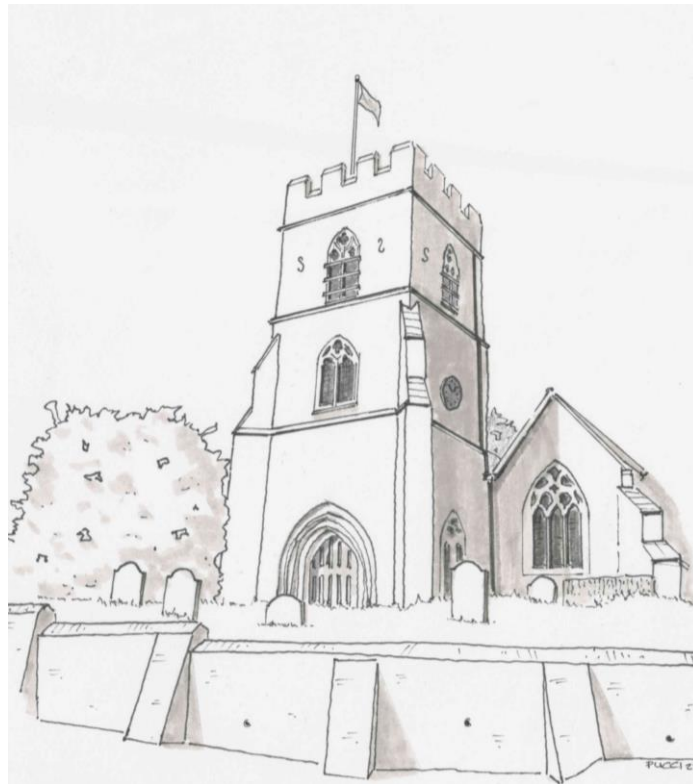


**Church of St Mary-the-Virgin**  
**Horsell**

**BOOK 2**



**The Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 11.30am**

**Report of Church Organisations for 2023**

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## **After Church Prayer**

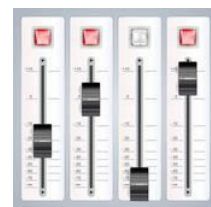
After the Sunday morning service a dedicated team of people are available to offer prayer to anyone who would welcome this. It is of course, confidential and can be for yourself or someone for whom you would like us to pray.



*Margaret Johnson*

## **Audio Visual**

We have become used to looking at screens in all aspects of life and I think we are now well accustomed to screens in church rather than books and leaflets. 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.

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**

The year began with a full Tower on the 8th January and 5 members were present at the AGM, held on Monday, 9th January. The average Sunday attendance was more than 6 members and there were only 3 occasions when there were insufficient numbers to ring on Sundays.



The highlight of the year was The Coronation, on the 6th May, when 7 of us took it in turns to ring a variety of called changes. Then, on the 8th May, National Volunteers Day, a non-ringing, visiting family of 4, who arrived to help clean the church, were given a tour of the Tower, including the Ringing and Bell Chambers.

Practise nights were a rare event, only 4 being possible, since many members have commitments on Tuesday evenings and past-experience has shown that changing the day of the week has upset a number of our neighbours. However, on the 22nd August, a total of 10 took part, including 2 ringers who were visiting a family in the village; the final quarter of the year brought a flourish of 3 practise sessions.

During the year we rang for just 3 weddings but the fees, generated, covered the cost of membership fees and a donation to the Guildford Diocesan Bell Restoration Fund.

On the evening of the 16th November, a party of 16 Scouts arrived, with 4 adults, for a visit to the church and the tower. Small groups were able to visit the Ringing and Bell Chambers and it would be nice to think that some interest has been generated.

Ringling took place before all the Christmas services and the year was concluded with a full band to ring on the morning of Sunday, 31st December.

After a difficult period, largely as a result of the Covid Virus restrictions, we were fortunate in acquiring an experienced ringer, Samantha Ede, who has moved into the village from Putney, and Theo Jones, a new ringer who has had his initial training at Ranmore church, after school on Wednesday evenings, but is living in the village and has joined the team to ring on Sunday mornings and at weddings.

Over all, I am pleased to report a better year with good prospects for the future.

*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.'

2022 was BRF's 100th anniversary. Have a look at their website( [brf.org.uk](http://brf.org.uk) ) to discover the other areas in which they are active.

*Barbara Brown*

### **Christmas Party**

On Sunday 10th December we had a Christmas party in the afternoon for 0-11s and their families. 105 people attended, including volunteers.



The Handbell Club from Horsell Junior school gave a performance. There were Christmas crafts, games, and refreshments. Our thanks go to all the volunteers who helped at the party!

*Rebecca Connolly – Children & Families' Worker*

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

The Moderator Revd. Jonathan Thomas stepped down as Area Dean and Moderator at the end of 2022, a replacement was appointed to both positions, but the longtime secretary then stepped down and the committee has not met since early January 2023. In early 2024 Revd. Adrian Beavis (Christ Church) and Andrew Bates (New Life) took over as Coordinators with Mark Potter (St Dunstan's) as Secretary, it is hoped that CTiW will now be regenerated with our full commitment.



*Brian Sheriff*

### **Churchyard**

The major project for the year was the replacement of a section of south boundary wall, which had been declared unsafe by WBC, delaying their takeover of our Churchyard. In March Tim Jordan began dismantling the old wall and recovering the ancient bricks. A professional bricklayer experienced in rebuilding ancient structures was engaged in September to rebuild the wall, this was completed with the exception of some angled coping bricks for the top of the wall which had to be specially cast. They are now in place and ready for fixing when the weather is warm enough for the use of Lime mortar, as specified for listed structures. WBC anticipate formalizing closure and take over by late Summer 2024. SERCO continue to cut grass and hedges on a regular basis, Community Payback teams also attend on a monthly basis in the summer to undertake gardening work as do some volunteers, ensuring that the churchyard remains neat and well presented for mourners and casual visitors.



*Brian Sheriff*

### **Finance & Property Committee**

The two main projects completed this year were the introduction of the replacement lighting system. Providing more economic lighting in terms of the running costs and with much longer lasting bulbs (also reducing the risk of ladder falls!)



The second main project was the rebuilding of the churchyard wall. Tim Jordan initially performed sterling work for the preparation of the rebuild for the students from Brooklands college to complete the supervised rebuilding. Unfortunately, who in the

end were unable to attend. The completion of the work was subsequently, fulfilled by a contractor. Our thanks go to Tim for the many hours spent on the demolishing of the wall and the reclaiming of many of the bricks, enabling a considerable saving in costs.

Unfortunately the repair of the church clock was an ongoing stop-start-stop saga. In order to keep the costs down items were getting repaired and/or replaced piecemeal to rectify the root cause of the clock failure; it not being possible with the number of old and well worn moving parts to identify the primary cause from the outset.

6 Waldens Park Road continues to be rented, providing a valuable source of income to reduce our on-going deficit to a more manageable level.

The St Andrew's room extension has become more tangible with the application in with WBC planning committee. Though it is sadly noted that with the time taken so far with the planning and application process, building costs have risen sharply over the year.

The churchyard continued to be kept neat and tidy with a combination of SERCO and the small army of volunteers from the local community and congregation. To all involved with this and on behalf of the F&P committee, we thank you.

Finally, my thanks go to all the members of the committee for their help and contribution to the F&P committee: Brian Sheriff, David Leach, Helen Edwards, Barry Squibb and Tim Jordan.

*Adrian Harvey Chair, Fin and Prop Committee*

### **Flower Arrangers**

As you know we have been putting flowers in vases which has cut down on expenses. We have also been trying to avoid using Oasis (floral foam) as this is not bi-degradable and I have been told that it can stay in the soil for up to 100 years! On special occasions such as weddings we may use floral foam.



We are continuing to use vases on window sills but we are now using containers in the pedestals with water and netting.

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

Although we have had no wedding income we have been very fortunate to receive some donations for which we are always grateful.

Finally I would like to thank all the team who take time to make the arrangements every week. I would also like to thank Mike Couper for all his help and for the cake he

fed us during the year and also Brian Sheriff who takes all our flower rubbish to the bins every week.

*June Lock*

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

During 2023 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. From September we were fortunate to encourage a good-size group of learners from Year 3 (new to the school). They 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 Emma Tuson.



*Mike Couper*

### **Harvest Flowers**

Each year following our harvest festival the Pastoral Care Team organises small gifts of flowers to people in the community who have been bereaved in the previous year. The posies are made up by June Lock and her team of flower-arrangers. The gifts are always very much appreciated and are an excellent way of showing our concern for individuals who have no other connection with St Mary's. Your thoughts and prayers will be appreciated in October. We are always very grateful for offers of help with delivery.



*Barbara Brown*

### **Heritage Open Days**

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 2023. 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 15 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 is about to reach its 50th birthday and is popular with recitals and our services. We are also well-known for our delicious refreshments as part of our visit to a very special building. Do come and enjoy your visit September next year.

*Mike Couper*

### **Home Communion**

Over the year the team of Barbara, Margaret, Hilary and Alan have taken communion to a total of 8 people, usually on a monthly basis. If you would like to receive communion in this way or know someone who would please let the vicar or Margaret know.



*Margaret Johnson*

### **Horsell Church of England Junior School**

2023 was another busy year at the school, with some challenges but plenty of highlights. The children worked hard academically and our year 6 SATS results were excellent and well above the national averages.



The school has invested in a lot of quality literature, carefully chosen to reflect the rich diversity of faiths, beliefs, and backgrounds of all members of our school family and enables the school to provide a 'rich and inclusive education'.

The school thinks a lot about the world we live in, and the Eco Committee are very active. Trees were planted in the school grounds as part of the Treescapes Project, we had a big Spring Clean and Climate Justice was the theme of a whole school project which aimed to send a message across to all MPs. One year 4 class wrote and performed a song as part of the project.

The school supports several charities including The Lighthouse in Woking and LinkAble. Members of the school council visited the Lighthouse to see the foodbank, and other initiatives they run to help vulnerable members of our community. Our Young Carers have a weekly support group supported by volunteers from St Mary's and are grateful for the generous donations of funds from the Friday Coffee Morning group.

Summer was a time for celebration. We had a picnic lunch for the coronation of King Charles III, we were awarded the Silver Artsmark Award, our pupils put on a music concert, sports teams enjoyed much success, and the Year 6 performance of Forever Treasure Island was a sell-out.

In September the school launched the Dove Award which all pupils work towards during the academic year. As part of this, children are encouraged to ask and consider 'big questions' and have experiences that build on their cultural capital.

Prayer at the school is an important aspect of Worship and spiritual development. Prayer space activities and a lunchtime prayer group are led by staff from the Engage charity, who also support some of our more vulnerable pupils as part of their mentoring project. The church supports the school through Open the Book assemblies, handbell club, visits to St Mary's, Harvest Festival and Nativity.

We were expecting to have our Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) early in the year. However, the diocese informed us that this would be delayed until late in the year, under a new inspection regime and with a new RE curriculum. Staff and governors rose to the challenge and when we 'received the call' in November we were ready for the inspection which was a whole day of meetings and observations involving the headteacher, staff, four governors and Michael Couper from St Mary's. We passed the inspection, and the inspector highlighted many strengths of the school including, 'The school's Christian vision, coupled with the dedication and ambition of leaders, inspires provision that ensures that all who are represented in the diversity of this community are able to flourish.'

The success of the school is due to Mrs Wand and all staff for always putting the education & welfare of the children first. The relationship between our school and St Mary's is a precious one and the school thanks St Mary's Church for their continuing support and prayers.

*Anne Smith, Chair of Governors*

## **Horsell Matters**

Another six issues of our Parish magazine were distributed in the last year (that's almost 20,000 magazines in a year). Regular features have included the Homily, a focus on one or more of our church activities, Grave Matters, musings from the Churchyard Cat, redesigned centre pages, a colouring themed activity for young children, Gardening Matters, a recipe, a review (usually of literature), updates from our local schools, village events and activities, and other contributions from residents. Grateful thanks are extended to everyone who writes for and submits articles to the magazine, contributing to its Christian outreach in the community of Horsell. Suggestions for future articles are always welcome. Please have a word with me if you have any ideas.

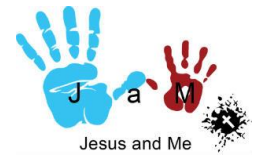
The eight-week cycle of production not only involves the numerous contributors, but Knaphill Print (who format, handle the advertisers, and print the publication), Peter and Karen Saunbury and our many volunteer deliverers, without whom the magazine would not be circulated.

*Vanessa McMurtrie - Editor*



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

'JaM' continued to take place during the 10am Sunday service for children aged 3-11yrs in the St Andrews Room. Our aim in 'JaM' is that the children would learn how much Jesus loves them through bible stories, drama, crafts, and games and as they worship and pray together too. It is also, to encourage the children to grow in faith through a variety of different activities which help them apply what they have learnt to their lives. We have been using 'Energize' material since October which the children have been enjoying and engaging well with! The material works well for a wide age range. The children have especially enjoyed the games, prayer stations, crafts, acting out parts of the bible, junk modelling and sharing what they have learnt in 'JaM' with the rest of the congregation. Rebecca Connolly took over as the leader of the group at the beginning of October. The attendance was average but increased. From September-December we had anywhere between 2-11 children attending. We currently have five volunteers who help support Rebecca whether that be helping or leading sessions. Our thanks go to Tim, David, Claire M, Claire B, Barbara, and James for all their hard work, creativity and help with 'JaM'.



*Rebecca Connolly*

## **Lighting**

As we have found at home lighting has been transformed from incandescent lights, in which a piece of wire glows white hot producing light but also lots of wasted heat, to low energy units which usually rely on light emitting diodes (LED) which produce light without the wasted heat. The older types of lamps are not now available so it was necessary to update the church lighting to modern standards. Modern lights are much more efficient and thus cheaper to run.



The unit which controls the level of church lighting was state of the art when installed but had become obsolete and was probably unrepairable if a fault developed. If the unit failed it would cause a bit of a crisis. Although replacement LED tubes could be fitted to the existing system this would not be compatible with the control unit, which as stated was obsolete, and was not an acceptable solution.

We sought advice from three companies, two of which were very similar and specialised in church lighting. Costs were rather on the high side but both companies provided very similar quotations. After careful consideration a firm based in North Surrey was selected and work began in July and finished in August.

The company worked very tidily and always had the church available as we required with good temporary lighting. The system included a sophisticated control system which was a bit of a concern as sophisticated systems can sometimes prove to be

troublesome but it was the most cost-effective way to have good control of the lighting. So far the system has performed well.

There was an initial curious problem when the lights would suddenly dim after a short time. The company reacted immediately and finally disabled the entry system which turned on the lights for a period when visitors entered the building. This cured the problem and a further visit around Christmas was made with some replacement equipment for the entry detection system. All now works properly and the lights come on for visitors for a limited period.

The new lights were predicted to save running costs of £2350 per year. With increasing electricity charges the saving will be more which is good for the planet and church finances. The treasurer has already noticed the reduced electricity bills. The anticipated life of the units is many thousands of hours whereas the old lighting required several replacements every month involving ladder access and difficulty with older corroded light fittings. We hope that access to the lights will not be needed for many years although early failures cannot be ruled out.

*Barry Squibb*

## **Meditation**

The monthly contemplative meditation service took place eleven times throughout 2023 with an average attendance of 10 participants. It consists of 30 minutes of guided silence led in turn by a small team and offers a variety of ways in which to focus on God's presence within each one of us.



*Elaine Davies*

## **Messy Church**

We had monthly meetings and continued to use the newly planned organisation (using the church for all the session rather than using the St Andrew's Room as well). The north aisle works well for all the activities and picnic tea to be held there. Our clever team produce wonderful creative ideas for the children to tackle (and the parents). Rebecca Connolly took over as leader of the group in September. Messy Church is part of The Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF), a registered Charity. Every month at Messy Church, we explore a Bible theme through craft, food, games, or nature. We always have a celebration with a story, songs, and prayers. All ages are welcome! There is a core group of regular families who attend, and they always give good comments and feedback. Our aim at Messy Church is that the people who attend would learn how much Jesus love them through the wide variety of activities, bible teaching, hospitality, and community. We



must thank Jenny, Anne-Marie, Mike, James, Ruth, Coral, Lucy, Brian, and Sue for all their hard work, creativity, and help.

*Rebecca Connolly*

### **Mid-Week Communion Service**

Midweek Communion takes place on the first Wednesday of the month at 11am and usually has 5-8 people attending. Company over coffee is enjoyed afterwards.



*Michael Couper*

### **Ministry to Care Homes**

We have been able to return to our monthly visits to Kettlewell House. 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 Michael Templeman for leading, and Cecil Hull joining me in playing the piano.



*Michael Couper*

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

Our main task is to provide a choir to lead the congregation at our weekly services. During 2023 the numbers have reduced and we would welcome newcomers to join the choir. A small group continues to lead us in the singing of the monthly All Age Service. Many thanks to them and Elaine Davies who accompanies me with her flute. As usual the Nine Lessons and Carols was beautifully sung and organised by Alan Rapley.



*Michael Couper*

### **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. Last time we met we had a bring-and-share lunch which was very much appreciated. 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

Our reliable group continue to visit the Junior School weekly, the Village School fortnightly and Halstead/St Andrew's once each half term. This 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 to help. The stories have been written by Bob Hartman. Late in the year we started to use a completely new set of stories - quite a challenge with new introductions and opportunities for all the children to join in. We are always welcomed from the staff and children at all three venues. We have continued to use the stories from the 'old' books at our All Age Services. We now have a different way of organising each session - we take it in turns to be the Director (very grand!) to set up the characters, costumes etc. This has helped Roz Haynes (to whom we offer our thanks) to remain as our Leader, but involves the whole team.



*Michael Couper*

## Outward Giving

We are pleased to report that Outward Giving continues to grow.

The Outward Giving Team met in November to agree the allocation of the "10% of income" that the church gives. The amount we had to allocate was estimated to be £13,000. This is £1,000 more than for the last year.

In making our decisions we looked at St Mary's giving from church funds, special collections and other fundraising. We continued donations to our church school, Horsell CoE Junior School (£3,000), Bible Reading Fellowship (£2,000), Bible Society (£1,250), Engage Woking (£1,000), York Road Project (£1,500) and The Children's Society (£1,000) at the same level as last year, providing long term consistent support to our charity partners. In 2023 we were pleased to welcome Celia Wand from Horsell CoE Junior School to speak to us on 25th June and Melanie Hamilton from Bible Society on 9th July.

We donated the same amount overall to Five Talents and Christian Aid, but increased the Five Talents donation by £250 to £1,250 and reduced the Christian Aid donation comparably. We gave a slightly larger amount to Five Talents this year to celebrate the 25th anniversary of their founding. St Mary's supported Christian Aid through collections at the Harvest Service and during Christian Aid Week, as well as out of the surplus from donations to the Sunday Coffee fund. The fundraising efforts for Christian Aid were extremely successful in 2023 with Christian Aid being the largest overall beneficiary of St Mary's outward giving. Carol Hui from Christian Aid spoke at our 10am service on 14th May.

Our outward giving is primarily channelled through Christian charities and is designed to:

- o express Christ's love for the poorest and most vulnerable people in our world in need of his especial care
- o spread the good news about Jesus across our world



o care for the earth and demonstrate the Christian hope for God's world  
The final bullet point was a new addition to our outward giving principles in 2022. In 2023, we donated £1,000 to A Rocha, who we hope to see as a key mission partner in meeting our new outward giving principle.

There was a MacMillan Coffee morning in September and 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. Kristina James-Talbot from York Road Project spoke at our Harvest Festival service.

We have continued to support Engage Woking. We donated an extra £171 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.

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, Woking Hospice and Lighthouse.

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**

As Janet's health issues continued to prevent her from leading the team it was agreed by Dmitry in November that Margaret would act as Interim Leader. At the November meeting Carmen and Angela were welcomed back as team members and June Lock joined the team.



Margaret outlined the responsibilities of Pastoral Care which is the job of the whole congregation.

*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 are also delighted to be able to continue supporting the Young Carers Groups at Woking High School and Horsell Junior School.

During the year we also hosted coffee mornings in aid of Christian Aid and Macmillan.

Very many thanks to everyone who helps to keep the Friday morning coffee rota going and for making all the delicious cakes.

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 nine times during 2023, offering a peaceful and loosely-structured service comprising worship songs, contemplative music such as Taizé, quiet reflection, readings and prayer. It appears to be valued by those who attend and is showing a gentle increase in numbers.



*Elaine Davies*

### **Servers**

Although Coronavirus restrictions have been lifted by the Government, the majority of members of the congregation still prefer to receive the Holy Sacrament by way of Intinction. This is the preferred method used, entirely, at 10 o'clock services, but a number of those attending at 8 o'clock, were happy to revert to the use of the Chalice, which they received, after those receiving both kinds by Intinction.



We continue to be short of Servers, for the 10 o'clock celebration but David Leach has become part of the team, for which I am truly grateful; thank you, David. As a result of chemo-therapy being endured by one of the 8 o'clock team, we were looking at another period of difficulty but David Metcalfe has stepped into the breach; thank you David.

I was 16 when I became a Server and, with succession planning in mind, would like to see younger church members putting themselves forward for this important role, which is important for the support of the Clergy.

Finally, I should like to take this opportunity to thank each member of the team, who has supported St Mary's during the last year.

*Alan R Nichols Head Server 01483 767852 07791 491395*

## St Andrew's Room Development

After obtaining outline approval from diocese, we obtained outline planning permission from WBC in July 2022, after a public exhibition of the proposals, full permission was applied for in November 2022. In February 2023 Historic England visited the site together with members of the Diocesan Advisory Committee, some minor amendments were requested and accepted. WBC then asked for an updated Arboreal Survey stating that the previous one was out of date, this was done. WBC then asked for an archeological survey, this was done, they then queried the project with Historic England necessitating further planning drawing updates. We continue regular follow ups with the Senior Planning officer at WBC and have engaged our elected local representatives to do likewise, but with no current conclusion.



*Brian Sheriff*

## Tiny Treasures

The Tuesday Baby and Toddler group is much enjoyed by those who attend. Our thanks go to Angela for leading the group and to Ann, Inge, and Jan for their help with refreshments. Angela Murphy stepped down as leader of the group in July. Rebecca Connolly took over as leader of the group in September 2023. The name of the group changed to 'Tiny Treasures' and new people joined the team. Each week there is a story, songs, and craft which relates to the story. The people attending gradually increased. In November we were getting anywhere between 20-27 people coming. In December the numbers slightly decreased. Our thanks go to Sue, Liz, Ros, Inge, and Barbara for all their hard work and help with the group.



*Rebecca Connolly*

## Twinkle Tots

This weekly session has had a very successful year, with a core group of regular folk attending. The age range of up to 4 years old enjoy the activities we provide with a Christian theme each week. Rebecca Connolly took over as leader of the group in September 2023. From September we were getting anywhere between 10-28 people coming including volunteers. At the start of each session, the children enjoy playing with the variety of toys then later in the session, after we have tidied away the toys we have a bible story, pray, and sing songs about God as well as nursery rhymes. We finish the session with a craft that relates to the bible teaching (enjoyed by both the children and adults). We had a Twinkle Tots picnic on the 24th and 31st August. The weather was pouring with rain on both dates, so we had our picnics indoors. A small number of families attended and enjoyed themselves.



Our thanks go to Mike, Angela, Gill, Barry, Inge, and Catherine for all their hard work and help with the group. Great opportunity to bring Jesus into the tiny one's lives. Sowing seeds!

*Rebecca Connolly*