form of a series of readings covering the crucifixion story from St Mark's Gospel with music reflecting on the readings. The music centred around the choruses and some of the solos from John Stainer's *The Crucifixion*, and was supported with anthems, solos for voice and organ, and congregational hymns. Thanks are due to all who took part – singers, Michael Smith (organ), and to Michael Flaxman for his readings of the Words.

In September we welcomed Mike Branscombe as our new Vicar, and music was an important part of his Induction Service. The music was largely chosen by Mike and his family. Some of it was new to us, and we particularly enjoyed learning both the anthem, a setting of the hymn *The King of Love my shepherd is* by Dan Forrest, and also *My Lighthouse*, a song not previously known to many of us. Apparently our performance was "more lively" than was familiar to the Branscombe family from their time in Birmingham!

For the annual Service of Remembrance the Choir sang two anthems. The Introit was *The souls of the righteous*, a setting by Roy Massey, and dedicated to the memory of Peter Moorse (Cathy Whitnall's uncle), while for the anthem we sang the *In Paradisum* from Fauré's *Requiem*. A number of our 'regular extras' were able to join the choir for this service which helped to swell the sound.

The highlight of the year for the choir is the service of Nine Lessons and Carols. Alongside the traditional congregational hymns we sang a mixture of accompanied and unaccompanied carols, some familiar and others less familiar. I was pleased that we were able to include a first performance of my setting of *The Lord at first did Adam make* – a carol which I have been trying to write for some 20 years! Again, we were joined by a number of our regular guests which allowed us all to relax and enjoy the service.

Looking forward

By the time this report is published I will have stood down as Acting Director of Music, a role which I have filled for nearly two and a half years. When I took it on I was expecting it to be for perhaps 6-9 months. But with our new Vicar in place, the time is right for a more permanent leader for the music at St Andrew's – the Music Ministry Leader – to be appointed. Indeed, by the time this report is published an appointment may well have been made.

St Andrew's has a solid foundation of traditional and modern music on which to build as we move forward. And I would like to thank all those who have helped maintain that foundation over the last year: our locum organists (Oliver, Tim, David), our small but dedicated choir, and our music group; and not least Cathy Whitnall for choosing the music we sing, preparing the worksheet each week, and for leading SAY Choir; and all the others whose contributions can often go unnoticed. I thank you all. Your contribution is greatly appreciated.

So as the musical life of St Andrew's moves into a new chapter, I would encourage anybody and everybody to consider how they could contribute to the musical life of the church. You might be a better singer than you think!

Church Gate House Welcome Area

Report by Elaine Bray

The Welcome Area in Church Gate House is run by team of wonderful Welcomers, every weekday morning. Visitors to Church Gate House are greeted with a smile and an offer of delicious coffee. This is particularly helpful when events are being held in the lounge and the hall in the morning, and the office is hidden from view, it saves guests walking into an empty room and not knowing where to go. The team also

have the time to sit and talk over coffee. Enormous thanks to everyone who participates in the welcome team rota.

There have been so many brilliant examples of God working through the right person in the Welcome Area on that particular day, being able to meet the needs of the guest. A recent example of this is a lady with close experience of living with Parkinson's Disease being able to talk to and encourage a guest who had recently been diagnosed.

Church Watching

Report by Elaine Bray

A team of dedicated and wonderful volunteers help to keep the Church open for visitors outside the normal service times. On a Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday mornings the team open the Church between 11am and 1pm and welcome visitors. A huge thank you to everyone in this team who helps to keep the Church doors open.

The number of visitors varies throughout the year depending on the weather - a lovely sunny day will draw more people. We have welcomed people from far and wide, from USA, Australia, Germany and near and far in the UK. Some people will want to quietly spend some time with God, others will be researching family members, others admiring the building and windows and other wanting a full historical briefing.

A sample of some of the comments left in the visitors' book throughout the year:

A beautiful and well cared for Church, the welcome as warm as the Church itself

Very photogenic building

Very historic building

Beautiful

Lovely Church and very welcoming

Beautiful stained glass

Fills you with peace – beautiful church

Amazing!

Thank you for my Dad's service in 2008

Looking forward to 2019, it is hoped to be able to open the Church on some Sunday afternoons when other Cobham historical sites, eg The Cobham Mill, are open. Keep a look out for the dates.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Child Safeguarding Policy

Report by Wendy Jane Gray, Safeguarding Officer

We continue to develop our awareness, following Church of England Safeguarding guidance for children and young people's work. The flow chart on the inside back cover (page 31) describes the thinking process behind what type of check and training is required for what type of activity. At the bottom of the chart is a reminder for a safer recruitment process. This is a clear guide for anyone considering working with children and how we operate at St Andrew's.

Children and Families Work

Esther Holley, Children and Youth Minister

Children and Families

Kids' Church continues to meet during the Sunday 10am Holy Communion service, with the exception of the first Sunday of the month for Family Worship. Kids' Church is still growing with new families joining us throughout the year. The team of leaders for 'Little Fishes', our Pre-School group, is now led by Lynn Turner Saunders; Carrie Taylor leads the 'Waves' team for infants and Alison Wilde leads the 'Anchors' team for junior children. I meet with the teenagers for 'DiscipleSHIP', who also join in the main worship service once a month. Lyn Moreno leads the team of registration volunteers. In December 2018 we had 80 children registered, with about 25 attending each week.

The Family Worship services once a month also continue to reflect the involvement of the children and youth in St Andrew's Church in singing, prayers and reading. In May the young people led the talk with their reflections on scripture.

In April we had our Easter holiday club 'Seaside Adventure'. Over three days the church was transformed into rock pools and beaches, full of colour, fun, games and great Bible teaching. Children from the church and across the community came along.

In October we held our first Sparkle Party, as an opportunity to share the light and Good News of Jesus to 30 children in our community. The party was lots of fun, with food, games and activities, stories and fireworks.

For St Andrew's Day, we had an intergenerational event 'St Andrew's Family' with games, quizzes and craft followed by fish and chips. A great time of fun and fellowship from the youngest to the oldest, as a whole Church family.

In December we had our Kids' Church Christmas Party and Crib Service rehearsals, which again was a fantastic celebration with the young people. This year we had a great Crib Service led by the children and young people with a Christmas message from Revd. Mike Branscombe.

Baby Talk on a Wednesday morning attracts lots of young families in our community. Thank you to Mabs Ostley and Christine Woodfield for their ongoing commitment and support of this wonderful group. In December we had a Christmas Party which was really appreciated and enjoyed by all who attended.

The children and families work at St Andrew's continues to grow and flourish. Kids' Church is in need of some more loving leaders. Please do speak with us if you would like to be a part of this vital and valuable ministry in the Church.

Thank you to all the volunteers who made the Holiday Club and Sparkle Party such a joy and a success.

I would like to thank all who led, helped and were involved in Kids' Church in 2018.

Thank you to Carrie, Alison, Lynn, Michelle, Wendy Jane, Mel, Linda, Elaine, Suzannah, Christina, Alyson, Marianne, Lyn, Liz, Lynsey, Sam, Kennedy and Shirley for your commitment, example, hard work and for making Kids' Church such a wonderful place for the youngsters to know more of Jesus.

Youth Ministry

At the start of February we started Youth Bible Study, meeting each Tuesday evening, with the young people who attend St Andrew's Church. Initially we used the Youth Alpha program, followed by confirmation preparation. It is a great group in which the young people are growing in faith and fellowship together. In 2018 we've had 12 young people attending.

On October 11th four of our young people were confirmed, with two baptisms. It was a great celebration of their faith with the Church and Bishop Jo.

SAY it's Sunday, the youth group for 10-14s, met on Sunday evenings each week. Since September 2017 the numbers were declining. After Easter 2018 we took a break from our usual youth group sessions, and instead a group of adults met in the Church to pray for the young people of Cobham, in our community and in our Church family. SAY it's Sunday has not resumed at the present time as we wait to see what direction God is taking us in for the future.

Through the outreach work with Elmbridge Youth Services in Autumn 2017, we met many young people in Cobham. In January 2018 we opened up Church Gate House as a safe and warm youth centre. The young people would be involved in games and activities, have food, but also receive the necessary support from Elmbridge Youth Workers. We built relationships and thoroughly enjoyed working with the young people, and providing them with a place to go. In March we took 17 young people ice-skating in Guildford. We took a break for the summer and have remained in contact with some of the young people, but we have not resumed the weekly meetings as the group needs a lot of support and appropriate leaders. We are looking to continue working with the young people of our community.

Thank you to all volunteers who have supported SAY it's Sunday over the years, the work of Elmbridge Family and Youth Services, and to those who encourage the young people in faith at Youth Bible Study.

Our young people are an asset to our Church, and it is a privilege to journey with them and watch them grow in faith. Please do continue to pray for the children, families and youth in our Church and community, as we anticipate what God has in store for 2019.

St Andrew's School

Report by Joint Head Teachers, Jo Mitchell and Bethan Thomas

This is our first opportunity to officially report to you as co-head teachers of St Andrews Primary School. We are very proud to lead the school in this challenging and highly rewarding role.

We want to start our report by officially thanking our staff who have embraced the changes we have introduced and have worked with rigour and passion to improve the opportunities and outcomes for our pupils.

School Values

In September we co-created and launched our school values of Resilience, Respect, Aspire, Achieve, Contribute, and Integrity. These have given us a clear set of principles and standards that are the bedrock for us all as we continue to build on the school's successes whilst driving forward school improvements.

These sit hand in hand with our new Character Curriculum where we teach and practise a set of virtues that we feel our pupils will need as they progress through school and into life beyond St Andrew's.

St Andrew's Church continues to be an important part of school life. Weekly Prayer

Club, run by Esther and our RE leader, Mrs Wilde, allows all our children access to a reflective space that is dedicated to prayer. Mike Branscombe is becoming a familiar figure, and the children respond positively to Clergy Assemblies each week. Sunday Services are well attended by pupils and holiday events have a good take up.

Performance

There have been a number of new initiatives that we have introduced over the last year that are beginning to bear fruit. A big part of this has been to provide better support and development to our teachers. We are really excited about this and are already seeing some of this in action, benefitting our pupils.

Importantly, the children's progress in reading, writing and maths has improved from this time last year. The table below shows the percentage of pupils who have made accelerated progress in their learning.

	Reading	Writing	Maths
Autumn 2017	66%	63%	67%
Autumn 2018	89%	88%	92%

Pupil Premium and Special Educational Needs pupils remain a focus for us. We are committed to providing the right level of support for pupils with the highest needs and train our Learning Support Assistants to ensure accelerated progress.

We have introduced a new behaviour policy focused on rewarding pupils making consistently good choices. This is seen throughout the school day and we are pleased to have been able to reward many pupils for their good behaviour and have witnessed a reduction in the need for lunchtime detentions (50% reduction in one term!).

Linked with behaviour, the school uniform policy has been refreshed and there has been a noticeable impact in the appearance of our pupils and therefore their readiness to come into school.

In addition to academic studies, we are privileged to see the children excel on the school stage in plays, dancing and displaying their musical prowess. Our sports teams have also excelled (the boys football team has won all their matches!), and the "Daily Mile" has enabled pupils to walk, jog or run 28,000 miles during the Autumn term (more than the circumference of the earth). The curriculum has excited pupils throughout Maths Week, STEM

day, Inter House Competitions and numerous school visits. We are pleased with the achievements so far.

Finance section

St Andrew's current financial position is positive. The forecast for the academic year to 31 August 2019 projects an in-year surplus of over £100K (though this includes a one-off payment of £80K from Elmbridge for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds that relate to last year). This would give the school closing reserves of over £170K – very healthy for a school of St Andrew's size.

However, the outlook for 19/20 remains challenging. Main school funding will fall, reflecting the overall reduction in pupil numbers and the loss of bulge class funding. This, combined with increased staff costs, will make maintaining an in-year balanced budget for 19/20 that much harder. The head teachers, governors and Esher Learning Trust are currently working on the 19/20 budget and rigorous financial controls and monitoring will help ensure the school remains in a positive financial position without compromising children's outcomes. In addition, the school is continuing to explore additional ways of

improving efficiency and increasing self-generated income.

Governance

The governing body, led by Chair Alistair Mann, continues to challenge and support us as head teachers. We were pleased to welcome Revd Dr Mike Branscombe to the board last term, and at a time of change for the school he has demonstrated an immediate willingness to be involved.

Our governing body brings together volunteers with a wide range of professional and life skills and we thank them wholeheartedly for the hours they commit.

Looking forward

This is all good but it must be maintained and enhanced. We will continue to focus on teaching and learning to improve reading, writing and maths skills. This is set against the uncertain financial backdrop and in full knowledge that there will be lows as well as highs in the coming months and we are grateful for the prayerful and practical support offered by the Church. This is particularly evident in the warm welcome the school receives when it participates in services and events.

FAITH AND SOCIAL ACTION PROJECTS

Christians Against Poverty

Report by Charleen Hollington

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) continues in its excellent work of helping people to escape the prison of debt. People who are burdened by debt seek the help of trained debt counsellors who review the client's finances and then help them to work out a budget which allows them to meet their living expenses while repaying debt. CAP then negotiates a repayment plan with the client's creditors.

Bookham Baptist Church (BBC) is the CAP 'partner church' for the Mole Valley, and St Andrew's has made a commitment to support BBC in providing CAP services in Cobham. St Andrew's makes a financial contribution (£2,000 in 2018). We also have three 'befrienders' – Dave Greenwood, Elaine Bray and Charleen Hollington – who support CAP clients through their difficulties. This Christmas, once again, for the third year in a row, the people of St Andrew's generously provided the wherewithal for a wonderful Christmas hamper for the CAP family of four we support. It is

heartening to see that this family has now paid off about half of a substantial debt.

CAP Mole Valley provided a wonderful Christmas gift for all its clients by taking them and their families to the panto in Leatherhead. In addition to this, each child and adult attending the panto received an individually chosen gift (St Mary's in Fetcham did all the buying and wrapping). It was heart-warming to see people being blessed in such a way at Christmas, which can be a time of great financial stress.

On a sad note, the lovely Fran Pyatt, the CAP Co-ordinator for the Mole Valley, resigned the position with effect from December. The steering committee for CAP Mole Valley is currently recruiting her replacement.

In September, Fran came and gave another presentation to the church at our 10 am service, and following her talk, two people came forward to be 'pray-ers', who receive the regular newsletter from CAP and pray for the clients referred to in it (anonymously, of course). Two

volunteers also helped with a pamphlet drop in Cobham.

CAP is a wonderful charity which truly shows the love of Christ to others.

Cobham Area Foodbank

Report by Hugh Bryant

'How is the Foodbank doing?' The answer which we would like to give is that food poverty has disappeared and no-one needs us any more.

Unfortunately the reverse is true. In my view it is the inadequacy of the minimum wage, zero-hours employment and the government's cruel Universal Credit which has increased demand in our area from an average of just under half a metric ton of food to $\frac{3}{4}$ tonne per week - over 50%, since Universal Credit was introduced here at the end of November 2018. We expect to provide around 3,000 food parcels this year.

Anyone in Cobham, Oxshott, Stoke D'Abernon, the Horsleys and Effingham who needs food and has insufficient money to buy it, for whatever reason, can apply to one of our food voucher issuers for a voucher by following the steps at:

<https://cobhamarea.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/>

The voucher, which specifies how many mouths are to be fed, can be exchanged for sufficient food to provide a nutritious diet for a week, from our distribution centre, every Friday lunchtime at the Methodist Church hall in Cedar Road, Cobham. There is no limit to the number of times food can be obtained - so long as the need persists, we will respond. We will deliver to home in cases of urgent need or where the client does not have means of transport.

Problems we are facing include the impending sale of the Methodist Church, which may oblige us to find an alternative distribution centre - but where we have been blessed with a kind offer in principle from Surrey Fire and Rescue Service to make available a room in Painshill Fire Station - which is where our van is already kept.

Garden Route Children's Trust

Report by Charleen Hollington

The Garden Route Children's Trust (GRCT) is a UK based Christian charity. Its aim is to support efforts in the Eastern Cape area of South Africa to provide food and education to the impoverished children of the area. The main beneficiary of the GRCT is the e'Pap Feeding Project in Knysna, which now covers 100 schools. In 2018, it aimed to provide 800,000 meals. E'Pap is a highly nutritious

porridge which is a pre-cooked blend of maize, soya, vitamins and minerals.

The meals are provided through a number of outreach centres. The Hem of His Garment is an outreach into the community from Tiger Kloof School near Vryburg. The GRCT funds e'Pap for the 170-200 very poor children who turn up for food each week. At the Missionvale Care Centre, 239 primary school children receive e'Pap. 67 children receive meals at the Heatherbank Pre School.

A new initiative supported by GRCT, Hands and Hearts, focuses on boys who are out of school and unemployed. They are taught practical skills such as carpentry, metalwork and plumbing.

It should be noted that the GRCT asks all its beneficiaries to send six-monthly reports in standardized form.

The GRCT continued its excellent work of fundraising. The GRCT Summer BBQ was once again held in the beautiful Oxshott garden of Ruth Burns. Unfortunately, it was on the same day as the St Andrew's BBQ, which meant that many St Andrew's people could not attend.

The charity's annual fundraising coffee morning and sale was held in November in Oxshott and was very successful.

St Andrew's provided the GRCT with funding in the sum of £2,000 in 2018. The GRCT champion, Lesley Flaxman, gave a presentation on the GRCT to the congregation in July which was well received. £210 was collected for GRCT at the service.

It was with great sadness that we learnt that Penny Fleming, the founder and former chairperson of GRCT, had passed away, some months after the accident which had left her paralyzed.

As mentioned in the Faith and Social Action report, Lesley is sadly no longer able to undertake the work of championing the GRCT at St Andrew's. We are very grateful for all she has done to help involve St Andrew's in this excellent charity. We are currently seeking a new champion and failing that will have to decide whether to continue supporting it.

Kosovo Link

Report by Geoff Morris

Since the Serbian Army withdrew from Kosovo, our aims have always been:

1. To work with all Kosovar faith communities to support the development of the Democratic Republic of Kosovo.

2. To help with educational developments
3. To integrate the Roma inhabitants of Gjakova into the state education system.
4. To facilitate exchange visits amongst adults and young people.
5. To bring help to those in need, whatever their faith, nationality or ethnicity.

Whilst those of us who have visited or been involved with Kosovo have kept up our friendships through correspondence, 2018 has been a very frustrating year, because:

1. The visa process, though better than last year, is still complicated and lengthy.
2. Turkish Airways have bought the airport in Pristina and stopped direct flights by BA and most other companies. The Turkish flights to London are via Istanbul and cost three times the previous BA price. Other possibilities are inconvenient and costly.
3. A very fair, carefully created, democratic system of government is constantly disrupted by unruly behaviour in the Parliament – e.g. tear gas canisters let off by opposition members.

The good news is that young Kosovars who have visited the UK, including Iliriana, Nita, Vatra (just married), Lumi, Ndrigem, Ideal, Yllka, Arberesha, Vlora, Driola, Dorentina, Ron, Blina, have all kept up friendships and sent us news that they are doing well, as indeed are the young members of our Church who went to Kosovo or have been involved, including Kathryn, Abby, Bethan, Hannah, Grace and Will.

Operation Mobilisation – Nepal

Report by Peter Kelly

The year of 2018 brought growth and success to the partner Operation Mobilisation, both in its global mission and in the country of Nepal, where our partnership is based.

On the humanitarian side, OM Nepal expanded its agrarian efforts, doubling the training capacity at its Shilo farm training facility in Kathmandu. As a result, hundreds more farmers will be trained in sustainable farming techniques including soil preservation, water management, and ecological fertiliser use. During this year, thousands of metric tonnes of food were distributed. Additionally, the AidsLink programme got off to a great start in its first year, ministering to thousands of people dealing with health problems from HIV. Also, the local teams assisted in a significant number of post-earthquake house reconstruction projects, as well as baby care and micro-

enterprise support for women-owned businesses.

Spiritually, the teams showed the love of Christ to those they met and among the people they lived with. Thousands heard the story of Jesus for the first time and hundreds were moved to make a decision to accept His work on the cross. As a result, several dozen new house churches have been formed and new believers are being added to their numbers daily. Also, fellowship groups are abounding and the new faith communities are becoming self-supporting with local leaders taking up the challenge to teach and encourage the new believers in their faith.

A wonderful development this year was the use of SD memory card distribution which allows remote villagers (many of whom have mobile phones) to listen to the gospel on pre-recorded memory cards using their phones – some even have received the gospel in video format. The innovation of the local team truly knows no bounds and it was wonderful to hear the stories of the gospel distribution programme using modern technology.

We finished the year with a commitment to visit our partners in November 2019, in the successful “Project 4997” which will involve climbing a summit in Nepal which is 4997 metres high and raising £1.00 for each metre for each climber who participates. We hope to raise £20,000 to help our partners on the ground in Nepal.

We look forward to a wonderful year in 2019 and our entire Nepal team wishes to thank the members of St Andrew's Cobham for their faithful, ongoing and loving support for the work of the gospel in Nepal.

Social Concerns Forum

Chaired by David Taylor

The Social Concerns Forum's purpose is to bring together those for whom social action is an important outworking of their faith, and with the aim of encouraging understanding of the issues and support across the wider church community. Whilst the focus is on the areas which the PCC has chosen to support, all those either engaged, or interested, in other areas of social concern are encouraged to attend.

The Forum meets two or three times a year after the Morning Service and its meetings are announced in Weekly Notes, and by the clergy orally, and are open to all members of St Andrew's.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Bible Society

Report by Jenny Vickers

We had a quiz and supper evening in November which raised £742. This brings the total raised since the first quiz was held in 2003 to £13,653.

We had tables made up of members of St Andrew's and St Mary's churches, Stoke D'Abernon WI and Cobham's former WI. Our friends from the Sacred Heart were not able to be with us, but we had a table of St Andrew's younger members, namely "The Mummies", who took part for the first time.

The running of the event was a team effort. Jenny Masters and Gill Sharp prepared the first course of the supper, Paul Masters assisted Jenny in the kitchen whilst Rosie Masters organised the raffle.

Various members of St Andrews provided the crumbles and Peter acted as MC.

Churches Together

Report by Geoff Morris

St Andrew's appointed representatives on the Committee of Cobham Churches Together are the Clergy, Geoffrey Morris and Keith Baird.

As has always been the custom, Cobham Churches Together held a joint service on Sunday 21st January 2018, as our contribution to the annual 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity'.

Following this, the Committee of Cobham Churches Together was taken by surprise when the Revd Godfrey Hilliard resigned from the Chair, without the appointment of a successor. Since then, the lay members of the Committee have made a number of attempts to get organised.

The Committee of Churches together held the view that we should not do things separately if we can do them together. Wonderful examples have been:

- 'Messy Church', which has met at the United Reformed Church.
- Projects for joint 'Alpha Groups' and 'Junior Alpha'.
- The interdenominational Lent groups which take place in alternate years.
- The Cobham Foodbank continues its essential work.
- On Good Friday a vigil is held around a large wooden cross in the Holly Hedge Precinct.
- Joint carol singing at the turning on of the village Christmas lights.

Many of these have continued under their own impetus in 2018, but some will wither away unless we take deliberate control and we need to innovate.

Fortunately, a small informal group organised an excellent joint service on Sunday 20th January 2019 based on an Indonesian model.

Messy Church

Report by Elaine Bray

Messy Church in Cobham, run by Cobham Churches Together, is now in its sixth year of running.

At Messy Church we share the gospel with primary school aged families through craft, games and worship. We meet on the 4th Thursday of each month at Cobham United Church on Stoke Road, Cobham. Families arrive from 3:45pm and spend until around 5pm moving between the 7 themed craft tables, using the quieter games room or tucking into the tea, squash and biscuits available. The crafts vary depending on the biblical theme of the month, but they will always include the ever popular edible crafts table and lots of mess! At 5pm, everyone moves into the worship space, for singing, a talk and prayers which reflect the theme and all the crafts they have been doing. The families then share a child friendly meal and cakes before going home with their bag of precious crafts!

Our Lord has richly blessed Messy Church in Cobham with the great number of children that regularly and excitedly arrive at Messy Church, in the last year we have averaged 20 families. The number of families attending has declined a little over the past 12 months, but the relationships with those that do regularly attend have deepened during that time.

Messy Church is run by volunteers who all have a heart to share the gospel with the children of Cobham. We are immensely grateful for the help and practical support we continue to receive from each of these volunteers in addition to the financial and prayerful support from the Churches in Cobham. St Andrew's is a key contributor to Messy Church both in terms of manpower, financial assistance and prayerful support for which the team are most thankful. The families have loved having Mike with his guitar singing funny songs at Messy Church since his arrival in Cobham.

Community Christmas Lunch

Report by Hugh Bryant and Shirley Boakye-Mensah

At a sunny summer party in Church Gate House garden some years ago, Shirley Boakye-Mensa

saw our church family gaily enjoying plenty of delicious food and drink, and wondered about our neighbours, the elderly living alone and shy about going out, the people who have to choose between paying the rent and buying food - and end up going to our Foodbank - all the people who actually don't have big family get-togethers at Christmas. No turkey. No Father Christmas.

We know they are out there - look how many people the Foodbank feeds¹, even here in prosperous Cobham. So Shirley proposed that we organise a Christmas lunch 'for the Community'. She brought in support from Cobham Area Foodbank and Waitrose, who run national Christmas initiatives supporting local charities which offer Christmas hospitality and sustenance.

The first year we did it - in 2014 - Shirley formed a working group and we determined a number of things. First, that the Christmas community lunch would actually be on Christmas Day. Second, that it should be just like Christmas at home: turkey and all the trimmings, the Queen on TV at 3 o'clock, a glass of fizz, and Father Christmas bringing presents for the children. Third, that there should be no charge, and Fourth, that transport would be provided. We still stand by these essential policies.

That first year, quite a number of people expressed interest, but eventually didn't turn up. We did some discreet 'market research', and found out that the no-shows resulted from several factors: some didn't believe that the lunch, on Christmas Day, would really happen; others, that they were worried that the invitation, targeted at people who might be alone or otherwise unable to have a traditional Christmas lunch, might imply, if they responded, that they were 'Billy no mates' or his female equivalent!

We have refined the 'offer' so that nowadays it's clear that the Lunch is open to everyone, that is, there is no 'qualification' for coming. It's good that we have a complete mix between people who may be in need, in one way or another, and 'normal' people and families. Just add a little Prosecco and everyone gets along.

This is all helped by the generosity of local people, who have donated faithfully at collection days organised by the Foodbank at Waitrose, by Waitrose's generosity, through their Community Matters green tiddlywinks scheme and their Christmas community support programme - and also by their lending

¹ 2,500 (in round numbers) food parcels to last a week in the last 12 months, given to people living in Cobham and environs.

several of their Partners to help prepare and serve the lunch. Here we make honourable mention of the legendary 'Doug the Gravy'), who also recorded the event photographically for Twitter and Facebook. Thanks also to Julie Baird, Moni Babatunde and the other expert cooks who cooked extra turkeys, hams and chickens, which they brought in, resting from the oven, on Christmas morning.

This year there were 87 guests, compared with the dozen who came four years ago, so we seem to be doing something which meets a need - and is a lot of fun for all concerned.

As we did last year, we are going to offer an Easter High Tea on 20th April, High Saturday, between Good Friday and Easter Sunday. People were so generous for Christmas that there is quite a lot of Prosecco still in the cellar

Elmbridge Multifaith Forum

Report by Geoff Morris

The aims of the Forum are:

1. To help people to understand, respect and enjoy each other's faiths and philosophies.
2. To work with people of other faiths for the good of local and global communities

We do not aim to 'convert', persuade or argue, but to listen, ask questions and learn about other religions and talk frankly about our own.

Highlights of the year were:

- On Sunday 14th January, we were invited to the Induction of Rabbi Kath Vardi at the Weybridge Reform Synagogue.
- On Monday 30th January, in the Hall of the Church of the Sacred Heart in Cobham, Judge Georgina Scott led a fascinating discussion on "Faith Matters in the Courts".
- On Tuesday 1st May in the Hall of St Mary's Church, Stoke D'Abernon, we had a capacity attendance at a meeting entitled: 'Do women have a role in leading religion?' The speakers were Bishop Jo Bailey Wells, Rabbi Kath Vardi and Mrs Julie Siddique.
- Our Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday, 26th June in the Church Hall of St Christopher's Church, Hinchley Wood. We were honoured by the presence of the Mayor, Councillor Schweta Kapadia and her Escort. Mayor Schweta was one of the founding members of Elmbridge Multifaith Forum in 2004, and we were delighted that

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she chose to have a Multifaith Church Service this year.

- When the time came for election of the Executive Committee, Jackie Foster felt that, whilst she was happy to continue to serve on the Executive Committee, other new commitments meant that she could no longer share the secretarial duties with Geoff. Kauser Ahktar kindly offered to step in and was duly elected as Joint Secretary and Trustee.
- Following the Annual General Meeting and refreshments, Kauser, who is the wife of the Imam of the Shah Jahan Mosque in Woking and Diocesan Faith Links Adviser to the Anglican Diocese, gave a talk on "The True Face of Islam: Myth Busting".
- On Tuesday 6th November, we went by coach to enjoy a guided visit to Westminster Cathedral.

- Alongside these formal activities, we have been actively engaged in activities with refugees; in conforming with GDPR; in preparing to meet further policy requirements of the Charities Commission Policy and Safeguarding Training Advisor and in reorganising our website and contact lists.

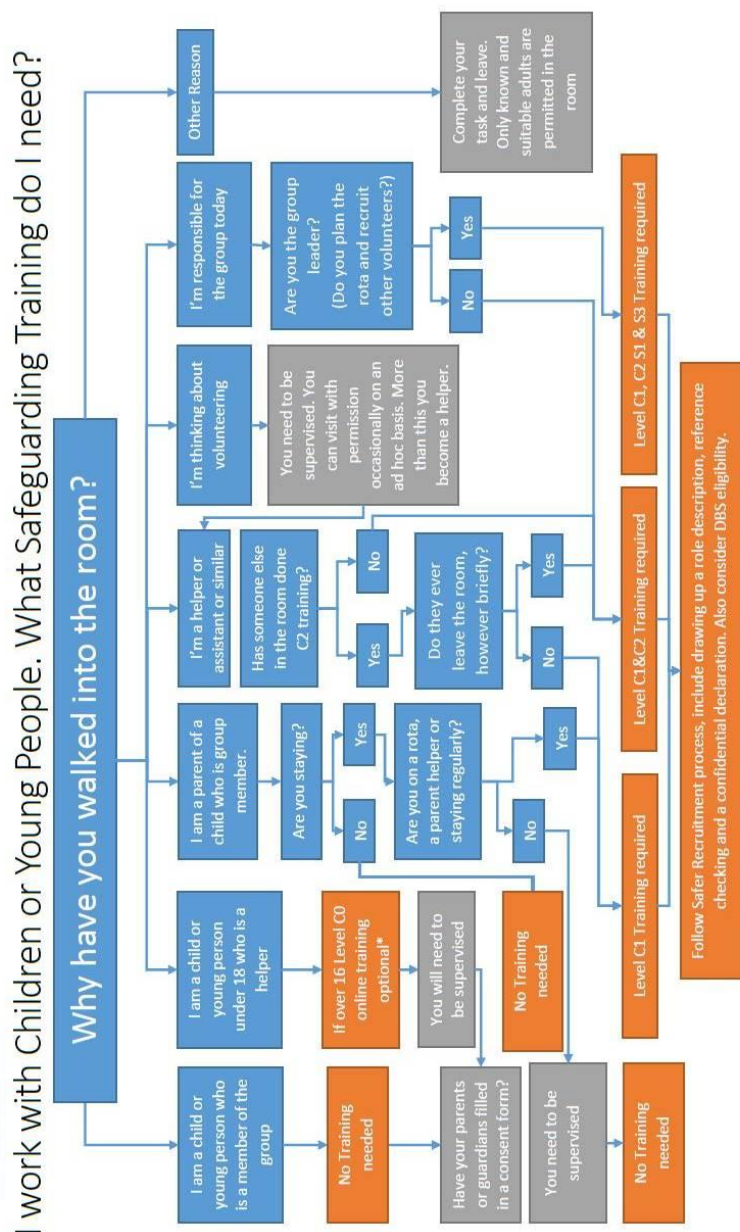
- Finally, a very sad note: Chuyuen Corfield, an active Executive Committee member since our foundation in 2004, told us at the AGM that she would be leaving to join her family in Australia as soon as she could sell her house in the UK. She left on 30th May, moved into her new house, eventually her furniture arrived from the UK, but she died in her sleep before she could begin to unpack. We thank God for a wonderful lady and pray for those whom she has left behind!

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FINANCE REPORT

The finance report is published in the Annual Report for the Diocese and Charity Commission.

For reference to this chart see "Safeguarding" on page 21



*Young leaders (aged under 18) are not permitted to undertake roles that leave them in charge of any group. They should always be under the supervision of suitably recruited and trained adults. See [Running Activities protocol](#).

All roles requiring a DBS check will also require safeguarding training but some roles requiring training will not require a DBS check.

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