

# ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH, HINCHLEY WOOD



ST CHRISTOPHER'S

## PARISH LIFE IN 2019



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

## **THE FABRIC OF THE CHURCH BUILDINGS**

In February, the annual church hall boiler inspection necessitated unforeseen remedial work being undertaken, costing £2,012. This reduced the funds available in the maintenance budget and so the PCC had to re-order the priorities for the year and put back some of the less urgent work to the following year.

Work undertaken in 2019 included the following items identified in the Quinquennial Report received in 2018:

- \* Removal of moss from the church roof
- \* Inspection of the water tank on the church roof in case a Legionnaires Disease Test was required. This showed the water tank to be empty and no longer part of the water system.
- \* Woodblocks affected by woodworm near to the bell tower were removed and replaced.
- \* Replacement of two sections of church hall guttering and rotten fascias.
- \* Asbestos Management Survey was commissioned.

Other repairs undertaken included:

- \* Blocking up of hole made by squirrels in the church hall eaves by insertion of a metal plate to prevent further gnawing
- \* Replacement of faulty vestry door lock
- \* Metal bollard on driveway was strengthened with concrete, but has since been knocked down by a car once again

## **The Fabric of the Church Buildings (Cont'd)**

- \* Clearing of undergrowth around church hall
- \* Adjustment, and subsequently replacement of the ball-cock in the church hall water tank to prevent leakage from the overflow pipe.

The usual routine servicing and safety checks took place, ie.: fire extinguishers, lightning conductor, church and hall boilers and gas safety checks, PAT testing of electrical appliances, fire alarm system checks.

We are grateful to John O'Neill for the many jobs he undertakes free of charge; and for the low rates charged by John and by Jason Amendt, the plumber, in consideration of the church's limited funds.

*Heather Allen*

## **EMLY DEANERY SYNOD**

The following topics were covered this year:

- \* Progress reports on local homeless shelter run by the church.
- \* Updates on Church House Guildford re-organisation, also information about a planned Safeguarding Officers' meeting and training dates.
- \* Presentation from the Diocesan Youth Adviser, and discussions and information from parishes about their youth work.
- \* Revd. Sarah Hutton, the Diocesan Spiritual Facilitator led discussion on the topic of Prayerful Parishes.
- \* Presentation by Andrew Penson about the House of Prayer and what it can offer, also an update on the winter night shelter, shortly to start its second year, last year having gone well after a slow start. Film interviews of a guest and volunteers were shown, very positively.
- \* Introduction to PAIS, apprentice missionaries was – young people, who stay in local people's homes, and are available to go into schools and other places to interact with the children and young people and hopefully to introduce the Christian faith to them.
- \* Report from the Love Molesey team in their orange t-shirts who engage in all sorts of activities, eg visits to care homes, car washing, children's summer activities in the park etc.
- \* Discussion about potential collaboration, where synod members discussed how they might get together to implement a variety of activities

*Jane Barnett*

## **DIOCESAN SYNOD REPORT**

The following topics were covered this year:

- \* Presentation and adoption of annual budget.
- \* Speakers and discussion [with young people] on growing Youth Ministry. [David Welch]
- \* Sarah Slater's address on "Growing Leaders"
- \* Lynda Donaldson gave update on Safeguarding Policy.
- \* Jens Mankel presentation on New Worshipping Communities
- \* Information on Needs Based Process [NBP] and updates on Church House Guildford.
- \* Agreement of the allocation of elected lay representatives by Electoral Roll numbers for 2020 elections

*Jane Barnett*

## **PASTORAL ASSISTANTS**

Liz works mainly, but not exclusively, with elderly people at church and in the parish. She visits people at home if they are not able to get out and about because of illness or infirmity, and takes communion to them if they would like this.

She visits people who are newly bereaved, to chat, and to listen to them. Sometimes this is a one-off visit, and sometimes she goes more than once if they would like this.

She runs the prayer chain, the members of which pray for people who would like us to remember them in prayer.

She also organises the welcomers' rota at church, and makes sure that there are at least two people to greet people as they arrive, to make them feel welcome and to give them the books they will need for the service.

*Liz Hammond*

Throughout 2019, Margaret continued to maintain her contact with the residents of Gibson Court. Each month, every second Wednesday, Margaret held a short communion service in the lounge for a number of the residents who wished to attend.

Occasionally, where a regular attendee was unable to come, Margaret would visit them afterwards, if requested or at a later date. More frequently, she would stay to chat to others over a cup of coffee.

Margaret also continues to visit other elderly residents living in the parish, either at home or in hospital.

*Margaret Thompson*

## **SACRISTY TEAM**

We are very grateful to those who have taken on sacristan duties alongside their welcoming duties on Sunday mornings. Particularly after the service, this frees up the clergy to have pastoral conversations.

*Revd. Caroline Mullins*

## **BAPTISM VISITING**

Caroline prepared six families for the baptism of their children this year and baptised the seven children represented by these families. Most baptisms take place within the 10:00am All Age service, but one family opted for the later choice of 12.30pm after the morning service. Families are invited to become part of the church family, and Caroline visits them a couple of times before the Christening to get to know them better and to help make the service relevant to them.

Eileen Griffiths has kindly taken over sending out baptism anniversary cards from the St Christopher's Church family for the first 4 years after a child is baptised.

*Revd. Caroline Mullins*

## **TOTS & TOYS**

St Christopher's toddler group has been attended by parents, grandparents and child-minders with the children in their care. We provided a place for mutual support, as well as a theme with craft activities each week, refreshments for children and adults, and finished with song time.

Over the course of the year numbers declined, and a decision was made to wind up Tots & Toys at the end of the Autumn term. A new vision will be sought for our outreach to children and families in the future. Caroline has hugely appreciated the continued support of Julie Butler in keeping the group running over the year.

*Rev. Caroline Mullins*

## **MESSY CHURCH CONGREGATION**

Messy Church is held almost every month on a Friday afternoon where we do worship in a very different way from the way we do it on Sunday mornings. We have new members coming regularly, but there is also a core congregation of families who come along most months and help us all to think about what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Messy Church is planned and put together by Jane Barnett, Caroline Mullins and Julia Bowden and has a great team of helpers (to whom we are very grateful) who take part each month helping with crafts, welcoming and talking to the families, and of course providing a hot meal. If you haven't been part of Messy Church yet, do come along and join us!

*Rev. Caroline Mullins*

## **FLOWER ARRANGERS' REPORT**

The church looked very festive at Christmas after members of the congregation decorated three Christmas trees with lights etc. The windowsills and font were also decorated and Tracey provided a lovely fresh flower arrangement for the altar.

A big thank you to everyone who helped.

Also thanks go to Helen Davidson for supervising the flowers in the Lady Chapel.

Artificial flowers are generally used at the altar due to the church being used for other activities during the week. If anyone would like to put flowers in memory of a loved one they could be placed under the book of remembrance after the Sunday service.

*Celia Francis*



## CHURCH MUSICIANS

During 2019 the choir and band continued to provide music for the regular church services and several other events during the year, including our first ever pet service! The changes that we introduced in the previous year are working well and we continue to meet for choir practice on a Thursday evening and also before church services on Sunday morning.

In May 2019 the choir attended a small choirs' workshop at Cranleigh parish church organised by the RSCM. At the workshop we were able to meet with other small choirs from churches in Surrey and spend some time practising hymns and chants with them. Tea and refreshments were provided and then we all sang together for the Evensong service later in the day. A very useful and rewarding experience!



Apart from regular services, the choir also supported other events during the year and these have included the Remembrance Sunday service at the Memorial Gardens; carol singing at Gibson and Royston Courts; Carol, Christingle and Crib services at Christmas. We were particularly pleased to be invited to sing at Royston Court this year.

The choir was able to add a couple of new hymns this year and after some practice we sang 'The Lord's my Shepherd' (as popularised in the television series Vicar of Dibley) for the pet service on the 6<sup>th</sup> October and also 'In Paradisum' at the All Souls service on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

## CHURCH MUSICIANS (Cont'd)

To conclude the year we spent several weeks rehearsing for the Carol Concert on the 22nd December and were joined by additional singers Stephanie Post and Ted Woodruffe-Peacock for this event. The Carol Service was a great success and all the hard work was worth it! Our thanks go to Jon Booth for suggestions and for playing the organ with the choir for the Carol Service.



Although we are a small group we continue to work together with a great sense of cohesion, commitment and friendship and hope to continue this in 2020. On a final note it would be lovely to have a few more members so if anyone feels that they would like to try singing with the choir please do get in touch.

*Dave Ellis*



## **SAFEGUARDING REPORT**

The Safeguarding provision has remained the same during this last year with the role of Safeguarding Officer being filled by Denice Tinson and Jane Barnett, the designated safeguarding lead on the PCC, has responsibility for the processing of any required DBS checks. This checking remains the backbone of safe recruiting for both paid and volunteering positions involving any work performed on behalf of St Christopher's in relation to children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Following the complete overhaul of Safeguarding principles and guidelines at a National level, ratified by the House of Bishops in December 2015, the Diocese website maintains up to date documentation and current levels of training for those working with children, young people and vulnerable adults to ensure that all will be protected.

At present Messy Church requires those adults in positions of responsibility to be DBS checked. The PCC also adopts and endorses Diocesan Safeguarding Policy at their first meeting after APCM. St. Christopher's will be completing the annual mandatory self-audit form required by the Diocese Safeguarding Team indicating the levels of safeguard training achieved. In addition this year we have been asked to submit a Parish Training Needs Analysis based on our existing levels of training. We are in the process of compiling the necessary information required for submission. With this in mind, further training will be planned and put in place for the coming year, to ensure that levels of awareness on matters that may affect safeguarding will always be at the forefront of people's minds.

All contact numbers remain displayed on the main notice board in the porch.

*Denice Tinson*

## **ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT**

Last year was the sixth year in the Electoral Roll 'cycle'. This meant that the old Roll was deleted, and new application forms were required from everyone who were on it. This resulted in a completely new Roll.

The number on this new Roll, at the 2019 APCM, was thus 74. This year we only had to review and revise the Roll. This meant removing those who can no longer be on it, and adding any new applications received during the year.

I can therefore report that, as of 14<sup>th</sup> March 2020, the numbers on the Electoral Roll are now 76.

We welcomed 5 new applicants, but sadly 3 members have passed away.

After the APCM on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020, anyone else who wishes to be added to the Electoral Roll may do so by filling in an application form, available from the Church office, and returning it to Ann Ellis, Electoral Roll officer.

*Ann Ellis*

## **COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER'S REPORT**

All key events are managed through the Google calendar embedded within our website, which is updated by Mandy Ali, Fr. Peter Jenner and Caroline Mullins.

Community events are publicised with flyers and posters outside the church, the vicarage and at the shops. They are also put on our website and are sometimes sent to the primary school for communication to parents. Sometimes, as with the Musical Reflections Evenings, banners are put on the fence.

Mandy is responsible for creating all the hiring details and events. She also uses the Sunday service event to update the readers, intercessors, Welcomers, chalice assistants and those on the coffee rota accordingly and to update details of that week's hymns and readings.

*Mandy Ali*

## CHURCH OFFICE

2019 was another busy year in the Parish Office. Besides undertaking the church administration, Mandy Ali, Parish Administrator, continues to manage both regular and ad hoc hirings. The Church has had many regular bookings throughout the week and at weekends during, including Robin Hood After School Club to complement Christopher Robin Nursery School. Robin Hood After School Club has been very successful since it began in September 2018. The owner of 'Woodlands' on Manor Road North encourages film location managers to use St. Christopher's as a film unit base, which benefits not only St. Christopher's but also the local community, as it provides off-street parking for the film unit vehicles. Sadly, this can only happen when the unit filming at 'Woodlands' is large enough to need a separate Film Unit. We also routinely act as a Polling Station and a Blood Donor venue.

Mandy continues to manage the Caretaking team and the cleaner, ensuring the church is set up for the various weekly events that both the Church and Hall are kept clean and welcoming.

Although Hinchley Wood Magazine was edited and produced by Fr. Peter during 2019, Mandy remained responsible for organising Team brainstorming sessions content was received and been pleased to welcome

the Team during 2019. Many thanks go to our other Team members - Jenny W-Peacock, Jon Usher, Joan Walmsley Darren Salanson and Karen Wakefield - for their hard work and commitment to the magazine. Thanks also go to our regular contributors - Roger Thompson and Paul Downing - for ensuring the magazine is always an engrossing read.



and ensuring edited. We have Heather Allen to

*Mandy Ali*

## **EVENTS AND OUTREACH**

Taking advantage of the summer weather, in July we held the Patronal barbecue, hosted by Peter and Ines, at the vicarage. Tables and chairs were put out on the grass and sausages and burgers, together with salads, cakes and soft drinks, were on offer. The weather was kind and we had a lovely day sitting in the sun, catching up with friends to the sound of wonderful 'swing music' set up by Peter. The numbers were higher than last year's and we can't fail to mention Ted and Jenny's delightful family and the grandchildren who charmed us all.

In August Heather arranged another of her enchanting poetry evenings which was very successful. We hope this will be a long term feature in our calendar.

Our next venture was the Heritage Day organised by Father Peter. The church was open for the whole day with light refreshments on offer. Displays of local and church history were on view around the church and a steady stream of visitors popped in throughout the day. This was a great success and a number of people new to the church came through the door. It is planned to make this an annual event with more displays on offer.

In the autumn we held a bring and share harvest lunch which was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Our November Christmas Bazaar, building on the success of last year, set an even higher standard for us to live up to. We attracted a much larger number through the door than last year and takings on some stalls were significantly higher. A range of gifts, foods, books, cards, decorations and other seasonal products were on sale. Everyone agreed that the quality of what was on sale far exceeded anything we had done for many years. Celia and a large number of helpers from the congregation had been planning for this for many months and their hard work and preparation was reflected in the success of the day. We are hoping that word will spread around the community and result in even more people through the door next year. My thanks to all those who helped plan this and offered their help on the day. A big thanks to Serena Hassen who was both a big

## Events and Outreach (cont'd)

attraction to families and a brilliant reader of her book "The Tap-Dancing Pigeon of Convent Garden". This book is now on sale at Foyles so hopefully we can entice her back to read a new book next November.



As some of our regular cooks were no longer available, we decided to hold our 2019 Christmas Lunch at Georgie's. This proved to be a great success and the feedback from the diners was very positive. Our thanks to Mandy for liaising with Georgie's.

As usual, Jane and Derek put on their April and November Quiz Nights and as usual they were massive successes, filling the church and providing a great evening. These events take a huge amount of work and our heartfelt thanks to both of them for organising the quizzes year after year.

The monthly Coffee & Chat mornings have provided a regular time for folk to relax and enjoy each other's company and we hope they will continue to bring us together in 2020.

Looking at what has been done, and considering the size of the congregation, we have achieved wonders this year. This has been due to a number of people who have, time and again, given of their time and financial support to make these events successful. Our thanks to all of those who have been involved and who have contributed so much.

We hope that in 2020 we will be able to offer the provision of a greater and more varied number of events.

*Roger Thompson*

## **MOTHERS' UNION AT ST. CHRISTOPHER'S**

Our Branch is still very small comprising only thirteen members, several of whom are dependent on getting a lift to attend meetings which can make for difficulties if one of our car drivers is away. We usually meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in the month, for either a discussion or with a Mothers' union Speaker.

Our outstanding achievement of the year was once again providing 34 Christmas Gift Bags for the Women in the Four Refuges from domestic violence in Guildford Diocese. We were enabled to do this because of the amazingly generous contributions made by members of St. Christopher's congregation after an appeal for monetary contributions.

Some of us attended the Annual Meeting for all Members which takes place in a different City each year. In 2019 it was held in Portsmouth, which was the place where the Mothers' Union was first brought to the notice of the public when our founder Mary Sumner addressed a Meeting of the Church Congress on the Subject more than a century and a half ago. In 2020 our Annual Meeting will be held in Belfast when we hope that a number of members from Guildford Diocese will be able to go.



Several Members also attended the annual Diocesan Lady Day Service in the Cathedral, when our Banner was carried by Stephanie Post, and some of our Members sang in the Choir.

*Jean Hoseason*

## **HINCHLEY WOOD FELLOWSHIP** **(formerly known as WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP)**

2019 started in fine style with our annual January lunch at Surbiton Gold Club - which is always much looked-forward-to. Special thanks go to Moira Beardshall for arrangements and to Janet Critchley for co-ordinating the tickets.



Thereafter we continued a programme of enjoyable monthly meetings and occasional outings throughout the year, apart from August when we took a break.

In September we re-convened under a new name: HINCHLEY WOOD FELLOWSHIP - HWF or FELLOWSHIP for short. This followed discussions when, for administrative reasons, we agreed to become a (self-financing) church group under the auspices of the PCC. During the year, both Jean Hayes and Val Hibberd stepped down from the Committee, but continued being members, for which we are glad and grateful for advice. The Committee now stands at eight members. By the end of 2019 the number of members was reduced from 26 to 21. We had to say good bye to some long-standing members due to age, ill-health or moving away.

As before, we owe thanks to Maureen Price for arranging speakers and talks. These were on the following topics:

Manners Dearest Please: an amusing talk by David Allen on Victorian manners;

Protecting from Scams and Fraud: by ex-policeman Steve Roberts – very topical

The True Story of the River Kwai Railway: by Paul Whittle;

The Injured Party: by Monica Weller, setting out her theories on an interesting cold case;

The Day Peace Broke Out: by Mike Brown, on events surrounding VE Day;

Memoirs of Publishing: by Ted Peacock, on his experiences in the world of publishing.

## Hinchley Wood Fellowship (Cont'd)

In addition, we are very grateful to Jean Hoseason for arranging a fun quiz in October and, jointly with the Mothers' Union, an entertainment in December on Christmas themes. Thanks must also go to all who took part.



Other social occasions were:

July: Afternoon tea in the Church Hall in support of this year's charity;

September: Hinchley Wood Heritage Open Day in the Church – the Fellowship stand took its place amongst others showcasing history and activities in Hinchley Wood;

November: St Christopher's Christmas Bazaar – the Fellowship sold charity Christmas cards;

December: Christmas Lunch Together at Georgie's - arranged by St Christopher's Church Events Committee .

Our outings, for which again special thanks must go to Janet Critchley for making the arrangements, were:

"Nice but Nautical" a concert at the Vera Fletcher Hall on 6th April;

"Northanger Abbey" – a play at the Vera Fletcher Hall based on Jane Austen's classic;

Visit to Bushy Park and tea at the Pheasantry Café on 24th June;

Organ recital and Choir concert at St Mary's Long Ditton followed by wine and canapes on 14th July;

"Oliver" – musical by Lionel Bart at the Walton Playhouse on 16th July;

Enigma Concert at St Christopher's Church (with chocolates!) on 5th October;

"Choice Grenfell" – a revue at the Vera Fletcher Hall on 11th October;

Thameside Harmony Chorus Concert, followed by afternoon tea at Long Ditton Hall, on 24th November.

## Hinchley Wood Fellowship (Cont'd)

Our Charity fundraising for 2019 was for The Friends of Kingston Hospital. At the February meeting, the Chairman, Barry Coulis, told us of the valuable work volunteers do to help patients and visitors in the often disorientating environment of the Hospital. The July fundraising tea-party in the Church Hall was an enjoyable success and thanks are due to Jean Hayes for masterminding the daunting arrangements with her usual aplomb. Proceeds from the party and the Christmas card sales raised a total of £314.

We welcome visitors to any meeting and are always happy to have new members. Details are on a notice board in the church porch and meetings are announced in church notices.

*Stephanie Post*



## **THE THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY GROUP**

This Group has continued to meet at Hilda Highley's house in Severn Drive on the third Thursday afternoon in each month. Our numbers have fluctuated during the year but remain at about eight in number.

Our deliberations are guided by following one of the many excellent courses provided by York Courses, which come with a course booklet for each member and a CD for us to listen to at the beginning of each session.

In the course of this year we have completed two courses. One entitled "Where is God" and "Can We Build a Better World?".

We start and finish our Meetings with Prayer after a cup of tea and some cake. We sometimes find that by the end of our discussion we have somehow deviated somewhat the original topic! However I believe we have all helped each other to explore our faith more deeply and the effects of faith in our daily lives.

*Jean Hoseason*



## **THEOLOGY AT THE ANGEL 2019** **The St Christopher's Men's Group**

The men's group meets every 1st Monday of the month at The Angel Pub next to Giggs Hill Green. A topic for discussion is provided for every meeting. Some of these prove successful and the conversation lasts throughout the evening. On other occasions we soon drift into a range of other ideas to talk about. Either way we nearly always have a great evening.



At the moment we have nine regular attendees but new group members are always welcome. If you need a lift there will always be someone to help you out. There is no commitment to come every month. You can come as many or as few times as you like. Twice a year we go out for a meal together. In July we nearly always go to Panshi but our Christmas celebrations have been held in a number of venues.



To find out more feel free to talk to me or any other member of the group.



*Roger Thompson*

# **WHO'S WHO AT ST CHRISTOPHER'S?**

*Forging Community - Sharing God's Love*

## **Vicar**

Fr. Peter Jenner

[vicar@stchristopherschurch.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stchristopherschurch.org.uk)

07824 323815

## **Associate Minister**

Reverend Caroline Mullins

[associate@stchristopherschurch.org.uk](mailto:associate@stchristopherschurch.org.uk)

020 8224 3334

## **Pastoral Assistants**

Liz Hammond: 020 8786 6802

Margaret Thompson: 020 8398 4156

[Pastoral@stchristophershurch.org.uk](mailto:Pastoral@stchristophershurch.org.uk)

## **Parish Office**

Parish Administrator - Mandy Ali

Open 9:00am-3:00pm, Monday-Friday

020 8398 9095

[office@stchristopherchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@stchristopherchurch.org.uk)

## **Churchwardens**

Heather Allen: 0208 339 0850

Emma Rush

[churchwardens@stchristopherschurch.org.uk](mailto:churchwardens@stchristopherschurch.org.uk)

## **Parochial Church Council**

Fr. Peter Jenner, Rev. Caroline Mullins, Heather Allen, Jane Barnett, Moira Beardshall, Julia Bowden, Simon Crome, Ann Ellis, Liz Hammond, Jean Hoseason, John O'Neill, Stephanie Post, Emma Rush, Margaret Thompson

## **Deanery Synod Representative**

Jane Barnett

## **PCC Secretary**

Stephanie Post: 020 8224 1012

[pccsecretary@stchristopherschurch.org.uk](mailto:pccsecretary@stchristopherschurch.org.uk)

## **Gift Aid Administrator**

Moira Beardshall: 020 8398 6278

[Treasurer@stchristopherschurch.org.uk](mailto:Treasurer@stchristopherschurch.org.uk)

## **Sacristy Team**

Jean Hoseason, Hilda Highley and Caroline Mullins

## **Band and Choir Leader**

Dave Ellis

## **Mothers' Union**

Branch Contact: Jean Hoseason

Branch Treasurer: Moira Beardshall

## **Hinchley Wood Fellowship**

Stephanie Post: 020 8224 1012

## **Church & Hall Bookings**

Mandy Ali: 020 8398 9095

[office@stchristopherschurch.org.uk](mailto:office@stchristopherschurch.org.uk)

**PARISH WEB SITE: [www.stchristopherschurch.org.uk](http://www.stchristopherschurch.org.uk)**