



ST ANDREW'S
CHURCH • COBHAM

2021

ANNUAL REVIEW

March 2022

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Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| VISION STATEMENT | 5 |
| THE CHURCH AND ITS MINISTRY | 5 |
| Another Very Unusual Year | 5 |
| Lent in 2021 | 5 |
| Ministry Continues and Expands | 5 |
| Building for Future Ministry | 6 |
| Ministry and Engaging with the Community | 7 |
| Small Groups | 7 |
| Moving Forward | 8 |
| Wider Doors – Technology, Branding & Communication | 8 |
| Assets and Fabric | 8 |
| Sacristan | 9 |
| Garden of Remembrance | 9 |
| ADMINISTRATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | 9 |
| Parish Office | 9 |
| Church Website | 9 |
| St Andrew's Parish Magazine 'Family' | 10 |
| Other communications | 10 |
| Archivist | 10 |
| Electoral Roll | 10 |
| PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL | 11 |
| Membership | 11 |
| The Work of the Council in 2021 | 11 |
| Deanery Synod | 12 |
| PCC COMMITTEES | 12 |
| Standing Committee | 12 |
| Budget Committee | 12 |
| Church Gate House | 13 |
| Eco Committee | 13 |
| Faith and Social Action Committee | 15 |
| Fellowship & Social Committee | 15 |
| Giving Committee | 16 |
| Outward Giving Team | 16 |
| Pastoral Committee and Prayer Team | 16 |
| Property Committee | 16 |
| Safeguarding | 18 |
| The roll out of The Safeguarding dashboard | 18 |
| Welcome Committee | 18 |
| CHURCH ORGANISATIONS | 18 |
| Bellringers | 18 |

| | |
|--|----|
| Church Cleaning | 18 |
| Church Flowers | 19 |
| Friday lunch club | 19 |
| Mothers' Union | 19 |
| Music | 19 |
| Church Watching | 20 |
| Church Gate House Welcome Area | 20 |
| CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE | 21 |
| Child safeguarding | 21 |
| TLG and Safeguarding | 21 |
| Children & Families' Ministry, Baby Talk, Kid's Church, and Discipleship | 21 |
| St Andrew's School | 22 |
| FAITH AND SOCIAL ACTION PROJECTS | 22 |
| Christians Against Poverty | 22 |
| Cobham Area Foodbank | 23 |
| Garden Route Children's Trust | 23 |
| Operation Mobilisation/Nepal and Himalayas | 24 |
| Social Concerns Forum | 25 |
| Transforming Lives for Good | 25 |
| OTHER ACTIVITIES | 25 |
| Easter Bags of Joy | 25 |
| Christmas Lunch | 25 |
| Churches Together in Cobham, Oxshott and Stoke d'Abernon | 25 |
| Elmbridge Multifaith Forum | 26 |
| Ladies Fellowship Suppers | 26 |
| Heritage Day | 26 |
| Spiritual Cinema | 27 |
| Men's Supper Night | 27 |
| FINANCE REPORT | 27 |

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

Another Very Unusual Year

Report by the Vicar, Revd Dr Mike Branscombe

As January 2021 began, we found ourselves with worship in church suspended as the Delta Covid variant was spreading quickly across the country and the risks we faced were far from clear. Worship was offered through our YouTube Channel and most church meetings took place using Zoom. Not the start to the year I was hoping for, but our mission and ministry would continue through the year.

A significant upgrade to the church sound system was made in February, this upgrade gave us more flexibility to enhance the sound in church and for our YouTube broadcasts. David Fuge spent many hours programming the new digital system and he continued to refine the system as the year went on. I am very grateful to David for all his technical expertise and help.

Lent in 2021

As we entered the church season of Lent on Ash Wednesday we were unable to hold a service in church, so it was decided to offer the imposition of ashes at the lych-gate for any who wanted to come and receive. Over 3 hours, on a very cold day, many people stopped to receive ashes or ask what we were doing out at the gate wearing our robes. The clergy enjoyed the experience and it may well be repeated in 2022. Our Lent Groups moved to Zoom as we watched a series of short videos from the "Nooma" series presented by Rob Bell. These thought-provoking videos gave rise to good discussion, though meeting on Zoom is no substitute for meeting in the same room. As we entered Holy Week on Palm Sunday we held a Palm Procession and outdoor service in the churchyard. On Easter

Sunday we joyfully returned to in-person worship with our 10am Easter Day Eucharist.

Ministry Continues and Expands

The Ministry Team, Churchwardens and Standing Committee have all contributed to our decision-making and risk assessments over the year, as regulations and recommendations have changed so often.

In April we made a significant addition to the Ministry Team with the appointment of Shirley Mensa as Children and Families' Missioner in training. Shirley has made strong impression in the role as she has taken her many skills to build relationships and devise a programme for our children and families. Shirley has combined this role with continuing her work on the Christmas lunch and Easter tea provided by St Andrew's offering hospitality to those who are feeling isolated or with particular needs. Shirley has also taken the initiative to reach out to children and families in our community through our Holiday Club and our Parties in The Park.

Our ministry to wedding couples has again been different in 2021, many couples have chosen to move their marriages to 2022. For those couples that chose to continue with their weddings, even under severe restrictions, we have been delighted to celebrate some very special and intimate marriages where all the focus has been on the couple and their promises made before God. Marriage law changed in May 2021 and we no longer register the marriage or keep marriage registers at St Andrew's.

I would like to thank Rev Dr Moni Babatunde, Rev Charleen Hollington, Elaine Bray, David Fuge and Shirley Mensa for working hard to ensure ministry continued in Cobham despite the severe restrictions we faced during 2021.

Each of them has worked hard to keep people connected to our church and they have offered many acts of love and care. I am truly blessed to have such wonderful colleagues.

In 2021 we were able to hold our summer Parish BBQ and finally celebrate the ministry of Rev Peter Vickers who retired at the end of 2020. It was a joyous occasion, and it was so good to socialise again at this wonderful event. Many thanks to all who worked hard to provide such a memorable BBQ. I would like to offer special thanks to Julie Baird who has provided leadership and great hospitality through the social committee, her efforts have been appreciated by so many at countless receptions, parties, and other church gatherings over the years. Julie has decided it is time to step back from this role. Thank you Julie for all that you have done.

Our work at St Andrew's School has also been challenging with Covid restrictions at school changing frequently. However, our "Transforming Lives for Good" coaches continued supporting students whether in person at school or supporting with online meetings. Our clergy assemblies continued online, and each week we recorded video assemblies which were shared with students at school or at home. In September we resumed our in school assemblies on Thursday each week. Our foundation governors have continued to support the school through online meetings.

In September the Archbishop of Canterbury visited the diocese of Guildford for a weekend of mission events. Our local event at St John's School in Leatherhead was hosted by our curate Rev Dr Moni Babatunde. This "Big Questions" event saw Archbishop Justin talking about his faith and then answering questions from the audience. In this event we saw a very bright and humble Archbishop struggle honestly with the big questions raised by Covid and other major issues we face in life. It was a blessing to hear from a man with a clear faith who longs to see people coming to know Jesus' saving love for themselves. Our young people attended a special "Big Questions" event where the musician Guvna B joined Justin Welby. Our young people really enjoyed their event.

In 2021 our patronal festival was very special as the Bishop of Dorking came to St Andrew's for a Confirmation Service. Bishop Jo joyfully confirmed 13 candidates from St Andrew's. Many thanks to Rev Charleen Hollington for preparing our candidates for their confirmation.

Building for Future Ministry

As 2021 closed, the upgrades to our screens and video cameras were completed and now provide high quality images for use in church and on our YouTube channel. These enhanced video facilities were very beneficial on Christmas Eve, as with a rapid rise in the spread of the Omicron Covid variant I made the difficult decision to move our Crib Service to Online only. The quality of the new broadcast equipment is a significant upgrade over the quality of the equipment we had been using. I believe this is very important as many hundreds of people have joined us for online worship during 2021 and many will continue to watch in 2022.

In August 2021 I received an unexpected phone call from the Archdeacon of Dorking enquiring about the possibility of St Andrew's being a training Parish for a curate in 2022. I told the Archdeacon that I thought we may be ready in few years time, and then a little flippantly said that I would really only be interested in a pioneering church planting kind of curate! The Archdeacon replied that this was exactly the kind of curate he had in mind. After prayerful reflection and conversation with the Ministry Team, Churchwardens and Standing Committee, I decided that Jesus was trying to tell me to catch up with his plans rather than making my own. In September, we met Bryan and Tori Silletti, who are training for ordination at Trinity College in Bristol. After spending a day in Cobham and meeting the clergy team and church wardens Bryan and Tori were keen to come to Cobham and we were happy to have them come. Tori and Bryan are both going to be ordained and will share the post of curate. They and their children, Abigail and Solomon, will join us in the summer of 2022.

I would like to thank Michael Elson and Paul Hurrell who have served as churchwardens during 2021. My weekly meetings with our wardens continue to be a 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.

As I write this report early in 2022 most Covid restrictions have now been removed. Life feels as though it is becoming more normal, I hope that this continues in the year to come. However, I will resist the temptation to assume that all will be back to what it was before Covid. I am not going to tell you that everything in church will be operating without the worry of Covid. What I am happy to say is

that whatever happens with Covid, we will continue to be the church "For" Cobham, and that together we will work out how to love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and to love our neighbours as ourselves.

Ministry and Engaging with the Community

Report by Moni Babatunde

Following the easing of lockdown restrictions in the summer, as part of the Church Development Plan, we felt it was important to make personal contact so people in the congregation and the community know that we at St Andrew's do care about them and also that we as a church are better able to plan our outreach into our community going forward. Hence, a small group of people, which included the ministry team, made a concerted effort to speak to everyone on the church's electoral roll and database who had consented to be contacted by the church.

As well as doing a simple welfare check through a personal phone call, people were asked how well connected they had felt to the church during lockdown and what they would like St Andrew's to do for them once restrictions were lifted. Importantly, we found that in general most people had felt well connected to the church through the lockdown period, through calls and prayers from clergy and pastoral assistants, through the online services and Byte-sized Daily Bread reflections and regular email newsletters from the parish office. Many recipients of gift bags from the church, particularly those without access to online technology, were truly appreciative that they had not been forgotten by the church. Although a small number of people were less willing to 'do church' online at the weekend after engaging with work online during the week.

The feedback revealed that many people were looking forward to being back in church, seeing others and being 'part of the church family' again. The clergy team welcomed the feedback for the desire by many who had enjoyed the more informal style of online worship, for this to be introduced into the services when church resumed. This was taken into consideration when the ministry team reviewed the pattern of worship adopted after lockdown, with the hope that the variety in the styles of worship will appeal to more people within parish, especially the families with younger children.

As many of the social events at the church had been missed, especially by the older members

of the congregation, most people were looking forward to their resumption and some form of normality once restrictions eased.

Most importantly, through the telephone calls we were able to identify some members of the congregation who were potentially isolated and in need of encouragement after the prolonged period of lockdown. Care for the lonely and isolated is an important part of the mission at St Andrew's and it was identified as a key area for community outreach in the Moving Forward Report. With the realisation that this will be of even great importance once restrictions have been fully lifted, the ministry team are exploring ways of setting up a 'Place of Welcome' in the church where we can truly welcome the lonely and elderly for a chat, tea & sandwiches with crafts and other activities. It is our hope that such a place where people can come and feel the love of Christ and be part of the community at St Andrew's can be realised in the not-so-distant future.

Small Groups

Report by Charleen Hollington, Co-ordinator.

We had hoped that 2021 would be a year in which we would get new small groups up and running. However, Covid made that difficult once again, and we are now looking at 2022 as the year in which we give this vital part of the church's life a boost.

In the interim, our existing small groups have continued to meet and provide support, friendship and a deepening exploration of the faith. The structure, regularity of meetings and material studied have continued to vary from group to group. Charleen Hollington continued in her role as small groups co-ordinator. One group led by Peter Vickers and hosted by Peter and Jenny was in abeyance during the pandemic due to the difficulties experienced by its members in meeting either in person or electronically, and Peter has advised that he will not be taking up leadership of the group again. We thank Peter most sincerely for having led the group so faithfully and ably for so many years.

Looking ahead to 2022 it is very much part of the church's aim to establish new groups and to involve more people in a group. We also plan, in consultation with all group leaders, to decide on what sort of material for discussion and study the groups might enjoy and benefit from this year.

Moving Forward

Report by Paul Hurrell

Wider Doors – Technology, Branding & Communication

The Moving Forward team determined that, for St Andrew's to be a vibrant modern church meeting the needs of current and future parishioners, progress must be made in three key areas:

- A new church operating system
- New modern audio-visual hardware in the church
- Improved branding and communication

In the first half of 2021, new admin operating software, ChurchSuite, was purchased and installed. The project was managed by Dave Greenwood who successfully ensured the smooth transition from the previous system to ChurchSuite. The new software has significantly improved efficiency in handling emails, calendars, contact addresses, and rotas, among other things.

In March 2021, the PCC approved expenditure of £10,000, sourced from the "Now Fund", to install cameras and TV screens in the church to upgrade the quality of our online broadcasting of services and other events, and also to improve visibility of services and preaching in the church by eliminating blind spots. Subsequently, a faculty application was submitted for the installation of 3 cameras and 8 TV screens in the church. The faculty was approved in August 2021 and the work commenced in September 2021.

Unfortunately, it was decided after two months of using the new cameras that they were sub-optimal as they had unresolvable latency issues when streaming. The PCC agreed in November 2021 to spend an additional £3,000 to replace the cameras with higher spec units. These were installed in December 2021 and have been operating very successfully.

The first step to improve our church branding was the development of a new logo identity. A local design agency, D&A Cobham, was briefed in April 2021 and 6 designs were created. St Andrew's members were then asked to select their top three preferred designs. A winning design was chosen and is now used in all our communications and material, including a new flag that was donated to the church.

D&A were also briefed in April 2021 to create a new website for St Andrew's as the old site

was built on the outdated ChurchBuilder platform. The main objectives of the new site were to a) reflect the image of our new identity b) be simple and efficient to navigate and c) link seamlessly to ChurchSuite to allow easy registration of new members and to keep the calendars and events updated. Creating a new website turned into an unexpectedly large body of work and the new site was only completed in December 2021, and ready to go live in January 2022. D&A were very generous and only billed us the initial quote despite a significant increase in hours spent on the job.

With regard to new forms of communication, we successfully implemented two projects using social media as the main vehicles to reach an audience well beyond our own members. These were called Lent Byte-sized Daily Bread, and Summer Byte-sized Daily Bread. Approximately 100 people signed up to each series to receive a daily reading and reflection on their mobile devices or by email. The feedback was extremely positive and our intention is to repeat these concepts in 2022.

Another software product called HootSuite was purchased to facilitate St Andrew's communicating across multiple social media platforms.

Finally, it was agreed that St Andrew's noticeboards would be refurbished or replaced in 2022.

Assets and Fabric

Report by Paul Hurrell and Michael Elson

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 continued to meet and operate in 2021, under the excellent chairmanship of Clive Moorman.

In the second half of the year, several faculties for specific maintenance issues were applied for and approved by the Archdeacon. These include:

- repairing and repainting damaged plaster in the Chancel and Memorial Chapel;
- repairing damage to the stone arch between the North Aisle and Memorial Chapel;
- repainting the Memorial Chapel because of high water marks in the chapel;
- repairing damage to the timber on the porch at the main entrance, and re-staining the entire porch;

- repairing sections of pebbledash on the external south wall of the church.

Quotes for each piece of work were obtained and approved in December 2021. The work will be completed in the first quarter of 2022.

Faculty approval was also received in August 2021 to install a new audio-visual system in the church consisting of three digital cameras and eight flat screens. The details of the application and subsequent installation of the equipment was covered in the Moving Forward section of this Annual Report.

The flat above Church Gate House was occupied for a few months at the beginning of 2021 by the owners of Church Cottage while major repairs were made to their property following an accident involving a truck that had crashed through the property's fence and into the wall of their house. They gave a donation to the church as thanks for helping them with accommodation. When Shirley Mensa was appointed Children's and Family Missioner, the flat was leased at current market rates to a mother and her daughter.

Regular cleaning of the church interior continued throughout the year. A clear-out of

overgrown shrubbery in the car park, and also in the garden of Church Gate House, was organised and carried out by a number of volunteers from St Andrew's.

A new garden cabin was ordered in May 2021 to replace the existing one in The Vicarage garden that had begun to decay and was not deemed safe for the Vicar's family to use. Due to lengthy lead times caused by supply chain issues, the new cabin was installed in December 2021.

The church noticeboards will be refurbished or replaced in the first quarter of 2022.

Sacristan

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

Garden of Remembrance

This part of the churchyard provides an attractive focus for remembering loved ones. It was very well maintained by Mick, the gardener who maintains the garden in Church Gate House under the supervision of Mabs Ostley.

ADMINISTRATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

Parish Office

Report by Elaine Bray

The Parish Office in Church Gate House is open from 9am to 1pm on Mondays to Fridays and is run by Elaine Bray, our Communications and Administration Manager. For most of 2021 Elaine managed to work in the office, working from home when required. Hall bookings are slowly returning but are still not at our pre-pandemic levels. The integration of our hall booking system with our website allows people to check availability and provisionally book the facilities. To help with social media communications during 2021 we have started to use HootSuite to allow us to post to three social media sites at once to supplement our other internal and external communications. During this last year we have also gradually moved our administration systems to ChurchSuite and Office365 from Church Builder. This has also necessitated a new website which will be launched in early 2022 (www.sac.church). The new website will look very similar to the microsite that we used for our Byte Size series during 2021. Byte Size was delivered by the Moving Forward Tech Team as daily readings, reflections and music during Lent and early Summer during 2021. These daily offerings allowed us to test

the use of new technologies to automatically send texts and emails with the readings to have a wider and deeper reach.

Church Website

By David Greenwood, Webmaster

By the time you read this the brand new church website should be fully live, the address is www.sac.church.

So for this report as at the end of 2021 it was nearly ready to go. It has been built by D&A Graphics who are based on the Portsmouth Road in Cobham. It has a completely new look, more in line with the current fashion for a scrolling home page. Please have an explore and let Elaine or me know if anything needs updating. Thanks to Paul Hurrell for leading this project with a lot of input from Elaine Bray and the rest of the Moving Forward team.

Elaine will update the regular content and I will be the first line of support with D&A Graphics assisting with bigger changes, so please bear with us as we get up to speed with the new system.

The website is now separate from the new back-end Church Admin system, **ChurchSuite**. The church calendar is maintained in ChurchSuite and is then fed

through to the website for more public visibility of both regular and featured "events" (including services).

Some rotas moved on to ChurchSuite in 2021 and members of the Staff Team and the Service Technology team can now either use an app on their phones, or a log into a browser, to check their rotas and choose if they want email reminders. We will roll out more functions in 2022. This app can potentially be used by any church member and includes an address book that people can opt-in to, setting their own preferences and keeping their own details up to date as well as checking their rotas and communications. Talk to me if you are interested in this.

St Andrew's Parish Magazine 'Family'

Report by Zoë Ostley

'Family' remains dormant awaiting a new team to re awaken the publication of it.

Any persons wishing to join existing two members to form a new team, please contact zoe@sac.church.

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

Archivist

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

Electoral Roll

By David Greenwood Electoral Roll Officer

We encourage everyone who considers themselves to be a part of St Andrew's to be on the church Electoral Roll. This is nothing to do with the Government one. You can only vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting if you are on the roll and the number on the roll determines how many Deanery Synod representatives we have, so we would like it to be a fair reflection of our adult "membership" (a rather vague term in the Anglican church). The Electoral Roll is held in our ChurchSuite system.

At the end of 2021, the number on the Roll stood at 169, which meant we lost four people through the year, all of whom had sadly passed away.

Have you started coming to St Andrew's (or become more regular or involved) in the last couple of years? Could I encourage you to be added to the Roll. To join, or if you are not sure if you are on it already, please email me at davidg@sac.church and I can check and/or send you the form.

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 | Lay Vice-Chairman |
| Lay Representatives on the Deanery Synod | Claire Costard | |
| | Michael Elson* <i>to July 2021</i> | |
| | David Greenwood <i>from December 2020</i> | |
| | Geoff Morris* <i>to July 2021</i> | |
| | David Taylor | |
| Elected Members | Keith Baird | |
| | Leonard Beighton | Secretary |
| | Elizabeth Bradley <i>to April 2021</i> | |
| | Kim Constable | |
| | Malcolm Graham | Treasurer |
| | Sue Kilpatrick | |
| | Freddie Marshall | |
| | Tolani Martin <i>(co-opted until April 2021)</i> | |
| | Clive Moorman | |
| | Lynn Moreno <i>from April 2021</i> | |
| | Carrie Taylor | |
| | David Tipping | |
| Co-opted | Geoff Morris <i>from July 2021</i> | |

* Michael Elson and Geoff Morris are from November 2020 no longer elected members of Deanery Synod, but remained on it until July 2021 by virtue of being members of the Diocesan Synod.

The Work of the Council in 2021

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,

Standing Committee, other committees and group leaders. All these are fully reported elsewhere in this Review.

Until May all the meetings were held on Zoom, but since July they have been held in the Hall

with the facility for members to join on-line if they preferred.

Deanery Synod

Report by David Greenwood

St Andrew's is part of the Leatherhead Deanery, one of twelve Deaneries (ie. local districts) of the Diocese of Guildford. It covers Ashted, Leatherhead and Mickleham then across Fetcham, the Bookhams & Effingham to the Horsleys and up through Ockham and Stoke D'Abernon to Cobham. They are part of the governance of the church of England, feeding up through Diocesan Synods to the General Synod, but also have a role to play locally in encouraging parishes to work together and share resources:

"Primarily, Deaneries provide an opportunity for individual parishes to resource leadership, collaborate in mission, and support each other in ministry in a way that is not possible on the micro-scale of the parish or on the macro-scale of the diocese." (Guildford Diocese Deanery Handbook, p5) " and "To bring together the views of parishes of the deanery on common problems, to discuss and formulate common policies on those problems, to foster a sense of community and interdependence among those parishes, and generally to promote in the deanery the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical".

For example, when churches are between Vicars, like our neighbours at Stoke D'Abernon, it is the Area Dean who tries to find cover from across the clergy of the Deanery. There was a change of Area Dean in 2021 as Alan Jenkins (Gt, Bookham) had completed his term and handed over to Rev. Renos Pittarides (East Horsley), formerly of our own parish, in October. Revd Charleen Hollington was appointed Assistant Area Dean.

At the March meeting, held on Zoom, Bishop Jo Wells led us through a discussion on the "Living in Love and Faith (LLF)" national initiative that she had been part of putting

together. A number of small groups of Deanery Synod members from across the parishes went through the five-week "house group" type-course (on Zoom) during the year including at least two of your representatives, Claire Costard and myself, maybe more.

There are lots of resources you can explore at www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith, You don't need to be part of a group. It is an eye opener to the different sort of relationships that Christians actually have, one to approach with an open mind ready to learn. It does not provide answers or a direction - that is something the General Synod will be trying to discern in due course.

The June meeting, also on Zoom, was a fascinating presentation by David Welch about the 'Millennial' Generation and why are they not in our churches (and of course how we can change that), including a summary of generational theory.

In October we actually met in person! Hosted by the Chaplain of Reed's School. David Taylor was elected to Diocesan Synod at the meeting. At this meeting our own Rev. Charleen Hollington proposed a motion to be passed up to Diocese Synod for it in turn to request General Synod to:

- 1) Acknowledge that our children and young people are suffering grave harm from free access to online pornography and that there is currently no legal requirement for pornography sites to have in place age-verification systems to prevent children from having access;
- 2) Ask Her Majesty's Government to introduce legislation requiring pornographic sites to have age-verification systems in place to prevent access by people under the age of 18.

This is part of seeking to influence wider justice issues.

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. The other member is 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.

Budget Committee

Report by Freddie Marshall

Following a query from a parishioner about St. Andrew's budget and his never having

attended any church which did not work to a budget, the Standing Committee agreed to work towards establishing a church budget and agreed to the formation of a Budget Committee. This consists of Rev. Mike Branscombe, Clive Moorman and Freddie Marshall.

The committee held an initial meeting to agree general principles and has consulted with others to look at existing accounts and to consider the best software to use. It is anticipated that the first budget to be presented will cover 2023. Further meetings are planned for early 2022.

Whilst St. Andrew's is not a business which needs to show its budgets to shareholders, the PCC has responsibility for financial management.

Preparation of a budget enables anticipated expenditure to be known and enables church members to see what income is required to avoid 'going into the red'.

Church Gate House

Report by David Tipping

When preparing my report for the 2020 Annual Review, I started off by saying that 'Time flies when you are enjoying yourself' . . . but that's not if you are in the midst of an epidemic that put a stop to our Church Gate House activities. So what has 2021 been like? **In some ways not much different!** Our regular bookings came to a standstill. For example, Probus, like many other organisations, turned to Zoom for their monthly meetings in order not to lose contact with its members.

We have a fantastic facility thanks to Church members who, some 25 years ago, got together to plan and build what we have today. Sadly a few years ago following very heavy prolonged rain, the river burst its banks and engulfed the Hall which obviously took many months to make good. Thanks to the hard work of many people, we have a lovely facility with a carpet, improved lighting, and sound and visual equipment.

I am pleased to report that pre-pandemic users are returning, for example children's Birthday Parties and the regular church activities - Spiritual Cinema, Tea for You etc and, of course, after-Church Coffee (on special occasions with cake and Prosecco!).

Despite the cancellation of activities on our premises during 2021, life, care and inspiration did not come to a standstill. Our work with children and young people flourished, thanks to Shirley Mensa who joined the Church Gate

House Team. Little Fishes, Kids' Church & Discipleship grew under Shirley's leadership, with her team of helpers.

I am also pleased to say that during the pandemic we have continued to welcome Cocaine Anonymous, helping those battling with addiction, and Oasis running courses for those recovering from domestic violence

During the year, the Property Committee, under the Chairmanship of Clive Moorman, has been busy taking forward two projects in order to make the Hall even more attractive. One of these is to carry out improvements to the entrance, toilets, and storage, and to fit new doors from the Main Hall into the garden. Regarding our popular garden, plans are being put together to make this open space more enjoyable and attractive. All I can say at this point is 'watch this space'. It's pleasing to know that in the next 12 months the aim is to ensure that the much loved Church Gate House remains a facility enjoyed by all users.

Thinking back to November/December we were pleased to allow the sale of Christmas Trees, using part of the field and the car park, for which we received a generous donation.

On a final note, during the year I stood down as Chairman, making room for new blood and a new Committee with, I am sure new ideas. The Chairmanship is now shared by Lynn Moreno and Marten Symons.

I would like to end with a special "thank you" to Elaine Bray, our excellent Administrator who works hard to ensure the success of Church Gate House, and to the volunteers who all play a part.

Eco Committee

Report by Clive Moorman

This has been another very quiet year for the Eco Committee (Jo Greenwood, Nick Constable, Leonard Beighton, Geoff Morris, Sam Acquaye and Wendy-Jane Gray) Unfortunately Jill Newman left the team partway through the year to focus on other commitments. With Covid 19 restrictions over the last 12 months still in place we were restricted how much we could do. We have managed to meet up, over Zoom a few times to enable us to progress some of our objectives for the year and had one face to face meeting in October.

One of the main achievements last year was getting the Ecochurch Silver Award. 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 now want to carry out another audit this year to give us an insight into how effective our communications are over time. Last year we signed up for a new initiative called Creation Care launched by the Dorking church team. This enables individual members of our congregation to measure themselves against seven environmental categories in a process very similar to the Eco Church process. We did a relaunch this year when most of the congregation were able to get back into church, restriction free, for a short period. However I was very disappointed to note that not one person in the congregation that day signed up, so we are clearly not inspiring the level of eco interest we hoped for.

One of the new initiatives we agreed to this year was to rewild half of St Andrew's field and plant wild flower seeds. This is after the observation that the half nearest the river is rarely used for overflow car parking and is often too damp to be of use. We may need to extend the matting on the South of the field to ensure that this remains useable for most of the year.

Leonard is proposing to organise a Rogation Sunday Walk and picnic on Rogation Day (26th May 2022) and we hope a good number of people will support it.

Geoff Morris has been researching the various recycling symbols we see on packaging to establish what we can actually recycle in our area. Once his research is complete he will write an article to enable us to be more efficient in our recycling and more knowledgeable on what we can't recycle

There are a number of things that we would like to progress in 2022 once the lockdown restrictions come off completely and people start to feel safe again.

1. Zoë Ostley published a regular 'Eco corner' feature in our parish magazine Family and we hope this will continue when she is able to publish again. In addition we hope that we can get the various articles we publish loaded on to our website to reach a wider audience.
2. Unfortunately the wild flower border we planted on St Andrew's field in 2019 did not survive the flooding, or more likely the mowing. Also we have lost two thirds of the 100 trees we planted in the same field.
3. The 100 crocus bulbs and a cherry tree, planted by the Guides in the churchyard to commemorate 100 years of the Cobham

Troop flowered well and will flower again even better in the spring this year.

4. Luckily the two- year deal with EcoTricity, a 'green energy' supplier, supplying both our gas and electricity, which kicked in in December 2019 is still in place and has insulated us from the dramatic price rises we are currently seeing in energy costs.
5. It is still difficult to say whether the two new digital thermostats and timers on the hot water boilers in CGH have save any money, as our energy usage is still below the running norm. Elaine polices this very carefully so we will monitor and report back in 2023.
6. We have also reprogrammed the lighting in the church to save on our weekday usage of electricity. However as initial readings seem still a bit high, we will continue to investigate. There is a possibility that in the medium term we will have to replace a lot of the current lighting with LED lights, due to the obsolesce of the existing LV halogen ones
7. There is still a plan to upgrade the control system for the Church boilers and heating generally. We are still waiting for a firm quote on this from the Property Committee who are progressing this change. 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 presents the greatest opportunity to make savings.
8. One of the biggest changes we hope to bring about is the redesign of CGH garden, to make it easier to maintain and more accessible to both children and the less able members of our congregation. Sally Donn is assisting in this development.
9. We use both Fair Trade and 'Eco' products in our kitchen at CGH and should continue to do so. We have highlighted this by fitting posters to the serving hatch doors and the coffee area, where they can be seen by everybody who uses the facilities.
10. It has been suggested to us that there is a lot of confusion within the congregation as to which 'green initiatives' really work and which 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 find it interesting to discover what our research shows.

11. We have also reduced the amount of paper we use in our services, by investing in new audio-visual systems. These enable us to televise our services on YouTube and thus reach a wider congregation.

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

During 2021, the Faith and Social Action Committee continued to meet regularly and to pursue its goal of helping and energising St Andrew's to be a blessing to those less fortunate than ourselves.

The committee continued to consist of Charleen Hollington (Chair), Leonard Beighton, David Taylor, Sue Kilpatrick, Geoff Morris and Elaine Bray. The committee aims to meet quarterly, together with the 'Champions' who promote the charities that St Andrew's has chosen to support.

This year there were two important changes in the charities we support. When FASAC was set up some years ago, the church resolved to support four principal charities, two foreign and two local. The changes relate to the local charities. There had been a long-standing 'vacancy' which was finally filled by Transforming Lives for Good (TLG), a charity which supports schoolchildren who are struggling in school, using local people trained to be coaches and mentors. Carrie Taylor is the Champion for TLG, and she and a number of people from St Andrew's church are carrying out the transformative work of TLG at St Andrew's School in Cobham.

The second change relates to Christians Against Poverty (CAP), our second local charity. After much thought and discussion, and with the approval of the PCC, it was decided that St Andrew's would end its support of CAP. After several years of supporting CAP, only two or three clients had fallen within our 'jurisdiction' for support, and of those, two were in Byfleet. It began to seem that perhaps debt relief through CAP, for whatever reason, was not meeting a need in the town, and in view of our mandate to support those in need locally, it was decided that we should look to other areas of need. St Andrew's and CAP Mole Valley have therefore (very amicably) ended their relationship. The PCC will be

reviewing and deciding on which charity should replace CAP in due course.

The other principal charities we support continue to be OM Himalayas (formerly OM Nepal) (Champion: Peter Kelly), the Garden Route Children's Trust (Champion: Paul Hurrell), and the Foodbank (Champion: Alison Greenwood). In addition to these, Helen Goddard took over the running of Christian Aid Week in Cobham, and at very short notice and in difficult circumstances due to Covid managed to pull together a successful collection. Helen also attends the regular meetings.

A stand-out event this year was the excellent presentation: 'The Lushingtons of Cobham' given by David Taylor, based on his new book 'The Remarkable Lushington Family: Reformers, Pre-Raphaelites, Positivists, and the Bloomsbury group' in aid of our charities. Tickets were sold out. Drinks and snacks were served, a raffle was held, and over £1,000 was raised, which has been distributed to the charities.

As always, a separate report for each of the projects we support appears elsewhere in this Review.

Once again I would like to thank the Outward Giving Committee for their thought and effort in allocating funds to the various charities.

And finally, I once again thank most sincerely all the committee members and the project Champions and all those leading or involved with other charities for all their time, effort and prayer in helping St Andrew's to be a blessing to others.

Fellowship & Social Committee

Report by Julie Baird

Our socialising got off to a good start with the Family BBQ at Church Gate House on July 25th. The weather was good to us and only gave us a downpour just as the proceedings were coming to an end. The ladies had a very enjoyable Spanish Evening complete with Paella, cooked by Nick Constable, and a Spanish Quiz that tested our knowledge of that beautiful country. Spiritual Cinema resumed in October, much to the delight of our regulars. Time to Remember Tea took place in November and was well attended. Our final event for the year was the Confirmation Reception. This was hosted by St. Andrew's, but included other local churches. 2021 was quite a scaled down calendar due to the continuation of the Covid Restrictions, but we do hope to resume a more exciting schedule of events in 2022. Thank you so much to the

amazing team who helped to make all of the above events possible. You are very much appreciated.

Giving Committee

The Giving Committee has not been functioning this year. It is likely to be revived in 2022 under a new Chair.

Outward Giving Team

Report by Cathy Whitnall

The team is made up of Keith Baird, Julie Baird, Michael Elson, Carrie Taylor, Cathy Whitnall (chair)

The OGT would like to thank the PCC for allocating funds for distribution to charities once again. With the constantly changing situation in this country and abroad, some of the proposals we looked at needed considerable thought and discussion.

We have continued to make donations to the charities supported by the Faith and Social Action Committee, i.e. Garden Route Children's Trust (£2,000), OM Nepal (£2,000), Cobham Foodbank (£1,000) and Christians Against Poverty (£1,200). In two cases we reduced the amount in comparison with our gifts in previous years, which enabled us to expand the reach of the funds allocated to our care. We were able to look at the Church's care for the environment through A Rocha (£2,000), and we also began a programme of support for Transforming Lives for Good (£1,000) – about which the congregation will hear more in March. We continued our support for young people and their families through Oasis (£2,000), Leatherhead Youth Project (£1,000) and St Andrew's School (£500).

We spent some time looking at the various ways of supporting refugees, either in this country (e.g. from Afghanistan) or overseas. Of course, many large organisations are already involved, but we wanted to find a way to give meaningful support without simply putting money into a big pot. Eventually we found the ShelterBox project, which gives a refugee family the where-with-all to exist in a refugee camp, and we paid for two boxes (£580 each). As is our usual practice, we sent the remnant to Crisis (£221).

Each project that we support has a champion who keeps us informed of developments within their chosen charity. Thus we are able to assess whether a gift is still appropriate, and to 'refresh' our list of charities regularly.

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 during 2021. 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, Moni Babatunde and I are the clergy members. We were very glad to invite bereaved families to join us on November 7th for our "Time to Remember" service. The service was very well attended and felt particularly poignant after only having a YouTube service in 2021.

Our Prayer team have been meeting online during 2021. Since returning to church for worship after restrictions were lifted, they were once again able to resume their ministry of offering to pray with anyone who feels a need to pray for themselves or a loved one.

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 twice in 2021. This means that we still have not been able to progress as many things as we would have liked.

Items progressed:-

CGH Maintenance: There were a number of minor repairs needed in and around CGH. These include:

- repairing the heating system
- new security light in car park
- new gas safety checks for CGH
- new digital thermostats fitted in the hall and coffee area as more efficient than old mechanical ones
- new bulbs fitted to the streetlamp outside the CGH entrance
- repair to damaged rendering by the CGH Flat door
- new lockable cabinets fitted in Elaine's office to store confidential files
- new solar security lights fitted to the field side of the car park
- repair of posts holding netting
- cleaning of extractor vents and ductwork in the hall

- repair of guttering outside hall and above Elaine's office,
- fitting of timeclocks to the water heaters serving both the toilets and the CGH kitchen (which will make them more economical as they were previously uncontrolled)
- repair and repainting of the external woodwork to Elaine's office
- fitting a storm bar to office door to stop water ingress during heavy rain.

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 been approved by the local authority and we have received £44,000 in CIL* funding.

New Trees in St Andrew's Field: The Eco Committee have planted an additional 100 trees on the riverside of the field adding to the 300 planted in previous years.

Redesign of CGH Garden: It has been agreed that as part of the overall CGH improvement project we will also redesign the CGH garden. The outline design includes the removal of the existing hedging by the carpark and round the 'wooded' area in the corner of the garden. This will give us an additional 6-7 feet of garden that is currently overgrown. This will be replaced by a beech (or similar) hedge which will be much easier to manage and will occupy much less space. In addition a hard pathway will be installed round the garden to enable wheelchair access and make it safer to walk round. It is also proposed that we will develop a 'sensory garden' along the fence with seating under the cherry tree so members of the congregation can enjoy the scent from the various aromatic shrubs we will plant there. The wooded area that will now be fully exposed will be tidied up and trimmed to a height of 6 foot so that children can have access, but at all times be in full view of adults. There will also be some sympathetic planting, eg bulbs, etc to enhance this area.

Lychgate: Mike will arrange a blessing for this memorial in due course once the lockdown is lifted. In addition the Lychgate gates were sent away to be refurbished and refitted.

Garden Tidy-ups: Unfortunately these had to be cancelled. However a new shingle layer with matting has been fitted to the bed

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

Church Spire Repairs: During the reshingling of the spire it was identified that the structure need repairing, and this will be planned in. We are still awaiting the recommended design from the diocesan architects.

Tomb Repairs: There are still 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.

Church Notice Boards: New designs have been commissioned and will be presented to the PCC in due course.

Health & Safety: Health & Safety policies and manuals were completed and signed off.

EV Chargers in the car park: We attempted to have rapid EV chargers installed in the car park to bring in additional income, but unfortunately this proved uneconomic due to the high cost of the electrical connection to the 'grid'.

There is still much to do in 2022:

- To tender and complete the refurbishment of CGH and the garden.
- To install new controls to the church heating system.
- More security light to be installed in the alley by CGH.
- Install a new carpark height barrier to prevent unauthorised use.
- Repairs to plaster work in church and porch.
- Repair pot holes outside CGH
- and a number of other things that are bound to arise in 2022.

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 them in the years to come.

* Community Infrastructure Levy

Safeguarding

Wendy Jane Gray

The roll out of The Safeguarding dashboard

(Safeguarding dashboard: a dashboard is a visual display of all one's data at a glance, used to monitor performance and set targets for future work).

At St Andrew's we have recently registered for the Safeguarding dashboard which is being rolled out across the Diocese.

Safeguarding in the Church of England has changed hugely in recent years and is likely to continue to do so with new policies and procedures. These are making churches safer but bring significant amounts of administration. "Safeguarding dashboards" is addressing this challenge by making life simpler for safeguarding officers and it is free to churches in participating dioceses. It is a very useful tool helping churches keep track of the safeguarding tasks and procedures they should be doing. The dashboard has been designed to display on a computer, mobile or tablet, an overview of tasks to be completed, action plans and priorities for all things relating to safeguarding, in line with diocesan policy. It allows authorised users to view the current status of safeguarding at a glance. They can then prioritise safeguarding work and access explanations of what these tasks entail. All relevant documents on policy and procedures will be available in one place and with one or two clicks of the mouse. There will be automatic reminders when recurring tasks are imminent. A subsequent safeguarding action plan can then be produced at any time with the click of a button. It will mean that all those who

need to make decisions on safeguarding can keep informed and up to date.

General thoughts for Safeguarding at St Andrew's

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 2022

Welcome Committee

Report by David Greenwood

The Welcome Committee was rather put on hold by the restrictions on church events due to Covid and did not meet in 2021.

A small Welcome Team did cover some events in the autumn. Kim Constable has agreed to pick this up from me and I expect we will review the remit in 2022.

CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

Bellringers

Report by Peter Bound

Ringling at St Andrew's has been minimal this year owing to covid conditions set in place for ringing church bells.

Masks have remained recommended and this has not been successful for some ringers. We have endeavoured to ring for events in the year and will continue to do so for 2022.

Ringling members are few and on occasions we have not had enough ringers to ring the back six of the peal of eight.

We hope the learners we stood down pre lockdown, will return and continue their interest in bellringing. New members are welcomed.

Contact: Captain, Peter Bound, via Elaine Bray (Elaine@sac.church)

Church Cleaning

Report by Derek Bullman

Whether it's down to Covid, fear of Covid or just the normal ageing process - and maybe all three in some cases - the fact is that the original team of Thursday morning volunteer cleaners is no longer. Gone, at least for the time being, are the days of friendly camaraderie as they went about their tasks and enjoyable biscuits and conversation during their coffee break.

Instead, Derek Bullman is now doing the vacuuming, polishing the altar rail and emptying the waste bins in addition to his duties as Assistant Sacristan. The biggest

challenge is to get round the extensive carpeting before the rechargeable Dyson runs out of puff or blocks up its filter. They say it takes all sorts to make a world so somewhere out there is a person or persons who like dusting, cleaning floors, kitchens, toilets and windows. Where better to earn a few brownie points than in a beautiful and peaceful place of worship? **Volunteers Required**

Church Flowers

Report by Mabs Ostley

Presently the attractive pedestal flowers in the church are silk ones which have served the church well during lockdown. Fresh flowers have been substituted when required throughout the year for specific occasions.

Many thanks to the team, and special thanks to Geraldine Thomas.

Friday lunch club

Report by Leonard Beighton

Once again it was not possible to hold the Friday lunch club. Jenny Masters has now stood down after very ably providing a meal and support for bereaved and lonely people for many years. New arrangements will be made for providing hospitality.

Mothers' Union

Report by Jenny Vickers

We were able to start meeting again in August. Mary Hart chaired the informal meeting which was attended by most of the members. Our September speaker was unable to be present, due to illness so we had another informal meeting which ended with a short light-hearted quiz.

In October Mike gave a very interesting talk on St. Catherine's Monastery illustrated with slides and in November Kim Sainthouse told us about her twenty-one years plus with British Airways. December saw us getting together, with guests, for our Christmas lunch.

We started T4U again in November and will continue to have this bi-monthly on the second Thursday of that month. This is something we do, following a comment by Folli during his time in Cobham, when he asked us, "what do you do for the community?" Anyone is welcome to come and have the opportunity to chat with others and enjoy a cup of tea, or coffee, and cake.

Music

Report by David Fuge, Director of Music Ministry

On account of the ongoing COVID pandemic, musically speaking, 2021 started much as

2020 ended with no congregation, choir or any live sung music in the church. We continued to use archive recordings of the St. Andrew's congregation and Choir singing hymns and worship songs. These were set to PowerPoints with the words and broadcast on our YouTube channel. Live music was included by way of opening and closing organ voluntaries or piano music.

This continued until Palm Sunday when the COVID situation improved enough to allow us to hold an outdoor service with limited numbers. Our Vicar, Mike Branscombe, and his guitar led the singing.

On Maundy Thursday, Kevin Ayton sang the Taizé chant *Stay with me, remain here with me* during the traditional Stripping of the Altar, the first live singing in St. Andrew's for many months.

Congregations were allowed back in the church in limited numbers from Easter Sunday onwards but there were still restrictions on singing and so the PowerPoint recordings continued.

Following the success of our Christmas CD, we produced another CD of recordings of Easter hymns and anthems from the archive for inclusion in the church's "Easter Bags of Joy".

In May we had an outdoor Family Worship service in Church Gate House garden for which the Band led the worship and finally we could all sing together again. Following this service, the Band led our Family Worship services in the church although, because we were inside, we were not allowed to include any wind blown instruments and the congregation were not allowed to sing.

Restrictions on indoor singing continued but with an eye on the improving situation we aimed to resume sung services at the end of June. However, yet again plans changed as restrictions were extended, so we arranged some outdoor Choir practices in the garden of CGH. We were blessed with good weather and they were really worthwhile evenings of music making and fellowship. Something for which we had been longing for many, many months.

On 25th July, singing in church was finally allowed and we enjoyed the first Sunday with congregational singing since March 2020. August Family Worship was a Band and Choir led service, and the following week we had our first Choral Communion.

At the end of August, St. Andrew's hosted a holiday club for local youngsters, and as part

of that my wife, Louise, and I did two short music workshops and taught the children *This is amazing grace* which they sang during the service on the following Sunday. We had hoped that the enthusiasm that the children showed for singing might result in some of them coming and joining SAY Choir which was relaunching in September, but sadly this wasn't the case. Many of our existing SAY Choir members have now moved on to secondary school and are starting their GCSEs which has meant that they can no longer commit to regular rehearsals and services. Sadly, the first lockdown came at a time when the SAY Choir was in fantastic shape and it is disappointing that we missed out on a year of an incredibly talented, fun and lively group of children who contributed enormously to our Family Worship services.

Currently, we have four members in SAY Choir but we are hoping to re-establish connections with schools around the parish and encourage children from there to join us.

On the first Sunday of October, we celebrated Harvest Festival in the morning and, later that day, held a well-received Songs of Praise service. Members of St. Andrew's were invited to choose hymns or songs and speak about the reasons for their choices. This led to a wonderful and moving service with great music and witness. As with the majority of our services, this was broadcast on YouTube and reached and spoke to people across the world.

Remembrance Sunday was the largest choir that we have had in the church for some time. We invited a few extra singers and were able to sing Edgar Bainton's wonderful setting of Revelation 21 vv 1-4, *And I saw a new heaven*. The large congregation sang very strongly as did the Choir.

At the end of November, St. Andrew's hosted the Deanery Confirmation service and the music was led by the Choir and the Band. We welcomed back Renos Pittarides (Rector of St. Martin's, East Horsley) to sing and play guitar alongside Mike Branscombe.

At the beginning of December, face masks were re-introduced in church as the COVID situation once again appeared to be worsening. The Choir, however, were still allowed to sing unmasked and we made sure that everyone was looking out for each other by testing before every practice or service, as we have been since our return in June.

On the Sunday before Christmas, we enjoyed a very atmospheric and worshipful Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. The extended

Choir, distanced around the Chancel and Sanctuary, sang really well and there was a tangible sense of peace, wonder and worship in the church. As a result of the COVID situation, the congregation wasn't as big as we would normally expect, but that just added to the intimacy of the occasion and we knew that many were joining us online.

St. Andrew's Choir is in a very healthy state at the moment. We have 15 regular singers but are always happy to welcome new members to any of the parts, although we are especially on the look out for more Tenors and Basses. It has been a joy to welcome new members since we restarted in June 2021 and one of the greatest aspects of the Choir at the moment is the welcoming and friendly atmosphere and sense of fellowship amongst its members.

The Band has also excelled since its return, and we have had some fantastic rehearsals and services and are becoming a very tight knit group who also enjoy a lot of fun and fellowship.

Thanks to Kevin Ayton and Cathy Whitnall for all their help and advice over the last year, to Jacob Costard, who has deputised for me on the organ and piano occasionally, and to Helen Amys who looks after all our music and has the unenviable job of putting it away week after week! My thanks also to Louise for running SAY Choir, as well as giving me so much support and being so patient!

Finally, I would like to finish by thanking all the Choir and the Band for their hard work and enthusiasm in helping to bring a real sense of Christian worship to St. Andrew's and for making music for all the right reasons. Everyone has looked after and encouraged each other through a difficult time and we seem to be much stronger as a Music Ministry as a result.

Church Watching

Report by Elaine Bray

A team of dedicated and wonderful volunteers normally help to keep the Church open for visitors. The team did not return during 2021. During office hours the Church can be opened by Elaine for visitors.

Church Gate House Welcome Area

Report by Elaine Bray

In normal times the Welcome Area in Church Gate House is run by a team of wonderful welcomers every weekday morning, who would greet visitors with a warm welcome and a free cup of coffee. The welcome team did

not return to Church Gate House in 2021. A welcome has still been offered during office

hours.

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.

TLG and Safeguarding

In August, Transforming Lives for Good Cobham moved from an emphasis on coaching to family support with the school year end. As the children had left St Andrew's school, the safeguarding rested with the church and Carrie Taylor and I worked closely to plan and implement appropriate safeguarding. This included risk assessment and reviewing best practice in these new and challenging times.

Children & Families' Ministry, Baby Talk, Kids' Church, and Discipleship

Revd Dr Mike Branscombe

I am writing this report on behalf of our Children and Families' Missioner in Training, Shirley Mensa. At the time of writing Shirley is taking some compassionate leave following a difficult family bereavement. Therefore, these comments are no more than a summary of what happened in 2021. It is my hope that a much more complete report will be available in the 2022 review.

2021 began without a Children and Families Missioner in post and with our in-person and face to face children and families work severely constrained by the Covid restrictions in place at the time. Communication through phone calls and Zoom continued and our hard working volunteers made great efforts to provide ways of connecting to church for our youngest members. Elaine Bray took a strong and creative lead in the months until Shirley took up her role on April 1st 2021. As Covid restrictions eased Shirley began to re-establish our groups for children, young people and their families.

One of the first groups to resume was "Baby Talk" on Wednesday mornings, this gathering was re-named "Little Fishes" making a

connection with our Sunday morning group of the same name. Shirley's hope was that those attending the large Wednesday group would make the connection with the much smaller Sunday group. We have seen a few families make the connection and begin to join us on Sundays. Working closely with our Kids' Church volunteer leaders Shirley brought leadership to Sunday mornings groups as we began to hold them again. These groups have been in transition as we slowly returned to a more usual pattern of Sunday morning worship, learning and after service refreshments. More work remains in establishing a pattern that is helpful and sustainable for all.

Shirley has been undertaking regular training for her new role with Emma Coy the diocesan Mission Enabler for children and families. Shirley has been quick to use her learning and is bringing new ideas and expressions of ministry to fruition. A good example of these would be the "Parties in The Park" that took place in Hamilton Avenue from the summer onwards. These simple outdoor mini festivals were well attended and helped make real connection with those living in the vicinity of the park. Shirley also organised a very well attended Summer Holiday Club that was enjoyed by many local children and brought science and faith together in exciting and engaging ways. The culmination of the Holiday Club was a very high energy Sunday Service celebrating all that had been learned during the week.

In collaboration with her Ministry Team colleagues Shirley is looking at the work we do with our junior and secondary age children in their individual groups. A pattern is emerging where we have 3 active groups, the first for years 6, 7 and 8, the second for years 9, 10 and 11, the third for our Sixth Form students.

Shirley has spent much time getting to know and building relationships with all of the families whose children join with us for their growth in faith. Shirley has also shared in Baptism Preparation evenings explaining to parents the many opportunities we offer to help their children to grow in faith after their baptism.

I am looking forward to 2022 as Shirley is established in her post and shares more of her training and learning with us.

St Andrew's School

Report from the Headteacher, Bethan Willetts

We had a super start to 2020 as we celebrated a good Ofsted visit that recognised that 'pupils are very proud of their happy and welcoming school community'. It celebrated that 'learning in classrooms is focused and purposeful' and that 'pupils throughout the school show a real love of the variety of books they explore'.

By March we were in lockdown, and we started another journey as we started to navigate COVID. Whilst this was a challenge for us, our priority was to ensure children's learning, social and emotional needs were not adversely affected.

We learnt to teach our curriculum online and our pupils and parents learnt how to learn remotely. 25 laptops were delivered to families who could then access remote learning. We opened 7 bubbles in school which became known as Key Club. 23% of our pupils who were children of key workers or

were vulnerable attended. Keeping connected was vital during this time. Our incredible staff and Inclusion team went above and beyond calling families, supporting parents and delivering food parcels.

By June we were all back in school in year group bubbles. We worked around this to ensure our pupils were able to 'live life in all its fullness'. This included having birthday parties in school for pupils who could not have their own in the community, remote assemblies, visitors to school, Science enrichment week, Sports Day and much, much more. We are so proud of our pupils for how they have managed this.

We are now coming through this and starting to enjoy being able to fully open our doors again. I truly believe that as a school at the heart of its community we have emerged stronger.

FAITH AND SOCIAL ACTION PROJECTS

Christians Against Poverty

Report by Charleen Hollington

CAP provides help to people who are burdened with debt and experiencing anxiety and even despair as a result. It assists by negotiating with creditors and determining a repayment plan or helping with bankruptcy proceedings.

There is no doubt that CAP provides a magnificent lifeline to people who are becoming desperate. It was for this reason that the PCC some years ago originally chose CAP as one of the four principal charities that St Andrew's would support. Under the aegis of Bookham Baptist Church (the 'partner church' for CAP in Mole Valley) we made annual financial contributions of a minimum of £1200 and usually much more. We also had three members of the congregation who acted as 'befrienders', who provided support and friendship to clients of CAP going through the long and difficult haul to solvency. The organisation has latterly been led by Jennie Coles as Mole Valley Debt Centre Manager, and she has been a passionate and creative leader in reaching out to those in debt.

In 2021 the family we had been supporting since 2016 finally paid off their debt of £63,000 which had been incurred in supporting family members through illness and financial crisis in another country, and this was a wonderful achievement.

In the light of all this, it might seem strange that in 2021 the PCC, on advice from the Faith and Social Action Committee, decided that it would be appropriate to end our relationship with CAP.

It may help to understand this decision when we recall that the PCC had resolved that the church should support four principal charities: two foreign and two local. CAP was chosen as one of the local charities. The difficulty is that after several years of supporting CAP only two or three clients in our area had come forward for help. Three further potential clients from Cobham had come forward to make initial enquiries but had not continued with CAP. It was becoming apparent that for some reason which we could not discern, debt burden was not a priority in the needs of people in Cobham and the surrounding area. The point was raised that there were more pressing needs locally that we could be supporting. We therefore ended our relationship with CAP Mole Valley, very amicably and with no ill feeling. Our reasons were understood by the Mole Valley CAP team.

We are now at the stage where we are choosing a local charity to replace CAP, and this will probably be finalized at the PCC meeting in March 2022.

We give thanks to God for the support we have been able to provide to CAP, and for the inspiration of the love and commitment shown by the Mole Valley CAP team.

Cobham Area Foodbank

Report by Christina van Roest, General Manager.

Another Year of Pandemic

Who would have thought that we are still in a 'careful' mode in our daily life with regard to the COVID situation two years on?

Not much changed in our activities. The Warehouse is processing the incoming donations three times a week; the transport department is collecting all the goods from the drop-off points and taking them to the Warehouse; the Distribution Centre remained available for collections by all clients as well as delivering food parcels to those not able to attend our open sessions; our Communication Officer is working hard to get messages across and updating the Community with the essential items most needed in the Warehouse.

The procedures we had set up right from the beginning of the Pandemic remained in place and were followed strictly, keeping health and safety for all involved, volunteers and clients as our priority.

Again the Community stepped up to the challenge and supported the Foodbank most generously. The highlights of the year with copious donations are collections during the Harvest Festival and the Christmas Festive Season. We were able to give out extra parcels, Christmas hampers, fresh fruit and vegetables, a variety of meats, apart from the staple foods we hand out weekly. Needless to say that the clients were very appreciative and grateful for the kindness and compassion shared by the surrounding communities contributing with all donations, private ones and those from the Churches' shopping bins, Supermarkets and other outlets.

Last calendar year we fed about 2,000 people, about half the number of people we fed in 2020, but that was certainly due to the credit of £20 per week given out by the Government to Universal Credit clients. Furlough payments for employed people made it possible for them to just manage with the bills and other regular costs. But since the credit bonus and the furlough payments ended, more people were straight away in difficulties, some having been dismissed from an earlier 'secure' job, and with less money coming in from Universal Credit the number of our clients has risen considerably.

The predictions for this year 2022 about clients needing the Foodbank do not look favourable as the monetary policies indicate a rise in the cost of living across the board, but where will

the help for the deprived in our area come from to cope in daily life?

The Foodbank is an obvious social hub where people come not just for the food but for support in all aspects of their life, hopefully signposting them to other institutions and services which could help them out of debt, support them with the mental health issues, anxiety and breakdown of relationships.

It really seems Utopian to think that foodbanks will be obsolete in the near future, even in our 'rich' catchment area including Cobham, Oxshott, Stoke D'Abernon, Downside, East & West Horsley and Effingham.

The food donations have diminished considerably in the first months of this year, but the number of clients has gone up. May I please ask you to remember to donate food items for those in need in our neighbourhood as requested on the fortnightly issued shopping lists? Last year St Andrew's donated 5¾% of the total donated by private individuals and institutions including churches.

The Cobham Area Foodbank will continue to support the deprived in our area with help and compassion for everyone in need thanks to your great support.

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 funds 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.

The charity achieved a number of important milestones in its 15th year of operation:

- The number of children fed in 2021 exceeded 7500 despite the ongoing challenges and restrictions caused by the coronavirus epidemic in the country.
- The number of feeding projects expanded to a total of 11 thanks to the generosity of the charity's donors and ad hoc fund-raising events. Although the charity has

its origins in the Garden Route coastal area of South Africa, the projects are now spread geographically across a number of provinces, although the majority of them remain located in the Western and Eastern Cape regions.

- The amount of funding given to the charity's beneficiaries in 2021 exceeded £81,000. An important fact to note is that 99% of this funding is spent directly on the purchase of e'Pap and hence on the feeding of under-privileged children. There are no "middlemen" benefitting from the funds provided by the GRCT.
- The charity has no employees.

To say that 2021 was another difficult year is a major understatement. The third and fourth waves of Coronavirus variants, combined with major civil unrest in the middle of the year, had a devastating impact on the lives of poor South Africans living in the townships and informal settlements. Although schools mostly remained open during the year, the attendance levels at crèches and at nursery and pre-primary schools averaged no more than 50-60% due to high levels of unemployment and poverty.

Thanks to the resilience, resourcefulness and commitment of our beneficiaries, as well as many additional volunteers, the GRCT was able to provide continuous feeding to the children and, in many cases, their families as well.

Unlike 2020, several fund-raising events were held in 2021, the most successful of which was the virtual Great Garden Route Trek in January 2021. This single event raised £11,600. St Andrew's Cobham gave a one-off donation of £2,000, as well as £235 raised at a talk by David Taylor on the Lushington Family of Cobham. Members of our church also gave individual donations for which the GRCT is extremely grateful.

The funds raised by the charity enabled the following new projects to come on board: Wellington, Laingsburg, Isivuno (Port Elizabeth), St Francis Bay, Tsitsikama (overseen by St Francis Rotary Club), Despatch and Parson's Vlei (both Port Elizabeth).

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.

Operation Mobilisation/Nepal and Himalayas

Report by Peter Kelly

The year of 2021 was a successful, yet tumultuous time for our ministry partners in Nepal. Throughout the year and despite the pandemic, God blessed their ministry and sustained them through trials of health and separation. As they look to 2022, the opportunities to serve appear to be greater than they have ever been.

Some highlights from 2021 include:

- Recruiting and placement of over 250 field new staff
- Training and mobilising over 2,300 local leaders
- Distributing over 250,000 gospel and support packets in the region
- Visiting 50,000 new households in offering support, prayer, and encouragement
- Establishing 100 new medical care partnerships for people with HIV/AIDS
- Planting 42 new churches
- Raising 80% of the cost needed to double the number of field workers in 2022

Clearly God is working through the hands and feet of the OM missionaries and field support workers who minister in Nepal and the greater region of the Himalayas. What a blessing it was to see that the distribution of the micro-SD cards proved to be such a blessing to many during the periods of lockdown as many people heard in their own language for the first time messages of encouragement and forgiveness in the recorded messages from OM. Also, how wonderful to see the government affirm their community support work.

All of the local work that we have delighted in hearing about continued in 2021, including women's microenterprise support, sustainable agriculture, new baby care, outreach to the lonely, language lessons, music fellowship, and children's activities and care. As a result, the local ministry training centre in Kathmandu is doubling in size in 2022.

Throughout it all, the community workers in Nepal remain grounded in a common desire to know Jesus and make him known -- there in Nepal just like we do here in Cobham. They have asked that we share their love, gratitude and appreciation for our annual support and remind us that we are regularly in their prayers. Their country leader asks for our prayers as they boldly step out in faith in 2022 in a growth initiative which will lay the foundation for reaching not hundreds more,

but thousands more people annually through the expanded outreach. We look forward to hearing from the team personally in 2022 - so stay tuned!

We commit this annual summary to all of the family at St. Andrew's with a statement from a person touched by the ministry of OM Nepal; "I had ignored Him, but I now know that God loves me. OM has reminded me of his love, and for that, I am thankful." Do you know Him and would you like to make Him known? Would you like to get involved? If so, please contact me at pjk207@me.com

Social Concerns Forum

Chaired by David Taylor

The Social Concerns Forum provides an opportunity for all members of the church to come together and share informally about various issues of local social concern in which they might be involved. Because of the lockdown, the Forum has only met once during the year.

Transforming Lives for Good

Report by Carrie Taylor

This year has seen TLG become more settled in St. Andrew's School as there has been less disruption due to Covid. The three coaches between them have supported five children over the past year. At our recent TLG Annual Review the school expressed their appreciation of the programme and the way that the coaches can build relationships with both the child and their family, offering friendship and support.

This year we have also been able to invite TLG families to our church BBQ and Parties in the Park and this has been a great way to get to know each other in an informal environment. TLG has recently been adopted by the church as one of the Faith and Social Action charities which we support financially through our church Outward Giving.

We continue to pray for God's blessing and guidance as we seek to recruit new coaches and express God's love to others.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Easter Bags of Joy

Report by Carrie Taylor

2021 saw continued restrictions on many of our usual celebrations, and among other events the Easter Tea was cancelled. It was decided to follow up the Christmas Bags of Hope delivered around Cobham in December 2020 with Easter Bags of Joy. About 70 bags containing Easter greetings, Easter eggs and other Easter goodies were organised and distributed by a group of volunteers. We prayed that people would be blessed through these little bags, and many words of thanks and appreciation were expressed on doorsteps and by email in response.

Christmas Lunch

Report by Elaine Bray

Shirley Mensa was prepared and ready and our guests were looking forward to our first Christmas Lunch back in Church Gate House. Unfortunately we had to decide, due to the rising numbers of Covid cases and the need to keep everyone safe, to move to a delivery service. Shirley turned everything around very quickly to pack and deliver two lovely bags of Christmas lunch and treats to everyone. We are grateful for the continual support of Waitrose, the Food Bank, Oasis and the people of Cobham who help the Christmas Lunch to happen. We pray that we will be able

to welcome guests back to Church Gate House for the Christmas Lunch in 2022.

Churches Together in Cobham, Oxshott and Stoke d'Abernion

Report by Geoff Morris

Keith Baird and I are the representatives for St Andrew's on our local Churches Together. Leonard Beighton is the Treasurer.

As with so much else, our activities this year have been much affected by the Covid pandemic. We were not able to hold a service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, nor did we gather around the Cross on Good Friday. But we were able to hold carol singing during the Cobham Extravaganza: it was such a cold evening that Mike Branscombe and Nigel Goddard, along with the players from St Andrew's, Oxshott, must have found it very difficult to keep up their fingering on their instruments. Cobham also provided a fair number of singers along with old friends from the other Churches.

However there is little sign of much other activity. Mike Branscombe will hold a service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, but next year we should be holding ecumenical Lent groups, and in the absence of any co-ordination, they are unlikely to happen. Indeed

it is several years now since there has been much sign of any planning or strategy.

Elmbridge Multifaith Forum

The Aims of the Forum are:

1. To help people to understand, respect and enjoy each other's faiths, and philosophies.
2. To provide information, arrange visits, talks, projects and discussions, and participate in the activities of each other's faiths.
3. To work with people of other faiths and beliefs for the benefit of local and global communities

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

Newsletters, 'Insights into Faiths' booklets and Membership application forms are available from Geoff Morris or Leonard Beighton.

Our plans for visits and meetings had to be abruptly cancelled and rethought as a result of COVID restrictions. All that we managed to arrange between April 2020 and January 2021 was the AGM on 15th September and 3 committee meetings, all on ZOOM.

However, during January 2021, we realised that ZOOM gave us an opportunity to bring in speakers from anywhere in the world. However, we then realised that we had to find a time when all would have access to their IT and illustrative resources. In effect, to involve Chung Lo from Hong Kong and proposed speakers from the UK, the meeting had to have a very prompt start at 10am. The chosen date was Tuesday 2nd February, 2021.

The title of the meeting was: **"My Buddhism, A Guide to differences among Chinese, Thai, Tibetan and Zen Buddhist practices"**.

- The speakers were:-
- Phrama Bhatsakorn Piyobhaso, who spoke about his experiences as a young monk in Thailand.
- Wayne Lee, the English pupil of a Tibetan Lama.
- King Chung Lo, International Author and Lecturer on Buddhism, based at Hong Kong University, who spoke about Buddhism in China.
- Martin Goodison, Shobo-an Zen Centre, UK.

The presentations were followed by a discussion, chaired by King Chung Lo,

answering questions put by members of the audience.

This was one of the most effective meetings we have ever had, the quality of the presentations being augmented by some exceptional personal and scenic photography, and other visual aids, which were on the screen as the presentations were made.

On the evening of 18th May, we Zoomed a Sikh evening, during which three Sikhs explained what Sikhism meant to them.

The AGM was held on Zoom on Tuesday 22nd June.

On Tuesday, 21st September, we held on ZOOM a very informative meeting with the title "My Hinduism – a guide to differences among Hindus. The Speakers were:-

1. **Radha Mohan** – Communications Officer Bhaktrivedanta Manor, Watford.
2. **Serena Jones** – Sri Sathya Sai International Organisation.
3. **Saidhanya Raviendrakumar** – Sri Raja Rajeswar Amman Temple Stoneleigh.

What became clear is that, whilst Sikh beliefs are fairly consistent, Hinduism is highly complex and some knowledge of Sanskrit is helpful.

Ladies Fellowship Suppers

Report by Kim Constable

Despite a second year of covid we've not let that ruin our fun. This year we have been joined by brides to be, Little Fishes mums, neighbours and friends we've met at Party in the Park. Our first supper was a delicious paella (kindly cooked by my husband Nick) and wonderful deserts made by our talented ladies. We flew the Spanish flags, played a themed quiz and generally laughed and talked. So wonderful after not being together for so long. Christmas was celebrated at the beginning of December. It was an alternative vegetarian meal washed down with lots of Prosecco. We watched a Christmas wreath demonstration and very rowdily sang the Twelve days of Christmas. Our Christmas quiz was won by ladies from St Mary's Molesey. Everyone left with a little bag of hand made truffles by Liz Bradley and eager to know when the next evening would be.

Heritage Day

Report by Leonard Beighton

Once again Heritage Day was cancelled because of Covid. In 2022 we shall be celebrating Platinum Day in early June to mark the 70 years of the Queen's reign.

Spiritual Cinema

Facilitated by the Vicar

In 2021 we watched these films.

- October – Green Book
- November – Stan and Ollie
- December – Miracle on 34th Street

We did not meet between January and September due to Covid restrictions.

We were happy to return in October 2021. After each film we enjoyed delicious refreshments provided by Julie Baird. I am very grateful to Julie for all the hospitality she has so generously shown since we resumed meeting. Each evening closes with spiritual questions about the movie and some thoughts from the Vicar.

Men's Supper Night

Report by Nick Constable

We rebooted the Men's Supper Night after the Covid restrictions with a Paella night at which

we circulated a short questionnaire asking how people would like the Men's Evenings to proceed.

These were analysed and a meeting was held in the "Running Mare" to formulate a way forward.

The upshot of which resulted in our next event which was a wine tasting. We are lucky enough to have in our congregation someone who has been in the industry for most of his life.

Nick Tamblyn gave a fun and interesting presentation which was enjoyed by all. We started with the basics and sampled two white, two red and two dessert wines.

We hope to continue with a further wine tasting later in the year when we can explore different regions in more depth.

Our average attendance is 20+ which we are hoping to build on.

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.

