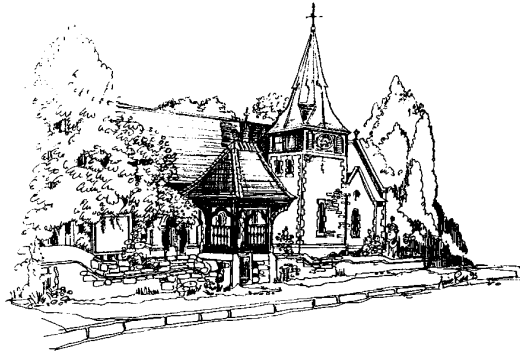




For God, for one another, for the world

Reports of teams for Ministry and Mission 2019

For the Annual Parish Meeting 2020



Annie Ridd ©

WORSHIP AND LEARNING TEAMS

HOME GROUPS

We now have two groups running, one meets monthly run by Fiona and one weekly during term time run by myself.

The monthly group continue to meet on the second Monday of the month at the home of Jane White who provides us with excellent refreshments to start the evening. They are watching a series of films by Rob Bell which provide the basis for discussion. These topics are very varied and the discussions can go off in very different tangents. Sometimes the topics can be very challenging but the belief is that everyone who attends finds the group stimulating and encouraging.

The Wednesday weekly group meets during term time in the evening and numbers vary as not everyone comes each week. During the year we completed a series of studies in John's gospel and then we had a good look at the life of King Solomon through 1 Kings.

There is no formula to either group, all ideas and thoughts are shared and heard in the context of Christian love and the real benefit of each group is the lovely and trustworthy Christian fellowship.

Why don't you try one?

David Culhane 661924 david.culhane@outlook.com

PRAYER MINISTRY

Below are the various prayer supports we offer for the church family of Grayswood, for the wider community and on a more personal one to one basis.

Prayer Book

A prayer book is available on the table at the back of church for written prayer requests that are included in the spoken prayers (intercessions) during the main Sunday Service over the course of a month. This is available for visitors, villagers or church members. Requests can be re-entered on the next page for the following month if prayer is required for longer.

Prayer Prior Services

A small group meet in the side chapel to pray for the Sunday service half an hour prior to the service starting. Please come and join us if you can.

Church Service Prayer

Each week during the 10am service one or two members are on duty to offer prayer one to one. This is available either during communion in the side chapel or after the end of the service on the weeks there is no communion. Please approach either Dian Mordin, David & Judy Culhane or Mary Gorniak and they will pray with you.

Weekly Prayer Cover

The weekly Service sheet and The Runner suggest prayer topics for and around different areas in the village and beyond.

Prayer Chain

A group of individuals linked together by phone, pledge to pray over a period of time for any requests. A minimum of information is needed such as a name or situation. All requests are kept in strict confidentiality.

To make a prayer request please phone a group member - Dian Mordin 07818 282330, Judy or David Culhane 644125 or Fiona Gwynn 07929 935179

Prayer Triplets

Small individual groups meet together weekly in each other's homes and pray about concerns for themselves, friends and family. These groups are highly recommended for building up and supporting each other. They are also an amazing way to see God in action as you witness prayer answered in ways you never thought possible.

To be part of a triplet group please contact Dian Mordin 644143 who can put you in touch with others.

Reflect and Prayer

The church is opened throughout each day to make available to anyone who would like a peaceful area to quietly reflect and meditate.

Dian Mordin (Co-ordinator)

MUSIC

This last year has been a time of change and many problems. Several of our long serving members have suffered from illness or accidents. We have managed to carry on with weekly Friday choir practice and Sunday Services. We have joined St Barts choir for joint services and they have also come down to us.

At the beginning of the autumn term we had one of our long serving girls leave for university and another for boarding school. Also at this time two of adult members were married at the church, a very happy service with twenty-two choristers in the choir stalls. As some of our regular members were away on holiday the B team helped with the singing. I am very grateful to them for their help when we are called upon for weekday services i.e. funerals and memorial services.

My thanks also to George and Mary Gorniak who often accompany the All-age services on the fourth Sunday of the month and to Rob Jackson who plays for some of the services.

Our final loss took place in early November when Shirley Richmond and her daughter moved to the West Country. I find it difficult to express my thanks to her for all that she has done for the choir and personally for her help and friendship over many years. Fortunately, Rob Jackson agreed to take over as Choir Master when Shirley left. The final blow came when Tricia and Tim Bentley told us they too would be moving to the West Country at the end of the year.

As always, new members are always welcome, we are very short of children at the moment, come and join us from seven years of age upwards.

Jean White (Organist)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School takes place on the first three Sundays in each month. Although we do not generally meet in school holidays we experimented with adding the last Sunday of the Christmas holidays to the rota and had enough children to run it. There have been a couple of occasions when Sunday School hasn't taken place in the past year because of lack of children. Attendance varies but numbers are generally low, sometimes with only a couple of children. The age range covers toddlers to 10/11 year-olds, although there is no upper limit.

We have three regular teachers - Paula Burton, Andrew Canale & Angela Wheeler. The helper team has been expanded this year and we now have Pippa Hollins-McLean & John McLean and Dian Mordin, in addition to Judy Culhane and Charlotte Brown. All teachers and helpers are regularly checked by the DBS.

Following advice from the Diocese, we are beginning to introduce systems for recording information about emergency contacts, health, photo permissions, etc.

Once again Richard Everett produced a script for our Nativity Play and oversaw rehearsals. It was a great success, involving a dozen children (and a couple of adults masquerading as a donkey). We are very grateful to have such a talented script-writer and director on board for this popular event and also grateful for the help and support of parents.

Paula Burton and Angela Wheeler

MISSION TEAMS

CHURCH FAYRES

Once again, two fayres were held in May and December. Not only are these fayres our main fundraising events to help with running costs of the church, but they also provide a wonderful opportunity for outreach in the community and are great social occasions enjoyed by many from the village, from Haslemere and even further afield.

The totals raised in 2019 were:

May £2,153

December £2,303

We were very sorry to say goodbye to Shirley before the Christmas fayre. Shirley had been a stalwart of the team for many years and had transformed the takings from the raffle by arranging for tickets to be printed and sold before the event.

Huge thanks must go to those who baked, donated, created, manned stalls, ran the café, set up the hall or helped in any way. Thanks also of course to those who bought raffle tickets or spent money on the day.

Jackie Holmes (Fayre team co-ordinator)

HOSPITALITY

Giving hospitality is something we love to do at All Saints and we have a wonderful group of willing helpers who provide, cakes, puddings, savoury dishes, mince pies, lent lunches in their homes and offer help whenever it is needed. Thank you so much to everyone. It is a joy to co-ordinate such a very cheerful, willing and skilful team of people and it enables us to reflect God's wonderful generosity to us.

Judy Culhane (Co-ordinator)

MISSION LINKS

In 2019 we continued to support our three main missions (one throughout each quarter) – CMS (our Mission partners Jimmie and Katya working in Brazil), Through Faith Missions (working in the UK with which David Culhane is involved) and Skillway (vocational workshops for young people based in Godalming with Greg Bleach as the general manager). Our fourth quarter changes each year and in 2019 we supported jointly Guildford Street Angels and the Hunter Centre in Haslemere. The donations for all these missions come from gifts put in the bowl at the back of church and from all the money that you generously put in the coffee tin each week (we do not take anything out for expenses) and each quarter the PCC adds £300 to the total. Totals sent to the quarterly missions in 2019 were:

Guildford Street Angels and Hunter Centre	£475.44 (divided equally)
CMS donation total	£404.92
Through Faith Missions (TFM)	£464.48
Skillway	£446.82

Also in 2019 we supported Grayswood school (£10 per child), Grayswood Nursery (£250 per term), the Children's Society (£176 direct and Christingle service collection £42.50), Send a Cow (£246 – Harvest collection and donations from Harvest lunch), Crisis for Christmas (£81 from Christmas card and £178 collection from carol service), The British Legion (£116.90) and the Bishop's Lent Appeal (£152).

Judy Culhane

THE GOOD BOOK MORNING

The Good Book Morning continues to meet at my house 'Corner Cottage', 77 Lower Road on the 4th Monday in each month from 10.30-12 noon. It is a very informal meeting and includes coffee and cakes. People come and go as and when suits them.

Numbers are low, usually around 6-7 people. There is no agenda, those who wish borrow books and there is usually a lively chatter going on as people share their joys and sorrows. We try to keep in touch with elderly people who are no longer able to join us.

Come along and give it a try.

Jean White.

COFFEE AND CHAT

Once again, our monthly coffee mornings have been well-attended and generously supported by the village and beyond, at times being positively buzzing! Each session provides a wonderful selection of cakes and biscuits, all home-made by the team and with kind donations from many others. Donations are made, rather than charges being set and this always covers the cost of room hire, with the surplus for the year being donated to a local charity. Last year, we donated a cheque for £144.46 to the Hunter Centre, accepted gratefully by Maggie Barlow.

Our thanks go to Grayswood Club for allowing us to use the building, and my particular thanks go to Janet Fry, whose idea it was, and Vera Prangley, who makes the most wonderful sponges, for being such supportive friends on this enterprise.

I would urge anyone who has not yet visited us, to make sure you do, on the second Wednesday of each month, once current restrictions are lifted!

Di Cook.

TODDLER GROUP

After a worrying year with dwindling numbers it is so lovely to see lots of lovely families coming to share their mornings with us. We have some parents who are expecting an addition to their families so new babies to coo, fuss and cuddle will make our mornings fly by. It has been lovely to watch friendships blossoming both through children and through adults. The families love to receive either the Easter Eggs or an Advent Calendar so thank you to our church family for contributing towards these. It is also heart warming to welcome families into our Church for All Age Services, for baptisms or to Christmas and Easter celebrations. The children and grown ups also seem to still appreciate our baking!

Jane White

THE RUNNER

The Grayswood Runner has gone from strength to strength this year. We continue to produce ten copies a year which is distributed by a team of volunteers to all 350 or so homes in the parish, but following positive feedback last year, many of the editions are now double-paged – equivalent to 4x A4 pages and all current (and archived) editions are now available on the new website.

There has been an increase in regular contributions from the Women's Institute, Grayswood Nursery and the Friends of Grayswood School (PTA) which helps to keep everyone in touch with local events.

We continue to advertise the events hosted by The Village Club, the Friends of All Saints and highlight occasions when the children from Grayswood School have been to the church for special services or prayer spaces. Regular articles on the charities supported by the church as part of the quarterly mission programme, provide an opportunity to highlight the work of the church beyond the parish boundaries.

The Runner proved a convenient way of keeping in touch with the wider community as the Parish and Benefice went through a period of vacancy and then the process of appointing a new Rector (Rev Chris Bessant) and Associate Priest (Rev Fi Gwynn) The Runner also played a small role in highlighting the campaign to keep the minor injuries unit in Haslemere from closing.

If you would consider writing a short article (100 or so words) for one of the editions, please email allsaintsgrayswood@gmail.com or drop a note into the postbox in the Church porch.

The deadline for receiving contributions for the following month's edition can be found at the foot of each copy (usually the 15th of the month), and the Runner is displayed on the church website: allsaintsgrayswood.org

Sarah Bennett (Editor)

PASTORAL TEAMS

The team meets twice a year in the spring and early autumn.

We look at how we can support the sick, elderly and vulnerable in our parish. This may be by providing meals, visits or transport.

We also welcome people to the village by delivering a card with details of our services and provide hand knitted cardigans for newborns in the parish. A big thank you must go to those who knit the cardigans for us to distribute.

If anyone feels that they would like to join the team then we would welcome new members.

Fi Gwynn, Associate Priest. 01428 654728, 07769 856343

(I work 3 days a week with Friday as my day off.)

MAINTENANCE TEAMS

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

We are very grateful for our Buildings and Grounds team, which consists of volunteers who watch over the church and its surrounds, spending many hours keeping it to a high visual standard. The team also look after the maintenance of the Garden of Remembrance.

We are pleased to report that the decision to award Andrew Obee, Wisborough Green, West Sussex as our grounds maintenance contractors has been a success and we are delighted with their work.

Following the dry summer of 2018, it was noticed that many surface areas within the Churchyard had sunk, including graves and gravestones. Remedial action to 'top up' the sunken graves with soil was undertaken in summer 2019. Sunken area around septic tank was filled in with top soil, prepared and reseeded.

Following a health and safety risk assessment of external vestry steps, it was identified that anti-slip tape should be fitted to the steps and a permanent hand rail installed. Work was completed in 4th quarter 2019. A portable disability access ramp is now available for use as required.

A new external church notice board was supplied and fitted.

LED lighting project commenced and is now in the final stages for submission and approval and should be commissioned during 2020. New carpet and chairs for North Transept installed.

John McLean (Co-ordinator)

FLOWERS

As I compile this report on the activities of our wonderful church flower team, for the first time All Saints will be without a beautiful Easter display of colour and joy or the Easter garden which always depicts the story of Easter so creatively and is a unifying experience for families or small groups (I would urge you to think about volunteering to do this next year).

We decorated the church for a wedding in August and all the profits went to the church. We hope this can be a way forward for the All Saints, as our team is talented.

Christmas 2019 was a great success with our theme of white and silver – we had lots of comments on how festive the church looked. I certainly felt All Saints was smiling.

I officially took over from Judy Culhane (I was just buying flowers for festivals previously) in December and myself and the flower ladies must thank Judy very much for her amazing efficiency – never overlooking any small detail (Ladies you now have me and I am not an organiser!).

We currently have nine volunteer arrangers and we share the duty of making sure there is always a pedestal arrangement in church (except during Lent), and this results in everyone doing about six pedestals throughout the year as well as coming together as a team for festivals. I would be so pleased to add a few more names to our rota so we could share the load a bit more, so please give it some thought – you do not need to be a master flower arranger – you could be the Picasso of flowers! All are welcome, but if you would just like to help at a special occasion please let me know. You would be most welcome.

In February, we got together for a coffee at Sweetpeas café and as a result have some great ideas moving forward. Thank you to all who are so generous with their time and find deep pockets to provide flowers with such creativity and keep them watered and refreshed. All Saints always looks seasonal and pretty.

Sasi Cave (Flower team co-ordinator)

PLANNED GIVING, GIFT AID AND CHURCH SERVICE COLLECTIONS

Our Church family is an ever changing community and as the years go by some people leave us and are replaced by new people. Last year was no exception but I am pleased to say that the gaps left by those moving on have been filled by new faces. Over the years this has resulted in the overall planned giving and gift aid donations remaining static at the 2018 levels at a time when we need to increase significantly our donations. What is of more concern is that since 2014, five years ago, donations and rebates have only increased by £2,9015 (6%), about 1.2% per year. What has changed over the five year period is that standing orders have increased while purple envelope donations have decreased. The yellow envelope casual donations have also decreased over the five years. The salient figures for 2019, 2018 and 2014 are tabulated below.

	2019	2018	2014
Standing Orders	£29,895	£29,815	£25,841
Church collections - Purple GA	£6,749	£6,534	£6,950
Church collections - Yellow GA	£1,059	£1,005	£1,544
Church collections – Total GA	£7,808	£7,539	£8,494
Church collections – No GA	£2,934	£2,994	£3,561
Church collections - Total	£10,742	£10,533	£12,055
Total standing orders and collections	£40,637	£40,348	£37,896
GA rebate	£8,594	£8,886	£8,313
GASDS rebate	£733	£748	£840
Total rebate	£9,327	£9,634	£9,153
Total donations plus rebates	£49,964	£49,982	£47,049

In simple terms approximately 60% of the donations are by Standing Order , 20% from Church Collections and 20% from HMRC rebates.

We need to grow the active congregation to significantly increase our income as well as encouraging our existing donors to give more, this is not an easy task. We should be wary of adopting giving schemes which simply alter the way people give rather than increase their giving. For example, whilst standing orders are an excellent and reliable way to give money, it does not solve the problem if we simply encourage cash or envelope donors to change to standing orders, we need to find new money.

Over the last few years we have managed to claim a 25% rebate on all small donations under £20, recently increased to £30, which were not gift aided, which means that on all money donated via the church collections or through standing orders we have obtained a 25% rebate either through Gift Aid or by the small donations scheme. It is important to realise that the small donations scheme is only applicable to organisations which have a good Gift Aid scheme. Currently about 10% of the Standing order total is not eligible for Gift Aid.

I would like to thank Judy Culhane for her meticulous banking records, and all the sides people for their diligence in completing the collection sheets and envelopes each Sunday.

Finally, thank you all for your donations.

David Hutton (Planned Giving and Gift Aid Administrator) 01428 64417

CHURCH BRING AND BUY

Our lovely Church family keep the table topped up with lovely cakes and home made produce. It is also lovely to see home grown produce on the table during the summer months. If anyone would like to help with baking we would love to have you on board, it doesn't have to be every month, every other would be lovely if there is anyone out there!

Jane White

BUCKET COLLECTIONS

Loose change is collected through collection points in the choir, at the back of church and on the Bring & Buy Stall each week. This is referred to as the bucket collection. *

Thanks goes to Shirley Richmond, who raised a staggering £1,230.27 during her time collecting loose change.

I took over at the beginning of October and to date (15/03) have collected a further £63.94, making a grand total of £1,294.21.

The collection started to tail off last year, which possibly is a reflection of the general shift towards a cashless society. However, it still remains an important source of income for the church and I hope to invigorate the project by a relaunch, once worship has returned to its regular pattern, following the disruption caused by the measures to contain the Virus.

Angela Wheeler

CHURCH ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Another year, another report! Emails answered, invoices paid, reports submitted, paperwork filed, noticesheets photocopied, rotas distributed....all background tasks allowing others to serve.

I have spent some of my time this year embedding the website. The data usage shows a steady stream of visitors looking at the online calendar, visiting the pages on life events (including baptisms and weddings) and reading about the history of the church. In future, I hope to be able to expand the offering to include a children's page and section on 'those who served' following the warm reception to Jane's talk on Remembrance Sunday.

One of the other projects this year was scanning and indexing the burials register dating back to the first burial in February 1902. David H has created a very comprehensive listing - ensuring not only that the churchyard plans are up to date for future burials but also serving as a useful database for the family history enquiries we receive.

It continues to be a privilege to work alongside so many great people committed to the life of their church in Grayswood and to be able to support those in the wider parish when they have needed the church.

Sarah Bennett (Church Administrator)