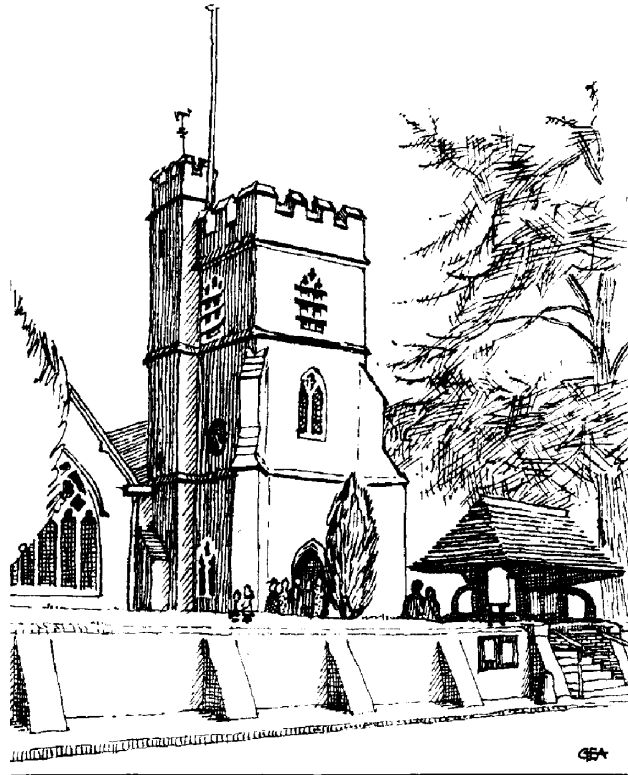


**Church of St Mary-the-Virgin**  
**Horsell**

**BOOK 2**



**The Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020, 11.15 a.m.**

**Report of Church Organisations for 2019**

**Contents - reports from church Organisations:**

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**Time Out for Tots**

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**Twinkle Tots**

**Wise?Men Home Group**

**Work with Local Schools**

**Work with the Community Groups**

## All Age Service

The All Age worship team, along with Sarah Hayes and Marcus Brookfield, consists of Michael Couper, Sue Dunsford, Gill Squibb, Lesley Templeman and Roz Haynes. We work collaboratively with Sarah to produce a monthly act of worship suitable for everyone whatever their age or stage of faith. One of our aims is to try and include different members of the congregation in helping with the different aspect of the service, and it has been good to include those children who have been in attendance in the dramatized readings, along with members of the Open the Book team and other members of the congregation. Numbers attended this service are quite up and down and it is noticeable that many of the regular congregation seem reluctant to attend and support this service, perhaps as it is non-Eucharist.

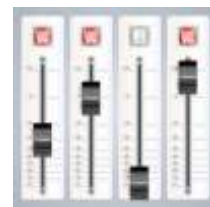


A positive is that this service has attracted a couple of families who we have links with, who see attendance at this service as a further step to baptism or attendance at the toddler groups. Many of these families have expressed that this service is more accessible than the regular Communion service.

*Marcus Brookfield*

## Audio Visual

The church has a good audio visual system installed which we use regularly in services.



To operate the system we have a small group of operators who try hard not to be noticed – sorry when we get it a bit wrong! Barry Squibb heads up this group and would be happy to hear from anyone who likes to fiddle with controls. 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. We have one budding youngster helping at the moment. Again talk to Barry (01483 760796).

*Barry Squibb*

## Bell Ringing

Well, it's been a bit of quiet year on the ringing front. We made the decision at last year's AGM to go to other towers to gain experience with different bands of ringers. We did quite well for a couple of months with visits made to Chobham and even Ockham, but, with busy lives getting in the way, this soon petered out. And so we're back where we started. That said, we did manage to



get a band together to ring in support of Notre Dame following the devastating fire in April and have hosted some district practices during the year.

We were so saddened in May to hear that one of our ringers, Colin Fox, suddenly passed away. He was just making a comeback to ringing and we were so pleased to see him regularly in the tower. We decided to ring an all Horsell Quarter Peal in his memory– the first attempt happened on a Sunday before the Service which was listened to by people across the village, including Colin’s family who came to stand outside the church and listen. We didn’t quite manage to complete this attempt, but were successful in our second attempt just a few days later, ringing 1260 changes of Bob Doubles, called by Jack and rung by a band who Colin knew and had rung with. He was a much loved member of our community and will be sadly missed by all.

We rang for quite a few weddings this year – 6 to be precise – including two in one day. We also had many visitors to the tower for Heritage Weekend in September including a group from Horsell Junior School bell ringing club. Alan showed them the ropes giving them a short history of bell ringing and allowing them to have a go. They also visited the bell chamber and went up on to the roof for a look around.

We managed to ring for all Christmas services – not quite a full band on some occasions, but not far off it - and started the new year by ringing for Sarah’s final Sunday before she left St Mary’s to go to pastures new.

In more recent weeks we have had some interest from a potential new ringer, who can already handle a bell. Could we be about to welcome someone new to our band? We hope so!

*Helen Fox*

### **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 on App for Android, iPhone or iPad.

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

*Barbara Brown*



## Churches Together in Woking (CTiW)



CTiW is a group of representatives from many local Christian Churches who meet to share and co-operate in a variety of initiatives across the Borough. St Mary's is a member and currently pays a subscription of £80 per year. The group is led by a Moderator, currently Rev'd Jonathan Thomas of St Peter's Church in Old Woking, but he will be stepping down in January 2020 after two years in post to be replaced by Rev'd Pippa Ford, head curate at Christ Church.

The group meets three times a year, the last meeting was at Emmanuel Church, Mayford on 16 September 2019, the next will be on 20 January 2020 at St Mary's Horsell.

CTiW organise a number of events including a service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, in 2020 this falls in the week of 18-25 January, St Mary's will host the main service on 19 January at 18:30 all are encouraged to attend.

Other CTiW activities include:

Street Angels, who aim to have two teams out on Friday and Saturday evenings, they hear many touching stories and provide real assistance to many people, more volunteers and donations are needed, representatives are happy to come to churches to talk about their work

Engage (formerly Woking School Action Team) which includes "open the Book" and "It's your move" activities and mentoring in schools

BESUM recycling furniture for people in need, also undertake decorating and gardening

Useful Wood Company, in Woking high street, helping people on the fringes of society into work through working with wood for 2 to 6 months, recycled wood needed

Lent Lunches, between 28/2 and 3/4/2020, organisation planning meeting 28 January 2020

World Day of Prayer, (formerly Women's World Day of Prayer) 6 March 2020 in St Peters Old Woking, and St John's Church, the service is being written by the women of Zimbabwe

ROC Redeeming our Communities, a conversation between Government Agencies and Churches to foster links and understand needs will be held on 12 March 2020 at Trinity Methodist Church

Christian Aid week raised £17,500 with house to house and street collections, there is a request for additional collectors in 2020, 12 to 18 May.

Good Friday Act of Witness, 10 April 2020, the major activity of CTiW, there is a need for more churches on the planning group, a request for donations in support of the 2020 event will be made.

*Brian Sheriff*

## Churchyard

The churchyard continues to be well maintained by volunteers from the church, woodlanders and adopt a graves plus lads on community pay back from the probation service. The grass is being kept under control, hedges and trees trimmed and bushes cut back, a number of sunken grave stones have been excavated and cleared and inappropriate decorations removed from others. The small hedge around the new memorial garden and the pyracantha planted to the south of the church are growing well. All gardening rubbish from last years growing season has now been disposed of via the green bins. As the new growing season is about to commence volunteers are starting to get to work again. The long awaited take over of responsibility for general maintenance by Serco on behalf of Woking Council continues to be delayed. As requested by the PCC the Mayor was contacted which resulted in a meeting in the council offices with the assistant Director of WBC plus Green spaces and Legal services. The current outstanding issue related to a section of the south wall which the council are concerned about despite extensive supports being added some 25 years ago, a further survey is being organised with the results to be taken to a council executive meeting on 18 June, Serco will be ready to go after that meeting even if on an interim arrangement pending final agreement



*Brian Sheriff*

## Disciples in Discussion Home Group

Disciples in Discussion homegroup has met nearly every week in the past year at 6 Walden's Park Road. Eleven people enjoy worship, study, prayer and sharing of life experiences. Everyone values the time and have clearly grown as disciples.



*Peter Brown*

## Finance & Property Committee

The main impetus in 2019 was twofold. Firstly to complete the memorial garden and secondly to officially close the Churchyard and allow Woking Borough Council to take over the maintenance. The Memorial Garden project was finally completed in March with the installation of the Book of Remembrance and its display case within the Church. The actual Memorial Garden had been created a few months earlier and we are looking forward to it maturing and providing a peaceful and contemplative setting for those remembering their loved ones. The closure of the Churchyard and being able to hand it over for maintenance to WBC has been a very slow process with many meetings and emails to and fro. The expectation is that WBC will take over officially the maintenance sometime in 2020 and this would be after nearly 3 years of negotiation. That aside the churchyard has been well maintained with several volunteers , both individually and in groups helping out, from being blitzed every few months by members of the HRA and



2nd Thursday club to those individuals who have 'adopted a grave'. I thank you on behalf of the F&P Committee, one and all.

Aside from attending meetings and agreeing budgets and major maintenance tasks the members of the F&P Committee also take on a number of smaller practical repair and maintenance jobs around the church and churchyard, from replacing light bulbs to touching up the odd marks on a wall to cleaning gutters to regularly moving pews amongst the myriad of ad hoc tasks performed. To those fellow members and not forgetting the Treasurer I offer my small vote of thanks to you all.

*Adrian Harvey Chair, Fin and Prop Committee*

### **Flower Arrangers**

The year 2019 has been another good year and we continue to receive regular compliments from the congregation.

For the second year running arrangements in Lent and Advent have been of foliage only and this change has been well received.



The number of church weddings in this country continues to fall and we were only called to provide flowers for two weddings in the year. With regard to wedding flowers it is becoming common for couples to employ professional florists to provide flowers for both the wedding and the reception and some couples are simply cutting down on costs.

Once again we made 100 posies for children to give to their mothers on Mothering Sunday. It is great to see the joy on the faces of both children and mothers.

Once again we were pleased to have our annual fund raising coffee morning in May when we provided plants, homemade cakes etc. We would like to thank everyone who contributed.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the team who give their time and expertise each week throughout the year. Many of them have been team members for many years. We were also very pleased to welcome Joy Potter to our team. I would also like to thank those members of the congregation who generously make donations throughout the year. I would like to thank Mike Couper for the times throughout the year when he makes us coffee and brings along his lovely chocolate or apple cake. When we are all decorating the church for festivals it is so nice to be spoilt and sit down with a cup of coffee and a piece of homemade cake. I would also like to thank Marcus who has given us so much help in bringing down from and returning things to the loft.

Once again my thanks go to Tony and Joy Marson who have looked after the finances for us and made sure that we keep within our budget.

*June Lock*

## **Handbell Club at Horsell Church of England School**

The Handbell Club runs on Friday lunch times at Horsell Junior school (one session for the Lower school (Years 3/4) and one for the Upper school (Years 5/6)). The Club is run by Roz Haynes, Mike Couper, Jenny Spencer, Anne-Marie Claxton and Marcus Brookfield.



We have an average of around 15 Lower School children and 10 Upper school children each week.

We have performed in a few school assemblies over the course of the year, the school's Performing Arts evening and in Church at the Christmas Tree Festival.

We performed on the CD that was produced by the school with other music groups.

We were pleased that Mrs Wand (the new head-teacher) came to play with the group a couple of times.

In September some of the year 6 children from the Handbell Club visited the bell tower as part of the Heritage Weekend to see the Church bells and enjoyed finding out more about them from the Church Bellringing Team.

We continue to be impressed by the enthusiasm of the children, who as well as giving up their lunchbreak, are so keen to learn and so quick to pick up some very challenging pieces. They continue to increase their knowledge as some had none or little ability to read music when they started. We continue to reward some of them with badges through the Crescendo Scheme, which is run by the Handbell Ringers of Great Britain (HRGB).

*Marcus Brookfield, Roz Haynes & Mike Couper*

## **Home Communion**

The team have continued to offer communion to any in the congregation or parish who for either a short period or indeed regular long-term. This usually once a month. It was administered on over 100 occasions to 12 individuals from April 2019 to February 2020



I am grateful to Rev Peter Brown, Hilary Mills, Barbara Brown and Alan Nichols for their help. It is good that we are able to respond to anyone wishing this service. Hopefully we will be able to start once again in the foreseeable future.

*Margaret Johnson*

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

2019 was a year of change at Horsell Junior School as we welcomed a new head teacher, Mrs Wand, and the children said farewell to Vicar Sarah.



The links with St Mary's remain very important and the children benefit greatly from the weekly visits from the 'Open the Book' team to present a Bible story in assembly.

Harvest, Christmas and Easter are celebrated in church and the Christmas Pause Day reflected on the gift of hope with prayers, thoughtful messages and artwork related to the Nativity Story.

Caring for the environment is crucial and the school's Eco Committee has encouraged everyone to be more environmentally aware. The school works hard to save energy and regularly measures energy consumption. The school achieved the Eco Schools Bronze Award and continues to work on environmental projects.

The library was refurbished in the autumn and now contains over 4000 books. A prayer wall is an integral part of the new library. Academic standards continue to be high with good results that are above the national average.

Sport continues to be popular and the school was awarded some short-term funding aimed at improving the provision of PE & sport. A focus on music, encouraged by Mrs Wand, has introduced pupils to a different composer each month and the opportunity to play various musical instruments. After school clubs enable pupils to learn new skills and an inter-house Bake Off and charity cake sale was a big success.

As ever, the school is grateful for the yearly financial contribution from St Mary's that goes towards enhanced facilities for all pupils.

*Anne Smith on behalf of the Governors*

### **Horsell Matters**

Six editions of Horsell Matters were published in 2019, though there was no issue until March, the consequence of finding a new printer and advertising. By the end of the year publication was again in question, with insufficient advertisers a problem and the challenge of finding a new editor when Sarah Hayes left the parish. The editorial team were sure that it was important to keep in being this free magazine of local news and features, written by local people, which is delivered to every house in the parish of Horsell.

*Jan Mihell – Editorial Team*



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

JaM continued to provide activities for our children and young people during the 10am Sunday service.



During the year we redefined the age range of JaM from 3-11+ years old, to for those aged 3 and above.

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.

JaM ran throughout the year with a break in August for the Summer holidays, but colouring and worksheets were provided during this period at the back of Church.

Numbers were generally between 3 – 13 children attending per week, and this fluctuated widely from week to week with no predictable pattern of attendance. Whilst we seem to have a range of children attending, some of which are new children, the consistency of our regular families has dropped off, particularly it seems as their children grow older.

The inconsistency of attendance and the wide age range of the children makes planning and leading the session challenging, as we can have 3 to 13 years olds in the same session. Ideally it would be good to be able to split the group, but the availability of leaders and helpers mean this is not possible currently.

At the start of the year we had 2 regular leaders, 1 occasional leader and 1 very occasional leader, by the end of the year we were down to 2 regular leaders and 1 occasional leader.

In the way of helpers, we dropped from 3 regular helpers, to 1 as the two young people who had faithfully continued to attend beyond completed their necessary Duke of Edinburgh volunteering decided to no longer attend.

We were therefore dependent on parents and volunteers to be the additional adult for safeguarding purposes.

I am extremely grateful to the leaders and helpers for the immense time and energy they put into planning and leading JaM or helping out

We are particularly keen to ensure that we can sustain this work and seek to continue to engage all those children who attended. Mindful of this we are urgently on the lookout for extra leaders and helpers, if you feel you may be able to help, please speak to Marcus.

*Marcus Brookfield*

## **Meditation**

The monthly Sunday night meditation Session is attended by about six people, with sometimes occasional people coming. Several people take turns in leading and all are strengthened by this way of being open to God.



*Peter Brown*

## **Men's Breakfast**

Two men's breakfasts have been held on Saturdays at Perla Antica Restaurant with guest speakers. Twenty men attended each time.

*Peter Brown*



## **Messy Church**

Messy Church is approaching its second year and we continued to run it on a monthly basis, either on the 2nd or 3rd Sundays of each month, except for August and December.



Our Messy Church runs from 4 – 5.30pm and includes a time of craft and fun activities, a short act of worship and concludes with a shared tea.

We have been amazed by the success of Messy Church and how well it has been received, drawing in many families who would never attend a Sunday morning service. Number throughout the year have been between 82 and a peak in November of 127 people.

The great team of around 15 continues to be the power behind the sessions and it has been great to see them grow. Thanks, must go to each of the team for all the time, commitment and energy they invest in helping to plan and lead crafts, set up and clear away, make and serve refreshments and help with the short act of worship.

It has been encouraging to see that several church members have attended to support and see for themselves what goes on. We are also particular thankful for those who helped clear the North aisle, move the pews and set up the tables for the shared tea, following the morning service.

To save having to borrow tables from the Village Hall/Scout Hut and move them back and forth, the decision was made to invest in twelve Go-pak tables and a storage trolley. These table have been extremely useful for the shared tea and extra craft activities held in the chancel of the Church.

Messy Church is a great opportunity to make Church more accessible and draw in people who we have no real links with church, and also build on the tentative links we have with children and families through our toddler groups, baptisms and work through Open the book.

Several the regular families see Messy Church as church for them and are embracing being part of this new congregation. We are also finding that increasing numbers of families are seeking to help out through providing food for the tea or staying behind to help with the tidy up.

*Marcus Brookfield*

## Mid-Week Communion Service

Midweek Communion on Wednesdays at 10.30am usually has 6-10 people most of whom come every week. Anointing for Healing is available and company over coffee is enjoyed afterwards.



*Peter Brown*

## Ministry to Care Homes

Horsell Lodge, one of the care homes in the parish, is still being redeveloped. So at present St Mary's takes a monthly service at Kettlewell House. It starts at 2.30 pm on the first Tuesday in each month, and it lasts for about half an hour. We have hymns or songs interspersed with Bible readings and short prayers, including the traditional form of the Lord's Prayer. We tend to use older hymns which many of the residents have known from their childhood. There can be a real sense of quiet togetherness in the Lord's presence during the Bible readings.



Usually the vicar leads the service but Michael Templeman helps out when Sarah is unavailable. Michael Couper and Cecil Hull kindly play the piano, and we are pleased to report that we have a loyal group who have joined us regularly during 2019. They sing and read the Bible passages. We always welcome additional singers: it's a worthwhile part of St Mary's reaching out to the whole community and "the more the merrier!"

*Michael Couper*

## Music at St Mary's

The choir/music group has faithfully maintained its tradition of leading the singing during the main Sunday communion services, robing two Sundays a month. At Christmas their numbers were supplemented to provide the music for the Nine Lessons and Carols in the run-up to Christmas.



*Alan Rapley*

## On Your Own Lunch Group

For the seventh year running, we celebrated the arrival of the New Year with a delicious lunch at The Red Lion. I think the 14 of us present out-competed the other customers with our noisy and cheerful talk – there were certainly no long, awkward pauses in the conversations!



Throughout the rest of the year, in March, May, July, September and November we socialised together in our usual manner in the church's St. Andrew's room, each of us bringing our own food but conducting informal "tastings" of what others had brought

along – giving variety and novelty to our own meals! Drinks – tea, coffee, juice – or even some wine if you feel like it - are provided.

Happily, our numbers seem gradually to be increasing at around 9+, despite the fact that there are always some unable to attend on any one occasion. 13 of us enjoyed ourselves together in September – one of the best attended, regular lunches yet.

Do join us if you live alone. Apart from our New Year lunch, we meet on the last Sunday of alternate months in St. Andrew's room at around noon to 1230. Timing is flexible, as some of us stay on after church coffee, while others arrive in time for lunch. Each lunch is advertised in the church notices a fortnight in advance, so you can put the date in your diary well ahead. We are a very informal, friendly group and love to welcome newcomers. We talk about anything and everything but, in the best Christian tradition, never fall out and laughter often envelopes the whole.

At our lunches, we make donations (whatever you feel like giving), to our chosen charity, which is the York Road Project. In 2019 our total contribution was £120.

A special treat in October 2019 was a wonderful drinks party for all those living alone which the Revd Sarah Hayes hosted at the Vicarage, ably assisted by two members of the congregation. The three of them waited on us hand and foot and plied us with delicious nibbles before we tucked into two birthday cakes – a smaller one for one of our number whose birthday it was and a larger one for the rest of us. It was a delightful and memorable evening.

*Hilary Mills*

### **Open the Book**

We are now into our seventh year of Open the Book presentations. It is an amazing privilege to be able to go into the Junior School on a weekly basis, the Village School on a fortnightly basis and St Andrew's on an occasional basis to perform and bring alive the stories of the Bible to children who may not otherwise be able to experience them.

During the last school year, we worked through book three and this new academic year we have started back on book one as the Open the Book scheme runs on a three-year cycle.



The Open the Book National Team celebrated 20 years of success and we, too, celebrated this with the three schools that we visit; including, for the Junior school, a Bible story-writing competition, which many children entered and we provided Book Tokens for the winners.

Some of the team and a handful of children from the Junior school also joined in the Diocesan celebration at St Andrew's Church, Goldworth Park, which was hosted by the Bishop of Dorking and attended by Bob Hartman who has written many of the stories which we perform.

Since Mrs Wand's arrival at the Junior School, the school values have been readdressed and there is now a focus on each one per half term. We therefore start each half term with an appropriate Bible story presentation for the relevant value taken from the Open the Book Values scheme (their fourth book).

We have a great group of volunteers, with a wide age range and set of different talents and we are very grateful to: Marcus Brookfield, Ruth Carter, Mike Couper, Sue Dunsford, Maria Greenwood(\*), Sarah Hayes, Roz Haynes, Julie Hills (\*), Jan Jameson, Mary Mather, Jan Mihell, Karen Rapley, Jennifer Richards and Gill Squibb. (Those with a star by their name are members of other churches).

Our thanks should also go to the schools for asking us to take these wonderful stories into their assemblies; the staff for their encouragement, particularly Mrs Collier at the Junior School and most of all the enthusiastic way in which the children respond to it all.

*Marcus Brookfield, Roz Haynes & Mike Couper*

## **Outward Giving**

There again has been much to celebrate in 2019. Our giving by special collections and direct giving has increase to £5,186. In May £1272 was raised through the Christian Aid Week collections co-ordinated by St Mary's. Our thanks again to Helen Gray for her work in organising this, and to her house-to-house collectors. There was another very successful MacMillan Coffee morning at the end of September which raised £646. Then on 6th October we celebrated Harvest. Goods (mostly food) were collected for the York Road Project at the All Age service and £602 was given for the work of Christian Aid. The Christingle services on Christmas Eve were again well supported and £1416 was raised for the Children's Society.



Our giving of 10% of our general, undesignated and unrestricted income was discussed in early December. The amount we had to allocate, based on unrestricted income minus the designated funds for church growth, was estimated to be £12,000. This is the same as the last two years. We decided to continue donations to our church school, Horsell CoE Junior School (£3,000), Engage (£1,000), York Road Project (£1,500), Bible Reading Fellowship (£2,500), Bible Society (£1,500), Christian Aid (£1,250) and Five Talents to support their project in the Diocese of Butere, Kenya (£1,250).

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

David Leach joined the Outward Giving Team towards the end of the year. At our meeting in early December the team has reviewed the role of champions within the church community for the charities we support and agreed a note summarising what was expected. We also reviewed our current champions, filling any vacancies as necessary. We discussed the Outward Giving Team displays in church and a possible page on the church website which has since been implemented.

*Ruth Carter, Sarah Hayes, Garry Rutherford & Gill Squibb*

## **Pastoral Care Team**

There were no big changes or notable, pastoral-related events of the kind normally reported here in 2019. However, our day-to-day ministry of caring, comforting and supporting those in our church family in particular need has continued as it always does throughout the year, often quietly and away from our public, church worship, as we try to live out Jesus' command to love and care for our neighbour. Although the degree of help and solace we can offer as fellow human beings is limited, we feel privileged to try to demonstrate Jesus' compassion for those who are suffering, which is at the heart of our Christian faith.



We have continued to send bereavement cards and booklets on living with loss on behalf of the whole church to all bereaved where one of our clergy has officiated at the funeral, or where one of our church family has suffered a major loss. We have followed up with a further card to mark the first anniversary of the death. We are glad, though, also to highlight good news in congregation members' lives by sending cards to help celebrate landmark birthdays (ending in 0), the birth of children and grandchildren, anniversaries, recovery from operations, etc.

The Home Communion Team offers this ministry in people's own homes, or in care homes if that is where they are now living, should they wish it. The simple service is greatly valued and has a profound spiritual and emotional impact on those who share in it.

We have continued to hold monthly, half hour services at Kettlewell House and Throwleigh Lodge, our local care homes, which remain very popular with residents and staff alike.

Horsell Lodge, now totally rebuilt, re-opened in November, when a much-loved member of our church became one of its first residents. It is hoped that the Revd. Sarah Hayes' successor will consider re-starting our ministry there once appointed in 2020.

As is our usual custom, the Team distributed 20 floral arrangements after our Harvest Festival to those in the church and wider parish who had suffered major bereavement since Harvest 2018. 18 were delivered to individuals' homes and one each to Kettlewell House and Throwleigh Lodge. Our thanks, as always, to our creative and hard-working Flower Team, which seems to conjure baskets out of thin air and fill them with beautiful, soul-lifting arrangements.

Margaret Johnson and Hilary Mills attended a helpful and informative Pastoral Assistants' Annual Training Day at St. John's Church, Egham, on 16th February.

The Team poster, with our photographs, is displayed at the back of church. Please feel free to speak of any of us if we can be of help.

*Hilary Mills*

### **Pop In Coffee**

Pop In Coffee on a Friday morning continues to be a popular point of outreach at St. Mary's in providing an opportunity, both for parents/grandparents dropping 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 do not charge for refreshments, and just ask for a donation which enables us to fund the Coffee Shop and, at the same time, provide generous support for the Children's Society. In 2019 contributions from Pop In Coffee to the Children's Society totalled £467.53.

We continue to support the Young Carers Group at Woking High School with a monthly contribution of £25 (£300 across the year). This contribution helps provide lunch for their monthly meetings and end of term activities.

During 2019 we held a successful Macmillan Biggest Coffee Morning (£646 – a splendid result). Refreshments and Hot Cross Buns were provided after the morning service on Good Friday. A donation of £60 was given to Traidcraft as part of the Big Brew.

We also provide an opportunity for the purchase of Traidcraft goods bi-monthly. Thank you to everyone who helps to keep the Friday coffee rota going. We are famous for our delicious home-made cakes. There is still room on the rota for new members on the team so if you have a few hours to spare, do join us.

*Mike Couper on behalf of Gill Walsh*

### **Prayer After the 10am Service**

Prayer with people is available after every 10 am Sunday service. Two



people are there to pray for people who come forward and usually this is taken up.

*Peter Brown*

### **Peaceful Praise and Prayer**

The Monthly Sunday Night Informal Peaceful Praise and Prayer service often has up to ten people there and is a mixture of Contemplative and Charismatic.

My great thanks go to all the people who are involved in delivering this group which I oversee.



*Peter Brown*

### **Servers**

For the first time since I have been writing these reports, I am pleased to start with good news.



As a result of constant appeals for new Servers, my prayers have been answered and Brian Sheriff has joined our team. Thank you, Brian. This has taken the pressure off everyone and means that, unless there is an unforeseen disaster, the clergy will always be supported by a Server.

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 Nichols Head Server* [alan.nichols2@ntlworld.com](mailto:alan.nichols2@ntlworld.com) 01483 767852

### **Special Events for Children & Families**

During the year with the aim of creating a greater community for our children and families within the church, and as outreach to others we ran various special events, these included Brunches after the Sunday morning services on several occasions, cooked up by Adrian and Sue Harvey. This was a chance for fellowship and for the children to get involved in the craft and games which were laid on.



Throughout the year we also laid on crafts for children to participate in, including, following the Good Friday service and over the Heritage weekend.

We had around 20 children stay on to do crafts following the Good Friday service.

At the Heritage weekend whilst the crafts were appreciated by those young children who were not old enough to go up the church tower, we had a number of older

children from the Junior school who came with their families to climb the tower, this provided us with further opportunities to strengthen links with them.

To mark the 'Horsell Garden Safari Weekend' we ran an 'I spy' trail for children around the churchyard which featured various plants, trees, birds and notable graves, which Roz Hayes put together with input from Mike Couper and Jan Mihell. This was very much appreciated by around 30 children

In the Summer Holidays we had a barbeque in the Vicarage garden which we extended to all the families we have links with through our work on Sundays, through Twinkle Tots, and to the young people who attended the Young people's group. Numbers were up on a similar event we ran last year, possibly due to it taking place at the end of the holiday period rather earlier on, we had an attendance of over 55 people, including the some of the older members of our congregation and there was good interaction amongst those attended. Thank you to Adrian Harvey and Adam Kirby for coming to do the barbecuing, to Claire Wicks for the loan of her barbeque and to Julie Anderson for letting us use her barbeque and for opening her garden, and particularly allowing us the use of the family's trampoline.

In December we held another successful Christmas Tree festival which ran conjunction with the Village and Schools' Christmas fayres and had around 1400 people through the doors. Thanks, must go to the people who helped by welcoming, stewarding, serving refreshments and running the raffle, along with the numerous groups who provided various musical performances.

Later in the month our Christmas celebrations were marked with our usual three Crib/Christingle services which were well attended and appreciated by a mix of ages. In preparation for these services many of the families who we have links with came to help make the Christingles. This was a good time to build relationships particularly with those who rarely attend services.

*Marcus Brookfield*

### **St Mary's Young People's Group**

This group is now in its third year. It generally meets on the final Saturday of the month, although we met most months this was not always possible, due to leaders being unavailable. The aim of this group is to help us as a church maintain links with the young people who we have contact with and provide fun, friendship and fellowship for the young people, in the hope of creating a peer group that will support them as they navigated adolescence.



Marcus Brookfield and Sarah Hayes led this group with the assistance of Claire Wicks. We have also had help from Adam and Venita Kirkby, Mike Couper and Anne-Marie Claxton.

Over the year we have included a variety of activities in the programme of events, including Bowling, and Pizza and Ice cream nights.

We have continued to seek to incorporate some spiritual content into the sessions through discussions and activities, on such topics as who Jesus was and the proof of Jesus' death and resurrection.

In preparation for the Horsell Garden Safari and the Flowerpot trail several of the young people constructed various animals from plant pot and other bits and pieces which stood outside the front of the Church over the summer and beyond.

Numbers attending have varied from month to month but have ranged from 4 to 14. Many of the young people who have attended are not regulars on a Sunday and many only have tentative links with the church.

In the Spring we ran confirmation preparation sessions which were initially attended by seven young people.

These sessions were run primarily by Sarah and Marcus with assistance from Peter Brown and Mike Couper using the Youth Emmaus material. Many of the sessions had to be repeated as getting the young people together at the same time was virtually impossible. In June we hosted the Deanery confirmation here, at which four of the group were confirmed by Bishop Andrew.

*Marcus Brookfield*

### **Time Out for Tots**

The former prayer room continues to be well used as an area for babies and toddlers. This has been well received by those attending various church, school and community services with young children, as it offered a welcome relief to parents and carers should their children get fractious.



*Marcus Brookfield*

### **Toddler Group**

This is a very popular friendly group meeting on Tuesday mornings during school terms. It is a relaxed opportunity for mums and carers to chat over a cuppa whilst watching the children play. We welcomed Valerie as our new door minder. Our thanks go to Mary Mather who did the job for many years. We are very grateful to our tea ladies for all their help.



*Angela Murphy*

## **Traidcraft**

2019 has been a year of change for the Traidcraft stall at St Mary's.

After its near demise in 2018, Traidcraft has

been saved, continues to trade and is gradually increasing its range of goods. As their website [www.traidcraftshop.co.uk](http://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk) says

"Traidcraft are passionate about trade, social and environmental justice. We're the original fair trade pioneers in the UK, and advocate the importance of organic farming, sustainability, and transparency to the lives of growers and artisans around the world. And we're not stopping there.

We are saving vanishing traditional skills from extinction, and celebrating a world of creativity and culture through quality fair trade products. We offer sustainable fashion, home and garden goods and handmade, ethical, fair trade gifts. Our sustainable range of future-proof groceries also includes a Great Taste Award winning range of Fairtrade tea, organic coffee, organic chocolate and even a delicious range of vegan chocolate."

And then in the summer it looked as if the St Mary's stall would have to stop following the retirement of Jan Mihell and Angela Murphy (and our thanks for all that they have done over many years to support fair trade and Traidcraft at St Mary's). We appealed for more volunteers and had a wonderful response. Four people came forward to help bringing the total number of team members up to seven. There are now enough people to run the St Mary's Traidcraft stall.

*Angela, Jan, Lesley, Marian and Ruth (and Roz)*

## **Twinkle Tots**

With Twinkle Tots approaching its fourth year, this group continues to thrive, and this is a growth area in the church, with several of the parents/carers seeing it as church for them

through the Christian input of the group in the way of the songs, story and prayer time.

Weekly numbers of children and parents/carers average in the mid-teens to low 20s

Twinkle Tots is led by Marcus Brookfield with the assistance of Sarah Hayes and Mike Couper, with help in preparing and serving the refreshments particularly from Joan Allen, Angela Murphy and Inge Weiss

Over the year a core group of mums and carers continued to develop who care and look out for each other and particularly welcome any newcomers, which provides a lovely environment.

In August we held another Toddlers' Teddy Bears' Picnic which was attended by 36 children and 35 parents/carers, many of which we have links with through our toddler groups, Messy Church or All age services, but we also had a large proportion of families who were new contacts.

*Marcus Brookfield*



## **Wise?Men Home Group**

Wise Men group for men meets regularly twice a month and six men usually come for discussion and reflection.



My great thanks go to all the people who are involved in delivering this group which I oversee.

*Peter Brown*

## **Work with Local Schools**

Throughout the course of the year we have furthered our links with the schools in the area through hosting various 'School services' for several of the local schools including eleven around the Christmas period.

We have also hosted several school visits including from St Andrew's and the Village school.



As part of each school visit, we try to give the children an overview of the history of the church but also talk about what happens in the church. Thank you to the regular team of helpers who share their wisdom and help with the smooth running of these visits.

Sarah continued to take an active interest in the Junior School in her capacity as a Governor. Both she and Marcus led a couple of assemblies during the year, and the school communion service for the children in Church. Both have also supported the Junior School's Pause Days at Easter and Christmas by attending the assemblies at the beginning and end of the days, and by going into the different classes to chat and see the activities the children were involved with as they explored the theme of the day.

Marcus helped the 'Engage' Team with their transition session for the year six children at the Junior school, helping to prepare them for the move onto Secondary school.

In October, Marcus joined the Year 6 children at the Junior school on their week's residential to Swanage, Dorset, helping to supervise the children as they were involved in various activities including coastal studies, a giant field game of 'Statego', sensory games and a town trail.

*Marcus Brookfield*

## **Work with Community Groups**

On a couple of occasions throughout the year we hosted one of the local Rainbows groups, for each of the sessions we themed it around a Bible story or theme and involved the Rainbows and any sibling in activities linked with the theme in Church. We then finished the session with refreshment and the opportunity to do a variety of crafts in St Andrew's Room.



This seems to very much appreciated by the leaders and some of the parents/carers stayed for session with the girls' siblings

Thank you to the team who have supported this developing work on top of their other family and Church commitments.

*Marcus Brookfield*