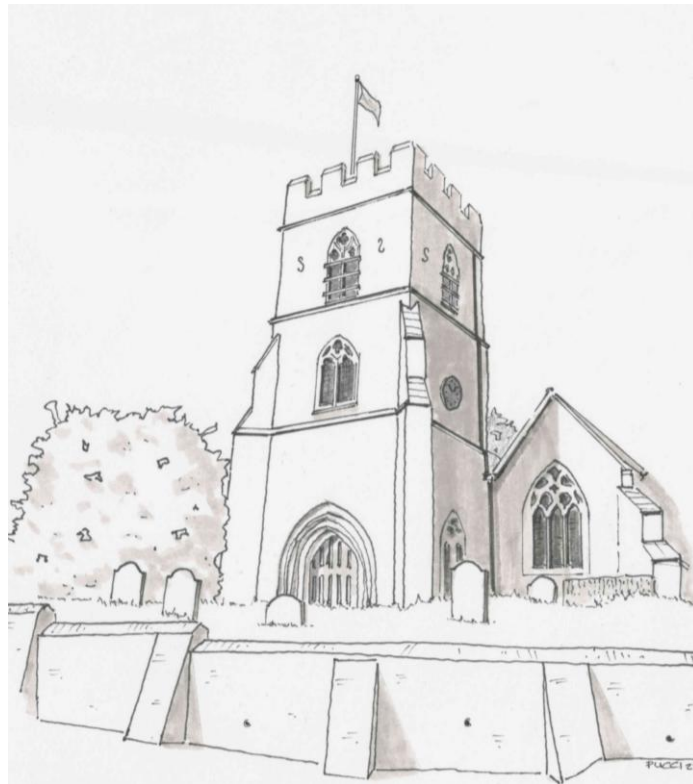


Church of St Mary-the-Virgin
Horsell

BOOK 2



The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 26th April 2026 at 11.30am

Report of Church Organisations for 2025

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After Church Prayer

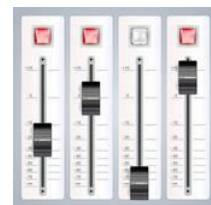
From the beginning of 2025 we have decided to change the way we offer this. It will now be available after all morning services by speaking to one of the churchwardens who will direct you to one of the team. This is advertised on the weekly notices.



Margaret Johnson

Audio Visual

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



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

The main sound system has been installed some time and one or two elements are starting to show their age. As reported last year the camera has become unreliable and is shortly to be replaced with a better quality unit.

The big mixing desk has also developed several faults which is quite normal for a unit of this age (about 18 years) and is to be replaced with a more modern unit.

Barry Squibb heads up this group and some of us are of an age when we like to swan off in the summer for a few weeks which can make manning the sound desk a little difficult. We would be happy to hear from anyone who is interested to help as one or two extra volunteers would be useful. Of course, the necessary training will be provided. It does involve being at church a little 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 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



With the continuing lack of volunteers and trainees, our numbers have continued to decline, resulting in the inability to ring every week. Two of our young members are students at Exeter and East Anglia Universities, another spends roughly half of each year living in a second home, with her husband in India.

Furthermore, one of our stalwarts who had been suffering from cancer for some time, finally succumbed to her illness and died on the 1st September 2025, and eight of us took part in the ringing of our bells, half-muffled, for her funeral on the 8th October.

On Friday 15th August, we rang our bells in celebration of the 80th Anniversary of VJ Day, which was the end of the Second World War and, in the Autumn, we were pleased to welcome villagers and others, to the Tower as part of National Heritage Weekend.

On a happier note, we were blessed with requests for bells to be rung for three weddings and were also delighted to welcome campanologists from two other towers in the South East. If anyone is interested in this very enjoyable skill, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Alan R Nichols - Tower Captain 01483 767852 07791 491395

Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF)

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



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

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

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

Barbara Brown

Church

The repair of our Gillett and Bland 1873 tower clock continued into 2025, with further major engineering adjustments resulting in the current reliable performance. The front doors were rehung with additional spacers to lift them up from the floor. The Quinquennial Inspection was conducted in March 2025, following a number of ongoing repairs and maintenance activities over preceding months including gas inspections of our three boilers, electrical installation inspection, PAT testing of all movable items and testing and servicing of all firefighting equipment, resulting in a satisfactory report from the Archdeacon's Visitation.



Brian Sheriff

Churches Together in Woking (CTiW)

St Marys continues to be actively involved in this inter church initiative, with involvement in the Good Friday Act of Witness in the Town Square, and inclusion in the CTiW Directory. CTiW works through a number of Christian organisations which supports those in need in our community. It continues without a Moderator but the secretary and treasurer liaise with local clergy and parishes.



Brian Sheriff

Churchyard

The churchyard continues to be well maintained for mourners and casual visitors, with visits by KRINKELS who replaced SERCO, as contractors of WBC, every couple of months and Community Pay Back youths sent by the Probation Service every few weeks. The rebuilding of the South Wall was signed off by WBC building surveyor in July 2025, we then reapplied for WBC to take over responsibility for the churchyard. In November the Yew tree behind SAR was taken down and ground out in preparation for SAR developments.



Brian Sheriff

Deanery Synod

Representatives from St Mary's attended three meetings of Woking Deanery Synod during 2025, alongside clergy and lay members from across the deanery and visitors from the Diocese of Guildford.



March Meeting

The March synod focused on Church Development Plans (CDPs), with three common themes emerging across the deanery:

- Growing discipleship
- Developing lay leaders
- Ministry with children, young people and families

Synod members divided into groups to explore each theme. With three representatives present, St Mary's contributed to all discussions.

- **Children's ministry:** strengthening links with schools, connecting toddler groups to worshipping life, involving children in services, and ensuring spaces feel welcoming and "theirs".
- **Growing discipleship:** the role of home groups, shared youth ministry, and developing after school activities and café style gatherings.
- **Developing leaders:** encouraging potential leaders, offering opportunities to try new roles, and making good use of training and development pathways.

Updates were also received from Diocesan Synod, including:

- Introduction of the new Dean of Guildford Cathedral, Bob Cooper, and plans to reinstate Easter pilgrimages.
- The Diocesan Board of Education's annual report, highlighting the importance of school vision, the commitment required of governors, and the benefits of shared resources.
- Progress toward Net Carbon Zero, focusing on high emission buildings and churches with end of life boilers.
- Safeguarding developments, including the move toward fully independent safeguarding structures nationally and ongoing work on diocesan independence.
- Youth Catalyst initiatives, including hub leaders in secondary schools, a youth worship team, and Launchpad support for churches beginning youth ministry.

June Meeting

The June synod, hosted by Woodhill Church, centred on Net Zero and Eco Church. Speakers from St Nicolas Great Bookham, Woodhill Church and the diocesan Net Zero team shared practical experiences, from long term cultural change to grant funded building projects. Key themes included:

- Taking small, achievable steps and building community engagement.
- Eco Church as a bridge to local communities, especially young people.
- Navigating listed building constraints and limited budgets through grants and diocesan support. The session closed with encouragement to focus on what inspires each parish, make a plan, and enjoy the journey.

October Meeting

The October synod noted some clergy changes:

- Revd Naomi Ngururi was installed as Vicar of St Paul's on 14 October.
- Revd Scott Smith (St Andrew's) became Assistant Area Dean, with Revd Mark Wallace continuing as Area Dean.

A Diocesan Synod update highlighted the growth of the new parish of Deepcut, serving the developing community of Mindenhurst under the leadership of Revd Daniel Natnael, formerly a curate at St Andrew's.

David Leach

Finance & Property Committee

The main F&P business during 2025 was keeping a watching brief on the SAR room development and we welcomed at one of our meetings a presentation from the SAR committee which led to a very fruitful discussion on future plans and progress. We appreciate the time and effort that committee has made over the past year(s).



In addition, from the usual regular review of the Church's financial position and setting annual budget, we conducted an annual Risk Assessment review, covering everything from financial to physical risks. There were no major risks identified. It is expected that our insurance company will also conduct their own risk assessment early in the new year.

We are still pursuing WBC to formally accept management of the Churchyard now that the wall repairs have been completed. It has been many years since we formally applied for closure, hopefully it will come in 2026.

A quinquennial inspection took place and I am pleased to report that as a result of the regular maintenance over the years there were only a small number of recommendations for repairs. It was noted that some of these will be reviewed after the completion of the SAR extension to see if they are still extant.

Finally we will be updating our AV system in early 2026, amongst other items we will benefit from a more controllable and higher resolution camera which will improve the viewing quality of on-line services, weddings etc.

As always I would like to thank all the members of the F&P committee (and occasional co-opted volunteer!) for their tireless work behind the scenes for maintaining the fabric of the church, churchyard and maintaining our financial propriety.

Adrian Harvey Chair, Fin and Prop Committee

Flower Arrangers

It now seems to be the pattern over the last few years that we have not had any brides wanting to use us for their flowers. However, we have had donations from very kind members of the congregation for which we are very grateful. THANK YOU.



We are still not using Oasis as it is not biodegradable and can stay in the soil for 100 years. Substitutes are more expensive. On special occasions, at the bride's request, we may use Oasis for larger arrangements. We continue to use vases on the window sills with water.

This year we again made Mothering Sunday posies. This occasion is always relaxed and made enjoyable with coffee and cake provided by Mike Couper.

We have recently been joined by two more ladies; Jacqui Smith and her daughter Katie Smith-Jones. We welcome them to the team.

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

June Lock

Handbell Club at Horsell Junior School

During 2025 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. We have had an exciting year, especially with a group of years 3 and 4 who have been very good and excited. They quickly picked up the colour chart we use for the two bells they use. Sometimes they need to have sharp or flat notes to use - no problem on the whole. The highlight of the year is always when we play at an Assembly - encouraging new members to join. The Upper School also play well and tackle some quite difficult tunes. We are always looking for newcomers. I must thank the adults who really encourage and enjoy the sessions - Ann-Marie Claxon, Roz Haynes, Isabella Craig and Carolyn Edit. We have performed in Church at special days and occasionally Messy Church and we also took the group, twice, to Horsell Lodge who thoroughly enjoyed our visit.



Mike Couper

Heritage Open Day

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



The church is very popular for people to visit and look around. The most popular attraction is the journey up the 64 steps to the top of the Tower. Having reached the top there are wonderful views in all directions (on a fair day the visibility is superb). A good number of new visitors, who have moved into the area, had fun finding their own homes 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 2025. 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 18 years ago (full of information and dates of items in the church). Our oldest items are the Pulpit, which was brought from Chobham by a horse and cart (we have the bill!!) Sadly the Sounding Board (acting as a microphone) needs a lot of repair. The second elderly item is a Spire Flagon which is kept in Guildford's Cathedral on show. It was bought in 1713.

There is a good collection of photographs from the changes to the church during the 19th century.

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

Mike Couper

Home Communion

At the end of 2025 we were taking communion to 8 people, generally on a monthly basis. This is greatly valued and our thanks are due to those involved in this part of our ministry.



Margaret Johnson

Horsell Church of England Junior School

There were a few changes at school in 2025. We joined the Learning Partners Church Academy Trust (LPCAT) so are now an academy school and we updated our uniform to a more comfortable and modern look.



OFSTED came to inspect the school in June and describing what it is like to attend the school the inspector commented: "Pupils thrive in Horsell Church of England Aided Junior School. Pupils are polite, kind and caring. They exemplify the school's values and ethos by being inclusive and treating everyone with dignity. Pupils feel safe in school. They behave very well. They look out for each other and make sure that everyone is included. Playtimes are lively and full of activity as pupils play together happily."

The school follow the Diocesan RE curriculum and along with Christianity, learn about other faiths. Pupils had talks about Sikhism, Buddhism, the Jewish faith and Islam along with a visit to the Mosque. Additionally, pupils enjoy the weekly visits from the St Mary's Open the Book team. At Easter, pupils took part in an Easter Service at St Mary's, had an Easter Pause Day and a Wintershall Assembly bringing the Easter Story to life. During Advent, the Diocesan online Advent calendar was shared with pupils every school day in December and the Engage team delivered a lively assembly based on the Christmas Story.

The school encourages pupils to think about the wider world and ask 'big questions'. Two of our year 6 pupils were honoured to be selected to attend the Houses of Parliament to talk to MPs about Climate Justice. Pupils chose to support The York Road Project, participating in the 40 Acts of Kindness during Lent and bringing in items for our reverse Advent Calendar. At Harvest, pupils supported the Woking Food Bank.

Music continues to play an important role in the life of the school. Many pupils learn a musical instrument, there's a handbell club, an orchestra, choir, concerts, orchestra day at Winston Churchill School and Voice in a Million at Wembley.

This has been the most successful sporting year ever at the school as we were District champions in a range of sports including swimming, athletics, rugby, cricket and much more!

Academically, the school has done well with our SATS results well above national averages. The year 6 pupils performed 'Oliver with a Twist' to a packed audience of parents and the year 3 Nativity was outstanding.

The school has several young carers and would like to thank St Mary's who provide wonderful volunteers to support the group as well as funds so that they can enjoy crafts, cooking and other fun activities.

So, quite a busy year and thanks for the support from St Mary's, Ms Wand and the dedicated staff at Horsell Junior School.

Anne Smith, Chair of Governors

Horsell Matters

The distribution of the Parish magazine is an important part of our external communications whereby we **reach out to the crowd**. The familiar format demonstrates how we **share our faith**. The Homily is written on a rotation basis, so the community hears from different members of the Staff Team and Preachers. We share the church diary. At least one of our ministries is covered in every edition. We feature a learning colouring page for the young.



This last year has included two articles about the Lord's Prayer to help our readers to **be immersed in prayer**.

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

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

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

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

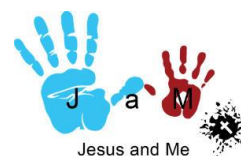
The magazine is formatted and printed by Knaphill Print (KP); KP source advertisers, which pays for its production. The number of adverts reflects the requirement to balance the books.

Suggestions for future articles are always welcome. Or if the spirit moves you to write something, please send it to me via the church office. The word count is about 250 words a page plus photos.

Vanessa McMurtrie - Editor

JaM (Jesus and Me) and Us!

'JaM' continued to take place in the St Andrews Room during the 10am Sunday service for children aged three years old and upwards. 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 use 'Energize' material by Urban Saints to plan our sessions. The children enjoy the sessions and engage well in them. At the end of November, we began a new teaching series on the "I Am" statements of Jesus. We continued the series into 2026 and are now coming to the end of it. The children have especially enjoyed the games, songs, crafts, acting out parts of the bible and sharing what they have learnt in JaM with the rest of the congregation. During September to December, we had anywhere between 1-7 children attend on a weekly basis. We currently have three volunteers who help support Rebecca whether that be helping or leading sessions. Our thanks go to the team.



Rebecca Connolly- Children & Families' Worker

Light Party

We had a successful Light Party on Friday 31st October. The event took place in the St Andrew's Room from 4.30-5.45pm for children in school years reception-6. Children came dressed as their favourite superhero or wearing something colourful, neon and sparkly. There were lots of party games, dancing and sweets. The children especially loved the sweets bingo and light up bowling set. I gave an interactive children's talk about Jesus being our



superhero, who we can call on at any time to help us. Children were accompanied by a responsible adult at the party. Twenty children attended and twenty-seven adults including volunteers. Our thanks go to the team.

Rebecca Connolly– Children & Families' Worker

Meditation

The contemplative meditation service took place every month except December. It provides an opportunity for silent prayer, lasting just 30 minutes, and focusing on God's presence within and amongst us. It is led in turn by a small team. The session is usually split into sections, each comprising some words of guidance followed by a short silence of around five minutes.



Elaine Davies

Messy Church

Messy Church happened every month except in August when we took a break over the summer. Messy Church is part of The Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF), a registered Charity. At the beginning of Messy Church, we explore a Bible theme through craft, food and games. We then have a celebration time which includes a Bible story, talk, songs, and prayers. After that the children have a picnic tea in the St Andrew's room, and we provide refreshments for the adults. All ages are welcome! A core group of regular families attend, and they give us positive feedback and are very grateful. Advertising Messy Church in our local school's assemblies has proven to be effective in increasing attendance. Our aim at Messy Church is that the people who attend would learn how much Jesus loves them through the wide variety of activities, Bible teaching, hospitality, and community.



Messy Church Easter party happened on Sunday 27th of April. We shared the Easter story, and we had a variety of different Easter crafts and activities. 18 children and 27 adults attended, including volunteers.

On Sunday the 14th of December we had a Messy Church Christmas party. We had a variety of different Christmas themed crafts, games and activities. 26 children and 30 adults attended, including volunteers. I gave an All-Age talk that focused on the idea of Jesus being an unexpected gift.

Our thanks go to the team.

Rebecca Connolly– Children & Families' Worker

Ministry to Care Homes

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



Michael Couper

Music at St Mary's

As a subcommittee of the PCC, we continued to review the provision of music at church and to consider ways in which it could be improved, for example, the relocation of the choir to the north aisle.



We are grateful to all who contribute to our music in worship, singers and musicians, as part of our commitment to the Kingdom of God here in Horsell. We have always been in agreement that a mix of the 'best of the best' of traditional and contemporary hymns and songs should be maintained.

During 2025, we were especially pleased to welcome Christopher Walton as our organist who, as well as playing at Parish Communion, has brought fresh enthusiasm to the choir, which sang anthems at several services, including the Deanery confirmation service in September. We would also like to express particular thanks to Christopher for organising our much-enjoyed, well-attended and excellent Nine Lessons and Carols.

Elaine Davies

Thank you to everyone who has made me feel welcome in my first year at St Mary's. This year the choir has done brilliantly in supporting services by leading hymns and, more recently, in singing during Holy Communion. A choir is a team effort and I would like to thank everyone who has sung with us, and a special thank you to Marian, Elaine, and Mike for their hard work.

Music at Holy Communion services faces a challenge in the size and availability of our choir. To that end we must explore opportunities to recruit more singers, and I welcome any and all suggestions for this. In particular we are in need of lower voices. I would personally like to see more music in church services, which would increase the visibility and appeal of joining the choir, and I welcome any thoughts on this. The choir is affected by the general decline in churchgoers in the UK, and I would love to hear any ideas for the choir to support increasing attendance at our church. That said, choirs remain popular across the Church of England, with a new £400,000 investment in over 200 church choirs by the Royal School of Church Music, and an ongoing campaign to see English Choral Evensong given UNESCO World Heritage Status. We must do what

we can to take advantage of this popularity to bring more people to our Church.

Finally, this year the organ has been used much more frequently. I would love to see more people using the instrument, so if any experienced pianists (Grade 5+) are interested in lessons please let me know. The organ is in need of renovation and changes to enhance its suitability for our church. This will be extremely costly; I anticipate fundraising for this to begin at the end of 2026 so please do come forward with any fundraising ideas, or if you would like to donate to the organ fund, please let me know.

Chris Walton

Nativity Services

We had two successful Nativity services on Wednesday the 24th of December at 4pm and 6pm. 266 people attended the 4pm service and 113 people attended the 6pm service. A team of fourteen people were involved in The Amazing Advent-ure! instant nativity from Bible Society.



This instant nativity is about two children, Rose and Sam, who can't wait to open the doors of their Advent calendar and to puzzle out the true meaning of Christmas. It's a very special calendar! Some of the pictures behind the doors are simply festive-but others bring the nativity story to life in a most surprising way! The team met throughout December to rehearse. Sarah Lockhart made an amazing gigantic advent calendar for our nativity. It was wonderful to have Mary and Stephanie, two of our children from St Mary's Church, cast as Rose and Sam. Collections were taken at both services for The Great Ormond Street Hospital Charity and we raised £815. At the end of both services, St Mary's Church gifted each child a copy of The Amazing Advent-ure!, a bookmark and some chocolate coins, while the adults received a copy of Luke's Gospel, a bookmark and an Alpha Course leaflet.

Our thanks go to the team.

Rebecca Connolly– Children & Families' Worker

On Your Own Lunch Group

This is a group for those who live alone and who would like to get together occasionally to have a sociable lunch. We meet every two months, after the 10am Sunday service, in the St Andrews Room. Obviously, as building work progresses, arrangements may have to change. We each bring our own food. Drinks are provided. Usually there are other treats to be enjoyed - chocolates and shortbread teddies are particularly popular at the moment. On most occasions we are an all-female group but we have nothing against men.



Barbara Brown

Open the Book

The Open the Book team continued to visit Horsell Church of England Junior School weekly, The Horsell Village School three times each half term and Halstead St Andrew's School four times in 2025. Our valuable team bring Bible stories to life (often with small groups of children dressing up and joining in). They are very excited and thoroughly enjoy helping. The stories have been written by Bob Hartman. We are always welcomed from the staff and children at all three venues. We continue to use the new way of organising each session- we take it in turns to be the Director to organise the characters, costumes etc. Our thanks go to the team.



Rebecca Connolly– Children & Families' Worker

Outward Giving – APCM Summary

During the year, St Mary's continued its strong commitment to charitable giving, supporting both local partners and wider mission organisations.



Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid Week was once again a major success. Activities included a themed Sunday service with guest speaker Brian O'Kane and a fundraising stall at Friday Pop-In Coffee. Donations were received both in person and online. A total of **£3,414.70** was raised, comprising **£2,727** in donations and **£687** from sales. We are grateful to everyone who contributed.

Engage

On 13 July, we welcomed **Mike Kirtley** from Engage, who shared updates on their work in local schools and thanked the church for our ongoing support through prayer, volunteers, and financial giving. Our regular annual support of **£1,000** continued through quarterly standing orders, alongside the purchase of "**It's Your Move**" booklets for Year 6 pupils.

Harvest Festival and Nativity service collections

Following earlier decisions, the **Harvest Festival** focused solely on supporting the **York Road Project**, with goods collected at the service and a short talk from Marian Wernham.

With no current champion for The Children's Society, the **Nativity** collection supported **Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH)**. A video prepared by Claire Mitchell helped highlight the charity's impact. The collection raised **£815**, to be supplemented by a further **£500** from church funds.

Charitable Distributions for 2025

At its December meeting, the Outward Giving Committee confirmed the following allocations:

- £1,500 – York Road Project
- £2,500 – Bible Reading Fellowship

- £1,000 – A Rocha
- £500 – Great Ormond Street Hospital
- £2,000 – Bible Society
- £1,500 – Five Talents
- £500 – Christian Aid
- £2,700 – Horsell Junior School
- £1,000 – Engage (plus £207 for It's Your Move booklets)

Rev'd Dmitry Lutsenko, David Leach, Gill Squibb

Pastoral Care Team

During the year we said 'Goodbye' to Angela Murphy and Hilary Mitchell, both of whom had given many years of service. We also lost Sarah Lockhart due to other parochial duties. This left the group much depleted. It was also decided that there would be no distribution of Harvest posies to those who had been bereaved during the year due to finite resources. At the December meeting Margaret tendered her resignation due to family health reasons. Janet Johnson, Barbara Brown and Carmen Duncan Brown continue to monitor those needing a card in times of bereavement, sickness or celebration of big birthdays. Barbara continues to organise the On Your Own Lunch.



Report from Margaret Johnson

Fellow team members: Janet Johnson, Barbara Brown, Carmen Duncan-Brown

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 delicious home made 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 contribute towards the church flower fund. We also hosted a coffee morning in aid of Christian Aid.

In addition, we are very pleased to be able to continue supporting the Young Carers Groups at Woking High School and Horsell Junior School.

Very many thanks to everyone who helps to keep the Friday morning coffee rota going and for making so many wonderful 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 continues to have a steady number. It took place ten times during 2025, offering a peaceful and informally-structured service comprising worship songs, contemplative music, quiet reflection, readings and prayer. Its aim is to deepen our faith as we pray together through music, word and prayer and open ourselves to the inspiration of God's Spirit.



Elaine Davies

Servers

8 o'clock Servers and Chalice Assistants were provided at every service throughout the year, albeit that substantial changes were announced at the APCM on the 27th April 2025, when it was announced that such services would be reduced to the 1st, 3rd and, when it occurred, the 5th Sunday of each month. After a lengthy debate at the meeting, it was suggested that people can gather for Home Group on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, using the "Home Communion" words and elements (Bread and Wine) previously consecrated by an ordained Priest, which we could not advertise or record or call "Services". This change took place with effect from Sunday 1st June.



We only have three available servers for 8 o'clock and just two for 10 o'clock. Chalice Assistants had to be trained and found from members of the 10am congregation. Our numbers have been reduced to the extent that it has not always been possible to provide a Server for every 10 o'clock Service 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 two regular Servers, who are engaged with other conflicting Church duties on many 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

Planning permission was obtained from WBC in 2024, but recent cost increases necessitated a phased approach to the development, based on affordability. After discussions with local builders and Guildford Diocese, a ground floor extension to the east of the choir vestry incorporating additional toilets, an enlarged kitchen and additional



floor and storage space was proposed as a phase one development, within the existing permission. Plans are in place to commence development in early 2026.

Brian Sheriff

Tiny Treasures

Our Baby and Toddler group, Tiny Treasures, continued to meet every Tuesday in the St Andrew's room during term time. During the session we used to have a five minute 'thought for the day' for the adults where we shared something of God with them in a gentle, relevant and accessible way. Every 'thought for the day' had a Bible verse to go with it. We had small cards with the Bible verse on that went on the café tables, and we had enough printed so that all the adults could take one away with them if they wished. In September we stopped the 'thought for the day' and replaced it with a children's Bible story. The first part of the morning is free play and some weeks we have a craft activity for the children to do. There are refreshments for children and adults. We finish of the morning with a children's Bible story followed by nursery rhymes. After that we sing 'Big Family of God' by Nick and Becky Drake followed by our goodbye song. Our thanks go to the team.



Rebecca Connolly– Children & Families' Worker