



2014 ANNUAL REVIEW

In United Benefice with St Mary's Stoke D'Abernon

March 2015

Contact address:

St Andrew's Parish Office

Church Gate House Centre

Downside Bridge Road

Cobham Surrey KT11 3EJ

Tel: 01932 867883

Email: : parishoffice@standrewscobham.org.uk

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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 comprises six priests, a Licensed Lay Minister (Reader) and a part time Children and Families Worker. We are supported by a Communications and Administration Manager running the parish office.

Having completed work to set a five year Vision for the parish in 2013, some of our plans for the future were affected by the severe flooding on Christmas Eve 2013 and the subsequent reconstruction works in Church Gate House. These absorbed a lot of time and energy in 2014. However, with considerable support from numerous people and a generous legacy from the late Marion Pidgeon, we were able to complete a substantial reconstruction of Church Gate House, creating a new parish office and a Welcome Café. This has resulted in a far better working environment for the staff team and additional space for welcoming and meeting people.

Renos Pittarides, as Associate Minister, continues to exercise a considerable and very broad ranging priestly ministry in the parish. It is hugely valued and makes a considerable contribution to the life of St Andrew's, both on a day-to-day basis and more strategically. He has been instrumental in reshaping our administration and appointing staff. Renos is developing the parish's welcome, and the reordering of Church Gate House has been shaped by our desire to create an open, friendly and accessible church. At a practical level Renos is also sharing with me the role of training minister for Folli and Charleen.

Folli Olokose, our stipendiary assistant curate, completed his deacon year and was ordained priest at Guildford Cathedral on 28th June.

Folli continues to be a blessing to our parish. With others he has built up our Sunday evening Christian youth club, SAY IT'S SUNDAY and established Youth Alpha. He has led the formation of new home groups with four now meeting regularly and more planned. Folli is a key member of the Alpha team. As part of his ongoing training Folli is sharing many aspects of parish leadership with me.

We were delighted to welcome Charleen Hollington to the clergy team in June as a non-stipendiary assistant curate. Charleen was ordained in New Zealand and served two years of her curacy in London before moving to Surrey. Charleen will now complete her training in our benefice. With a male dominated team it is good to have a woman priest in the benefice once more. Charleen has already begun to establish areas of focus and is taking a lead with our baptism ministry and establishing links with Tiltwood Care Home, alongside sharing in ministry more generally.

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. With a significant number of vacancies in our deanery at present, Peter has been supporting other parishes, particularly East Horsley, regularly leading their Sunday worship.

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 and was instrumental in promoting the new benefice-wide magazine, "Together", replacing the two individual parish magazines. At the beginning

of 2015 Godfrey will take over the chairmanship of Churches Together in Cobham, Oxshott and Stoke D'Abernon.

After three very successful years building up Kids on Sunday and being key to the launch and running of our ecumenical Messy Church, Catherine Peachey decided to move to a new post in November. We are very grateful to Catherine for placing our work with children on firm foundations. In December we were delighted to appoint Esther Holley as Catherine's successor and we look forward to her joining the team in January 15.

Hugh Bryant's work as a Licensed Lay Minister (Reader) is now well established and appreciated. He leads worship in the community at the Day Centre and at Springfield. He also preaches at St Andrew's, and preaches and leads non-Eucharistic worship at St Mary's. Hugh is considering moving to Bristol in 2015 and accordingly retired from his role as Manager of the Cobham Area Foodbank.

Cathy Whitnall, who is an authorised Occasional Preacher augments the team and she has again preached this year at Parish Communion services. This year David Taylor also completed his training as an Occasional Preacher and has begun to preach.

Our Alpha team has continued to run courses throughout 2014 with a course run in Church Gate House in January followed up by two courses run in parallel in people's homes in the Autumn. The parish remains committed to Christian nurture, with Alpha as a basic introduction to the Christian faith. Alongside Alpha for adults, the SAY team ran our first Youth Alpha course this year.

The clergy continues to be very grateful to Jan Brind, our Assistant for Liturgy. Jan assists with planning Family Worship, special services, and the development of our communion services. She organised a wonderful retreat on Contemplative Photography in May 2014. Attendees included a number of people who had not been on a retreat before. In 2015 our annual retreat will be offered for the first time as a whole weekend, rather than 24 hours.

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.

After many years of faithful service we said farewell to Dr David Cooke in the Parish Office as we reshaped our administration. We welcomed Elaine Bray to the new role of Communications and Administration Manager

in August as we opened the new parish office. Elaine is now supported by a team of volunteer welcomers who oversee the Welcome Café and assist Elaine with reception work.

Leatherhead Deanery currently has six parishes currently vacant or becoming vacant in 2015, so my role as Rural Dean was time consuming in 2014 and will continue to be so in 2015 as new appointments are made and support is given to vacant parishes. I also 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 I am on the planning group for the Guildford Diocese Triennial Clergy Conference which take place in June. I am grateful for the support of my clergy colleagues which allows me time to take on these roles in the wider church.

We are blessed by the hard work of two excellent Churchwardens, Moni Babatunde and David Taylor, and our treasurer, Ken Aitken. The consequences of the flood made it a very busy year for them and I greatly value their support. 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 did not have a good year healthwise, but continues to serve us faithfully.

As is evidenced by the reports on the numerous activities in the parish that follow, St Andrew's continues to be a vibrant and growing church serving young and old alike. Parish churches today are under increasing pressure to respond constantly to a changing society. However we are aware that our overarching priority is our shared faith in Jesus Christ and our trust in God. 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 which share a ministry team whilst having their own PCCs and church officers. Shared activities include confirmation and marriage preparation and an education committee with representatives from both parishes. St Mary's started construction on a major new church hall at the end of 2014. St

Mary's Hall will be a wonderful new asset for the parish and the local community, strengthening the united benefice.

Church Attendance

Following the flood we had no heating in the church throughout January and numbers dipped slightly during the first half of the year while we were without proper office facilities. Numbers recovered in the latter half. Both Family Worship and the Parish Communion services continue to be well attended.

Confirmation

We prepared five young people and one adult for confirmation at Guildford Cathedral in November.

Occasional Offices

We continue to conduct a large number of funerals and baptisms. The clergy officiated at 31 funerals of which 17 were at the church. The pastoral team undertake baptism visiting and bereavement support. We have extended our contacts with baptism families and 44 children were baptised. Marriage numbers declined from previous years and we conducted 14 weddings during the year. Paul and Angie Wood ran our Marriage Preparation day for the first time in 2014 with excellent feedback. They will return to conduct another day in 2015. Sue Aitken, one of our Pastoral Assistants, provides an essential link with couples in her role as Pastoral 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 at every PCC meeting, and remained focused on the four priorities we set for 2014

1. Discipleship - applying our faith to our everyday lives
2. Becoming more welcoming and nurturing for our congregation
3. Growth of our children's and Christian youth ministry
4. Reinforcement of our presence and outreach in the community

This focus was evidenced by the start or relaunch during the year, of many of the

activities highlighted elsewhere in this review, e.g. Discipleship groups, Alpha courses, SAY IT'S SUNDAY, Welcome group, Open to All, Foodbank etc.

The PCC once again spent an Away-day in November to see where we were in regard to achieving our 2014 Vision priorities. We then discussed at length our priorities for 2015 after first listening to Archdeacon Paul Bryer present the findings of the Church of England report "From Anecdote to Evidence". This significant work shone a spotlight on the characteristics of Church growth, both nationally and locally, including trends, and best practice. The Archdeacon also shared his own personal experiences.

The outcome of the day spent together was that the PCC identified that the priorities of Vision 2018 continued to be in three areas :

- Worship
- Mission and Evangelism
- Discipleship

with the last of these being flagged as the most urgent to address.

As a result it was agreed to set up four working groups to explore these subjects further, including benchmarking against other churches. The groups would then report back to the PCC with recommendations and a strategy for implementation during 2015.

The four working groups would focus on:

1. The future shape for children's and youth ministry (Knowing and Making Christ Known),
2. Renewing our social concern and engagement ministry (Glorifying and Making Christ Known),
3. Reviewing and developing our patterns of worship (Knowing, Glorifying & Making Christ Known):
4. Increasing the number of members of the congregation in Home Groups (Discipleship).

Alpha

Facilitator Phil Slade

The recent programmes of Alpha courses have now been running for two years at St Andrew's Church. The second course, which started in January 2014, ran on the previous model with around 12 guests attending. The venues and food were adapted during the flood damage period. This September we ran our third Alpha in homes, which was well received. One was hosted by Keith and Julie

Baird and run by Carrie Taylor and Michael Flaxman. The second was hosted by Phil and Elaine Slade and run by Folli and Elaine. Charleen and Richard Hollington were available should a further group be required. 14 guests attended these courses. We plan to continue meeting on a regular basis.

A Youth Alpha course also started in September. This was open to those attending SAY IT'S SUNDAY and also formed part of the preparation of those young people who were being confirmed. It was run by Nick and Dani Taylor. This ran from 5.30 – 6.30 on a Sunday evening followed by a meal together with the rest of the Say youngsters. About eight attended regularly but at times the attendance went up to 12.

Discussions took place regarding future Alpha courses and one of the probabilities for 2015 is a parents/carers course run during the day.

Spiritual Cinema

Report by Revd Renos Pittarides

Spiritual Cinema continues to be a popular feature of the range of activities offered at St Andrew's. Over the past year we have seen a number of excellent films including Dreamchild, Mandela: Long Road to Freedom, 12 Years a Slave and The Christmas Candle.

Our evenings always begin and end in prayer and after watching a film we have informal discussion and refreshments.

We rely on you to tell your friends about our regular screenings, as advertising restrictions prevent us from advertising outside church premises.

Assets and fabric

Report by Churchwardens David Taylor and Moni Babatunde

The church building, which was generally unaffected by the flooding in December 2013, continues to be in good condition and all the goods and ornaments are correct. One matter which did require attention was some of the exposed stonework and plaster rendering in the church tower. This has now been dealt with, and the lower half of the interior of the tower has been repainted and is now in good order. There was some concern about a crack over the window arch in the tower. This has been filled and we have been advised to keep an eye on it as any reappearance might indicate problems of a more serious nature in the tower.

Work on the new lighting scheme for the church, for which a faculty was obtained in 2013, commenced in January 2015

As a result of the flood damage in December 2013, Church Gate House Centre underwent major repair and restoration work in 2014. The opportunity was taken to reorder Church Gate House by moving the administration area into the rear of the building and creating a new, more friendly, open welcome area at the front of the building. We were fortunate to benefit from a major legacy from the late Marion Pidgeon which was used to pay for those works that could not be covered by the insurance.

We were informed by our insurers that it would be necessary to install a complete flood prevention scheme for the whole of Church Gate House Centre and this work was also undertaken during 2014 by Flood Ark. The flood defence panels will be stored in a new secure shed which has been erected in the churchyard above the flood plain.

The only part of the church building to be affected by the flooding was the boiler house. The boilers have now been repaired and an automatic pump installed which will automatically start should any water accumulate in the Boiler House.

Following damage caused initially by a motor vehicle and then by high winds, the fence between the car park and the road has been replaced and the old height barriers removed.

Garden of Remembrance

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

Dr David Cooke was our Parish Secretary for 14 years until he left us at the end of May. During that time he was responsible for handling all enquiries for baptisms, weddings and hall bookings, as well as most of the church paperwork. Until Church Gate House was fully reopened after the flooding, the Office was temporarily in the north west corner of the Church.

With the refurbishment of Church Gate House, the parish office is now in what was previously the store room. Elaine Bray is now our Communications and Administration Manager with a wider brief than David Cooke had. The office is open Mondays to Fridays from 9am to 1pm.

Sacristan

Alan Wiseman continues to serve as the Sacristan.

Archivist

The late Peter Joce continued to look after the parish records in his work as the Parish Archivist until his death. We have not found anyone who is willing to take over the work, but between them David Taylor, Elaine Bray and Leonard Beighton will ensure that the records are kept appropriately.

Electoral Roll

Electoral Roll Officer Jenny Masters

At the APCM last year the number of members on the roll was 254. Since then we have had 14 new members, 1 death and 4 members removed from the roll having moved away from the area, leaving us with a total of 263.

Communications

“FAMILY”, now “Together” magazine

Report by Daphne McFarlane

In July 2014 the first issue of “Together” the joint St Andrew’s and St Mary’s magazine was published. This replaced “Family” and ten issues are now distributed in both parishes annually. The magazine is also available on the Websites of both churches. Daphne McFarlane continues as Editor, with publishers Edna Tipping and Zoe Ostley and support from the Parish Administrator.

The magazine aims to include information about the activities of both churches and of Christian organisations world wide. Articles by church members are welcome and it is hoped that the number of contributors will increase as the new publication gains momentum in the Benefice.

News Sheet

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

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

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

The Diocesan Herald 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.

Website

Report by Revd Renos Pittarides

www.standrewscobham.org.uk is often people’s first encounter with St Andrew’s, so we continue to ensure that it is kept up to date and provides useful information for our parishioners and for those outside the parish. Jonathan Bond and I continue to maintain and develop the site and Elaine Bray uploads sermons, weekly news, the diary and “Together”.

Our Facebook page currently has 163 likes and 268 people are following us on Twitter. If you use either Twitter or Facebook please follow us and if you don’t, please remember that you do not have to have your own accounts to see what we are up to. Both social media facilities, alongside our mailing list, help us instantly communicate with those interested in the life of our church.

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 ten times in the year with an average attendance of 17 (17 in 2013).

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. In addition our patron, Dominic Combe, attends many meetings.

During the year the following served as members of PCC

Rector: Revd Robert Jenkins Chairman

Associate Rector with special responsibility for Stoke D'Abernon:
Revd Godfrey Hilliard

Associate Minister: Revd Renos Pittarides

Assistant Curate: Revd Folli Olokose

Assistant Curate Revd Charleen Hollington *(from June 2014)*

Licensed Lay Minister: Hugh Bryant

Children and Families Worker Catherine Peachey *(to October 2014)*

Churchwardens: Moni Babatunde
David Taylor Lay Vice Chairman

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:
Hugh Bryant
Michael Elson
Geoffrey Morris

Elected members Sam Acquaye
Ken Aitken Treasurer
Keith Baird
Leonard Beighton Secretary
Edward Bowen *(to September 2014)*
Michael Flaxman
Chris Foss *(to March 2014)*
Lyndon Ferguson *(from March 2014)*
Tanya Hall *(from March 2014)*
Sue Kilpatrick
Daphne McFarlane
Shirley Mensah
Clive Moorman
Benilda Navamani *(to March 2014)*
Sean Pringuer-James *(to March 2014)*
Phil Slade
Nick Tamblin *(from March 2014)*
Liberty Teissedre
Derek Williams *(to March 2013)*

The work of the Council in 2014

Report by Leonard Beighton

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

Deanery Synod

Report by Geoff Morris

The Churches in the Diocese of Guildford are divided among 12 Deaneries each chaired by a Rural Dean. Our own Church belongs to the Deanery of Leatherhead, the Dean of which is our own Rector, Robert Jenkins. Our Deanery consists of 13 Parishes, and the Deanery Synod is a meeting of representatives of each of these Parishes.

I have represented us as a lay member for the last nine years, and Hugh Bryant and Michael Elson made up the numbers two years ago. We all come up for re-election every three years, but Hugh is standing down this year and we shall be looking to elect his successor at the APCM.

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

In February 2014 Johnny Douglas, an associate of the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity, addressed the Synod. He opened up consideration of the theme of community engagement. He reminded his listeners that churches need to resist the tendency to become inward-looking

and self-preserving. The church exists to serve the world that God has made. The role of the church is to embody practical concern for justice and to develop respect for all in the whole community. He proposed the question, 'Whose feet do you wash?' as a test of our direct involvement. Our claim to have good news has to be practical to be credible.

In June 2014 Dianna Gwilliams, the new Dean of Guildford, gave a talk on community engagement by the cathedral. She presented a vision for the future rather as well as an account of current activity. The Dean and Chapter want to develop provision for the diocese on the site of the cathedral, which requires the sale of land and the erection of new buildings. The vision includes expensive restoration of the cathedral itself, which requires contributions from the national and local community. Radical reappraisal of the church's ministry and mission is going on at all levels in the church. The talk showed that the cathedral and diocese are grappling with many of the same problems that churches face at a more local level.

On 17th September we were addressed by the Reverend Paul Bryer, who was appointed Archdeacon of Dorking the previous March. Paul, who was a teacher before joining the Church, said that we should see our missionary work in terms of understanding the needs of people and adapting the Church to meet those needs, rather than teaching people how to adapt to the Church. Paul was subsequently asked to lead the Away-day of our own PCC on November 15th..

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.

Eco-Congregation Committee

Report by Clive Moorman

It has been another active year for the Eco Committee (Leonard Beighton, Geoff Morris, Sam Acquaye, Wendy Jane Gray, Temi Babatunde and myself) Unfortunately we have lost Chris Foss from the team.

We started in the spring with an Eco Service, where the key subject was "Consequences", ie exploring the consequences of our actions on God's creation and we were enthusiastically supported by St Andrew's

youth who took part in a quiz. This was a paperless service and we are keen on the idea of encouraging more paperless services, particularly once our new AV system is installed. We wrote several articles for "Together", (previously "Family"), on subjects including food miles, recycling, managing your central heating and how to behave when around dogs.

We have given presentations on a number of 'eco' subjects to St Andrew's youth. We have also arranged visits to the Leatherhead waste transfer station and more are planned, so we can understand what happens to our recycled waste. We organised an 'eco calendar' competition where members of the congregation sent in their 'eco' photographs, and the best of those was published in an 'eco calendar'. The sales of the calendar raised nearly £200 profit for St Andrew's.

Following last year when we planted over 100 trees in St Andrew's Field, we have planted another 100 trees, with the help of the Property Committee and other willing volunteers. These are water loving trees and have been planted on the side of the field by the river. In addition we have planted 50 daffodil bulbs alongside the church wall, which we helped clear of ivy earlier in the year.

The focus for 2015 will be the renewal of our Eco-congregation Award, where we will need to demonstrate that we have improved on our 'eco' credentials since our last award. We will also be arranging another visit to the Leatherhead waste transfer station and are considering a herb garden outside CGH, the viability of solar panels for CGH, providing 'eco' support to St Andrew's school, and a number of articles for "Together".

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, the showing of films chosen for their spiritual worth and sessions of Peace and Prayer.

Lectionary 2015

On the 12th November, Rev. Canon Dr. Julie Gittoes gave us an introduction to St Mark's

Gospel, from which we shall be reading this year.

Alpha Course 2014

(See also page 7). This was launched 9th January, less well attended than the previous year. A second course was launched on the 18th Sept and began on the 23rd. Two groups met in peoples' homes as this was found to be more intimate and less daunting than meeting on Church premises.

Discipleship Course

Initiated by Folli. So far four groups have been formed and are now up and running. The course is currently being advertised in the pew sheets and is based on Devotional Classics edited by Foster and Smith.

Lent Courses

In 2014, we had a course run by Churches Together, based on St Paul's letter to the Ephesians and written by Canon Jeremy Cresswell. 152 people attended in 11 house groups – up by about 47 on two years ago.

The Lent Course in 2015 will be run for the united benefice of St Mary's and St Andrew's. The material will be from "Pilgrim: A Course for the Christian Journey," published by Church House Publishers.

The Ladywell Convent Retreat

This year's retreat, led by Stephen Weaver, a photographer, was held in May. It explored the concept of spirituality through the visual arts. The next retreat at the same location is booked for Friday 26th June through Sunday 28th June, 2015.

Spiritual Cinema

This continues to be a popular feature in the calendar and averages an attendance of 35 people at each film.

Magazine Contributions

A new magazine for the United Benefice called "Together" has been introduced. It is well received and contributions are coming in from both parishes.

Confirmation

Godfrey led confirmation preparation for the adults, and Folli and Renos for the young. Five young candidates and one adult were confirmed on the 16th November at Guildford Cathedral.

Marriage Preparation

A one day course in St Andrew's Church, was led by Angie and Paul Wood, on the 8th February 2014. This is scheduled again for the 7th February 2015.

Fellowship and Social Committee

Chaired by Fiona Lascelles

Following the flooding on Christmas Eve 2013, Church Gate House activities were somewhat limited for the first half of the year.

The Alpha course catering began in January, and I felt the team worked hard to prepare and serve meals for every Alpha meeting, the welcome buffet and the end of the course celebration. It was good to see that we could still work to high standards using limited resources.

The Marriage Preparation lunch in February was well received and we moved into March when we served canapés to celebrate Robert's 10 years as our Rector.

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

To celebrate Folli's priesting we organised the annual parish BBQ on the last weekend in June. This was a very popular event and we served around 130 people. It was wonderful to have a real mix of cuisine with African food as well as the more traditional BBQ fare.

Heritage Day on 13th September was a wonderful day and we served hot and cold refreshments to many people.

The Time to Remember tea in early November was well received and we had a huge cake decorated with sunflowers donated by Margaret Leamon's family in her memory.

I am very grateful to everyone who helps on this team, the regular members and all those who let me persuade them to give up their time to help out.

Finance and Administration Committee

Chaired by David Taylor

This committee which comprises the two Churchwardens, the Treasurer and Leonard Beighton was kept busy throughout 2014 due to the renovation of Church Gate House and Centre; the flood protection scheme; and other related matters.

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 administrative 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 for greater

expenditure, supported by a printed quotation, which are then submitted to the PCC with the committee's recommendation.

No formal meetings of the committee were convened during 2014 as it was possible to deal any issues relevant to the Finance and Administration Committee being discussed through exchange of emails and, where necessary, recommendations were passed to the PCC.

Giving Committee

Chaired by Michael Flaxman

The Chairmanship of the committee passed from Sam Acquaye to Michael Flaxman in April, and on behalf of the Giving Committee and the whole congregation, I would like to thank Sam for his leadership and efforts over the past years.

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 Pattern of Planned Giving and once again noted the impact of a few large contributors, and the effect when they leave. Just two parishioners who moved away from the parish during 2014 accounted for about 10% of our total 2013 Planned Giving. This highlights the need to increase the number of givers as well as the amounts, in order to mitigate the effect of normal movements in and out of the parish, and to reduce our dependence on a few very generous donors.

Despite these losses, we ended the year with approximately the same Planned Giving Income as last year of £80,728, while other giving and one-off gifts were both significantly higher at £12,564 (£7,206 in 2013) - both amounts are before addition of the all-important Gift Aid.

Looking at the Electoral Roll of approximately 188 households (260 persons) only 55% are enrolled in regular giving which we would hope to increase in 2015.

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 £200,000 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 and distributed widely a brochure for our October Giving Month, entitled "Generosity and Sacrifice". This included a self questionnaire to help us know "Am I giving generously?" It also set some targets for 2015 regarding the increase in the number of Planned Givers (+15) and the increase in the average monthly gift (+£4). Meeting these targets would lead to an increase in the total Planned Giving by £10,000 for 2015.

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 and we hope you will continue to support the church especially in reviewing your Planned Giving regularly and giving with generosity and sacrifice so we can fulfil our Vision 2018.

Thanks are due to the members of the Giving Committee for their Guidance, support and implication : Robert Jenkins, Sam Acquaye, Cath Peachey, Leonard Beighton, Keith Baird, and Malcom Graham who succeeded Ken Aitken as Treasurer.

Outward Giving Committee

Chaired by Cathy Whitnall

The Outward Giving Team, comprising Cathy Whitnall (Chair), Carrie Taylor, Verity and Michael Elson, Chris Foss, and Keith and Julie Baird, has continued to conduct its business as in previous years, with two face-to-face meetings supported by informal discussions and exchanges of emails.

The focus of the giving in 2014 has swung towards relief work, particularly overseas. We have continued to support Oasis (Cobham), CODS (Cobham, Oxshott, Downside & Stoke Youth Club) and Cobham Uganda Partnership; we have also made donations of £1500 to Kosovo, The Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza and the Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East (founded by Canon Andrew White, best known as the Vicar of Baghdad).

We were delighted to hear from Katherine Hardeman and Becky Slade about the work they do with the charities with which they are involved, and we showed our support by sending £1500 to Christians Against Poverty and Operation Mobilisation respectively.

£500 has been sent to St Andrew's School for their new reflective space, and smaller amounts have been sent as usual to Elmbridge Rentstart, Citizens Advice Bureau,

Guildford Cathedral, and Guildford Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers. We started with a total of £13,420; we found that after all these donations had been made, we had a remnant of £370. In previous years it has been our practice to send the remnant to Crisis. However, this year it was felt appropriate to add it to the Disasters Emergency Committee collection from St Andrew's to help fight the Ebola epidemic.

Pastoral Committee and Prayer for Healing Team

Chaired by the Rector

Pastoral care and prayer for healing continue to be at the heart of St Andrew's ministry. Numerous people are involved in bringing God's loving and healing presence to those in need. The clergy and Pastoral Assistants form the Pastoral Committee that leads this ministry. Current members of the committee in addition to clergy are Ray Sherlock, Sue Aitken, Wendy Jane Gray, Judy Brickett and Jan Brind.

Sustaining our pattern of encouraging vocations, we were delighted to see Alyson Ferguson-Bunn begin training for Pastoral Assistant ministry in September 2014. She will be licensed and commissioned in the summer of 2015.

The Pastoral Assistants, 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 plans and assists 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. The Cross of Prayer with individual petitions is received at the altar during Parish Communion Services.

The Pastoral Assistants and the 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. It had to survive displacement to the Village Hall for the first half of the year while the flood repairs were completed and a new kitchen was installed in Church Gate House. It returned in the summer and remained popular through the period of disruption.

Property Committee including Church Gate House

Chaired by David Taylor

This is a new committee set up by the Churchwardens. Its brief is to assist the Churchwardens with the work of maintaining the fabric of the church and of Church Gate House Centre. The Committee met several times during 2014, in addition to assisting with various issues related to repairs at Church Gate House, it also drew up a schedule of work required in the maintenance and tidying of the churchyard. Two working parties were held in the churchyard to clear encroaching ivy and other vegetation and to trim some of the trees. Some repair work was also carried out to one of the historic "table top" tombs in the churchyard. There are plans to have further working parties in the churchyard in 2015 to continue this work.

Welcome Team

Chaired by Revd Renos Pittarides

The Welcome Team continues to look for ways of getting to know newcomers and introducing them to the life of the church. Members of the team are actively involved in staffing the new Welcome Café. We have produced a series of postcards about the life of the church and are currently working on more. Cath Peachey and Folli organised a very successful men's curry night aimed at men whose children attend Kids on Sunday and SAY IT'S SUNDAY, and plans are in place to hold an equivalent for mothers. We will also make sure that new members of our congregation are specifically invited to events organised by the Fellowship and Social Committee. Patricia Olokose leads a small project group which looks at various ways in which we can be more inclusive. Plans are also in place to renew our signage and give the porch a facelift!

We can all continue to play a part in welcoming others to our church and we are

grateful to not only members of the Welcome Team but to everyone who helps make St Andrew's a welcoming community.

Worship Committee

Chaired by Dave Greenwood

The Committee supports the Rector's oversight of the worship of the parish by reviewing past services and their logistical arrangements to identify any areas for improvement to aid people's worship and looking ahead to future services, noting any comments, suggestions, ideas or other considerations. It also gives a forum for wider lay input to the Clergy team and a sounding board for ideas. Feedback and suggestions are welcome.

Some of the service books have been refreshed during the year, both in wording and physical copies. After a suggestion passed to us, a different affirmation of faith was selected for the Signs of His Love service. Family Services continue to use a variety of creeds. We agreed to add Eucharistic Prayer H when booklets were reprinted.

Easter services had a significant increase in the number of communicants. However the service was rather too long and will be reviewed for next year. It is quite a challenge to make such a big celebration special without increasing the length.

We discussed thoughts on service styles raised by the Church Growth report "From Anecdote to Evidence" that the PCC looked at. This will influence further discussions.

The use of two altars for Communion was introduced.

We hope people find our services not just enjoyable but also occasions at which they can offer their worship, deepen their understanding and faith and be drawn closer to God.

CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

Bellringers

Report by Peter Ostley, Tower Captain
2014 was a challenging year.

The bells of St Andrew's were heard as often as possible throughout the year, depending on the availability of the band. The band has retained its six regular ringers, together with four tourist ringers throughout the year.

Sadly the New Year's Eve ringing did not take place in 2014. Efforts to promote a party to mark the end of the old year and the beginning of the new did not encourage support and therefore there was no ringing. Hopefully this old tradition may be revived in 2015.

I am pleased to report that in 2014 the bells rang for all wedding requests, as well as on

Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Heritage Day, Remembrance Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. In addition 95% of Sunday morning ringing was achieved.

A special word of thanks to two band members who maintain the tower and clock, and to our newest and youngest member, Brian, for his enthusiastic support. We welcome anyone interested in learning the art of campanology.

Church Cleaning

Report by Mabs Ostley

Church cleaning continues to be achieved on Thursday mornings 10am to midday. The team is light in numbers and we were all very sad at the loss of Margaret Leamon, last summer. The church cleaning is split into sections and each member takes on a section. More members would enhance this method of working and reduce the area of sections per person. If anyone would like to provide their help in maintaining the church, join us on a Thursday. If you consider you may like to help, but can't make it a weekly commitment, please contact us. All are welcomed, whether they come weekly or monthly.

Church Flowers

Report by Mabs Ostley

St Andrew's team of flower arrangers provide the display on the altar pedestal for most Sunday services together with other flower arrangements in the church when requested.

The team regularly do flower arrangements for weddings, after liaising with the brides.

Memorial flowers are occasionally asked for and the team can arrange these too.

The team welcomes anyone in joining the rota. If interested, please ring Mabs Ostley for further information on how the rota works and the flower arrangements we can provide.

Friday Luncheon Club

Report by Jenny Masters

The Luncheon Club continues to be well supported with around 35/40 people attending every month. We had to increase the cost to £3.00 towards the end of last year due to the rising cost of food. This increase does give us a small profit most months, from which we are able to send donations to various charities such the Princess Alice Hospice, Leprosy Mission, Bible Society and the Salvation Army.

I would like to express my thanks to Gill Sharp who volunteered to help me on a regular basis after the sad death of Margaret Leamon who we greatly miss. I would also like to thank Mabs Ostley and her team who always cook

such a delicious roast in January and July. Also I extend my grateful thanks to those friends who help every month to set up the tables and help with clearing away. Without this help I could not manage.

Mothers' Union

Report by Mary Hart, Branch Leader

We have continued to support events in the Diocese and the Deanery, attending the Lady Day Service and Pilgrimage of Prayer service, both at the Cathedral.

We have enjoyed a number of speakers, some being drawn from the congregation. In July we held a 'Cake Sale' after the Family Service which was very successful, the proceeds being divided between projects supported by the Mothers' Union in the Guildford Diocese

Outings arranged by Jenny Vickers have been much enjoyed: they included a visit to the Mary Rose, Windsor Castle and Savill Gardens and in December a John Rutter Christmas Concert in Croydon

Sadly we lost a very loyal member and friend, with the sudden death of Margaret Leamon. At the end of the year we welcomed Patricia Walbourn who has moved here from Woodstock in Oxfordshire.

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 will be continuing as Branch Leader for a further year to complete three years.

New members are always welcome as we look towards the future

Music

Report by David Fuge, Director of Music.

The Choir currently numbers 16 when at full strength.

Will Dutton moved on from our bass section to Lausanne to continue his musical studies. We are incredibly blessed to have strong ties to the Menuhin school via Cathy Whitnall, and Will and Kevin Loh (and before them, Steffan Morris) have been very loyal members of our choir. Although their studies are very demanding, they always want to find the time to come and sing with us. As part of Will's participation in the BBC Young Musician of the Year 2014, a BBC crew came to film him at choir practice to show how he has immersed himself not just in his own music but also in helping the locals with his talents. The broadcast clip showed both the Choir and SAY

Choir at work. Will went on to win the String section final and take part in the Grand Final.

We are always on the look out for new members, so if you sing or know of anyone else who might be interested in joining, then please do come along to a practice on a Friday evening at 8pm and see what we do.

The Music Group led the worship at Family Worship services and the 10am Parish Communion services on the 4th Sunday, and accompanied many of the more contemporary worship songs at other services. Again, we would like to expand the range of instruments in the group, so if you are an instrumentalist yourself or know of someone who might be interested, then please do get in touch.

Highlights of the Musical Year

Good Friday's Devotional Performance was Mozart's Requiem. The orchestra was led by Will Dutton and was made up of string players from the Yehudi Menuhin School, local teachers, and other local musicians. The soloists were Amy Worsfold, Catharine Whitnall, Paul Dutton, and Graham Dinnage. My thanks to Cathy Whitnall for her help in organising the orchestra. It was another marvellous evening.

In July the Choir and Music group spent quite a merry afternoon making a recording in the church. We recorded a mixture of musical styles and Will stopped off mid-journey from Yorkshire to Lausanne to sing and to play a couple of pieces on his violin.

The September Family worship was held in CGHC garden, and the Choir and SAY Choir sang an arrangement of *Circle of Life* from The Lion King to accompany a dance, and also a stomping version of *Place in the Choir*.

Remembrance Sunday a hundred years after the outbreak of WW1 saw a packed church. The introit was *For the Fallen* by Mark Blatchly which is a setting of Laurence Binyon's poem for upper voices. This was an extremely emotional and poignant moment and the Sopranos and Altos captured the moment. At the end the Last Post is played under the voices and we were pleased to welcome Simon Larter-Evans to play trumpet so sensitively for that moment. I know that the local branch of the Royal British Legion especially appreciated the inclusion of *For the Fallen* in the service. The anthem was *And I Saw a New Heaven* by Edgar Bainton, again very appropriate and a very moving performance.

The service of Nine Lessons and Carols in preparation for Christmas contained the usual

mix of congregational carols and traditional and more modern carols sung by the Choir. Of special note was a beautiful new setting of *In the Bleak Midwinter* by Becky McGlade which she was kind enough to give us permission to perform. The service was well attended and the congregation sang enthusiastically. Considering that we lost some singers due to illness and had to swap some of the parts around on the day, the Choir sang very well indeed.

Finally, I'd like to thank all the Choir and Music group for their dedication, hard work and enthusiasm over the last year. The great strength of St Andrew's music is that we cover many genres and try to introduce new songs and anthems to our worship while always appreciating the value of singing older hymns and anthems which still have something important to say. The musicians that we have within our church are very capable in all these styles, but most importantly are singing or playing because they mean what they are singing or playing and not just going through the motions. They are here to worship and to lead the congregation in worship. Thank you to all of them, especially to Kevin Ayton for his help and support throughout the year, particularly when my work schedule has prevented me from taking practices. A special thank you to my wife, Louise, who handles all my administration (which is a lot of hard work!) and who runs SAY Choir for the church during term times.

SAY Choir

Report by Louise Fuge

This now has a committed membership of only 8 children as some of the older children have moved on. Although few in number, the young people make a great sound and we always enjoy their involvement with Family Worship. We are, at present, thinking of ways to increase our numbers.

During the last year the children have sung at many weddings and joined the senior choir for Family Worship on several occasions. Thanks, as ever go to Tania Edwards for her continued good-natured support, without which SAY choir could not continue.

Open Church

Church watching rota arranged by Joan Bingley tel. 862483

During 2014, 327 visitors were recorded (358 in 2013). Numbers early in the year were limited by the effects of the flooding. In addition, we welcomed several hundred visitors as part of the Heritage Day events on

13 September and a number of parties from local schools.

We had 23 volunteers at the end of 2014 (20 in 2013). The largest numbers (over one third of the total) visit on Saturdays and on Sunday afternoons in summer. We need extra volunteers who can cover these times if we

are to maintain or increase our weekend opening hours.

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

Child Protection Officer: Moni Babatunde

We continue to ensure that all the children attending the various activities within the church are safe and that those who work with children are properly assessed to do so. The Diocesan Safeguarding Policy was formally adopted by PCC in April 2014 and we follow the guidelines given in the Policy carefully. The diocese issued a revised copy of the Safeguarding Manual - 'In Safe Hands' in September, there is a copy available from the Parish Office.

The 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. Whilst most of the leaders and volunteers have full criminal record clearance, the applications of some new volunteers for Kids on Sunday group are currently being processed.

As the number of volunteers working with children within the parish has grown, I am in the process of arranging a group training session for all leaders and volunteers. This session will also be open to everyone working with children within the Deanery and I hope it will be well supported by those in the parish youth group.

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. We held Baby Talk sessions in the church until July whilst repairs were being carried out to CGHC, and our numbers remained constant.

Children and Families Work

Report by Catherine Peachey, formerly Children and Families Worker

2014 saw the refurbishment and development of Church Gate House which has meant fantastic new facilities to benefit and enhance the work with families and children at St. Andrews. We now have great space on a Sunday morning when the two different age groups can have their own space to learn and explore the bible together through craft, stories, play and drama.

Kids on Sunday

In 2014 Kids on Sunday have had a busy, fun, exciting and growing year.

The younger group learnt how God Keeps His Promises whilst the older children became Roman spies, checking out the early church and all the activities of the early church, understanding how the Holy Spirit made a difference in the lives of the early followers of Jesus and the difference it can make in our lives today.

The children have continued to play an active role in church services too. They created a missionary and had to decide who could be missionaries, they led another Eucharist service and the year culminated with the Crib service where children and adults worked together to produce the D.I.Y Nativity Play.

A curry night was held for the dads of children who come to KoS and this was enjoyed by all who came. Future events to encourage the Dads as well as Mums to feel welcomed and part of St Andrew's Church family are being planned with a quiz afternoon for the whole family.

We continue to be encouraged by the growing number of children coming to KoS and have looked to increase the number of helpers and leaders on a Sunday morning. Linda Shaw continues to organise the rotas and leads the younger group along Suzanah Roach, Sarah Wackett and Amanda Koegh with Melanie Kearley and Alison Wilde leading the the older

age group. A huge thank you also needs to be given to all the helpers - Francesca Tamblyn who continues to come nearly every Sunday morning and is amazing at getting all the crafts organised and Abby Greenwood who, despite going abroad and then to University, still comes along when she can. Extra helpers have volunteered this year too, so a big thank you to Patricia Olokose, Becky Moorman and Angela Baird, as without this help we would not be able to have so many children.

Messy Church

Messy Church has now been up and running for two years. Each month there are on average 65 children and their parents and carers who have contact with 'church'. The crafts based around the theme of the month such as the parables, creation and harvest are always well received. These are then followed by 15 minutes of worship, finishing off with tea,

We have fantastic volunteers from St Andrew's and even after two years they continue to cut, cook and help on the day and try and keep me organised. Thank you! St Andrew's also provided valuable financial support which means that we can move into 2015 knowing that families who may not otherwise come into contact with church can still hear the Christian message in a relaxed, informal and comfortable way.

Thank you

On a personal note I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, support and help over the last 3 years. I have really enjoyed my time as Children and Families Worker and thank God for the growth and development that has been seen within the children's work at St. Andrew's. I pray that it will grow and flourish in the future with the continued support from all and thank God for the appointment of Esther as she brings in new, fresh ideas to encourage, develop and evolve the work with the children and families in Cobham.

SAY IT'S SUNDAY

Leader Phil Slade

SAY IT'S SUNDAY (SIS) completed its 1st year in December. The group is for those in year 6 (around 10/11) and upwards. The group meets from 6.00 – 8.00pm on a Sunday in term time. Numbers have risen from around 6 to about 16, although there are over 30 registered and we did see 30 at the Scalextric evening.

Each evening includes food, organised games, and DVD clip or talk with discussion. The programme this year has included a visit from

Mr Sparkles (A Christian magician who uses his tricks to illustrate the gospel), a BBQ, a visit from a Scalextric team, a series of eco project/talks with a spiritual emphasis led by Wendy Jane Gray, and an organised visit from the local community police.

Youth Alpha was launched in September led by Nick and Dani Taylor, with about 8 attending regularly but with up to 12 at times. Youth Alpha also took the place of youth confirmation classes for those wishing to be confirmed. This started at 5.30 and joined the SIS club at 6.30 where everyone eats together.

The leaders are Folli, Nick Taylor and Phil Slade with a team of helpers which includes, Alison Wilde, Carrie Taylor, Claire Costard, Lyndon Ferguson, Corrie Haxton and Wendy Jane Gray.

The club managed to run through the Jan/March flood damage period, either in the Church or in the main hall, before it was restored. Our thanks go to Robert Jenkins, Folli and the Churchwardens who negotiated with the contractors to make this possible.

St Andrew's School

Report by Andrew Tulloch, Head Teacher

2014 proved to be challenging and rewarding in equal measure, with an Inspection, significant staffing changes, and the need to incorporate all the latest government changes adding to the already busy schedule.

St Andrew's C of E Primary School once again responded to the local authority's request to accommodate additional pupils in September 2014. The school has thus increased by around 50 pupils to an overall figure of 412 on roll.

The set-up is still '2 Form Entry' – two classes per year group, though there are two 'bulge' years – Reception (age 4-5) and Year 3 (age 7-8) with three classes in those year groups.

A total of 8 teaching appointments were made for September 2014 as a result of this growth and other factors, including some internal leadership changes and the need to replace teachers retiring or moving to positions elsewhere. In 2013 we celebrated Mrs Carrie Taylor's 25 years of service at St Andrew's. In 2014 she retired – though we are happy to say she continues to tutor pupils at the school. We are delighted that part of Carrie's legacy is the provision of the 'etched effect' design on the main entrance doors with the words taken from John 10 v 10: Life in all its fullness –

words that match our ethos and ambitions for the children.

In June 2014, the school was judged as 'Good' by a team of Ofsted Inspectors, an excellent result for the school. Headline comments include the following:

- Pupils achieve well and make good progress across the school;
- Pupils are proud of their school and are enthusiastic learners. They feel safe and behave well. They have good manners and are sociable and articulate.
- The governing body provides high quality support and challenge and is very knowledgeable about the school.

Governors, conducted a 'learning morning' in November, to assess the impact of the school's 'Culture' and 'Christian Distinctiveness' – significant areas of focus for this year. The school has developed a strong statement to explore three elements that underpin all the activities within the school: Welcome, Challenge and Preparation for Life.

Governors were encouraged by the pupils' mature responses and by the consistent approach to values across the school.

The Governing Body constitution provides for three Foundation Governors, currently Revd Robert Jenkins, Revd Folli Olokose and Fiona Lascelles.

Monthly prayer meetings are held in the Head Teacher's office and the children's Prayer Club has developed strongly over the past year. Mrs Pippa Barrett has raised the profile of RE and spirituality throughout the school; 'Reflective Areas' are prominent in all the classrooms, and all children are invited to write their post-it prayers and add them to a display in one of our corridors. Weekly values are explored through daily acts of collective worship which often feature Christian songs. We appreciate the support of St Andrew's clergy for our KS2 worship on Thursdays.

The school is planning to build a 'Reflective Space' in its grounds, to be used by the whole school community, with an emphasis on prayer, reflection and spirituality. Fund-raising for this ambitious project has begun.

The school's participation in worship at St Andrew's Church, for Education Sunday as well as at Easter and Christmas, is always warmly welcomed by all. The school is immensely grateful to members of the church for their continued practical and prayerful support.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Bible Society

Report by Jenny Vickers

In November we held another quiz and supper evening. Jenny Masters and Gill Sharp provided an excellent supper, and the desserts were provided by other volunteers. Paul Masters helped in the kitchen, Rosie Masters organized the raffle and Peter Vickers was the question master. In addition to members of our congregation, members from St Mary's Church, the Methodist Church and Cobham Women's Institute took part. Many raffle prizes were donated. The event raised £731

Cathedral Link

Report by Jenny Vickers

The Guildford Cathedral Appeal was delighted to announce that it had reached its first phase goal of £1.3m which would enable an application for a multi-million pound grant to be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The Dean of Guildford, the Very Reverend Dianna Gwilliams, said: "It's a wonderful achievement and we're so grateful to the many

individuals, families and organisations that have supported us through the MAKE YOUR MARK campaign.

"More than 1,000 benefactors have supported us and hundreds more have sponsored and participated in Appeal events. We want to say thank you to everyone involved. Your generosity will help us save Guildford Cathedral. Like the Brick-givers, you are now part of the story of the People's Cathedral. "

A vital strand of the Cathedral's 2020 Vision, the £7m Cathedral Appeal will protect and transform the Cathedral, benefiting people of all ages, now and in future generations.

The Cathedral's most urgent requirement for funds is to remove and replace plaster in the vaults which contains asbestos. At the same time improvements will be made to access, lighting and sound systems, bringing them up to 21st Century standards.

Plans also include an oral history project recording the memories of the Brick-givers and the development of new visitor resources so that the Cathedral is able to expand the range of cultural and educational activities on offer to locals and visitors alike.

Last Autumn as part of its second phase, MAKE YOUR MARK continued to raise funds for the Cathedral Appeal, including for the refurbishment of the organ.

Leatherhead Deanery Link

Report by Jenny Vickers

Over the years, as the Leatherhead Deanery Link, I have been responsible for arranging for two representatives from parish churches in our deanery to form part of the offertory procession and take up the elements during the Communion service at the Cathedral. A parish would be invited to do this every fourth year. This has been a tradition for many years. I have recently been informed by the Cathedral that some Deaneries are unable to get volunteers and this has resulted in the Cathedral re-thinking this tradition. It may be that they will cease to invite parishes to represent their deaneries. However, I have stressed that the Leatherhead Deanery has always been able to supply representatives and hope that we, along with one or two other Deaneries who manage to get volunteers, will continue to be invited to represent our Deaneries.

Christmas lunch

Report by Shirley Mensah

Our aim was to bring together the excellent church catering facilities and the resources of the Cobham Food Bank in order to put on a proper Christmas lunch, with turkey and all the trimmings, for people in Cobham who were on their own at Christmas. We wanted the lunch to be just like at home, so after a splendid lunch, the guests could either snooze gently or watch the television, whichever they chose.

We met with Caroline Fielding at Cobham Waitrose and we were delighted to discover that they were already working with Waitrose Partners on making a local contribution to the company's national "End Isolation At Christmas" charity initiative. Waitrose generously funded all the food and the Food Bank provided logistical support with their green van.

Immediately before the day, and on Christmas morning, Caroline Fielding and the Waitrose Partners, together with numerous volunteers

from St Andrew's Church and from all over Cobham, helped prepare vegetables, ham, turkey, bread sauce, cranberry sauce.

After lunch on Christmas Day Father Christmas gave out presents, and we were able to watch the Queen's speech on the screen, followed by *Goldfinger*.

Despite some last minute cancellations, 45 sat down to enjoy a Michelin starred lunch.

It was a great success, and we feel that, with Waitrose, we have started something very special. We are determined that next Christmas lunch will be an even bigger success!

Churches Together

Report by Geoff Morris

During 2014 the Committee of Churches Together was chaired by The Revd Kim Plumpton of the URC. Leonard Beighton continued as Treasurer, and St Andrew's was represented by the Clergy, Geoff Morris and Kerstin Mitchell. At the October meeting Kim, having served for three years, handed over the chair to the Revd Godfrey Hilliard and Kerstin retired. Keith Baird has kindly offered to replace Kerstin.

A joint evening service was held at St Andrew's, Oxshott in the week of Christian Unity. We plan to hold the 2015 service at St. Andrew's, Cobham.

On Good Friday we again held a vigil around a large wooden cross in the Holly Hedge Precinct. This will again take place in 2015.

The Committee holds the view that we should not do things separately if we can do them together. Examples are:

- Messy Church, which has met at the United Reformed Church.
- Projects for joint Alpha Groups and Junior Alpha.
- The interdenominational Lent groups which take place in alternate years, 2014 being one of these years.
- Our major project this year, which was developing the Cobham Food Bank, which we did with the Methodist Church as the distribution point.
- Participation in the Cobham Heritage Day, which was a great 'showcase' opportunity.

- Preparation and distribution of a leaflet giving details of the Easter services and activities in all the local churches.
- Informing each other of various activities in our churches with the implied invitation to all to attend - our Spiritual Cinema evenings have been particularly popular.

Church Library

Report by David Greenwood

There are a number of Christian books available to borrow at the back of the church, by the chairs near the choir vestry door. The sign-out book disappeared during the year so just borrow them. No time limit.

There are some children's books on the bottom shelf (right hand end) that may also be used during services (please put them back afterwards).

Donations of attractive, good condition Christian books which are appropriate for our church and that you do not want back, may be offered to David Greenwood, noting that there is limited space. Books seem to have got taller in recent years and often no longer fit the shelves.

When books become too tired or need to make room for new ones, they are donated to Book Aid or recycled.

Elmbridge Multifaith Forum

Report by Geoff Morris

Twelve 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 on the internet or in printed form from Geoff Morris, or are available in the Church.

Highlights of the year were:

- Visit on 10th April to the Coptic Orthodox Cathedral and Centre at Stevenage.
- Combined AGM and visit to the Princess Alice Hospice at Esher.
- On Tuesday 5th August visit to the Ismaili Centre in South Kensington.
- On Monday 25th August the Shinyo-en Open Day and 'Light Floating Festival'.
- On Monday 1st September visit to the Sikh Gurdwara in Southall.
- On Tuesday 7th October at the EMF Centre, Thames Ditton, presentations and discussion on 'Aspects of Buddhism'.

- Annual Gala on Saturday 18th October in the Joyce Grenfell Centre, Claremont Fan Court School.
- On Sunday 2nd November, presentations and discussions in the Mercer Close Centre on the significance of Abraham/Ibrahim for Jews, Christians and Muslims.
- Further development, in conjunction with the Walton Churches, of the Walton 'Street Angels' scheme, and the setting up of a further scheme for Weybridge.
- Continued demand for our 'Insights into Faiths' booklets and work on an expanded version in one volume.
- Continued research into introduction and inclusion, notably of newcomers to Elmbridge who do not speak English and come from other faiths and cultures.
- Continued representation on the Independent Advisory Group to Surrey Police, Brooklands Radio, Voluntary Action Elmbridge (VAE), Elmbridge Equality & Diversity Forum, Elmbridge Community & Safety Partnership (EC & SP) and Surrey Action Committee for Religious Education (SACRE).

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

Social Concerns Forum

Chaired by Leonard Beighton

The purpose of the Social Concerns Forum is to bring together those for whom social action is an important outworking of their faith, and with the aim of encouraging understanding of the issues and support across the wider church community. We seek these through articles in "Family" (now "Together") and updates on the website, and through intercessions for our work, for the people we serve, and for justice and peace between various opposing societies, races and nations.

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

In practice we focus on the four (previously three) areas of the world in which St Andrew's is involved in particular, and on its work in Cobham in which it is reaching out into the community.

Uganda

The Cobham Uganda Partnership (CUP), with which members of the Methodist Church and

of the Cobham and Oxshott cells of Esher Green Baptist Church were also involved, was set up following the end of the nationwide campaign in 2005 to 'Make Poverty History'. It sought to get involvement by 'comfortable' Cobham in the problems of an area in Northern Uganda based on Gulu which suffered 25 years of civil war. CUP worked through the charity African Revival and there have been a number of visits including by the Rector and others from St Andrew's over the years.

The first project for CUP was to fund the building of a medical centre in the Grace Christian Academy, a school in Gulu primarily for children who had been orphaned as a result of the civil war. Subsequently it helped to fit out the Primary Teacher Training Colleges in Gulu and a neighbouring town, Kitgum. During this time there have been three visits to Gulu by members of St Andrew's.

The members of CUP have decided that this was a seam which had been worked out. The final fundraising event was a supper accompanying an interview with David Taylor by Michael Rodd in which David gave us a fascinating account of life in Cobham over the last few centuries, as illustrated by the older buildings which remain in the town or have only recently been demolished and of which he had a record.

African Revival, of which David Taylor was a trustee and is now an adviser and Leonard Beighton remains a trustee, is continuing its work in Northern Uganda. Originally its main concern was to build schools for children returning to their villages after the civil war, but latterly it is more concerned with measures to improve the quality of education.

Kosovo

Geoff Morris and others were much involved in helping with rebuilding schools and other work after the civil war in Kosovo in the late 1990s. Even today, the country remains one of the poorest in Europe, in particular because of the continuing barriers to trade with the European Community. In addition there has been difficulty in forming a stable Government.

In recent years the work has focused on the town of Gjakova to the south west of the capital, Pristina, where we have provided a lot of support by way of clothes, books and computers, in particular for schools and for the Roma community.

There have been a number of visits over the years and friendships have been established

both with adults and children: these have led to return visits here, most recently in autumn 2014 and January 2015. However some of the Kosovars have found great difficulty in obtaining visas to visit us.

Israel/Palestine

We have long been concerned with the conditions of Palestinians in the West Bank. On the pilgrimage in 2012 we visited the village of Wadi Fuqeen, in part because this was the family home of the woman who Verity and Michael Elson had sponsored through university. The village was originally fertile, growing vegetables for the markets in Jerusalem, but it is now overshadowed by the very large Israeli settlement of Beitar Illit, from which sewage flows down to spoil the land and from which settlers come down to ruin their olive trees. Most recently, the Israelis have confiscated large areas of Palestinian land, including some around the village, which all but closes it off.

We have found it increasingly difficult to maintain contact with the village and our only contacts now are through the woman who the Elsons supported who now lives in Bethlehem. In addition the Elsons and Leonard Beighton support the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions, the UK Director of which is Linda Ramsden who was a member of St Andrew's before she left Cobham some years ago.

Romania

Phil Slade has been working with people from Roma villages in Transylvania ever since he and Elaine returned from living there over 10 years ago. He has been trying to find accommodation for families and he encourages education and employment in the villages by encouraging them to produce baskets which he sells on an ethical, fairly traded and non-profit making basis. Many Church members will have seen, and maybe bought, the baskets when he was selling them recently after the Family Service in November.

The families are becoming more self-sufficient and Phil is turning the emphasis to work with a Romanian young person living in Germany who wants to run a business on the same lines. He is also working alongside others in the area in supporting the rebuilding of the homes of a Roma village in Transylvania.

Phil had hoped to arrange a Romanian evening, but it had to be cancelled. He hopes that it will be possible to hold it in the coming year.

Cobham Community Centre

The Rector has been leading, together with Sue Kilpatrick and Nick Driver from St Mary's, on the development of the plans for the Cobham Community Centre. These required protracted negotiations with Surrey County Council before the work could begin.

The Centre should be completed in early 2015. The Library will be on the first floor with community use on the ground floor. Oasis and the Children's Centre will have rooms and there will be a multipurpose room for the police, health visitors, CAB and Surrey Save. All sorts of information will be available and people will be able to get a cup of coffee. We won't have to pay rent, but the community will be responsible for fuel, and pay for redecoration and floor covering for its area.

Shoe Boxes

St Andrew's is making a valuable social commitment through the shoe boxes, giving support for children without anything at Christmas. This year 140 shoe boxes were provided by the church and the school.

Cobham Area Food Bank

The Cobham Area Foodbank was opened formally by Dominic Raab MP on 13 December 2013 at the Methodist Church Hall. It is now open every Friday from 12.00 to 1.30.

In our first year we had a total of 97 clients, representing 172 adults and 106 children. We gave out over 1,200 food packages. We got off to a fairly slow start, but it picked up and is now very full almost every week.

The team from Churches Together which runs and supports the Food Bank has been working very hard. Hugh Bryant should be given much of the credit for it: he was our manager for the first year, but he has now stood down from that role and manages our transport. I suspect that you will all have seen the van to which he devotes a great deal of love!

We have had a lot of help, not least from members of St Andrew's. We have 134 volunteers on our book. Between them they run the warehouse, the distribution in the Methodist Church, and the transport. We could do with more drivers and there are specialised jobs, such as database management and

fundraising, where we continue to look for help.

A very considerable amount of food has been collected for which we are most grateful. Both Sainsbury's and Waitrose have provided valuable support and we have also had a lot of help from Cargill's including enabling us to rent the van. The Bishop of Guildford's Foundation has been among our highly valued funders.

Cobham Free School

A major issue for residents of Cobham about which there has already been debate and which will live up in the coming year will be the planning application which we are expecting on a green belt site in Anvil Lane.

This is not a matter on which St Andrew's itself will take a stand. But it may be expected that its members will be very active in the discussions which will take place on the impact which this development would have on the community, doubtless on both sides of the argument.

More generally there was recognition at the Forum of the issues relating to the Free School which go rather wider than its remit. On the one hand we have a formal relationship with St Andrew's School and are able to give it valuable support. But that does not mean that we do not also have excellent relationships with the private schools as St Mary's does with Parkside. A number of members of St Andrew's already send their children to the Free School and doubtless more will do so. So we shall need to build up a cordial relationship with it also. There may however be an issue over the extent to which the Free Secondary School will be a school for all Cobham children, including those who go to St Andrew's as their primary school, especially as Esher High School is proposing, subject to consultation, to give feeder school status to St Andrew's.

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. Any old stamp albums would be warmly received!

FINANCE REPORT

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