



2020 ANNUAL REVIEW

March 2021

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VISION STATEMENT

To Know, Glorify and Make Christ Known

The 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

A Year Like No Other

Report by the Vicar, Revd Dr Mike Branscombe

When I was ordained, in July 1995, I bought my first mobile phone and it was exactly that; a phone that was mobile. I could make calls outside the home and that was it. The phone had no camera, did not send or receive text messages or emails, nor could it be used to view a website. Facebook and YouTube had not been invented and only a handful of parishes around the world had a website. Had you told me then that 25 years later I would be spending more time in front of a camera in church broadcasting services on the internet than in front of people leading worship, I certainly would not have believed you. With the advent of Covid-19 we have all been forced to make enormous changes, not least in how we at St Andrew's church are serving Cobham and its people.

The first two months of the year were spent without any restrictions on us as a church. The news was filled with the far off spread of a deadly virus in China; it eventually found its way to Italy and we looked on with horror as infections and deaths rose steeply. As we entered March Covid-19 took a firm hold in the UK and everything changed. I officiated at a very small wedding on Saturday March 21st. That was the last service in church until August 2nd.

St Andrew's Responds

Soon after the first national lockdown began we took a leading role with our "Churches Together" partners in planning ways to serve our community. During discussions it quickly emerged that we needed to offer both practical help and spiritual support. Our local pharmacies had great need of volunteers to deliver prescriptions to those who could not leave their homes, church volunteers were recruited and partnerships with Lloyds on the

High Street, and Cobham Pharmacy in the Health Centre established. Over the next three and a half months hundreds of prescriptions were delivered in Cobham and further afield. In addition a dedicated phone line was established for people to call and receive spiritual support. Postcards with the phone number were delivered to the KT11 postcode area by the post office. Each church took responsibility for having volunteers to answer calls week by week. St Andrew's picked up any messages left on the line and responded to those who called. This service was used more frequently in the early days and as the months went on calls diminished as people found other support networks.

With the church doors locked at the behest of our Archbishops, our worship moved online from Mothering Sunday and continues to this day, as does our coffee time on Zoom. Assembling the necessary technology and learning how to use it was a steep learning curve for the church staff and for the congregation. We began with broadcasts on Facebook changing to YouTube in June. We were also able to run an Alpha Course on Zoom in the summer too. At various points through the year we have been able to open the church for private prayer and services with limited spaces for people to attend. As Cobham has moved between Covid tiers and restrictions on our daily lives have varied, we have had to regularly assess what activities are permitted in church and Church Gate House. The ministry team, churchwardens and standing committee have all contributed to our decision making and risk assessments over the months. We ended 2020 in a position where our services are being broadcast online only.

I would like to thank Rev Moni Babatunde, Rev Charleen Hollington, Rev Peter Vickers, Elaine Bray, David Fuge and Pearl Addobea for

working hard to ensure ministry continued in Cobham despite the severe restrictions we faced during 2020. Each of them has gone above and beyond what could have been expected to keep our church community connected and to reach out in innovative ways with God's love. With phone calls, recordings of hymns and songs shared online, bags of "Christmas Hope" and simple acts of care each person has contributed to the whole effort of St Andrew's. I am truly blessed to have such wonderful colleagues.

One consequence of the first national lockdown was the suspension of the "Time for God" volunteer programme that placed Pearl with St Andrew's in September 2019. With the suspension of the programme at the end of March, Pearl moved to be with her family as she was initially unable to return home to Ghana. We are thankful for the joy and enthusiasm Pearl brought to us for six months.

Our work at St Andrew's School has continued though much of what we were doing has had to change. Under Carrie Taylor's leadership our "Transforming Lives for Good" coaches moved from supporting students in person at school to supporting online where possible. Our clergy assemblies have also moved online as we record a video assembly each week that is shared with students at school or at home. Our foundation governors have continued to support the school through online meetings.

Between March and December many things that were planned at St Andrew's have been cancelled, rescheduled or changed. Our planned church holiday with Spring Harvest in France was cancelled. I do hope that in 2022 we will be able to look at this again. Moni's ordination to the priesthood was planned for Saturday July 4th at Guildford Cathedral, this was postponed and finally took place at Holy Trinity Claygate on Saturday October 10th. Whilst the service was socially distanced and only a few people could be there with Moni, it was broadcast and many parishioners watched with joy as Moni was ordained by Bishop Jo. Watching and listening online allowed a much closer experience for many than would have been possible at the Cathedral. Many weddings have been postponed until late in 2021 or 2022, though a small number have taken place under Covid restrictions. One very important event that has also been postponed until we are all able to gather in person at St Andrew's is a special service and reception to thank Peter Vickers for his ministry at St Andrew's over many decades. Peter has served for 27 years as an ordained minister, and before that served in

many capacities. His public licensed ministry ended on December 31st while we were having online services only. It is my hope that in the summer of 2021 that restrictions being lifted a great celebration for Peter may be organised.

A Major Achievement

One great success of 2020 was the appeal launched on Friday January 24th to re-shingle the spire of St Andrew's. David Taylor took a strong lead in raising the funds, finding a skilled contractor, and moving the project forward in the midst of a global pandemic. With great celebration, on Friday July 31st Bishop Jo joined us to dedicate and bless the beautifully re-shingled spire and re-gilded weathervane. Thanks to David's hard work and dedication, I am delighted to report that not only is the work complete, it is also paid for in full through donations. Thanks to all who gave to this project.

I would like to thank Michael Elson, David Taylor and Paul Hurrell who have served as churchwardens during 2020. David's term ended in October at our much delayed Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Paul was elected to serve in his place. Most weeks I meet on Zoom with the churchwardens, much more frequently than pre-Covid. These meetings have become great source of encouragement, wisdom and support for me as together we work out what Jesus is calling us to do as St Andrew's Church in the midst of all the difficulties Covid has brought. I am grateful too for the Standing Committee who have offered much guidance during such uncertain times.

Last year as I closed my report I wrote this:

"the God we celebrate at St Andrew's is the same yesterday, today and forever. His call to love goes out to all the world. He has called us into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ his Son. As we grow in that relationship and understand all that He wants us to be, we are able to find strength to serve others in His name. If we allow His love to change us, then we can change small things in our lives and in the process find that God is changing the world."

I certainly don't consider myself a prophet, yet these words seem even more pertinent as we enter 2021 having lived through 2020.

Small groups

Report by Charleen Hollington

Over the years, a number of small groups have operated through St Andrew's, consisting of members of the congregation and also in

some cases people from other churches, or no church at all. These groups have been, and continue to be, the source of deep friendships, mutual support and strengthening faith. Charleen Hollington is the small groups co-ordinator. Each group has one (in some cases two) designated leaders, and occasional meetings are held with the group leaders to provide feedback on the groups' progress.

At the end of 2019 we had hoped to build on our small groups, and it was anticipated that this would form part of our wider vision planning. However, the pandemic disrupted those plans. After an initial hiatus in meetings, most of the small groups resumed meeting via Zoom. This has had mixed results. For some it has worked successfully, while others have not found the Zoom format conducive to their small group interaction (one group has ceased to meet entirely due to a lack of comfort with Zoom). Each group is using a different resource, depending on their preference. Some continue to use Tom Wright's study on Matthew; another group is reflecting on the sermons provided by our bishops, Andrew and Jo, for our online services; another group has undertaken an exploration of different forms of prayer. It must be said that this does not accord with our original desire to have all groups studying the same material, as a source of cohesion for the church, but the unusual circumstances dictate practice at present.

We are grateful for the mutual support that our small groups have provided in these difficult times, and we look forward in 2021 to building on this vital ministry.

Moving Forward

Report by David Taylor, team leader

One positive response to the continuing Coronavirus pandemic was the setting up of a "Moving Forward" team that was charged with the task of looking at all aspects of the life and ministry of St Andrew's during and after the crisis. The group was made up of seven individuals representing various aspects of the St Andrew's family. These were David Taylor, Paul Hurrell, James Moreno, Moni Babatunde, Judy Brickett, Shirley Mensah and Claudia Hollington. Input was also received from Elaine Bray and Jacob Costard.

The team looked to respond to the challenge of a letter issued jointly by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York which said "This is a defining moment for the Church of England. Are we truly a church for all, or just a church for ourselves?" Our vicar Mike wrote, "The Archbishops are adamant to say that the

Church of England has not 'shut up shop', neither have we at St Andrew's."

The team felt it important to see the restrictions imposed upon us by the pandemic as opportunities rather than hindrances. Although we are finding it necessary to adapt our patterns of worship and our methods of communication during the lock-down, we also needed to "get ready for when our buildings are open again".

Sadly, we were not able to hold our Vision Day this year but the team picked up on themes that came out of last year's day together with the results of a simple matrix survey that was undertaken shortly after the imposition of "lock-down". One thing that became very clear was that things would never be the same, even after our buildings are fully re-opened and we are able to meet together in person as the family of God at St Andrew's. It was also felt that God was challenging about many pre-conceptions and "sacred cows". Dean Dianna had written, "Are there some things we've been doing for ages simply because we've never had time to stop and ask 'how is this building the kingdom of God?'"

A phrase that continued to resonate throughout the many webinars that some of the team attended was "Wider Doors and Deeper Wells". With this as a theme the team met on a weekly basis over eight weeks and produced a Review document covering Youth Church; Engaging with the Broader Community; Technology, Branding & Communication; Preaching During and Beyond the Pandemic; and Kids Church.

The completed Review document was submitted to the Ministry Team and a presentation was made to the PCC, who subsequently accepted the document and its recommendations. The PCC also proposed that smaller groups, representing the areas covered by the Review, should meet to discuss its recommendations and how they could best be implemented. This process continues.

Sacristan

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

Assets and Fabric

Report by Michal Elson and Paul Horrell

The quinquennial inspection and the subsequent report, which we received in 2018, has been an excellent guide to the current state of the building and grounds of the church. The Property Committee has

continued, under the excellent chairmanship of Clive Moorman, to use the report for guidance in planning and meeting the needs that the surveyor identified. Keith Baird also deserves special mention as he took responsibility for the tombs in need of repair in the graveyard.

The major improvement to the fabric of the church in 2020 was the renewal of the roof on the spire. The appeal to the local community to contribute to a fund to Save Our Steeple was a great success. David Taylor, the previous churchwarden, and the vicar both had a major part, not only in the launch of the appeal but also in facilitating the day to day work, for which we are very grateful. Now that oak shingles have replaced the cedar ones and the weather vane has received a covering of gold leaf, the new look of the church and steeple is impressive.

The threat of flooding to Church Gate House has not diminished. The provider of the defences has assessed and refurbished the slats and seals. The danger of flooding is rare but the consequences of another flood would be disastrous. We now have a team ready to respond, if we receive a flood warning, and to put the defences in place.

The church's response to the pandemic included improvement to the provision to stream services, so that those who do not attend in person may still participate. As a result we now have the equipment that we need to continue to provide for those people who would otherwise lack the opportunity to worship with us.

The generous legacy from Gerald Stanford, part of which we have already used towards the purchase of new technology, has also given our financial assets a boost. The value of our restricted and designated funds is in the presentation of accounts which will be in the Financial Report when it is published. The Parochial Church Council has already given consideration to their use and has confirmed the view that we should not use assets that come from legacies to fund current expenditure. Subject to the donor's wishes, we use legacies to invest in the future, projects that the church would not otherwise be able to afford.

The Church Spire

Report by David Taylor, former Churchwarden
During the course of the Quinquennial survey carried out in 2019 the Diocesan surveyor noticed the wooden shingles on the spire of St Andrew's were suffering as a result of woodpeckers. The birds were drilling holes in

the Cedar shingles and, as a consequence, rain was finding its way into the internal medieval wooden structure of the spire. This in turn was threatening to damage the historic timbers.

We were advised by the Diocesan Surveyor to have the spire re-shingled as a matter of urgency. It was suggested by a local specialist in historic timber-frame buildings that this be done in Oak, as it is less attractive to woodpeckers.

A quote for the work was obtained from a recommended company of steeplejacks and an appeal to the local community was launched by the Vicar and Wardens at an event in the church to raise the estimated cost, which amounted to about £12,000. We were delighted by the immediate response and very soon the entire sum was raised.

Having obtained the necessary faculty from the Diocese, we instructed the contractor to undertake the work as soon as possible. Unfortunately, we were then almost immediately faced by the Coronavirus situation and the subsequent "lockdown". Despite this the contractor and his team agreed to start the work during the first of June on the understanding that it should not take much more than a couple of weeks to complete. Sadly, this did not prove to be the case. One of the consequences of "lockdown" was the delay in obtaining both the new shingles and the timber for the louvres.

During the course of the re-shingling it was found that the oak louvres had rotted and required replacing. This additional expense was partly met by funds raised by the appeal and partly from general funds. It also became apparent that it was necessary to have the metal weather vane repaired. The Standing Committee agreed that the weather vane should be regilded which, although the most expensive option, would be the most effective and lasting. The cost of regilding was met by members of the Standing Committee.

The work was finally completed in August and a short, open-air, service of re-dedication was held in the churchyard. This was led by the Vicar supported by the "surprise" attendance of Bishop Jo, who prayed that the restored spire and weathervane would be as beacons shining God's light out over the local community.

During the course of the re-shingling it became apparent that some of the medieval timber framing supporting the shingles was in need of repair. Some of the timbers are in state of

decay with old mortice and tenon joints pulling apart. After further inspections by both the Diocesan Surveyor and the Engineer it was agreed that some further work would be required inside the spire but that this could be carried out at a later date.

Garden of Remembrance

This part of the churchyard provides an attractive focus for remembering loved ones. It

was very well maintained by Ray Sherlock for many years before his very sad death. Since then it has been maintained by Mick, the gardener who maintains the garden in Church Gate House under the supervision of Mabs Ostley.

ADMINISTRATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

Parish Office

Elaine Bray is our Communications and Administration Officer. She runs the Parish Office, which in ordinary times is open from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm on Mondays to Fridays, though her own hours are rather longer. She looks after the Welcome Café and supports the volunteers who run it. For most of 2020 however she has been working from home and Church Gate House has not been open.

She is responsible for much of the administrative work of the church, for its communications and for handling all its enquiries, including bookings and, again in ordinary times, enquiries about the Hall.

Church Website

Report by David Greenwood, co-Webmaster and Data Manager with Elaine Bray
www.standrewscobham.org.uk

With the services going online, the website has provided a way-in to the services and to the page for online giving (just go to the front page and click on the image that says “click here”).

I had hoped to refresh the pictures during 2020 as some are now quite old, but with the lack of services or events, this has been a casualty of the lockdowns.

We aim to make the website a useful resource for parishioners as well as the shop window for people new to the area and visitors. The current thinking (coming out of the Moving Forward project) is to reverse that priority to focus on appealing to new people. By next year's report we may even have a new website.

Feedback and suggestions are welcome, as are any tip-offs about things that have become out of date as it is too big for us to keep checking it all.

St Andrew's Parish magazine 'Family'

Report by Zoë Ostley, Editor

During the months of Lockdown only six out of the ten regular monthly copies were published and printed, and with a reduced number of hard copies. Most of our content is based on the work of the church community.

As the weeks of lockdown continued, there was a diminishing amount of content, because there was less to report, owing to the postponement of all social activities connected in and around the church.

A decision was made before Christmas to stop publishing *Family*, both online and in print, for the duration of ongoing lockdowns and restrictions. A fair number of readers of *Family* are limited in their access to digital copies and we were saddened to make the decision to stop printing.

Communication channels with *Family* are an issue. When going forward again, after returning to living in an open environment, we hope to be able to meet and discuss a revised 'Mission Statement' for *Family* with the ministry team.

Other communications

In ordinary times a **weekly news sheet** is given out at Sunday and Friday services with news of immediate interest. The news sheet is also posted on the church website. This has been suspended until the Church is fully open again.

Elaine Bray maintains an **online mailing list**, Listserve, with messages which she distributes weekly, and sometimes more frequently, and which appear on the parish website. This allows email messages to be sent to subscribers at any time with information about church activities and events.

There are **notice boards** at the south entrance to the Church, at the entrance to the car park, at the lychgate, and in the High

Street. There is also a notice board in Church Gate House for church notices, but this is not currently being used.

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

Archivist

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

Electoral Roll

Report by David Greenwood, Electoral Roll Officer

We ended 2019 with 173 on the Roll and we ended 2020 with ...173 on the Roll. During the year sadly lost two people and happily gained two people.

Do you see St Andrew's as "your" church? Are you on the Roll yet?

We would like everyone who considers themselves to be part of the St Andrew's Church community to "put their hand up" to say so by being on the Roll.

This also gives you the right to vote at the APCM, to have your say in the running of our church.

Church of England governance processes are enshrined in the law of the land and the Electoral Roll is the legal register of all those who can vote for members of the PCC and Deanery Synod. The latter vote for the Diocesan and General Synod members. The number of people on our roll determines how many Deanery Synod representatives we can have.

The sign-up Forms are available in church and on the website (Info - Electoral Roll).

You can either hand your signed copy to the Parish Office, the clergy, the Churchwardens or direct to me; or download, print, sign, scan it and email that to me at *davidg@sac.church*.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Membership

The clergy, Churchwardens, and lay representatives on the Deanery Synod are members of the Church Council ex officio. In addition 12 lay members are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules, ordinarily making 20 members in all.

During the year the following served as members of PCC

Vicar: Chairman	Revd Dr Mike Branscombe	
Assistant Curates	Revd Dr Moni Babatunde	
	Revd Charleen Hollington	
Churchwardens	Michael Elson	
	Paul Hurrell <i>from October 2020</i>	Lay Vice-Chairman
	David Taylor <i>to October 2020</i>	Lay Vice-Chairman
Lay Representatives on the Deanery Synod		
	Leonard Beighton <i>to November 2020</i>	Secretary
	Claire Costard <i>from December 2020</i>	
	Michael Elson*	
	David Greenwood <i>from December 2020</i>	
	Geoff Morris*	
	David Taylor <i>from December 2020</i>	
Elected Members		
	Keith Baird	
	Leonard Beighton <i>from October 2020</i>	Secretary
	Elizabeth Bradley	
	Kim Constable	
	Malcolm Graham	Treasurer
	David Greenwood <i>to October 2020</i>	
	Peter Kelly <i>to October 2020</i>	
	Sue Kilpatrick	
	Freddie Marshall	
	Clive Moorman	
	Carrie Taylor	
	David Tipping	
Co-opted		
	Tolani Martin <i>from November 2020</i>	

- * Michael Elson and Geoff Morris are from November 2020 no longer elected members of Deanery Synod, but remain on it by virtue of being members of the Diocesan Synod.

The Work of the Council in 2020

Report by Leonard Beighton

The Council maintains oversight of all the main activities of the Church. It does this by receiving regular reports from the officers, committees and group leaders. All these are fully reported elsewhere in this Review.

All the meetings have been held on Zoom since the first lockdown was introduced in March.

Guildford Diocese and Leatherhead Deanery

Report by Michael Elson.

The dominant event of 2020 for the Diocese of Guildford was the pandemic and its consequences. Restrictions on meeting in person required churches and schools to close. The Diocese responded with weekly briefings to give individual parishes support. Senior members of the clergy made themselves available for consultation. The Diocesan Board of Education helped schools with online resources. Worship and learning at a distance replaced gathering together face to face.

Bishop Andrew and Bishop Jo recorded weekly sermons for churches to use. Many ideas and activities were available for churches and schools to help them to maintain their life and worship. The Diocese made preparations for a fall in income and closed Church House Guildford. Those that had worked there began to work from home. They were in the same situation, and shared the same experience, as many others in the diocese.

The pandemic also had the effect of impeding the introduction of the diocesan plan, with its sharper focus on mission. The Diocese had already appointed mission enablers. Their role is to help parishes to identify their needs more clearly than in the past and so enable the

diocese to be more responsive in meeting their needs. The hope is that the implementation and development of the programme will feature more prominently in 2021.

During the pandemic the Deanery of Leatherhead managed to meet but only online. The Mission and Pastoral Committee, also the executive committee of the synod, has been following guidance from the Diocese and making major changes. The Diocese expects each deanery to have a Deanery Leadership Team. The team that is now coming into shape is broader and more representative in structure. Another major change has been the departure, due to a change of circumstances, of the secretary, Andy Black, at the end of 2020. Having thanked Andy for his great contribution, the team went on to welcome, as its new secretary, Amy Douthett.

The Deanery Leadership Team has also adopted its first development plan. Some of the projects are already under way but the plan also includes additional projects for 2021. Members of the synod have received a copy of the plan. Our members, for the next three years, include Mike, Charleen and Moni, as clergy, with David Taylor, Dave Greenwood and Claire Costard as our new lay representatives.

Two of the additional projects for 2021 form the agenda for the next two meetings of the synod. As meetings are open, you are warmly welcome to attend. The first meeting is on the evening of March 10, when Bishop Jo will speak on the subject of 'Living in Love and Faith', a matter that the General Synod has asked us all to discuss. The other meeting is on the evening of June 9, when David Welch, the mission enabler for our deanery and our church, will speak about his role and explain the 'Parish Needs' part of the diocesan plan.

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 at least annually to ensure two-way communication.

Standing Committee

Chaired by the Vicar

This is the only Committee required by Church law. It is chaired by the Vicar and its members are the churchwardens, the PCC treasurer, the PCC secretary, and one other PCC member. Until October the other member was Geoff

Morris and since then it has been Tolani Martin. It meets in the months in which there is no PCC meeting. It has power to transact the business of PCC between Council's meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

Church Gate House

Report by David Tipping

They say that time flies when you are enjoying yourself . . . that's if you are not in the midst of an epidemic that has brought our Church Gate House activities to a complete standstill - well

almost complete standstill, as a very small number of activities have been held in a different form via Zoom or some other online facility!

Our attractive and normally well used premises stand idle at the moment. I have popped in a few times, walked through the building into the Hall, looked out of the window at the garden and the river flowing by as though nothing was different. I didn't see anyone, but my thoughts went back to February when David and Carrie Taylor had to put the flood defences in place in the dark! They say the wheel goes round, and here we are 12 months later watching the river rise and fall. Good to know that we have a new team of Flood Wardens.

As I write this it snowed yesterday for the first time for a few years – and the forecast is for more rain! I am sure those who are reading this are thinking "What has this got to do with our community facility?". The fact is, it is difficult to write about something that hasn't been taking place!

Back in 2019 Church Gate House was 21 years old and it was very busy and well used. Then on the 23 March 2020 things began to change. Although an increasing number of people and organisations were making enquiries about lettings, bookings were having to be cancelled and eventually come to a complete standstill. For a short time small social groups were allowed to meet, and during the summer months Discipleship met in the garden. A wonderful Creation Service was held in the garden in September when our young people led the Service - an inspiring occasion, with us all ensuring that social distancing was being adhered to, but sadly not able to stand around afterwards and chat!

Did we have that feeling of hope that our facility was shortly to come back to life? – a lovely new tree was planted at the entrance to the Hall in memory of John Bonny . . . thank you Sheila, and thank you to Clive Moorman, our Property Committee Chairman for carrying out the preparation of the area and the planting.

During lockdown the heating has been reduced to save on gas and electricity, and other safety checks have been carried out.

Thank you to those who have kept a watchful eye - especially Elaine and Mike. The volunteers who normally man the Welcome Area have missed the chit chat and making cups of coffee!

I have to admit that we didn't have a Committee meeting in 2020 and have lost some of our members - Esther, Mabs and

Fiona - so there is now a need for some new blood!

On a final note, we still have plans to carry out improvements to the facilities in our main entrance and the doors in the main Hall. We must look to the future, so that when the doors are unlocked and the lights switched on again, we are ready to swing back into action.

Thank you.

Eco Committee

Report by Clive Moorman

This has been a very quiet year for the Eco Committee (Jill Newman, Jo Greenwood, Nick Constable, Leonard Beighton, Geoff Morris, Sam Acquaye and Wendy Jane Grey) over the last 12 months, due to the Covid 19 restrictions. We have managed to meet up, over Zoom, a few times to enable us to progress some of our objectives for the year. One of the main achievements has been getting the Ecochurch Silver Award. This was



quite challenging in some areas, particularly 'Lifestyle' where we needed to show that we were actively encouraging our congregation to make positive environmental choices in their everyday lives. To assist us in this endeavour we carried out a lifestyle audit to establish a baseline as to where we are, as a church, and compare this with the general population of Cobham on Heritage Day. We will carry out further audits in future years to give us an insight into how effective our communications are over time. This and other initiatives enabled us to 'creep over the threshold' to get the silver award. This category has been further enhanced recently by us signing up for a new initiative called Creation Care. This

enables individual members of our congregation to measure themselves against seven environmental categories in a process very similar to the Eco Church process.

There are a number of things that we would like to progress in 2021 once the lockdown restrictions come off, hopefully in the spring.

1. Zoe Ostley published a regular 'Eco corner' feature in our parish magazine Family and this will continue when she is able to publish again.

2. We hope the wild flower boarder we planted on St Andrew's field last year has survived the flooding and will flower again this year. The same applies to the additional 100 trees we planted in the same field.

3. We also hope that the 100 crocus bulbs and a cherry tree, planted by the Guides in the churchyard to commemorate 100 years of the Cobham Troop, will flower again in the spring.

4. Our new deal with EcoTricity, a 'green energy' supplier, supplying both our gas and electricity, kicked in in December and will last to December 2022. This now includes the CGH Flat which will be ready for a new children's worker once someone has been secured.

5. At the moment it is difficult to say that the two new digital thermostats and timers on the hot water boilers in CGH have save any money as our energy usage has dropped dramatically while we have been in 'lockdown'.

6. We also have yet to reprogram the lighting in the church to save on our weekday usage of electricity. We will do this with the assistance of David Fuge once we start using the Church as normal. This should save us about £1,000 pa.

7. There is also a plan to upgrade the control system for the Church boilers and heating generally. Whilst we did have a quote to do this, it has been 'on hold' during 2020. As with the lighting this should save us a significant amount and we should recover the cost of the installation over the next few years. The gas usage at church is by far and away the biggest energy cost we have, so it presents the greatest opportunity to make savings.

There are many other things we would like to do in 2021. We still need to get round to refurbishing the 'bug hotel' which doesn't seem have many residents at the moment as it possibly a bit too 'posh' for them. This is something that Kids Church could help with as well as learning about the best environment for our bug friends. We need to follow up on our

recycling visit to Leatherhead Waste Transfer Station. We have highlighted that we use both Fair Trade and 'Eco' products in our kitchen at CGH to encourage others to do so. We have done this by fitting posters to the serving hatch doors and the coffee area so that everybody who uses these facilities can see them. It has been suggested to us that there is a lot of confusion within the congregation as to what 'green initiatives' really work and what are just 'green washing' and so have no real impact, eg does 'carbon offsetting' really work? So we are still proposing to make a presentation to those members of the congregation who would be interested to know what our research shows. Also we are trying to reduce the amount of paper we use in our services by encouraging the greeters to give out only the newssheet unless they are asked for the hymn sheet, etc.

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

Faith and Social Action Committee

Report by Charleen Hollington

In 2020, our involvement with the charities we support took on a new significance. The phrase 'For the rich, Covid is about safety; for the poor, it is about survival' was very much in our thoughts this year.

The committee continued to consist of Charleen Hollington (Chair), Leonard Beighton, David Taylor, Sue Kilpatrick, Geoff Morris and Elaine Bray. However, each charity we support is represented by a 'Champion' who takes the lead in promoting the relevant charity and facilitating communication between the congregation and the charity, and the Champions and the committee all meet and work together. The charities we support, and their champions, are: OM Nepal – Peter Kelly; Christians Against Poverty – Charleen Hollington; The Garden Route Children's Trust (GRCT)– Paul Hurrell. We also support the Cobham Area Foodbank, but sadly this year our Foodbank Champion, Hugh Bryant, moved away from the area to be near his family, and we are currently looking for someone to take on his role.

Consideration of a fifth charity to support was, like so much else, postponed due to the exigencies of church life during the pandemic.

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

The Outward Giving Committee oversaw the donation of church funds to the four projects, and I would like to thank them for their time and involvement.

Yet again, I would like to thank most sincerely all the committee members and the project Champions for being so willing to give of their time and wise advice in helping the St Andrew's congregation to show forth the love of our Lord in the community and in the wider world.

Social & Fellowship Committee

Report by Julie Baird

Unfortunately the Covid Pandemic curtailed all our plans for 2020, but we are optimistic that with the help of the vaccine and everyone's adherence to the social distancing regulations, we may be able to begin getting back to normal later this year.

We hope that we may be allowed to hold a somewhat later than usual Summer BBQ (date to be advised if guidelines allow) and a Ladies Fellowship Evening in the form of a Spanish Night with Paella and Spanish dancing entertainment as soon as allowed.

We did manage to hold a Christmas and two further Spiritual Cinema evenings till sadly these were cancelled from March onwards, but hope to resume our screenings as soon as possible. Beyond these functions it is difficult to plan ahead right now, but we do have ideas and thoughts on how we can all begin to come together again in the not too distant future, especially to celebrate with Peter and Jenny Vickers on his retirement after so many years at St Andrew's.

Thank goodness for ZOOM, at least we have met up over Sunday coffee and had a Quiz and kept in touch virtually although nothing replaces the joy of actually being together.

Keep safe everyone, better times are coming.

Giving Committee

Report by Peter Kelly

The year of 2020 brought extreme challenge to the work of Giving Committee after the lockdown, but the financial results of the church were very positive and the Committee and all the church leadership give thanks to all who so generously continued their faithful support to the work of the church.

In the first quarter of the year before the lockdown, the Giving Committee met and conducted a review of the 2019 financial

accounts and giving. A full year deficit and stagnant growth numbers led to recommendations for major plans for appeals to parish members and church attendees in the area of increased giving commitments. We celebrated the receipt of a substantial legacy which seemed to affirm our emphasis on reinforcing this message to the congregation and we look forward to a completed spire project, which was on track to be fully funded from a special funding appeal project. We sensed that we had a clear agenda in play for us as we looked to 2020 – but then the pandemic hit and the financial picture of the church changed dramatically, in part because of the lack of in-person activities and attendance and in part due to the very generous legacy. The committee therefore, suspended new initiatives as the work of the church moved primarily into the digital.

Watching the giving during the pandemic was a privilege and led to a sense of God's hand at work. True, the loose plate giving from in-church attendees dropped significantly from £17,000 in 2019 to £10,000 in 2020, but this 40% drop was far less than the church attendance drop as we would have expected more than a 70% fall due to church closures. What was a tremendous blessing was the regular giving of our every-month donors which actually went from the 2019 level of £92,000 to 2020 results of £97,000, a year-over-year *increase* of over 5%. This taken in combination with the substantial legacy received early in the year meant that St. Andrew's ended the year financially stronger than the condition it was in when the year began – all this despite the pandemic. Giving online, whilst starting from a very small base, increased 40% as well, so the church seems to be reaping the harvest of generosity which will enable the funding of the ministries we feel God is calling us to deliver now and in the future.

We know now that the work is not done and we know that the present and future situation of our parish are unlikely to be similar to our past and in that vein, we commit ourselves to re-convene the Giving Committee (Mike Branscombe, David Taylor, Michael Elson, Malcolm Graham, Leonard Beighton, Peter Kelly, Shirley Mensa and Freddie Marshal) in the first quarter of 2021, and to re-engage as a team to work with parish leadership to help us build a plan which we can deliver regardless of the presence or absence of social distancing restrictions to achieve our goal of long-term financial health and sustainability.

Outward Giving Committee

Report by Cathy Whitnall

The Outward Giving Team (Cathy Whitnall, Keith & Julie Baird, Michael Elson and Carrie Taylor) has discovered the joy of meeting on Zoom, so normal business has not been impeded much by the pandemic. During the course of 2020 the team made two presentations to the PCC; in July we asked for approval to send an increased amount to the four charities supported by the Social Concerns forum because of the perceived increased need as a result of Covid-91. The PCC approved grants of £2,500 to Christians Against Poverty, Garden Route Children's Trust and Operation Mobilisation, and £3,000 to Oasis (Cobham).

The allocation from PCC for 2020 was £14,815; thus after disbursement to these charities we had £4,315 remaining. We asked for PCC approval to distribute £1,000 to A Rocha and £500 to St Andrew's School and Médecins sans Frontières – a new charity for us, but one that is doing extremely valuable work in wartorn communities such as Yemen. We also allocated £500 to fund food parcels in lieu of the Christmas lunch; normally the church receives support from Waitrose for the Christmas lunch, but of course everything is different this year. Once again we were able to send £815 to Crisis.

In January it was pointed out to the Team that we had omitted to account for the remaining £1,000 of the allocation. This coincided with the request from Oasis for help with their fresh food distribution, so the team were happy to recommend that £500 should be sent to this particular project. The other £500 was sent to the Leatherhead Youth Project, whose work with young people attending Therfield and Howard of Effingham Schools has continued in spite of the lockdown.

The team would like to thank the many donors to church funds from which the Outward Giving amount is drawn.

Pastoral Committee and Prayer Team

Chaired by the Vicar

The Pastoral Committee of the church has not been able to offer its usual ministry since March 2020. The Pastoral Assistants on the committee are, Sue Aitken, Wendy Jane Gray, Judy Brickett, Dave Greenwood, and Carrie Taylor. Lindsay Sainsbury also serves on the committee as a Pastoral Visitor. Peter Vickers, Moni Babatunde and I are the clergy members. The Committee has met on Zoom

to help plan the online "Time to Remember" service broadcast Sunday November 1st.

Following the first national lockdown in March our Prayer team have been meeting online. Once restrictions are lifted and we can safely sit with people to pray, they will resume their ministry of offering to pray with anyone who feels a need to pray for themselves or a loved one in person.

Property Committee

Report by Clive Moorman.

The Property Committee (David Tipping, David Taylor, Keith Baird, Sam Acquaye, Nick Constable and Clive Moorman in the 'chair') only met once in 2020 due to the pandemic. This means that we have not been able to progress as many things as we would have liked.

Items progressed in 2020:-

Flood Defences: We had these fully serviced this year to ensure they remained in good working order as there had been some deterioration in the 5 years since they were fitted. This has given us a further 5 years of warranty.

CGH Maintenance: There was a number of minor repairs needed in and around CGH. These included repairing gutters, fitting new ball valve to disabled loo, getting boiler repaired, hall carpet repaired, new light fitting in flat, new gas safety checks and electrical certificates for both flat and CGH, painting high-viz lines on garden steps, cleaning patio and fitting racking in church shed to hold flood defence panels.

Cupboards in CGH Office: New cupboards were fitted in CGH office to house a number of new policy documents, et al, that are being generated by our Standing Committee.

CGH Hall Lighting: We had a number of lighting failures in the hall and the current LED lights, which were very expensive to replace, are being replaced with cheaper lights as they fail.

Lychgate Letters: Mike will arrange a blessing for this memorial in due course once lockdown is lifted.

Tribute to John Bonny: A crab-apple tree and surrounding plants were planted at the entrance to CGH in tribute to John and funded by his wife Sheila. Many thanks to everybody who ensured that the tree was regularly watered during the summer months.

Garden Tidy-ups: Unfortunately cancelled, however a new shingle layer with matting is

fitted to the bed surrounding the tree planted in memory of John Bonny to prevent the need for weeding.

Church Maintenance: More graves that were in poor condition were rebuilt, the boiler room sump pump was replaced, extensive repairs to the church boilers were required after they were serviced and new electrical condition certificate gained.

Quinquennial Works: The main project was the resingling of the church spire which now looks magnificent. There are more works required to strengthen the structure of the tower and this will be planned in later. These works were entirely funded by donations from local businesses in Cobham and many thanks to David Taylor and others for all their work in making this happen.

Items for 2021:-

Church Spire Repairs: It was identified during the resingling of the spire that the structure needs repairing and this will be planned in, hopefully for 2021

Tomb Repairs: There are still other tombs in the churchyard that have fallen into disrepair. The Committee will review what needs to be done this year.

Church Floor Repairs: Areas of the church floor identified last year have yet to be repaired and these will be looked at over the year.

Refurbishment of CGH: The proposed refurbishment of CGH, including revising the entrance, reconfiguring the toilets, building a new storage room, replacing the fire doors to the garden and repainting the hall has not been progressed this year as the local authority suspended all CIL funding. However we have been informed by Elmbridge that we are in the front of the queue for this year's round of funding and hope to know whether we have been successful by late spring.

Church Notice Boards: Now that the 'legal process' in the appointment of our clergy (Mike et al) is complete we will install new, low maintenance, church notice boards.

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

Safeguarding Committee

Report by Wendy Jane Gray

General thoughts

Safeguarding is a state of mind and good practice that should be at the forefront of all our minds. It is about everyone feeling safe and welcome in God's Family at St Andrew's. It is important we give out a positive and respectful message that we are all willing to listen to one another and be prepared to accept when we get it wrong and do our best to put things right. Also to be pleased when we get things right! As such safeguarding is constantly changing as we become aware of where we can truly listen to each other more fully. It is worth thinking for each and everyone of us ...what tells me that this church takes safeguarding seriously and is a safe place for me? I am sure each of us will have differing thoughts on this, and if there are any ideas on what we are doing right but could do more of or what we are not doing so well, then please, let's all take responsibility and work towards getting things even better in 2021.

The Annual Safeguarding Self Audit was completed for PCC approval on 16th November 2020. To date we expect to complete it again for this year in November 2021. Eventually it is expected that the Annual Safeguarding Self Audit will be replaced by The Parish Dashboard which is being rolled out on a Diocese by Diocese basis. This will be an online forum for updating safeguarding practice. We would be able to see how we are doing in terms of DBS checks, training, information, risk assessment, and update this through the year.

Training

All PCC members are required to undertake Core O training which can be accessed via the National Safeguarding website at the following link: <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>

The new Training Pathway has been updated and is available on the Diocesan website. It is an easy to follow grid explaining what training is required for what church position and the frequency of re training. Please send a copy of any certificates issued for training so that I can keep a record. This should be a lot easier for everyone to keep track of once the Parish Dashboard is implemented. The Training Pathway is shown in the two tables on page 28.

Changes to the Guildford Diocesan Safeguarding Team:

Fran Pyatt has joined at the Safeguarding Team as Diocesan Safeguarding Training. Jackie Broadfoot is the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor. Jackie is the first point of contact at the Diocese Monday to Thursday during office hours: Jackie.Broadfoot@cofeguildford.org.uk 07918 559387.

Safeguarding posters for church

As of December 2020 there are a number of safeguarding posters with relevant links to key support and statutory agencies now available on the website. They can be printed off for notice boards and use on the website. It will be something to bring to the PCC's attention this year for their thoughts and decisions.

Standardised email addresses for Parish named roles

It was suggested in December 2020 that it is best practice for named roles to have a standardised email address. We at St Andrew's are ahead of the curve here and have been for some time. Thanks to all concerned and in particular Dave Greenwood for work on the standardised addresses.

PCC:DBS checks

PCC members are eligible for an enhanced (without barred list) DBS check for adult and child workforce. This is not mandatory but is recommended by the Charities Commission Guidance 2019 for all charity trustees where the charity sponsors or approves activities involving children or vulnerable adults. There is a Confidential Declaration Form which should be completed before a DBS check is undertaken or renewed. Information is available on the website. If anyone requires a DBS check, please contact me at safeguarding@standrewscobham.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Officers Leatherhead Deanery

With PCC approval I have taken on the role of Deanery Safeguarding Representative (DSR) for Leatherhead Deanery. The DSR's role is to encourage and support Leatherhead PSOs and in particular any new to the role who

would value some support during those first few months. It is also an opportunity to develop a network of PSOs in the deanery to share tips and best practice and identify themes including training needs so we as a safeguarding team can provide focused training advice and support across the deanery. The DSR can also link in with the Area Dean, Roy Woodham, to look at safeguarding arrangements across the deanery. So far there has been a group training session for the role and I have had contact with most of the PSOs in the Leatherhead Deanery.

Diocesan Safeguarding Manager

This is Jane Huttly's updated job title. She remains at the forefront of a team ready to respond to any questions that may arise from any of these points. Anyone with any concerns or thoughts should not hesitate to get in touch with her or her team tel: 01483 790321

Welcome Committee

Report by David Greenwood, Chair

The Welcome Committee was set up in 2019, comprising of David Greenwood (Chair), Elaine Bray, Kim Constable, Revd Moni Babatunde and Revd Mike Branscombe.

The overall remit is "To ensure we welcome all who come to St Andrew's Church and Church Gate House on Jesus' behalf".

Due to the lockdown, we did not need to have a team of welcomers for in-church events in 2020. Work on role descriptions for volunteers in various church activities has also been put on hold for the time being. Our main achievement for the year was to complete the first versions of a General Risk Assessment for Church-run events in Church Gate House. This will be available in the Parish Office (or on request).

Whatever you are involved in in church or CGH, please think "visitor", think how can we ensure visitors feel welcome here, how can they sense the love of God amongst us.

CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

Bellringers

Report by Peter Bound, Tower Captain

Sadly, we were not in a position to ring in the year 2020 from 2019, and owing to the world pandemic we were not able to ring in 2021 from 2020 either.

As other organisations in the church, we operated weekly for services, and continued

our fortnightly practice sessions until March 23rd.

From March 24th ringing ceased nationally, following Government guidelines and notices from the various Bell Ringing Associations.

Maintenance work has been minimal this year and unfortunately the church clock was out of commission for several months.

We are pleased to report the clock survived all the steeple work's exposure. The clock was serviced in December and the two clock faces now tell the same time!

Minor manual adjustments by the steeple keeper are a regular requirement to maintain the minute hand.

Whilst the bells have remained quiet, regular contact has continued with the ringers.

During the post lockdown and tier restriction weeks, we did manage to ring for a wedding in October, albeit ringing every other bell to maintain social distancing rules.

Whilst we facilitated a ring for the wedding and two practice sessions, the experience of ringing whilst wearing PPE was not enjoyed by most members and brings with it further risks to the safety of ringing.

For Remembrance Day, I had the privilege of tolling the eleventh-hour bell. Mike and I remained many metres apart in the church, whilst the Remembrance Day service was conducted virtually.

We hope it won't be too long before we can ring the full peal of bells again. Maybe this year we will have the opportunity of engaging a team to ring in 2022. In the meantime, we confirm our band remain safe and when allowed, will be ringing the bells again in the not too distant future.

Church Cleaning

Report by David Tipping

The weekly cleaning, like other activities in the Church has been in lockdown. I recall some years ago popping into the church one Thursday morning, and on looking up spied a cobweb on one of the windows, and in my usual friendly way asked if it had been noted? At that time Mabs Ostley was in charge . . . and she showed me the long pole with the feather duster on the end. That was my introduction to the small Cleaning Team, and since that comment I have been pushing the vacuum cleaner around on Thursday mornings and must have covered a few miles!

Since March the very small cleaning team has not been required, although I believe Gill and Elaine have done some, and I popped in one Thursday . . . so, sad to say there has been little activity on the cleaning front and I wonder if that Cobweb has reappeared!

Looking to the future let's hope it won't be too long before once again our Church will need a weekly clean, but . . . and it's a big but, **we need some new volunteers!** We meet on a

Thursday morning at 10am for a few hours, or less if we have more helpers. As the saying goes - *many hands make light work!* If no help is forthcoming, sadly the Church may have to look at employing Contract Cleaners - at a cost.

Church Flowers

Report by Mabs Ostley

During the year, pre lockdown, post lockdowns and the tier restrictions, the church did experience the fragrance of flowers a few times.

Flowers were regularly maintained in the church until the end of March when lockdown number one commenced.

Flowers returned in the church for one wedding during lockdown, another wedding at the beginning of October followed by Revd Dr Moni Babatunde's first service as an Ordained Priest.

The team of flower arrangers are Sheila Bonny, Geraldine Thomas, Amanda Keogh, Jill Newman, Gill Harris, Jill Queen, Sally Donn and Barbara Lemmer.

The year has had many challenges for the church, but Christmas 2020 celebrated the four weeks of advent with the Advent Ring on display, thanks to Sheila for setting it up and Mike doing the weekly candles.

Many thanks to Geraldine for arranging the October wedding flowers and for the doing a flower arrangement on behalf of the team for Moni's first service the same weekend.. Thanks to Amanda for planning to do the Remembrance Day flowers that were regrettably cancelled and thanks to retired members Eileen Edwards and Dorothy Mitchell.

Heritage Day

Report by Leonard Beighton

Heritage Day could not alas take place because of Covid. There was an attempt to have a car show – including the Vicar's motor cycle – on the Leg of Mutton Field, but this too had to be cancelled at the very last minute.

Let us hope that we shall have the opportunity in 2021 to show the community what St Andrew's has to offer.

Friday lunch club

Report by Jenny Masters

Because of the pandemic we were only able to provide meals in January and February of this year and I am happy to say that they were both well supported as usual with 30 people attending. I would like to take this opportunity

of thanking Jenny Vickers, who volunteered to help after the retirement of Gill Sharp, and Judy Brickett for helping to set up the tables each month and all those who kindly lend a hand in the clearing away.

I would also like to mention that this year will be 20th anniversary of when Peter Vickers started the event in June 2000. I pray and hope that now we have the vaccine being administered we will be able to resume the lunches later in the year.

Mothers' Union

Report by Jenny Vickers

The committee had planned a very interesting programme for 2020 but we were only able to have two meetings before lockdown. In January we held our AGM after which we saw sites of the Holy Land from the DVD "This Land of God". In February we welcomed Claire Peters from Downs Solicitors in Cobham who gave a most informative and useful talk on "Power of Attorney". We attended our monthly Corporate Communion service on 28th February, after which we had our usual coffee and time of fellowship.

Despite the fact that we could not meet for our meetings we have kept in touch by 'phone. Some of our members, when permitted, met up for walks and, of course, when services took place in Church we were able to greet each other and chat afterwards at a safe distance.

We were sorry to hear of the death of Joyce Watkins who had been a loyal member of our branch and had served on the committee. She always saw the bright side of life and had a marvellous sense of humour – we will miss her. Sadly, Olive Howlett died in February. Olive always enjoyed coming to our Christmas lunches although she was unable to attend our meetings for the past few years.

Music

Report by David Fuge Music Ministry leader

At the beginning of the year, both our Adult and SAY Choirs and our band contributed to some wonderful worship at our services and after the February Family Worship service, when both choirs combined to sing *Love shine a light*, a few people got in touch to ask if they could join us, which was a positive and encouraging sign.

At the 10am Parish Communion services, the Adult Choir sang anthems more regularly. These were chosen to reflect the readings of the day and varied in style, from Elizabethan to 20th century.

Unfortunately, our Choirs have been unable to meet since March 2020 due to the pandemic so, with the church closed, all the planned music for Mothering Sunday and Good Friday couldn't take place. However, most of the Adult Choir, including Kevin and Lynne Ayton who were marooned in New Zealand, did meet on Zoom on the evening of Good Friday and sang along with mics muted to a past recording of themselves singing *God so loved the world*.

Throughout the period of the first lockdown, I was able to use our considerable archive of past service recordings to post a daily song or hymn on the church's FaceBook page. I know that many people found this a great encouragement and, along with the online Morning Prayer services, it proved to be a way of keeping St. Andrew's ministering to people every day. Our worship has been enjoyed by people across the world and the church now has all the necessary copyright licences to enable us to serve God in this way.

The recorded archive has also provided all the music for our online services. I believe that hearing recordings made in our church, with the people and musicians of St. Andrew's combining in worship, has been preferable to importing music from elsewhere. Even though sat at home, it has really made people feel as though they are part of, and contributing to, the worship.

In August, the church was reopened with limited attendance and, as congregational singing was still prohibited, we continued with archive recordings for our musical worship. We did have live piano or organ music at the beginning and end of services and during the distribution of communion.

Our September Family Worship was held in the garden of Church Gate House and, as it was outside, we were able to have live music provided by the Music Group. All the band's equipment and the drum kit were carried over from the church, and it was really good to be able to play as a group again and to join in live worship together. During the service, Grace Branscombe sang a moving rendition of *Wonderful world*.

Later in September, the Adult Choir did plan to have a socially distanced get together to record anthems for Harvest Festival and Remembrance Sunday but the Covid alert level increased to 4 just before we were due to meet, so it was decided that it would be wise to cancel the recording and use recordings from the archive.

Our service of Nine Lessons and Carols had pre-recorded and live elements and was broadcast on YouTube. Again, the recordings of previous Christmas services were invaluable and also provided the music for a CD of Christmas music which was included in the "Bags of hope" that St. Andrew's distributed over the festive season.

As I mentioned briefly in last year's report, 2020 started brightly with SAY Choir, run by Louise Fuge with help from Alison Greenwood, holding an open rehearsal in front of prospective donors to the Spire Appeal. This seemed to be warmly received with quite a few staying to the very end. It set me thinking about how our music could connect more with the community and our own church members who don't consider themselves "musicians".

As a start, when life regains some sense of normality, I would like to make the first half hour of our regular Friday Adult Choir Practice (8pm – 8.30pm) open to anyone who would like to come and sing through the music for the following Sunday and to learn any new songs/hymns that might be part of our upcoming worship.

Further ahead, it would be good to have a wider community event, such as we have held in the past, involving the school and youth organisations and really bring St Andrew's and its music to the people of Cobham.

The Music Ministry at St Andrew's is a shared ministry and I would like to thank everyone who has contributed including Cathy Whitnall who helped direct the Adult Choir and planned our Good Friday offering before everything shut down. Thanks also to Kevin Ayton for his continued support, and to Jacob Costard who

has played the organ and/or piano on a number of occasions this year and who is maturing into an outstanding and sensitive musician.

Finally, I would like to thank my wife, Louise, for all her support during this difficult year, and for her enthusiasm in the running of the very lively SAY Choir.

Church Gate House Welcome Area

Report by Elaine Bray

In normal times the Welcome Area in Church Gate House is run by team of wonderful welcomers, every weekday morning. Before March visitors to Church Gate House were greeted with a warm smile and an offer of a free delicious coffee. Unfortunately, since March, the few people that have entered Church Gate House have been met with a mask, hand sanitiser and instructions to socially distance! We look forward to Church Gate House being open and busy again and the wonderful welcome team being back in position offering a smile and coffee.

Church Watching

Report by Elaine Bray

A team of dedicated and wonderful volunteers normally help to keep the Church open for visitors. Since March this hasn't been possible.

When restrictions were slightly lighter in the Summer were able to open the Church for private prayer for an hour on a Sunday in the Memorial Chapel. We look forward to being able to welcome people to visit the Church building again.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Child safeguarding

Report by Wendy Jane Gray, Parish Safeguarding Officer

This year has been unique in that most of the time work with children and youth has been online with zoom. In terms of safeguarding, all sessions have more than one adult present. There is an awareness of best practice with online work. This continues to evolve as we all get to grips with a new way of working in the Pandemic.

Baby Talk

Report by Elaine Bray

Baby Talk is our popular 'stay and play' group on a Wednesday mornings in Church Gate House. We were only able to operate until

March in 2020 and have missed our very youngest friends since then.

Kids Church (KC)

Report by Elaine Bray

Pearl led the KC Team until March when the Time for God organisation had to close the programme she was working with and she left us. Since March, the KC leadership team, Carrie, Alison, Lyn and Elaine have moved KC online. During the first lockdown we ran KC Zoom sessions at 10am on Sunday mornings. At Easter we delivered Easter Craft bags to our KC Families. During the Zoom sessions we played games, heard a bible story, did a craft, prayed together and were often delighted with a trick from William. The Zoom sessions

allowed us to engage with the children. Activity and Colouring Sheets are also loaded on the St Andrew's website each week for families to download. Members of KC are encouraged to send photographs for the KC page on the website. Numbers joining the calls gradually declined during the first lockdown, so we surveyed the KC Families, in the summer, to ask them how they would like us to deliver KC. Many of our children are spending large parts of the day online for school so many families felt doing KC on screen on Sunday was too much. When restrictions were slightly lifted we managed to run, one socially distanced, KC in the hall, using family mats and family boxes of resources. As we moved into Tiers 2 & 3 we returned to online Zoom sessions.

In November we moved to KC TakeAway which allows families to download and view the video at a point that is convenient to their family. We give thanks for William who is creating the KC TakeAway Videos as his Duke of Edinburgh scheme 'service' with KC.

We sent Christmas Craft bags out to our KC families and were delighted with the pictures of the activities on social media.

We are looking forward to meeting as KC in person again and praying that it won't be too long!

Messy Church

Report by Elaine Bray

Messy Church was only able to meet in person a couple of times at the start of 2020. As we went into the first lockdown we created Easter Craft bags for our Messy Church friends, which the families enjoyed. This long pause in Messy Church gives us an opportunity to seek God's plans for it in Cobham, as several members of the leadership team have stepped down.

DiscipleShip

Report by Elaine Bray

Before March DiscipleShip met in the flat. Early in 2020 Pearl led the young people in a 'listening to God' course and we enjoyed a very competitive Shrove Tuesday making, tossing and eating pancakes!

DiscipleShip moved to Zoom in March and is now led by Carrie and Elaine. Typically, a session includes a delicious snack or drink, lots of fellowship, some bible study, lots of prayers, games and some fantastic quizzes, often set by youth. We try to combine faith and fun in our sessions. During the Summer we were able to meet in person in the garden, in a socially distanced way – families on benches. We were able to invite some speakers to come and talk to use about topics close to DiscipleShip's heart so we could attempt to understand these topics from a Christian perspective.

Leonard kindly came and talked to the group about Climate Change and our Christian responsibilities. Moni shared a very personal talk about Black Lives Matters. Many of DiscipleShip joined the march through Cobham organised by the students from ACS. Following on from Leonard's talk in September DiscipleShip led a wonderful Creation Tide Service in the garden. We were all socially distanced in the garden and were blessed with the weather, many of the congregation were moved to action by the talks. Another thing that arose out of our discussions about Climate Change was to assume responsibility for a garden plot in the Community Gardens. For the first few Saturday mornings we cleared the plot of weeds and did a little harvesting of crops that had been planted earlier.

DiscipleShip spent one enjoyable Saturday morning with Peter Kelly in his bountiful allotment to understand harvesting seeds for next years crops. He kindly helped us to harvest and store some seeds we can use next year and talked about special plants he had grown from seeds from around the world. Claudia, who is doing this as her Duke of Edinburgh service has documented and saved the seeds. During the Autumn we planned onions, garlic and rhubarb, we tucked everything in and prayed over them as left the plot for the Winter. Carrie has taken her daily walks past the plot and have seen signs of life. As we have moved into lockdown again, DiscipleShip has returned to Zoom. At the start of 2021 we have been working on a service for the last Sunday in January.

FAITH AND SOCIAL ACTION PROJECTS

Christians Against Poverty

Report by Charleen Hollington

CAP is an organization that provides a lifeline to people who are drowning in debt and

experiencing the anxiety and even despair that are so often the result of debt. CAP assists people to come to an arrangement with their creditors, either through a repayment plan or through insolvency proceedings. Clients who

are able to repay their debt enter into a stringent budget plan overseen by CAP, with a portion of the debt being repaid each month. The process is led by a professional debt manager employed by CAP, but in addition to this, volunteers act as befrienders to provide much-needed support and (if requested) prayer for families on the long haul to solvency.

Bookham Baptist Church is the 'partner church' for CAP in Mole Valley. St Andrew's is one of several churches who support Bookham Baptist through annual financial contributions and through representation on the CAP Mole Valley Steering Committee (Charleen Hollington is the representative for St Andrew's). In addition to this, we have two befrienders available (Charleen and Elaine Bray), and we also have two people who have committed to praying regularly for CAP clients.

In 2020 CAP Mole Valley was very fortunate in the appointment of Jenny Coles to the position of Mole Valley Debt Centre Manager. Jenny has been extremely active in developing CAP's network of referral agencies and in finding ways to support CAP clients in our area (for example, through Easter and Christmas hampers).

Interestingly, despite the pandemic, 2020 saw a reduction in the number of clients coming forward for assistance. This appears to be because the full economic effect of the pandemic has been held off by government support and because landlords have not moved to evict tenants who are in arrears. However, we expect that as the economic effects of the pandemic take hold, and there are redundancies and retrenchments, we will see a rise in the number of people coming forward for help.

This year we were very happy to see one of the clients supported by St Andrew's going debt free. The other family whom we have supported continues to repay their debt and, all things being equal, stand to emerge debt free in early 2021, after more than three years of diligent budgeting and repayment. We thank God for these successes.

Cobham Area Foodbank

Report by Christina van Roest, Trustee and General Manager

A Challenging Year

The year 2020 was quite remarkable. Already in March new procedures had to be developed as it became clear that we had to deal with a

serious new situation, a Pandemic of a very infectious disease.

The model of partly remaining open for clients to visit our distribution centre and in combination with home deliveries was applied and is still currently working brilliantly.

We had to adapt our number of volunteers involved, the number of clients allowed in the centre at one time and applying all the guidelines and restrictions according to the government announcements and the Trussell Trust directives.

We are blessed with a very generous community who has donated food, money, masks, gloves and many special gifts for the Christmas season.

Also local companies have supported us with collections at the workplace, with either money or food donations; schools and churches had innovative ideas how to encourage supporters of the foodbank to give generously. They all stepped up to the mark!

Since opening of the foodbank in December 2013 we have distributed more than 150 tonnes of food; in the year 2020 we collected 43581kg of food, feeding 4191 people (2428 adults and 1763 children)

Needless to say, with the Corona virus pandemic likely to continue for some time, we expect the number of clients in need, both financially and mentally, to increase considerably.

The amplified situation of domestic abuse, breakdown in relationships, desperate financial situations leading to severe debts, unpaid bills of utilities and rent, mental health issues in adults and children are alerting us to help where we can.

We try to help not just by giving food but also by contacting clients to signpost them to various services that complement our food services for the clients' wellbeing during this difficult time.

Our catchment area is: Cobham, Oxshott, Stoke D'Abernon, Downside, East & West Horsley and Effingham.

The Cobham Area Foodbank is prepared and ready to continue giving the service all the residents in our catchment area deserve, thanks to a very committed and dedicated team of excellent volunteers.

Garden Route Children's Trust

Report by Paul Hurrell

The Garden Route Children's Trust (GRCT) is a UK registered Christian charity, founded in 2006, that provides funding to feed nursery school and pre-primary school children from under-privileged communities in South Africa with a nutritious breakfast of e'Pap each morning. e'Pap is a pre-cooked porridge, blended from maize and soya, that contains a multitude of beneficial vitamins, minerals and trace elements to help the children stay healthy and learn more effectively. The daily breakfast has resulted in improved concentration, higher levels of energy, fewer absences from school, and ultimately better quality school work. It costs about £20 to feed one child a breakfast of e'Pap every school day for a year.

Although the feeding project has its origins in the Garden Route (George, Knynsa and Plettenberg Bay), it has been expanded over the years. At the start of 2020 the GRCT was active in Port Elizabeth, Ermelo, Vryburg, Hout Bay and Kleinmond with approximately 7000 children receiving a daily breakfast at school.

The Coronavirus pandemic reached South Africa in early 2020 and the country went into strict lockdown from 27th March for several months. All primary and nursery schools closed and GRCT's beneficiaries had to develop new and innovative methods to continue distributing e'Pap to the most vulnerable in the poorest communities.

The closure of businesses also resulted in high unemployment leaving thousands of families without income and the ability to buy food. In answer to regular prayer, many new temporary volunteers came forward and helped set up delivery points and emergency kitchens in the townships. Consequently the demand for e'Pap increased significantly.

Following a start stop approach to re-opening schools as the country went in and out of lockdown, they finally began to return to a normal schedule from early October. The new mutated strain of Covid created a second wave in late November that accelerated through December causing the South African government to reintroduce tough measures. Schools stayed open with strict rules on taking temperatures each morning, wearing masks, washing hands and using sanitizers.

Thanks to the support of all its donors, the GRCT was able to provide funding for all beneficiaries and meet the extra demand despite not being able to carry out any

fundraising activities in 2020. In addition the charity successfully brought two new feeding projects on board in Laingsburg and Wellington, both in the W Cape.

St Andrew's Church Cobham gave a single donation of £2,000, as well as £160 from an online Zoom "pub quiz", both of which were gratefully received by the GRCT Trustees.

The GRCT is blessed with a close-knit group of Trustees who have strong Christian values and are united by prayer and passion for the success of the charity. While the coming year will continue to be a challenging one in the history of the charity, it also promises to be productive and rewarding.

Operation Mobilisation Nepal Partnership

Report by Peter Kelly

The year of 2020 brought growth, blessing, success, and healing to the teams serving southeast Asia at our partner Operation Mobilisation, both in its global mission and in the country of Nepal, where our partnership is based.

The countrywide team emerged from a season of grief and healing after the tragedies of 2019 (when two of our volunteers died after getting lost) aided in large part by the support given by parts of the OM Global family and the prayers of worldwide partners like St Andrew's. The local team shared that the experience brought them closer to one another and deepened their faith, as well as their resolve to continue to serve the people of Nepal by ministering in the love of Jesus. The OM team now have a strong sense of the bigger picture of the gospel and this has helped them deal with COVID as well as invigorate the prayer lives of OM personnel both locally and on a world-wide level.

The pandemic brought some significant challenges which were weathered well by the local teams, and in some cases even brought new opportunity for ministry. Early in the pandemic, there was no travel at all, and a general mood of fear pervaded the country. There are few, if any, outsiders entering the country and the shutdown of tourism has devastated some rural parts of the country.

Travel restrictions meant less in-person ministry, but the teams have responded with greater outreach through mobile phone contacts, which has proved very successful. The distribution of Micro-SD cards has been very timely as people are turning to the media and hearing uplifting music and gospel stories

that have stimulated many to learn more about God. The inspiring story of a young woman putting her faith in Jesus and the resulting transcendent experience of her wider family is shared on the OM website at <https://www.uk.om.org/Blog/she-prayed-and-god-moved-mountains>

Becky was home on furlough in the latter half of 2020 and we welcomed her at our Sunday service coffee time on 6 December and her stirring narrative about the challenges and blessings were moving to all who were able to hear her talk. She did share that OM Nepal is changing its name to OM Himalayas to reflect the wider outreach that the team has in other parts of southeast Asia, such as Bhutan. We note that this will not impact our support relationship or the focus of activities within the country of Nepal.

We ended the year by affirming our commitment to OM Nepal and by deferring any planning of a visit until at least 2021 – and likely beyond, as the state of the country's recovery from the pandemic is very slow.

The local leadership and ministry partners have expressed thanks for the support of St Andrew's and ask for prayer from us for the following:

- In thanksgiving for the healing among the OM team;
- For safety and provision that OM leaders will be able to travel across regions soon;
- In gratitude for the blessing and success of the mobile technology in this ministry.

Social Concerns Forum

Chaired by David Taylor

Because of the lockdown, the Social Concerns Forum did not meet during the year.

Transforming Lives for Good

Report by Carrie Taylor

TLG is a Christian charity that helps churches to bring hope and a future for struggling children. They bring together churches, schools and families to support and walk alongside vulnerable youngsters.

Mike introduced TLG to the church in 2019. A team of 6 was trained in September 2019 and we first met our pupils in December. We also met with the teachers and the parents to gain a rounded view of the child and to identify areas of concern which we could work on.

During January and February each of us met with our pupil weekly, spending an hour engaging in activities (ranging from cooking to making and testing paper aeroplanes),

alongside using the TLG coaching techniques to engage with the children and explore their difficulties.

In February James Entwistle from TLG came and spoke in church detailing the vision and work of TLG.

In March, coaching ceased due to the lockdown, but we were encouraged to keep in contact with our families. This did prove difficult, however, in some cases.

At Easter, TLG offered a £200 start up for churches to provide 'Boxes of Hope' for those families facing need due to the corona virus situation. We delivered boxes of provisions, Easter goodies and children's activities to 3 of our families in receipt of free school meals, which were very gratefully received.

Two of the coaches met face to face with their families during the summer holidays and friendships blossomed and are ongoing.

Feedback from the school was extremely positive and they were keen to roll out the programme again in the autumn term. However, for various reasons, three of the coaches felt they were unable to continue in their roles and a fourth was unsure about the online work. Thus in September only two coaches took on new pupils - and prepared to start coaching online with resources provided by TLG. The school worked hard to help us contact parents, speak online with teachers and meet our pupils virtually for the first time - just before schools closed and pupils stayed home.

We and the school are now in the process of exploring how to continue contact with the families and pupils virtually, which is the TLG vision in these times and at the moment two pupils will be reached in this way. TLG has worked tirelessly to support and encourage coaches, drawing up careful safeguarding plans and developing resources. We continue to be patient and pray that more pupils can be coached once the children return to school.

Meanwhile, another volunteer has been trained online and will be ready to join the team soon.

Each coach is encouraged to have a prayer partner. The support of these and the weekly support and prayers of the prayer team and the prayers and encouragement of others within the church has underpinned this initiative. We are looking to God to lead us forward as we seek to get alongside pupils and families struggling in these difficult times, and we commit every step to Him.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Bible Society

Report by Jenny Vickers

Unfortunately, we were not able to hold our Quiz & Supper evening to raise money for the Bible Society. We will have to wait and see what happens in 2021. Perhaps this particular event has had its day?

Bags of Hope Project

Report by Elaine Bray

The Bags of Hope project is a wonderful example of St Andrew's sharing our faith and God's love within Cobham during the difficult times of 2020. The project took place just before Christmas and arose out of not being able to run our Christmas Day Lunch due to Covid. Working with other agencies in Cobham, Oasis and Cobham Food Bank, we attempted to bless people who were living on their own or who had been isolated during the pandemic with a Bag of Hope. We collated bags containing things to eat, read, do, listen to and just enjoy. We hand delivered 70 + bags to people's doorsteps together with an invitation to receive Christmas Lunch from the St Andrew's team. We were delighted and surprised to receive numerous cards and messages thanking St Andrew's for the Bags of Hope. We thank our Lord and Saviour for blessing the idea, funding and execution of this project.

We are currently preparing to deliver a similar project at Easter, in place of our popular Easter High Tea when we will deliver Bags of Easter Joy. A number of organisations in Cobham will be involved in delivering this project.

Christmas Lunch on the Move

Report by Elaine Bray

Due to Covid 19 we were not able to host our traditional Christmas Day Lunch for those who are on their own at Christmas. We therefore decided to adopt a 'meals on wheels' type project and deliver Christmas Lunch to those people, on their own and without alternative arrangements. Whilst we were delivering Bags of Hope, we invited people to sign up to Christmas Lunch on the Move, 17 people asked us to deliver lunch. Waitrose kindly sponsored the project with gifts of food. Teams of people, in a socially distanced way, cooked the lunch and delivered it in take away containers to various homes. Many people were delighted to have been remembered and loved on Christmas Day. We pray that our

normal Christmas Day lunch can be resumed in 2021.

Churches Together in Cobham, Oxshott and Stoke D'Abernon

Report by Geoff Morris

At the start of the lockdown 1, the Churches in Cobham worked together very well to support the community. However Churches Together has continued not to meet, either physically or virtually, for several years, but some of its joint activities have carried on. We are pleased that Messy Church was able to meet until Easter (see page 22) and the Foodbank has continued to provide its vital service throughout the lockdown (see page 23). Early in the year the clergy arranged an ecumenical service, but it was not possible to organise Lent Groups, nor have we had an ecumenical Alpha course for many years.

Elmbridge Multifaith Forum

By Geoff Morris

On 21st January, 2020, we had a well attended but disturbing meeting, when Suzette Jones spoke to us about "Modern Day Slavery". We then planned to have a guided tour of the Peace Garden and Muslim Graves at Brookwood, but the COVID Curtain came down and we entered the world of Zoom for Management Committee meetings and, on 21st September, the Annual General Meeting. On Tuesday 10th November, during Interfaith Week, we held a Zoom meeting on the subject of 'Religions during Covid 19 - Practical and Spiritual' with speakers from Hindu, Buddhist, Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths. This meeting was recorded and is available on YouTube.

On Tuesday, 2nd February, 2021 we held our first meeting of the New Year on the subject of 'My Buddhism – A Guide to differences amongst Chinese, Thai, Tibetan and Zen Buddhist Practices'. This was our first use of Zoom to have speakers and participants from different parts of the world in the same meeting, and it succeeded brilliantly, with excellent Photos and other visual aids.

Ladies Fellowship Suppers

Report by Kim Constable

We managed two Fellowship Suppers before lockdown. I believe they were a great success with approximately 45 attendees. The first evening was just a 'get to know you' night with supper. The second was an evening of fun, games and supper. The committee of Moni,

Liz Bradley, Elaine Bray, Lyn Turner-Saunders and myself cook the main course and the amazing desserts are mostly baked by volunteers. We are really looking forward to get going again and have lots of ideas for future evenings.

Spiritual Cinema

Facilitated by the Vicar

In 2020 we watched these films.

January – The Lion King

February – Downton Abbey

March – Fisherman's Friends

We did not meet between April and December due to Covid restrictions.

We look forward to returning at some point in 2021, when after each film we will enjoy

delicious refreshments provided by Julie Baird. I am very grateful to Julie for all the hospitality she so generously showed until we stopped meeting. Each evening closes with spiritual questions about the movie and some thoughts from the Vicar.

Men's Curry Evenings

Report by Leonard Beighton

Unfortunately it was not possible to hold any meetings this year. But as a regular attender, I look forward to whatever the new organiser, Nick Constable, is able to arrange for us when we are able to get back into Church Gate House.

FINANCE REPORT

Because the church is a registered charity, we are bound under current legislation to submit a fully detailed Annual Financial Report to the Charity Commission. The Diocese also receives a copy. To economise on printing, this Financial Report has therefore been published as a separate document within its own covers, rather than including it as an additional (and fairly substantial) section to this Review. In due course the report will be published on the St Andrew's Website. Some "hard" copies will also be available at the APCM.

CHARTS

Diocese of Guildford Training Pathways for Safeguarding

(See also report on page 17).

✓ = Required Training

Job Role	C0 Basic Awareness	C1 Foundation	C2 Leadership	Safer Recruitment	*Responding to Domestic Abuse	DBS Validation
PCC members where PCCs sponsor/approve children/vulnerable adult activities	✓	X	X	X (unless involved in recruitment)	X	X
Churchwarden (where Parish in vacancy or involved in recruitment)	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X
Church Operations Manager	✓	✓	X	✓	X	X
Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) PCC Safeguarding Lead	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Employed Youth and Children's and Families Ministers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Activity Leaders involving children, young people and/or adults (incl. Home Group leaders)	✓	✓	X	X (unless involved in recruitment)	X	X
Licensed Lay worker	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X
DBS Validator	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓
Refreshed every 3 years by completing the highest previous level of core training in the diocese.				Refreshed every 3 years *Available from July 2021		

✓ = Required Training

Job Role	E- Learning Core		Virtual Core	Virtual Specialist		
	C0 Basic Awareness	C1 Foundation	C2 Leadership	Safer Recruitment	*Responding to Domestic Abuse	DBS Validation
Licensed Clergy	✓	✓	✓	✓ (incumbents only)	✓	X
Initial Ministry Education Years 1 - 3	✓	✓	✓ (IME 2)	X	✓ (IME 3)	X
Initial Ministry Education Years 4-7	N/A	N/A	✓ (IME 4)	✓ (IME 6)	✓ (IME 5)	X
Clergy with PtO (in active ministry) LLM with PtO	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X
Authorised Pastoral/ Assistant Authorised Occasional Preacher	✓	✓	✓	X (unless involved in recruiting church officers)	✓	X
LLM/LLM with PtO	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X
Spiritual Director	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X
Refreshed every 3 years by completing the highest previous level of core training in the diocese.				Refreshed every 3 years *Available from July 2021		