

## ANNUAL REVIEW FOR 2008

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Please note that for convenience, the Financial Report for 2008 and the associated Management Summary have been published as a separate document.

## VISION STATEMENT

**St Andrew's seeks to be a Christian community through which all can come to know and accept God's love for them and to reflect that love wherever they are.**

*We are committed to:*

- encouraging spiritual growth through prayer and healing, worship and teaching, friendship and service
- creating an accepting and supportive community
- valuing, developing and using the differing gifts of all members
- engaging in the life of Cobham and beyond
- recognising and responding to the needs of people of all ages
- providing a peaceful oasis for anyone
- pursuing with other churches our common mission
- caring about and responding to the needs of the world

## THE CHURCH AND ITS MINISTRY

### Ministry Team

*Report by the Rector, Revd Robert Jenkins*

2008 has been another year of development and progress for the Ministry Team. On 27th June 2008 the parish celebrated the ordination of Renos Pittarides as Priest at Guildford Cathedral and Renos presided at the Parish Communion on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June. The Revd Peter Vickers has continued his valuable ministry at St Andrew's. In the autumn the Revd Rosemary Mason, Priest for Stoke D'Abernon, announced her retirement and on 30th November we said farewell to Rosemary and her husband John, who was a Reader in the Benefice. Following interviews in December an announcement was made on 18th January 2009 that the Revd Diana Thornton would be appointed Associate Minister with special responsibility for Stoke D'Abernon. Her licensing is due to take place on 3rd September 2009.

During 2008 the clergy have continued to work as a team across the Benefice with Robert, Peter and Renos working mostly at Cobham, and Rosemary at Stoke D'Abernon. With the planned appointment of an Associate Minister in 2009 it is envisaged that

the element of shared working across the Benefice will be further strengthened for the benefit of both parishes.

St Andrew's continues to support vocations to authorised ministry. Rosemary Durward is now in her second year of training for ordained ministry on the Southern Theological Education and Training Scheme (STETS) and Hugh Bryant, one of our churchwardens, is in his second year of training for Reader ministry on the Guildford Diocesan Ministry Course (GDMC). During the year Rosemary and Hugh have led a number of services and preached in the Benefice as part of their ministerial training. They are being well supported by members of the parish during their training. Towards the end of the year Cathy Whitnall, who is a member of the leadership team for Alive@6 (see next page), enrolled for the Diocesan Occasional Preachers Course which should lead to her being authorised in this role.

The staff team continues to hold a staff meeting every Wednesday morning and throughout the week they meet, together with

those in training, to say the daily office together.

The clergy continue to be supported in their ministry by a strong team of pastoral assistants. On 11th May we were pleased to commission Jan Brind as a Pastoral Assistant in the parish. A report of the pastoral ministry is given later in this report.

The team is ably assisted by Dr David Cooke in the Parish Office, and share in the ministry of the parish with a very large number of people. The close involvement of a great many people in the life and work of St Andrew's continues to be distinctive characteristic of the parish that we wish to sustain and grow.

In September 2008 the Rector was commissioned as Rural Dean for the Leatherhead Deanery for a period of five years. The commissioning service was held at St Andrew's Church and led by the Bishop of Guildford.

With the myriad aspects of work involved in the organisation and ministry of a lively and busy church like St Andrew's, as well as a united benefice, it is easy to become task oriented. However we continue to try to place uppermost in our work as a ministry team the calls to proclaim the gospel, to serve and to nurture and sustain faith in others, and to do so with energy and joy.

### **United Benefice**

St Andrew's and St Mary's remain distinct parishes who share a ministry team whilst having their own PCCs and church officers. Shared activities include confirmation and marriage preparation, and an education committee with representatives from both parishes. With the retirement of Rosemary Mason the St Andrew's clergy have been providing ministerial cover for St Mary's and will continue to do so until September 2009. This is a significant additional workload for the team and new initiatives at both parishes will be deferred until the team is back to full strength. However the period of combined ministry will help further develop the sense of

unity and shared endeavour between the parishes.

### **Church Attendance**

There have been distinct signs of growth during the past year at both Parish Communion and Family services and we have also seen the introduction of Alive@6. Christmas and Easter attendance remained strong, with nearly 1000 people coming to the church over Christmas. Attendances at Time to Remember and on Remembrance Sunday also grew.

For those unable to come to the Church we continue to take regular services at Churchfield House, the Day Centre and Springfield Nursing Home.

### **Alive@6**

Following the PCC Away Day in November 2007 a major focus for development at St Andrew's during 2008 was the introduction of a new evening service, called Alive@6. At the beginning of the year a leadership team of clergy and laity was created to plan the new services. The purpose was to develop contemporary, informal worship which potentially would appeal to those who did not attend church, including those new to the Christian faith and returners to church.

Over nine months, to September, a considerable amount of work was done planning and publicising the new services and installing new equipment in the Church necessary for the style of worship planned. Publicity included the preparation and delivery of a newsletter to every household in Cobham, production of banners and A6 cards. In the Church new equipment was installed to allow 'paperless' worship using a computer, projector and screens.

Alive@6 was launched on 14th September and is held on the second and fourth Sundays of the month during term time. It is currently following a 'sermon series' with the umbrella title 'Why' looking at the basics of the Christian faith and why faith is so important in our lives. The team are pleased with the progress so far in terms of the shape of the services and the numbers attending. There

are signs that, with the support of members of the existing congregation, new people are coming to St Andrew's and exploring their faith. Alive@6 is viewed as a long term project and it is anticipated that it will take time to build a new congregation, but the initial signs are encouraging.

### **Confirmation**

There were no youth confirmation classes this year but five adults from the benefice were prepared and confirmed. For the second year running St Andrew's hosted a Deanery Confirmation service.

### **Occasional Offices**

The substantial occasional offices ministry at St Andrew's continued in 2008 with 56 baptisms and 23 marriages. The clergy officiated at 55 funerals of which 17 were at the church. The pastoral team undertake both baptism visiting and bereavement support. Baptism preparation evenings are held for all couples. Judith and David Robinson continue to run well-received Marriage Preparation days. During the year Sue Aitken, one of our Pastoral Assistants, took on a new role as Assistant for Marriages to assist the Rector in the booking and administration of weddings and to participate in marriage preparation.

### **Assets and fabric**

*Report by the Churchwardens Hugh Bryant and Leonard Beighton*

Work on the re-ordering of the East end of the church (new organ, clergy vestry with loft, toilet and flower arrangers'/cleaners' kitchen) is now complete. In the process, the Page family vault was uncovered below where the organ had been, and has been stabilised and re-installed on new foundations. A fine Victorian window has also emerged from obscurity behind the old organ; it has been completely renovated by stained glass specialists Opus.

Removal of the old organ has left an intimate space which is now in use for informal worship. The PCC has decided to buy 24 Howe chairs with chrome steel frames and wooden backs and seats stained to match the new panelling of the clergy vestry. The chairs

are being bought by subscription (each chair costs about £150) and the first 11 chairs have been subscribed and ordered. More donations are being sought.

Following his Quinquennial Inspection Arthur Saunders, the Diocesan Architect, reported that the fabric of the church is in excellent order, with minimal exceptions.

The new table in memory of Ruth Morris is now in place in the church, and is being used to support the Cross of Prayer.

A stylish ultra-modern portable lectern and matching side table in perspex and stainless steel have been purchased, using a donation given in memory of Christopher Halliwell. These pieces will be principally used for Alive@6 and family services.

A large new folding audio-visual screen over the pulpit and data projector, with monitor screens for the preacher and music group, have been installed for use in Alive@6 and at family services. The screen was custom-made as a gift to the church by church member Richard Williams' company R S Williams Ltd, Cobham's Aston Martin specialist, and the projector was supplied and installed by Jonathan Bond, church member and principal of BAV Ltd. Peter Ostley and our usual electricians, Heathwey, put up brackets and the necessary cabling. There is general agreement that the new audiovisual equipment in the church enhances our worship when required, and, because the screen folds away when not in use, it does not spoil the beautiful interior of the nave.

We again thank Peter Ostley for the tireless support he has continued to provide to the churchwardens over the year, as our clerk of works.

### *Chapel of Peace*

Unfortunately we are not able to leave this chapel open every day, owing to its occasional misuse. However the key is always available from the Parish office, whenever this is open.

## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST ANDREW, COBHAM

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### *Garden of Remembrance*

This part of the churchyard provides an attractive focus for remembering loved ones. It continues to be well maintained for us by Denis and Kathleen Piggott.

### **Administration**

*Report by David Robinson*

#### **Parish Office**

The Parish Office is open Tuesdays to Fridays 9am to 1pm. It is staffed by the Parish Secretary Dr David Cooke, who is responsible for handling all enquiries for baptisms, weddings and hall bookings, as well as most of the church paperwork.

#### **Sacristan**

Denis Piggott has now retired after serving for many years as Sacristan. We are very grateful to Denis for his faithful service, and we thank Alan Wiseman who has kindly taken over from Denis.

#### **Archivist**

Peter Joce continues to look after the parish records in his work as the Parish Archivist.

#### **Electoral Roll**

At the end of 2008 there were 223 names on the Roll. The Roll was completely revised in 2007 and the next revision will be due in 2013.

### **Communications**

*“Family” Magazine (edited by Daphne McFarlane)*

The church magazine “Family” is published ten times each year and is distributed free to church members and others. Circulation is 400 copies with additional copies at Christmas. Donations towards the cost are always welcomed.

The magazine aims to form a link between all its readers and contains parish information, views and a wide range of articles. The

Editor leads the production team and welcomes ideas and items for publication.

#### *News Sheet*

A Weekly News Sheet is given out at Sunday and Friday services with items of immediate interest. The notices section from the News Sheet is also posted on the church website. An annual Parish Directory is distributed in June, containing details of all church officials, committee chairmen and organisations.

The Diocesan Herald is available in church each month and is distributed free to those attending.

#### *Christmas Cards*

As for many years past, we sent a Christmas card to every house in the Parish, thanks to the hard work of Jenny Masters and her team of volunteers who deliver them. The card was produced jointly with St Mary’s and was delivered throughout both parishes.

*St Andrew’s Website (maintained by David Robinson)*

**[www.standrewscobham.org.uk](http://www.standrewscobham.org.uk)**

The website has been active in its present form since 2002, and our objective is to include as much useful information as possible about the life and work of St Andrew’s. The site has pages on the work of each of the church organisations, current notices and most sermons. We have now started putting recordings of sermons on the site, so that visitors to the site can listen to sermons as well as reading the text. In some respects the site has outgrown its original design framework, and it needs to be made more attractive. We hope to completely redesign the site during 2009. A further objective is to encourage more of our church organisations to take charge of their own pages and where possible to update them themselves.

## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

### **Background**

The Parochial Church Council is responsible for co-operating with the incumbent in carrying forward the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangel-

istic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Andrew’s Church, the Chapel of Peace, the Garden of Remembrance, Church Gate House Centre and the Flat.

## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST ANDREW, COBHAM

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The Council met nine times in the year with an average attendance of 19 (a slight improvement on 2007).

### Membership

The clergy, churchwardens and lay representatives on the Deanery Synod are members of the Council ex-officio. In add-

ition, 15 lay members are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. There has also been one co-option, making 25 in all.

### During the year the following served as members of PCC

<i>Rector:</i>	Rev Robert Jenkins	Chairman
<i>Priest for Cobham:</i>	Rev Peter Vickers	
<i>Priest for Cobham:</i>	Rev Renos Pittarides	
<i>Priest for Stoke D'Abernon:</i>	Rev Rosemary Mason	(Until November 2008)
<i>Churchwardens:</i>		
	Hugh Bryant	Lay Vice Chairman
	Leonard Beighton	
<i>Representatives on the Deanery Synod:</i>		
	Marjorie Arbury	
	Geoffrey Morris	
	Chris Shawdon	
<i>Elected members:</i>		
	Ken Aitken	Treasurer
	Moni Babatunde	(Since April 2008)
	Jan Brind	
	Angus Duke	(Until April 2008)
	Michael Elson	
	Margaret Hanrahan	
	Ron Masters	
	Daphne McFarlane	
	Clive Moorman	
	David Purchase	
	David Robinson	Secretary
	Lindsay Sainsbury	
	Gill Sharp	
	Gerald Stanford	
	Pam Twelvetree	
	Cathy Whitnall	
	Derek Williams	(Since April 2008)

## **The work of the Council in 2008**

*Report by David Robinson*

The Council maintains oversight of all the main activities of the church, and it does this by receiving regular reports from each of the sub-committees and group leaders. All these activities have been fully described elsewhere in this Report. During the early part of the year work on the East end of church to accommodate the new organ was completed. In November the Council held an Away Day, and spent time considering ways in which St Andrew's could improve the welcome it gives to newcomers.

## **Deanery Synod**

*Report by Marjorie Arbury*

The Deanery Synod met four times during 2008. As usual the meetings were interesting and informative, covering a wide range of topics.

Canon Jeremy Cresswell came to the end of his five years as Rural Dean and our own Rector, was appointed in his place. The commissioning was held here in St Andrews in September, and was well attended. At the September meeting of the Deanery Synod, at which the Archdeacon of Dorking was the guest speaker, Canon Cresswell received a presentation to mark his service to the Deanery.

The final meeting in November was again here in Cobham when an excellent supper was served by members of the Fellowship and Social Committee.

A programme for the 2009 meetings will be finalised following the Synod meeting in February, at which topics concerning the parishes in the Deanery will be discussed. Full details will be published in *Family* when they are available, together with the dates and venues for all the meetings.

## **COMMITTEES**

The PCC operates through a number of committees. Each committee reports on its activities to the PCC annually and includes at least one PCC member, to ensure two-way communication.

### **Standing Committee**

*Chaired by the Rector*

This is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact the business of PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by Council. It also recommends to the PCC the dates for meetings and the arrangements for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. In practice, however, it rarely needs to meet.

### **Administration and Finance Committee**

*Chaired by Hugh Bryant*

This includes both Churchwardens, the Treasurer and Peter Joce. Its brief covers maintaining, protecting and enhancing the financial and physical resources of the parish, including the buildings and their

fabric. It met three times in the last year. It discusses and resolves administrative matters, and its power to authorise expenditure has been raised by the PCC to include all items up to £750. It reviews all proposals for greater expenditure, which are then submitted to the PCC with an appropriate recommendation.

As this committee looks after many of the day-to-day minutiae underpinning the life of the church, many of its more important activities are recorded in the Churchwardens' and Treasurer's reports.

### **Christian Nurture Group**

*Chaired by Renos Pittarides*

The Christian Nurture Group continues to meet about three times a year to review our activities for children and young people. Please see individual leaders' reports for the details.

The PCC is committed to employing a Children's Worker to help support the work

of our ministry to children. This part-time position will help us to develop the groups that we have and to work in the community to attract more young people to a journey of faith.

We continue to be very grateful to all the volunteers who run the various activities for children and young people. It was wonderful to see all the groups come together for the Crib Service, a good example of teamwork. If you are interested in offering your help please do not hesitate to contact me or the individual leaders.

### **Church Gate House Committee**

*Chaired by Mabs Ostley*

The committee can report that as the centre enters its eleventh year, the bookings for 2009 are provisionally looking as good as last year. Booking requests vary. Wedding receptions, christenings, special birthday parties, retirement parties, anniversaries are just a few examples.

The recent installation of a noise inhibitor ensures that noise levels do not exceed acceptable levels for the environment.

An improvement for the security of the centre's equipment has been achieved by the refurbishment of the storeroom, providing a lockable room. Some kitchen equipment has also been replaced and a new shed has been purchased for the gardening tools.

Other churches in the Diocese continue to use the facility, and an increase in firm regular bookings helps contribute to the income. Cobham Brass Band is the most recent group to start using the centre.

### **Education Committee**

*Chaired by Michael Elson/Dominic Combe*

The year's events started with the Lent course written by Revd Canon Jeremy Creswell for Churches Together. It was based on 1 Corinthians and was spread over 5 weeks. The handout was most helpful in that it reminded us what Lent actually is and suggested how best to observe it. This was followed by a theme for each week with a list of pertinent questions to discuss.

For the summer course, John Mason presented "Why Has it Come to This?", an examination of Deuteronomy in four parts with a view to demonstrating what happens in this world when we forget or abandon God.

Peace and Prayer: The occasional series of informal and intercessory prayers have continued in 2008, led principally by Carrie Taylor. During 2009, consideration will be given to the introduction of weekly evening prayer meetings to run throughout the year, thus making peace and prayer a permanent feature of the spiritual life of St Andrew's.

The Advent course was presented by Dominic Combe and consisted of an examination of the life and role of the Blessed Virgin Mary as revealed in scripture and tradition. The two read-and-discuss sessions were followed by a film, "Mary, Mother of Jesus" shown by Renos Pittarides as part of the Spiritual Cinema programme.

We should like to thank Rosemary and John Mason for their support of the work of the Education committee, and we wish them the very best in their new life.

### **Fellowship and Social Committee**

*Chaired by Chris Shawdon*

2008 was our busiest year – yet! Over 20 functions. These varied from a light lunch for about 20 for a marriage preparation day, to Easter Breakfast for over 70 and refreshments for over 150 at the Deanery Confirmation. Whether it is wine with nibbles, as for the 200th edition of *Family* or a meal for Harvest Supper, or Heritage Day cream teas, we like a challenge. The Social Committee is always extremely willing to support and work alongside any other church group and anyone organising an event. Do please contact us.

On all these occasions, we have had help and encouragement from the many people who so kindly cook for us and help in various ways, including those who put away the furniture and Hoover the hall. It is

all very much appreciated, and we are extremely grateful and thank you all.

The new dishwasher has proved a blessing – washing 24 dinner plates in 4 minutes! A new and bigger cooker is being installed – which will be very useful indeed.

We thank you all for supporting us during 2008 – and we look forward to you joining us in 2009 – do bring your friends and neighbours as this is part of bringing new people into the church. Sharing a meal and friendship helps to create the church family.

Any new ideas, or anyone who would like to join us, please let us know – you would be more than welcome. We work as a team, but without the hard work and friendship it would be impossible to achieve what we have done this year.

### **Outward Giving Committee**

*Chaired by Cathy Whitnall*

The members of the Outward Giving Team are Verity Elson, Kathryn Greenwood, Ron Masters, Ruth Purchase, Carrie Taylor and Cathy Whitnall. In 2008 we were given a total of £9600 to allocate to various charities, and within that sum we made four major allocations, four medium-sized ones and a number of smaller ones.

Continuing with the pattern of supporting charities with which members of the church are already involved, we sent £1500 to each of Cobham Uganda Partnership, Kosova, and the Matrix Trust (which has taken over the work we formerly supported through the Schools Christian Council Trust). We also sent £1500 to Mission Aviation Fellowship, with which Dave Greenwood is involved.

The medium-sized allocations comprised £750 for Christians Against Poverty, which works particularly in the poorer areas of our cities, giving debt counselling and support to many people, and a total of £1200 to St Andrew's School. We had received two separate requests from the school; the first was for equipment to facilitate the teaching of the new RE syllabus, and later in the year we sent a further sum to assist the

school in offering access to the Life Education bus – an almost annual expense for the school, which we have been supporting for many years.

Being mindful of our remit to give to overseas charities as well as UK-based ones, we sent £500 to Operation Mobilisation for their work with the poor and persecuted in India, and £500 to Canon Andrew White, who runs a thriving but beleaguered church in Bagdad.

The remaining £650 was split between five other charities. The pattern that was established a few years ago of making more large donations and consequently fewer small donations has continued to operate, but as always we are open to discussion on any aspect of Outward Giving, and would welcome suggestions and comments.

### **Pastoral Committee and Prayer for Healing Team**

*Chaired by the Rector*

On 11th May we were delighted to commission Jan Brind as a Pastoral Assistant in the parish. Jan had been exercising a ministry as a PA for some years at St Columba's Retreat Centre. Jan is also Assistant for Liturgy at St Andrew's. Jan's gifts bring a distinctive pastoral dimension to our worship.

Pastoral care and prayer for healing continue to be at the heart of St Andrew's ministry. Numerous people are involved in bringing God's loving and healing presence to those in need. The clergy and Pastoral Assistants and a pastoral visitor together form the Pastoral Committee that leads this ministry. Current members of the committee in addition to clergy are Ray Sherlock, Sue Aitken, Wendy Jane Gray, Judy Brickett, Jan Brind and Ron Masters. During the year Margaret Journeaux and Pam Twelvetree retired from the Committee. We are grateful for their long and faithful service and they continue to exercise a pastoral ministry from their homes.

The PAs, as well as exercising general pastoral care, have an individual focus for their ministries in the areas of bereavement, the elderly, the Day Centre, hospital visiting, prayer for healing, worship and newcomer welcome. The team plan and assist with the leadership of the increasingly popular Time to Remember service for the bereaved.

The Prayer for Healing team meets on Friday mornings and private prayer for healing is offered at all Parish Communion services. A member of the pastoral team is also on duty at all Alive@6 services and Jan Brind and Sue Aitken are on the Alive@6 leadership team. The Cross of Prayer with individual petitions is received at the altar during parish communions and the Sunday School have their own cross of prayer which is also presented with their prayers.

The Pastoral Assistants and Prayer for Healing team make a significant contribution to the work of the parish and the clergy are very grateful for their support.

The monthly Friday Luncheon Club continues to flourish under the stewardship of Jenny and Ron Masters and their enthusiastic helpers.

### **Social Concerns Forum**

*Chaired by Leonard Beighton*

The Social Concerns Forum brings together members of St Andrew's for whom concern for justice and peace is particularly important in the outworking of their Christian faith. Meetings of the Forum are open to all members of St Andrew's.

The aim of the Forum is to encourage each other in our own activities, and to develop support from the wider church community for the particular area of concern on which we are focussing through, for example, articles in *Family* and on the web site.

### **Kosova**

Kosova declared its independence on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2008 and was recognized by 54 members of the United Nations, including the USA, Canada and 22 out of the 27

members of the European Union. Whilst there is optimism for the future, there is still a great deal of poverty and unemployment, so our material and personal support is valued and much appreciated.

A group of 20 visited Kosova in March when friendships were renewed, clothing was given to poor children, two ovens were provided for a re-opened young people's hostel and utensils were provided for a day nursery. We visited most of the schools that we have helped build and support and with which we have established a youth exchange. However because of the weather and poor road conditions a visit to another school, where we hope, using a gift agreed by PCC, to help fix a leaking school roof, could not take place.

Accommodation was offered by members of the Rotary Club of Gjakova, who showed us great hospitality, elected Geoff Morris as an honorary life member and formally 'twinned' with the Rotary Club of Esher. We were followed everywhere by TV cameras.

In October there was a return visit by Ruzhdi Canhasi and his family, which was much enjoyed by hosts and guests alike. Lumi managed to win the Beetle Drive, the family joined us for Sunday morning worship and afterwards answered questions about life in Kosova.

### **Northern Uganda**

The Health Centre at the Grace Christian Academy, which was built with funds raised by the Cobham Uganda Partnership (CUP), is now running well, treating not only children from the school but also the wider community of Gulu. It should now be able to find other sources of funding, so CUP is phasing out its support and will be funding instead vocational training for orphans and vulnerable young people who have suffered during the very many years of conflict in the area.

There will be a further visit to Gulu in April.

## **Israel/Palestine**

We continue to watch with concern the deepening political, economic and social injustices and increasing poverty and most recently the violence in Gaza. Despite all the international moves to broker a settlement, it remains very difficult to be optimistic.

We continue to seek opportunities to draw attention to the situation of Christians and peoples of other faiths. As part of this Verity Elson sells Zaytoun fairly-traded Palestinian products, the profits of which go to support impoverished children in Gaza City.

More recently Verity and Michael have been sponsoring a girl, Doa'a Manasra, to go to university. Once practical problems have been sorted out, they hope to make it possible for others to sponsor her through the church.

## **Cobham**

Members of both St Andrew's and St Mary's have played a significant part in the market town survey, *Envisage*. This reported in January 2009 on the basis of the responses to a questionnaire sent to everyone in the town. An action plan has been drawn up of projects which would make a significant difference to the life of the area. We hope that members of both churches will be able to be fully involved in the plans as they take shape.

## **Stewardship Committee**

*Report by Lindsay Sainsbury*

During 2008 the Committee met five times. Lindsay Sainsbury took over the chair in September, following Angus Duke.

Pursuing the theme of 'Treasure' embarked upon in 2007, much time and thought was given during 2008 to stabilising the financial position, following the purchase of the new organ, and some unexpected extra expenditure incurred in the re-ordering of the East end. There was also a shortfall in expected donations.

The threatened reduction in Gift Aid rebate, consequent upon the reduction in the

standard rate of Income Tax, has fortunately been postponed until 2011. Nevertheless, ways needed to be found not only for encouraging as many members of the congregation as possible to join the Planned Giving scheme, but also for encouraging existing members to increase their donations. We need this in order to compensate for the continual steady loss of members from the scheme. and to assist in budgeting for the increasing commitments of the church.

A new 'Planned Giving' leaflet was circulated with '*Family*', and an updated 'Planned Giving Declaration' booklet was enclosed with the two letters signed by the Rector. The first was a thank-you letter to existing members of Planned Giving. The second went to members of the Electoral Roll and to other regular members of the Church, encouraging them either to join Planned Giving, or to consider increasing their donations, in support of the mission of the church.

The Committee thanks everyone for the generosity of their response at this early stage, and at this time of financial uncertainty.

The refurbishment of the notice boards was completed in time for Heritage Day, providing information about church services and activities. The uniformity of the website and notice boards, and the fact that they are kept up to date, provide a co-ordinated image of St Andrew's to the newcomer.

Wendy Jane Gray has continued to contribute articles to '*Family*' about aspects of the church's work.

More generally, the Committee has now started to look again at the other parts of its remit relating to time and talents.

## **Worship Committee**

*Chaired by David Greenwood*

The Committee reviews services and their logistical arrangements to identify any areas for improvement, in order to enhance people's worship experience. It also checks

that plans are in place for future services, noting any suggestions, ideas or considerations that need to be taken into account.

The committee discussed the move to Alive@6 and drew the long running third Sunday Evening Service to an end. Cathy Whitnall led a fitting finale, incorporating some of the best features from over the years. A separate team is organising the Alive@6 services.

More baptisms have been held during Sunday morning services. This is something we encourage for church families, although we recognise that many prefer a separate afternoon service, and the congregation would soon get irritated if we

had baptisms in the main service too frequently!

The main services have been recorded and made available to borrow on tape for some years. More recently the text of some sermons have been put on the website. After some consideration of suitable technical solutions, sound recordings of main sermons are now also made available through the website. The tape recorder was getting past its best and so services are now only being recorded digitally. David Fuge can provide a copy as long as it is requested within a couple of weeks. Unfortunately recordings of the music cannot be put on the internet owing reasons of copyright.

## CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

### **St Andrew's Bellringers**

*Report by Peter Ostley, Tower Captain*

St Andrew's bellringers rang for every 10am Sunday service during 2008. We are sure our parishioners appreciate the sound of welcome on Sunday mornings.

Last year the band rang for 21 weddings, which was an increase of 30% on the previous year - a very good sign for our church.

Our learners have now mastered the basic skill of change ringing by ringing the treble to plain hunt. This is essential before they progress to more complex ringing.

We have 14 regular ringers on the register, with a further 5 members we can call in emergencies.

The maintenance works to the bells are to be carried out by Whites of Appleton Ltd., beginning on 2nd March 2009, with the aim of being completed by Easter.

The cost of the works is being met through grants from the Guildford Diocesan Guild and the Surrey Association, together with two generous benefactors' events, namely the Aston Martin evening and the Peking to

Paris talk. We take this opportunity to thank everyone for making this possible.

### **Music**

*Report by David Fuge, Director of Music*

#### **The Choir:**

The combined Senior and Junior Choirs currently total 25 members, with the Senior Choir numbering 16. The Junior Choir sing for our Family Worship services, and at weddings throughout the year. Both choirs practise together for an hour on Friday evenings from 7.30pm (the Senior Choir continuing until 9pm or 9.30pm at busy times of year), covering hymns and songs, old and new, and anthems which are sung at Family Worship services. The Junior Choir have continued to learn hymns from the rich musical tradition of our church as well as new songs, so that great hymns from the past are not lost to future generations.

On Good Friday the choir gave a devotional performance of John Rutter's *Requiem*. Anthems of varying periods and styles have been sung throughout the year, including *Greater love* by John Ireland, sung at the annual Remembrance Service. Other anthems sung during the year have included *Blessed be the God and Father* by S.S. Wesley, and *O thou, the central orb* by

*Charles Wood.* The anthems are chosen to complement the theme of the service.

In September, the choir took part in the performance "For One Night Only" which was put on for Cobham Heritage Day. This was a huge undertaking in that the choir had to learn many songs from West End musicals, and films, which they did to a very high standard. Rehearsals went on for most of the summer. The show was a great success, and has not only forged stronger links between the music making at St Andrew's Church and St Andrew's School, but also attracted new choir members, and is responsible for the increase in size of the choir from last year.

The service of Nine Lessons and Carols took place as usual on the Sunday before Christmas, and this year included a carol dedicated to the choir by its composer Nick Landauer. One of the most pleasing aspects of the service was the willingness of the younger members of the choir to sing solos, some of which were technically quite demanding.

On Good Friday 2009, the devotional concert will be a performance of Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem* and also extracts from Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*, as well as Passiontide hymns for the congregation. On Easter Sunday the combined Senior and Junior Choirs will sing for the Parish Communion service.

Finally, thank you to all the members of the Choir for their hard work and dedication over the last year, and to Kevin Ayton (Assistant Director of Music), Cathy Whitnall, and Louise Fuge for their help with practices and administration.

### ***The Music Group:***

The Music Group plays a vital part in the worship at St Andrew's, and accompanies modern worship songs and the setting at Sunday morning services, and also at Alive@6 services. The group currently includes Renos Pittarides (lead vocal), Dave Greenwood (Bass), Derek Williams, (lead guitar and saxophone), David Fuge

(piano and keyboards), and Louise Fuge (percussion). Tom Lascelles has also played drums very impressively at Family Worship services over the last year. Some members of the choir also provide vocal support at the evening services.

### **Church Cleaning**

*Report by Mabs Ostley*

The Church cleaners maintain the church on a weekly basis. Church cleaning takes place on a Thursday morning from 10.00am. The team work methodically on their sections and coffee time is a welcome break and a chance for a chat.

The annual Christmas lunch was again enjoyed at a restaurant in Fetcham.

New help is always welcomed: please come along on a Thursday morning if you feel you could give some time.

### **Flower Arrangers**

*Organised by Mabs Ostley*

We have had a busy year decorating the church for weddings and the main festivals. Some people like to remember loved-ones who have died, or to celebrate special anniversaries, and when requested we are happy to arrange memorial pedestals to be placed in the sanctuary. You can make your request known either by contacting David Cooke, at the Parish Office or one of the flower arrangers.

We are a very happy group and would make anyone welcome who wished to join us.

### **Friday Lunch Club**

*Report by Jenny Masters*

We meet once a month, usually on the second or third Friday after the 10.30am communion service, and have a following of between 35 and 40 regular senior members. A donation of £2.00 is requested for which we provide a 2-course meal. (The £2 charge has not altered since the lunches were first introduced by Revd Peter Vickers some 8 years ago.)

A small profit is usually made every month with which, when accumulated, we support

certain charities such as Princess Alice Hospice, the Leprosy mission, and the Bible Society, as well as church appeals.

The fellowship and social side of these lunches is as important, if not more so, than the meal itself, as it enables people to meet together who might not otherwise see each other very often. We are always ready to welcome newcomers. I would also like to take this opportunity of thanking the small team who help me during the year.

### **Mothers' Union**

*Report by Jenny Vickers*

We have been pleased to welcome some new members to our meetings. Our programme was varied comprising speakers from the Mothers' Union and members of the congregation. We had a tea party and a "fun" meeting to which members within the deanery were invited and we shared memories evoked by the hats we brought to the meeting. We attended various birthday and garden meetings at branches in the deanery, and Mothers' Union services at the

cathedral. We hosted the Lady Day service, went to Hever Castle in the Summer, and to the Royal Albert Hall for "Celebrating Christmas" with the Salvation Army. We also enjoyed a good Christmas lunch.

### **Open Church**

*Report by Joan Bingley tel. 862483*

360 visitors were recorded during 2008 (388 in 2007). In addition we welcomed several hundred visitors as part of the Heritage Day events on 13th September and a number of parties from local schools. We had 27 volunteers in 2008 (23 in 2007). We are most grateful to the many volunteers, both church members and supportive local people, who have helped in this way for over 25 years. We continue to keep St Andrew's open for part of each day except Mondays, to provide access for those who need a haven for peace, solace and prayer, and those who like to visit, reflecting St Andrew's vision statement.

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

### **Child Protection Policy**

*Child Protection Officer: Gill Sharp*

St Andrew's Parish Church continues to follow the Child Protection Policy set out by the Diocese. I took over from Mary Bound in March 2008 and have continued Mary's work in completing Criminal Records Bureau checks on all adults who come into regular contact with children while their parents are not present.

CRB checks need to be renewed every five years, and Diocesan House now requires us to do these renewal checks when they become due. This means going through the same procedure of form filling, proof of identity and address. Thank you to everyone who completed forms and assisted in making the process fairly painless last year.

### **Baby Talk**

*Report by Mabs Ostley (01932 862178)*

Baby Talk has increased its membership over the last year and continues to grow.

We meet on Wednesday mornings during term time, from 10.30 - 12.00pm. In July we held our annual picnic in the garden of the Church Gate House, and at Christmas we enjoyed a buffet lunch. We look forward welcoming anybody who has babies or children of pre-nursery age to join us for a chat over a coffee and to meet other people sharing the same experience, while the children play.

### **Tots on Sundays**

*Report by Amanda Keogh*

We have a crèche for children of parents attending the 10.00am service. It is available for children up to the age of four and is held on each Sunday, except when

there is a Family Service. Usually there are about four or five children and there is a rota of adults to look after them. There are always two adults on duty at any one time.

### **Sunday School**

*Report by Becky Moorman*

We have a regular group of children, aged 4-9, attending Sunday School. Most of the children attend on a couple of Sundays a month, and our numbers can vary from as few as five to as many as 14. Five children moved on to SAY in September.

We broadly follow the curriculum in the Rocks & Pebbles books: however, we draw on much wider resources for lesson planning and activities. We continue to insist on prayer time and a Bible reading or story every week, but we now include far more physical games and activities rather than craft work as the children prefer this (we have a high proportion of boys at present).

The leaders have continued to be Linda Shaw, Becky Moorman, Amanda Austen and Emilene Lockhart in 2008, and the rota brings a fresh and varied approach to each Sunday. There are a number of willing additional helpers whom we call upon if needed, and we continue to enjoy the full support of the Clergy.

### **S.A.Y. – IT'S FRIDAY! YOUTH CLUB**

*Report by Fiona Lascelles*

Say – It's Friday! Youth Club has had a mixed 2008. The year started very well with an average attendance of 35 young people aged from 10 to 14. Apart from the normal club activities we went bowling with the club to Guildford Spectrum, hosted a "Singalong Sound Of Music" night in May to launch the new media projector, organised the successful barn dance and supper in June, had a totally washed out but hilarious swim and barbeque at St Andrew's school in July. Finally we hosted and coordinated the amazing Heritage Day show – "For One Night Only". This success was later somewhat marred by the bad behaviour of a very small number

children at the youth club meeting on a Friday night, with the result that it was decided to suspend the club.

Following meetings with other youth club leaders, the local police and committee members S.A.Y. – It's Friday! has been restructured. It opened its doors again on January 9th 2009, with the help of committed adult leaders and helpers, plus some young adults who are keen to give their time and energy to the club.

Equipment bought in 2008 included the media projector which has been put to great use, showing films and presentations. We are happy to share this with our Church family and are renting it out to groups that hire the hall, using the money for maintenance. We also bought a football net and basketball stand for use outside which went down very well with the Sunday School boys!

Funding seems to still be available, and we have had a £900 Council grant, with the help of Mrs Dorothy Mitchell who is our Families and Young People Councillor. We have also just secured a £2200 grant from the Grass Roots Community Action programme. This grant is to be spent on various projects lined up for the year ahead. Among these will be a new TV, which is to be wall mounted in Church Gate House Centre and which will also be a useful tool for the Church family to share. A further bid for a grant will be submitted to the High Sheriff of Surrey, who has supported us in the past.

We are so grateful to Mabs and Peter Ostley for their support. They are always ready to lend a hand and help with the installation and storage of equipment. We are also grateful to the many people directly and indirectly interested, involved and supportive of our club. It is our hope and wish that the new-look club will be a safe and happy place for both adult helpers and the young people for years to come!

### **St Andrew's Youth (SAY)**

*Report by Wendy Jane Gray, Alison Wilde, Judy Franz and Carrie Taylor*

Now in our 9<sup>th</sup> year, we are maintaining healthy numbers and enthusiasm on Sunday mornings. We usually have an attendance of about 10 young people with about 20 on our books, from school years 6 – 10 (ages 10- 15) although we have no upper age limit. We are still using the excellent Scripture Union resource "The Grid" which presents the Bible in a very contemporary, practical and fun way for teenagers and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday enjoy presenting short dramas to our Sunday School.

We continue to sponsor a child in Africa through "Plan" and have recently been given a new sponsor child, Velma, an 8 year old girl in Kenya. We have also become interested in the work of Amnesty International after Leonard came to speak to us and have written to a prisoner and his mother, also in Kenya.

We have recently altered our finances so that they come under the PCC guidelines and are regularly checked by the treasurer.

We enjoy the contact we have with the congregation through serving coffee once a month and feel our church is very much one for young people.

### **St Andrew's School**

*Report by David Greenwood, Chair of the Governors (01932 865364).*

The progress made by the Primary School for Cobham was reflected in the applications for September 2008. For the first time ever we had a Waiting List with a high (and record) number of First Choice preferences. Initially a small number of Cobham families got caught out as they had not put in applications for places, presumably assuming they would just be able to sign up any time. This was even after we accepted more pupils than our "published admissions number" for Key Stage 1. Elmbridge faces a shortage of Primary places over the next couple of

years, so we expect to have this challenge again. We also had 55 children join the school during the year other than through normal new intakes, a sign of our mobile society. Some came from the private sector, perhaps a sign of the times.

The school choir joined with the church junior choir for the Heritage Day performances in the church and also sang at the Day Centre.

Currently the educational focuses are looking at a more "Creative Curriculum" and working with some of the other schools in the Elmbridge Partnership on the introduction of a "Learning Platform" which will support collaborative accessible working through the internet.

### **Tots' Praise**

*Report by Alison Wilde*

Tot's Praise is still going well. We meet on the second Friday of each month from 1.30-2.30pm. We are a small but growing group. Our attendance has usually been 6 mums with about 9 children, although we increased in February to 9 mums with 12 children. The children range from small babies to the more mature 3 and 4 year olds, the real pull for the children being Robert's gift for telling stories to the very young and for drawing them to him, along with the lively action songs and percussion playing. We have recently changed our venue to the lounge as we find that the children are better at listening and joining in with the songs if they have less space in which to run around! One of our mums who began by coming to Baby Talk, then Tots' Praise has recently started attending Sunday services with her toddler on a regular basis, so from tiny acorns....

Mabs is always reliably on hand to serve the drinks so a big thanks go to her. We feel we are going through a period of growth so please pray for us and tell your friends!

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

### **Churches Together.**

*Report by Geoff Morris*

As usual, the Churches collaborated in circulating details of Easter services to every home in the area and in collecting for Christian Aid. Joint evening services were held in the week of Christian Unity and on 'Fifth Sundays'.

On Good Friday a vigil was again held around a large wooden cross in the Holly Hedge Precinct. This received coverage by the Cobham News and Mail and Southern Counties Radio. An innovation this year was participation in the Cobham Heritage Day, which was a great 'showcase' opportunity.

Rosemary Mason chaired meetings during the year and was warmly thanked on her retirement in December.

### **Our Cathedral Link**

*Report by Jenny Vickers*

I attended the AGM of the Links at the Cathedral on 30th September. The Dean gave a short report on the Cathedral.

The organathon proved to be very successful. It took place from 8.00pm Friday 26th September until 8.00pm Saturday 27th. Some hardy people slept in the cathedral in the Sanctuary. The money raised went to the lay clerks' endowment fund.

We had a very good talk by Unity-Joy Dale who has been very involved in The Seeds of Hope Children's Garden. We were all encouraged to use the garden – just to walk around in the quiet – have a picnic – take children/grandchildren. The garden is locked at night but during the day one just has to open the gates and go in. An article on the Garden can be seen in "Revelation" which is available at the back of the Church or from me.

### **Spiritual Cinema**

*Report by Revd Renos Pittarides*

Approximately once a month between twenty and thirty people gather together in Church Gate House Centre to watch and discuss films with spiritual meaning. The excellent new media projector, coupled with the existing sound system, means that we can create a similar experience to the cinema. Following the screenings we share refreshments and discuss what we have learnt from the films. We talk about what we have learnt about God and ourselves. To date the films we have shown and discussed include 'Shadowlands', 'Dead Man Walking', 'On Golden Pond', 'Vera Drake', 'Blood Diamond', 'Hotel Rwanda', 'Juno', 'It's a Wonderful Life', 'The Gospel According to St Matthew', 'Amazing Grace', 'The Mission' and 'The Kite Runner'. Many of the discussion questions are chosen from those made available by the Bible Society. Spiritual Cinema has become a popular addition to what is available to our parishioners and wider community. For details of forthcoming films please keep an eye on our website ([www.standrewscobham.org.uk](http://www.standrewscobham.org.uk)) and on *Family* magazine.

### **Bible Society**

*Report by Jenny Vickers*

Although we no longer have a formal Bible Society committee, a quiz and supper evening was held in November in aid of the Society, at which we welcomed teams members from St. Mary's, the United Reformed church, the Methodist church, the Presbyterian church, the WI and St. Andrew's School.

The amount raised on the night, together with some very generous donations, enabled us to send the Bible Society a cheque for £1,075.

## **Hot Potatoes**

*Report by Geoff Morris*

We have not held a meeting this year but are firmly resolved to meet in 2009. The aim of the discussions, held at the home of Geoff Morris, is to exchange views, not to reach conclusions

## **Recycling**

*Report by Peter and Jenny Vickers*

During the year we have collected used printer cartridges, mobile telephones and used stamps for the Leprosy Mission. Clothes were sent to Sheffield to an estate where they were appreciated by those living there. Christmas cards were taken to Tesco for the Woodland Trust and knitting wool to Downs View, the women's prison.

Any foreign coins will be sent to the Leprosy Mission

## **ECO-Congregation**

*Report by Clive Moorman*

We are making steady progress towards gaining our Eco Congregation Award in terms of embedding care for the wider environment, into everything we do. On a practical level we have installed a number of energy efficient lights into Church Gate House and will be able to fit more as the current bulbs fail. This will assist us in counteracting the ever increasing cost of electricity as well as being better for the planet. The new projector in the church will also enable us to save paper and printing costs for some services. We have increased our outreach to the local community with both 'S.A.Y. - It's Friday!' and 'Alive@6', thereby taking the 'eco-message' to a wider group in our parish.

We believe we have now made sufficient progress to start preparing our application for this award and the PCC have approved this. To do this I am writing to the group leaders and the chairmen of the various committees and asking for their assistance in completing our application form. As a

guide to what I am looking for, I am sending them relevant extracts from the application form and examples of what other churches have written. The Eco Committee will therefore be most grateful for your assistance in identifying our many initiatives we are taking, and which will assist us in gaining this award. Following the submission of our application we will be inspected by an independent assessor and I will refresh the 'Pledge Board' shortly before to show how we are involving the whole congregation in raising awareness of our impact on God's Creation.

Thank you for your continued support in developing this initiative.

## **Multi-faith activities**

*Report by Geoff Morris*

12 members of St Andrew's were members of the forum during the year and several others attended events. Newsletters are available in printed form or on the internet ([www.elmbridgemultifaith.org.uk](http://www.elmbridgemultifaith.org.uk)).

Highlights of the year were:

- Visits to the Friends Meeting House in Esher, the Lady of Lourdes RC Church, the Jain Temple in Hertfordshire and the Ahmadiyya Peace Symposium and International Summer Meeting.
- Interfaith Holocaust Memorial Day at the North-west Surrey Reform Synagogue.
- The revival of the South-East England Faith Forum.
- The launch of the successful Elmbridge Multi-faith Forum Community Project in Walton St John's.
- Our Annual Gala Evening, attended by over 200 people, with its variety of foods and performances by young people from various cultures – a real 'family' evening.
- Further 'Faith Training' days for Surrey Police cadets.
- The grant of charitable status.

## **FINANCE REPORT 2008**

This is published as a separate annex to this review.