



# 2015 ANNUAL REVIEW

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

March 2016

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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 Rector*

The Ministry Team for the United Benefice at the end of the year comprised four licensed priests and one retired priest, a Licensed Lay Minister (Reader) and a Children, Youth and Families Worker. We are supported by a Communications and Administration Manager who runs the parish office.

During 2015 we continued to develop the five year vision for the parish, Vision 2018. Working groups were established to focus on the development of our worship, children and youth ministry, faith and social action, and development of small groups. During the year we have seen considerable growth in our children and youth ministry and we have seen small groups become a permanent feature of the church's life. The Annual Review reports elsewhere on the conclusions of the working groups.

It was with a blend of joy and sadness that we said farewell to Renos Pittarides, Associate Minister, as he left to take up the post of Rector of East Horsley. We offered our congratulations to him as he made the transition from Ordained Local Minister to full-time stipendiary priest. Renos and Jo and their family were very active members of St Andrew's for many years. Renos' ministry as a priest, and as a musician, was transformational. However, it is witness to the faith and fellowship of St Andrew's that we are a parish that nurtures and develops vocations, equipping people for posts in other churches.

Folli Olokose, our stipendiary assistant curate, completed his second year at the end of June. Folli has developed a wonderful ministry with us and is playing a key role in the parish. Alongside his day to day work as a priest and pastor, he has been primarily responsible for the small group programme and the significant development of our children and youth work.

Charleen Hollington completed her curacy at the end of 2015. I am very pleased to confirm that she will be licensed to the parish as an Associate Minister in early 2016. She is a gifted priest and has established herself as valued member of our ministry team. In the past year Charleen has taken the lead in the development of our baptism ministry and has been chair of the Faith and Social Action review group that is taking forward our plans to renew the parish's ministry in the field of social concern and mission.

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.

There were a significant number of vacancies in the deanery throughout 2015 and Peter, Folli and Charleen have taken numerous Sunday services and occasional offices in neighbouring parishes. Parishes in the deanery have expressed their considerable gratitude for the support they have received from St Andrew's clergy while awaiting the appointment of new parish priests.

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. November saw the completion of a new church hall at St Mary's. This major project offers excellent facilities for church and community functions and is already proving very popular. The new hall and parish offices provide resources that are essential in St Mary's continued renewal and growth. Godfrey continues to represent the benefice as chairman of Churches Together in Cobham, Oxshott and Stoke D'Abernon.

In January 2015 Esther Holley joined us as successor to Catherine Peachey as Children

and Families Worker. Esther quickly established herself in her new role. A measure of her ability is the extension of her role during the year to include youth work. The PCC twice resolved to increase her working hours, resulting in her post becoming full-time in January 2106. The rewards of her work can be seen in significant growth in attendance at Kids' Church (formerly Kids on Sunday), and St Andrew's Youth (SAY). A separate report details all that has been achieved during 2015. Esther is also active in St Andrew's School co-leading the prayer club. She is currently in training on a one-year course in youth ministry at Guildford Diocese.

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 the Day Centre and Springfield. He serves, preaches and leads intercessions at St Andrew's. 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.

Our Alpha programme continues to draw people into faith and the church and I'm grateful to the Alpha team for their commitment and hard work. The parish remains committed to Christian nurture, with Alpha as a basic introduction to the Christian faith.

The clergy continues to be very grateful to Jan Brind, our Assistant for Liturgy. Jan assists with planning Family Worship, special services, and development of our communion services. Jan arranges the annual benefice retreat which was extended to a full weekend for the first time. We were led by Suzette Jones on the theme of Mindfulness – Finding Peace in a Frantic World.

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 is now well established as our Communications and Administration Manager. During 2015 we began the implementation of a major IT project which has delivered a new mobile-friendly website combined with a church data base and administration tools. I'm grateful for the assistance of Dave Greenwood in implementing the new software and acting as webmaster with Elaine.

My role as Rural Dean of Leatherhead Deanery was time-consuming up to September with a number of parishes vacant and new appointments being made. I completed my term as Rural Dean in September after seven

years and was pleased to hand over to my successor, Alan Jenkins. In September I was invited to become an Honorary Canon of Guildford Cathedral and it was a joy to see a party from the united benefice come to my installation in October. I continue to be a Bishops' Adviser on Selection participating in the national process for the selection of candidates for ordained ministry in the Church of England and was on the planning group for the successful Guildford Diocese Triennial Clergy Conference which took place in June. I am grateful for the support of my clergy colleagues which allowed me time to take on these roles in the wider church.

We are blessed by the hard work and strong faith of two excellent Churchwardens, Moni Babatunde and Michael Flaxman. Michael took over from David Taylor at the APCM. I am also grateful to Malcolm Graham who assumed the role of Treasurer at the turn of the year. The close involvement of a great many people in the life and work of St Andrew's continues to be 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. Thanks too to Alan Wiseman, our Sacristan, who continued to faithfully serve us. We were saddened by his death in February 2016. Alan was a very faithful servant of the church for many years and we give thanks to God for his life and witness.

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. We are facing financial challenges, as the cost of our investment in ministry has exceeded our income, diminishing our reserves. However the PCC remains committed to growing the church and extending our work with young people and is working hard to encourage generosity and has been successful in gaining some external funding for youth work. We remain confident that our shared faith in Jesus Christ and our trust in God will equip us to face the various challenges that all churches face today. These are the foundations upon which all our activities and initiatives are built. Sustaining and nurturing faith and vocations to serve God remain the first priority for our Ministry Team.

### **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, marriage preparation, and an education committee with representatives from both parishes.

### **Church Attendance**

The numbers of adults attending church during 2015 was similar to 2014 and we are seeing growth in the numbers of children and young people. Growth remains a priority and a challenge for us.

### **Confirmation**

We prepared two adults for confirmation at St Andrew's in the summer and another two adults for confirmation at Ashted in the autumn.

### **Occasional Offices**

We continue to conduct a large number of funerals and baptisms. The clergy officiated at 28 funerals of which 8 were at the church. The pastoral team undertake bereavement support. We have extended our contacts with baptism families and 46 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 second time in 2015 with excellent feedback. They will return to conduct another day in 2016. 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.

## **Vision 2018**

*Report by Michael Flaxman*

The year was 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 four priorities we set for 2015

- Discipleship - Applying our faith to our everyday lives
- Welcoming and nurturing our congregation more
- Growth of our children and Christian youth ministry
- Reinforcement of our presence and outreach in the community

This focus was evidenced by the continuing activities, highlighted elsewhere in this review e.g. Small groups, Alpha courses, Say It's Sunday, Foodbank etc., as well as the working groups set up in the areas of Children and Young People, Social Concerns and Worship.

The PCC once again spent an Away-Day in November to see where we were in regard to achieving our 2015 Vision priorities, and setting the priorities for 2016.

The outcome of the day together was that the PCC reconfirmed that the key priorities for 2016, in order to achieve our Vision, were in five areas,

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

The Working Groups set up in 2015 reported on those five 2015 priorities areas and their reviews are elsewhere in this document.

## **Working Group on Social Concerns**

*Chaired by Revd Charleen Hollington*

The Social Concern and Engagement Working Group was one of four Working Groups set up after the 2014 PCC Away Day. Put very briefly, its mandate was to find ways to get the church more excited about, and involved in, social action, here and abroad, within the context of the church's mission.

The Group got under way in February 2015, but after the first two meetings it was felt that the group had failed to reflect adequately on the Biblical grounding for its recommendations, and so, largely thanks to David Taylor's encouragement and input, we went back to Biblical basics and spent some time in thinking through what social action meant in the context of our faith. Following this, the Group's overarching recommendation was that the church should foster an understanding of social action and engagement not as activities to be 'added on' to worship but as something integral to Christian discipleship.

As an aid to its deliberations, the Group prepared and issued a questionnaire to the congregation with the aim of discerning where people's hearts lie in regard to social action. The response to the questionnaire was disappointing (only 18 responses received, from over a hundred questionnaires issued), but the responses were nevertheless useful.

The Group made the following recommendations to the PCC, and all were accepted:

## **Faith and Social Action Committee to be formed**

A committee of the PCC should be established, called the Faith and Social Action Committee (FASAC). FASAC is to operate under set terms of reference (copy available on request), its primary role being:

*To encourage and enable all members of the church family to undertake and participate in this work of social concern, whether in Cobham or beyond, as an essential outworking of their faith, and to identify ways in which they can do so.*

## **Projects to be selected for Church backing**

FASAC is to oversee the selection of three or more projects, covering local and international concerns, with the aim that these projects would be supported by the church, and members of the church family would be encouraged to become involved in them. FASAC is to prepare a shortlist of suitable projects and present it to the PCC, who will then make the final decision as to which projects the church should support.

## **Social Concerns Forum to continue**

The Social Concerns Forum is to continue in existence, much as it presently does, as a way for those engaged in social action projects to get together on an informal 'open to all' basis, for mutual support and encouragement.

## **Social concern in worship**

The clergy, the Worship Committee and FASAC are to work together to find ways to bring social concerns issues and work to the fore in the church's worship and spiritual life, with the aim of helping church members to see social concerns work as a necessary part of their faith journey.

## **Outward Giving Committee**

The Outward Giving Committee and FASAC will operate independently of one another.

## **Conclusion**

The Working Group ceased to exist on 7th November 2015, when the new Faith and Social Action Committee came into being, with its task of implementing the recommendations described above (see the separate report on the new committee on page 16).

As chair of the Working Group I would like to thank most sincerely all the members of the group, who brought so much of their time, thought, collective wisdom, experience and prayer to the task at hand. I confess I was a little daunted at the prospect of chairing the group but was fortunate enough to find myself

in the hands of wise, experienced and devoted people.

## **Working Group on Worship**

*Chaired by Michael Elson*

The Worship Group spent more than a year considering the future of worship at St Andrew's Church. The group consulted widely and in detail, especially among the members of the parochial church council. The final report, which the parochial church council accepted in full, forms part of the church's vision for 2018 and includes six strategic principles for the preservation and development of worship.

St Andrew's Church has a long history of congregational and choral singing as central to our way of worshiping God. Music in worship is fundamental to our tradition and identity. Music and worship are also fundamental to the Vision 2018.

In line with the diocesan statement of Common Purpose, our vision for worship has three strands. We hope to see, in and from our commitment to worship, growth in

- **Spiritual maturity** – to know Christ, by developing and deepening our life of prayer, individually and together, so strengthening us as disciples on our journey of faith
- **Numbers** – to glorify Christ, by responding positively to the proclamation of the gospel, so making others welcome and sharing God's love with them in the life of the church
- **Engagement with the community** – to make Christ known, by our involvement in the world, so showing God's grace and bringing hope to all, by working for justice and peace.

In order to achieve our vision for worship the parochial church council

1. States that music is fundamental to our tradition and identity as a church and renews our commitment to the weekly sung Eucharist as our main act of worship
2. Will establish a group to produce a new annual set of services in a form usable at either the high altar or the communion table in the nave
3. Wants the church to move towards a more equal balance between our two modes of worship, without loss to the sacramental nature and spiritual quality of our worship
4. Will establish a group to undertake a feasibility study, in consultation with the family and children's worker, to report, with recommendations, on the religious and



practical implications of providing an area within the church specifically for children

5. States that our main service on Sunday is overall of about the right length
6. States that our pattern and times of services broadly meet the needs of most of the congregation but acknowledges that we need to consider further whether services at other times would better meet the needs of others, who have difficulty in attending.

## Working Group on Small Groups

*Report by Revd Folli Olokose*

The year 2015 witnessed significant changes in the spiritual growth of our church. In line with our vision to “*know, glorify, and make Christ known*”, significant efforts were made to encourage our members to be involved in discipleship groups. Four of such groups were established and in the year 2014 the book, “Devotional Classics” was chosen as a start-up resource.

The PCC at its Away Day in November 2014, agreed that more needed to be done. To this end, a Working Group chaired by Michael Flaxman was formed and its members were Michael Flaxman, Revd Folli Olokose, Keith Baird, Elaine Slade, Clive Moorman, Moni Babatunde, Cathy Withnall and Carrie Taylor.

They were given two terms of reference:

First, to propose a strategy for drawing both old and new members of the church into study groups. Secondly, to design a range of discipleship programmes with the aim of helping group members, taking account of where they are on their faith journeys.

In addition to this, existing groups were displayed in both the Church Porch and CGHC for many weeks. The aim was to encourage members of the congregation to see those who are in groups and add their names to any group they would be glad to join. This was met with limited success.

Nevertheless, the groups were also platforms for our Lent Course in 2015 and many other members of the church (and some from outside St Andrew's) joined these groups. During this period, there were around 70 people meeting and praying at several locations and times during Lent. This was a good experience for many, as in the words of one of the participants, he “*was able to get much from the groups*”. This is I believe is because of two things.

Firstly, the material used (Pilgrims Course) was easy to follow and more interesting than the Devotional Classics book. Secondly, as the

course was going on, reference was made to it weekly, especially during the sermons. In addition, this allowed many of our members to see the link between what they had studied and reflected on during the week and what was said on Sunday in church. Comments such as “*I have heard that before*” were often heard on Sunday morning.

With this experience in mind, the Working Group came up with the following propositions:

The name of the groups should be changed from “Discipleship Groups”, to Small Groups. Nevertheless, each group should be encouraged to do its own naming, while Small Groups remained generic name for the church.

More should be done on communicating the importance of these groups within the church.

Newcomers should be encouraged as soon as possible to join a Small Group. This could be done through personal invitations from members already in groups as well as during Pastoral Visits by the Clergy.

A particular Sunday Service should be dedicated to encouraging participation of both old and new members in Small Groups.

A Small Group Coordinator should be appointed to coordinate and liaise with groups and others in the congregation who would be glad to join a group.

The production of a study guide based on a sermon delivered in church during the month. The preferred Sunday was the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday.

## Working Group on Children and Young People's Ministry

*Chaired by Revd Folli Olokose*

After many years of dedicated service, Catherine Peachey, our Children and Families Worker signified her intention to step down from the role at the end of the year 2014. And the search began for a person who would be able to fill her shoes. Concurrently with this, the PCC, at its Away Day in 2014, decided to set up a Working Group on the Children, Families and Young People's Ministry. This was based on the findings from the National Study “Anecdote to Evidence” undertaken by the Church of England. This study shows the importance of this ministry in the growth of the church. And also highlights the need to lower the age profile of our church membership.

Members of this working group were: Revd Folli Olokose, Carrie Taylor, Melanie Kearley, Alison Wilde, Phil Slade, Lyndon Ferguson, Linda Shaw, Tania Hall. This initial group was joined by Esther Holley, our newly appointed Children and Families Worker.

And their terms of reference were as follows:

- Develop a strategy for the future of Children and Youth work at St Andrew's
- Reflect on ways to develop the church's Children's and Youth work and links with St Andrew's School
- Consider the advantages of a full-time children's and young people's worker and make visits to other churches which already employ such a person.
- Explore possible ways of funding, both internal and external (if available).

This group, after a series of meetings and visits to other churches, came up with the following proposals.

- That St Andrew's Church should develop a range of activities and groups catering for all ages from 0 – 25 years with dedicated discipling/ nurturing groups for each age range. Such activities and programmes should also be all year round.
- That the church should seek to work with ALL local schools (both primary and secondary), pre-schools, nurseries, playgroups, and other organisations.
- That the church should endeavour to have activities outside the usual Sunday morning services that would encourage and facilitate the well-being and spiritual growth of children and young people..
- That wherever possible the church should have a link person in each school to facilitate the relationship between church and school.
- That the church should spare no efforts in encouraging more families to attend our Sunday morning services. This could be achieved with better provision and resources for the Sunday School as well as ensuring that our services are family friendly and inclusive.
- That the church should consider experimenting with other times of services and structures with a view of giving an opportunity to families who for various reasons could not be present on Sunday mornings.
- That the long term vision of St Andrew's should be to employ two full-time workers, one for Children and Families and one for Youth Leadership. However, in the immediate future and in view of funding issues, we would suggest that a full-time post covering children, families and young people should be created.

At its November meeting the PCC accepted these propositions and from January 2016, Esther Holley, who was initially employed as a part time Children and Families Worker, has seen her role evolve into a full-time post of Children, Families and Young People's Worker.

## **Alpha**

*Facilitator Phil Slade*

*Report by Michael Flaxman*

We ran one Alpha course in 2015 which was held in Church Gate House. We had ten guests of all ages and stages in their faith journey. The attendance was exemplary and everyone who started finished the course. The attendees are now fully integrated into existing Small Groups so they can join our church family and meet and learn with other parishioners. Carrie Taylor and Charleen Hollington led the course and Linda Taylor provided the delicious food.

While God blessed us with wonderful guests, we still struggle to persuade members of the congregation to have the courage, confidence or desire to invite friends, neighbours or family to come along to an Alpha course. Our objective in 2016 is to continue to pass the message to the St Andrew's church family that Alpha is 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.

## **Spiritual Cinema**

*Report by Hugh Bryant*

Revd Renos Pittarides did many excellent things during his ministry at St Andrew's. Prominent among them was his 'Spiritual Cinema'.

Every month in Church Gate House, where there is wide-screen projection and surround sound, (if not yet three-seat sofas), we show a feature film, accompanied by drinks and superior home-made nibbles, after which we spend a short time discussing the film, prompted by some prepared questions.

There is no charge for admission, although donations towards the cost of the comestibles are welcome.

When Renos moved to East Horsley at the end of October, Hugh Bryant took over responsibility for organising Spiritual Cinema. Fiona Lascelles and Gill Sharp were warmly thanked when they stood down from their much-appreciated catering duties. Julie and Keith Baird have kindly taken over preparing the nibbles and manning the bar. We have introduced an innovation - drinks before the film as well as afterwards!

For copyright reasons, we are not allowed to advertise widely the films to be shown. The film

to be shown in Holy Week will have been 'Ben Hur'. Hugh (hugh@hughdbryant.co.uk) would welcome suggestions for future films. Current suggestions (of which details may be found at [www.IMDb.com](http://www.IMDb.com)) include: *Stories we Tell*, *Brubaker*, *The End of the Affair*, *American Beauty*, *Let him have it*, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, *Overboard*, *Kes*, *The Go Between*, *Far from the Madding Crowd*, *The Last Temptation of Christ*, *Doubt*, *Dr Zhivago*, *The Life of Brian*, *All the President's Men*, *Philomena*.

## Assets and fabric

*Report by Churchwardens Moni Babatunde and Michael Flaxman*

We are pleased to report that the church building generally continues to be in good condition and that all the goods and ornaments are correct.

All the urgent Category 1 classified works highlighted in the 2013 Quinquennial Report, but which were delayed due to the flooding in December 2013, have been carried out. The Category 2 works have commenced and other less urgent works will be scheduled over the required periods.

The new lighting scheme for the church was completed in March. There are new lamps to the main body of the church, the chancel, the chapel, the new space, ceilings to the North and South aisles and store above the vestry, all controlled from one main switch. They are all linked to a new scene-setting digital control system.

The external lighting, including external floodlights in the South of the tower, West and North of the tower and the north side of the church, the SE corner of the church, the choir vestry and security lighting in the car park are now complete. This was paid for by Peter Joice's legacy.

The new sound desk was installed as part of the work on lighting and video project. As well as affording a better view of the church to the controller, the new desk is designed to bring together on a single desk the existing sound desk, new lighting, PC keyboard and screen controls. It will also be able to accommodate any additional screen or equipment needed to enhance the video system in the future.

Several other maintenance tasks and improvements were undertaken in the church and at Church Gate House Centre during the year. These include:

- Repairs to the corner pillars on Grade II listed chest tomb (Cooper Tomb) SE of the South Porch of the Church. The cost of these repairs was paid by a generous donation from the Surrey Historical

Building Trust.

- Repairs to stop a leak from the hopper head at the west end of the North Aisle, which had made the buttress below it very wet.
- A working party gathered to clean up the churchyard in August. Numerous saplings, bushes, ivy and low hanging branches were cleared throughout the churchyard, especially where they were growing up through or between the tombs and hanging over paths. An overgrown holly tree and broken beech tree branch were also removed in October.
- The church boilers were serviced, as were the boilers in Church Gate House and the Flat. Gas Safety Certificates were issued in accordance to health and safety regulations.
- New cabling was installed in the church in time for Christmas to enable live feed from camera recordings during services to be seen on the TV screens around the church.
- A new mortice lock was fitted on the Tower door as the old lock was not locking properly.
- Elmbridge Council treated Japanese knotweed, discovered in the corner of the Churchyard near the Memorial Garden.
- Extensive repairs were carried out to the leading on the roof above the Flat at Church Gate House, which had caused a leak through to the Flat and entrance of the Pastoral Room.
- New notice boards were fitted in the Church Hall and a new doorbell was fitted to the door to the Welcome Area – to enable easier disabled access.
- New microphones were purchased for the Church Hall: this was paid for from Margaret Leamon's legacy.
- After it was stolen twice during the year, the car park fence was replaced with some metal reinforcements to deter further thefts.
- Repairs were made to the wire fence in Church Gate House garden to ensure the safety of children who regularly play in the garden.
- Handrails were fitted outside the kitchen door, in accordance with health and safety requirements.

In conclusion, we would like to thank everyone who contributes to the weekly care of the

church and the Church Gate House Centre and those who provide the beautiful floral arrangements.

## **Garden of Remembrance**

*Report by Leonard Beighton*

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

## **Administration**

*Report by Leonard Beighton*

### **Parish Office**

Elaine Bray is our Communications and Administration Officer. She runs the Parish Office, which is open from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm Monday to Friday. 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 staff it.

### **Sacristan**

Alan Wiseman continued to serve as Sacristan right up to the day of his death

### **Archivist**

We have not found anyone to take over as archivist since Peter Joce died in 2013. Between them, David Taylor, Elaine Bray and Leonard Beighton ensure that the records are kept appropriately.

## **Electoral Roll**

*Electoral Roll Officer Jenny Masters*

We have had very little change in the numbers on the Electoral Roll this year. In April the number of people on the Roll were 265. Since then we have had two additions, and four people removed due to moving out of the district. The total now is 263.

## **Communications**

### **“FAMILY”, now “Together” magazine**

*Report by Daphne McFarlane, Editor*

Ten issues of “Together” are distributed annually in both parishes and are available on the church websites. Publishers Edna Tipping and Zoë Ostley are now joined by David Greenwood, with support from the Parish Administrators, Elaine Bray and Polly Zabari. 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.

### **News Sheet**

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, “List Serve”, is maintained, to which anyone can subscribe at the St Andrew's website, allowing email messages to be sent to subscribers at any time with information about church activities and events.

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.

### **Notice Boards**

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

### **Website**

*Report by David Greenwood*

Right at the end of the year, in mid December, we quietly switched over to our new website.

We are grateful to Jonathan Bond for developing and hosting our website for the last five years and to Renos for managing the content.

During 2015, I carried out an evaluation of options for a Church Administration system, for example to bring together all our different lists and rotas and make mail shots easier. The selected system, ChurchBuilder, comes with an integrated website and so when Renos announced that he was moving, the Rector decided that this was a good time to switch the website too. We will be able to delegate specific pages to owners to maintain, thus being less dependent on just a couple of people for all changes. It is easier to update the content without having to get into “code”, though we lose a little flexibility in page design from our previous hand-crafted site.

The website uses a template which is designed to be mobile-device friendly.

During this year we will be setting up the integrated calendar with rotas and groups so that individuals who wish to can “log on” and access their rotas (and even update their availability or request swaps), and also include

things like material for their Small Groups or committees.

Registered people will be able to maintain their own details online, if they wish, and we will be asking people for their preferred means of communication and whether they are happy for their contact details to be seen by others. The

flexibility of the permissions is quite sophisticated. More to come on this - don't panic, we will not be going exclusively online or forcing anyone to use it!

The trained Webmasters are David Greenwood and Elaine Bray (Parish Office) so speak to us for more information.

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

## Background

The Parochial Church Council is responsible for co-operating with the incumbent in carrying forward the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Andrew's Church, the Chapel of Peace, the Garden of Remembrance, Church Gate House Centre, the Field and the Flat.

The Council met nine times in the year (ten in 2014) with an average attendance of 18 (17 in 2014). There was also a PCC Away Day.

## Membership

The clergy, churchwardens, children and families 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 27 members in all – 26 since the departure of Revd Renos Pittarides. In addition our patron, Dominic Combe, attends some meetings.

**During the year the following served as members of PCC:**

Rector	Revd Robert Jenkins	<i>Chairman</i>
Associate Rector with special responsibility for Stoke D'Abernon	Revd Godfrey Hilliard	
Associate Minister	Revd Renos Pittarides	<i>until October 2015</i>
Assistant Curate	Revd Folli Olokose	
Assistant Curate	Revd Charleen Hollington	
Licensed Lay Minister	Hugh Bryant	
Children and Families Worker	Esther Holley	
Churchwardens	Moni Babatunde	<i>Lay Vice Chairman since April 2015</i>
	Michael Flaxman	<i>since April 2015</i>
	David Taylor	<i>Lay Vice Chairman until April 2015</i>
Representatives on the Deanery Synod	Hugh Bryant	
	Michael Elson	
	Geoffrey Morris	
Elected members	Sam Acquaye	
	Ken Aitken	<i>Treasurer until April 2015</i>
	Keith Baird	
	Leonard Beighton	<i>Secretary</i>
	Michael Flaxman	<i>until April 2015</i>
	Lyndon Ferguson	
	Malcolm Graham	<i>Treasurer since April 2015</i>
	Tanya Hall	
	Sue Kilpatrick	
	Daphne McFarlane	
	Shirley Mensah	
	Clive Moorman	
	Phil Slade	
	Nick Tamblyn	
	Carrie Taylor	
	David Taylor	<i>since April 2015</i>
	Liberty Teissedre	

## **The work of the Council in 2015**

*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 Geoffrey Morris*

The Churches in the Diocese of Guildford are divided among 12 Deaneries each containing

about 12 parishes and chaired by a Rural Dean. Our own Church belongs to the Deanery of Leatherhead. Our own Rector, Robert Jenkins completed his term as Dean this year and has been succeeded by the Revd Alan Jenkins. The lay chair is Donald Yeates.

Geoffrey Morris, Hugh Bryant and Michael Elson are St Andrew's lay representatives. We all come up for re-election every three years: our current term will end in May 2017.

During the year the Synod met a total of 3 times, with the Standing Committee (which organises the meetings) meeting 5 times.

## **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 Moni Babatunde*

The committee reconvened with new members in the summer. We met several times to discuss the running and maintenance of Church Gate House.

Since the major restructuring of Church Gate House, lettings have gradually increased with most of the regular hirers of the Hall before the floods having returned, together with some new hirers. The Hall, Lounge and Welcome Cafe are very busy during the week, and CGH still remains a popular venue for parties during the weekend. We have increased the charging rates and now charge more at weekends.

The Welcome Café, which is open every weekday and manned by a fantastic welcome team, provides a special area for people visiting the parish to drop in for a drink and a chat. Many visitors are finding helpful the new handrails installed in the lounge. We have engaged cleaners who are both cheaper and more effective. We would like to thank David Robinson for his help with minor maintenance jobs.

The income generated by Church Gate House is gradually increasing back to pre-flood times. We are aware that there is increased competition from newly built Halls in the area and we will be renewing efforts to promote the Hall more in the future.

### **Eco Congregation Committee**

*Report by Clive Moorman*

It has been another active year for the Eco Committee (Leonard Beighton, Geoffrey Morris, Sam Acquaye, Wendy Jane Gray and myself). Unfortunately we have lost Temi Babatunde as she is focussing on her exams. However Jo Greenwood has agreed to join the team in 2016 and with her extensive 'eco' credentials she will be a valuable addition to the team.

The key focus for the team this year has been our reapplication for the Eco Congregation Award for another three years. This required a lot of work from the committee members as well as support from other members of the congregation whose work supports our 'eco' commitment, eg Esther, Robert and Malcolm to name just three. We have now submitted our application and we expect to be audited by A Rocha sometime in the next couple of months. Rather coincidentally, A Rocha has decided to replace the current Eco Congregation Award with a new statement of recognition called 'Eco Church' which was launched in January 2016. So it now seems highly likely that not only will we have been the first church in the diocese to gain the Eco Congregation Award, we will also be the only church to renew it.

Notwithstanding our focus on regaining our 'Award', we found time to put on a Veggie Masterchef event for our Harvest Supper. It was very well attended and received very positive feedback from all who attended and became judges for the evening, tasting a variety

of vegetarian dishes. In the end it was Carrie Taylor who triumphed with her Crispy Greek Style Pie and was crowned the Veggie Masterchef. We also gave presentations on the 'eco benefits of being a vegetarian' and Wendy Jane discussed the many implications of food miles.

We also found time to tend the 200 trees we planted in St Andrew's Field, 100 last year and 100 the year before. The first batch are now getting quite a size and most have survived. We also carried out the analysis of the viability of installing solar panels on the Church roof and CGH. However the payback would have been too long, even on the previous feed-in tariff rate, and it would be substantially longer now that the Government has reduced the tariff.

The focus for 2016 will be passing the audit to renew our Eco-congregation Award. We will also hope to be arranging another visit to the Leatherhead waste transfer station to see what happens to our waste once they receive it. In addition I am sure, as a team, we will generate a number of different project ideas to keep up the momentum we have generated, as an 'eco congregation'. As a start we now have a new page on the upgraded St Andrew's website that David Greenwood is managing, and hope to make regular posts for both our own congregation and other churches interested in 'eco work'.

## **Education Committee (joint with St Mary's)**

*Chaired by Dominic Combe*

### **Aims:**

The aims of this committee continue to be the promotion of opportunities for growing in the Faith by supplementing the combined benefice's liturgical and pastoral activities with a range of supporting activities. These include preparation for baptism, confirmation and marriage, support for vocation and ministry, provision of courses based on Bible study, day seminars on particular subjects, showing of films chosen for their spiritual worth, and sessions of Peace and Prayer.

### **Alpha Course 2015**

2015 opened with the Alpha Course in two house groups hosted by Phil & Elaine Slade and Keith & Julie Baird. This had been running since Sept 13<sup>th</sup> 2014. A group for SAY it's Sunday with up to 10 members has been successful. The 2015 course proper was launched on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2015 in Church Gate House, with 11 participants. These courses have reached out to the spouses of participants and three people have been baptised and three confirmed.

## **Discipleship Course**

Now referred to as "Small Groups", there is a separate report from Revd Folli Olokose.

## **Lent Courses.**

The Lent Course for 2015 was run for the united benefice of St Mary's and St Andrew's. The material was from "Pilgrim – A Course for the Christian Journey", published by Church House Publishers. For 2016, we shall be discussing "Handing on the Torch" by John Young. It is in five parts and deals with all angles of Anglicanism. It has a mission-based approach and guarantees a great deal of interesting discussion of our faith in the context of the modern world.

## **The Ladywell Convent Retreat.**

The retreat for Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June through Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 was on a Christian version of Mindfulness, lead by Suzette Jones. For 2016, Steven Weaver, the photographer, has been booked for a retreat beginning from 6 pm Friday 3rd June through to Sunday 5th June.

## **Spiritual Cinema**

This continues to be a popular feature in the calendar, but with Renos leaving us to be Rector of East Horsley, Hugh Bryant will be taking over.

## **Confirmation**

On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June at St Andrew's church, 6 candidates from St Mary's, 2 from St Andrew's and 7 from other churches in the Deanery were confirmed by Bishop Andrew, whose attendance was greatly appreciated.

## **Marriage Preparation.**

On 13<sup>th</sup> February 2015 Paul and Angie Wood led a Marriage Preparation day for 15 couples. A further day will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016, with between eight and ten couples. This will be at St Mary's or St Andrew's, according to availability.

## **Faith and Social Action Committee**

*Chaired by Revd Charleen Hollington*

The Faith and Social Action Committee (FASAC), a committee of the PCC, was set up following the recommendation of the Social Concern and Engagement Working Group to the PCC in 2015. The report in this Annual Review on the Working Group gives the full background and role of FASAC, and it is not necessary to repeat it here, except to say that under its terms of reference its primary role is:

*To encourage and enable all members of the church family to undertake and participate in this work of social concern, whether in Cobham or beyond, as an essential outworking of their*



*faith, and to identify ways in which they can do so.*

FASAC held its first meeting on Tuesday 26th January 2016. Its members are Charleen Hollington (chair), Leonard Beighton, Sue Kilpatrick, David Taylor, Linda Good, Geoffrey Morris, Elaine Bray and Lyndon Ferguson. The Committee has as its main focus at present the gathering of information on social action projects which lend themselves to being supported by the church family. The aim is to prepare a short list of possible projects to present to the PCC at its meeting on 1 March 2016.

In due course, FASAC will also be focussing on the following tasks:

- supporting the Social Concerns Forum in its role of helping those engaged in social action projects to get together on an informal 'open to all' basis, for mutual support and encouragement.
- Working with the clergy and the Worship Committee to find ways to bring social concerns issues and work to the fore in the church's worship and spiritual life.

We are very excited at the prospect of helping our church family to become more involved in social action, with God's grace, and in so doing live out our mission of being light to the world and salt of the earth. If anyone has any ideas or possible projects that they think might help, please don't hesitate to speak to any member of the committee.

## **Fellowship and Social Committee**

*Chaired by Fiona Lascelles*

We have had several events this year starting with providing refreshments and lunch for Marriage Preparation in February.

Serving breakfast in three sittings on Easter Day to over 60 people was also very successful and a lot of hard work.

The team served lunch as a thank you to the pastoral assistants in June.

Our annual summer barbeque late in June was very well attended and we had another beautiful afternoon on the field serving food and drink to over 100 people.

Heritage day on 12<sup>th</sup> September seemed to be well received and we sold out of most of our hot sausages, filled rolls, cakes and biscuits by 2.30pm, as the day was so well attended. We also got through a huge amount of toilet roll as we were the only toilets in the vicinity!

The Eco team took over Harvest this year and had a wonderful evening of vegetarian food with good company and entertainment.

We produced and served lunch to over 100 people for Renos' leaving service on 25 October, provided tea following the Time to Remember service in early November and served a three course supper for St Andrew's Day in late November.

In the background are also meals and refreshments served for all our other functions with different teams including Spiritual Cinema, Friday Lunch Club, Alpha, boys Friday curry nights etc.

I am very grateful to everyone that helps on this team, the regular members and all those who let me persuade them to give up their time to help out on a casual basis and feel that Social and Fellowship will continue to play an important part in the life of St Andrew's Church.

Our team is once again changing and we welcome new members and say thank you and goodbye to Gill Sharp and Kerstin Mitchell.

## **Finance and Administration Committee**

*Chaired by Moni Babatunde*

This committee includes the two Churchwardens, the Treasurer and Leonard Beighton.

Its brief covers maintaining, protecting and enhancing the financial and physical resources of the Parish, including the buildings and their fabric. It discusses and resolves expenditure matters and can approve expenditure up to a maximum of £750 on presentation of an invoice without further reference to the PCC. It reviews all proposals or greater expenditure, supported by a printed quotation, which are then submitted to the PCC with the committee's recommendation.

The committee convened one formal meeting during 2015 to discuss a financial strategy for the church, the process of budget setting and the allocation of cost centres to specific people within the church. Other issues relevant to the Finance and Administration Committee were discussed through exchange of emails and, where necessary, recommendations were passed to the PCC.

## **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 and the effect when they leave; four parishioners who moved away from the parish during the past two years, accounted for about 20% of our total Planned Giving! Still today a significant part of our giving comes from a few large donors. 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 2015 with Total Giving (Planned Giving, Yellow envelopes, loose plate, other giving and Gift Aid) of approximately £130,000, a drop of £9,000. Planned Giving in particular dropped by £10,000 which is worrying; especially as our average monthly gift is below both the Diocese and Deanery average. Our Total Giving was approximately the same amount as 2013.

Looking at the Electoral Roll of approximately 188 households (265 persons) approximately 60% are enrolled in regular giving which we would hope to increase in 2016.

October was our Giving Month when both clergy and lay members communicated the importance to the church of generosity and sacrifice. Money remains a key element of giving since we have to raise over £220,000 per annum to run our church, for which we receive no outside support. Planned Giving is the most efficient method, as we can recover a further 25% Gift Aid from the Government in most cases.

We produced a brochure entitled Generosity and Sacrifice for October Giving Month, which was widely distributed. For the first time we also produced a video, which was shown at services, on our website and on social media. .

The PCC spent a significant amount of time, discussing "giving" as part of the wider question of finances, and it decided to introduce an offerings bag collection during services, commencing in early 2016.

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

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

## **Outward Giving Committee**

*Chaired by Cathy Whitnall*

In 2015 the team continued its practice of discussing possible recipients of donations by email, in addition to face to face conversations. As individuals we support such exchanges with our prayers, and it is noticeable that we generally don't have any difficulty in agreeing with one another in our decision making. As Chair, I can feel confident that the gifts we make are within God's will for our church community.

In 2015 the PCC set aside £13,905 for Outward Giving, and so we increased the amount of our large allocations to £2,000. In June we sent £2,000 to Operation Mobilisation in support of Becky Slade's work after the earthquake in Nepal. Closer to home, we have supported both Oasis (Cobham) and the Cobham Area Foodbank.

We sent £2,000 to the Bible Society and to Christian Aid – the latter was in support of its mission to combat malaria in Nigeria, a project for which the Government had promised to match funding up to a total of £5m. We also set aside £2,000 to support an overseas ordinand; we recognise that we are committing to several years of support, but feel that it is right to do so.

Among our smaller donations were £500 to St Andrew's School, and £500 to Restored, a charity that helps women who have suffered from violence at home; our attention was drawn to this by Graham Fisher, who participated in a walk in London while wearing high heels in order to raise awareness of the issue.

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 which leads this ministry. Current members of the committee in addition to clergy are Ray Sherlock, Sue Aitken, Wendy Jane Gray, Judy Brickett and Jan Brind. They were joined in July 2015 by Alyson Ferguson-Bunn.

Once again were delighted to see another vocation and Dave Greenwood began training for Pastoral Assistant ministry in September 2015. He will be licensed and commissioned in the summer of 2016.

The PAs, as well as exercising general pastoral care, have an individual focus for their

ministries in the areas of bereavement, the elderly, the Day Centre, 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.

The Prayer for Healing team meets on Friday mornings and private prayer for healing is offered at all Parish Communion services. Two new members were welcomed to the Friday prayer group during 2015. 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*

We reviewed the Quinquennial Report (December 2013) to ensure that the necessary works, particularly Category 1 (Urgent), had been carried out and Category 2 works had been started and were scheduled over the required periods

Similarly, we reviewed the status of major projects such as the church lighting, both internal and external, as well as identifying essential maintenance requirements which were prioritised, with the most urgent being carried out when and where appropriate.

In August we had a churchyard clean-up where a dozen or so volunteers came armed with chainsaws and other assorted tools to spruce up the churchyard, trimming trees and shrubs, weeding and clearing ivy from gravestones. (Further details of all the above are in the Assets & Fabric Review, see page 11.)

## **Welcome Team**

*Report by the Churchwardens*

The Welcome Team, formerly chaired by Renos Pittarides, continues to look for ways of welcoming newcomers to our church and helping them integrate and participate in the

many activities of church life. We also look to make our facilities as welcoming and inclusive as possible to everyone, whether it is having the Welcome Café open every day to welcome visitors to the church and Parish Office, or installing a bell-push to alert us to anybody who needs some assistance to enter Church Gate House.

The successful men's curry nights have been continued thanks to Folli's organisation, which bring together the men of the parish on a Friday evening, along with the occasional sports event or guest speaker. A great way for the men of the parish to get together.

The team is not exclusive – please anyone who sees a new face in the congregation, do not hesitate to say hello and by all means invite them across to refreshments, or point them out to one of the clergy or Churchwardens. We want to make them feel part of our family.

## **Worship Committee**

*Chaired by Dave Greenwood*

The committee reviews 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. For example, the form of the Passion Reading on Palm Sunday is something we try to vary. In 2015 we used an audio dramatisation from the Bible Society (by the Riding Lights Theatre Company).

During 2015, we reviewed the use of the two altars during communion which is working well. We also discussed how to incorporate an eco theme into a service, SAY Choir, training for PA operators (and the need for more), revising the way services start to get more of a quiet pause for preparation and encouraging school involvement.

The strategic thinking side was taken forward by a separate PCC working group (with some members in common). The committee heard progress reports and is now looking at incorporating some of the ideas discussed. A new working group is being formed to look at evolving our set of service booklets, such as making Signs of His Love reflect the season more.

# **CHURCH ORGANISATIONS**

## **Bellringers**

*Report by Peter Ostley, Tower Captain*

St Andrew's bells were rung throughout the year whenever a band was available.

Regrettably, we were not able to ring the bells on Christmas Day or New Year's Eve. All wedding requests for bells were met in 2015, plus Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and Remembrance Day. Heritage Day saw many

people climbing the tower to see the clock mechanism, bells and frames. Our thanks are due to James Macmillan and Tierran Ostley-Tidd for their enduring support, enabling us to take part in Heritage Day.

## **Church Cleaning**

*Report by Mabs Ostley*

More helpers would be great. The team takes care of the church cleaning weekly, meeting every Thursday morning. If anyone has a couple of hours to spare on a Thursday morning, please contact the office. We do stop for coffee and it's an ideal opportunity to meet other members of the community whilst taking some exercise too.

## **Church Flowers**

*Report 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 would be welcomed. If you're interested in helping, but anxious about your ability, don't be; we all assist each other. For further information, contact Mabs Ostley.

## **Friday Luncheon Club**

*Report by Jenny Masters*

I am pleased to report that the Luncheon Club is still very well supported having at least 35 people attending each month. We are still able to maintain the cost of £3.00 for a two-course meal, which gives us a small profit most months and from which we are able to give a donation to the following charities – Princess Alice Hospice. Pancreatic Cancer. Leprosy Mission and Bible Society.

I would like to express my grateful thanks to everyone who has assisted me during the year, not only those who help with the cooking and on the day, but also those who help to clear away the tables after the meal.

## **Mothers' Union**

*Report by Mary Hart, Branch Leader*

We have continued to support events in the Diocese and the Deanery. We attended the Lady Day Service, and jointly with Oxshott took our turn in leading the monthly Pilgrimage of Prayer Service. These were at Guildford Cathedral

In April we celebrated our 125th anniversary with a Service of Thanksgiving in the Church which was attended by members from other Branches in the Deanery. This was followed by tea. Long service certificates were presented, including one to Jenny Vickers.

We have enjoyed a number of speakers, some of whom were drawn from the congregations of

the United Benefice. In July we held a very successful 'Cake Sale' after the Family service, the proceeds being donated to the Away From It All Holiday Scheme

Outings arranged by Jenny Vickers have been much enjoyed. They included a visit to Borde Hill Garden and the John Rutter Christmas Concert in Croydon

We are grateful for the continuing support of the Clergy particularly in starting our meetings with a short service and to the congregation for the support they have given us.

I have now completed my three years and am grateful to Jenny Vickers who has agreed to take over as Branch Leader again from me

New members are always welcome as we look towards the future.

## **Music**

*Report by David Fuge, Director of Music.*

The Choir currently numbers 13 at full strength, which is down slightly on last year.

We are striving to attract new members and there were some positive indications from the gift tags that were placed on the Christmas tree in the church, on which people were encouraged to share their talents and gifts. Those who wanted to sing or play instruments are being contacted and I'm very hopeful that this might bear fruit.

The usual stumbling block to attracting new people is that of commitment. The Choir does work very hard and our music, whether simple or complex, needs careful rehearsal and regular attendance at practices. Trying to balance the amount of time required if one wants to be a regular member with family, work and leisure commitments is difficult. We all need time off every now and then, but if we have more singers in the choir it is less noticeable if one or two are having a weekend off.

If you do know of anyone who might be interested in singing regularly with the St Andrew's Choir or maybe are interested yourself, please do get in touch.

**The Music Group** led the worship at Family Worship services, the 10am Parish Communion services on the 4th Sunday, and accompanied many of the more contemporary worship songs at other services throughout the year. The structure of the group has somewhat changed because Renos Pittarides has moved on to become Rector of East Horsley, taking his vocals and guitar with him! However, we have adapted and, as with the Choir, I believe that more people will become involved in the near future. The signs are encouraging.

**SAY Choir** numbers dwindled dramatically last summer to the point at which it looked as though it would have to stop for a while for a rethink. I'm pleased to say, though, that as a result of Louise Fuge's hard work in talking to parents (who helped get the message out to others) when the choir began in September for the Autumn term the Choir had grown again. Following their excellent contribution to the Heritage Day concert when they sang *Sing* (composed for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee) and Take That's *Rule the world*, the choir grew still further to 18 children. They are lively, boisterous, love singing and enthusiastic about all that they do – as are their parents who have been a great support to all that Louise has achieved with the children. They sing at every Family Worship service and perform a song or anthem either alone or with the Church choir.

Thanks, as ever, go to Tania Edwards for helping Louise over the past few years. Tania is leaving Cobham in the summer and, although Melanie Kearley has offered to help when she is available, Louise needs another adult to help her on Friday evenings from 7pm to 8pm in term-time. If anyone can help then please contact Louise or David.

### Highlights of the Musical Year:

Good Friday's Devotional Performance began with the beautiful *Crucifixus a 8* by Antonio Lotti, then moved via a modern and equally beautiful setting of *Ave Verum Corpus* by Colin Mawby to the main work of the evening, John Rutter's *Requiem*. The St Andrew's Chamber Choir (the church choir plus friends) and our soloist, Cathy Whitnall, were accompanied by a small instrumental ensemble and Mike Smith at the organ. All the singers and players made it a memorable Good Friday, and it seems wrong to pick out an individual, however, we were pleased to welcome back one of our ex-choristers and former Menuhin School student, Steffan Morris. His virtuosic 'cello solo at the beginning of *Out of the deep* was passionate and moving. Since leaving the Menuhin School, Steffan has made a name for himself as one of the finest cellists of his generation and it is flattering that he is happy to come back to St. Andrew's to play for us and his exceptional talent was obvious to all on Good Friday.

In September, the Choir and SAY Choir took part in the Heritage Day 10th Anniversary celebrations in the church, along with local schools and organisations. They certainly made an impression and showed their versatility by singing many different genres of musical styles. Kevin Ayton's monologue, *The*

*Story of Rinderella* will also live long in the memory. Former chorister, Will Dutton hosted the evening and he was joined by Kevin Loh, Choir member and Menuhin School student, for a violin and guitar duet. The evening finished with a Last Night of the Proms medley (arranged by Cathy Whitnall) with pupils and teachers from the Menuhin School accompanying. Thanks to Cathy for co-ordinating the evening in which so many organisations were involved.

The church was full for our annual Service of Remembrance, and the Choir sang two anthems. The Introit was the moving *Rest in peace and rise in glory* by Peter Stellern and later in the service was John Ireland's wonderful anthem *Greater love*.

This year's service of Nine Lessons and Carols seems to have been particularly well received. The Choir was joined by a few friends, was really nicely balanced and sang well. We had the usual scare with sore throats and illness on the day, but these were overcome and didn't affect the service or the singing at all. The service was a wonderful act of worship.

Looking ahead, on Good Friday 2016 the St. Andrew's Chamber Choir and Orchestra will be giving a devotional performance of Fauré's *Requiem and Cantique de Jean Racine*, and also *Song for Athene* by John Tavener.

Thank you to all the musicians who have sung and played over the past year – you are the people that make St. Andrew's music what it is and contribute so much to our worship for all the right reasons! Thanks also to Kevin Ayton, who has again acted as my honorary assistant, leading the Choir or standing in for me when I'm away or working. Finally, thank you to Louise, my wife, who has acted all year as my administration assistant as well as doing incredible things with SAY Choir.

### Open Church

*Church watching rota arranged by Joan Bingley tel. 862483*

During 2015, 259 visitors were recorded (327 in 2014). In addition, we welcomed several hundred visitors as part of the Heritage Day events on 12 September and a number of parties from local schools. We had 20 volunteers at the end of 2015 (23 in 2014). The largest numbers visit at weekends in summer. St Andrew's is open for part of each day except Mondays to provide access for those who want to visit, whether as tourists or in need of a haven for peace, solace and prayer.

## 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 2015 and an updated copy of the manual – 'In Safe Hands' - is available in the Parish Office. We follow the guidelines given in the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy carefully.

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. The leaders and volunteers now have full criminal record clearance and renewals are efficiently processed through the Diocese.

In April, we had an informative Group Training Session, presented by Sue Lawrence, the then Diocesan Tutor for Safeguarding Training. The session was well attended by most of the leaders and helpers who work with children in the parish - it was also opened to others within the deanery. Sue highlighted how to recognise neglect and abuse in children, the process of reporting abuse and the importance of developing safe recruiting practice when appointing staff and taking on new volunteers. A register was taken during the session and certificates were issued by the Diocese to all of those who attended.

## Baby Talk

*Report by Mabs Ostley (01932 862178) and Sue Aitken (01483 282028)*

Baby Talk continues to provide a meeting place for those caring for babies and pre-nursery school children, and 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. Numbers have been low over the year but have increased gradually in the past few months.

## Children and Families Work

*Report by Esther Holley Children and Families Worker*

The year 2014 was rich in experience for Kids on Sunday with many activities. At the end of the year Catherine Peachey, our Children and families' worker, resigned for personal reasons. We are very grateful for her contribution to this important ministry of our Church.

I was appointed in January to take up the same post. Immediately, I was given the task of organising the children and families ministry, to streamline it with our vision statement "to know,

to glorify and make Christ known". This is very important because we believe our Sunday school should not be a drop off play group, rather a place where the children and young people learn to know, to glorify and make Christ known to others. This is why the name has recently evolved from Kids on Sunday to Kids' Church.

Children meet for Sunday school in the form of Kids' Church, starting at 10am in Church Gate House during Sunday Morning worship in the Church. We meet each Sunday, except the first Sunday of the month when we gather for Family Worship. In April 2015 we introduced the Lectionary teaching resource 'Roots'. The Bible teachings are based on the same passage as we have in the main church. This way, everyone in the church from the very youngest to the very oldest is united in sharing the same Bible teaching.

Over the summer the following Team Leaders were appointed: Alison Wilde for pre-school, Carrie Taylor for Infants and Mel Kearley for the Juniors. The Team Leaders coordinate the volunteers and ensure good communication within each group. The team and volunteers meet to review and plan ahead, ensuring we are fulfilling the vision and are on track with all we set out to do.

Kids' Church volunteers support the ministry in many ways. Some set up the space on a Sunday morning, others welcome and take the register, and some remain on hand to assist with activities.

## Groups in Kids' Church

To make the above vision attainable, we have classes which cater for each age group, providing teaching in fun and engaging ways appropriate to each child's understanding and development.

In September 2015, we formed two new groups in addition to the two pre-existing Infant and Junior classes. We want Kids' Church and the groups to have a distinctive identity, for the children to engage with and belong to.

One of these new groups is for toddlers and pre-school aged children called '**Little Fishes**'. For children in KS1 and Infant Schools (ages 4 to 7 years) the group is called '**Waves**' and the group for Juniors or KS 2 (ages 8 to 11 years) is called '**Anchors**'.

Some of the things we get up to across our groups include: reading the Bible, doing crafts, drama, games, making models, having a discussion, puppets, praying, playing with friends and so much more!

The other new group is the '**DiscipleSHIP**' group for those in secondary school, also

meeting in Church Gate House. Over cups of tea and coffee we explore what the Bible has to say. We look deeper into faith and discuss what it really means.

All the groups come together after the time of teaching for a time of Prayer and Praise. This lasts usually for about ten minutes before the children enter the Church to join their families. This time of children's collective worship provides an opportunity for them to respond to God after what they have learned. During this time the children give thanks and sing fun action songs. And at times it is more reflective with candles and prayers for people in need all around the world.

For those too young to yet leave their parents, we have a newly kitted-out Children's Corner in the church, where there are suitable toys and activities for the smallest to be entertained.

In December the children from Kids' Church were actively involved in the planning and putting on the Crib Service. We held a Christmas Event day on the 19th December. As well as serving as an opportunity to rehearse for the Crib Service, we had an array of craft activities, sang carols, and then had lunch together. This Event day was very successful and thoroughly enjoyed by the children and their parents. We hope to do more Children's Days to mark the major festivals in the Christian calendar, including Easter.

The numbers are flourishing, and sessions are vibrant. Just as the children are growing, so is the children's ministry.

I would like to thank all involved with the life of Kids' Church, as it would not be possible without the hard work and support of our dedicated and compassionate volunteers. We are seeking more volunteers to join our Kids' Church team and support the vital ministry to Children at St Andrew's Church.

## **Messy Church**

*Report by Elaine Bray*

Messy Church in Cobham, is run by volunteers from Cobham Churches Together. It is now in its third year of running.

At Messy Church we share the Gospel with primary school aged families through, craft, games and worship, and we meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at the United Reform Church on Stoke Road, Cobham.

Families arrive from 3:45pm and spend until 5pm moving between the 10 different craft tables, using the quieter games room or tucking into the tea, squash and biscuits available. The crafts vary, depending on the theme of the month, but they will always include the ever-popular edible crafts table, and lots of mess! At

5pm, everyone moves into the worship space, with singing, a talk and prayers, which reinforce the message of session. The families then share a child-friendly meal, and cakes, before going home with their bag of precious crafts! The number of children attending has varied between 30 and 120, averaging 50 most months.

Messy Church is run by volunteers who all have a heart to share the Gospel with the children of Cobham and who don't mind the mess! We are immensely grateful for the help and support we continue to receive from each volunteer as well as the financial support from St Andrew's and the other Cobham Churches. New volunteers are always welcome.

For more details contact Elaine Bray on 0796 8254850

## **SAY It's Sunday**

*Leader Phil Slade*

SAY it's Sunday (SIS) has now been running for over 2 years. The group is for those in year 6 (around 10/11) and upwards. The group meets from 6.00 – 8.00pm every Sunday in term time. Numbers have again risen from around 6 to 16 in 2014 to an average of 25 from the 42 registered young people in 2015. Many of these are not members of St Andrew's Church but are willing to be involved, as they have shown during the 2015 Crib Service.

Meeting times often take the pattern of organised games, light food (often slices of pizzas and fruits), a talk or film clip, followed by a time of discussion or reflections. The team has strengthened since Esther joined us. She has taken a lead and implemented a series of Christian themes with talks and activities following these themes. In addition to these, we have special themed nights such as the Scalectrix Evening, The Magic Evening (with a Christian Magician - Mr Sparkles), Crafts Evening, Wild Life and Creation themed evenings (in conjunction with the Eco Congregation Team), as well as a General and Internet Security evening led by our local community police officer..

For the first time, we were able to organise a night camp at Walton Firs and for this we are very grateful to the generous donor who financed this initiative. We hope to repeat this type of activity more often in years to come.

Members of SIS were actively involved in the Crib Service in many different ways. This year both Mary and Joseph were performed by Julia Kriesa and Brian Amys. Ben Whitnall (though not a SIS member), choreographed and performed a spectacular dance as angel Gabriel. Narrators, angelic hosts and shepherds were also acted by some of our

young people. They were also involved in the creation of the scenes and the manning of the sound desk and switching of microphones and other technical details during this service

We are very grateful for the leadership provided by Folli, Esther Holley and Phil Slade ably supported by Alison Wilde, Carrie Taylor, Claire Costard, Lydon Ferguson, Corrie Haxton and Wendy Jane Gray.

In 2016, we hope to continue most of our activities and in addition, develop another group for +14 age group meeting on a Wednesday evening. This initiative will be a partnership between St Andrew's Church and Surrey County Council. We pray that it will be as successful as SIS and draw more young people in Cobham closer into God's Kingdom.

## St Andrew's School

*Report by Andrew Tulloch, Head Teacher*

Following the school's 'Good' Ofsted in the previous year, an even better result was achieved in the *Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools (SIAMS)* Inspection, on the Queen's birthday in April. The Outstanding grade awarded reflects the development of all the areas inspected, including Collective Worship and Christian Distinctiveness.

From the inspection report: *The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Andrew's Primary as a Church of England school are outstanding.* Further statements were made including:

- The Christian leadership and vision (was described as) giving practical expression to the Christian ethos of the school which, with strong support of staff and governors, sustains a vibrant family community that has a significant impact on pupils' achievement and well-being.
- Excellent relationships cultivated by caring staff, built on the inclusive Christian ethos that shape the life of the school and enable pupils to flourish in their personal development and grow into compassionate and responsible young people.
- The close partnership with the church enriches pupils' journeys of personal and spiritual growth.

For this last point, we thank all at St Andrew's Church for continued practical and prayerful support. The three Foundation Governors, currently Reverend Canon Robert Jenkins, Reverend Folli Olokose and Fiona Lascelles, play significant roles in challenging the school to offer the finest provision for all pupils, academically, physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Prayer support at school continues to be important. Phil Slade coordinates the monthly meetings in the Head Teacher's office as well as being an ever-present support for the pupils' Prayer Group.

Pupil numbers have continued to rise, with 450 on roll in 18 classes in September (412 Sept '14). Further excellent appointments to the teaching staff have been made; this team comprises an ideal mix of experience and newly qualified, as well as expertise across the curriculum.

The school's motto, *Life in all its fullness*, continues to encapsulate the ambition to provide the richest of experiences for all the pupils. The Year 6 residential trip is one such example of that commitment to our pupils, particularly when that trip is to the Christian Mountain Centre in Gwynedd. In September, these pupils had a superb week of personal growth and team building as they encountered challenges such as rock climbing, gorge walking and kayaking in the spectacular scenery of Snowdonia. As ever, the greatest challenge for many proved to be keeping their rooms tidy!

Finally, the school has consulted with parents, staff and the wider community over the governors' proposal to convert to an academy. Pending formal decisions and the due diligence process, the plan is to join the Esher Learning Trust (ELT) and become part of its multi-academy trust. Governors have been determined that the consultation process would itself be positive, regardless of the outcome. That, I think, has been the case. The proposal to join the ELT reflects the respective ambitions and ethos of St Andrew's and the Trust, whose sole member at present is Esher Church of England High School, with whom we already have fine links.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

### Bible Society

*Report by Jenny Vickers*

We held another quiz and supper evening in November. Jenny Masters and Gill Sharp

provided yet another excellent supper, Paul Masters helped in the kitchen, Rosie Masters organized the raffle and Peter Vickers acted as



question master. In addition to members of our congregation, members from St Mary's church and Cobham WI took part. We had two new teams taking part this year – Stoke D'Abernon WI and the Sacred Heart. The Sacred Heart team won. Many raffle prizes were donated and the desserts were provided by volunteers. The event raised £807

## **Cathedral News**

*Report by Jenny Vickers*

There are several large-scale projects underway at the moment:

### **The People's Cathedral Project**

The project is progressing despite the challenges of the contracting process. The initiative has engaged with nearly 2,500 people since it commenced in March 2015, running over 20 activities including oral history interviews, family fun days and coffee concerts. During 2016, despite the arrival of portable offices and scaffolding to site, engagement activities will continue to take place, inspiring new and existing audiences with the rich heritage of our Cathedral.

### **First World War Centenary Cathedral Repairs Fund**

In March 2015, Guildford Cathedral secured funding through the Government's First World War Centenary Cathedral Repairs Fund, to undertake essential repairs to the tower and transepts. As part of the works a sculpture was commissioned reflecting the concepts of reconciliation, sacrifice and hope, following a competition run through City and Guilds. Nicholas Thompson has been appointed to carve a block of Clipsham stone on the east elevation of the tower. Subject to the weather, Nicholas is working Monday to Friday with the occasional Saturday to get the sculpture completed by early February.

Information regarding services at the Cathedral is available on the notice board in the Church porch.

### **Cathedral Link**

I continue to be the Deanery and our parish Link. During the year I was able to arrange for representatives from West Horsley and Oxshott to form part of the offertory procession at the main Eucharist Service at the Cathedral. We are able to do this twice a year and are one of the very few deaneries to do so. If any one would be interested in representing Cobham in the future I would be delighted to hear from you.

## **Ending Isolation at Christmas**

*Report by Shirley Boakye-Mensah and Hugh Bryant*

As we prepared to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the baby who had nowhere to go, two years ago

Shirley Boakye-Mensah thought it would be good to invite anyone, who didn't have Christmas lunch lined up with their family or friends, to join us on Christmas Day for a proper, slap-up, lunch with all the trimmings.

For two Christmases, Shirley has brought together representatives of St Andrew's, Waitrose (who had a national campaign to support local initiatives along the same lines) and Cobham Area Foodbank to organise lunch on Christmas Day at Church Gate House.

Waitrose designated the Foodbank (as joint organisers of the lunch) as a recipient for their 'green tiddlywink' gift scheme, and we were happy to receive just over £300 towards the cost as a result.

We spent a very successful morning at Waitrose inviting people to give us food and other comestibles; several St Andrew's ladies cooked a turkey or a ham overnight, and 25 guests, of all ages, sat down to a super lunch, followed by the Queen's broadcast and a James Bond film. The Foodbank brought along its van so we had a 'pop-up food bank' outside as well.

This was our second 'End Isolation at Christmas' lunch. Last year, it was apparent that few people really believed that we would be able to do it: now, we have proved we can do it, and give everyone a great time. Big thanks to Shirley for her tireless organisation, to Elaine Bray in the office for her brilliant publicity, to Caroline, 'Mr Gravy' Doug and Michelle at Waitrose, to all those who cooked turkeys and hams, and to Sam, Kennedy, Lyndon and Alyson for being excellent table hosts.

Plans are already afoot for another lunch this Christmas.

*Matt. 25:35 - For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in.*

## **Foodbank**

*Manager Hugh Bryant*

The Food Bank was started in 2014 as a Churches Together project. It operates under the ægis of the Trussell Trust, and its original objective had been to provide help for families in crisis when, for example, state benefits have been delayed. Clients must first obtain a voucher from one of the issuing authorities before they can get food from the Foodbank. Vouchers are issued by such organisations as medical centres, the CAB, the Benefits Office, Oasis Childcare Centre etc. Each voucher carries details of family size, and so determines how much food is issued. In general vouchers were not to be issued for more than three

consecutive weeks, in order to avoid the emergence of a “dependency culture”.

During 2015 the Trussell Trust soon realized that this policy was too restrictive, and it needed to be relaxed.. Even for a family with two low-wage earners, the high cost of housing in Cobham can sometimes leave them barely enough money for food.

We have a very competent band of volunteers who run our Distribution Centre, our Warehouse, and drive our van. We are grateful to the local supermarkets for their help in setting up food collection points, and also to the people of Cobham for their generous donations of food. Occasionally we have had small surpluses and we have been able to pass these to other similar initiatives in the area. Thanks to the generosity of many donors, including the churches and local businesses, we now have sufficient funding to cover the next 12 months' planned expenditure. We will continue our efforts in order to build up an endowment for future contingencies.

During the year we have handled over 800 vouchers, corresponding to the provision of a week's food to over 2000 people.

## **Churches Together**

*Report by Geoffrey Morris*

During 2015 the Committee of Churches Together was chaired by the Revd Godfrey Hilliard. Leonard Beighton continued as treasurer, and St Andrew's was represented by the Rector, Geoffrey 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 Hollyhedge Precinct.

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

- 'Messy Church', which meets 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.

## **Elmbridge Multifaith Forum**

*Report by Geoffrey 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 are available from Geoffrey Morris, or should be available in the Church.

Highlights of the year were:

- On 17th March we held an Act of Unity in remembrance of the hostages executed by ISIL at the EMF Centre, Mercer Close
- We attended the launch of the Surrey Muslim Association at the Shah Jahan Mosque on 3rd June.
- On Tuesday 28th July, we held our Annual General Meeting in the EMF Centre, followed by a talk and discussion led by Dr Nabil Mustapha on 'Faith and Democracy'
- On 29th September, we held a debate at Church Gate House on 'To what extent if any and how should Freedom of Speech/Expression be limited?'
- We held our annual Gala on Saturday 28th November in the Joyce Grenfell Centre, Claremont Fan Court School.
- The Walton 'Street Angels' scheme was dissolved because it had solved the problem for which it was established.
- We were represented by 3 of our members at the 800th Anniversary of the signing of Magna Carta.
- We held meetings with the Chaplain and staff of the Esher Hospice.
- We continued to meet the demand for our 'Insights into Faiths' booklets and to work on an expanded version in one volume.

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

## **Social Concerns Forum**

*Chaired by Leonard Beighton*

The Social Concerns Forum is somewhat in abeyance just at the moment pending its reconstitution under the programme being put forward by Rev Charleen Hollington and the Faith and Social Action Committee which is reported elsewhere in this review (see page 16).

But members of St Andrew's continue to be very committed to social action of which this report can give only a flavour. Of the areas which previously came within the ambit of the Social Concerns Forum work continues as follows:

### **Uganda**

The ecumenical Cobham Uganda Partnership, with which we at St Andrew's were heavily involved, has been wound up. But the charity which it supported, African Revival, and of which I am a trustee, continues to seek to

improve the quality of education in Uganda. It also works in Zambia and in South Sudan.

#### **Kosovo**

Geoffrey Morris continues to maintain links and friendships with the people we have supported in recent years in Gjakova, a town to the south west of the capital, Pristina. Previously we have provided a lot of support by means of clothes, books and computers for schools and for the Roma community. The visits which we have made to Pristina and the return visits, so far as visa restrictions made possible, continue as a base for a network of support, albeit these days mainly electronically.

#### **Israel/Palestine**

We have had interests in Israel/Palestine for many years and these were cemented during the parish pilgrimage in 2012. However the West Bank continues to be quite isolated and for practical reasons we were not able to maintain contact with the village of Wadi Fuqin as we had intended. However Verity and Michael Elson remain in touch with Do'a Manasra, a Palestinian woman whom they supported through university a number of years ago, and they remain members of the UK arm of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions, of which I am treasurer.

#### **Romania**

Phil Slade has closed the social action business of importing and selling willow and other products from Romania, but is still involved with Heart of Romania and their work in the gypsy villages in Transylvania.

#### **Cobham**

Apart from the Cobham and Area food bank on which Hugh Bryant has reported separately, the main development in the year has been the opening of the Cobham Community Centre. The Rector led the protracted negotiations on this together with Sue Kilpatrick and Nick Driver from St Mary's.

The Library is on the first floor and there is community use on the ground floor. Oasis and the Children's Centre have rooms and there is a multipurpose room for use by other community organisations. As you enter, all

sorts of information and a cup of coffee are available at the welcome desk.

#### **Collections of goods**

We continue to make a valuable social commitment through collections, in addition to the food provided at the Harvest Festival. In conjunction with St Andrew's School, we collected about 140 shoe boxes for children in developing countries at Christmas. In addition we collected a very considerable amount of clothes for refugees: these were taken to a centre which shipped them out to camps in Syria as well as in Calais and Dunkirk.

#### **The passage of the generations**

It is very good for the older hands amongst us to see the extent to which the next generation is fully involved in Christian social action. For example Becki Slade has been working in Nepal for Operation Mobilisation and when she was back home between commitments she spoke to us at a Parish Communion about conditions in remote villages, in particular following the major earthquake earlier this year. Some church members donated items such as boots and work gloves for the earthquake victims which Phil and Elaine were able to take out at Christmas.

We also heard at a Parish Communion from Katherine Hardeman, née Greenwood, who is now on maternity leave, about her work with Christians Against Poverty. The Greenwood family play a major part in this social action. Jo worked for three months with a conservation charity in western Canada sponsored by A Rocha, while Abby spent some months working in a village in Tanzania during her gap year.

#### **Recycling.**

*Report by Peter and Jenny Vickers*

We have continued to collect used stamps and old coins which we deliver to a representative of the Leprosy Mission once a year. Any old stamp albums or postcards would be warmly received! Ink cartridges and Christmas cards were also collected for recycling.

## **FINANCE REPORT**

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