



To Know, Glorify and Make Christ Known

2019

ANNUAL

REVIEW

March 2020

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VISION STATEMENT

The Vision of St Andrew's is to bring a broader, larger congregation to Christ; to nurture, feed and serve our congregation and community; and to apply our faith in our everyday lives.

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

THE CHURCH AND ITS MINISTRY

Report by the Vicar, Revd Dr Mike Branscombe

United Benefice

St Andrew's and St Mary's began 2019 as a United Benefice, two distinct parishes that share a ministry team, all under the leadership of a Priest in Charge. During 2018 a Pastoral Measure was put into effect which prepared the way for each church to become a single parish, no longer united. A consultation period for the Pastoral Measure ended early in January 2019 and, as no objections were raised, I became Vicar of St Andrew's and Revd Godfrey Hilliard became the Rector of St Mary's, on February 1st 2019. From that point on any benefice-wide shared activities ceased and we are now simply neighbouring parishes.

Ministry Team

Throughout 2019 I have been ably assisted by a gifted and supportive Ministry Team. The clergy team of Charleen Hollington, Peter Vickers and I were joined by Moni Babatunde on Sunday June 30th as she was ordained Deacon and became our Curate. Clergy duties of worship services, baptisms, weddings and funerals have been shared by the team. These important duties involve many hours of hard work and in the process, we have made strong connections with the wider community of Cobham. I am very grateful for the dedication of my clergy colleagues: they are a real joy to share with. The clergy are supported by a very able team of Pastoral Assistants. A report on their ministry is given later in this Annual Review.

During 2019 Esther Holley, our Children and Youth worker, tested a vocation to train for ordained ministry in the Church of England. In May the Church of England agreed to Esther beginning training that will lead to ordination in a few years. Following her recommendation for training, Esther continued to serve

enthusiastically and diligently organising many youth activities and leading her team of volunteers. Esther was married to James Hunt at St Andrew's in July and resigned at the end of the month, shortly after she moved out of the flat and began her training.

After Esther moved on, I wanted to take some time before making a permanent appointment. After looking, with others, at a variety of short-term possibilities I decided to work with "Time for God" (TFG) to identify a volunteer to come and assist us with our Children's and Youth work. I am very glad that through "Time for God" we connected with Pearl Agyakwa who has joined us for a one year volunteer placement. Pearl came to us from Ghana in September and has been a blessing to our young people and children.

Elaine Bray is another vital member of our Ministry Team. She contributes to so many areas of our parish life as Communications and Administration Manager. A warm welcome and a helpful demeanour awaits all who visit Church Gate House. Elaine energetically and enthusiastically helps me with the many tasks that are required to keep a busy parish running smoothly. Her skills in the office are much appreciated by many in the parish. Elaine also plays a significant role in leading Baby Talk and Messy Church. Elaine also helps to plan Family Worship each month.

Cathy Whitnall and David Taylor are both authorised to preach occasionally, and I have enjoyed hearing their preaching, which I know is appreciated by the congregation.

At the end of January, Kevin Ayton resigned as Director of Music, after many months of diligent and careful leadership. In March we appointed David Fuge as Music Ministry Leader, I have enjoyed working closely with David in planning Sunday Services. David's work with Choir and Band also extends into

the St Andrew's Youth (SAY) Choir, leading with Louise, they have brought these enthusiastic young singers to bless our family worship and Christmas Eve Crib Service.

I would also like to thank our Churchwardens Michael Elson and David Taylor for standing for election at our Annual Meeting following their temporary appointment late in 2018. They have helped me think through many things over the year and brought practical wisdom to the day to day life of our busy parish. Our PCC Secretary, Leonard Beighton, and Treasurer, Malcolm Graham, have also given many hours to ensure that our meetings, PCC and Standing Committee, are run well and our finances properly managed. I am glad to report that during 2019 we appointed James Moreno as Assistant Treasurer.

Many other people take an active role in enabling the mission and ministry of St Andrew's. Faithful commitment, week-in-week-out, is what makes our church such a special place. During 2019 we have had a special focus on providing a warm welcome to everyone that comes to St Andrew's. The Welcome Committee, under David Greenwood's leadership, has offered training and guidance for a new welcome team. Our welcome team was a great help throughout the busy Christmas carol and concert period. Many visitors spoke encouragingly of the welcome that they had received.

There are many other groups that come together to make St Andrew's the special place it is. People using their gifts and talents, giving freely of their time. I am truly thankful to all who have served during 2019.

Transforming Lives for Good (TLG)

During the year our PCC approved establishing a new work at St Andrew's School in partnership with Transforming Lives for Good. Carrie Taylor has taken on the role of Church and School Co-ordinator for the TLG Early Intervention programme. This seeks to help the most vulnerable children stay connected with education through dedicated weekly support offered by trained members of our congregation. The idea is that our TLG volunteers are trained, and then for one year spend one hour a week with the same student, to encourage them and show interest in their life and education. In the process we hope to connect with their families.

Occasional Offices

2019 saw us engage in baptisms, weddings, and funerals. Along with the clergy a team of lay people offer hospitality and support to those who come to us for these very important services. Pastoral Assistants work to support those who are bereaved. We also try and stay in contact with the families of those who bring children for baptism. Sue Aitken, a trained Pastoral Assistant, takes on much of the preparatory work of communicating with and coordinating the couples who come to St Andrew's for marriage. Changes to church laws, that have broadened the scope of those who are eligible to marry in church, have brought with them complexities that take considerable time and energy to work through. During the year we introduced a policy around lateness at weddings which has helped keep wedding times predictable.

In closing I would like to report that the God we celebrate at St Andrew's is the same yesterday, today and forever. His call to love goes out to all the world. He has called us into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ his son. As we grow in that relationship and understand all that He wants us to be, we are able to find strength to serve others in His name. If we allow His love to change us, then we can change small things in our lives and in the process find that God is changing the world.

Small groups

Report by Charleen Hollington

Our small groups continue to provide a forum for deepening faith and fostering relationships. In 2019, with most people having enjoyed the study guide of Revelation, it was decided to continue with Tom Wright's study guide on St Matthew's gospel, and all the small groups are engaged in working through the guide.

During the year, one group ceased to meet, due mainly to the logistics of finding a time and place to meet that suited everyone. Furthermore, the anticipated women-only group did not get off the ground, again due to logistics and time demands. The time is ripe for a renewed focus on our small groups, and this is likely to form part of the wider planning for the church's future that will be undertaken this year.

Spiritual Cinema

Facilitated by the Vicar

In 2019 we watched these films.

- January – Kings of Pastry
- February – Joseph and Mary
- March – The Greatest Showman
- April – Jesus of Nazareth
- May – Goodbye Christopher Robin
- June – The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society
- July – Salmon Fishing in Yemen
- August – Evan Almighty
- September – Amazing Grace
- October – Wonder
- November – Big Fish
- December – Miracle on 34th Street

After each film we enjoyed delicious refreshments provided by Julie Baird. I am very grateful to Julie for all the hospitality she has so generously shown us through the year. Each evening closes with spiritual questions about the film and some thoughts from the Vicar.

Sacristan

The work continues to be shared between Judy Brickett and Derek Bullman.

Assets and Fabric

Report by the Churchwardens

The report of the quinquennial inspection provided an excellent guide to the current state of the building and grounds of the church. During 2019 the Property Committee used the report as a major source of guidance to plan and meet the needs that the surveyor identified.

The inspector had spent quite a time in the steeple, which we knew needed major attention. Pigeons had built nests and

deposited much material that needed removal. As the bellringers had received a generous legacy, this work and other internal improvements to the tower were able to go ahead. The church also paid for repairs to the lead sheeting in the valley between the roofs to prevent further penetration by damp.

The inspector had also noticed that the shingles on the spire contained holes that woodpeckers had made. Apparently such holes are not uncommon in external woodwork. The steeplejack that did the repairs to the tower also noticed the holes in the shingles, which are of cedar. He offered to replace them with oak at a very competitive price. The church is currently making an appeal to the local community to Save Our Steeple!

Another improvement to the overall fabric of the church has been to the car park, which received a new surface with new lines. The Property Committee rightly judged that the amenity was a public asset and the church received a substantial grant from the Community Infrastructure Levy.

Finally, in the churchyard, we have several tombs that are listed historical monuments. The surveyor noted in the report that several were in a poor state of repair and in need of urgent attention. The Property Committee is aware that we need to address this issue but wants to avoid the expense of hiring heavy lifting equipment to raise the large slabs in order to repair the brickwork underneath. The members of the committee have an imaginative solution in mind!

Garden of Remembrance

This part of the churchyard provides an attractive focus for remembering loved ones. It was very well maintained by Ray Sherlock for many years before his very sad death. Since then it has been maintained by Mick, the gardener, who maintains the garden in Church Gate House under the supervision of Mabs Ostley. .

ADMINISTRATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

Parish Office

Elaine Bray is our Communications and Administration Officer. She runs the Parish Office which until is open from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm on Mondays to Fridays, though her own working hours are rather longer. She is responsible for much of the administrative work of the church, for its communications and for handling all enquiries, including bookings

and enquiries about the Hall. She looks after the Welcome Café and supports the volunteers who man it.

Church Website

(<http://www.standrewscobham.org.uk>)

Report by Dave Greenwood, co-Webmaster
with Elaine Bray

"I didn't know about ... " or "I can't remember the date of ..".

We all say those sometime. Try the website!

The Weekly Notes are all up there; there is a Calendar; the front page shows imminent events and news items; and more may be on other relevant pages.

Did you miss a service? The text and recordings of most sermons can be downloaded from the site (but give us a few days).

Copies of Family magazine and various forms and policies are there.

We aim to make the website a useful resource for parishioners, as well as a shop window for visitors.

Feedback and suggestions are welcome, as are any tip-offs about things that have become out of date, as the site is too big for us to keep checking it all.

St Andrew's parish magazine "Family"

Report by Zoë Ostley, Editor

Daphne McFarlane retired as Editor July 2019, after 22 years of devoted loyalty to the parish magazine. Daphne continues to assist with information for Family but it goes without saying a huge thank you for the tireless commitment she gave.

Ten issues of "Family", the Parish magazine, continued to be published in the year - an average run of 300 copies per month. Large printed copies are available in the church and can also be read online.

The role of the magazine is to provide information about the church, its worship and meetings, and to increase interest we are also looking at reporting on Cobham community events.

The team welcome any articles of interest that are sent to them. The more the magazine is used to advertise current and past events the better it will become for our readers. For example, the Eco committee using such relevant topics have regularly featured in all ten issues during 2019. These and articles of widespread interest and concern are what we believe "Family" is for.

Finally, in recognising that the role of "Family" is firstly to inform the community of the church's activities, happy and sad, the assistance of our 'family' is essential if continuing its publication is to be worthwhile. We therefore need more input and a larger team to better serve this means of communication.

Other communications

A **weekly news sheet** is given out at Sunday and Friday services with items of immediate interest. The news sheet is also posted on the church website.

An **online mailing list**, ListServ, is maintained, to which anyone can subscribe from the St Andrew's website. This allows email messages to be sent to subscribers at any time with information about church activities and events.

There are **notice boards** at the south entrance to the Church, at the entrance to the car park, at the lychgate, and in the High Street. There is also a board in Church Gate House for church notices.

An annual **parish directory** is distributed in June, containing details of church officials, committee membership and organisations.

Archivist

We have not found anyone to take over as archivist since Peter Joce died a few years ago. Between them, David Taylor, Elaine Bray and Leonard Beighton ensure that the records are kept appropriately.

Electoral Roll

Report by David Greenwood, Electoral Roll Officer

2019 was the year when all Church of England Churches had to prepare a new roll from scratch (it happens every six years). We ended 2019 with 173 on the Roll. The previous role had reached 247. There is always a drop in numbers with a new Roll because some members of the previous Roll will have either moved away, or died.

The governance processes of the Church of England are enshrined in the law of the land, and the Electoral Roll is the legal register of all those who can vote for members of the PCC and Deanery Synod. Members of the Deanery Synod vote for the Diocesan and General Synod members. However even if that does not excite you, we would still like everyone who considers themselves to be part of the St Andrew's Church community to "put their hand up" to say so by being on the Roll.

Forms are available in church, and on the website, for new people to join. The form wording is statutory, and I am expecting there will be revised wording coming, which better

reflects the requirements of the latest EU Data Protection legislation. We shall amend ours in due course.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Membership

The clergy, Churchwardens and lay representatives on the Deanery Synod are members of the Council ex-officio. In addition, 12 lay members are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, in accordance with the Church Representation Rules, making 20 members in all. Until this year there were 15 lay members, but this was reduced following the reduction in the number on our electoral roll.

During the year the following served as members of PCC

Vicar: Chairman	Revd Dr Michael Branscombe	
Assistant Curates	Revd Charleen Hollington Revd Moni Babatunde	(Co-opted member until June 2019)
Churchwardens:	Michael Elson David Taylor	Lay Vice- Chairman
Lay representatives on the Deanery Synod:	Leonard Beighton Michael Elson Geoffrey Morris	Secretary to the PCC
Elected members:	Keith Baird Elizabeth Bradley Kim Constable Judy Franz Malcolm Graham David Greenwood Peter Kelly Sue Kilpatrick Freddie Marshall Daphne McFarlane Shirley Mensah Clive Moorman Lindsay Sainsbury Carrie Taylor David Tipping	(From April 2019) (To November 2019) Treasurer (From April 2019) (To April 2019) (To April 2019) (To April 2019)

The Work of the Council in 2019

Report by Leonard Beighton

The Council maintains oversight of all the main activities of the church. It does this by receiving regular reports from the officers, committees and group leaders. All these activities are fully reported elsewhere in this Report.

Guildford Diocese and Leatherhead Deanery

Report by Michael Elson

The diocese now has two new archdeacons, Paul Davies, and our own archdeacon, Martin Breadmore. Their appointment, with the appointment of Peter Harwood as Director of Mission, has completed an extensive and radical transformation at senior level in the diocese. Moreover, the move to, and

reorganisation of, Church House Guildford has streamlined the diocese's administrative structures.

In January 2020 the diocese, as part of its overall review of strategy and ways of working, published its first Deanery Handbook. The handbook states clearly the direction in which deaneries will continue to move under the leadership of Bishop Andrew. Leatherhead Deanery is about to change its ways of working. The Deanery Synod had already started to explore ways in which parishes could do more together. The most obvious area in this deanery has been to co-ordinate better the ministry to children and young people. Another new expectation is that every deanery should have a Deanery Leadership Team.

Expectations have also changed at a more fundamental level. The Bishop has adopted the model of 'Servant Leadership' and the Diocesan Synod has endorsed procedures that start from the principle that the diocese exists to meet the needs of parishes. As part of the process of identifying and meeting such needs, every parish will produce its own

church development plan. Every parish will also receive an annual visit, one year from the archdeacon, the next year from the area dean. The intention is that better planning should lead not only to better provision but also greater accountability in the parishes.

PCC COMMITTEES

The PCC operates through a number of committees. Each committee includes at least one PCC member (not necessarily the chair) and reports on its activities to PCC at least annually to ensure two-way communication.

Standing Committee

Chaired by the Vicar

This is the only committee required by law. It has been given new life by the Vicar. Under his chairmanship its members are the Churchwardens, the treasurer, the PCC secretary and one other PCC member. It meets in the months in which there is no PCC meeting. It has power to transact the business of PCC between the Council's meetings, subject to any directions given by Council.

Church Gate House Committee

Report by David Tipping

Another year passes, and having been Chairman of the Church Gate House Committee for four years I would first like to thank the excellent small group of church members who, together with Elaine, our very dedicated and committed Communications and Administration Manager, make up the rest of the team.

In November 2019 Church Gate House was 21 years old! As I reported last year, we wouldn't be in the happy situation of having an excellent facility without the hard work of the Churchwardens and clergy at the time, who had the vision of moving forward to create a modern, comfortable asset. People looking to hire CGH often comment that it's got a carpet, curtains, it's clean, and above all a friendly feel about it, which is vital in our community where we are not short of facilities to hire. It can be booked online, but for new enquiries the personal contact from our staff and volunteers can be very important.

Twenty one years ago, careful planning ensured we had a 'fit for purpose' facility, not only for our Church but also for the local community.

We are now in the process of planning improvements to the entrance and toilet

facilities and, more importantly, to improve on storage space where there is a growing need with the increased use of church activity equipment. We are fortunate in having a number of church members with design and planning skills, under the guidance of Clive Moorman, Chairman of our Property Committee. We will shortly be submitting an application to Elmbridge Borough Council for a grant towards the cost from their Community Infrastructure Levy monies.

We are also blessed with a number of hard working people in our church who are prepared to help with various tasks when needed – perhaps just moving tables and chairs etc! I don't want to single out anyone in particular, but I would especially like to thank David Robinson for being our 'odd job' man, always willing to take on small tasks like fixing leaks and mending locks. I know there are others with special skills so . . . THANK YOU ALL.

I am pleased to report that Church Gate House is still a popular venue, booked every morning and evening and most weekends. Baby activities are booming in the small lounge, and in the main hall we have exercise classes, Probus Club meetings, the WI, Art Club, Social events, community meetings, Yoga, Birthday Parties, and on occasion, Political Meetings! We took the decision to stop letting the hall for parties on Sundays to give our long suffering neighbours a little peace. Unfortunately this obviously resulted in a loss of some revenue, but I am pleased to report that following the closure of the Methodist Church in Cedar Road, the Kingsgate Church now hire the hall and lounge for their Sunday afternoon meetings.

We must not forget our own growing number of church activities - Kids' Church; Spiritual Cinema; Lunch Club; Men's Curry Evening; T4U; Baby Talk; Afternoon Film 'Musicals'; and the new monthly 'Ladies Evening' proving to be very popular.

Eco Congregation Committee

Report by Clive Moorman

There have been a number of lively meetings for the Eco Committee (Leonard Beighton, Geoff Morris, Sam Acquaye and Wendy Jane Gray) over the last 12 months. In addition we have welcomed new members, Jill Newman and Nick Constable as well as welcoming back Jo Greenwood. In addition a special vote of thanks goes to Carrie Taylor who has been writing monthly 'Eco Tips' for publication in "Family". We are still focusing on what we need to do to achieve Eco Church status as our Eco Congregation award came to an end last year.

Zoë Ostley has now added a regular 'Eco corner' feature in our parish magazine.

We have invested in a bicycle rack to encourage more people to cycle to church and we hope people will make good use of it. It is discretely tucked away on the RHS of the path to the memorial chapel and securely bolted to a concrete plinth.

You may remember that in 2018 we recruited James Moreno to carry out the 4 annual audits (spring, summer, autumn, winter) for RiverSearch, which contributes to a national database on the health of our rivers. James is now liaising with RiverSearch who are revising their audit process.

In May, Andy Atkins, the CEO of A Rocha¹, came to our 10 o'clock service to talk to the congregation about the various things we can do to protect the environment and care for God's creation in every form.

We again arranged for ethically sourced meat, from Chris Don's farm, to be used at our summer BBQ. This was organised and led by Julie Baird, and was a great success.

We carried out an Eco Lifestyle Audit on both our own congregation and the general public, who visited us on Heritage day. Part of the reason for this was to establish a baseline as to where we are in relation to our Eco Church application. This is one area where we fall down on in our scores and we want to establish the effectiveness of the various campaigns we have.

We again organised an Eco Committee stand at the Heritage Day celebrations and had a lot

¹ A Rocha is an international network of environmental organisations with a Christian ethos. A Rocha, which means "the rock" in Portuguese, was founded in Portugal in 1983.

of interest from a number of visitors, partly attracted by the smell of Wendy Jane's homemade bread and fresh coffee. We also featured an updated video of some of the eco-focused things we do at St Andrew's.

We planted a wild flower border on St Andrew's field which in part will help our score in our desire to a good grading in our Eco Church application.

We were asked by the local Guide Leader (Helen Goddard) if they could plant 100 crocus bulbs and a cherry tree in the churchyard to commemorate 100 years of the Cobham Troop. This we happily agreed to and we look forward to seeing the display in the spring.

We are still benefiting from our deal with EcoTricity, a 'green energy' supplier who supply both our gas and electricity. We have signed up with them, at a competitive price, for a two year fixed price deal to take us to 2021. In addition we have also added CGH Flat to the deal, now that Pearl, our new children's worker, has moved in.

To reduce our energy costs, we have fitted two new digital thermostats into CGH as well as putting timers on the hot water boilers.

We also carried out an electricity usage survey on the Church, as we noticed an unusually high use on weekdays. We found that this was caused by the Church lighting that was drawing 6kW, when the lights were left on. We are going to get the entry lighting reprogrammed and this should save us about £1,000 pa.

We have been monitoring the performance of the grass protection matting that we installed in St Andrew's Field last year, and it appears to be working well. Elaine reports again that no-one has become stuck this year. We will continue to monitor to see if there is any need to install more of this matting, but at this stage there are no plans to do so.

We continue to monitor the 300+ trees we planted in St Andrew's field, most of which appear to be doing well and will be a good legacy for future generations that use that field. However we notice that our latest batch alongside the river fence is being severely impacted by the weeds, particularly the nettles. Without going 'riverside' this is very difficult for us to manage so we are planning to establish a new treeline, about 1m further away from the fence line.

We have reminded the congregation that we have recycling points for batteries and printer cartridges in CGH and encourage their use.

We are also planning to indicate where other items can be recycled locally through Terracycle.

There are many things we would like to do in 2020. We still need to refurbish the 'bug hotel', which doesn't seem have many residents at the moment, as it is possibly a bit too 'posh' for them. This is something that Kids' Church could help with as well as learning about the best environment for our bug friends. We need to follow up on our recycling visit to Leatherhead Waste Transfer Station. We want to highlight that we use both Fair Trade and 'Eco' products in our kitchen at CGH to encourage others to do so. To this end we will be fitting a poster to the serving hatch doors so that everybody who uses the kitchen can see it. I has been suggested to us that there is a lot of confusion within the congregation as to which 'green initiatives' really work and which are just 'green washing' and so have no real impact, eg does 'carbon offsetting' really work? So we are proposing to make a presentation to those members of the congregation that would find it interesting, what our research shows. We are also trying to reduce the amount of paper we use at our services by encouraging the greeters only to give out the news sheet, unless asked for the hymn sheet, etc.

We would also like to thank the congregation for their continued support in our eco activities and would be delighted to have more members on the Eco Committee or those who would volunteer their time in 'eco' supporting

Faith and Social Action Committee

Report by Charleen Hollington

In 2019, the committee continued to oversee the activity of the church in supporting its chosen charitable projects. Its members consist of Charleen Hollington (Chair), Leonard Beighton, David Taylor, Sue Kilpatrick, Geoff Morris and Elaine Bray. Meetings of the committee have effectively been replaced with 'Champions' meetings, in which the committee members and the champions for the various projects all meet to share information and support one another. The charities we support, and their champions, are:

OM Nepal – Peter Kelly

Christians Against Poverty – Charleen Hollington

The Garden Route Children's Trust (GRCT)– Paul Hurrell.

Foodbank – Hugh Bryant.

We are delighted that Paul Hurrell has stepped into the breach and taken up the role of champion for the GRCT.

Consideration of a fifth charity to support has been put on hold for the moment, as we plan to look at this question in the context of our wider church planning later in 2020.

A separate report for each project appears elsewhere in this Review.

Outward Giving once again provided financial support for the various projects, and displays for Cobham Heritage Day were again put up in church for CAP, GRCT and OM.

As always, I would like to thank all the members of the committee and also the champions for always being so willing to do whatever is need to help the church to support our chosen charities.

Fellowship and Social Committee

Report by Julie Baird

We began the year with our Marriage Preparation Day lunch.

Eight couples plus clergy and organists etc. partook of a three course lunch.

Lunch in Church Gate House on 2nd. February. It was a lovely day enjoyed by all who attended.

Mothering Sunday was celebrated on 31st March with tea, coffee and Simnel Cake in the Church.

Easter Sunday, 21st April was celebrated with Canapés and Prosecco whilst the children participated in the annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Pentecost on 9th June saw us all tucking into a delicious cake made by Helen Amys.

On July 7th we held the Family BBQ which was also a time to celebrate Moni's ordination and to say goodbye to Esther before she left to get married later in the month. The weather was very kind to us and a great time was had by all. Many thanks to Chris Donn for his help over the weekend.

14th September was Heritage Day and as ever St Andrew's provided all-day refreshments in Church Gate House. The church staged a beautiful Flower Festival co-ordinated by Sue Kilpatrick and Keith Baird and visitors then came over to the hall for refreshments non-stop all day. We were able to swell our funds to finance other events throughout the year as a result.

Harvest Festival was celebrated with gorgeous cake and tea and coffee on 6th October in the church.

Time to Remember Tea took place after the afternoon service on Sunday 3rd November and as always proved to be a comforting and supportive event.

29th November was the date for the St Andrew's Day lunch. Soups, French bread, cheese and fruit were on the menu and a lovely time was had by all. To continue the celebrations there was a family afternoon on Saturday 30th. with games, quiz and rounded off by delicious fish and chips.

A busy year but one that brought us all together on many occasions to enjoy each other's company. A very big thank you to everyone who helped to make these events so enjoyable and gave their time and energy so willingly. It is very much appreciated.

Looking forward to more lovely events in 2020.

Giving Committee

Report by Peter Kelly

The year of 2019 brought renewed focus and energy to the issue of giving at St Andrew's and planted the seeds of new efforts to re-energise the financial foundations of our church life and ministry.

In the first quarter of the year, the Giving Committee met and conducted a review of the effectiveness of the Autumn 2018 Giving Campaign, which had been the first under the leadership of our new Vicar. There was a general agreement that despite favourable reception to the message, there existed an urgent need to address the shortfall between operating receipts and operating expenses, which has been resulting in an annual deficit of tens of thousands of pounds for several years, and which under current spending and giving patterns showed no signs of improving. At the same time, the committee felt that the emerging parish vision work, planned for late 2019 and 2020 would be a proper first task to complete before any radical steps in the messaging about giving or spending. As a result, we embarked on the year with a focus on (1) adopting straightforward improved digital giving technologies; (2) incorporating more messages about giving and generosity in sermons; (3) overhauling our legacy pamphlet to incorporate updated information; (4) expanding the membership of the Giving Committee; and (5) improving communication to the parish about our financial situation.

During the year, the Giving Committee in collaboration with the PCC and the Standing Committee took actions in response to these priorities. With respect to the improved giving technologies, a touchless cashpoint giving station was tested and installed at the church entrance, making cashless giving a possibility. With respect to messaging about giving, pastoral staff regularly added updates and sermon reminders about the importance of giving and generosity. With the help of a professional designer, a completely new legacy pamphlet was drafted and sent to printer in time for distribution at year end. Shirley Mensah and Freddie Marshal were invited to join the Giving Committee and became valuable contributing members. And finally, with respect to communication, the committee developed an operating results chart which clearly showed the gap between receipts and spending. This chart was shared with the parish more than six times during the year.

We closed the year anticipating that our operating deficit for 2019 may reach or exceed £40,000 but also with renewed and prayerful confidence that the members of the Giving Committee (Mike Branscombe, David Taylor, Michael Elson, Malcolm Graham, Leonard Beighton, Peter Kelly, Shirley Mensah and Freddie Marshal) will work tirelessly in 2020 and beyond to help the parish work towards a goal of financial health and sustainability.

Outward Giving Committee

Report by Cathy Whitnall

The Committee (Cathy Whitnall, Keith & Julie Baird, Michael Elson and Carrie Taylor) has continued its usual practice of meeting 2 or 3 times a year, but with some business dealt with by email. During the course of 2019 the team made two presentations to the PCC; in September we asked for approval of the proposal to send £2,000 to each of the four charities supported by the Faith and Social Action Team: Operation Mobilisation (Nepal Project), The Garden Route Childrens' Trust, Christians Against Poverty, and Cobham Area Foodbank. Additionally we requested that £2,000 should be sent to Oasis (Cobham). Each of these charities have named 'champions' who act as liaison between their chosen charity and the OGC. This is for ease of process for the funds and also to give further information to the PCC, should this be required.

The allocation from PCC for 2019 was £14,465; thus after disbursement to these charities we had £4,465 remaining. We asked

for PCC approval to distribute £1,000 to each of Leatherhead Youth Project, A Rocha (as requested by Clive Moorman on behalf of the Eco team) and The Bible Society, which of course has been supported by Jenny Vickers for many years, but the OGC has a policy of giving additional support every few years. Alison Wilde had asked for a total of £650 for St Andrew's School, and had provided a detailed 'shopping list' of items that were required. The remaining amount of £815 was sent to Crisis (as is our usual practice, with the added benefit of this being a charity close to the Vicar's heart).

As part of the presentations to the PCC when requesting these disbursements, the OGC has been careful to ensure that there is at least one person who is happy to act as liaison for each of the charities to which we give. Additionally, reports were circulated in advance with details of what the money was likely to be used for and the reason for that charity's selection, together with a website address for further information. This information can be made available on request from Cathy Whitnall.

cathywhitnall@talktalk.net

The team would like to thank the many donors to church funds from which the Outward Giving amount is drawn.

Pastoral Committee and Prayer Team

Chaired by the Vicar

The Pastoral Committee of the church meets regularly to ensure that the pastoral care needs of parishioners and those we have ministered to in various contexts are always a priority for St Andrew's. The Pastoral Assistants on the committee are, Sue Aitken, Wendy Jane Gray, Judy Brickett, Dave Greenwood, and Carrie Taylor. Lindsay Sainsbury also serves on the committee as a Pastoral Visitor. Peter Vickers, Moni Babatunde and I are the clergy members. The Committee plans and assists the clergy in providing the very popular Time to Remember service for bereaved families held in November. We also deliver small Christmas gifts from St Andrew's to those we have cared for through the year.

Our Prayer team offer to pray with anyone who feels a need to pray for themselves or a loved one. Particular opportunities are offered at our 10am Sunday Holy Communion Services. During 2019 I have tried to make the invitation for prayer more prominent during the service.

Other prayer meetings have been organised on a regular basis.

Pastoral Care and Prayer are provided in many other ways and are at the heart of any flourishing church. To bear one another's burdens and to bring everything to God in prayer is in our DNA as Christians. We are all called to this work and I want to make special mention of two loving examples of how this takes place, the monthly Friday Lunch Club and Tea4U, both show care through fellowship that is underpinned with prayer. Thank to Jenny Masters and Jenny Vickers for the lead they take making these gatherings so much fun for everyone who attends.

Property Committee

Report by Clive Moorman

The Property Committee (David Tipping, David Taylor, Keith Baird, Sam Acquaye and Clive Moorman in the 'chair') met three times in 2019. We also welcomed Nick Constable as a new member of the team and he brings with him a wealth of experience in property development.

2019 was a busy year for the Committee as we cleared some of the backlog from previous years and also attended to items identified in the Quinquennial report early in the year.

Items progressed in 2019

Flood Defences: There has only been one occasion in the last 12 months to erect the flood defences. Fortunately it was not needed as the water did not quite come up that far, although it did flood our new car park.

CGH Maintenance: A number of minor repairs have been needed in and around CGH. These included fitting a new light in the gents' toilet, repairing door locks, drain and gutter clearing, and replacing or repairing a couple of toilet seats. The committee thanks David Robinson for his assistance with this and other maintenance tasks.

CGH Energy: New electronic thermostats were fitted in both the hall and the welcome space and these will be more efficient at controlling the heating and reducing unauthorised adjustment from hall users. In addition timeclocks were fitted to the water heaters that serve both the toilets and the kitchen, as they were previously running 24/7. Both of these initiatives should reduce our annual electricity consumption. Also it was noticed that only one of the two boilers that feed CGH was working as a result of damage caused to one of the switches in the boiler room some years ago. This was fixed and

now both boilers work and have been gas safety-checked.

Church energy: It was noticed that we had very high electricity readings in the church on weekdays. This was tracked down to the church lighting that was drawing 6kW every time it was switched on. It is proposed that we will now reprogramme the entry switch to reduce this to about 1kW, which will save us about £1,000pa on our electricity bill.

Church Energy Survey: An energy survey was carried out on the church, funded by the Guildford Diocese, which suggested that we could make further savings on our gas consumption if we fitted updated controls on the Church heating. The Committee is currently considering the cost of this work and whether it would pay back in a reasonable time period.

Green Energy: We continue to benefit from our contract with EcoTricity to supply both the Church and CGH. In addition we have now added the CGH Flat, currently occupied by Pearl, to this account.

Lychgate Letters: New oak letters for the memorial to E H Loring, on the Lychgate, were refitted by Eagle Property Developments (EPD), and the Vicar will arrange a blessing for this memorial in due course.

Grass Protection Matting: The grass protection matting that we installed in St Andrew's Field continues to work well. (Elaine has reported that, since it was fitted, nobody has become stuck.)

Carpet Protection: We were still suffering some damage to the Church carpet as a result of people moving the piano, notwithstanding the piano mover we fitted last year. To alleviate this we fitted a new, hard flooring below the piano and also much tougher brass thresholds.

Garden Tidy-ups: In 2019 Richard Hollington organised two tidy-ups of the Churchyard and CGH garden.

Church Kneelers: A number of our church kneelers needed repairing, and after an appeal from Mike, Anne Brown and friends repaired them, for which the Property Committee is very grateful.

Quinquennial Inspection: This went ahead on 16th January 2019 and the inspector noted that additional roof works were required as the lead in the valleys is cracking in a number of places. The Committee arranged for a local

contractor to carry out this work as well as repointing a number of the Church walls.

Bell Tower Project: An extensive project to repair the bell tower and clock was carried out, organised by Zoë Ostley for which the Property Committee is very grateful. In addition we were required to carry out extensive cleaning before the work took place as a result of a lot of pigeons leaving their calling cards.

Resurfacing CGH Carpark: Our application for CIL² funding was approved and the car park was refurbished in July with the new entrance widened to accommodate the change in flow direction. We have also installed PV lighting to improve security in the car park.

Bike Rack: A new bicycle rack has been fitted on the site of the old bike shed in the churchyard. It is hoped that now more people will cycle to church, knowing that their bikes are secure.

Unauthorised use of Refuse Bins: In an effort to limit unauthorised use of our bins at CGH a new fence and gate was erected to enclose the bins. At the same time a new fence line was established in CGH garden and the existing fence repaired to keep children safe when using the garden.

Items for 2020

Church Steeple Repairs: It was identified in the Quinquennial Report that our church spire had suffered considerable damage from woodpeckers. Over the last 70 years they had pecked a large number of holes in the wooden shingles, and these holes were letting in water that was damaging the wooden structure of the spire. We are launching a campaign on 24th January to encourage local businesses in Cobham to contribute towards the £12,000 cost of getting the spire resingled in oak.

Tomb Repairs: There are a number of tombs in the churchyard that have fallen into disrepair. The Committee is organising a team to carry out these repairs before the autumn.

Tribute to John Bonny: A crab-apple tree and surrounding plants will be planted at the entrance to CGH later in January in tribute to John and funded by his wife Sheila.

Church Floor Repairs: Areas of the church floor have become uneven, particularly the heating gratings and these will need repairing over the year.

² Community Infrastructure Levy

Refurbishment of CGH: It is proposed that we carry out a refurbishment project in CGH and this will include reordering the entrance, reconfiguring the toilets, replacing the fire doors to the garden and repainting the hall. As this work will be quite expensive, circa £60,000, we will need the assistance of additional funding, and it is proposed that we will again look for CIL funding as well as other funding streams.

CGH Hall Lighting: We have had a number of lighting failures in the hall and the current LED lights are very expensive to replace. We are currently exploring whether we can replace these with cheaper lights as they fail.

Church Notice Boards: Now that the 'legal process' in the appointment of our clergy (Mike et al) is complete we will install new, low maintenance, church notice boards.

Cupboards in CGH Office: New cupboards will shortly be fitted in CGH office to house a number of new policy documents etc, that are being generated by our Standing Committee.

Lychgate: The gates at the Lychgate have fallen into disrepair and it is proposed that we will refurbish them this year.

Garden Tidy Up: We will again be looking for volunteers to assist with a general tidy-up in both the churchyard and CGH garden as well as assistance with drain and gutter clearing.

Many thanks to the members of the Property Committee and other members of the congregation that actively support the maintenance of our beautiful church premises, so that we can all continue to enjoy them in the years to come.

Safeguarding

Report by Wendy Jane Gray

Events over the past year or so have lifted safeguarding significantly up the agenda of many bodies that are involved with not just children, but also vulnerable adults, and the Church of England is no exception. As the governing body of the Parish, every member of the PCC is personally responsible for ensuring that safeguarding is upheld to the highest standards. The PCC is completely on board about this and undertakes an annual safeguarding audit, which is submitted to the Diocese.

In the past year there have been two safeguarding training events at St Andrew's, attended by a number of church people, including most PCC members. However, training is an ongoing requirement, as the Church - and the community generally - raises the bar on this important and sensitive issue. The Worship Committee are working on the implementation of Risk assessment for all church activities. This is in accordance with national and Diocesan policy and guidance. Risk assessment is already in place for youth activities. As Safeguarding Officer with responsibility for the administration of safeguarding matters under the PCC, I recently attended an excellent training course organised by the Diocese. Despite having been involved in safeguarding matters for four years, I was made to realise how much we all need to raise our game on safeguarding, so that St Andrew's may truly become a place that is safe and welcoming for all.

On the opposite page are two tables showing safeguarding training relevant to job roles within the church. The training has been updated within the last year. Training is valid for three years; however with the recent update I found renewing a module early to be informative and empowering.

Safeguarding Training Pathway √= Required Training

Job Role	E-LEARNING CORE		FACE-TO-FACE CORE		FACE TO FACE SPECIALIST	
	Basic Awareness	Foundation	Basic Awareness/ Foundation	Leadership	Safer Recruitment If involved in recruiting church officers	Domestic Abuse
Licensed Clergy	√	√	OR	√	√	√
Phase 1 (IME 1-3)	√	√	OR	√ Year 2	X	X Year 3
Phase 2 (IME 4-7)	X	X	OR	X	√	√
Clergy with PtO (in active ministry) LLM with PtO	√	√	OR	√	X	√
Authorised Pastoral Assistant/ Authorised Occasional Preacher	√	√	OR	√	√	√
LLM/ LLM with PtO	√	√	OR	√	X	√
Spiritual Director	√	√	OR	√	X	√
Refreshed every 3 years by completing the highest previous level of core training in the diocese.					Refreshed every 3 years.	

[Note: LLM = Licensed Lay Minister; IME = Initial Ministerial Education; PtO = Permission to Officiate]

Safeguarding Training Pathway √= Required Training

Job Role	E LEARNING CORE		FACE TO FACE CORE		E-LEARNING/FACE TO FACE	FACE TO FACE
	Basic Awareness	Foundation	Basic Awareness/ Foundation	Leadership	Safer Recruitment	Domestic Abuse
PCC members where PCCs sponsor/approve children/vulnerable adult activities	√	X	OR	√	√ If involved in recruiting church officers	X
Churchwarden Church Operations Manager	√	√	OR	√	√ If involved in recruiting church officers	Recommended (best practice)
Parish Safeguarding Officer; PCC Safeguarding Lead	√	√	OR	√	√	√
Employed Youth and Children's and Families Ministers	√	√	OR	√	√	√
Activity Leaders involving children, young people and/or adults (including Home Group leaders)	√	√	OR	√	√ If involved in recruiting church officers	Recommended (best practice)
Lay worker with pastoral responsibilities or working with children or adults at risk.	√	√	OR	√	X	√
Refreshed every 3 years by completing the highest previous level of core training in the diocese.					Refreshed every 3 years	

Welcome Committee

Report by David Greenwood

Following last year's PCC, a newly reformed Welcome Committee was set up, comprising David Greenwood (Chair), Elaine Bray, Kim Constable, Revd Moni Babatunde and Revd

Mike Branscombe. The overall remit is "To ensure we welcome on Jesus' behalf all who come to St Andrew's Church and Church Gate House". Just a little task then, but it is a different approach from that of the previous committee with the same name. We are seeking to promote a welcoming culture and

awareness throughout all church activities and beyond.

The most visible action in 2019 was the setting up of a team of people to be Welcomers at all the Christmas events, mostly those run by outside organisations. Their presence was much appreciated. Two training sessions were held, focussing on the theology behind why we need to be welcoming.

We will be continuing with this through the year, and would like to add a few more people to the pool of volunteers, so speak to Elaine, Mike or myself if you would like to join.

Behind the scenes, we are looking at "role descriptions" for all our volunteer activities,

incorporating an element of Welcoming as well as being clearer on expectations and whether any training is needed. We started with the Sunday Coffee team, which is still in the process of roll out. Alongside this, we are producing Risk Assessments for these activities. We did one for the Christmas events and will be going on to look at others. So whatever you are involved in in church or CGH, please think "visitor": think how we can ensure that visitors feel welcome here, and how they can sense the love of God amongst us.

CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

Bellringers

Report by Peter Bound, Tower Captain.

Ringling during 2019 has had its highs and lows, in that our members are busy people and this has meant on a few occasions no ringling.

However, the two new members mentioned in last year's report are now fully trained and developing their knowledge of the early stages of method ringling.

We are very grateful for their support.

Ringling every Sunday continues to be a challenge, also practice night.

We have eight regular ringlers.

We are pleased to report during the year we gained three new learners.

They are all doing extremely well in learning the art of handling the ropes. Our tower is not an easy tower to learn bellringling, but once learnt carries a talented skill when ringling at other towers.

Heritage Day was a successful day for the ringlers. Our continued theme of have **a go at ringling a bell** was warmly welcomed by all ages. Handbell demonstrations were watched by many and people joined in taking hold of a handbell and making a tune.

We are continuing to promote handbell practice to improve our repertoire.

The team enjoyed taking part in the Crib service, thanks to the Crib coordinator for including the team.

We have enjoyed doing live demonstrations to St Andrew's School pupils when they visit the church. In the long term it may encourage a young person in the future to take up ringling! We continue as a band, as will the ringling

fraternity nationwide, to encourage interest in ringling and hope 2020 continues well for all our members throughout the year.

Anyone wishing to get involved in church bell ringling or interested in handbell ringling please contact Peter Bound, Captain, via the church office.

Church Cleaners

Report by Mabs Ostley

Church cleaning is a weekly visit to the church and grateful thanks must be given to the people who committed to maintaining the cleaning of it during 2019.

Going forward, I write this report of behalf of the team, but confirm I have been unable to participate during the year and am standing down as a member from January 2020.

More members are urgently required to join the team, as volunteers are depleted.

Church Flowers

Report by Mabs Ostley

The team of flower arrangers were kept busy during 2019.

Flowers have filled the church throughout the year. Putting together wedding arrangements, when requested by bridal couples, were enjoyed by the team.

Ten members work the roster yearly working around the church calendar and its events.

We do require new members. Existing members of the team are very willing to mentor and provide tips to any persons interested in joining the team if they have no experience. You do work on your own, but is very flexible to suit individual commitments.

If interested in joining the team, please contact Mabs Ostley, via the church office.

Heritage Day

Report by Keith Baird and Sue Kilpatrick

It was felt our church should involve as many community groups as possible in Cobham to help celebrate Heritage Day at the church. To this end, it was agreed to hold a Flower Festival and what a success it was. Fifteen local groups and schools took part in the Festival and provided beautiful flower arrangements which adorned every window ledge in the church. The arrangements remained in situ for almost a fortnight and the beautiful scent from the flowers pervaded the whole church.

Within the Church family, every facet of the church's work was involved, including the Choir, Flower Arrangers, Bellringers, Eco-Church (whose artificial arrangement was made from waste material), Kids' Church, Prayer Group, Family Magazine, along with the main charities the church supports - Christians Against Poverty, OM Nepal, the Garden Route and Cobham Area Foodbank. Excellent food was provided all day! Students from the Yehudi Menuhin School gave a concert.

A steady stream of visitors came to the church all day, and lots of children went home, clutching flower arrangements they had been helped to make.

Friday Lunch Club

Report by Jenny Masters

I am happy to say that the lunch club is still going strong. We cater for around 30/35 people each month, and we are still able to offer a two-course meal at the price of £3.00 per person.

I am sorry to report that after four years Gill Sharp has now decided to retire from helping me. I am most grateful to her not only for all her help and advice over the last few years but also for her valued friendship. I am happy and delighted to say that Jenny Vickers has volunteered to work with me in the future.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Judy Brickett and friends who help every month to set up the tables and help with clearing away after the meal. I could not manage without them.

Mothers' Union

Report by Jenny Vickers

Sadly, we lost two very loyal members during 2019. Diane Sorley died suddenly in March.

Although she had been a member for only a relatively short time, she had played a very active part within our branch. Margaret Journeaux died in July. Margaret was enrolled as a member in 1968. She had held different positions within the MU including that of branch leader. She was delighted when, having been a member for 40 years, she received her long service certificate. During the last few years she had been what we call an Indoor Member and then a Twilight Member.

We have had a variety of speakers during the year. In June we went to East Horsley where Renos gave us a short history of St Martin's Church. We were shown the Lovelace Mausoleum and then while we enjoyed a very good tea, Renos spoke to us about his life as Rector at St Martin's.

In July we invited members from the other branches within the Deanery to join us for our summer tea party. It was the hottest day of the year, but somehow we managed to host the afternoon without flagging! The theme was "Souvenirs", and members and visitors shared memories relating to the souvenirs they brought with them. December saw us enjoying our Christmas lunch at Church Gate House.

Anne Brown did a lovely flower arrangement on behalf of the MU for Heritage Day

Some of us attended the Lady Day Service at the Cathedral, the annual birthday service and tea at Ashtead, and Oxshott's summer garden tea party. We had a tour of the vineyard at Denbies on a wet and windy day, followed by tea and cake and the opportunity to shop. Our final outing as a group was to Chessington Garden Centre where we enjoyed looking round the various items on sale and had refreshments in the café.

We welcomed family, friends and members of St Andrew's and St Mary's to join us on our visits to Chartwell & Emmetts Gardens, Frogmore and the Fairfield Hall for the John Rutter "Celebrating Christmas".

We have continued to hold "T4U" every other month where we offer people the opportunity to come together for a chat and tea & cake.

We are grateful to the clergy team for supporting us by taking our short service before our meetings.

We are always pleased to welcome guests to our meetings. Our programme is on display in the Church porch and notice of all meetings appears in the pew sheet.

Music Report 2019

Report by David Fuge, Music Ministry Leader

The Choir currently numbers nine at full strength which is two more than this time last year. There are also some very capable singers who join us occasionally when the Choir is singing an anthem. I'm hoping that with the reintroduction of regular anthem singing that we will see more of them in the coming year!

The Choir is still reliant on too few people, who are incredibly dedicated and work very hard to prepare and lead the worship, and we are always striving to attract new members. When I returned to St Andrew's in March, I said that I believed that the Choir, in addition to its spiritual life, had to be a more social and fun environment which would encourage people to join. I believe that the Choir is moving in the right direction, and everyone can see and hear that displayed on Sunday mornings. I'm hoping that we can put on some musical evenings in the future both for the church and wider community, where people can see the enjoyment and fellowship that the Choir enjoy and feel led to join.

If you do know of anyone who might be interested in singing regularly with the St Andrew's Choir, or maybe you are interested yourself, please do get in touch. You don't have to be a musical galactico to join and you don't have to be able to read music. The only real criterion is that you can sing in tune!

Choir Practices have returned to Friday evenings from 8pm to 9.30pm.

The Music Group has expanded both in size and in the number of occasions on which it joins in with leading worship. As well as playing at Family Worship services every month, we now enjoy having instruments taking part where appropriate during Communion services, which is encouraging.

Mike Branscombe provides lead vocals and rhythm guitar for Family Worship and occasionally at Communion services when commitments allow, and piano/synth, saxophone, flute, bass guitar, percussion and drums make up the rest of the band. I'm very grateful to all the band for their time and commitment.

The Music Group normally rehearses on the Saturday afternoon prior to Family Worship and at 9am on a Sunday, but we are looking at increasing our get togethers to give us more time to experiment and become more musically familiar with each other.

SAY Choir is in a healthy state at the moment having been relaunched last September.

We now have 11 members from combining SAY Choir with the Cabin Choir (so named because they met in the log cabin in our garden for 2 years!).

The young people are a very lively group who put incredible enthusiasm into all they do. They have made a great impression and their contribution to Heritage Day, Family Worship services, the Crib service and the Spire Appeal launch evening have been appreciated by all who have heard them.

I'd like say a huge thank you to my wife, Louise, who runs the SAY Choir and has such a great rapport with the children and gets them singing so well, and also to Alison Greenwood who helps out at practices every week.

The Musical Year

For Good Friday, Cathy Whitnall devised a service of readings and music entitled *The Passion of Christ: Prophecy and Fulfilment*. This began with the singing of the plainsong *Crux Fidelis* from the Memorial Chapel and set the tone for a reflective and very moving evening. The Choir was joined by friends, to sing, amongst others, movements from *Messiah*, a deeply affecting rendition of *Psalms* 22, and a wonderful and heartfelt setting by Dan Forrest of the words of *And can it be*. In between the music, Nigel and Helen Goddard read from the books of the prophets, followed by passages from the Gospels which demonstrated how the prophecies of the Messiah were fulfilled.

Over the course of the year, Mike Branscombe and I have met regularly to choose music for our services. The result has been a blend of traditional and modern music, always with a relevance to the day's theme and readings. Mike has brought songs new to St Andrew's and St Andrew's has introduced songs new to Mike, and it is proving to be a fruitful collaboration.

We have reintroduced a Processional Hymn to begin our Communion services. It was felt that it made a better and more positive start than the Choir drifting up to the choir stalls at 9.55 am and then singing a "gathering song" which often got lost in the hustle and bustle before the service.

On Heritage Day we presented a half hour "come and sing" event which involved all our musical resources. It was the first event at which the relaunched SAY Choir sang and they did really well, singing pieces on their own

and combining with the adult Choir. As well as some well-known traditional hymns, the Music Group accompanied some worship songs and, overall, it was a good representation of what happens in the musical life of St Andrew's. Happily, there were a good number of people to hear, and join in with what we did and it was very well received.

On Remembrance Sunday, the Choir sang *Agnus Dei* by Karl Jenkins, and *Greater love* by John Ireland. They were joined by a handful of extra singers, one of whom landed at Heathrow at 7.15 am and came straight to the church for the pre-service rehearsal. We are always grateful to our regular guest singers for their enthusiasm to join us and without them some of the music we sing at occasions such as Remembrance would be impossible to do.

The Nine Lessons and Carols was another wonderful service and had a joyous atmosphere surrounding it. As usual, there was a blend of well-known and not so well known carols sung by the Choir and congregational Christmas hymns for all to join in. The Choir was joined by many of our regular extras, and it was good to welcome Will Dutton back to sing the solo part in *The Three Kings*.

The Crib Service, just two days later, provided a great opportunity for the younger musicians of St Andrew's to lead the worship. SAY Choir sang their hearts out, starting the service with *Mary did you know?* and ending with *Feliz navidad* as everyone left – well, that was the plan, but most of the congregation seemed to want to stay and dance! The children led the congregational carols really strongly and, for those carols, the very large congregation were led, in addition to the organ, by Jacob Costard on the piano, William Wilde on the trumpet, and Falashade Martin on her flute. They all did really well. Jacob and William also played some festive pieces before and after the service and it was wonderful to see the youth of the church playing such a huge part in what is always quite an eventful and well attended service.

Midnight Holy Communion featured a much smaller choir but, even with just one singer on certain parts, the Choir still sang an anthem and led the congregation well. The Christmas Day Family Service was well attended and was a very relaxed affair and, again, the Choir did well in leading another large congregation.

Looking ahead, our Good Friday offering in 2020 will be an evening of readings, poetry and music to help us to reflect again on the

Passion of Christ. By spending time at the foot of the Cross, our Easter celebration will be all the more meaningful and uplifting.

I would like to finish by thanking all the musicians for their commitment to the Music Ministry at St Andrew's. They all work incredibly hard to further God's work in this place and to encourage everyone who enters in their worship. Special thanks to Cathy Whitnall, who has led the adult Choir so well over the year. Also, to Kevin Ayton, Jacob Costard and Tim Slack who have stood in for me when I have had weekends off.

I came back to St Andrew's as Music Ministry Leader, rather than Director of Music, and I see this as an opportunity to build a team of people, all involved in furthering God's work in St Andrew's through the music. It is, and always will be, a work in progress, but the past year has, especially with the emergence of the younger generation of musicians, given a glimpse of what might be in the future and that in an evolutionary (rather than revolutionary) way the music ministry in this place is gradually evolving. If you feel that you have a musical gift to offer and would like to join the team, then please do get in touch.

Church Gate House Welcome Area

Report by Elaine Bray

The Welcome Area in Church Gate House is run by team of wonderful Welcomers, every weekday morning. Visitors to Church Gate House are greeted with a smile and an offer of delicious coffee. This is particularly helpful when events are being held in both the lounge and the hall during the morning, and the office is hidden from view, it saves guests walking into an empty room and not knowing where to go! The team also offer a welcome by having time to sit and talk over coffee. Enormous thanks to everyone who participates in the welcome team rota.

Church Watching

Report by Elaine Bray

A team of dedicated and wonderful volunteers help to keep the Church open for visitors outside the normal service times. On a Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday mornings the team open the Church between 11am and 1pm and welcome visitors. A huge thank you to everyone in this team who helps to keep the Church doors open.

The number of visitors varies throughout the year depending on the weather - a lovely sunny day always draws more people. We have welcomed people from far and wide, from

USA, Australia, Germany, and near and far in the UK. Some people will want to quietly spend some time with God, others will be researching family members, others admiring the building and windows and others wanting a full historical briefing.

During the Summer of 2019 we participated in the Cobham Crown Jewels programme in

conjunction with CCHT and were open for a Sunday afternoon at the same time as Cobham Mill and St Mary's. An enormous thank you to the team, including Mike, our Vicar, who helped to keep the Church open on those Sunday afternoons.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Child safeguarding policy

Report by Wendy Jane Gray

Principles

"We are committed to:

- The care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children and all adults
- The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is a culture of 'informed vigilance' as to the dangers of abuse."

(Quotation from: "**Protecting All God's Children**" - **The Policy for Safeguarding Children in the Church of England 4th edition 2010**)

Our new volunteer youth worker, Pearl Addobea, is about to complete her safeguarding training with one module to go on March 7th. All children's activities have a risk assessment completed in advance and kept on file. We have a designated Children's champion who is someone other than the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO), looking out for the needs of children and youth. Our children's champion at St Andrews is Lyn Turner-Saunders. If there are any potential concerns about the safety or welfare of children, then these are discussed with the PSO and potentially the Diocesan safeguarding team who are ready to provide advice and guidance. All those working with children and youth are DBS checked and safer recruitment practices are in place for those recruited to lead.

Children, Young People and Families

Report by Pearl Addoba Agypakwa, Children and Youth Minister

My service as a youth worker began in September 2019, taking over from our

previous youth worker Esther Hunt. Kids' Church continued to meet on Sunday at 10 am, and still meets at the same time, with the exception of the first Sunday of the month for Family Worship. Kids' Church is still growing with new families joining us throughout the year. The team of leaders for 'Little Fishes', is still led by Lynn Turner-Saunders, with Carrie Taylor leading 'Waves' team for infants and Alison Wilde team leading 'Anchors' for junior children. Esther and Elaine Bray met with the teenagers for 'Discipleship', and they joined in the main worship service once a month, until I took over.

Lyn Moreno leads the team of registration volunteers. In December 2019, we had 51 children registered, with about 25 attending each week. Our Family Worship Service, which happens once a month, continues to involve the children and youth in St Andrew's Church, together with the Faith Ambassadors Club from the St Andrew's School, in prayer, singing and reading. A holiday club was held during Easter on the theme 'Seaside' - based on the disciple Peter's story. Over three days the church was full of fun, games, joy and great Bible teaching. Children from the church and across the community came along.

In October we held our second "Sparkle Party", which provided an opportunity to share the light and Good News of Jesus to 30 children in our community. The party was lots of fun, with food, games and activities, stories and fireworks. For St Andrew's Day, we had an intergenerational event 'St Andrew's Family' with games, quizzes, collage and craft followed by fish and chips. This was a great time of fun and fellowship for the youngest to the oldest, as a whole Church family.

In December we had our Kids' Church Christmas Party and rehearsals for the Crib Service. Again this was a fantastic celebration with the young people. This year we had a great Crib Service led by the children, young people and the Clergy. There was a Christmas message from Revd Moni Babatunde, with Carrie Taylor writing down the nativity story.

Our Wednesday morning Baby Talk continues to be led by Elaine Bray with help from myself. It attracts lots of young families in our community. Thank you to Mabs Ostley for her commitment and support to this wonderful group. Our Christmas Party was also held in December. We and the families that attended really appreciated it. It's my prayer that the children and families work at St Andrew's continues to grow and flourish as more loving leaders volunteer to serve with Kids' Church. We would be grateful for more hands volunteering to be part of this vital and valuable ministry in the Church.

In view of this we would like to thank all the volunteers who made the Holiday Club, Sparkle Party and Christmas such a joy and a success. I would like to say, 'thank you' to all who led, helped and were involved in Kids' Church in 2019; your worth is really valued and well honoured. Youth Ministry continues to meet each Tuesday evening, with the young people from St Andrew's church coming to the flat at Church Gate House, and we look forward to growing our relationship and faith in God during 2020.

To Elaine, Carrie, Alison, Lynn, Michelle, Wendy Jane, Mel, Linda, Suzannah, Christina, Alyson, Marianne, Lyn, Liz, Lynsey, Sam, Kennedy and Shirley I say 'Thank You' for your commitment, example, hard work and for making Kids' Church such a wonderful place for the youngsters to know more of Jesus. And again 'Thank you' to Revd. Mike Branscombe, Revd. Moni Babatunde, Elaine, Carrie and Helen Goddard for helping with discipleship on Tuesday evenings.

Our young people are treasures to God, to us and also an asset to our Church, I am privileged and honoured by God and the people of St Andrew's church for the opportunity to serve and lead a purposeful generation of Kingdom assets and vessels, to journey with them, watch them grow in faith and to be well natured plants and pillars to their generation. May we continue to pray for the children, families and youth in our Church and community, as we anticipate what God has in store for 2020.

FAITH AND SOCIAL ACTION PROJECTS

Christians Against Poverty

Report by Charleen Hollington

In a world of increasing consumer debt, Christians Against Poverty (CAP) continues to provide a lifeline to people who are overwhelmed by their debt. In fact, so great has the demand for CAP's services been that the organization itself was becoming overwhelmed and declared a 'Time to Breathe' moratorium on new clients lasting several months, in order to allow it to catch up on its work.

Bookham Baptist Church is the CAP 'partner church' for the Mole Valley, and St Andrew's continues not only to meet its annual commitment of £1,200 but in 2019 once again made an additional payment of £800. We have two befrienders still 'in the field' - Elaine Bray and Charleen Hollington - who support CAP clients. However, there have been no new clients in Cobham for some time, for reasons that remain obscure.

This Christmas, once again, the congregation contributed very generously to the family of four and the single lady whom we support. The young family in question have now paid off £41,000 from a debt of approximately £60,000.

Following the success of last year's expedition to the Leatherhead Panto at Christmas, CAP Mole Valley once again bought tickets to the show for all their clients. 55 people attended the panto; each child once again received an individually purchased gift (thanks to St Mary's in Fetcham), and each family received a hamper of groceries.

CAP Mole Valley is still without a Debt Centre Manager. A replacement for Fran Pyatt was found, but unfortunately he could not continue in the role. The steering committee is about to interview candidates for the role, and we hope to have someone in place very soon.

Cobham and Area Foodbank

Report by Hugh Bryant

This has been a challenging year for the Foodbank. We provided 2,885 parcels of food and household basics such as toiletries, nappies and pet food, 1,813 adult parcels and 1,072 for children. The previous year's figures were 1,591 parcels for adults and 929 for children, so demand grew by 14.48%.

We cover Cobham, Oxshott, Stoke D'Abernon, Downside, the Horsleys and Effingham. Everyone who finds themselves unable to buy food needs to obtain a voucher from one of the people or agencies whom we have appointed to verify each client's need. We provide food

without question to anyone who presents our voucher. Our records show that inadequate income, debt, various benefit-related problems (such as the five-week hiatus when Universal Credit is first provided) and sickness are the main reasons.

Our biggest challenge this year has been because our wonderful supporters at Cobham Methodist Church, where we operated our distribution centre every Friday since December 2013, amalgamated with the United Reformed Church in Cobham, to form the United Church.

The Methodist Church was sold, and we moved our distribution to the United Church, out of the centre of the village in Stoke Road, at the end of August.

There were significant costs associated with this, chiefly in order to provide suitable storage at the new venue, and our distribution day had to change to Tuesday, still from midday till 1.30pm.

We have tried to make the new distribution centre accessible, by hiring a minibus and driver from Elmbridge Community Transport and offering a free transfer from the bus stop opposite Waitrose in Cobham to the United Church every ten minutes. This is not wholly satisfactory, as people still have to get home from the bus stop, often with around 40kgs of food. Therefore only a small number of people have used the bus, and many more have relied on lifts from friends.

At the end of 2018 we replaced our Mercedes-Benz Sprinter van with a similar, but newer, van, and we have benefitted from the greater economy and uprated equipment of the newer vehicle.

We have continued to use a warehouse at Brook Willow Farm, Leatherhead, which has been variously almost empty and bursting with over 6 tonnes of food. We wish that the landlord would make up the access road, which is often potholed and muddy. Our dedicated warehouse team receive the food and other items donated as it is delivered to the warehouse by our van, weigh, mark the expiry dates and sort it on the shelves. Then they make up bags, following a nutritionist's prescription, containing items sufficient to provide a balanced diet for a person for a week. If we run out of prescribed items, we buy them in.

The van collects the pre-prepared bags of food on Tuesday morning and takes it to the distribution centre. There each week a team of specially trained volunteers sets up a 'pop-up

café' and distributes to clients as they present their vouchers. Clients are invited to have some refreshment while they wait for their food, and are 'signposted' to literature describing possible ways to improve their situations, such as the work of Christians Against Poverty. There is usually fresh bread, generously donated by The Bakery in Cobham, and fresh fruit and vegetables, donated by Waitrose under the Fare Share scheme.

Our van crew go round the various places where there are collecting bins - all the local churches, plus Waitrose and the small Sainsbury's on Cobham High Street - three times a week. We also benefit from ad hoc collections by churches, schools and community groups for harvest festival and 'reverse Advent', together with collections outside Waitrose every few weeks. We are always amazed by how generous everyone is, and extend sincere thanks.

We are well-supported financially, by the two St Andrew's churches in Oxshott and Cobham, by St Mary's Stoke D'Abernon, St Martin's East Horsley, by various local businesses including Downs Solicitors and Richard Stewart Williams (Aston Martin) Ltd. We also have received generous support from Elmbridge Borough Council from their Community Infrastructure Levy and otherwise, from Waitrose through their Community Matters 'green tidlywink' scheme, and from Trussell Trust from their Asda funding, and a number of generous individuals. We are very grateful to all who have given to the Foodbank.

Garden Route Children's Trust

Report by Paul Hurrell

The Garden Route Children's Trust (GRCT) is a UK registered Christian charity founded in 2006 to assist with funding a feeding project set up for under-privileged primary school children in the impoverished Eastern Cape area of South Africa. The e'Pap Children's Feeding Project initially fed a few hundred children in a township near the coastal town of Knysna, while today it feeds approximately 5,000 children in the area and remains the GRCT's main beneficiary. e'Pap is a highly nutritious porridge which is a pre-cooked blend of maize, soya, vitamins and minerals. It costs about £25 to feed one child a meal of e'Pap every school day for a year.

In recent years the GRCT has extended its reach beyond Knysna in a systematic and pragmatic manner and it is currently providing meals for over 6,500 children every day. As the charity expanded it became necessary to

introduce both standardised application and reporting forms. The beneficiaries are expected to complete the latter twice per year. The impact on the children continues to be inspiring and regular reports are received from teachers regarding improved health and concentration levels, higher levels of energy, fewer absences from school, and ultimately better quality school work.

The regions where GRCT is now actively involved are:

Knysna. Has several new schools and crèches including Sivuyela School for deaf children run by a committed lady, who is herself deaf, and her husband. Around 100 volunteers work in the Knysna area to ensure e'Pap is distributed efficiently. It has recently been agreed to begin a new feeding programme in George which is the largest town in the Garden Route region. This will come on stream in 2020.

Port Elizabeth – Missionvale and Walmer Township. GRCT funds e'Pap and midday sandwiches for 256 children at Missionvale in an area where unemployment is estimated at 80%.

Hout Bay (Cape Town). The feeding schemes are managed by local Rotarians and 370 children are now receiving daily meals of e'Pap.

Kleinmond (Cape Town). Six new schools have around 350 children and are managed by the local Rotary Club

Ermelo. A new scheme feeding 43 children at Vulinqondo Day Care Centre.

Vryburg. The outreach of Tigerkloof School at the soup kitchen called The Hem

Conversations are taking place with at least two more Rotary Clubs to extend GRCT's involvement into new areas within Western and Eastern Cape.

In addition to the feeding schemes the charity also funds projects such as development programmes for boys out of school and unemployed, providing for painted playgrounds, school furniture and essential school accessories.

Several successful fundraising activities took place in 2019 and the GRCT ended the year in a positive cash position. The activities included, among others, an exhibition squash match at the Oxshott Sports centre, two sponsored runners in the London Marathon, the Archdeacon running on behalf of GRCT in the Surrey half marathon, the annual BBQ,

and the annual Coffee and Sale morning which itself raised over £2,000 for the charity.

St Andrews Church gave a single donation of £2,000, which was gratefully received by the GRCT Trustees.

The GRCT is blessed with a close-knit group of Trustees who have strong Christian values and are united by prayer and passion for the success of the charity. The coming year promises to be another productive and rewarding period in the history of the charity.

Operation Mobilisation – Nepal

Report by Peter Kelly

The year of 2019 brought growth and success, but challenge and recommitment to the partner Operation Mobilisation, both in its global mission and in the country of Nepal, where our partnership is based.

On the humanitarian and local care side, OM Nepal expanded its outreach efforts and we started 2019 on an upbeat note; sharing with the congregation in February that through OM local activities in Nepal, the most recent year had seen 6,000 Kg of food grown at the Nepal OM Shilo Farm and 100% distributed to Nepali families, 500 villagers had gone through agriculture training, there had been 38,000 gospel distributions, 5,000 house visits, 300 new believers, and 20 new churches had been formed. We learned that the new Holistic AidsLink programme had been implemented and that services were in regular delivery to over 3,000 people!

At the same time, we committed to prayer for the welfare of the OM Nepal workers as the ramifications of anti-proselytising legislation were yet to be known, and simmering border conflicts with China and India made life potentially perilous for all living in the country. We shared with the congregation in the early months of 2019 our intention to visit again the OM ministry in Nepal in the autumn, pending a favourable resolution of in-country political matters.

At mid-summer, our St Andrew's team bid good-bye to John Kreisa and family, who had been so instrumental in our fundraising and planning for our Nepal trip. Given John's departure and our desire to see the resolution of local political matters in Nepal, we postponed our trip to either 2020 or 2021, but confirmed to local Nepal staff our prayerful support and desire to partner with them in their important work.

This partnership commitment was put to the test in the autumn of 2019 when two local OM

Nepali workers died whilst making a trek during (what turned out to be) a freak and unforecasted Himalayan storm. Our St Andrews OM team as well as our Faith and Social Action team were in constant communication with the local OM Nepal team as search and rescue efforts were underway. Despite a 40+ year accident-free record of ministry and outreach, the local OM team worked with great professionalism (and compassion) and the local OM government were tremendously supportive in their deployment of emergency personnel. The OM Nepal team took a prolonged time to evaluate all their planning, personnel, trek procedures, and emergency response measures and they have implemented measures to assure future teams will be equipped to handle this type of situation.

Despite this tragedy, the OM team remains unified and committed to serving the needs of the people of Nepal. Our St Andrew's Nepal Partnership team were greatly impressed by the way they honoured the legacy of their team members whilst still focusing on the task at hand – the delivery of humanitarian actions which speak so loudly the truth of the love of God for every person alive.

We ended the year by affirming our commitment to OM Nepal and deferring any planning of a visit until at least 2021. Instead, we confirmed plans to welcome a worker from OM Nepal to St Andrew's in late 2020 so that all in the congregation may feel and experience the excitement of the life-changing work being done by the OM team in Nepal.

Social Concerns Forum

Chaired by David Taylor

The Social Concerns Forum purpose is to bring together those for whom social action is an important outworking of the Christian faith, and with the aim of encouraging understanding of eh issues and support across the wider church community. Whilst the focus is on the areas which the PCC has chosen to support, all those either engaged, or interested, in other areas of social concern are encouraged to attend.

The Forum meets on an ad hoc basis two or three time a year after Morning Service and its meetings are announced in Weekly Notes, and by the clergy orally, and are open to all members of St Andrew's.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Bible Society

Report by Jenny Vickers

We held a supper & quiz evening in November in aid of the Bible Society. It differed from the previous ones as we served a ploughman's supper instead of a cooked meal. This was prepared by Jenny Masters, Gill Sharp, and Paul & Rosie Masters. Members of the congregation kindly provided the lemon meringue pies. Fruit juice was provided, but those who wished to brought their own wine.

We had seven tables each with 8 contestants. The quizzes were based on flowers, countries, birds, food & drink, bridges of London and a set of brain teasers. The table top questions done during the meal were about dogs and rivers of the UK.

The winning team were "Mums Know Best" most of whom are involved in the youth work at St Andrews.

The event raised £815 bringing the total raised since the quizzes started in 2003 to £14,468.

Churches Together in Cobham. Oxshott & Stoke D'Abernon

Report by Geoff Morris

St Andrew's appointed representatives on the Committee of Cobham Churches Together are the Clergy, Geoffrey Morris and Keith Baird. Leonard Beighton is the Treasurer.

Despite efforts to reorganise, the Committee has not met formally since the resignation of Godfrey Hilliard as Chairman.

In past years, the view of the Committee was that the Churches should not do things separately if we could do them together.

Some events have continued through 'inertia', including:

- carol singing before Christmas
- vigil round the cross on Good Friday
- an ecumenical service in January
- interdenominational Lent groups in alternate years
- Other activities have fallen by the wayside, including:

- Projects for joint Alpha groups and 'Junior Alpha'
- A joint calendar of Christmas services, jointly distributed to every house
- Joint youth and children's activities

Two projects which began in Churches Together have flourished and now have their own reports:

- Messy Church
- The Food Bank

End Isolation at Christmas - our Christmas Community Lunch

Report by Shirley Mensah and Hugh Bryant

For the fifth year running, St Andrew's, Waitrose, and the Cobham and Cobham Area Foodbank combined to put on a Christmas lunch on Christmas Day in Church Gate House - turkey, ham, all the trimmings after canapés and prosecco, followed by Christmas pudding and cheese and coffee as we watched the Queen at 3 o'clock on the big screen.

As before, with Shirley Mensah's inspiration and Elaine Bray's invitations, and the kitchen team led by our wonderful chef Doug Simpkins, plus capable support from a good team of volunteers, not forgetting all those who cooked a turkey and brought it to church in the morning, were well up to the task of feeding our biggest crowd yet: we lost count, especially when over 20 of our newest local residents, refugees from Syria, arrived at the last minute - but we think that over 90 people were able to enjoy the occasion.

We had anticipated our new Syrian friends' arrival, and Doug had ensured that we were able to offer proper Halal versions of the traditional fare. We understand that the key thing was for Doug to produce a Halal version of his famous gravy, which he duly did, to great appreciation.

The philosophy behind the lunch is that it is primarily for people who would otherwise be on their own at home, without a nice turkey to enjoy, for whatever reason: but we have found that if we advertise it as being for those on their own or unable to afford it, people are too proud, or too embarrassed, to come, as no-one wants to be known as Billy No Mates! Therefore we offer the lunch without charge, which we are able to do because of Waitrose's splendid £600 donation and many people's generous gifts of food - 9 turkeys this year - to anyone who would like to come, without

qualification. We offer lifts for those without transport too.

Biblical parallels have to be slightly reimagined, as although Jesus, with his signature dish of honeycomb and broiled fish (Luke 24:42, KJV) was way ahead of Heston's snail porridge, He doesn't seem to have eaten any turkey; nevertheless, what with manna from heaven and the five (or four) loaves and two fishes, never mind the Last Supper, it would seem to be a good Christian thing to eat well together, and we hope that everyone felt the Holy Spirit working among us - alongside Father Christmas too, perhaps. FC was certainly there, and everyone received a present.

As in previous years, we plan to have an Easter High Tea on Low Saturday, to which all who came at Christmas will be invited. Watch this space for more details!

Elmbridge Multifaith Forum

Report by Geoff Morris

The Aims of the Forum are:

1. To help people to understand, respect and enjoy each other's faiths and philosophies.
2. To provide information, arrange visits, talks, projects and discussions, and participate in the activities of each other's faiths.
3. To work with people of other faiths and beliefs for the benefit of local and global communities

We do not aim to 'convert, persuade or argue, but to listen, ask questions and learn about other religions and talk frankly about our own. We believe it important to have refreshments together at our events

Newsletters, 'Insights into Faiths' booklets and Membership application forms are available from Geoff Morris or Leonard Beighton.

Highlights of 2019-20 were:

- On Tuesday, 12th February, at Brooklands College, we participated in a training meeting led by Kayte Cable. The participants were young refugees hosted by the Borough of Elmbridge. The EMF members circulated round groups of four refugees, answering any questions that they had about life in the UK. All shared a lunch provided by EMF and listened briefly to a very moving talk given by a holocaust survivor.

- On Tuesday, 19th February, a group of 16 EMF members were welcomed to the West London Synagogue, where we were shown around by Rabbi Helen Freeman. A full description of this visit can be obtained from Geoff Morris.
- The AGM was held at St John's Church Walton on Thames on Tuesday 25th June. It was followed by a discussion on "Connecting with God" led by Anthony Sheppard (North West Surrey Synagogue) with Rev. Sarb Klair (St. Nicholas' Church, Thames Ditton) and Kauser Akhtar (Woking Mosque)
- On 19th June, we attended the 'Interfaith Supper', hosted by the Bishop of Guildford at Willow Grange.
- On 16th September we were invited to the South-East England Faith Forum (SEEFF) AGM and Annual Conference at Surrey University. The subject was "Surrey's Greener Future – 12 Years to Save the Planet".
- On 19th October, Dr Nabil Mustapha invited us to a Celebration, in Cobham Village Hall, of 200 Years since the birth of The Bab (the Founder of the Baha'i Faith).
- On 12th November, at St Andrew's Church Cobham, we remembered individual members of the local and commonwealth forces who had died in the service of the British Crown. The speakers were Dr Zafir Iqbal, Victor Eyles and Dr David Cooke.

On 21st January 2020, at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Suzette Jones, Advisor to the Diocese of Guildford, led a discussion on "Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking in Surrey?" This caused an interesting debate on the action we can take and the effects our action may have.

Ladies Fellowship Suppers

Report by Kim Constable

The men have had their curry evenings for quite some time. We thought that the women should have something similar and introduced the Ladies Fellowship Suppers. They have been a huge success. The first one attracted about 44 ladies. It was an evening filled with delicious food and a lot of noisy chat! The food is prepared by the committee with wonderful donations from others. We asked how often we should meet and the format of the evenings. It was decided they should be two-monthly with more fellowship (and chat!)

The second had roughly the same number of attendees with a few cancellations. We played bingo between courses. (Elaine is available to hire for bingo calling!)

The feedback has been so positive. We are encouraging each other to mingle and make new friends.

We have the next three dates and evenings planned and hope and pray our numbers increase.

Men's Curry Evenings

Report by David Taylor

The successful men's curry nights have continued on an ad hoc basis with a variety of speakers. The evenings bring together the men of the parish on a Friday evening usually along with a guest speaker. A great way for the men of the parish to get together with friends and others not within the immediate St Andrew's family.

Messy Church

Report by Elaine Bray

Messy Church in Cobham, run by Cobham Churches Together, is now in its seventh year.

At Messy Church we seek to share the gospel and the love of Christ with primary school aged families, through craft, games and worship. We meet on the 4th Thursday of each month at the United Church on Stoke Road, Cobham. Families arrive from 3:45 pm and spend until 5 pm moving between the seven themed craft tables, using the quieter games room or tucking into the tea, squash and biscuits available. The crafts vary depending on the theme of the month, but they will always include the ever popular edible crafts table and lots of mess! At 5 pm, everyone moves into the worship space for a time of worship with singing, a talk and prayers which reflect the theme of the session. The families then share a child friendly meal before going home with their bag of precious crafts!

Our Lord has richly blessed Messy Church in Cobham with the great number of children that regularly and excitedly arrive at Messy Church, relationships have developed with many families in Cobham from many different schools. The relationship between the Christians from the different churches in Cobham has also been wonderfully fruitful, as we have worked together to share the gospel with the families.

Messy Church is run by wonderful volunteers, who all have a heart to share the gospel with the families of Cobham. We are immensely

grateful for the help and practical support we continue to receive from each of these amazing volunteers, in addition to the financial and prayerful support from many of the Churches in Cobham.

As we move forward in our 7th year we are trying to discern the next step for Messy

Church in Cobham. We would like to reach more families in Cobham and to help those families we have relationships with to grow in their faith. This may involve moving the location and the frequency of Messy Church. Please do hold Messy Church in your prayers as we seek to discern God's will and direction for Messy Church in Cobham.

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