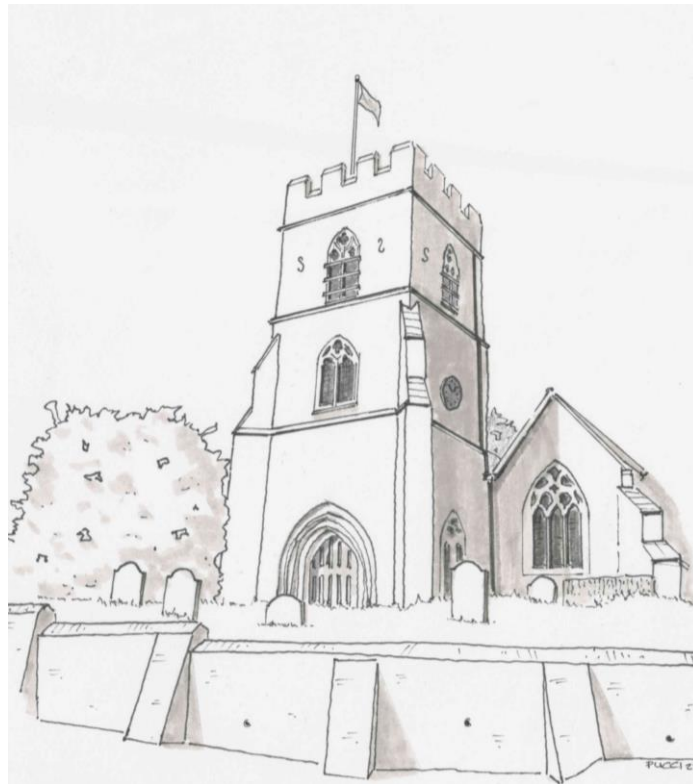


**Church of St Mary-the-Virgin**  
**Horsell**

**BOOK 2**



**The Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 11.30am**

**Report of Church Organisations for 2024**

## Contents - Reports From Church Organisations:

<b>After Church Prayer</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Audio Visual</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Bell Ringing</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF)</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Churches Together in Woking (CTIW)</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Churchyard</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Easter Party</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Finance &amp; Property Committee</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Flower Arranging</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Handbell Club at Horsell Church of England School</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Heritage Open Day</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Home Communion</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Horsell Church of England Junior School</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Horsell Matters</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>JaM</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Light Party</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Meditation</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Messy Church</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Ministry to Care Homes</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Music at St. Mary's</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Nativity Services</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>On Your Own Lunch</b>	<b>13</b>

<b>Open the Book</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Outward Giving</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Pastoral Care Team</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Pop In Coffee</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Peaceful Prayer &amp; Praise</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Servers</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>St. Andrew's Room Development</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Tiny Treasures</b>	<b>16</b>

## **After Church Prayer**

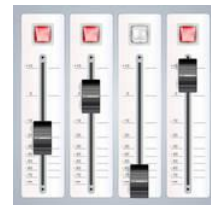
Apart from the first Sunday in the month this continues to be held for any who would welcome prayer support with thanks to those who make themselves available to provide this.



*Margaret Johnson*

## **Audio Visual**

A small team of volunteers runs the audio visual system which ensures that (usually) the screens show the correct words and the appropriate microphone is used to enhance the sound. Its not always as easy as it sounds so plenty of tolerance please when it goes a bit wrong.



What appears on the screen is also streamed on YouTube for the main service for those who cannot get to church. Sometimes quick changes from words to church view with the camera are used to keep those partaking at home involved in the service. A small number of fellow worshipers join us at home, typically perhaps 8 or 10 or so individuals. We know how many connections are made but not how many might be watching any individual connection.

The main sound system has been installed some time and one or two elements are starting to show their age. The camera has recently given trouble but seems to have recovered. We anticipate it will need replacing in the not too distant future.

As we move to different styles of worship there will be more involvement of other musicians and singers. The use of a wider variety of instruments and voices creates additional challenges.

Barry Squibb heads up this group and would be happy to hear from anyone who likes to fiddle with controls, one or two extra volunteers would be useful. Of course the necessary training will be provided. It does involve being at church early and sometimes doing a bit of physical work with cables and microphones but isn't as complicated as some think when seeing the mixing desk at the back. It would be something that the older young people may like to get involved with, after all they are better with technology than many adults. It is anticipated that they could double up with the main operator to start with to learn but hopefully would be able to take over once skill levels had developed. Please speak to Barry for more information (07814024819).

*Barry Squibb*

## Bell Ringing

During the year, bells were rung for all but 2 Sunday Services, with an average attendance of just over 6. However, Tuesday Practise nights continued to be casualties, with the exception of Tuesdays, 28th May and 23rd July, when we were supported by ringers from a number of Towers within the Chertsey District, as planned.



We currently have 12 Ringers, 2 of whom are at University.

Our annual Tower Dinner, at The Cricketers, Horsell, on the 25th March, was ably arranged by Denise Balmer and enjoyed by 11 members and 6 guests.

We were also pleased to welcome the annual pilgrimage of a group of 12 ringers from Somerset, on Thursday, 26th April. On Friday, 23rd August, I was asked to ring a single bell (open) to celebrate the life of Gill Saville, one of our longest-standing parishioners and Cathedral Representative, at her funeral. Then, on Thursday, 16th November, I was pleased to welcome an evening visit to the Tower by 21 Horsell Scouts and 4 adults from the group.

On Saturday, 14th September, the church and tower were open to the public as part of the National Heritage weekend and we recorded more than 60 visitors. Regrettably, despite much interest by the visitors, no new members were attracted. On Thursday, 26th September, I attended the tower for the visit of the clock repair team; the clock had not worked since it ran down during the Covid infection period in 2019.

Earlier, on the 28th July, the rope broke on the No. 5 bell, with no injuries, and the spliced repair enabled the bell to be reinstated on the 22nd October, by John Young, in my presence, just in time to ensure that we had a full peal of bells for the Chertsey District Annual Nomination Meeting, which took place on Saturday, 9th November, being our turn to host the event.

*Alan R Nichols - Tower Captain    01483 767852    07791 491395*

## Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF)

BRF produces a range of Bible study resources including materials specially prepared for the very young and the elderly.

Members of this congregation are currently using 'New Daylight' or 'Guidelines'. 'New Daylight' is described by the publishers as 'ideal for anybody wanting an accessible yet stimulating aid to spending time with God each day, deepening their faith and their knowledge of scripture.' I have been using it for a number of years and can highly recommend it. 'Guidelines' offers more in-depth study. Its declared intention is to 'enable all its readers to interpret and apply the biblical text with confidence in today's world, while helping to equip church leaders as they meet the challenges of



mission and disciple building.' Both include ideas for prayer and reflection and are also available in large print or online.

There are samples of several publications available in church to look at or take away. Please speak to me if you would like to know more.'

Have a look at their website( brf.org.uk ) to discover the other areas in which they are active.

*Barbara Brown*

### **Churches Together in Woking (CTiW)**



With new Moderators and Secretary CTiW has restarted with more involvement from Church Leaders as well as Lay members. It has recently updated a Directory of key personnel in all local churches and established a twice yearly forum for Christian Church leaders with our local MP. Meetings provide an opportunity for Churches to highlight activities and exchange information. Christ Church is leading the towns Good Friday Act of Witness this year.

*Brian Sheriff*

### **Churchyard**

The churchyard continues to be well maintained for mourners and casual visitors, with visits by SERCO on behalf of WBC every couple of months and Community pay back youths sent by the Probation Service every few weeks. The rebuilding of the South wall has been completed and awaits inspection by WBC Building Inspectors prior to take formal take over. The churchyard was made safe by the removal of tree branches damaged in recent storms.



*Brian Sheriff*

### **Easter Party**

On Sunday 24th March we had an Easter party in the afternoon for 0-11s and their families. 128 people attended, including volunteers. The Handbell Club from Horsell Junior school gave a performance. There were Easter crafts, activities and refreshments. Our thanks go to all the team that helped at the party!



*Rebecca Connolly – Children & Families' Worker*

### **Finance & Property Committee**

The repair of our Gillett and Bland 1873 tower clock was completed in October 2024 after 18 months of work. During the year, new chairs were acquired from another Church, for the SAR and the Trinity Chapel. The Quinquennial Inspection was conducted in March 2025, following a number of ongoing repairs and maintenance activities over proceeding



months. Including gas inspections of our three boilers, electrical installation inspection, PAT testing of all movable items and testing and servicing of all firefighting equipment in late 2024.

As always I would just like to add my thanks to the members of the F&P over the year; Brian, Helen, David and Tim for all their help with overseeing our finances, churchyard and church building over the year.

Also a special thanks to Barry Squibb who 'retired' after many years of service to F&P - his days of roof valley cleaning are finally over!

*Adrian Harvey Chair, Fin and Prop Committee*

## **Flower Arrangers**

Once again we have not received any wedding income as it is now common practice for brides to make other arrangements for flowers, either a commercial florist or a friend. Fortunately, we have received some donations for which we are always very grateful.



We are continuing to use water and wire netting instead of floral foam (Oasis) as it is not biodegradable and can stay in the soil for 100 years. On special occasions at the bride's request, we may use Oasis for larger arrangements. We continue to use vases on the window sills with water.

This year we again made Mothering Sunday posies and we also made small bunches of flowers for Harvest Festival, which Barbara Brown and her team deliver to people in the village. These occasions are always relaxed and enjoyable with coffee and cake provided by Mike Couper.

In conclusion, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all team members and also Mike Couper for his help and the cake and also Brian Sheriff who takes our flower rubbish to the bins every week.

*June Lock*

## **Handbell Club at Horsell Junior School**

During 2024 we continued our weekly visits to the Junior School for an hourly session. The numbers vary from one week to another, but nevertheless we have great fun with this enthusiastic group. All have been amazing and taken to the fun we have each week. They quickly picked up the colour chart we use for the two bells they use. Sometimes they need to have sharp or flat notes to use - no problem on the whole. The highlight of the year is always when we play at an Assembly - encouraging new members to join. The Upper School also play well and tackle some quite difficult tunes. We are always looking for newcomers. I must thank the adults who really encourage and enjoy the sessions - Ann-Marie Claxon, Roz Haynes, Isabella Craig and Carolyn Edit.



We have performed in Church at special days and occasionally Messy Church.

*Mike Couper*

## Heritage Open Day

As always we took part in the National Heritage Open Days in early September. We have been involved for many years with some success.



The church is very popular for people to visit and look around. The most popular attraction is the journey up the 64 steps to the top of the Tower. Having reached the top there are wonderful views in all directions (on a fair day the visibility is superb). Fun to find your own house from such a height. We ask you to book an appointment online to ensure that you don't have to wait when you arrive in church.

There is a varied selection of photographs and details about the history of the church. We were given a set of Ordinance Survey maps from the late 19th century by the Surrey History Centre which takes a long time to find any links with 2024. The children enjoy finding the farm names that have given names to many of the roads in the village. We are blessed with a very interesting book put together by the NADFAS group some 16 years ago (full of information and dates of items in the church). There is a good collection of photographs from the changes to the church during the 19th century.

Our organ has reached its 50th birthday and is popular with recitals and our services. We are well-known for our delicious refreshments as part of the visit to a very special building. Do come and enjoy your visit September next year.

*Mike Couper*

## Home Communion

The team continue to take regularly to those in need. In addition the vicar will sometimes give an intincted wafer to a family member unable to get to church to give in a more informal way



*Margaret Johnson*

## Horsell Church of England Junior School

Our church school, Horsell Junior School, continues to thrive under the leadership of Mrs Wand and all staff who remain dedicated to the education and well-being of all pupils. The school's SATS results were well above the national averages and school attendance is in the top 10% in the whole country. We have much success in sporting competitions both local and county-wide. As a school we are always looking at further ways to promote a love of music in our pupils. The school has singing assemblies, a handbell club, many pupils learn a musical instrument, and there is a school orchestra and large choir. Our music festival this year was held at Halstead St Andrews school as they kindly allowed us use of their performing arts theatre.



History comes to life at the school via workshops for the children. Year 6 learnt about World War II evacuees, cipherring codes, morse code and investigated WW2 propaganda posters, Year 4 enjoyed a Roman Day and dressed as Roman soldiers.

Some year 5 pupils were selected to attend a Latin Day at the Winston Churchill School and there was a year 5 trip to Winston's Planetarium. This was not only fun but helped to consolidate their learning on space.

We have been using the refreshed RE curriculum drawn up by the Diocese of Guildford. Along with Christianity, this includes topics covering other religions. Pupils enjoy the weekly Open the Book, led by St Mary's, as part of Collective Worship and have had visits by some monks from the Buddhist Temple in Knaphill and a talk on Islam by one of our teaching assistants.

We continue to have strong links with St Mary's through our Whole School Communion, Easter & Harvest services, the Horsell Schools Carol Service and participation in the Christmas Tree festival. A Parent Prayer Group meet monthly in church and our handbell club & our young carers are supported by a team from St Mary's.

At the year 6 Leavers' Service held at Guildford Cathedral for all schools in the Diocese, some of our pupils read and signed the prayer for everyone in the congregation.

Inter-house competitions continue to be popular and are always hotly contested. These are not limited to sport but also maths, spelling, chess and other activities. The school also had a Fair Trade baking competition where judges enjoyed sampling a whole variety of baked goods.

Throughout the year the school has been working to progress its ambition to join an Academy. We have worked closely with Pyrford CofE Primary School and were pleased to finally get approval from the Department for Education to begin the process of joining the Learning Partners Church Academy Trust (LPCAT). We understand that other local church schools are also in the process of becoming part of LPCAT.

The year ended with much excitement. Year 3 performed their Nativity, Don't Be Afraid, and there was a whole school election for the role of 'Headteacher for a Day'. As part of the process, Dame Sylvia Heal a former Labour MP and Deputy Speaker visited school to announce the result and this was followed by a visit from our MP, Will Forster, who is a former pupil of the school. His Christmas card, this year, was designed by one of our pupils. Mrs Wand enjoyed taking a backseat for the day while the new year 6 headteacher took over!

Many thanks are due for the continuing support to the school from St Mary's and to Mrs Wand and all staff for their hard work and dedication to the school and its values as a Church School.

*Anne Smith, Chair of Governors*

### **Horsell Matters**

The distribution of the Parish magazine is an important part of our external communications whereby we reach out to the crowd. The familiar format demonstrates how we share our



faith. The Homily is written on a rotation basis, so the community hears from different members of the Staff Team and Preachers. We share the church diary. At least one of our ministries is covered in every edition. We feature a learning colouring page for the young.

This last year has included a series of articles about the Bible to help guide our readers to be rooted in the Word.

As Editor, I am heartened when contributions come in from unexpected sources and spirit-led ideas for articles emerge. The magazine is a witnessing opportunity – a valuable tool for sharing our faith within the Horsell community – to those who otherwise might have limited or unrecognised encounters with God.

There remains a need to include non-secular articles and events – striking a balance between sharing our faith and general community interests. Someone with no curiosity about church will not flick through a magazine which is ‘too churchy’. If we can grab that person’s attention by the non-secular, who knows, the spirit may lead them to read on and ignite a faith interest.

The magazine would struggle for content without its regular contributors: the members of the Staff Team, Churchyard Cat, Rosemary and Richard Christophers, Elna Broe, Olya Lutsenko, combined Schools’ PTA, WAOS, to name a few. Thank you all for your valued contributions.

Thanks also to Peter and Karen Saunbury and our many door-to-door deliverers, who post 3000 magazines each February, April, June, September and December.

The magazine is formatted and printed by Knaphill Print, which sources advertisers and pays for its production. The number of adverts reflects the requirement to balance the books.

Suggestions for future articles are always welcome. Or if the spirit moves you to write something, please send it to me via the church office.

*Vanessa McMurtrie - Editor*

### **JaM (Jesus and Me) and Us!**

‘JaM’ continued to provide ministry for our children aged three years old and upwards during the 10am Sunday service. The aim of JaM is we want the children to grow in faith and to be God-Connected-sharing life with him and knowing they are loved by him. In JaM we explore the stories of the Bible and provide a variety of fun activities to grow children in faith and to help them to apply what they have learnt to their lives. In our sessions we use ‘Chat & Catch’ a Parenting for Faith tool that encourages children



in prayer and hearing God's voice – chatting to him about everything that is on their hearts and catching his response, however he chooses to speak. We use 'Energize' material by Urban Saints to plan our sessions. The material works well for a wide age range. In September we started a new teaching series 'Experiencing God in the Psalms'. The children have especially enjoyed the games, songs, crafts, acting out parts of the bible and sharing what they have learnt in JaM with the rest of the congregation. During September to December, we had anywhere between 1-9 children attend on a weekly basis. We currently have 4 volunteers on the JaM rota who help support Rebecca whether that be helping or leading sessions. Our thanks go to the team for all their hard work, creativity and help with JaM.

*Rebecca Connolly– Children & Families' Worker*

### **Light Party**

On Thursday the 31st October we had a Light Party. The event took place in the St Andrew's Room from 4.30-5.45pm for children in school years 2-6. Children came dressed as their favourite superhero or wearing something colourful and sparkly. There were lots of party games, dancing and sweets. The children especially loved the sweets bingo and light up bowling set. I gave an interactive children's talk about Jesus being our superhero, who we can call on at any time to help us. Some parents decided to stay with their children at the event. 17 children and 17 adults attended (including volunteers). Our thanks go to all the team that helped.



*Rebecca Connolly– Children & Families' Worker*

### **Meditation**

The contemplative meditation service took place every month in 2024. It provides an opportunity to focus on God's presence within each one of us, for just 30 minutes. It is led in turn by a small team. The session usually comprises short silences of around five minutes interspersed with words of guidance.



*Elaine Davies*

### **Messy Church**

Messy Church happened every month except in March when we had the Easter party and in August when we took a break over the summer. On Saturday the 21st December we had a Christmas party and 58 people attended including volunteers. The north aisle works well for all the crafts and activities. From January-July we used the church for all the sessions, however from September we started using the St Andrew's Room for the picnic tea this has made the session smooth-running. Advertising Messy Church in our local school's assemblies has proven to be effective in increasing attendance. Messy Church is part of The Bible Reading



Fellowship (BRF), a registered Charity. At Messy Church, we explore a Bible theme through craft, food, games, or nature. We always have a celebration with a Bible story, songs, and prayers. All ages are welcome! A core group of regular families attend, and they give us positive feedback and are very grateful. Our aim at Messy Church is that the people who attend would learn how much Jesus loves them through the wide variety of activities, Bible teaching, hospitality, and community. After many years of serving our Messy Church ministry, Anne-Marie, Jenny and Ruth stepped down from the Messy Church team. In September Chloe and Claire joined the team! We must thank Jenny, Anne-Marie, Mike, James, Ruth, Coral, Lucy, Claire, Chloe, Brian, and Sue for all their hard work, creativity, and help.

*Rebecca Connolly– Children & Families' Worker*

### **Ministry to Care Homes**

We have been able to continue our monthly visits to Kettlewell House. We also visit Horsell Lodge on a quarterly basis. A small choir helps with the members of well known hymns that some of the residents join in the singing. Short readings and prayers are read by members of the music group and we always finish with the traditional wording of the Lord's Prayer. Grateful thanks to Dmitry and Paul Kingston for leading, and Cecil Hull joining me in playing the piano.

*Michael Couper*



### **Music at St Mary's**

As a subcommittee of the PCC, we continued to review the provision of music at Church and to consider ways in which it could be improved. We value and are very grateful for the contribution and commitment of our choir and others who lead singing, play piano, organ and other instruments, including the music band. Also, special thanks to Cecil and Margaret Hull who organised an excellent Nine Lessons and Carols.



*Elaine Davies*

### **Nativity Services**

We had two successful Nativity services on Tuesday the 24th December at 4pm and 6pm. 283 people attended the 4pm service and 168 people attended the 6pm service. A team of ten people were involved in the Bible Society Pop-Up Nativity 'Festive Fred Finds The Greatest Gift'. The team met throughout December to rehearse. At the end of both services the children were gifted with a storybook of 'Festive Fred Finds The Greatest Gift' and some chocolate coins from St Mary's Church. Our thanks go to all the team.



*Rebecca Connolly– Children & Families' Worker*

## **On Your Own Lunch Group**

Are a group of people who live alone and enjoy getting together for lunch in the St Andrew's Room on the last Sunday of alternate months. We meet after the parish communion service and usually bring our own packed lunch. Drinks are provided, as are other tasty treats.



We are a welcoming, lively and informal group, usually about ten people, discussing anything and everything. There is always a lot of laughter.

We meet each year in January, March, May, July, September and November.

If you would like to know more, please get in touch with Barbara Brown on 01483 721610 or [b15ssetm@gmail.com](mailto:b15ssetm@gmail.com)

*Barbara Brown*

## **Open the Book**

The Open the Book team continue to visit the Junior School weekly, the Village School three times each half term and Halstead/St Andrew's twice each half term. Our valuable team bring Bible stories to life (often with small groups of children dressing-up and joining in). They are very excited and thoroughly enjoy helping. The stories have been written by Bob Hartman. We are always welcomed from the staff and children at all three venues. After many years of leading the Open the Book team, Roz Haynes stepped down in July. Rebecca took over as leader of the team in September. We continue to use the new way of organising each session- we take it in turns to be the Director to organise the characters, costumes etc. Our thanks go to Roz Haynes and all the team.



*Rebecca Connolly– Children & Families' Worker*

## **Outward Giving**

The Outward Giving subcommittee aims to build long-term relationships with a few select charities who can support our mission statement of "Making Jesus known; Getting to know Jesus better; Sharing Jesus' love in our community and world". We seek to spread support locally, nationally and globally.



We support the charities by direct financial support, giving out of our income, as we believe it is a joy to give from what has been generously given to us. We also support charities indirectly by promoting their work including inviting speakers to speak at our services.

The Outward Giving Team met in December to agree the allocation of the "10% of income" that the church gives in direct financial support. The amount we had to allocate was estimated to be c£12,500.

In making our decisions we looked at St Mary's giving from church funds, special collections and other fundraising. We continued donations to Bible Reading Fellowship (£2,000), Bible Society (£1,250), Engage Woking (£1,000), York Road Project (£1,500),

Five Talents (£1,250) and A Rocha (£1,000) at the same level as last year, providing long term consistent support to our charity partners.

Noting that we had not increased our giving to our church school, Horsell CoE Junior School, in over 20 years, we increased the amount we give from £750 a quarter to £900 a quarter. Our donations go towards the 10% that the school has to contribute to any capital improvement works.

We reduced the amount we gave out of church funds to Christian Aid and The Children's Society noting these are the two charities that we fundraise specifically for during the year.

Christian Aid remains the charity who receives the most from St Mary's outward giving overall. Christian Aid week was once again successful, raising nearly £3,000. The outward giving committee extend their thanks to all involved in running Christian Aid week events.

The support for The Children's Society out of church funds was always intended to be a short term measure to mitigate against lower Christingle attendances during Covid. Christingle attendance and the amount we raised for the Children's Society was up this year, mostly offsetting the reduction from church funds.

We have continued to support Engage Woking. We donated an extra £189 to cover the cost of giving each Year 6 pupil at Horsell CofE Junior School a copy of Scripture Union's "It's Your Move" booklet.

We were blessed with a great talk by Richard Jones from Five Talents on 9th June, continuing our recent pattern of inviting charities we support to speak to us about how transformational our outward giving is.

Unfortunately we were not able to run a Macmillan coffee morning this year due to having fewer volunteers available to organise and run the event. We did make a donation to Macmillan out of receipts from Pop In coffee and Sunday Coffee.

At the Harvest All Age Worship Service in October there was the usual collection of goods for York Road and cash collection for Christian Aid.

Pop In Coffee and Sunday Coffee continue to distribute surplus funds to local charities including Young Carers at both Horsell Junior School and Woking High School, and to Woking Hospice.

Details of all donations are shown in the Outward Giving page of the Financial Statements.

*Rev'd Dmitry Lutsenko, David Leach, Gill Squibb*

## **Pastoral Care Team**

Margaret and Janet share responsibility for this, with Janet looking after the duty book rota and Margaret chairing meetings and in confidence prayer requests. It is intended that the work of the group should be more widely known and there will be a slide prepared to explain what we do.



We are proud that the survey shows people generally feel St Mary's is caring church BUT Pastoral Care is the responsibility of us all and we can only ensure it is happening if we are made aware of need

*Report from Margaret Johnson  
Fellow team members: Janet Johnson, Hilary Mitchell, Barbara Brown,  
Angela Murphy, Carmen Duncan-Brown, June Lock*

## **Pop In Coffee**

Pop In Coffee is held on a Friday morning and provides a meeting place for parents/grandparents dropping their children at school, Horsell residents and members of the congregation while enjoying a cup of coffee or tea and cake.



We do not charge for refreshments but ask for a donation which enables us to fund the coffee shop and at the same time support charities including The Children's Society, Woking Hospice and Macmillan and also make a contribution to the church flower fund. We also hosted a coffee morning in aid of Christian Aid.

In addition, we are very pleased to be able to continue supporting the Young Carers Groups at Woking High School and Horsell Junior School. We were also pleased to join with After Church Coffee to fund the purchase of new chairs for the St Andrews Room.

Very many thanks to everyone who helps to keep the Friday morning coffee rota going and for making so many delicious cakes. Our grateful thanks also go to Horsell Funeral Service for donating cakes to us every Friday.

There is always room on the rota for new members so if you have a few hours to spare do join us. You would be very welcome.

*Sue Sheriff*

## **Peaceful Prayer and Praise**

This monthly evening service took place 10 times during 2024, offering a peaceful and informally-structured service comprising worship songs, contemplative music, quiet reflection, readings and prayer. It's aim is to deepen our faith and commitment to the Kingdom of God as we focus on his Spirit within us.



*Elaine Davies*

## **Servers**

2024 was yet another difficult year with just 3 Servers available for 8 o'clock Communion Services and another 3 available for 10 O'clock Communion Services.



Although I was able to provide a Server for every 8 o'clock Service, there were a number of gaps at 10 o'clock which were covered, on the day, by members of the congregation who had volunteered as Chalice Assistants; on these occasions, I was able to prepare for the service during the time that I was waiting to ring the bells at 09:30. We are an ageing team and younger volunteers would be appreciated from the younger members of the congregation. The long-established team, for 8 o'clock, has 194 years of experience but don't be put off by this as training will be given to all those who answer this calling.

*Alan R Nichols Head Server 01483 767852 07791 491395*

### **St Andrew's Room Development**

Planning permission was obtained from WBC in April, but cost increases have necessitated a phased approach to the development, based on affordability. After discussions with local builders and Guildford Diocese, a ground floor extension to the east of the choir vestry incorporating additional toilets, an enlarged kitchen and additional floor and storage space is currently being pursued within phase one.



*Brian Sheriff*

### **Tiny Treasures**

Our Tuesday Baby and Toddler group, Tiny Treasures, continued to meet every Tuesday in the St Andrew's room during term time. From January-July the children would enjoy playing with the toys and making craft related to the story chosen for that week. Towards the end of the session, we would have a story time followed by nursery rhymes.



At the end of July, our Thursday Baby and Toddler group, Twinkle Tots, ceased. Therefore, we needed to add a Christian element to Tiny Treasures. Our thanks go to the team that helped with Twinkle Tots.

Over August I read the book Refresh: Introducing adults to faith through toddler groups by Caroline Montgomery. In her book, Caroline shows you how to run Refresh and includes 33 'thoughts for the day' to use in your setting. In September 2024 we introduced the Refresh café model at Tiny Treasures. Refresh café is a fun and effective way to build fruitful relationships with parents and carers in our community – the children have fun, and we focus on refreshing the adults with time to talk, fresh coffee, biscuits and a five minute 'thought for the day' where we share something of God in a gentle, relevant and accessible way. Every 'thought for the day' has a Bible verse to go with it. Our café area is the adjoining room in the St Andrew's room. We have small Bible verse cards with pictures that go on the café tables. I print off enough so that the

adults can all take one away with them if they wish. In the last ten minutes of the morning, we sing nursery rhymes. The children enjoy singing and playing the musical instruments. Our last song every week is 'Big Family of God' by Nick and Becky Drake. Our thanks go to the Tiny Treasures team: Sue, Liz, Ros, Inge, Barbara, Miriam and Gill for all their hard work and help.

*Rebecca Connolly– Children & Families' Worker*