

Church of St Mary-the-Virgin
Horsell

BOOK 2



The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 30th April 2023 at 11.15 am

Report of Church Organisations for 2022

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After Church Prayer

With clergy support the dedicated team have tried to ensure that, after the main Sunday morning service, there is someone willing and able to pray with and for anyone who comes up to the Trinity Chapel.

Prayer is an important part of our Christian lives and takes many forms.

It is a privilege to be asked to pray with people who come for themselves or for someone else known to them. It could be a health concern, or for strength at a challenging time. It might even be an opportunity to share thanks.

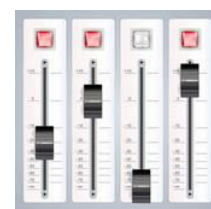
The team are committed to confidentiality and no records are kept, or notes made.

Margaret Johnson



Audio Visual

As mentioned last year the Covid virus episode highlighted the need for internet streaming for events in church. This now happens on a regular basis with all 10am services streamed and many weddings and funerals and additional services. It is appreciated for weddings and funerals where distant friends and relatives are able to join significant family events that may not have been possible otherwise.



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. Again talk to Barry (07814024819).

Barry Squibb

Bell Ringing

Continuing to return to normal, from Covid restrictions, we were able to field between 4 and 5 ringers for the first 4 months of the year until the 2nd June, when 8 members took it in turns to ring in celebration of Her Majesty, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.



On the 18th April we hosted the Chertsey District Open Day, when no fewer than 40 campanologists from as far afield as Dunblane Cathedral, Leeds, Oldham, Leicester, Guildford Cathedral, Horsham, Southampton, Malvern and many other Towers.

Then, on the 22nd June, we had the pleasure of ringing for the wedding of Hilary Mills (a valued member of the congregation) and John Mitchell. We rang for one other wedding on the 9th July.

Sadly, I was called upon to ring the Tenor, fully-muffled, to commemorate the Life and Service of the Queen, on the 8th September. This was repeated on the un-muffled Treble to mark King Charles III's Accession to the Throne, the following day. On the 19th September, 3 of us were able to ring, half-muffled, for the State Funeral. , when we were joined by 3 visitors, Bridie Dolman, one of our well known parishioners, her granddaughter, Lottie Griffith and Rachel Griffith (mother) who were visiting from Australia. We were also pleased to welcome Vince Franchetti, grandfather of Conor Bakhuizen.

The annual Heritage Open weekend, attracted more than 200 visitors to the Tower, many of whom enjoyed short demonstrations of bell ringing.

During the last quarter of the year we were, generally, able to field 6 ringers on most Sunday mornings but Christmas Eve and Christmas Day were both unfortunate casualties.

We continue to be desperately short of bell ringers and are keen to welcome anyone who has moved into the area, who has rung before, no matter how long ago! We are painfully aware that, in January, we shall, once again, be losing our two youngest members, back to their university studies.

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.

Please ask me if you would like to know more or to have a look at samples of past materials.



2022 was BRF's 100th anniversary. 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)

CTiW continues to meet on a quarterly basis at



Christ Church, as an ecumenical forum for churches in Woking. It organises the Good Friday Act of Witness in the town square, World Day of Prayer, Lent Lunches, Street Angels, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and coordinates Warm spaces Initiatives and other events as well as publicising various initiatives, which regularly appear in our weekly Notices. As a Church we remain fully involved in this forum.

Brian Sheriff

Churchyard

The removal of the 167-year-old Cedar Tree, due to its dangerous condition, from the south west of the churchyard, was clearly the major event of the year. It has dramatically changed the view of the village, when approaching from the south and has improved light levels in the church, but is missed by many. A replacement has now been planted. SERCO continue to visit, on behalf of WBC, some six times a year and make a very welcome contribution to keeping the churchyard tidy, as do Community Payback teams, who make regular weekly visits, and a number of volunteer groups. Their efforts are greatly appreciated by Mourners and casual visitors alike. Remedial work on the South Boundary wall is planned for the near future, after which WBC may be able to assume fuller responsibility.



Brian Sheriff

Finance & Property Committee

2022 sadly saw the necessary removal of the Cedar tree at the front of the Church, forever changing the view of St Marys from the village. This in turn has made more noticeable the fact that the church clock was not working with the repair to be completed in 2023 . Because of the removal of the Cedar, we have been granted permissions to plant a number of new saplings around the churchyard.



The other two major works of concern in 2022 were the repair of the churchyard wall and the replacement lighting within the church. The wall will now be repaired as a supervised training project for bricklaying students from Brooklands college. It will be both a huge saving for the church and also providing a unique opportunity for the students. The proposed lighting replacements was finally agreed and is expected to start work in spring 2023.

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 architects producing and refining plans to meet our requirements. It is expected that a final set will be released for public consumption next 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, on behalf of the F&P committee, we thank you.

Finally, my thanks go to all members of the committee (and saying goodbye) to Brian Rowlatt, Brian Sheriff, David Leach, Helen Edwards and Barry Squibb and (a warm welcome to) Tim Jordan, for their help and support over the past year."

Adrian Harvey Chair, Fin and Prop Committee

Flower Arrangers

This year we have been continuing to try and keep flowers in Church and this has been a little easier as the restrictions have eased. However, this has still had an impact on the flowers in the Church.



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 bio-degradable and I have been told that it can stay in the soil for up to 100 years!

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

Once again we were able to make Mothering Sunday posies which made us feel some things are getting back to normal.

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.

June Lock

Handbell Club at Horsell Junior School

During 2022 we were able to renew 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 have had a very good group from Year 3 children, and they have picked up the handling of the bells, learning how to play them and listening to



each other. The highlight of the year was when we performed at the Christmas Tree Festival with a good turnout and help from some of the parents to fill the gaps. It is really good fun and we have added the adults to our team (Emma Tuson and Isabella Craig). Special thanks to Anne-Marie Claxon and Roz Haynes who are wonderful help with printing, conducting and trying to keep us busy.

Mike Couper

Home Communion

Since we started keeping records in 2016 over 30 different people have received home communion. For some this is just once, perhaps following an operation. However, for at least a couple, this is still happening on a regular basis.



The small team involved feel it is a privilege to be invited to take the sacrament to someone either in their own home, or a care home. Currently there are 9 people receiving, usually on a monthly basis.

Margaret Johnson

Horsell Church of England Junior School

It was good to welcome the children back to school at the start of 2022, although things still weren't quite normal due to covid. Classrooms were cold as windows needed to be left open, children were wearing coats in class, collective worship was via Teams and occasionally year groups were eating lunch in their classroom. Everyone showed great resilience in coping with high levels of staff & pupil absence and teachers became experts at juggling timetables & last-minute planning.



Things did improve after half term and the children welcomed some year group pets (gerbils & hamsters) into classrooms. At the start of Lent, a new Prayer Space was set up in the library and at the end of term, following the Easter Pause Day, the year 4 children led a school Easter Service in St Mary's Church. There was a focus on charitable giving with much support for Ukrainian families.

The summer term was as busy as ever. Year 6 children showed great determination in completing their SATS and were able to reflect on all the hard work they had done over the previous 4 years.

Music continues to be an important part of school life with all year 4 children learning to play the clarinet. A musical highlight of the year was a school concert where parents were entertained by the school orchestra, groups of musicians, handbells, singers and much more.

Jubilee celebrations were enjoyed at the end of May and included plenty of bunting, a whole school picnic and the burying of time capsules.

As the end of the school year approached, we prepared our farewell to the year 6 children. They attended a Leavers' Service at the Guildford Cathedral, put on an amazing production of 'Oh, What a Knight', and each child spoke of their memories of school during a celebratory awards ceremony.

School Sports Day proved very competitive, a reflection of the sporting success enjoyed by the school during the year in cricket (Years 5 & 6 County Champions), swimming, athletics, cross-country, netball and football.

Along with the aspiration of high academic achievement, the school strives to provide a rich education for all children, and this is achieved through classroom teaching and visits to different sites for a new learning experience. Years 4-6 enjoyed residential trips and locally year groups visited The Lightbox, Wisley Gardens and The Mosque.

Religious Education is a significant focus within the school. The Open the Book team visit weekly, Dmitry supports the school in its Christian teaching and other faith leaders visit school to give talks. The support from Dmitry, St Mary's Church, and the team from Engage is greatly appreciated.

September saw the start of the new school year and lots of new faces in year 3. Mrs Wand held a special Collective Worship to mark the passing of our beloved Queen, there was a whole school Communion service at St Mary's, The York Road Project was supported as part of the Harvest Festival, the school had a visit from a member of the team at the Diocese and suddenly Christmas was approaching. The handbell club and choir performed at the Christmas Tree Festival, children enjoyed a turkey lunch and year 3 performed a Nativity play in church.

2022 was another challenging year and enormous thanks must go 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 Dmitry and St Mary's Church for their continuing support and prayers.

Anne Smith on behalf of the Governors

Horsell Matters

Midway through the year, the editorial team behind the magazine saw changes. We express our thanks to all those who have written articles and edited the 6 issues that have been published.



Fundamentally, the Parish magazine is a means by which the members of the church at St Mary's can act as witnesses to those in the village who seldom, if ever, come to church. It is a key communications tool to share news of the many things that are happening at St Mary's, explain our various Ministries and support our vision of: Making Jesus known, Getting to know Jesus better and Sharing Jesus' love in the community and world.

In the summer, a new (but old) editor stepped forward to ensure the continuity of the magazine and its voice in the village. Vanessa McMurtrie who was part of the Horsell Matters team between 2003 and 2017, volunteered to lead the team, alongside Olya Lutsenko.

Grateful thanks are extended to the 25+ contributors who have submitted articles this year and to our advertisers who fund the magazine's production, skilfully typeset and printed by Knaphill Print Ltd. Our aim is to continually improve the quality of the magazine through the inclusion of high-quality colour photos, imagery, layout and new content.

The magazine has a huge group behind it, without which it would not reach our doorsteps. We extend thanks for the hard work of Karen and Peter Saunbury, who sort the 3100 copies into the 62 rounds. We are very grateful to all the volunteers, from across the parish, who then post the magazine through their neighbours' doors.

Vanessa McMurtrie

JaM (Jesus and Me) and Us!

JaM continued to provide activities for our children and young people aged from three years old upwards during the 10am Sunday service.

Our aim in JaM is to help the children understand God's way for each of us through exploring the stories of the Bible and encourage them to grow in faith through a variety of different activities which help them apply what they have learnt to their lives.



The most recent JaM rota has run throughout January to Easter and will continue during 2023.

During January to March, we had two to five children/young people attend on a weekly basis. These numbers are fluid make planning and leading the session challenging although the age range is fairly predictable as being primary school age. We currently would struggle to give a meaningful lesson to children of later primary age and older - I expect that we would potentially involve children of this age in helping to teach younger children. Another aspect of fluid numbers means that on some weeks when no children attend the 10am service, JaM may be called-off on the spot; in these cases, prior lesson planning would be 'wasted effort' by volunteers

We currently have 7 volunteers on the JaM rota and an eighth joining after Easter 2023; the time and energy put into running JaM continues to keep the class alive and fun for all.

We are particularly keen to ensure that we can sustain this work and seek to continue to engage all those children who attended. We look forward to the prospect of a children and families worker joining the St Mary's team, especially where the outreach aspect of this role (along with other existing church initiatives) will look to increase the attendance of JaM sessions.

Tim Jordan & David Leach

Meditation

Our monthly half-hour meditation service took place throughout the year with an average attendance of 10 participants. Leading is shared between a few regulars. Each session consists of periods of silence interspersed with words of guidance from the leader to help us focus on God's indwelling Spirit.



Elaine Davies

Messy Church

We have managed to have monthly meetings and continued to use the newly planned organisation (using the church for all the session rather than using S Andrew's Room as well). The north aisle works well for all the activities and tea to be held there. Our clever team produce wonderful creative ideas for the children to tackle (and the parents). We try as best as we can by emailing a large list of names, but our numbers have been quite low. There is a core group of regular families and they always give good comments and feedback. We had two sessions for the Twinkle Tots (in the outside area at the Institute). The weather was scorching hot, but a small number of families attended and enjoyed themselves.



Michael Couper

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 were fortunate enough to return to our monthly service at Kettlewell House. A small choir helps with the singing of well-known hymns that some of the residents join us in the singing. Short readings are read by members of the music group and we always finish with the Lord's Prayer.



We are also visiting Horsell Lodge, following a similar pattern of songs and worship every quarter.

Michael Couper

Music at St Mary's

Our main task is to provide a choir to lead the congregation at our weekly services. During 2022 the numbers have reduced and we are always keen to welcome newcomers to join the choir. Another regular change has been a small group now leading us in the singing at our monthly All Age Service. Many thanks to Elaine Davies who accompanies me on the piano. Occasionally we use you tube links which seem to help the congregation to join in. As usual the Nine Lessons & 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.

This year we meet in March, May, July, September, and November.

If you would like to know more, please get in touch with Barbara Brown on 01483 721610 or barbb@hotmail.co.uk

Barbara Brown

Open the Book

A much smaller group regularly visit the Junior School weekly, the Infant School each fortnight and St Andrew's School once each half term. This valuable team bring Bible stories to life, mainly with wonderful versions written initially by Bob Hartman. He has a clever way of making the story just at the right level for the age range of the children listening. We are always made welcome by both the staff and children at all three venues. Long may this continue and special thanks to the organiser Roz Haynes. Occasionally we use the story from Open the Book at our monthly All Age Service.



Michael Couper

Outward Giving

We are pleased to report that Outward Giving in 2022 is approaching pre-pandemic levels.



The Outward Giving Team met in December to agree the allocation of the "10% of income" that the church gives. The amount we had to allocate, based on unrestricted income minus the designated funds for church growth, was estimated to be £12,000. This was a return to the pre-Covid amount for 2019 and is £1,500 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 in 2019, 2021 and 2022. We continued donations to our church school, Horsell CoE Junior School (£3,000), Bible Reading Fellowship (£2,000), Bible Society (£1,250), and Five Talents to support their project in the Diocese of Butere, Kenya (£1,000) at their 2021 amounts. We made a donation to the Children's Society of £1000 to compensate for an expected fall in money raised at the Christingle services and also for other fundraising in 2022 that hadn't taken place. Donations to Engage Woking (£1,000), York Road Project (£1,500), Christian Aid (£1,250) were increased.

Since the invasion St Mary's has supported the people of Ukraine. Laura Templeman organised a cake sale on Sunday 6th March which raised £550 for the DEC Ukraine appeal. There was a wonderful use of the church premises for three months as a collection point with many volunteers from the church community helping to sort and pack donations. Later in the year the church buildings were used for language classes for Ukrainian refugees. Our thanks to Olya Lutsenko for enabling these activities to take place.

This year St Mary's organised a delivery only collection for Christian Aid Week in addition to the usual church collection. Our thanks to all the Horsell Matters distributors who delivered envelopes to two thirds of the households in the parish. To celebrate the Bible Reading Fellowship centenary we had a speaker from BRF in May and an article in Horsell Matters.

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. We have continued to support Engage Woking. We donated an extra £162 to cover the cost of giving each Year 6 pupil at Horsell CoE Junior School a copy of Scripture Union's "It's Your Move" booklet and Shelley Blundell gave an excellent presentation at a 10am service in December about the work of Engage Woking in schools.

The big decrease in Outward Giving in 2022 continued to be the special collection for the Children's Society at the Christingle services. This was £389 (an increase on 2021) compared to £1,030 in 2018 and £1,416 in 2019. In 2022 there were two Christingle services on Friday 23rd December. These were well supported and it was lovely to have so many families back in church again but the overall numbers attending were significantly down compared to the numbers pre-pandemic.

Details of all donations are shown in the Outward Giving page of the Financial Statements. Since 2020 the totals include all Christian Aid Week collections.

Ruth Carter, Rev'd Dmitry Lutsenko, David Leach, Gill Squibb

Pastoral Care Team

The team were delighted to be able to help Hilary celebrate her marriage to John Mitchell and even more delighted that although she has moved out of the parish and no longer the Team Leader she remains a team member.



Janet expressed her readiness to lead the team but very sadly her health has not really permitted her to fully take on the role to date. We all wish her well and want her to take the necessary time to recover.

Following the resignation of Carmen Duncan Brown, who was warmly thanked for her time the team now has 5 members.

This year the Harvest baskets were distributed but with difficulty due to two members being away and the remaining members unable to drive.

Home Communion has continued as before and we currently have 9 people receiving, usually on a monthly basis.

We are totally committed to serving the parish and meeting any pastoral needs but badly need a bigger team. This might not need to be onerous, as we are a caring church and so many 'keep a watchful eye' albeit in a quiet way. If you feel you could help please speak to a team member or the Vicar.

Report from Margaret Johnson

Fellow team members: Janet Johnson, Hilary Mitchell, Barbara Brown, Angela Murphy

Pop In Coffee

Pop In Coffee is held on a Friday morning and continues to be a popular point of outreach at St Mary's in providing an opportunity both for parents/grandparents dropping off their children at school, and for other people in Horsell village together with members of the congregation to join together for a cup of tea/coffee and cake. We have also been nominated as a local 'warm space' and are pleased to have had several favourable mentions in the Woking News and Mail.



We do not charge for refreshments but just ask for a donation which enables us to fund the Coffee Shop and at the same time support The Childrens Society and other local charities including Woking Hospice and the Salvation Army Food Bank.

We continue to support the Young Carers Group at Woking High School and this year we have started to also support the Young Carers Group at the Junior School.

During the year we hosted a coffee morning in May to support Alzheimer's Research UK on behalf of Jenny Spencer who completed a 26 mile charity walk. We also held a successful Macmillan Largest Coffee Morning in September. Refreshments and Hot Cross Buns were provided after the morning service on Good Friday.

Very many thanks to everyone who helps to keep the Friday morning coffee rota going and for making all the delicious cakes. There is still 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 continued throughout 2022, providing an opportunity for a peaceful and informally-structured service comprising worship songs, contemplative music such as Taizé, quiet reflection, readings and prayer.



Elaine Davies

Servers

Coronavirus was still very much with us during 2022 but, gradually, restrictions were relaxed and we became used to the new way of doing things, including the need for the Server to be seated in the pew at the front of the main North Aisle.



In accordance with continuing safety restrictions imposed by the Church of England, and most other denominations, the use of the Chalice for administering the consecrated wine, is still not possible but the administration of the Holy Sacrament, in both kinds, has been possible by the intinction of wafers in the Chalice, at the point of administration.

We continue to be seriously short of Servers, for the 10 o'clock celebration and this has resulted in the Celebrant having to Serve, himself, thus lengthening the Holy Communion Service. Despite my appeals, we continue to have only 2 regular Servers, who are engaged with other conflicting church duties on Sunday mornings.

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



Following earlier Design work, the production of Statements of Need and Significance, numerous supporting documents and surveys, including a Topographical and Measured Building survey and an Underground Utilities Survey in May, we submitted our plans to Guildford Diocese and obtained their outline approval and advice on formal application submission. We also applied in April for WBC pre-application advice and acceptance of our proposals. In July they replied that the proposed extension was acceptable. We then held an open exhibition which was well publicised and well attended. Those attending were generally supportive and useful suggestions were received. Taking into account all the views expressed, the proposals were submitted to the various historic amenity and protection societies, which resulted in further advice, and eventual acceptance. A hopefully final set of plans and supporting documents have now been developed and await final approval from WBC and the Consistory Court.

Brian Sheriff

St Mary's Response To The Invasion Of Ukraine



Within days of the war starting in February 2022, permission was sought from the church wardens and the vicar to use St Mary's for collection of donations. With their blessing, the donation point opened its doors, and we were overwhelmed with people's generosity.

Those early days revolved around receiving, sorting, packing, carrying, and loading – all while coming to terms with the unimaginable reality of war.

We established a structure to the weekdays, where we left the church porch open throughout the day for people to drop donations at their convenience. The team of volunteers, their numbers grew exponentially, would come in the afternoons to sort donations into categories and load into the vans. One sunny afternoon was particularly memorable when the blue-yellow flag of Ukraine was flown from the tower pole, where it is to this day.

We received huge amounts of goods, and with regular Facebook updates the community of Horsell was informed of our opening hours and the categories of donations in high demand.

A cake sale in April, organised by Laura and Lesley Templeman, raised over £550 towards the cause.

Working in partnership with local charity Souls4Good we sent several vans each week to a hangar at Fairoaks airport, where the donations were prepared for their onward journey to Poland and Ukraine.

In the busiest weeks the team of volunteers grew to over 30 people, some from St Mary's and some from the community, with no prior association with the church. They

were sorting the donations into categories (medicines, food, baby items, sleeping bags, toiletries, clothes, shoes, batteries etc), packing into boxes and labelling. All hands-on deck when the van arrived!

Fuelled by delicious home-made cakes, the volunteers worked day after day. Our efforts made us one of the biggest donation points in the Woking area and caught the eye of the local press; an article in Woking News and Mail was a true testament to the hard work of our volunteers. It's not possible to name them all, but to mention some of the most stoic: Jan, Vanessa, Lesley, Mike, Michael, Marian, Elaine and Nick (from St Mary's congregation) and Martine, Elna, Richard, Maz, Yvonne, Jane (from the community). We are grateful to Linda and Paul for offering their Besom van.

Donations were at their peak in March and April. By May we had started to see a reduction in donations, filling 'only' one van load per week.

At the same time, with more and more Ukrainian refugees arriving in the area we responded to the growing need and therefore the focus switched to supporting them with English language classes held in the St. Andrew's Room.

At the end of May we loaded our last van, and in the same week we held our first English Language class!

A small but committed team of teachers held 3 classes each week for various abilities from the end of May until mid-September when, after a celebratory Tea Party, the students transitioned to Woking college to carry on learning.

In July St Mary's joined forces with Christ Church, Woking and a prayer event was held in the town centre with hymns and prayers in both languages.

We have featured our local support for Ukrainians in Horsell Matters, which can be viewed on our website. The articles covered the Prayer event, the English language classes, hosting refugees in Horsell, and a personal account of a refugee living in Horsell.

To coincide with a whole year of conflict, during our Sunday service on 26th February (2023) Halyna, a Ukrainian lady, and a regular member of the congregation at St Mary's, read out prayers full of gratitude for the support, whilst desperate for the war to end.

As a parish we continue to remember the people of Ukraine in our prayers and long for a just and peaceful solution to the war.

Olya Lutsenko

Toddler Group

The Toddler Group, whilst not as busy as in previous years due to state funding for 3-4 year olds, is much enjoyed by those who attend. Our thanks go to Ann, Inge and Jan for their help with refreshments. I am retiring from leading the group in July, so hopefully someone will take over this important asset.



Angela Murphy

Traidcraft

There were no Traidcraft stalls in 2022. Our local suppliers (“Fairtraders”) had stopped after many years during the coronavirus pandemic.

And there will be no more stalls in the future.

The following comes from a statement in early January 2023 from the Traidcraft plc Board of Directors.

“It is with tremendous sadness that we announce that Traidcraft PLC has gone into administration.....After much deliberation and following advice from external advisors, we have come to the conclusion that the only honourable course of action is to appoint administrators. Our hope is that by doing this in a timely manner, we can minimise the impact on our suppliers and creditors.

It is heartbreaking to bring the Traidcraft plc story to an end in this manner but we can at least take some consolation from the knowledge that we have been a major force for good in the ethical retail sector for over forty years. We have championed the cause of trade justice to the point where we now have better standards and procedures in place to protect the rights and dignity of growers and producers all over the world.

We would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to all those who have journeyed with us as employees, board members, shareholders and suppliers. We would particularly like to thank our loyal band of “Fairtraders”, many of whom have been with us since the very beginning.

The mission to combat trade injustice and poverty is far from complete.

It is important to recognise that Transform Trade (previously Traidcraft Exchange, the charity arm of Traidcraft) will continue its vital work supporting producers and fighting for trade justice and people centred trade.

Our hope and prayer is that others will also emerge to pick up the torch that we have carried for four decades.”

I would personally like to thank all those who have supported Traidcraft and at St Mary’s over many years as both as customers and by running the Traidcraft stalls. I would also ask you to consider supporting Traidcraft’s aims by continuing to buy Fair Trade goods and by supporting the charity Transform Trade in its future work.

Ruth Carter



Twinkle Tots

This weekly session has had a very successful year, with a core group of regular folk attending. The age range up to 4 years old enjoy the activities we provide with a Christian theme each

week. Lots of craft activities start each session (enjoyed by both the children and the adults). This is followed by nursery rhymes, with actions, then a short Bible story. Playtime follows this when the children enjoy the huge variety of toys and games to



explore. It is interesting to see that most of the children have a carer with them, or grandparents. We had two sessions for the Twinkle Tots (in the outside area at the Institute). The weather was scorching hot, but a small number of families attended and enjoyed themselves.

Catherine Whittington, Gill and Barry Squibb must be thanked for all the extra things and support they give. Great, important opportunity to bring Jesus into the tiny one's lives. Sowing seeds!

Michael Couper