



ST ANDREW'S
CHURCH • COBHAM

2022
ANNUAL
REVIEW

March 2023

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VISION STATEMENT

To Know, Glorify, and Make Christ known

The Vision of St Andrew's is to bring a broader, larger congregation to Christ; to nurture, feed and serve our congregation and community; and to apply our faith in our everyday lives.

St Andrew's continues to seek to be a Christian community through which all can come to know and accept God's love for them and to reflect that love wherever they are.

THE CHURCH AND ITS MINISTRY

Vicar's Report

A Year of Welcomes and Farewells

Report by the Revd Dr Mike Branscombe

As January 2022 began, we were, once again, working out what ministry and mission would look like as the country continued to adapt to the ever-present reality of life with Covid. Restrictions were easing and many aspects of life were beginning to feel normal. As more people were happy to return to church in person for worship, we saw numbers steadily grow across our services and as the year went on we saw attendance return to pre-pandemic levels. I have been especially pleased to see our 8am Book of Common Prayer service on Sunday continue to grow and sustain the increased attendance, it is not unusual to have 20 people attending at 8am.

We have continued to broadcast our 10am service on YouTube and each week we average approximately 100 views of the service. I am very happy that the musical resources prepared and uploaded by David Fuge during lockdown have proved to be very popular. One of our music videos has been viewed 4,600 times on YouTube!

Lent in 2022

Worship for Ash Wednesday was able to return to church with services at 7am and 8pm. Following the interest we had last year as we offered the imposition of ashes at the lych-gate for any who wanted to come and receive, we again offered "Ashes to Go". Many people stopped to receive ashes or ask what we were doing out at the gate wearing our robes. We offered a single Lent Group in church where we watched a series of short videos presented by the Bishop of Guildford. Whilst attendance at the group was relatively small, those that came enjoyed thoughtful videos and good

group discussions. For the first time since 2019 all of our services for Holy Week and Easter Sunday took place in church.

Releasing Reserves to Invest in Ministry and Mission

Knowing that Tori and Bryan Silletti would be joining the Ministry Team as Curates in July, the PCC turned its attention to finding suitable accommodation for them in Cobham. With the long term hope of offering more ministry in the north western part of our parish, it was decided to look at property to the north of Portsmouth Road. With the cost of renting a family home for three years and all of the associated expenses totalling in the region of £100,000 the option of releasing cash reserves to purchase a property were explored. Following a period of discussion by PCC and viewing several properties, it was resolved to purchase a 3 bedroom house in Coveham Crescent. In late May the Sillettis moved into the home and began to settle in Cobham ahead of their ordination on July 4th. In parallel to the decision to release reserves for the purchase of a house, we also held a gift day "Investing in Mission and Ministry" where members of St Andrew's were encouraged to make an investment in the future of the church.

As well as making decisions about property, the PCC also engaged in an initiative from the Diocese of Guildford called the "Parish Needs Process". The aim of this initiative is to help parishes identify their priorities for ministry and mission in the short and medium term. Through a series of meetings enabled by diocesan officers, the PCC, Ministry Team, churchwardens and clergy have arrived at a number of foci for a Church Development Plan. The PCC will agree this plan in early 2023 and it will be shared at the APCM.

Ministry through Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

In 2022 we welcomed couples into church to celebrate their marriage; many of these couples had waited for Covid restrictions to ease or had previous plans postponed. It was a real joy to share with these couples through the year and particularly good to hear our choir singing and church bells ringing out at these services. We also welcomed many people through Baptisms which have also been affected by Covid restriction since 2020 and 2021. We introduced a Baptism Preparation evening in 2022. Charleen Hollington worked very hard on the presentation used for the preparation evenings: this clearly explains what the Christian faith is and how baptism is understood by the church. The parents who have attended enjoyed the presentation and the opportunity to meet other families coming for baptism. Funeral and memorial services have also returned to pre-pandemic patterns, and we continue to offer support and care to all of the families who come to us as they say goodbye to their loved ones.

Ministry to Cobham

On July the 4th our Ministry Team grew by two as Bryan and Tori were ordained as Deacons in the Church of England and joined us as Curates in training. Through the remainder of the year they settled into parish life and have both embraced new opportunities for ministry. It has been great to see them adding practical experiences in Cobham to the training they received at Trinity College in Bristol. Their friendly warmth and real interest in people has been well received, and along with Abigail and Solomon they have each contributed to our life together as part of God's Church in Cobham. We look forward to their ordination to the priesthood on July 1st at Guildford Cathedral and the extension of their ministry that will follow.

I would like to thank Rev Dr Moni Babatunde, Rev Charleen Hollington, Rev Tori Silletti, Rev Bryan Silletti, Elaine Bray, David Fuge and Shirley Mensa for working hard to serve God through St Andrew's Church. Each of them gives so much more than simply doing the things on their job descriptions. The commitment and loyalty they each offer and receive is a true blessing to us as a church and to me as incumbent.

Our work at St Andrew's School has also returned to a more normal pattern of assemblies, visits to church and providing leadership as governors. Our "Transforming Lives for Good" coaches continue to offer vital

support to students at school: many thanks to Carrie Taylor for acting as a leader and a link for this ministry.

On November the 1st 2022, All Saints' Day, Rev Peter Vickers ended his earthly pilgrimage and entered into the fullness of God's closest presence. Peter's passing came as a surprise to us as a church and has been a shock to the wider Cobham community. Peter served St Andrew's and Cobham more widely for decades, for almost 30 years as a member of the parish clergy and for years before that in numerous church roles. In the days since Peter's death I have been struck by just how many people have told me how important Peter was to them as the Youth Club leader in Cobham. Dozens have told me how fondly they remember the Youth Club and more than one have said that Peter was a father figure in their lives. On December 1st we gathered in a full church to celebrate Peter's life and ministry. All of the incumbents Peter served with were present as Rev Barry Preece and Rev Robert Jenkins joined the congregation. As I said at the service that day: "Peter and Jenny have untiringly witnessed to Christ and served the church: we thank God for Peter and all that he did in ministry to help so many people in Cobham. Well done good and faithful servant."

Final Thoughts

I would like to thank Michael Elson, Paul Hurrell and Sam Aquaye who have all served as churchwardens during 2022. I value the time I spend with them each week, their encouragement, wisdom and support for me as incumbent sustains me as together we work out what ministry and mission looks like at St Andrew's Church.

St Andrew's Small Groups

Report by Charleen Hollington Home Groups Co-ordinator

Our existing small groups continued to meet during 2022, but efforts to get new groups going were not successful. I continued as Small Groups Co-ordinator, and in September 2022 I arranged for Richard Lloyd, head of the Mission Enabler Team for the diocese, to come and speak to our small group leaders and other interested people about small groups. This was an interesting and helpful day. Following that day, a plan was put together and presented to the group leaders with a new focus for this ministry, including suggested materials, to be changed each term. Our new 'strapline' for St Andrew's small groups (or rather, *home* groups, to differentiate them from the many other types of small

groups at the church) is 'Belong, Learn, Care and be Cared for'. Efforts were made at services to encourage people to put their name down to join a group, but the response was slow. A bigger presentation was given at the service on 29 January 2023 (hence, not technically part of this review, but still part of the 2022 process) and several people have now expressed an interest in joining a group. We hope that we will be able to report in the next Annual Review that we have at least one new group up and running.

Moving Forward

Report by Paul Hurrell

In 2020 a group of St Andrew's members were tasked with looking at the life and ministry of church during, and following, the crisis caused by the coronavirus epidemic. The output from this exercise was a document titled "Moving Forward".

"Moving Forward" provided recommendations for several aspects of the church life under the broad heading of "Wider Doors". This covered Youth Church; Engaging with the Broader Community; Technology, Branding & Communication; and "Deeper Wells". The last of these included Preaching During and Beyond the Pandemic; and Kids Church. The recommendations were presented and debated at a PCC meeting in late 2020.

In 2022 the Diocese initiated a process to create a Church Development Plan, beginning with a PCC Away Day held in March 2022. The Moving Forward document provided the basis for discussion and resulted in a three-point plan that was reviewed by the Diocese Mission Enabler, and presented to the PCC in September 2022. The three key objectives in the plan are:

- Create more places and more points of interaction where our community can experience a sense of belonging, caring and learning and become part of our St Andrew's family
- Engage with, and passionately serve, the community north of the Portsmouth Road
- Develop a more regular and increased income stream to allow us to continue growing our church and providing strong stewardship.

The detailed action points and responsibilities of the Church Development Plan will be reviewed by the PCC on 24th January 2023.

With regard to the specific areas included in Moving Forward, these are covered in this

Annual Review under the following sections: Ministry and Engaging with the Community; Children and Families; Website.

The majority of the recommendations in Technology, Branding and Communication were implemented in 2021, with the exception of new notice boards that were completed in early 2022. Two boards were fully refurbished and two were replaced with new boards.

Assets and Fabric

Report by Paul Hurrell and Sam Acquaye

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 2022, under the excellent chairmanship of Clive Moorman.

During 2022 maintenance work was carried out to address various specific issues in and around the church. The work included: repainting the porch, the loft ceiling, and repair/repainting of a number of the high panels in the main Church just above the projector. The nave altar was also refurbished and a brass plate fitted acknowledging the carpenter and designer. This work was sponsored by Geoff Morris. Lastly, the PA system was also refurbished because the horns that provide the high frequencies ("tweeters") had failed on both speakers.

PCC approved the purchase of a house in Coveham Crescent for the new curates in May 2022. This purchase was a major investment for St Andrews Church but vitally important for investing in Mission and Ministry thereby enabling growth and discipleship within the community. The new house failed its electrical safety certificates as downlights were not fire rated. These were subsequently repaired and have now obtained all the relevant safety certificates.

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 organized and carried out by a number of volunteers from St Andrew's.

The flat above Church Gate House has been occupied for the most of 2022 with very minor repairs. A new tenant recently moved in during the last quarter of 2022 with a couple of minor issues to resolve, but so far so good.

Two new Church noticeboards to replace old ones at the main entrance to the church and on the High St were installed in April. The

other two at the Lychgate entrance and on the corner of Church St & Downside Bridge Road were refurbished.

The laptop currently being used for the Youth ministry is quite old and will need replacing. This will enable the Youth ministry team to upload and run lots of inspiring programs on the Web to assist our children in their journey of knowing Christ.

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 Parish Secretary

The Parish Office is based in Church Gate House and is open on Monday – Friday between 9am and 1pm. Elaine endeavours to offer a warm welcome and to assist anyone visiting the Church Office. To help with the administration we are using more of the facilities within ChurchSuite and will be inviting the congregation to join ChurchSuite before you read this report in early 2023. Hall bookings are currently dealt with via Hallmaster, which is fully integrated with our new website, and which is now fully operational, to allow people to check availability and provisionally book the facilities. During the coming year hall bookings will also be integrated into ChurchSuite. Hall bookings have marginally recovered during the past year, most of the large regular groups have returned, but are still below the levels pre-pandemic. During the winter months there are less private birthday party bookings, which do provide regular income during the summer months. Church Gate House is also a popular location for Church Away Days when we are able to welcome other churches here and for funeral receptions. We are still very short of shortage space in Church Gate House and are looking forward to the refurbishment of the toilet area, doors and a small extension at the end of the hall.

Social media is an increasingly important strand of our communications strategy. We have continued to use HooteSuite to facilitate broadcasting to 3 social media sites, Instagram, Twitter and Facebook in one post. Our new website is also a positive tool for communications. The new noticeboards also allow us to communicate in a more traditional manner with posters. Thank you to everyone who helped to distribute the Christmas Services postcard, they were so popular we

even printed several hundred additional ones in the office.

Church Website & ChurchSuite Admin System

Report by David Greenwood

(davidg@sac.church)

The new website (sac.church) went properly live at the start of 2022.

The church calendar and further details on upcoming events are on the site. We have already had some events bookable through the website too.

Elaine Bray updates the regular content and I am the first line of support, with D&A Graphics assisting with bigger changes.

I am intending to learn WordPress to be able to do more in-house in terms of structural changes - if you are already competent with WordPress and would like to help support the website, please get in touch.

Behind the website, linked but separate, is the Church Admin system, "ChurchSuite". This is a package that is being used by many other churches large and small, including our neighbours at Oxshott. The system holds the church's contacts directory. It was used as the basis for the mailings from Mike for the Ministry & Mission appeal during the year, as well as for the weekly email list and so on.

Although the church staff team can contact you for the running of the church and pastoral matters, we can only tell you about future events if we have your permission under GDPR rules. Your permissions are held in ChurchSuite. Feel free to ask me to check what we hold for you, or better still you can check for yourself. In early 2023 we will be inviting people to make use of MyChurchsuite to check and update their own details and permissions directly, and also to see Events,

the Calendar, Communications from the church, their Rotas and a Church Address book. The Address Book will only show personal information that individuals have agreed to make available. Churchsuite is accessible either via a Smartphone App or via a web browser. The roll out is being planned by Marten and Kellie Symons along with myself (and under the guidance of Mike Branscombe).

St Andrew's Parish Magazine 'Family'

Report by Zoë Ostley

In 2022 we were unable to pull together a team of people to revive the production of the church magazine. The process of producing the magazine requires commitment and a team of people, not just one person producing the hard copies. Knowledge of publication software is useful, but it's dedication and an interest in the task that is paramount. Question: is a magazine required? Or do the social media platforms being used within the church take over the role of the magazine ?

Other communications

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. The main notices for the week ahead are given during Sunday services,

There are **notice boards** at the south entrance to the Church, at the north-west

entrance to the churchyard, 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 a Church of England roll, 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 2022, the number on roll stood at 173. During the year we added 8 people but lost five, four had died and one moved away.

If you are not sure if you are already on the Roll, please email me at davidg@sac.church and I can check and/or send you the form.

To be added you need the form, either from me, or you can also download the form from the website, or there should be some paper copies in church.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Membership

The clergy, Churchwardens, and lay representatives on the Deanery Synod are members of the Church Council ex officio. In addition 12 lay members are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules, ordinarily making 22 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	
Training Curates	Revd Bryan Silletti <i>from July 2022</i>	
	Revd Tori Silletti <i>from July 2022</i>	
Churchwardens	Sam Acquaye <i>from April 2022</i>	
	Michael Elson <i>to April 2022</i>	
	Paul Hurrell	Lay Vice-Chairman
Lay Representatives on the Deanery Synod	Claire Costard	
	David Greenwood	
	David Taylor	
Elected members	Keith Baird	
	Leonard Beighton	Secretary
	Kim Constable	
	Michael Elson <i>from April 2022</i>	
	Malcolm Graham	Treasurer
	Sue Kilpatrick	
	Freddie Marshall <i>to April 2022</i>	
	Tolani Martin	
	Clive Moorman	
	Lynn Moreno	
	Geoff Morris <i>from April 2022, previously co-opted</i>	
Carrie Taylor		
David Tipping		

The Work of the Council in 2022

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.

Deanery Synod

Report by David Greenwood

The Leatherhead Deanery Synod meets three times a year, in 2022 one was on Zoom and the other two in-person.

The February meeting heard about the work of Elmbridge CAN and also the Epsom and Ewell Refugee Network working with refugees in our area.

June's meeting focused on Racial Justice in the Church with the speaker being Revd Folli Olokose in his role as Minority Ethnic Vocations Champion for the Diocese. This was quite an eye-opening and challenging session, both in the history of the Church's involvement in slavery and in addressing how much people feel welcome and able to participate fully in all roles in our churches. One example was that people of colour get fed up of one of the first questions being "where are you from?" so

often, more often than for white newcomers. A good and helpful discussion was held.

In the October meeting, Revd Jolyan Trickey introduced the Diocesan partnership with Sialkot Diocese in Pakistan which was launched in July 2021. Some of you may have been at our Friday morning Communion service when Bishop Alwyn of Sialkot visited St Andrew's in November.

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 Michael Elson. 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.

Expenditure Budget

Report by Brian Silletti

An Expenditure Budget was approved at the January 2023 PCC meeting with the understanding that our focus at St. Andrew's is **TO KNOW, GLORIFY AND MAKE CHRIST KNOWN**. This budget is based on initial estimates from each budget owner compiled into an overall budget. However it was recognised that several budget items are not changeable, such as the Parish share, insurance, salaries, and the specially approved building projects. The remainder of the budget responsibility will sit within the budget holder, and the standard approval process and controls will be maintained for Rev. Mike Branscombe, Standing Committee and PCC expense approvals. This budget will be used to help us understand in the future how and where we allocate funds and to better manage income to expenses. It was agreed that the budget will be reviewed regularly (perhaps quarterly) as the year progresses to understand comparison with the budgets. Additional budget codes will be developed and there will be some additional work for the near term for Malcolm Graham, as the treasurer, but we hope the budgets and codes will help for better management in the future. We have

to decide how to capture the expense of the CGH building project (£90K) and how to capture the CIL funding at a later date. There has been no decision yet, but the expense captured under the budget is based on the expense after receiving the CIL¹ funding (i.e. £90K expense minus £44K CIL funding).

Churchgate House Committee

Report by Lynn Moreno

The Hall is now being well used after it was closed for the pandemic, but bookings are still falling short of pre-pandemic levels. To consider what might be done to enhance its amenities, Marten Symons, Mike Branscombe and I met to walk through the facility and talk through the scope of the proposed renovation project. The main actions discussed were:

- To review our current client list to understand usage, availability and pricing
- To conduct an external review of facilities in the area, and how we can market the venue
- To review our current booking and invoicing system and look to transition this possibly to ChurchSuite
- To review what may be required regarding re-decoration, equipment etc
- To review the Welcome area, how it is used, anything needed and the rota
- To look at storage and how this is to be managed after the renovations.

ECO Committee PCC Update

Report by Rev Bryan Silletti

The ECO committee is going through some changes as Clive has stepped down as chair. We wanted to say thank you to Clive and his faithful leadership of the ECO team for over 10 years and all the work the team has been

¹ Community Infrastructure Levy

involved in together over the years. Bryan Silletti has assumed interim responsibility as chair of the ECO team and we are evaluating what is the vision going forward. We have had our first meeting with limited attendance, but several people indicating additional interest in the group. We hope to meet again in March to see the individual and group passions to determine our next steps with an initial plan for the year.

Faith and Social Action Committee

Report by Revd Charleen Hollington

During 2022 the Faith and Social Action Committee, together with our Project Champions, continued to meet every three months with the goal of helping St Andrew's to be a blessing to those less fortunate than ourselves, both locally and overseas.

The committee continued to consist of Charleen Hollington (Chair), Leonard Beighton, David Taylor, Geoff Morris and Elaine Bray. Sue Kilpatrick stepped back from the committee for the time being due to personal circumstances. Our Project Champions and the charities they represent are Peter Kelly (OM Himalayas), Paul Hurrell (the Garden Route Children's Trust), Carrie Taylor (Transforming Lives for Good), David Taylor (Oasis – see more below), and Alison Greenwood (the Foodbank). In addition to these, Helen Goddard continues to represent Christian Aid Week in Cobham.

As mentioned in the 2021 Annual Review, St Andrew's amicably ended its relationship with Christians Against Poverty in 2021 for the reasons set out there. After some deliberation and with the approval of the PCC it was decided to replace CAP as our local charity with a charity called Oasis. Oasis is a long-established and well-known charity in Cobham, supporting families, and we will be supporting in particular the work of Oasis' Freedom project which deals with domestic abuse. David Taylor is our Project Champion for Oasis.

During the year we continued the practice of holding 'Project Sundays' at which Project Champions led a section in the service giving information about their particular project. We also recommenced the pandemic practice of sending out a newsletter in October 2022, and we plan to make the newsletter a more regular feature in 2023.

A very enjoyable (though not especially profitable) 'Hit and Hope' fundraiser golf evening was held in June (won by the ladies' four-ball, the 'Hail Marys'). We plan to hold

another one in 2023 but hopefully with a bigger field in order to increase profitability.

All of our Project Champions have provided a report for their respective charities elsewhere in this Review.

As always, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Committee, the Project Champions, and to all those involved in our various charitable projects for everything they do. And of course, thanks must go to all the members of the congregation, from whose financial giving we are able to make our helpful donations to our chosen charities.

Giving Committee

The Giving Committee has not been functioning this year. It is likely to be revived in 2023 under a new Chair.

Outward Giving Team

Report by Cathy Whitnall (chair)

Members: Keith Baird, Julie Baird, Michael Elson, Carrie Taylor.

The OGT would like to thank the PCC for allocating funds for distribution to charities once again; for 2022 we were granted £14,645.

We have continued to make donations to the charities supported by the Social Action Forum, i.e.

Garden Route Children's Trust (£2,000), Operation Mobilisation Nepal (£2,000), Cobham Foodbank (£1,000) and Transforming Lives for Good (£1,000) which has now replaced Christians Against Poverty within this portfolio. We also continued our support of A Rocha (£1,000).

We have increased our donation to Oasis (Cobham) to £3,000, whose workload continues to increase. We have also supported Elmbridge CAN with a gift of £3,000; this decision was made partly as a reaction to the Ukraine crisis, but also in awareness of the increasingly fraught circumstances in which many refugees find themselves. Elmbridge CAN supports refugees from many countries including Afghanistan and Syria in addition to Ukraine.

We have continued our support of St Andrew's School with a donation of £500. We also sent a donation of £500 to the Leprosy Mission, in memory of Peter Vickers' many years of fundraising for them. This left us with a sum of £645, which we sent to Crisis – as we have done for many years now. Crisis is of course not a Christian charity as such, but its care for

people very much follows the Christian message of loving thy neighbour.

As always, we welcome suggestions from any member of the congregation for charities that we might support.

Pastoral Committee

Chaired by the Vicar

In 2022 the Pastoral Committee of the church resumed its ministry and meetings. The Pastoral Assistants on the committee are Wendy Jane Gray, David Greenwood, and Carrie Taylor. Judy Brickett and Lindsay Sainsbury also serve on the committee as Pastoral Visitors. Moni Babatunde, Tori and Bryan Silletti, and I are the clergy members. Diocesan changes in the way that pastoral teams operate have moved the training and authorising of such ministries to the parish incumbent. I am very thankful for the way our pastoral team has reflected on all that we learned during the Covid lockdowns and adapted our systems to try and reach a wider group of people.

Property Committee

Report by Clive Moorman, Chair of Property Committee.

The Property Committee (David Tipping, Mike Branscombe, Keith Baird, Sam Acquaye, Nick Constable, Greg Bradley and Clive Moorman in the 'chair') met six times in 2022 and it has been a busy year for the team.

Items progressed in 2022:-

- **CGH Maintenance:** New designs for our notice boards were presented to the congregation in the early part of the year, leading to the boards being replaced and updated. New security lights were installed in the car park and latterly in the side alley to improve safety. The floodlights to the garden were all repaired and the PIR² light to the entrance to CGH has been replaced. We had an issue with blocked drains in the side alley and investigation revealed that they had collapsed in a number of areas. This required a substantial section to be dug up and replaced with new pipework. The entrance to the car park was damaged by an unknown party and required a new steel post to be installed and the fence rebuilt by a member of our congregation. The steel plate that has sat at the exit of the car park started to move, and this was

replaced with a permanent drain cover. The door closer on the ladies toilet failed and needed to be replaced. A number of lights in the hall have failed again, possibly due to poor design of the system and these have now been replaced with compatible bulbs. The loudspeakers in the hall failed and some second hand replacements were sourced by David Fuge. A new fire door was fitted to the hall kitchen and in a style that will mirror the design for the hall refurbishment.

- **New kitchen door:** The door leading to the garden was also replaced as the lock was faulty and could present a fire risk.
- **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 CIL³ funding. Detailed structural designs were drawn up with the assistance of a member of the congregation. After a number of complaints about the redesign of the entrance to CGH, we finally received planning permission to proceed with this project.
- **Rewilding St Andrew's Field:** The Eco Committee have fenced off 50% of the field for rewilding and we await to see how that develops over 2023
- **Redesign of CGH Garden:** A design for the garden was done and budget prices of £25,000 identified. However it has been agreed that we will put this project on hold until funds become available
- **Lychgate:** The black gates at the Lychgate were fully refurbished and look like new again.
- **Garden Tidy-ups:** We had a couple of garden tidy-ups in the year, but were hoping that the redesign of the CGH garden would reduce the need for this.
- **Church Repairs:** There were a number of repairs required in the church that were identified in the quinquennial report including replastering by the altar, repairing the damaged archway to chapel,

² Controlled by a Passive Infra-Red motion sensor

³ Community Infra-structure Levy

replacement of rotted timbers in the porch, re-rendering by the entrance porch and then a number of areas within the Church and the exterior of the porch repainted. Also a new entrance light to the porch was donated by one of the congregation in memory of her late husband. Concerns about the very high electrical usage in the church were investigated and it was found that the lighting was consuming over 6kW when all were switched on. This has been in part mitigated by adjusting the settings of the controls so that only partial lighting is switched on at the entrance door. The lights are also being replaced by more efficient LEDs. To date about 25% of the lights have been replaced, with the rest scheduled for 2023. The Nave Altar had some fire damage and this was refurbished, with the cost funded by a member of the congregation. Several of the church drains were blocked and these are now working ok. However there is still work required on the gutters and hoppers to be scheduled for 2023.

- **New House for Curates:** A house in Coveham Crescent was purchased for the curates who were shortly to arrive. Some repairs were immediately required to ensure that the lighting was fire rated, and an electrical safety certificate has been issued.
- **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.
- **EV Chargers in the carpark:** We attempted to have rapid EV chargers installed in the carpark to bring in additional income, but unfortunately this proved uneconomical due to the high cost of the electrical connection to the 'grid'.
- **Utilities:** Our fixed price contract with Ecotricity came to an end in December and a new 12 month fixed price contract was negotiated with them by Greg Bradley. However this does mean that the cost of our energy will increase by over 100% putting further pressure on budgets.

There is still much to do in 2023, mainly to tender and complete the refurbishment of CGH. The planning permission had a number of requirements and we intend to appoint an

architect to manage this project, which will be completed in a number of stages. We need to install new controls to the church heating system and this is being investigated. There are a number of items that need addressing and funding in the short/medium term this year, namely:-

To be approved:-

- Gutter clearing and fixing £800 for Church and £350 for CGH
- New boiler for CGH as one of our two boilers has failed and the other is unreliable. We propose fitting a single Viessmann boiler, £4,350.
- Service and gas safety certificates for Church Hamworthy boilers £900 inc VAT
- New sump pump procured and will be fitted by Clive shortly £150
- New electrical connection in Pyrotenax for sump pump £168
- Refelting the roof of CGH shed approx. £300
- Repairing steps at CGH and fitting a cover over old coal chute at SE corner of church £660
- Unblocking church drains and redesign of leaking drainpipe, works done £200.
- Removal of church toilet and survey foul drainage £225
- Total spend £8,043

Items outstanding

- Replace church lights with LED bulbs
- Upgrade church boiler controls
- Fit new handrail to boiler-room steps
- Fix loose heating plates in Church
- Replace oak gate at churchyard entrance.

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

Safeguarding

Report by Wendy Jane Gray Safeguarding officer

At St Andrew's we are becoming more familiar with using the safeguarding dashboard. This

online monitoring system enables us to monitor how we are doing with safeguarding tasks and responsibilities. Rev Tori Silletti has kindly agreed to help with this and to pass on important information regularly to the PCC. She previously worked with safeguarding at the Diocese and her help is immensely appreciated. Our children's worker, Shirley Mensa keeps safeguarding very much at the forefront of work with the youth. The modern world throws up increasing challenges in terms of how we communicate through social media, both etiquette and safe practice for adults and children alike. The Diocese offers excellent basic safeguarding awareness training that anyone can access online to help us all become self educated and aware. Information about the training available may be found at:

<https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/about/safeguarding/safeguarding-training>

We can all be safeguarding responsible and learn what we need to do if we have any concern. It is not the individual's responsibility to make a decision about whether something

is a safeguarding concern or not (unless it is obvious) but it is everyone's responsibility to pass on any concerns to those who can assess the situation. If anyone is aware of anything troublesome or worrying then they can contact me, the safeguarding officer at:

safeguarding@sac.church

or speak to a member of the clergy or youth work team. The Diocese also has a link on how to report a concern with a link and "how to" directions from the website:

The first contact point for safeguarding concerns during normal working hours is: safeguarding@cofeguildford.org.uk or you can contact one of the team individually.

We are constantly looking at ways that we can say all are welcome and need to feel safe within our church, and we endeavour to listen and truly hear our brothers and sisters in Christ in the way He would want us to.

CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

Bellringers

Report by Zoë Ostley

2022 was a sad year for the Bellringers. From the early start of the year we were still not ringing owing to covid and a lack of available ringers. By inviting ringers from other towers we were able to ring for the weddings requiring bells in the year. Sadly, in July, we lost a fellow ringer in front of our eyes. Ann Brown was a great support for us and is sadly missed, as also is the passing of another fellow ringer, Revd Peter Vickers. His enthusiasm, support and commitment is too, very sadly missed. Helen retired and Fred moved away and we wish them well and thank them for their support. Happy events happened too in 2022. Both Hannah and Fay married and remain part of the team, still living in the area. Roger and Carrie joined us in the last month of the year and with their input we rang for the midnight Christmas Eve service. Roger has teamed up with Peter Bound as joint captain to assist in the recruitment programme set in place for 2023. A campaign is underway to ring for the King's coronation and a drive to recruit new ringers is presently doing very well.

Church Cleaning

Report by Derek Bullman

I have always been abysmal at selling so I am not surprised that the response to my eloquent appeal for volunteers a year ago has been a

resounding ZERO. But that is not the whole picture. Those involved in organising special events inside the church do their best to clear up afterwards but – as in the Churchgate House kitchen – their "best" sometimes leaves quite a lot to be desired. In particular, it is no help to find the Sebo and Dyson blocked up with paper, straw, twigs and pine needles....Please use the correct tool for the job – "Henry"!

Last year I mentioned that the pre-Covid team enjoyed the "win-win-win" situation of many hands making light work, socialising during the coffee and biscuits break and a chance to enjoy the beautiful and peaceful surroundings of an empty church; not to mention the satisfaction of having done something useful for a good cause. What's not to like?

It is just possible that I am seen by some as a "grumpy old man", which might be off-putting to potential volunteers, so let me assure you of three things:- (i) nothing could be further from the truth! (ii) Your Church Needs You and (iii) I will be happy to absent myself from these responsibilities at the earliest opportunity.

Church Flowers

Report by Mabs Ostley

The role of flowers in the church has changed since covid. Silk flowers were used in lieu of fresh ones during the times when access to the church was restricted. For costing

purposes now, silk flowers remain in place. Fresh flowers for weddings and funerals are arranged when requested. The team available to arrange flowers when required remains at six people.

Church Gate House Welcome Area

Report by Elaine Bray

Many of the team of wonderful welcomers, who used to greet visitors to Church Gate House with a warm smile and an offer of a free delicious coffee, have not been able to return to the role after the pandemic. We are grateful to Leonard, Sue and Wendy Jane who have helped on particularly busy days in Church Gate House.

Church Watching

Report by Elaine Bray

A team of dedicated and wonderful volunteers helped to keep the Church open for visitors to be able to sign the book of condolences following the death of Queen Elizabeth II. In ordinary times, the church can be opened by the office should any visitor wish to access the church.

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 – Cobham Branch

Report by Jenny Vickers

It was good to be able to meet again for our monthly meetings. We had some very good speakers including a talk by Elizabeth Owen on Wilfred Owen the war poet, Moni who talked about her journey from Deacon to Priest, Sue Kilpatrick told us about her life and work in the community, Cathy Whitnall spoke on "Faith & Music - a Journey". We heard about dogs that are trained to assist people with various disabilities and Paul Masters gave us a thorough insight into Scouting. We also had a tea party in July to which members of the MU with the Leatherhead deanery were invited. Our theme being "My Favourite song(s) – Desert Island Discs". One of our speakers was unable to come so we had an informal meeting and we were each asked to talk for a few moments on something blue. The items mentioned were varied and it proved to be a meeting with a difference but enjoyable! We invited the clergy team and Elaine to our annual Christmas lunch to thank

them for the support they gave us during the year.

We were saddened by the death of Anne Brown. Anne was a faithful member of our branch and served on the committee. She created some wonderful flower arrangements as tokens of our thanks for our speakers. Her reading of Pam Ayres' poems at our Christmas lunch is now legendary.

Sadly, our numbers have declined but we have decided to continue as a branch and to support the Mothers' Union aims and objectives. We always welcome new members. If you would like to know more about the MU please ask one of our members.

Music

Report by David Fuge Director of Music

It has been a very good and very busy year for the Music Ministry at St. Andrew's, with the Choir and the Band giving an excellent lead to our worship throughout.

The Choir has a membership of 15 but can also be bolstered by the addition of some very willing "extras" if needed. In the course of the year, we welcomed Nick Constable and Lynn Moreno as regular members. However, we are always in need of more singers and would welcome anyone who can sing in tune(!) to join us. You don't have to be able to read music as you will pick that up as we go along.

Sadly, **SAY Choir** (our youth choir) didn't have enough members to continue and is on hold for the moment. However, since September my wife, Louise, and I have been going to St. Andrew's Primary School for Thursday lunchtime singing assemblies and have been teaching songs to the whole school. This is an important musical connection between the church and school that has been re-established. Thank you to Alison Wilde who has been instrumental in making this happen.

The Band is establishing itself as a very tight group and we get a lot of enjoyment from playing together. One of the most encouraging things is that we have some very worshipful and moving moments not just at the service on a Sunday, but also during our practices. Thank you to all the band members for your dedication and for giving up time on Saturday afternoons, sometimes twice a month, to prepare to lead the worship at St. Andrew's.

The Community Choir was started in 2022, and is made up of church members and others from further afield who enjoy singing but can't commit to weekly Choir practices and services.

They sang at the service in June to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, at our Harvest Family Worship, Remembrance Sunday and the Crib Service. Notices of future events are given a few weeks beforehand, so anyone who would like to join should keep an eye out for those.

2022 began with some COVID restrictions still in place, but these were gradually lifted as the year progressed and this obviously helped the worship in church, not least from a musical perspective.

The words to all our music are now displayed on the screens in church, and I would like to thank Kevin Ayton for producing the PowerPoints every week. I feel that this aspect of our services has greatly improved the church's singing as a whole because people are looking up as they sing rather than looking down at worksheets.

The Choir has led our services throughout the year and shown its flexibility by adapting to many different styles of music, singing hymns, anthems and worship songs to a high standard. Many of the worship songs are arranged in-house for 4 parts, so thanks to the Choir for being able to learn these on a Friday in readiness for Sunday.

On Good Friday, we held a Devotional Performance of John Rutter's *Requiem* with an extended choir and ad hoc orchestra. The Choir had to be socially distanced which made it a challenge to fit everyone in but it was a memorable evening with wonderful and moving singing and playing. Thanks to Cathy Whitnall and Kevin Ayton for their help in organising this.

It was very good to be able to celebrate Easter with live music for the first time since 2019. It was certainly a very joyful service with great singing and playing from the Choir and the Band.

In June, we held a service to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. The Choir sang an anthem written for the occasion by Thomas Hewitt Jones. The text of *In our service* was based on the Queen's own words taken from many of the speeches that she gave during her long reign. The Community Choir, made up of a large number of the congregation, joined with the St. Andrew's Choir to sing the Gary Barlow and Andrew Lloyd Webber composition, *Sing*, which had been written for the Diamond Jubilee. Grace Branscombe and Siyona Navamani sang brilliantly during the solo sections of the song. Sadly, though obviously we didn't realise it at

the time, the National Anthem at the end of the service was the last time that we would sing "God save our gracious Queen".

In August, Louise and I taught *Circle of life* to the children who came to the *Lion King* themed Holiday Club and they performed it with the Choir at the 10am Service on the following Sunday.

We celebrated Creationtide at our September Family Worship and the band were joined by Ukranian violinist Yuri Soroka, who played the violin part of *All God's creatures got a place in the choir* in best hoedown style. Yuri also gave a very moving performance of *Wonderful world* to close the service.

In the following week, the country entered a period of mourning with the passing of Queen Elizabeth, and our services and the music within them reflected this. On the Sunday morning following her death, it seemed fitting that we should sing *In our service* again and her words contained within it seemed to take on an even deeper meaning than when we had first sung them in June. For many of us, it was very strange singing "God save the King" for the first time ever. On the evening of 11th September, we held a special commemoration service for Her Majesty at which the Choir sang *The Lord bless you and keep you* by John Rutter.

The Community Choir joined with the St. Andrew's Choir at our Harvest Family Worship service to sing *Feeling good* by Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley. Although not a "religious" song, it is very spiritual and reflects the joy that can be found in God's creation. The choirs certainly enjoyed the bluesy energy of the song and gave a powerful rendition.

At our Remembrance Service, the Community Choir were involved yet again, and sang the words of *In Flanders Fields* by John McCrae set to haunting music by Sarah Durrant. This was a very moving start to the service. Later, the St. Andrew's Choir, with a few of our "extras", sang *Greater love* by John Ireland.

On Advent Sunday we had a Processional Hymn at the beginning of our service for the first time since COVID and this practice will now continue.

At the beginning of December, we held a musical celebration of Christmas to raise funds for Ukraine. We were pleased that Gavin Greenaway, an eminent pianist, composer and conductor with hundreds of film scores and a British Emmy to his name, was able to headline the concert. It was a fantastic evening, involving many Ukranian musicians

and some homegrown talent, including Siyona who gave an amazing performance of *Walking in the air*. Gavin arranged much of the music for the evening for the instruments that were available, including a Ukranian bandura, and the results were fantastic and well received by a very full church. The evening concluded with all the performers and the audience joining in with a raucous and very enjoyable *Twelve days of Christmas*.

Thanks to Gavin and also to Kim Constable, who has known Gavin for many years, for all her help in organising the event and arranging the catering.

The following day the Choir sang at a very moving service of thanksgiving for the life of Peter Vickers. It was good to be able to make our musical contribution in appreciation of all that Peter did for us at St. Andrew's.

At Choir Practice the same day, we welcomed the composer, Will Todd, who had written a piece for the Sight for Surrey carol service which was taking place the following week. *All the gifts* is a beautiful song and the Choir were pleased to be able to join with the Sight for Surrey Choir in singing it, directed by Will himself, and accompanied by Mike Branscombe, on guitar, and myself on the

piano. *All the gifts* was also sung at our Christmas Day Family Service.

We held our service of Nine Lessons and Carols on the Sunday before Christmas. The service contained quite a few carols sung by the Choir alone, which perhaps were unfamiliar to many, but the reaction from the congregation was very encouraging. The Choir sang brilliantly that evening, but the most important aspect was the surrounding atmosphere of wonder and worship which meant that it wasn't just a performance.

The Community Choir had another outing at the Crib Service and, on this occasion, were joined by just a few of the St. Andrew's Choir. They sang *Mary did you know?* and sang it exceptionally well with a great range of dynamics and emotion.

Midnight Mass and our energetic Christmas Day Family Service brought an incredibly busy musical year to a close. It has been a year of many good services and wonderful worship, full of joy but also moving and poignant moments. In conclusion, I would like to thank my assistant, Kevin Ayton, my wife, Louise, and everyone involved in the music making at St. Andrew's for their hard work, dedication and service.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Children & Families Ministry

Report by Shirley Mensa

Our vision for 2022 and achievements.

We created an environment of belonging and significance in Jesus.

1. We have built relationships with families and children in the community, and continue to strengthen our existing relationships by the following:

- "Parties in the park" in APRIL, AUGUST, DECEMBER
- a "Light party" in OCTOBER
- a Holiday club in AUGUST
- Little fishes on Wednesdays
- Elmbridge CAN⁴ Mondays
- Engagement with families at Oasis
- Baptism course, meeting families and talk on family events

⁴ Local charity supporting refugees from the Ukraine, the Middle East and Afghanistan

We are already seeing the rewards of these, as families attending these events are coming to the Family services, Kids Church, etc

2. We have continued to strengthen our relationship with St Andrew's school and create meaningful relationships by

- Participating in welcoming new pupils and families to St Andrews school: coffee morning Becky and 3 kids and who has subsequently volunteered for little fishes
- Working with the PTA to organise a tea/coffee time before pickup for a year group...meet the parents
- Faith Ambassadors (opportunity to meet the parents) and involve families in our Family services
- More activities for St Andrew's children in our church.
- Using the church as a spring board for children to learn about St Andrew, a theme we can continue to build on in school (ie St Andrew as a leader)
- Engaging with OPAL (outdoor play and learning) at St Andrew's School, promoting a wide range of activities every

lunch time. Break time is now 1 hour, which gives the kids a chance to explore different activities, including meeting kids from other classes. Occupied and happy, problem solving, free play, volunteer reading, engaging with kids at prayer corner

- Leading a St Andrew's Christmas Service

3. We have provided a more defined structure in the Children's ministry for effective learning and supporting our children, and for creating meaningful friendships:

- Little fishes pre school
- Waves and Anchors Reception to Year 5
- Young Discipleship Year 6,7,8 (meet on Sunday morning)
- Junior Discipleship Year 9,10,11
- Senior Discipleship Year 12,13
- Supporting parents with take-home material for kitchen table talk

4. We have continued to create opportunities for our youth to serve in church and in the community.

For the church we have created activity lists, eg:

- List of responsibilities which they sign up for, and commit to doing at least once a month - Ruby/Francesca/Nikita did a film for holiday club
- Registration and Welcome Kids Church: Ruby, Ayanna, Sarah, Folasade
- Mentoring younger discipleship
- Operating the IT desk - William, Amari
- Youth leading in the Family Services

And for the Community

- Litter picking
- Community Garden
- prepare parcels for families within Oasis: (year 7 to 13 helping (in April/August/December)
- Foodbank

We ensure all volunteers are up to date with DBS checks, and safeguarding training.

St Andrew's School

Report from the Headteacher, Bethan Willetts

It is incredible to think we are already a third of the way through our school year. It has been a fantastic start with a lot going on. We've welcomed our new reception and Year 3 pupils who have settled well into life at St Andrew's and become a big part of our school family.

Our pupils are all loving their project learning with many of our classes enjoying a school trip

to: Pensarn, the Horniman Museum, Butser Farm, and Thorpe Park Steam event. Others have welcomed in visitors; held a Viking Workshop and, during Black History month, a Windrush Generation workshop.

The run up to Christmas was incredibly busy. The fun started with many families joining us at the Cobham Extravaganza and lantern parade, this was followed by Christmas Jumper day, the PTA Christmas Fair, Christmas parties and Christmas lunch cooked by our own catering team here on site - over 220 meals eaten; no mean feat! Our KS1 pupils (Reception, Y1 and Y2) put on two incredible performances of Lights, Camel, Action. These were great productions with superb singing from all involved. In the final week of term the whole school walked to St Andrew's Church for our annual Carols by Candlelight Service. Our pupils sang a number of Christmas carols beautifully, whilst our Year 6 pupils narrated the Christmas story, and younger pupils acted it out. We were all so impressed by how well everyone sang, spoke and performed. A big thank you to Mrs Wilde for organising this event and members of the Clergy and Church for their support.

Our Year 6 pupils have worked with an artist in residence Julie Hoyle to create an impressive digital artwork installation that is currently in production. A thank you to Mrs Eley, our Art Curriculum Lead, who secured funding from the Arts Society which enabled us to do this project. Our artist, Julie Hoyle was really impressed with the talent amongst our Year 6's.

Our drive to become more sustainable is in full flow. We have light monitors in each classroom, food and waste recycling across the school and recycling bins for bras and biros. Our Impact Club are working with real determination to raise money for additional resources to support this by selling handmade and upcycled goods. Our local Councillor visited us and was very excited about the work of our Impact club. In January we are delighted to be receiving a delivery of trees (whips and feathers) which will be planted across our school site. Our pupils will be involved in the planting of these.

Our sports teams have taken part in football, dodgeball and tag rugby tournaments this term. At all events our pupils have been celebrated for their sportsmanship and great team work. We are all very proud of them for being such positive role models and ambassadors for our school.

We continue to work with our local community partners. Year 6 have enjoyed swimming at ACS and a group of pupils have attended Reeds for Raquet's Cubed. We are very proud of our Choir who sung at the Cobham Extravaganza and to the residents of Tiltwood residential home, next term it's Young Voices! A big thank you to Oasis Charity who are supporting many of our families and to our St Andrew's Church clergy team and TLG



mentors have been delivering assemblies, working with our Faith Ambassadors, supporting with RE lessons, welcoming us to Church and mentoring pupils.

Life in all its fullness

FAITH AND SOCIAL ACTION PROJECTS

Cobham Area Foodbank – Challenges and changes.

Report by Christina van Roest Trustee and General Manager

We all go through difficult times but there are people in our community who really suffer.

The 'cost of living crisis' involves not only lacking the money to pay the bills, but also coping with sudden redundancies, fighting COVID-19 and flu (which are still circulating), and 'simply' putting food on the table.

Clients find themselves without enough money, even when they are employed. That is a very sad situation for many families. Rents, food, and utility prices have gone up to such levels that there is no realistic chance of the clients being able themselves to improve their finances in the short term, even when they have a job. Facing these challenges many suffer serious mental health situations.

Thanks to the generosity of many donors, especially from St Andrews Church Cobham and many individuals, we have sufficient funding and stock in the warehouse to help all clients who come to us for help. However we must not get complacent, because we have again reached the point that more kilograms of food go out than come in. In January 2023 we received 1966 kg from our all our collection points, but 3370 kg went to 77 families, either by collection from the distribution centre or by home deliveries. (By comparison in the December 2022 4068 kg came in and 2924 kg went out.) We were able to be very generous with treats and special Christmas food for all our clients. Many thanks for your generous contributions of any kind, financial and as food donations.

In the period of April 2022 to January.2023 St Andrew's Church Cobham contributed food donations of 1325 kg.

We continue to subscribe to the Trussell Trust and we follow the holistic approach offering "More than just food", signposting our clients to many organisations offering support to their specific situation.

Since April 2022 we have fed 2,086 people (868 children and 1,218 adults). This number is not much higher than last year, but the big difference is that in the last 2 months we are helping more adults who have full time jobs but need our help at the Foodbank due to their low income, debt and deprivation.

We do not dare to make any predictions for the rest of this year, as the 'Cost of living Crisis' can hit anyone in our society any time.

We are very grateful to all our volunteers (about 80) who make it all possible with your donations to help the large number of clients in need.

We will continue to support our clients in Cobham, Oxshott, Stoke D'Abernon, Downside, East & West Horsley and Effingham with your continuous generous help. Many thanks.

Garden Route Children's Trust - St Andrew's Annual Report 2022

Report by Paul Hurrell

The Garden Route Children's Trust (GRCT) is a UK registered Christian charity, founded in 2006, that funds a number of feeding projects for pre-primary school children from under-privileged communities in selected regions of South Africa. The children are provided with a nutritious breakfast of e'Pap every school day during the year.

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, concentrate better, and learn more effectively.

It only costs about £20 to feed one child a breakfast of e'Pap for a year.

In 2022 the poorer communities in South Africa continued to battle with poverty, unemployment and many social issues, and the need for improved daily nutrition and support for learning has never been greater. The GRCT regularly received new requests for funding and considered each one very seriously before making a decision. The charity is committed to work with credible and reliable partners and develop sustainable projects that deliver long-term benefits.

Thanks to the generosity of our regular donors and many one-time donations in 2022, the GRCT was able to extend its funding to four new partners, bringing the total to 13 by the end of the year. The GRCT now provides a life changing nutritional breakfast every day to over 8,000 pre-school children in under-privileged communities.

The four new projects were Place of Hope & Mercy in E. Cape (150 children); Ocean View and Jim de Vos in Cape Town (130 children); and Angel Starfish Creche in Hout Bay (150 children and also close to Cape Town).

St Andrew's Cobham once again donated £2,000 as well as an additional £150 raised from the Hit & Hope Golf Day in July. The annual Christmas Coffee and Cake Sale held at St Andrew's Oxshott raised over £3,000 for the charity.

Although the impact of Covid is slowly fading there are new challenges looming on the horizon, not least of which is rising inflation and the cost of living crisis. Continued financial support will be more important than ever to ensure adequate supplies of e'Pap to all of our projects.

Oasis Childcare Trust

Report by David Taylor

The Faith & Social Action Group chose the Oasis Childcare Trust as one of the local charities to be supported by St Andrew's. We have a long association with Oasis, especially through Caroline Edwards, founder and director who has spoken at one of our church services. David Taylor is the St Andrew's "champion" of this charity.

In particular we have financially supported the trust's "Freedom Programme" to assist those dealing with domestic abuse.

Additionally, members of the Church Youth Discipleship Group have been able to assist Oasis at various times of the year in putting together and distributing food parcels under

the trusts Fresh Food Programme. This has provided valuable practical help to the staff and volunteers at Oasis as well providing our young people with "hands-on" experience and a deeper understanding of the needs on their doorstep.

Operation Mobilisation - Nepal and Himalayas

Report by Peter Kelly

The year of 2022 was a year of recovery for the nation of Nepal. Having been devastated in 2021 by the impact of the pandemic which shut down tourism and severely restricted movement, the country rebounded in 2022. There was general freedom of movement and trekking tourism did resume, which was a life-saver to many villagers in the high country who are served by OM. As for ministry, OM returned to the field with renewed energy and a great sense of need and mission.

Some highlights from 2022 include:

- Developing and delivering The Health Family Programme to over 1,600 people
- Delivering children's programmes to over 8,000 children
- Distributing over 270,000 gospel and support packets (and 1,000 bibles) in the region
- Visiting 50,000 new households in offering support, prayer, and encouragement
- Delivering medical care and comfort to over 1,000 people with HIV/AIDS
- Planting over 70 new churches
- Welcoming over 600 new believers including over 100 asking to be baptised

The distribution of the micro-SD⁵ cards were a great blessing to local communities in the 2021 pandemic and these cards kept the voice of OM in the hearing of people who could not receive a visit. With freedom of movement in 2022, OM field workers were welcomed back as old friends and the fellowships and prayer meetings are stronger than ever.

All of the local work that we have delighted in hearing about continued in 2022, including literacy training and translation (some in new languages), women's microenterprise support, sustainable agriculture, new baby care, outreach to the lonely, language lessons, music fellowship, and children's activities and

⁵ Micro Secure Data card

care. As expected, the local ministry training centre in Kathmandu doubled in size in 2022, which was just in time for the ministry expansion, especially the new HIV/Aids care ministry

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. The St. Andrew's 2022 annual support commitment, the extra donation from the 2022 FASAC golf fund raiser, and the community generosity during the St. Andrew's OM ministry day in November 2022 have been received with prayerful gratitude and the leaders and workers send thanks to our community for this partnership. Their country leader asks for our prayers as they boldly step out in faith in 2023, especially for new leaders. In 2023 entirely new areas of Nepal and the broader Himalayan region are now being newly reached and some people are hearing the story of their Creator in their language for the very first time. OM Himalayas now has 16 regional communities serving tens of thousands of people every year.

We commit this annual summary to all of the family at St. Andrews with a statement from a one of the workers who are on the ground locally. Asked what we could do for him, he responded "This ministry is long-term, but the doors are constantly opening to the gospel,

created by friendships with people of the majority faith. Please just encourage me in your prayers, that I may be able to persevere."

Do you know this Jesus who our partners labour for every day? Would you like to make Him known? Would you like to get involved? If so, please contact me at the email below.

pjk207@me.com

Transforming Lives for Good

Report by Carrie Taylor

Our coaching at St. Andrew's School continues to go well. We are in the process of starting with our 4th cohort of pupils. There are 6 children engaging in the coaching sessions with our 3 coaches. Some of the TLG families have come along to church events, such as the Parties in the Park, the church BBQ and the Holiday Club and good relationships are being forged through these and through weekly phone messages to each child's parents about the sessions, goals and steps made. Teachers and support staff at the school welcome us in and it feels a privilege to work closely with them.

Livy Gibbs, TLG regional co-ordinator for the South East, gave an inspirational presentation at our Faith and Social Action service on January 15th.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Christmas Lunch/Easter High Tea

Report by Shirley Mensa

For the eighth year running, St Andrew's, Waitrose Cobham put on a Christmas lunch on Christmas Day in Church Gate House - turkey, ham, all the trimmings after canapés and Prosecco, followed by Christmas pudding and cheese and coffee as we watched the King's speech at 3 o'clock on the big screen.

As before, the kitchen team led by our wonderful chef Doug Simpkins, plus capable support from a good team of volunteers, not forgetting all those who cooked a turkey and brought it to church in the morning, were well up to the task of feeding our 65 guests.

The philosophy behind the lunch is that it is primarily for people who would otherwise be on their own at home without a nice turkey to enjoy, for whatever reason: but we have found that if we advertise it as being for those on their own or unable to afford it, people are too proud, or too embarrassed, to come, as no-one wants to be known as Billy No Mates!

Therefore we offer the lunch without charge, which we are able to do because of Waitrose's donation (reduced to £150 from £450) and many people's generous gifts of food (Waitrose shoppers) money (unknown source) and the Ivy (wine)- We also offer lifts for those without transport.

Joint sponsorship: Downs Solicitors and Waitrose

As in previous years, we also had a Easter High Tea on Low Saturday, to which all who came at Christmas were invited.

We had 40 guests

Churches Together 2022

Report by Rev Charleen Hollington

After being in abeyance for some time due to the pandemic, an effort has been made to get Churches Together in Cobham and Stoke D'Abernon going again, with representatives from St Mary's, St Andrew's Cobham, St Andrew's Oxshott, Cobham United Church, Sacred Heart and Kingsgate. An AGM was

held on 21 November 2022 at which meeting, after many years of service, Paul Fisher stood down as Chair and Leonard Beighton as Treasurer. Paul and Leonard were warmly thanked for their service. Helen Pattison was elected as the new Chair, and Jane Berridge as the new Treasurer. Phe Pamphilon-Green was appointed as Co-Chair in accordance with the requirements of the Churches Together constitution.

Churches Together activity began with carolling in the Cobham High Street on Extravaganza Night in December 2022, despite St Andrew's Oxshott no longer being able to arrange the music. Events were planned for 2023 which will be reflected in the 2023 Annual Review, such as the service for Christian Unity in the Week of Christian Prayer, and the ecumenical Lent groups for Lent.

Charleen Hollington currently represents St Andrew's clergy on Churches Together but there is a need for two lay representatives from St Andrew's as well. No-one has so far responded to the call.

We hope that a revitalized Churches Together in our area will bear fruit in building relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ in other churches and denominations.

Elmbridge Multifaith Forum (Registered Charity 122962)

Report by Geoff Morris

The Aims of the Forum are:

- To help people to understand, respect and enjoy each other's faiths, and philosophies.
- To provide information, arrange visits, talks, projects and discussions, and participate in the activities of each other's faiths.
- 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. We believe it important to have refreshments together at our events

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

Main Events

May 10th 2022: We were hosted by the Molesey Mosque for a discussion led by their members on '**My Islam**'- a welcome opportunity to meet face-to-face rather than on Zoom. As with the other talks in this series there was a very frank discussion on the practicalities of 'living' Islam

June 21st 2022: AGM on Zoom. We were honoured by the presence of the Mayor of Elmbridge, Councillor Simon Waugh.

The Committee was re-elected as Mrs Margaret Hicks (Chairman), Mrs Kawther Hashmi (Secretary), Mr. Geoff Morris (Joint Secretary), Mr Leonard Beighton, Dr Nabil Mustapha, The Rev. Jonny Blair, Mrs Jackie Foster, Ms. Saidhanya Raviendrakumar, and Rabbi Kath Vardi.

Mr Leonard Beighton resigned as Treasurer, and Major Rashid Laher stood down from the Committee because of the weight of other commitments.

Pending the finding of a new treasurer, Margaret Hicks offered to 'hold the fort'.

Following the meeting, we had a very interesting talk by Steve Wells of Elmbridge CAN, and final words by the Mayor, who spoke of the many links between the council and EMF.

November 16th 2022: 'My Christianity' at St John's Church, Walton.

The Rev. Jonny Blair organised and chaired a discussion stimulated by presentations by:

- Fr Mark Nassief (Coptic Orthodox Church)
- Fr Ruslan Kurdimov (Roman Catholic Church)
- Rev. Dave Bixby (Church of England)

Johnny also fed in his own experience of Nonconformist, Calvinist and other Protestant denominations. The result was a very enlightening experience for a very well attended meeting.

There is a great appetite for informed exchanges of information, which we intend to continue to feed in the coming years.

Platinum Day

Report by Leonard Beighton

There was a celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on 4 June. David Taylor gave a talk in the Church on new findings about the history of the Church. That apart, the celebrations took place entirely on the Leg of

Mutton Field, and there was nothing in Church Street, the churchyard, or in the Church as has been the case for Heritage Day. A team from St Andrew's helped to facilitate, organise, and serve at the lunch, sponsored by Waitrose and Cobham Conservation and Heritage (CCHT) for the senior members of our community. There was a Civic Service in the Church the following day.

That event took the place of Heritage Day in 2022. In the coming year there will be a Village Day in June.

Spiritual Cinema

Facilitated by the Vicar

In 2022 we managed almost a full year of our monthly gatherings to watch a film, enjoy fellowship and reflect theologically on what we have watched. We enjoy a wide variety of

films looking at many themes and I am always fascinated to hear the spiritual reflections offered by those who gather month by month.

In 2022 we watched these films.

January – Christopher Robin
February – Departures
March – Mowgli
April – The Dig
May – Letters To God
June – cancelled due to the vicar having Covid
July – cancelled due to extreme heat
August – Stolen Miracle
September – Pay It Forward
October – Invictus
November – Groundhog Day
December – Elf

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, the 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.

