



**TO KNOW, GLORIFY & MAKE CHRIST KNOWN**

# 2016 ANNUAL REVIEW

St Andrew's Cobham in United Benefice  
with St Mary's Stoke D'Abernon

March 2017

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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.

## THE CHURCH AND ITS MINISTRY

### **Ministry Team**

*Report by the outgoing Rector, the Revd Robert Jenkins*

The Ministry Team for the United Benefice at the end of the year comprised four licensed clergy, one priest with Permission to Officiate, a Licensed Lay Minister (Reader) and a licensed Children and Youth Worker. We are supported by a Communications and Administration Manager running the parish office.

Within the scope of our Vision 2018, each year the PCC sets priorities for the year ahead. In 2016 major work was completed on reviewing our worship, children and youth ministry and faith and social action priorities. Details can be found within this report, but the headlines are that we started a programme of renewal of all our parish communion worship booklets, implementing recommendations from a major review of our worship; we increased our commitment to youth work; and we created new mission partnerships, most prominently with OM Nepal. Alongside the introduction of new service booklets, from June 2016 we introduced screen-based worship at all 10am services. 2016 also saw the successful renewal of our three-year Eco-congregation Award.

Folli Olokose, our stipendiary assistant curate, completed his third year at the end of June. Folli continued his wonderful ministry, playing a key role in the parish. Folli will leave the parish by July 2017 having completed his four years post ordination training with us. Folli is already beginning to hand over his areas of responsibility such as oversight of small groups and supporting Esther Holley in our youth and children's work. He will leave a wonderful legacy, particularly in the areas of discipleship, children and youth, and pastoral concern.

We were delighted to see Charleen Hollington permanently licensed to the

parish as an Associate Minister in early 2016. She continues as a gifted priest and valued member of our ministry team. She holds responsibility for our baptism ministry, has taken over the leadership of small groups and continues as chair of the Faith and Social Action group that is now implementing the recommendations of the review completed last year.

Esther Holley has established herself as a key member of the ministry team. In 2015 the PCC resolved to extend her hours, making her role full-time from January 2016. The decision was accompanied by a resolution to seek outside grants and funding to support the additional cost. A small funding team led by David Taylor and Linda Shaw has been very successful in attracting substantial outside support for our youth work. Details are given elsewhere in this report. Esther now leads a large team of volunteers. We now offer four age groups on Sunday mornings at Kids' Church, SAY it's Sunday Youth Club on Sunday evenings and SAY 14+ youth group on Wednesday evenings. All these activities are very popular with high levels of attendance and our children and youth work is thriving and drawing in new families to church membership and faith. During 2016 Esther completed the diocesan training on children and youth work and was recommended for licensing as a lay minister. We were delighted to see her formally licensed on behalf of Bishop Andrew in November as our Children and Youth Worker.

Peter Vickers continues to carry out an extensive ministry. Peter's focus at St Andrew's is on pastoral ministry and occasional offices. He takes a considerable number of parish funerals each year and plays a key role in sustaining St Andrew's care and concern for older people. Outside the parish he provides invaluable support to other parishes, particularly during vacancies and holidays.

Godfrey Hilliard, our Associate Rector, focuses on his role as Parish Priest for St Mary's, Stoke D'Abernon. He is a valued member of the benefice ministry team. St Mary's is in good health under his stewardship with the new St Mary's Hall creating numerous opportunities for outreach and parish events. Godfrey continues to represent the benefice as chairman of Churches Together in Cobham, Oxshott and Stoke D'Abernon.

Hugh Bryant's work as a Licensed Lay Minister (Reader) is now well established and appreciated. His primary ministry is regularly leading worship and preaching at St Mary's. He also takes monthly services at Springfield Care Home. He is very active in the community, primarily as the manager of the Cobham Area Foodbank.

Cathy Whitnall and David Taylor are both authorised to preach occasionally and the congregation appreciates their preaching.

The clergy continues to be very grateful to Jan Brind, our Assistant for Liturgy. Jan assists with planning Family Worship, special services, and this year has played a key role in the renewal of our communion services. Jan arranges the annual benefice retreat which took a full weekend for the second time. We were led by Stephen Weaver on the theme of Contemplative Photography. At the end of 2016 Jan stood down from her role as she prepared to move away from the area. We are enormously grateful for the huge contribution Jan has made to worship and musical life of the church over many years.

The clergy continue to be supported in their ministry by a strong team of pastoral assistants. A report of the pastoral ministry is given later in this report.

Elaine Bray continues to serve us very well as our Communications and Administration Manager. Her work in the parish office is greatly appreciated by members of the congregation and the local community, particularly users of Church Gate House. We continued the programme to extend the use of our new website and associated church management system. In recognition of the high workload borne by Elaine it was agreed that with effect from 1st January 2017 Elaine's hours would be increased from 20 to 30 hours per week.

St Andrew's has successfully sustained a strong culture of vocations to both ordained and lay ministries in recent years. We were

delighted to see our churchwarden, Moni Babatunde, recommended for training for ordination in 2016. Moni began training in September on the Guildford Diocese Local Ministry Programme and should be ordained deacon and licensed as an Ordained Local Minister to St Andrew's in 2019.

As a result of Moni's vocation to ordained ministry, it was necessary for her to resign as churchwarden to allow her to focus on training. We were delighted to elect Fiona Lascelles as her successor in September.

We are blessed by the hard work and strong faith of our excellent Churchwardens, Moni, succeeded by Fiona, and Michael Flaxman. All three work tirelessly for the church and are a great support to me and the ministry team. I am also grateful to Malcolm Graham, our Treasurer, who is assisted by Beryl Mooney. The close involvement of a great many people in the life and work of St Andrew's continues to be a distinctive characteristic of the parish that we are constantly seeking to sustain and grow.

Once again we would also like to offer our thanks to all our readers, intercessors and servers, and particularly to Judy Brickett who coordinates this aspect of our worship. We were saddened at the death of Alan Wiseman, who served in recent years as sacristan and before that had served the church in numerous capacities, including as churchwarden.

In the summer of 2016 David Fuge decided to resign as our Director of Music after 40 years in post from the age of 15. We are enormously grateful to David, and to his wife Louise, for their huge contribution to the church over many years. They leave us a strong legacy of traditional and modern church music with music group and choir. We are very grateful to Kevin Ayton, David's deputy, who is now acting Director of Music, assisted by Cathy Whitnall.

At the end of October 2016 I announced that I would be retiring as Rector on 31 January 2017 by which time I will have served nearly 13 years as incumbent. I look back with considerable gratitude for all that God has done for us at St Andrew's and St Mary's during my time here. My ministry has been a real joy and very fulfilling, supported by so many kind, energetic and faithful people. I will be leaving both churches in the benefice when they are in good heart and fully engaged

with the wider Diocesan vision of Transforming Church and Transforming Lives. At a time when Christianity and the Church of England face many challenges, it is rewarding to be ministering in churches that are growing and committed to discipleship and service in their communities and beyond.

As is evidenced by the reports that follow on the numerous activities in the parish, St Andrew's continues to be a vibrant church serving young and old alike that plays a key role in community life in Cobham. My successor will come to a church that is confident in its faith and shaped to respond to the challenges and the opportunities it faces today.

### **Church Attendance**

The numbers of adults attending church during 2016 was broadly similar to 2015 with continued growth in the numbers of children and young people.

### **Occasional Offices**

We continue to conduct a large number of funerals and baptisms. The clergy officiated at 35 funerals of which 17 were at the church. The pastoral team undertake bereavement support. We have extended our contacts with baptism families and 21 children were baptised. Marriage numbers declined from previous years and we conducted 11 weddings during the year. Paul and Angie Wood ran our Marriage Preparation day for the third time in 2016 with excellent feedback. This year they left to join the community at Scargill in Yorkshire and we will have new leadership for the day in 2017. Sue Aitken, one of our Pastoral Assistants, provides an essential link with couples in her role as Assistant for Marriages assisting the Rector in the booking and administration of weddings and taking part in marriage preparation.

### **United Benefice**

St Andrew's and St Mary's remain distinct parishes who share a ministry team whilst having their own PCCs and church officers. Shared activities include the benefice magazine, Together, small groups, confirmation and marriage preparation and an education committee with representatives from both parishes.

## **Vision 2018**

*Report by Michael Flaxman*

The year was again marked by a constant reference to our **Vision 2018: To Know, Glorify And Make Christ Known**, launched in 2013, in regard to our mission and ministry at St Andrew's.

We reminded ourselves as often as possible of the Vision, including every PCC meeting, and remained focused on the five priorities the PCC set for 2016

- Worship
- Children Family & Youth
- Generosity
- Financial Management
- Faith & Social Action

Significant progress was made in all five areas details of which can be found elsewhere in this review under each of the points.

## **Alpha**

*Report by Michael Flaxman*

Having completed an Alpha course in December 2015, we decided to leave it until 2017 to do another one. After several successful evening programmes, we concluded our next course should be held in the morning to attract those people who find it difficult to get out in the evening but are available in the morning eg parents, carers etc. We will announce the dates once we have passed through our current vacancy.

Members of our last course are well integrated into, and enriching, our Small Groups.

Alpha remains a wonderful tool to enable us all to fulfill our Vision 2018 of "Making Christ Known" - a basic principle of Christianity, by encouraging and inviting others to attend our courses.

## **Small groups**

*Report by Charleen Hollington*

In 2016, our small groups continued to meet and to provide fellowship and a forum to explore God's word and our shared faith.

Each month, one of the sermons delivered by the clergy at St Andrew's is chosen to form the basis of a study guide for the following month. The sermon is adapted and amplified by adding an opening and closing prayer, a number of discussion points and also a number of 'apps', or applications, which set out ways to apply in

daily life the insights arrived at in the group. The current arrangement is for a number of different people who are willing and able to do the work of putting together the study guide, with Charleen Hollington providing a final edit.

There are currently five small groups in operation.

The small groups programme was put into motion and administered by Folli Olokose. In anticipation of Folli's departure this year, he has handed over the administration to Charleen Hollington.

The small groups are a wonderful way to build relationships in the church and to help members of the congregation to deepen their understanding of their faith. Prior to the APCM, Charleen will have met all the leaders of the small groups in February to get their feedback and ideas for the development of this important aspect of church life. It seems that all the groups are at capacity in terms of numbers, and a major focus in 2017 will be on starting new groups and encouraging more people to sign up.

## **Spiritual Cinema**

*Report by Hugh Bryant*

We have built on the excellent foundations laid by Revd Renos Pittarides, offering as 'Spiritual Cinema' a film each month in Church Gate House, with refreshments and guided discussion after it, as a way of attracting people who might not otherwise join in church activities, as well as providing an enjoyable evening for all.

We have shown sixteen films since Renos left in October 2015. They have been:

A Good Year; The Second Best Marigold Hotel; The Christmas Choir; If; The Remains of the Day; Ben Hur (animation); The Life of Brian; God is not Dead; The Lady in the Van; Brooklyn; Bridge of Spies; The Imitation Game; Iris; Kes; Love, Actually and I, Daniel Blake.

Attendance has been fairly modest, usually around 25 people, although we had nearly a full house for 'I, Daniel Blake'. This brilliant and moving film attracted 55 people.

Each session begins and ends with prayer, and there are delicious refreshments, made by Julie Baird, to whom special thanks are due. Hugh Bryant chooses and introduces the film, and prepares a hand-out which

lists some suggested questions for discussion. After the film has ended, and the refreshments - superior finger food, wine and soft drinks - have been handed round, everyone is invited to sit round in groups to discuss the film, using the suggested questions to prompt debate.

We do not always choose movies with explicitly Christian themes, but we do try to look at each film in the light of the Gospel. There are no right answers, and the discussions are kept confidential.

There is no charge for attendance or for refreshments, although donations are invited. We have covered our costs and were able to pass on £200 to parish funds.

We are always open to suggestions and requests for films to be shown - please contact Hugh Bryant.

As well as Julie Baird, we thank Keith Baird for his stalwart service setting up the room; David Lascelles for keeping the surround sound system properly set up; Revd Folli Olokose for helping Hugh to remember which wire goes in which socket; and Elaine Bray for her help in producing our hand-outs and facilitating bookings in Church Gate House.

## **Sacristan**

Alan Wiseman continued to serve as Sacristan until his sudden and sad death during the year. The work is now shared between Judy Brickett and Derek Bullman.

## **Assets and Fabric**

*Report by the Churchwardens, Michael Flaxman and Fiona Lascelles*

All the Category 1 works (Urgent) from the 2013 Quinquennial Report, have been carried out. Category 2 Works have commenced, with the major component being refurbishing the Tower base interior which was completed in early 2015. Other less urgent works will be scheduled over the required periods.

The most significant project this year was the refurbishment of the Church Gate House flat. After a long tenancy, ending with the sad death of Alan Wiseman, it needed an extensive scope of works to bring it up to a standard to enable us to let it on the open market. The work included extensive re-plastering of walls and ceilings, total replacement of bathroom and kitchen, floors, appliances, electrical and fire safety as well as roof and window



repairs. The job was finished on time, within budget and quickly rented on an Assured Shorthold Tenancy Agreement for 12 months. The work was financed from reserves. It is an important source of income to the Church.

Parish working parties worked in the Spring and Autumn, removing saplings and shrubs growing through gravestones, as well as low hanging tree boughs. In addition, extensive weeding around the church walls and Church Gate House was carried out.

The rotted churchyard flagpole was replaced by a parish working party in May. This was generously paid for by Eileen Ranger.

The boilers in the church, Church Gate House and the flat were all serviced and Gas Safety Certificates were issued in accordance with Health & Safety Regulations.

The five year load testing inspection was instructed on the church candelabra in November to ensure they were safe for the Christmas services.

Additional cabling and switch boxes were installed to allow the televising of the highly popular Christmas Eve Crib Service. In addition, equipment and cabling had to be extensively reorganised and shelved as a Health and Safety precaution.

A large pothole in the car park was filled and sealed.

The flood protection was deployed only once, in October, as a precaution after heavy rain and rising waters of the River Mole. Although the water did flood most of the car park and field, it did not come close to the buildings.

Fire inspection was made and five new extinguishers were purchased to replace ones which had passed their use-by date. The extinguishers were repositioned correctly on stands around the church and Church Gate House according to the inspector's recommendations.

Lights in Church Gate House hall continued to be a problem and the failed units were replaced by the supplier in October.

### **Garden of Remembrance**

This part of the churchyard provides an attractive focus for remembering loved ones. It has been very well maintained by Ray Sherlock for many years.

## **Administration and Communications**

### **Parish Office**

Elaine Bray is our Communications and Administration Officer. She runs the Parish Office which until is open from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm on Mondays to Fridays. From January 2017 she will be working from 8.30 am to 2.30 pm (in practice she has largely been working for broadly those hours anyway), but the Office opening hours will remain unchanged. 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.

### **Website**

*Report by Dave Greenwood*

The Website has been very active this year. It is kept up to date with a lot of information such as forthcoming events. The Calendar is now being populated with most rotas, though you need a log-on to see those. If you are on a rota and would like to receive email reminders or would like to see when you are on "online", please speak to the "webmasters", David Greenwood or Elaine Bray (Parish Office). We would like to trial the "can anyone swap with me" capability next.

The website is aimed to be a point of current and future information for church members as well as for visitors. For example information about the processes being followed to find a new Rector is on there. So are lots of forms (planned giving, electoral roll) and downloadable leaflets (church history, information for people interested in weddings and baptisms etc).

A training session was held for Clergy, Churchwardens and some others in the autumn, and a centre-page spread guide to the Home Page was featured in Together. Recordings of Sermons can be accessed through the Calendar, by clicking on the Sunday you want to hear.

The Weekly Notes go up on a Friday under the Information section. The Church emailing list is run from the system now.

Please explore the site. Suggestions and feedback welcome!

**“TOGETHER” - The magazine for the joint Benefice of St Andrew’s and St Mary’s**

*Report by the Editor Daphne McFarlane*

Ten issues of “Together” are distributed annually in both parishes and are available on the church websites. It is designed and published by Edna Tipping and David Greenwood, with support from the Parish Administrators, Elaine Bray and Polly Zabari. Zoë Ostley is the Advertisement Manager. The cost of the magazine, printed by Dyer and Son, Leatherhead, is partially funded by annual donations from parishioners and also by income from advertisements.

The magazine aims to provide current information about the services and activities of both churches. The wide range of articles includes Christian organisations, Biblical research, relevant local issues, personal profiles and spiritual poems. The Editor is always glad to receive articles, comments, poems and ideas from contributors.

In 2016 “Together” achieved success in the National Parish Magazine Awards and was placed 14th out of 600 entries.

**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, LISTSERV, 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 contact details of all church officials, committee chairmen and organisations.

The diocesan magazine, the Wey, is available in church each month and is distributed free to those attending.

**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 Jenny Masters*

There have been a few changes this year. My report for the APCM last year advised that the number on the roll amounted to 261. Since then we have had 5 new members and sadly 6 deaths, making the new total on the roll 260

## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

### Membership

The clergy, churchwardens, children, families and youth worker, 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 26 members in all. In addition our patron, Dominic Combe, attends some meetings.

During the year the following served as members of PCC

Rector: Revd Canon Robert Jenkins Chairman (to January 2017)

Associate Rector with special responsibility for Stoke D'Abernon:

Revd Godfrey Hilliard

Assistant Minister: Revd Charleen Hollington

Assistant Curate: Revd Folli Olokose

Licensed Lay Minister: Hugh Bryant

Licensed Children, Families and Youth Worker:

Esther Holley

Churchwardens: Moni Babatunde (to September 2016)

Fiona Lascelles

(from September 2016)

Michael Flaxman

Lay Vice Chairman

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:

Hugh Bryant

Michael Elson

Geoffrey Morris

Elected members:

Keith Baird

Leonard Beighton

Secretary

Elizabeth Bradley

Lyndon Ferguson

Malcolm Graham

Treasurer

Tanya Hall

Sue Kilpatrick

Daphne McFarlane

Shirley Mensah

Clive Moorman

Lindsay Sainsbury

(from April 2016)

Phil Slade

Nick Tamblyn

Carrie Taylor

David Taylor

Liberty Teissedre

(to April 2016)

Co-opted

Moni Babatunde

(since September 2016)

### The work of the Council in 2016

*Report by Leonard Beighton*

The Council maintains oversight of all the main activities of the church, and it does this by receiving regular reports from each of the sub-committees and group leaders. All these activities have been fully described elsewhere in this Report.

### Deanery Synod

*Report by Geoff Morris*

The Churches in the Diocese of Guildford are divided among 12 Deaneries each containing 12 or 13 parishes and chaired by an Area Dean. Our own Church belongs to the Deanery of Leatherhead. Our Rector, Robert Jenkins, completed his term as Dean in 2015 and has been succeeded by the Revd. Alan Jenkins. The lay chair is Donald Yeates. Geoff Morris, Hugh Bryant and Michael Elson are the St Andrew's representatives. They all come up for re-

election every three years. Geoff, Hugh and Michael also serve on the Diocesan Synod.

By the time this report is published an 'open' meeting on Refugees will have taken place on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 at the St Giles Centre in Leatherhead.

## **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 Rector*

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.

### **Church Gate House Committee**

*Chaired by David Tipping*

The Committee met on a number of occasions during the year to discuss the operation of this excellent facility.

In this brief report I would begin by paying tribute to the late Peter Ostley who provided his expertise and enthusiasm when, as a church, we were engaged in the building of Church Gate House. Today it is a popular resource which offers organisations, families and individuals a comfortable, well equipped venue, together with parking facilities which is a plus in Cobham.

After a few teething problems the new lighting system is much improved. The provision of a projection and sound system is almost a must for any facility in this modern technological age for presentations etc.

It is important that we retain the high standards associated with the fabric of the building and its day to day use, and must ensure that we operate an efficient booking system. Church Gate House is a great place to hire, and it provides the Church with an average income of £2,000 per month. A new software package is being introduced to help manage the bookings.

So who are the people who hire the premises? Some are more interesting than others!

Cheese making workshops; Ladies boxing classes; Slimming World; Antenatal classes. There are also our regular hirers three Probus Clubs, WI, Art Lectures, Exercise classes, baby groups, The American Women of Surrey, Choirs and, of course, children's parties, of which there are at least two a week. For this activity the building could be booked many times over.

So to sum up: Church Gate House is well known and well used. However, we must ensure that we continue to find ways of publicising our facilities - bearing in mind the competition from other halls in the Cobham area.

Thank you to all those who help to put Church Gate House on the map.

### **Eco-Congregation Committee**

*Report by Clive Moorman*

It has been another active year for the Eco Committee (Leonard Beighton, Geoff Morris, Sam Acquaye and Wendy Jane Gray). Unfortunately we have lost Jo Greenwood who has an interim role with a Christian community in Devon.

The key focus for the team in the early part of this year has been our reapplication for the Eco-Congregation Award for another three years. This involved us collecting together all of the eco initiatives that we had developed since the original award and documenting them to show that we are building on the work we had done previously and that we continued to develop that work in the future. We were rewarded for this hard work when in March 2016 we were confirmed as an Eco-congregation for another 3 years by A Rocha. So this was a fantastic result for us as an eco-team, the children and youth team, the PCC and other committees and for the whole congregation for supporting us in the various initiatives we get involved in. The award was formally presented to the congregation on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July when Canon Chris Rich, the then director of the communities' engagement team at the Diocese of Guildford, unveiled the new Eco-congregation plaque.

We also found time to tend the 200 trees we planted in St Andrew's Field: 100 in 2014 and another 100 in 2015. The first batch are now getting to quite a size and most have survived. Unfortunately we seem to have lost about 50% of the second batch as the land on the riverside dried out more than we had anticipated. We also carried out the analysis of the viability of installing solar panels on the Church roof and on CGH. However the payback was too long even before the Government reduced the 'feed in tariff rate', and would be substantially worse now.

The focus for 2017 will be building on the initiatives we have already started, eg replacing the dead trees and rebuilding the Bug Mansion. In addition, I am sure, as a team, we shall generate a number of different project ideas to keep up the momentum we have generated, as an eco-congregation. One thing we would like to do is to run another Eco Service and get some of St Andrew's children involved. In addition the CEO of A Rocha has offered to come down and talk to us about the work they do, which may generate new ideas and enthusiasm.

We could still benefit from having some additional members, so if anybody has an interest, please let me or any of the above members know. Anybody is welcome to come along to one of our committee meetings to see if they would be interested in joining, and perhaps organising either one of our initiatives or one of their own, if they have particular eco concerns that they would like to support.

## **Education Committee Report**

**(A joint activity between St Mary's and St Andrews)**

*Report by Dominic Combe*

### **Alpha Course:**

In 2016 a new Alpha course was planned for January 2017, but with the vacancy, the option has been left open, pending finding someone to run it. There will be no Alpha course this year.

### **Courses**

The Lent course for 2016 was organised by Churches Together resulting in a five part course, "Handing on the Torch." The former courses outside of Lent and Advent have been superseded by the Small Groups initiated by Folli. The house groups meet once a month and discussion is now based

on the fourth sermon of each month. Charleen has now taken over management of this from Folli. The groups are well attended and a meeting was held Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February to see how to move forward.

### **Future Courses**

For Lent 2017, Charleen has organised Bishop Andrew's "Transforming Lent," written by the Revd Canon Julie Gittoes. In six parts, it will start in the week beginning 27<sup>th</sup> February. This will be followed by the Archbishop's call to prayer from Ascension to Pentecost. It will be a Churches Together event in six parts, and all matters are in hand under Godfrey's chairmanship.

### **Spiritual Cinema**

This continues to be well frequented with normal attendances of around 25. Hugh took over from Renos in 2015 and would appreciate ideas for new films. A film of suitable nature is sought for Tuesday in Holy Week.

### **Ladywell Retreat**

Jan and Robert not being available to organise for 2017, there will be no retreat this year.

### **"Together" Magazine**

With contributions from both St Mary's and St Andrew's now coming in, there is a variety of articles to use.

### **Confirmations**

St Mary's had two adult candidates and two boys at Reed's School were referred to the school's chaplain. Preparations for 2017 are in hand but no details as yet.

### **Marriage Preparation**

This took place on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2016. For 2017, it is scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> February in Church Gate House, run by Vicky and Gary Young from St Mary's and co-ordinated by Godfrey.

## **Faith and Social Action Committee**

*Report by Charleen Hollington*

2016 saw the church making significant progress in its goal to invigorate its social action work, and to get more people from the congregation involved in living out their faith by helping others, both here and abroad.

Following a presentation to the PCC on possible projects to support, the following projects were chosen, each led by the named 'champion':

- OM Nepal – Peter Kelly;

- Prison Fellowship – Kelly Morris;
- The Garden Route Children's Trust – Lesley Flaxman;
- Christians Against Poverty (CAP) – Charleen Hollington.

Each champion has been given the role of bringing the work of the various projects to the attention of the congregation, finding ways to involve the congregation, and encouraging them in this. There is a separate report on the activities of each project elsewhere in this Annual Report. The four projects were introduced at a meeting of the Social Concerns Forum on 24th July 2016 and then formally launched at a very successful service on Sunday 11th September 2016.

In addition to these projects, the invaluable work of the Foodbank continues under Hugh Bryant's leadership.

All of this has been overseen by the Faith and Social Action Committee, whose members are Charleen Hollington (Chair), Leonard Beighton, David Taylor, Sue Kilpatrick, Geoff Morris, Lyndon Ferguson and Elaine Bray. Linda Good unfortunately had to withdraw due to family circumstances. The Committee met regularly during the year. On 5th December 2016, the meeting was expanded to include the 'champions', and also Hugh Bryant for the Foodbank, which was very helpful, as we shared ideas and experiences.

Looking ahead, the Committee has planned a Social Action Sunday for each of the four projects. On those Sundays, the 10.00 a.m. service will focus on the work of a particular project, with a presentation on the project (tied in with the preaching), and appropriate music and intercessions. The service for OM Nepal was held on 22 January 2017, and Peter Kelly gave a very good presentation about the recent expedition to Nepal, with the music group providing excellent music to tie in with the theme.

In addition to Social Action Sundays, each project has been allocated a 'promotion Sunday', at which champions will be invited to promote their respective projects (without the service itself being focussed on the project).

## Fellowship and Social Committee

*Chaired by Fiona Lascelles and later by Julie Baird*

We began the year in February with refreshments and lunch for around 30 people for Marriage Preparation Day.

On Easter Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March we served a full English Breakfast to 90 or so people. Many thanks to all the willing helpers who pitched in to make this a very successful event.

In May we provided drinks and canapés in the Church when St Andrew's hosted the Churchwardens' service this year. Over 150 people attended.

June 12<sup>th</sup> was the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party on the Leg O'Mutton Field. To mark the occasion 100 invited guests sat down to a lovely lunch provided by Waitrose in collaboration with St Andrew's Church, Cobham Heritage Trust and The British Legion. There were stalls, singing, dancing, Messy Church and displays on the field. St Andrew's supplied all the crockery and cutlery for the special lunch and cleared up afterwards. Keith Baird and his daughter Angela were our representatives on the organising committee. Angela and Katie Banfield worked tirelessly on the lunch marquee.

June 26<sup>th</sup> was the Summer BBQ, a lovely day that was attended by over 100 adults and children. Delicious food was contributed by members of the congregation to supplement sausages, burgers, cookies and cakes. A bouncy castle provided entertainment for the children and one adult in particular!

September 10<sup>th</sup> was Heritage Day and once again St Andrew's participated with stalls in Church Gate House garden, Punch and Judy, Messy Church and of course refreshments and cream teas etc. served in CGH hall throughout the day.

St Andrew's Day Supper this year took the form of an African Evening with wonderful food provided by Sam, Shirley, Kennedy, Moni and Folli, and desserts supplied by members of the congregation. We were waited on by members of St Andrew's Youth Group. It was a night to remember.

6<sup>th</sup> November was Time to Remember. Following the special service, afternoon tea was served to 90 or so adults and children.

Thank you to everyone who contributed such lovely items to make this a very special event.

In addition to the above there are several regular events, namely Friday Lunch Club, Men's Curry nights, Spiritual Cinema and Christmas Day Lunch, that are organised by their own particular teams to whom we are very grateful. .

We would like to say a very big THANK YOU to everyone who has helped and contributed to events throughout the year. We could not have done it without you and your support is much appreciated.

If anyone is interested in joining the Committee and taking part in the planning of future events, please have a word with Julie. We only meet three or four times during the year.

Some dates for your diary:

Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> Marriage Preparation Day

Apr. 16<sup>th</sup> Easter Breakfast

June 25<sup>th</sup> Summer BBQ

## **Finance & Administration Committee**

*Chaired by Michael Flaxman (Moni Babatunde until September 2016)*

The committee is responsible for maintaining, protecting and enhancing the physical resources of the Parish, including the buildings and their fabric. 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.**

*Chaired by Michael Flaxman*

In analysing our Planned Giving we are conscious that giving is not just about money and that many church members give unselfishly of their time, talents and hospitality to further our ministry at St Andrew's – however financial means are an essential part of our ministry.

We reviewed our Planned Giving pattern and once again noted the impact of a few large contributors. It highlights the need to increase the number of givers as well as the average amount, so as to mitigate the normal movements in and out of the parish

and not be so dependent on a few large donors.

We ended 2016 with Total Giving (Planned Giving, Yellow envelopes, plate collection, other giving and Gift Aid) of approximately £138,000 which is £8,000 (6%) more than 2015. Planned Giving in particular was £75,000 which is £4,000 (6%) more than in 2015. Our average monthly Planned Giving however is still below the Diocese and Deanery average.

Looking at the Electoral Roll of approximately 185 households (265 persons), we find that approximately 60% are enrolled in regular giving, a proportion which we would hope to increase in 2017.

October was our Giving Month when both clergy and lay members communicated the importance to the church of generosity and sacrifice, including a video on the cost of running our ministry. Money remains a key element of giving since we have ourselves to raise, through giving and grants, over £230,000 per annum to run our church. We receive no other outside support. Planned Giving is the most efficient method as we can recover a further 25% Gift Aid from the Government in most cases. The campaign resulted in seven new Planned Givers, although we lost four members who either sadly died or left. However a significant number of existing givers increased their gifts which is encouraging and generous.

The PCC decision to introduce an offerings bag collection during the service, took effect in late January 2016, and has significantly increased the offerings during the services (by an average of over £500 per month) without disrupting worship.

The generous giving of time, talents and hospitality, as well as money, has over the years brought growth and broader mission to St Andrew's and we hope you will continue to support the church, especially in reviewing your Planned Giving regularly and giving with generosity and sacrifice so we can fulfil our Vision 2018.

Thanks to the members of the Giving Committee for their guidance, support and commitment: Robert Jenkins, Sam Acquaye, Leonard Beighton, Nick Tamblyn, Keith Baird, Beryl Mooney and Malcolm Graham.

## **Outward Giving Committee**

*Report by Cathy Whitnall*

In 2016 the team, consisting of Carrie Taylor, Michael Elson, Keith & Julie Baird and myself, met several times in addition to the usual exchange of ideas by email. The PCC had set aside £12,940 for this year's donations

As has been mentioned elsewhere, the Faith and Social Action Group are focussing on five charities, and so it seemed right to give an equal amount of money (£1500) to each of them. In addition amounts of £1000 were sent to Oasis (Cobham), and to two charities who work in the sadly much-needed area of sexual and child abuse: RASASC Guildford, who have been running workshops which some of the church members have attended, and NAPAC, who support recovery from child abuse.

£500 was sent to support a Nigerian ordinand, and also to St Andrew's School, who are in the process of putting in a projector and screen for use in worship. Elmbridge Rentstart, Citizens Advice Bureau, Guildford Cathedral and the Guildford Diocesan Guild of Bellringers were sent their regular amounts.

This left us with £940. In previous years we have sent the 'remnant' to a charity such as Crisis; however, this year it seemed appropriate to support the refugees in Syria, and so this sum has been sent to Embrace the Middle East (formerly known as *BibleLands*). This charity has a record stretching back to 1854 of helping those in need in the Middle East.

We continue to pray that we make appropriate use of the funds entrusted to us.

## **Pastoral Committee and Prayer for Healing Team**

*Chaired by the Rector*

Pastoral care and prayer for healing continue to be at the heart of St Andrew's ministry. Numerous people are involved in bringing God's loving and healing presence to those in need. The clergy and Pastoral Assistants form the Pastoral Committee that leads this ministry. The Pastoral Assistants on the committee are Ray Sherlock, Sue Aitken, Wendy Jane Gray, Judy Brickett, Jan Brind and Alyson Ferguson-Bunn. They were joined in July 2016 by Dave Greenwood. Lindsay

Sainsbury also joined the committee during 2016 as a Pastoral Visitor, assisting the clergy and PAs by undertaking home visits within the parish.

We were delighted to see, for the third year in a row, another vocation and Carrie Taylor began training for Pastoral Assistant ministry in September 2106. She will be licensed and commissioned in the summer of 2017.

The PAs, as well as exercising general pastoral care, have an individual focus for their ministries in the areas of bereavement, the elderly, hospital visiting, prayer for healing, worship and newcomer welcome. The team plan and assist with the leadership of the very popular Time to Remember service for the bereaved in November each year.

The Prayer for Healing team meets on Friday mornings and private prayer for healing is offered at all Parish Communion services. The Cross of Prayer with individual petitions is received at the altar during parish communions.

The Pastoral Assistants and Prayer for Healing team make a significant contribution to the work of the parish and the clergy are very grateful for their support.

The monthly Friday Luncheon Club continues to flourish under the stewardship of Jenny Masters and her enthusiastic helpers. We are grateful to the numerous people who help prepare lunches, serve, and offer lifts to people.

## **Property Committee**

*Chaired by Michael Flaxman*

After the sad death of Alan Wiseman, our tenant in the Church Gate House flat, it was agreed that a total refurbishment was necessary in order to bring it up to date and able to be let on the open market. It represents a significant source of income for the church. After discussion a scope of work was approved, bids obtained and the project carried out over a period of about 12 weeks. It was completed on budget and rented on completion in September, at market rent, on a 12 month Assured Shorthold Tenancy Agreement.

We identified essential maintenance requirements which were prioritised, with the most urgent being carried out when and where appropriate.



Fire extinguishers in the church and Church Gate House were inspected and five had to be replaced as they had come to the end of their useful life. Stands and use signs were installed where necessary.

Eileen Ranger kindly agreed to pay for the replacement of the existing flagpole which had rotted – this was installed by a parish working party.

Spring and Autumn cleanups were carried out by parishioners armed with chain saws, trowels, strimmers and the like!

Some professional tree work was required in Church Gate House garden, and over the car park due to dangerous tree limbs, and a pothole in the car park was filled and sealed.

(Further details of all the above are in the Assets & Fabric Review.)

## **Welcome Team**

*Report by Folli Olokose*

The meeting of this group has been intermittent in the past year. Nevertheless, it continues to look for ways to encourage and welcome our members, both old and new. This year, the team has been able to create a data base of members of the congregation who will be willing to give of their time, energy and skills to serve the church in various aspects. It has been encouraging to see members willing to help with DIY, Gardening, the Sound Desk and many other aspects of church life.

This year has also seen a slight improvement on the welcoming and follow up of visitors and new members of the congregation. More still needs to be done in this respect and this should not be limited to the team alone. We are a welcoming church and it is the role of each member to welcome and make newcomers feel at home, and also to introduce them to the clergy and other members of the church's leadership team so that adequate follow-up takes place.

The team also continues to encourage and organise various occasions where

newcomers and their friends can be invited. One such is the Men's Curry and Conversation evening, which has been successful as a gathering for men. We hope to have a similar event for women in the New Year.

## **Worship Committee**

*Chair, David Greenwood*

The committee continues to review recent services to see if there are any points to note for the future, to change, keep or build on, and considers ideas for the development of our worship. We look ahead to services coming up and note any thoughts for consideration.

During 2016, we moved to use Powerpoint projection on to the screen for most of our 10am services. Many people have found this helpful. There is now no need to follow in a service book and it helps the singing to have people's heads up. Paper copies will continue to be available for those who prefer them. Thanks to Elaine Bray & Carrie Taylor for evolving the presentation style and putting each week's service material together, not an insignificant task.

A separate working party led by Robert with Jan Brind, Michael Elson and David Greenwood (assisted by Kevin Ayton and other reviewers), worked on a new set of Service Booklets to make them more seasonally based, using the richness of optional material that is part of the Common Worship resources. Jan Brind made an enormous contribution to our liturgy over the years and we owe her a debt of gratitude as she moves on to pastures new. Robert ensured the drafts of the final sets were delivered before he retired.

The Worship Committee picked up some of the recommendations of the previous year's Working Group such as who robes when, moving to starting most services with a call-to-worship song rather than a choir procession, logistics of communion arrangements, briefings for Readers and Intercessors, rostering an additional person to operate the slides and arrangements for music after David Fuge's retirement.

## CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

### St Andrew's Bellringers

*Report by Peter Bound, Vice Tower Captain*

2016 for the ringers has been a demanding year. The bells continue to ring, although in recent months not on all Sundays. In 2016 six weddings were rung for, as well as most church festivals during the year. Regrettably, the tower was silent for another New Year's Eve.

Peter Ostley, Tower Captain since 2000, sadly passed away in January this year. Peter was full of energy and greatly enjoyed the ringing in of a New Year, so with forward planning we hope to rung this year.

The church clock was out of action last April whilst parts were overhauled and serviced. These costs were paid for by bell tower funds, which the ringers collectively contribute to. Initially the clock was working after its commissioning, but at present it's losing time and engineers are due in to address the problem.

Six visiting towers rang at Cobham during the year and we continue to host the occasional event for District Practices.

It has been discussed, with the help of Fiona Lascelles, to arrange 'An Introduction to Ringing' session sometime in 2017, for people of all ages to learn about campanology. Also being considered is to offer the opportunity to Duke of Edinburgh Award participants to learn a new skill.

### Church Cleaning ("Holy Dusters")

*Report by David Tipping*

A few years ago, after the Christmas Eve midnight service, I jokingly asked Mabs Ostley if she had noticed the cobwebs on one of the stained glass windows. She replied that if I came down to the Church on Thursday morning she would give me a long handled brush to get rid of them. I did, and before I knew it I found myself in control of the Church vacuum cleaner! We are a small team which is getting smaller and we are in desperate need of a bit more help. Our job is to keep the church looking at its best, so if you have an hour (or two) to spare on Thursday mornings, do come and join us. We usually start at around 10am with a short break for coffee- and sometimes cake. It's not an onerous task, a bit of dusting, polishing, sweeping and, of

course, vacuuming. Sadly, a few of the loyal team have hung up their dusters after many years, so if you are looking for a new experience come along and see what's involved.

### Church Flowers

*Team led by Mabs Ostley*

The team have provided some attractive arrangements during the year, Easter Sunday and Weddings in particular. All types of flower requirements can be catered for by the team. New team members welcomed. If you're interested in helping, but doubt your ability, don't worry, we all assist each other. For further information, contact Mabs Ostley.

### Friday Luncheon Club

*Report by Jenny Masters*

The luncheon club is still very popular and well supported with around 35 people attending each month. We are still able to maintain our cost of £3.00 per person for a 2-course meal. This gives us a small profit most months which has enabled us to send donations to the following charities: Princess Alice Hospice, the Bible Society, Leprosy Mission and the British Legion.

I would like to express my grateful thanks to those friends who help every month to set up the tables and help with clearing away, without whose support I could not manage.

### Mothers' Union

*Report by Jenny Vickers*

We have enjoyed some very good speakers this year including talks on "An Arranged Marriage", "The Garden Route Children's Trust", "Worship In a Synagogue", "Nigerian Customs" and "Flying for Life". We also heard from Charleen about her life in South Africa, invited other branches within the Deanery for a 'desert island disc' tea party and invited the clergy to join us for our Christmas lunch.

We attended the Lady Day Diocesan Eucharist and the Deanery Pilgrimage of Prayer at the Cathedral. Some members went to the Leatherhead branch's annual birthday party, summer tea parties hosted by the Great Bookham and West Horsley branches, and the final dress rehearsal for the pantomime, "Beauty and the Beast", at Leatherhead theatre.

We had an outing to Lullingstone Castle and a trip on the Basingstoke Canal.

Following a challenge to us from Folli to do something for the community, we have started an afternoon event. Anyone who would like the opportunity of having tea and cake with others is warmly welcomed. T4U is held bi-monthly on the second Thursday of the month starting in January. We meet in the hall at Church Gate House at 2.30pm.

We were delighted to enrol a new member who attends St Mary's at Stoke d'Abernon.

## Music

*Report by Kevin Ayton, Acting Director of Music.*

The choirs and music group are going through a period of transition. In July 2016 David Fuge, who had been Director of Music at St Andrew's for almost 40 years, decided that it was appropriate to move on, and so David and Louise left us in August. They leave behind an amazing legacy that will provide a foundation for us to build on as we move forward.

The post of Director of Music was advertised, but we have not yet been able to appoint a new Director of Music, and are unlikely to do so now during the Vacancy. With assistance from Cathy Whitnall – who is choosing the music for our services, and leading the SAY Choir – I will be Acting Director of Music until a new appointment can be made.

With the recent departure of Jan Brind to pastures new, the choir now numbers 11. We have changed our practice night from Friday to Thursday in the hope of attracting more people who found Friday evenings difficult. This has proved partially successful, but we seem to have encountered as many problems with Thursday evenings as with Friday. We will continue to review the best night for Choir Practices.

New members are always welcome, in any voice – but men (tenors and basses) are particularly needed. I would like to pass on special thanks to the stalwart gentlemen of the choir for soldiering on with only one or two voices to each part. It is hard work and a big commitment, and we are grateful for all you do. But sadly, it is the need for regular commitment that seems to put people off joining. The choir and music group work as a body because we all make the commitment to work together on a

regular basis; it is just not practical for people to be only 'occasional' members – and that doesn't seem to quite fit with the modern lifestyle. If anyone knows a solution for this, I'd love to hear from you!

The music group has expanded and become more flexible. But while we are without a Director of Music and are having visiting *locum* organists for many services, it is not so easy to find opportunities to use the Music Group. I am hopeful this can change in the future, which will expand the range of music we can use in all of our services.

SAY choir has been flourishing during 2016, with up to 14 children attending the practices. They sang 'solo' songs at a number of services, and joined the adult choir for the anthem on Easter Day. During the Autumn Term, numbers fell off, but the current members are all fully committed to the choir, and took an active part in the Crib service. With a change in leader from Louise Fuge to Cathy Whitnall, the style of the choir has inevitably changed somewhat, and there is now a greater focus on general musicianship in addition to singing.

## Highlights of the Musical Year:

Good Friday's Devotional Concert included Fauré's *Requiem* and *Cantique de Jean Racine*, and also *Song for Athene* by John Tavener. We were pleased to welcome Lila McConigley and Paul Martin, both members of our congregation, to sing the Soprano and Baritone solos in the Requiem. Will Dutton returned to lead the orchestra for the evening.

In September, the Choir presented two "Come and Sing" sessions in church as part of the Heritage Day celebrations. We had great fun, and I think our audience did too – a few came and sang with us which was great.

The church was full for the annual Service of Remembrance, and the Choir sang two anthems. The Introit was the *Agnus Dei* from Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man*. The accompaniment was supported by Alison Wilde (flute) and Fiona Lascelles (oboe). For the anthem we sang the evocative *And I saw a new heaven* by Edgar Bainton. 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 items we sang a mixture of accompanied and unaccompanied carols, with many chosen from the 'new' items we had performed in recent years. Again, we were joined by a number of our regular guests which allowed us all to relax and enjoy the service. Our commiserations go to Graham Fisher who unfortunately broke his arm the day before the Carol Service, and was unable to sing with us.

Most recently, we offered our farewell to Robert Jenkins with Bob Chilcott's *Irish Blessing*.

Looking ahead, this year's Good Friday Devotional Concert will be based around the "Seven Last Words of Christ" using movements from Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man* (the Ordinary of the Mass), together with other choral and instrumental music.

### **Looking forward:**

We are entering a time of significant change for St Andrew's. We have a broad tradition of music on which to build, and I look forward to working with the choir, the music group and our *locum* organists in the months ahead until a new permanent Director of Music is appointed.

Those *locum* organists – Oliver Macfarlane, Tim Slack and John Bartlett – have coped magnificently with the music presented to them with little warning. Too often during services I remember the little nuggets of information I should have passed on, but forgot because it's just habit to us! I can only apologise to them.

I must thank all those who work so hard to make the music at St. Andrew's so special – Cathy Whitnall for choosing the music we sing, preparing the worksheet each week, and for leading SAY Choir; those stalwarts who collate the music we use each week and return it to the filing cabinets; the kind people who make sure I have a glass of water, and wash it up afterwards; those who help dismantle and put away all the music group's equipment. The list goes on – everybody plays their part, and I thank

you all. Your contribution is greatly appreciated.

## **Open Church**

*Report by Eileen Ranger*

I took over Church Watch from Joan Bingley at the end of December 2016. There were 19 members then. I updated the list of members including names and addresses, keyholders and availability on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016. I have two new members for this year. This makes 21 members now, 15 of whom are on E-mail, and 6 to whom I hand out the rotas in Church or place in pigeon holes.

Over the year we have had 39 new entries in our Visitors' book, but there were many more visitors who came but did not sign the book

The general consensus of opinion from watchers is that it is very rewarding, more so in summer for various reasons: quiet prayer, anniversaries, bereavement comfort, general interest in the history, particularly the stained glass windows. Edna Tipping kindly made an attractive notice to place on the notice board advertising the times and days of Church Watch.

My own extremely rewarding experience was as follows: A young man of around 40 appeared, limping very badly and immediately went to pray for some time. Eventually he came to sit by me and began to cry...I left him for a while then asked if I could help him. He told me his mother had died recently and this was the first time he had really cried. He lived in Wandsworth and was travelling to Woking but something had told him to get out at Cobham. His foot had then become so sore he had bathed it in the river and then found St Andrew's. I did some first aid on his foot, then asked where he was going now. He then asked where the nearest Station was and, as my time was nearly at an end, I offered to take him back to Cobham Station. I have to say I felt very humble.

General comments were "beautiful church, very well kept and a wonderful feeling of peace".

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

### Child Safeguarding Policy

*Report by Moni Babatunde, Child Protection Officer*

We continue to work hard in our need to provide a safe environment for all children attending the various activities within the church. The PCC formally adopted the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy in May 2016 and a copy of the policy is available in the Parish Office and on the website.

We continue to follow and implement the guidelines given in the Diocesan Safeguarding Handbook 'In Safe Hands' carefully, whilst we await an update of the national safeguarding policies provided by the Church of England. 'In Safe hands' will then be withdrawn from use and will be replaced with protocols complementing the new Church of England policies.

The DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) is still being used as the vetting and barring scheme to validate the identity and suitability of anyone wanting to work with children. Most of the leaders and volunteers now have full criminal record clearance. Renewals and checks for new leaders recruited for our growing youth ministry are being processed through the Diocese.

The working party set up to consider how the church can better support survivors of childhood sexual abuse ran two successful workshops; the first, to help understand the consequences of sexual abuse and the pastoral care of survivors and perpetrators, and the second, to elucidate the theological issues around forgiveness, compassion and reconciliation. Both workshops were very well attended. A report, along with any suggested recommendations, will be submitted later in the year by the working party.

To concentrate fully on my training as an Ordinand, I will be stepping down from my role as Child Protection Officer. Sincerest thanks to Wendy Jane Gray, who has kindly agreed to take over the post.

### Children, Young People's and Families Ministry

*Report by Esther Holley, Children and Youth Minister*

The SAY Team and Kids' Church Team are committed to follow out the Church's vision by seeking to glorify Christ in the work we do, and make Christ known to the children,

their families and young people of our Church and community. After a year as part-time Children, Families and Youth Worker, Esther Holley was made full-time in January 2016. The increase in hours has benefitted the work with young people significantly. On November 27th Esther was licensed under the authority of the Bishop of Guildford by Canon Mavis Wilson, as a Lay Children and Youth Minister.

### Baby Talk

Baby Talk is a longstanding meeting place for those caring for babies and pre-nursery school children during term time. It enables mothers and carers to meet and chat over a cup of coffee whilst their children play. We particularly welcome newcomers to Cobham, and continue to offer pastoral support to families with health or relationship problems. We would like to thank Sue Aitken for her commitment and leading of Baby Talk with Mabs Ostley for many years until her retirement in July 2016. In September Esther Holley took up helping Mabs in running the group each week. The numbers have fluctuated over the year but continue to increase.

With thanks to Mabs for all she has done and continues to do, and thank you to Sue and Christine for their valued support.

### Kids' Church

Kids' Church meets in Church Gate House at 10:00am every Sunday except the 1st of the month. Once registered, the children join their age group. The groups are 'Little Fishes' for pre-school children, 'Waves' for children 4 to 7, 'Anchors' for ages 7 to 11 and 'DiscipleSHIP' for over 11s and teens. These groups provide fun ways to learn from the Bible, through games, crafts and interactive activities appropriate to each age group, each week looking at who Jesus is and how to live for Him. The teaching follows the Lectionary, therefore in Kids' Church and in the Church's service all receive the same message. After 40 minutes of teaching and activities, all four groups come together for a time to share what they have learnt. We also sing to God through fun action songs or have reflective time of prayer. The children then join their families in the service so all can end by worshipping together.

Kids' Church continues to grow and go from strength to strength. Attendance is increasing and there have been many new families join us over the year. In September 2015 we had 26 children registered in Kids' Church. In December 2016 we now have 45 children registered. We have between 15 and 25 in Kids' Church each week.

Kids' Church has a wonderful team of volunteers, who work very hard to provide exciting sessions each week. The team is growing and it is great to see people bringing a diversity of gifts and skills to the ministry. The team meets once a term to reflect, look forward and collectively plan Kids' Church and other children's events.

In 2016 we had several successful 'Fun Days' for the children and young people. These included Good Friday for 3 hours, Easter Sunday during the Easter Service, 'Thy Kingdom Come' after school activity and Kids' Church Christmas Party. During these events we provide lunch, craft, games, stories, outdoor play, prayer stations, film clips, and more. They have been well attended and are a great way to do more with the children outside of Kids' Church on a Sunday.

For the Crib Service children from Kids' Church put on a marvellous performance. Children from just 3 to 13 years old acting and speaking the parts. Some children also contributed to the music and singing in the service.

I would like to thank all who lead, help and are involved in Kids' Church. Thank you to Carrie, Alison, Mel, Wendy Jane, Linda, Becky, Suzannah, Michelle, Alyson, Lyn, Liz, Lynsey, Patricia, Sam, Kennedy and Shirley. For your commitment, example, hard work and making Kids' Church such a wonderful place for the youngsters to know more of Jesus.

### **SAY It's Sunday**

SAY It's Sunday is a youth group for young people aged 11 to 14 years, meeting in Church Gate House from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Since September the youth group has continued to meet through the holidays.

The attendance for the duration of 2016 has been very high, with numbers reaching up to 36 in the summer. Most young people are not from a church background. The young people over the age of 14 are now recruited as our volunteer Junior Leaders, doing a great job of supporting our Youth

Leaders and helping out at the club. They are each developing in confidence and leadership skills. We have parents' support each week for preparing the food in the kitchen, which releases our Youth Leaders to spend more time with the young people. It has made a considerable and much valued difference. During the year the group adopted a pattern of structure, "The 3 F's" - Fun, Food, Faith. The first 45 minutes of the club is focussed on socialising, developing friendships, free time of games and use of activities or crafts, and a large team game some weeks. This is then followed by a time of food together. The 'Faith' part is the final part of the session, with a talk, activities and discussion focussed on a Bible verse or topic.

Each week during May and June we had support from Chelsea FC, who provided two youth coaches to teach football skills and lead games during the 'Fun' time. It was a huge highlight for the young people and great to have them join us.

During May Bank Holiday Weekend, SAY it's Sunday had its second residential trip to Walton Firs. The trip was a resounding success with 35 young people taking part. We had time of games, climbing, talent show, BBQ and faith based discussions.

In August we had our first week long residential. Four young people from St Andrew's went to North Wales with 'Christian Camps in Wales' joining other Churches from across the UK. It was a time of exploring, Bible study, kayaking, climbing mountains, bonfire, trips to the beach, trampolining and worship. We look forward to our next adventure.

I would like to thank the SAY It's Sunday Team; Folli, Phil, Carrie, Alison, Wendy Jane, Claire and James. I should also thank the Junior Team leaders and the parents. All have willingly and wonderfully contributed to this super youth group, by encouraging the young people of Cobham through fun and friendship.

### **14+ Youth Group**

14+ Youth Group started in January 2016 to address the need for activities for older teens in the community. The initiative was helped into existence with the support of Elmbridge Youth Services. Meeting in Church Gate House every Wednesday, the club is a space for young people aged 14 to 18.

Every week there is access to cook food or make a snack and hot drinks, a games console and the latest games, an activity, and a space set up to relax with friends. The leaders encourage topical discussions, related to local community, education, laws, health and current affairs.

In 2016 we had a lot of success in receiving grants and funding for the youth group, which has enabled us to provide equipment and fund trips, which have included trampolining and bowling in Guildford. Elizabeth Kennedy, the 2016 High Sheriff, came to 14+ to meet with the young people and see the youth club in action. Esther, Folli and members representing the youth group attended the High Sheriff Youth Awards, which was a showcase and promotion for the community youth work supported by the High Sheriff of Surrey.

In the autumn we held an African themed harvest dinner and a St Andrew's Day Ceilidh, which were successful fundraising events for the youth work, giving an opportunity to share more about the work we do and to have the youth help with the running of the events.

I am very grateful for the support of Elmbridge Youth Services by providing Nick and Carmella the youth workers, and to Folli for bringing the group into existence and his continued work with 14+.

Thank you to Linda Shaw and David Taylor for their involvement with the hard work of seeking grants and funding, and also handling the finances of the Youth Ministry.

## **St Andrew's C of E Primary School, Cobham**

*Report by Andrew Tulloch, Head Teacher*

Pupil numbers have risen very slightly, from 450 (Sept 2015) to 455 (Sept 2016). The school has Planned Admission Numbers (PANs) that indicate it is a '2-form entry' primary school, though four of the seven year groups have extra 'bulge' classes, as the school has responded to the County's request for some schools to accommodate additional pupils over the past few years.

To manage the extra classes, the classrooms in some year groups are separated by a distance rather more than would be ideal, but staff members work hard to retain unity within each cohort despite an 'Upstairs, Downstairs' situation!

The school leadership is pleased with its policy to recruit teachers who have trained

at St Andrew's. With a national teacher recruitment problem, this approach is proving to be a fine way to select early from the talent pool and to be engaged thoroughly in the training of new teachers. Thus the school remains fully staffed with excellent teachers throughout.

The school is still on track for academy conversion, set to join the Esher Learning Trust (ELT) in April 2017. The dialogue, both formal and informal, between ELT and St Andrew's has been productive; Governors are satisfied that the school's ambitions and ethos will be enhanced by the proposed partnership with Esher High School and other schools that are expected to join the multi-academy trust in the future.

Mental health problems among the nation's young people have risen alarmingly in recent years, and the issue has gained public prominence through the excellent campaigning work of charities and some high profile speeches including one from the Prime Minister, Theresa May. There is an outstanding tradition for pastoral care at St Andrew's, and that crucial aspect continues to be promoted exceptionally well. The Pastoral Care team members led a recent training session for all staff members to sharpen awareness of the pressures children are under and the symptoms that are often displayed when children have mental health issues. Members of the church are exhorted to acknowledge the seriousness of this growing problem and to recognise the work that the school does to support its pupils in their need.

The influence of St Andrew's governors continues to be very positive. Recent and forthcoming changes among the Foundation Governors will have an impact: the retirement of Canon Robert Jenkins is clearly significant. His enthusiasm for developing great things in the community, his wisdom in complex decision-making, his prayerful heart for the children and families of Cobham have all significantly supported the school's development over the years. Robert will be greatly missed.

The appointment of Fiona Lascelles as Churchwarden, especially given the heightened prominence of that role during the Vacancy, has limited Fiona's immediate involvement with the school. Again, her experience and dedicated service will be missed, at least temporarily.

It has been a pleasure to welcome Linda Shaw to the Board of Governors. She has shown her willingness to serve by way of accepting the role of Vice Chair within months of her appointment.

The voice of the Foundation Governors has been important as a Working Group has continued to explore the articulation of school vision and aim statements. The motto *Life in all its Fullness* and the 'Culture Aims' of **Welcome, Challenge and Preparation for Life** describe well the ambitions of the school, all strongly underpinned by the school's Christian ethos.

Highlights of the past year include the school's involvement in the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup>

Birthday celebrations, plus the range of excellent Year Group visits including the very special Year 6 residential visit to the Christian Mountain Centre, Pensarn, Gwynedd.

The school leadership and Governors remain grateful for the prayerful and practical support of so many at St Andrew's Church including weekly assemblies taken by the clergy, the warmth of the welcome extended every time children and staff participate in Sunday worship services and the monthly prayer meetings in the Headteacher's office, organised by Phil Slade.

## FAITH AND SOCIAL ACTION PROJECTS

### Christians Against Poverty

*Report by Charleen Hollington*

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is one of the four projects chosen by the PCC as part of its Faith and Social Action programme (please see the report on the Faith and Social Action Committee elsewhere in the Annual Report).

CAP helps people to escape the prison of debt, with all its consequences of stress, family breakdown and hopelessness. People who are burdened by debt seek the help of CAP's trained debt counsellors. Having reviewed the client's finances and worked out a budget which allows them to meet their living expenses while repaying debt, CAP then negotiates with the clients' creditors on their behalf to establish a repayment plan.

What is the church's role? Throughout the UK, a number of churches have entered into partnership agreements with CAP to minister in a designated area. Bookham Baptist Church is the 'CAP partner church' for Mole Valley. CAP partner churches then look for support from other churches in their area. St Andrew's is one of these. We have made a commitment to Bookham Baptist to work alongside them in providing CAP services in Cobham. Charleen Hollington was appointed as the 'champion' for this project at St Andrew's.

The church's support takes a number of forms.

One is financial, and we have undertaken to contribute £1,200 a year to CAP's

operations (subject to review by the PCC). Outward Giving has agreed to contribute this amount from its resources, and to contribute an extra £300, making a total of £1,500. We are also asked to pray for CAP and for CAP clients.

A more visible role is to provide 'befrienders' to accompany the debt counsellor and then to walk alongside the clients and support them as they undergo the difficulties involved in living to a very tight budget, which includes praying with the clients should they wish it. Charleen is currently a befriender to one family. This family has received very generous support from the congregation who responded readily to requests for a cake, and for a Christmas hamper. The family were touched by this, and found the hamper a great help at Christmas time. Two other members of the congregation have come forward to be befrienders: David Greenwood and Lyndon Ferguson.

In addition to these forms of support, our role is to highlight the work of CAP and encourage the involvement of members of the congregation in CAP activities such as fundraising.

CAP is a wonderful Christian enterprise which brings hope and freedom to many people and we look forward at St Andrew's to being a real support them in their valuable work.



## **Cobham Area Foodbank**

*Report by Hugh Bryant*

The Foodbank is an independent charity, registered in England and Wales no 1154217, founded in 2013 by Churches Together in Cobham, Oxshott, Stoke D'Abernon and surrounding areas.

The Foodbank subscribes to the national network of over 400 food banks co-ordinated and advised by the Trussell Trust, a Christian charity in Salisbury. Trussell has devised, and Cobham Area Foodbank follows, a system whereby people who find themselves without the wherewithal to buy food, for whatever reason, can obtain a food voucher from a voucher issuer, who may be a school welfare officer, a Jobcentre, a housing benefit officer, a minister of religion or other professional, who will be able to verify the need expressed. The voucher details the number and ages of people to receive food, and records the reason why their need has arisen. These details are fed into a national Trussell Trust database.

The Foodbank has collection bins in all the local churches and some other premises including Waitrose, Starbucks and Sainsbury's, and it invites donations of non-perishable food, which are collected in the Foodbank van and taken to the Foodbank warehouse at Brook Willow Farm, Leatherhead, where it is weighed and sorted by types and best-before dates. The Foodbank does not distribute fresh or out-of-date food.

Every Friday morning the van collects sufficient food for the week's distribution, which takes place in the Foodbank's 'pop-up café' at Cobham Methodist Church, open from midday to 1.30pm. In the last year we have distributed on average 1/3 tonne of food per week, providing food for 960 adults and 732 children - an average of 32 people per week. We are noticing an increase in numbers - around Christmas there were weeks where we provided food for between 60 and 70 people, and distributed over 1/2 tonne of food.

All the clients live locally, in Cobham, Oxshott, Stoke D'Abernon, or Downside. The area served by the Foodbank has been extended in the last year also to include East and West Horsley, Ockham and Effingham. St Martin's, East Horsley, Horsley Evangelical Church, Effingham Methodist Church, and Posh Wash dry cleaners are all now collecting food.

Where people for whatever reason cannot come to our distribution centre, we deliver their food at home. The volunteers who serve in the distribution centre and those who do home deliveries all undergo special training in order that they treat clients appropriately, warmly and with respect.

The governing principles are 'there but for the grace of God go I', and Jesus' great second commandment, to love thy neighbour as thyself. The Foodbank does not judge or advise its clients in any way, save only that there is a display of 'signposts' to various forms of advice and assistance.

The Foodbank does not impose any limit to the number of food parcels any client can receive. The only criterion is *need*, particularly where clients are working, but in low-paid and uncertain jobs, living in privately rented accommodation where rents rise but housing benefits have been cut or capped (or are otherwise harmed by government austerity, as graphically shown by the recent award-winning film 'I, Daniel Blake'). The Foodbank trustees consider that ideas of reducing 'dependency' are usually cruel and to be avoided. Most Foodbank clients have no chance of getting themselves out of poverty.

There are around 60 active volunteers working in the Foodbank, in transport (drivers and mates), warehouse and the distribution centre. There are no paid employees. The Foodbank is administered by a General Manager, Hugh Bryant, who also manages transport and is assisted by a volunteer coordinator and distribution manager, Christina Van Roest, and a warehouse manager, Jane Olsen. Hugh reports to a board of trustees chaired by Revd Godfrey Hilliard, including Hugh, Christina, Peter Wall and the treasurer, Claire Smith.

The Foodbank is most grateful for the support it receives financially from the churches, from various grants and generous individuals. It needs around £15,000 per year in order to meet its costs for warehouse rental, hire purchase and depreciation of the van, insurances and periodic needs to purchase food, where donations have not provided items needed in order to provide nutritionally-balanced food parcels. Bank details and a Gift Aid form may be found on the website [www.cobhamarea.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.cobhamarea.foodbank.org.uk).

## **Garden Route Children's Trust**

*Report by Lesley Flaxman, Trustee*

The Garden Route Children's Trust (GRCT) continues to support the e'Pap Children's Feeding Project in Knysna, South Africa, which is currently feeding over 4000 children a daily meal of e'Pap (a highly nutritious porridge). At Missionvale, a township near Port Elizabeth, we provide e'Pap to over 150 children in the school and also fund a nutrition programme for after school activities. In 2015 we started a feeding programme in Hout Bay, near Cape Town, where over 300 children are currently fed. This is overseen and managed by the local Rotary Club.

We have also supplied several struggling schools with basic equipment, books and stationery, chairs and tables.

Fundraising events in 2016 included: runners in the Royal Parks Half Marathon, a coffee morning and gift sale in Oxshott (attended by several members of St. Andrew's Church) and an afternoon tea celebrating our 10 year anniversary as a charity.

Our chair of trustees visited South Africa in October, returning with very encouraging reports of the positive impact on children's health of the daily meal of e'Pap. There is improvement in concentration levels and enthusiasm to learn and attendance levels increase as this is often the only substantial meal children receive.

We keep all our supporters and donors informed of the projects and fundraising activities through our website ([www.grct.org.uk](http://www.grct.org.uk)) and regular newsletters.

## **Kosovo Link**

*Report by Geoff Morris*

Friendships built up through exchange visits over the last 15 years have been maintained, and the young Kosovars whom we have supported have done well in their careers. In many cases, after international educational scholarships, they have turned down tempting offers overseas in order to return home to support their country.

In July, we succeeded at last in obtaining visas for two talented young pianists from the music school in Kosovo to visit the UK. Illka and Arberesha joined William Dutton in playing charity concerts of Romantic Showpieces at St Andrew's Church on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September and at St Martin's

Church, East Horsley on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September. Both concerts filled the churches and were of exceptionally high quality. Total donations amounted to over £2,000, and the proceeds, after deduction of travel and other expenses, were shared between the two churches and the Roma Education Project in Kosovo. Illka and Arberesha personally bought and delivered winter fuel to the Roma and played with the children. Illka wrote "thank you for giving us the opportunity to do some good".

Earlier in the year we were able to act as a channel for money given by Edinburgh Direct Aid to be used for the Roma Education project.

Shortly after Easter a small group of us plan to go to Gjakova for a few days to visit friends and follow up the work we have done.

## **Operation Mobilisation/Nepal**

*Report by Peter Kelly*

The year 2016 was a wonderful one for St Andrew's foreign partnerships as it took a major new step in supporting work overseas. The Nepal partnership formally was commissioned at Heritage Day as part of the Faith and Social Action focus of that weekend. Peter Kelly was made Champion of the initiative. He, along with Esther Holly and Phil Slade, went to Nepal in October as part of a Vision Trip and there they met with the intended partner, Operation Mobilisation (OM), who are engaged throughout the country providing services and humanitarian relief, as well as sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. The team met with the OM leadership group in Kathmandu and then trekked to an elevation of 4,000 metres to see first-hand the work of OM among the people of rural Nepal. The trip was a great success as the team came back completely convinced of (1) the need for long-term ongoing support to the people of Nepal; (2) the efficacy of the OM work on the ground; and (3) the strong fit that OM will have as a partner for St Andrew's.

In January, a preliminary report of the Nepal trip was shared at a Faith and Social Action meeting. Included was a trip overview and suggestions for the format and content of a proposal which would go to the PCC for consideration. The partnership, which is based on the concept of supporting in-field local Nepali workers

living in and serving local rural villages was given the green light and the proposal was developed for the PCC meeting in late January.

At the January PCC meeting, the Nepal proposal was presented and the PCC received it with great appreciation and generally affirmed the project, although some PCC members wanted to review the proposal before casting a vote. The Nepal proposal rests with the Faith and Social Action committee to provide responses to PCC questions and then to present any answers or modifications to the PCC at a later meeting.

## **Prison Fellowship**

*Report by Charleen Hollington*

Prison Fellowship (PF) is one of the four projects chosen by the PCC as part of its Faith and Social Action programme (please see the report on Faith and Social Action elsewhere in this report).

PF was founded in the U.S. in 1976 by Charles W. Colson. It is now the world's largest association of national Christian ministries in the criminal justice field. It was established in England and Wales in 1979, where it now has over 115 prayer groups, with over 2000 volunteers praying for our prisons, supporting chaplains and running PF programmes.

PF seeks through prayer and practical care to help, support and develop a Christian ministry to prisoners and their families. There is some 'crossover' between PF and other prison work through prison chaplaincies, such as forgiveness and bereavement programmes.

Programmes operated by PF include the following:

### **Sycamore Tree**

This is a victim awareness programme that teaches the principles of restorative justice. Prisoners explore the effects of crime on victims, offenders, and the community, and discuss what it would mean to take responsibility for their personal actions. Courses are held at intervals at Send Prison.

### **Angel Tree**

This programme helps prisoners at Send Prison to give Christmas presents to their children. Volunteers raise funds and buy and deliver the presents, including a personal message from the parent for their child.

## **Letter Writing**

This programme enables prisoners to feel valued and supported while in custody. There are over 150 trained volunteers writing to people in prison.

St Andrew's role is to provide support to the congregation to become volunteers in PF programmes, and to offer prayer and financial support. Our point of contact is the prison chaplaincy operating at Send Prison.

Kelly Morris was appointed as the 'champion' for the project. Kelly did a great deal of work in establishing a link between St Andrew's and PF through the Send Chaplaincy, but unfortunately has had to withdraw as champion due to the demands of her full-time job as a senior school teacher, given that much of the PF volunteer work takes place during ordinary working hours. We are very grateful for all she has done.

A number of difficulties have been encountered in the project, such as the very long vetting procedure to get clearance to visit Send prison, and the fact that volunteer work must take place during the working week. We were disappointed to find that due to confidentiality issues, the only involvement open to the church in the Angel Tree programme was by financial contribution.

With this in mind, the Faith and Social Action Committee will be seeking more information and advice on how to get involved, and is also seeking a new 'champion' to take this project on.

On the positive side, St Andrew's has made a donation of £1,500 to prison ministry, through the Send chaplaincy, from resources available to Outward Giving. Furthermore, as a result of prison ministry being highlighted at the church, a private donation has been made to prison ministry in the amount of £1,000.

## **Social Concerns Forum**

*Chaired by Leonard Beighton*

The Social Concerns Forum has started meeting again, after being a bit dormant while the review of our social concern activities was in hand. Its 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. In practice we focus on the areas of the world in which St Andrew's is involved in particular, and on its work in

Cobham in which it is reaching out into the community. But we also discuss other matters in which people may be involved.

The Forum meets two or three times a year: 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*

Once again, we held a fund raising quiz and supper evening in aid of the Bible Society. Our thanks are due for the support of Jenny Masters and Gill Sharp, who provided the main meal. As in past years, Paul Masters helped in the kitchen, Rosie Masters organized the raffle and Peter acted as quiz master. Raffle prizes were donated and desserts provided by volunteers. In addition to tables made up of members of St Andrew's, we had teams representing the Cobham and Stoke d'Abernon WI groups and the Church of the Sacred Heart. The Sacred Heart team won for the second time in succession. The evening raised £791 bringing the total amount since the first quiz and supper in 2003 to £12,065.87.

### **Cathedral Link – Deanery and Parish**

*Report by Jenny Vickers*

For many months now the Cathedral has been inundated with scaffolding, plastic sheeting and barriers signifying no-go areas. Despite all this, services and meetings have continued to take place.

The sole purpose of the Cathedral Links now seems to be to just circulate and advertise the various services and functions which take place at our Mother Church.

I have been in contact with the Cathedral and hope to be able to ask one of the parishes within the Deanery to form part of the offertory procession and take up the Elements at the main Eucharist service on a Sunday in May. If you would like to do this, please let me know.

### **'End Isolation at Christmas' Christmas Day Lunch**

*Report by Shirley Boakye-Mensah and Hugh Bryant*

For the third year in succession, Waitrose (who run a national charity initiative under the title 'End Isolation at Christmas'), St Andrew's Church and Cobham Area

Foodbank worked together to put on a lunch on Christmas Day in Church Gate House.

The idea - originally dreamed up at St Andrew's by Shirley Boakye-Mensa - is to provide an experience as close as possible to a fine Christmas lunch at home, with turkey, ham, stuffing and all the trimmings; some Prosecco for the loyal toast and suitably ignited Christmas pudding, possibly without sixpences, but one never knows

We offered lifts for those who would otherwise have found it difficult to get to the lunch, and several fine cooks among the congregation roasted turkeys and hams at home, and then brought them in on Christmas morning.

There were no 'qualifications' expected for attending the lunch: we wanted a real mixture of ages and circumstances, and we succeeded in welcoming 41 guests. Together with 'table hosts' and those helping to prepare and serve the lunch, altogether 65 people took part, chiefly from St Andrew's but also including volunteers from outside who had seen our publicity in social media and the Diocesan website, and from Waitrose, who provided Doug Simpkins, the Gravy King, and Will Nicholson, expert paparazzo.

Waitrose also gave a generous £450 donation towards the cost of the lunch. We had plenty of everything, and were able to provide generous 'doggy bags' for those guests who would like them - this was welcomed especially by those guests who were Foodbank clients.

Those who were not resting their eyes duly watched the Queen's Christmas broadcast at 3pm, although this year we did not show a film afterwards, as everyone was too busy chatting.

We had so much fun that we have decided to hold a follow-up in the form of an Easter Tea on Easter (Low) Saturday, 15th April, and to put on another Christmas Day lunch this year too. We have room for 65 guests!

## **The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration in Cobham.**

*Report by Keith Baird*

It all started with the lighting of a Beacon on the hill at Cobham Park Estate on 21st April, lit by Dominic Combe as part of a chain of Beacons across England. The Queen is Head of the Church of England and the Royal British Legion and it was important for Cobham to mark the day with the ceremony it deserved.

A committee was formed by the Royal British Legion, Cobham Heritage, the Chamber of Commerce and the Residents Association, together with many other organizations, to plan the day. The committee was headed by Sir Gerry Acher and Katie Banfield of Heritage, Bob Tracey and Peter Turner-Wells of the Royal British Legion, Alistair Mann of the Chamber of Commerce, Keith and Angela Baird and Sue Kilpatrick for St Andrew's Church. Sue also represented the Residents Association.

Following many weekly meetings a lovely day was planned and the event took place on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June with the Title of "HAPPY BIRTHDAY MA'AM". This commenced with a Marching Band followed by a procession of the Royal British Legion with flag bearers, local school children, Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies. The Mayoress and other dignitaries finishing at St. Andrew's Church where a splendid service of music, prayers and thanksgiving was held to mark the important role the Church has in Her Majesty's Reign. The Band and procession then marched through the High Street where the Mayoress took the salute and local people waved flags as it passed the Union flags displayed above all the shops.

The procession terminated at the Leg O' Mutton Field where a lunch for over 100 local important Cobham residents were welcomed to a celebratory lunch kindly provided by and served by Waitrose. The afternoon continued with local associations having stalls and activities including Messy Church, serenaded by Cobham Band and our own Cathy Whitnall singing Land of Hope and Glory, Jerusalem, Rule Britannia and lastly God Save The Queen. St Matthew's School performed their Maypole dance and St. Andrew's School choir sang to us all in the rain.

The Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, Mr Michael More-Molyneux, the Queen's personal representative, and his wife Sarah together with the Mayoress Tania Shipley toured the field and spoke to many of those attending the lunch, many of whom were war veterans in uniform proudly displaying their medals. Mr More- Molyneux then cut the cake to a rousing God Save The Queen and everyone continued to enjoy the afternoon as the English rain continued.

St. Andrew's Church played an important role in the day donating for the Marching Band, The Cobham Band, the waving flags and bunting and, of course the most important part, the church service, led by the Revd Canon Robert Jenkins.

## **Churches Together**

*Report by Geoff Morris*

During 2015 the Committee of Churches Together was chaired by Revd Godfrey Hilliard. Leonard Beighton continued as treasurer, and St Andrew's was represented by the Rector, Geoff Morris and Keith Baird.

A joint evening service was held in the week of Christian Unity.

On Good Friday a vigil was held around a large wooden cross in the Holly Hedge Precinct.

Ongoing joint activities are

- 'Messy Church', which takes place 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 Food Bank continues its essential work and clothing and food have been taken to the camps at Calais.

## **Messy Church**

*Report by Elaine Bray*

Messy Church is a fun, creative worship session. We meet once a month, after school on the 4th Thursday of the month between 3:45pm and 5:45pm. We usually have 10 craft tables & activities, which reflect the theme for the month, for the families to enjoy for the first hour. We then move into a time of worship when we sing, listen to stories and pray before sharing a meal together. We give thanks for all the relationships that have been built via Messy

Church and the wonderful atmosphere that pervades each Messy Church session. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who help make Messy Church happen each month. New families and new volunteers are always welcome.

## **Elmbridge Multifaith Forum**

*Report by Geoff Morris*

12 members of St Andrew's were members of the forum during the year and several others attended events. Newsletters and 'Insights into Faiths' booklets can be obtained from Geoff Morris, or should be available in the Church.

Highlights of the year were:

Visit to the Armenian Church of St Sarkis on 24<sup>th</sup> February.

Visit on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June to the Zoroastrian Centre for Europe, Alexandra Avenue, South Harrow, HA2 9TL.

On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July Annual General Meeting, followed by brief presentations by representatives of Jewish, Christian and Muslim religions on practices surrounding the birth of a child and his or her introduction to faith

On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August discussion on "German Attitudes to Islam and the Middle East in the 19th, 20th and 21st Centuries" introduced by Professor James Hodgkinson of Warwick University.

On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September a discussion on "Faith and Inner Peace"

On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October at Surbiton Golf Club, Geoffrey Morris was invited to discuss with a Roman Catholic Men's Group the aims and activities of the Elmbridge Multifaith Forum.

On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October a presentation by Roger and Gail Partridge on Impressions of Palestine, followed by questions and discussion.

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November Geoffrey Morris and Nabil Mustapha were invited to speak to the Stragglers Club about the aims and activities of the Elmbridge Multifaith Forum.

Work with the Independent Advisory Group to Surrey Police, Brooklands Radio, Voluntary Action Elmbridge (VAE), Elmbridge Equality & Diversity Forum, Elmbridge Community & Safety Partnership (EC & SP) and the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE).

Our work was supported by a grant from Elmbridge Borough Council.

## **Recycling**

*Report by Peter Vickers*

Collecting used postage stamps, to raise funds for the Leprosy Mission (LM) over many years now, has assisted the work of the LM who had an employee who collected and sorted the stamps received, selling them at various venues and occasions.

With the 'Post Box' in the CGHC, users of the facility have also supported this cause in addition to Church members.

UK stamps which may seem 'ordinary' to ourselves will not be so to stamp collectors in the Philippines for example.

Although the present LM employee has now retired, stamps and other collectables which include postcards and coins, are still required.

It is helpful to trim the stamps with a centimetre of 'framing' left, before bringing them in. They can be left in an envelope in the 'V' pigeon hole in the church porch.

Over £800 was raised for the LM by catalogue sales in 2016 in addition to cash donations from regular supporters of the 'LM'.

## **FINANCE REPORT**

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