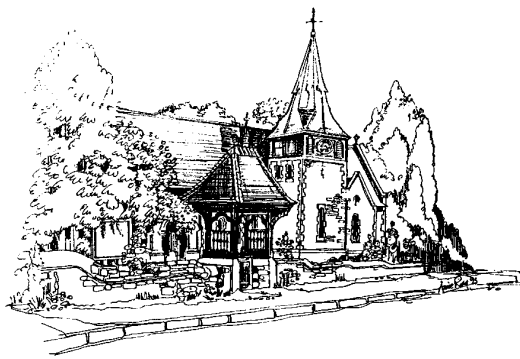




For God, for one another, for the world

Reports of teams for Ministry and Mission 2020

For the Annual Parish Meeting 2021



Annie Ridd ©

WORSHIP AND LEARNING TEAMS

HOME GROUP

In the early months of 2020 two groups met, one led by Fi meeting once a month and were continuing to look at Rob Bell's DVD's as a springboard for discussions and these provided some interesting conversations. The second group met on Wednesday evenings during term time and continued their studies on the life of Solomon.

My hope and prayer is that groups will be able to start again before too long and that, as before, the real value is friendship and mutual care of each other so I strongly recommend them to you all.

I am delighted to inform you that In future the weekly group will be led by Pippa as I have moved away.

Why don't you give a group a try when they start again?

Blessings to you all.

David Culhane

PRAYER MINISTRY

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

Prayer Book

As the church has been closed, prayer requests have been phoned or emailed to Fi. These requests are then shared with either the prayer chain, if a private matter, or posted in the service sheet for inclusion in the intercession prayers during the weekly Sunday service.

Prayer Prior Services

This has been postponed until services resume in church.

Church Service Prayer

A prayer room is available after each Sunday zoom service where Dian Mordin and Fi Gwynn will meet with anyone who would like one to one private prayer. Please contact Fi if you require this.

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 small 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, or Fiona Gwynn 07929 935179

Prayer Triplets

During lockdown these small groups have been unable to meet in their homes but have been meeting on their phones to 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

When restrictions allowed, the church building has been opening on Wednesday mornings for a few hours to allow for entrance to anyone who wished to take time out and sit quietly to pray or reflect.

Dian Mordin (Co-ordinator)

MUSIC

Following Shirley's move to the West Country, Rob Jackson took over as choir leader, with a new approach to practices. It seemed that the choir was getting into a good rhythm(!), although the number of children attending practices and services was disappointingly low, when the first lock-down was imposed in March. Since then there has been no practices or choir at services. We were getting ready for the Carol Service, albeit in a very pared down, socially distanced way, when the new restrictions came into place in December and it was decided we could not go ahead.

We very much hope to be able to resume practicing and singing at services in June 2021.

I should like to express my thanks to Jean White for her organ playing, Rob Jackson for choir leading and playing the organ and George and Mary Gorniak for their playing at services and being prepared to step in at short notice.

Nicola Miller

SUNDAY SCHOOL

As we moved into lockdown in March, 2020 I began to write materials for inclusion on the 'Children's Church' section of the website. Once lockdown restrictions were eased it was decided to continue providing resources on the website rather than attempting face-to-face activities since few children were attending church and many of the teachers and supporting adults chose to continue accessing services via Zoom. In the summer Sarah found an excellent website with weekly activities for children and we chose to resource the church website from this. The materials have been used by some families and Grayswood Primary School, especially to support home schooling, although it has been difficult to assess the extent of this usage. There was no Nativity play this year but the children in the village were very engaged in the 'Advent Windows' activity. I plan to step back from organising Sunday School once we are able to meet again as I feel a younger person, more in tune with young people will be able to engage the youngsters better.

Angela Wheeler

MISSION TEAMS

CHURCH FAYRES

Unfortunately, we were unable to hold the normal fayres in the village hall in May and December owing to the pandemic.

These are an important part of our fundraising towards the running costs of the church and we therefore needed to look to alternative fundraisers. We were pleased to be able to hold an outdoor cake and plant sale on the village green in September which raised approximately £500 and was particularly welcomed by many in the village. People enjoyed being able to see one another, while maintaining social distancing. We were also able to use

our cashless payment system for the first time at an outdoor event and this worked very well.

In December we held an outdoor cake sale in the church porch which raised £279.

We are very grateful to those who donated plants, baked, set up on either day or helped in any way and of course to those who supported the events by spending money. A particular thanks to Di Cook and Pauline Lamb for being the driving forces behind these fundraisers.

Jackie Holmes (Fayre team co-ordinator)

HOSPITALITY

In 2020 there was very little opportunity to show our hospitality but before we were prohibited from meeting socially we did have one very happy occasion to remember – the celebration for Fi's installation on February 9th. As always, with the wonderful All Saints family, many offered to help in providing savoury dishes and desserts, setting up tables, serving, washing up etc. – a happy team for a memorable and very happy event. That has been the joy of co-ordinating the hospitality for All Saints and I thank you all for giving your time and culinary skills so very generously and willingly. It has enabled us at All Saints to reflect God's abundant generosity to us. Jasmin (Tempest) has kindly volunteered to take on the role of hospitality co-ordinator and is poised for the time when meeting socially again is possible. I know that she will be very grateful for your support.

Judy Culhane (Co-ordinator)

MISSION LINKS

Every year we support four charities – one in each quarter of the year through gifts donated and from all the money you generously put in the coffee tin after church each week (we do not take out any expenses). Unfortunately, due to lockdown we have not been able to meet for coffee since March but the charities have benefitted from £300 which the PCC adds to each of the donations. Our three main quarterly missions are 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). Each year we choose a different mission for the remaining quarter and our chosen Mission for the first quarter 2020 was Christopher's Smile, a charity that strives to make a difference for children suffering from cancer. Totals sent to these missions were:

Christopher's Smile	£429.84
CMS	£600 (included a special donation in response to a Covid appeal)
Through Faith Missions (TFM)	£300
Skillway	£300

Every year we support Grayswood school (£10 per pupil), Grayswood Nursery (£250 per term). In addition we supported the Children's Society (£158.57), the Bishop's Fund (£546.79), the Church Urban Fund (£110), Water Aid (£73) and the British Legion.

Judy Culhane

THE GOOD BOOK MORNING

The Good Book Morning meet at my house 'Corner Cottage', 77 Lower Road on the 4th Monday in each month from 10.30-12 noon during January and February. Unfortunately meetings then stopped due to the first lockdown and have not restarted because of social distancing guidelines. We have tried to keep in touch with each other during this time.

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 hope to resume meetings in June 2021, come along and give it a try.

Jean White

COFFEE AND CHAT

Sadly, we have been unable to hold any coffee mornings in the Village Club over the last year and as a consequence, we have been unable to raise additional funds for local charities. The previous year's funds of around £200 were split between the Food Bank and the Community Store, which we felt were the appropriate charities in the current situation.

Janet, Vera and I have desperately missed meeting everyone - and baking cakes! We are looking forward to being able to get everything up and running again as soon as possible.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us.

Di Cook

TODDLER GROUP

Unfortunately due to Covid regulations and restrictions we have been unable to hold our toddler sessions for this year. It is a shame and we really miss the children and the lovely chats with the parents. Hopefully we will be able to meet together soon.

Jane White

THE RUNNER

The Grayswood Runner has continued to be a source of information not only for the congregation but also for the wider community as we have journeyed through the many changes of the past 12 months.

We have continued to produce a monthly edition of The Runner despite the challenges. Digital copies were emailed to over 200 homes and placed on the website to download and as lockdown eased; Fi has printed endless copies (while I worked from home) which were folded at home and delivered by the dedicated team of volunteers around the parish.

Our regular contributors from the Women's Institute, Grayswood Nursery, Friends of Grayswood School (PTA) and the Village Club have kept everyone updated on changes to local events and provided zoom codes for activities such as the WI meetings, Book Club and Club Quiz which have temporarily moved online. Our campaign to recruit new members to the floristry team was a success and we have 5 new flower arrangers on the team.

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 Pastoral Team didn't meet at all in 2020 as our first meeting had been arranged for the end of March. We were unable to hold the meetings online as over one third of the team aren't online and therefore wasn't viable. We were, however, still able to arrange the usual harvest distribution which is always well received.

A number of new people moved into the village during the year and they are given welcome cards. We have also distributed a couple of baby jackets during this time.

Grayswood is a very supportive village anyway but the Pastoral Team do a fantastic job of keeping an eye out for those who might be in need of some extra help or support.

If you would like to join the team then we are always looking for people to join us. I hope that we will be able to meet in person in 2021 and to look afresh at what we do and how we can improve.

A huge thank you to all those on the team who do such a great job.

Fi Gwynn, Associate Priest

MAINTENANCE TEAMS

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

We continue to be grateful for our Building and Grounds team of volunteers who conscientiously watch over the church surrounds keeping it to a high visual and performance standard in keeping with it's beautiful surroundings. Additionally the team also maintain the garden of remembrance.

Pleased to report that the grounds maintenance contractors, Andrew Over, continue to meet their contractual obligations in keeping grass and pathways looking best and tidy throughout the year.

Following work undertaken in 2019 to "fill in" the sunken areas around the graveyard, the general safety and appearance of graves have been stabilised and improved.

The surface area around the septic tanks were re-seeded in Q4 2019. Pleased to report the area has now grassed over.

Memorial garden was an area that required attention to visually recover sunken plaques. Following work by volunteers the whole area was made good allowing plaques to be visually displayed.

LED lighting project continued during the year with several on-site visits by CES with PCC input, resulting in final submission being approved Q4 2020. Work on LED lighting installation is now scheduled to commence and be fully operational during Q2 2021.

Doves and pigeons are roosting in bell tower and general roof area of church. PCC have actively pursued companies who might be able to resolve the issue and remove/discourage birds from roosting.

John McLean (Co-ordinator)

FLOWERS

As I write this report it is with the expectation that our flower arrangers will be back decorating All Saints very soon.

Sadly, we made the church look great for Easter and Christmas only to find ourselves in lockdown. I must thank the ladies especially Claire, for their brilliant efforts at all the special occasions and particularly Harvest.

We said a fond farewell to Judy Culhane after many years on the flower rota or organising it herself. Judy had a very beautiful fluid style similar to Constance Spry – ideal for weddings – we will miss her smile, organisation and talent. We also have ladies who have been incapacitated for one reason or another, wish them well and hope they are able to return to the rota soon.

We have been using bio-degradable oasis for our arrangements, it's not as good at holding the moisture, but we continue to try our best to be green!

We currently only have 7 ladies (and no men – who make excellent arrangers) actively arranging and watering and we would welcome some new names to add. You don't have to be brilliant, the church just benefits from colour and arranging flowers is art – never wrong – so please, please consider joining us. The more people on the rota, the easier it is for everyone.

Every year we invite a family to create the Easter garden and the Christmas Nativity scene, if you would like to do this – it is a wonderful opportunity to create a wonderful memory with your children, or a friend, or maybe with your school class.

Sasi Cave (Flower team co-ordinator)

PLANNED GIVING AND GIFT AID

2020 was an extraordinary year, the Covid pandemic disrupted all our lives with lockdowns and social distancing measures that meant we were all very restricted in our activities. The church building had to close from March until August and there was limited opening from August to Christmas. During that time the church building may have been closed but the Church was open and active with well attended Zoom services and after service chats every Sunday. Our Church family found ways to continue to donate through the year, and I am delighted to tell you that the donations for 2020 of £41,655 exceeded those for 2019 by £965. That was a tremendous result in a very difficult year, well done to everyone. In addition because so many of the donations were eligible for Gift Aid we received £ 9,361 in rebate from HMRC.

We are very fortunate that for many years a large proportion of our donations are by standing order and these were not affected by the pandemic problems. Those who normally donated by cash at the church services found other ways to donate, some opened new standing orders or increased existing ones, others sent cheques to the church or used BACS transfers. When we had limited services from August to Christmas we received many large in-church donations to make up for those missed from March to August. Thank you to all those who went the extra mile make your donations.

In August we started to use chip and pin card donation machines at the Sunday services, the take up has been good considering the limited numbers of people that could attend the services. We have had a few teething problems with units which are being resolved and in the future this may be a successor to cash donations as the pandemic has brought us ever closer to the cashless society. Donation by chip and pin can be for any amount and can be gift aided by using your Gift Aid envelopes to support your donation.

The easiest way to make regular donations is by a bank standing order, they are easy to set up and manage whether you bank online or by telephone and with so many bank branches closing most people will be banking remotely. If you would like to start a standing order please contact me for details.

The Gift Aid rebate is very important to us, if you are eligible for Gift Aid please register with us so that we can claim Gift Aid on your donations. Please contact me for Gift Aid information and registration details.

	2020	2019
Standing Order Donations	£33,465	£29,895
Church Service Donations	£5,107	£10,742
Other Donations	£3,083	£2,973
Total	£41,655	£40,690

David Hutton (Gift Aid Admin danddhutton@gmail.com 01428644178, 07747291156)

CHURCH BRING AND BUY

Unfortunately because we have been unable to meet together after Church due to regulations and restrictions we have not been able to have our table sales. Hopefully later in the year restrictions will be lifted and we can welcome all your lovely bakes and jams again soon.

Jane White

BUCKET COLLECTIONS

No further money has been collected since my last report. The bucket collection has now been closed until a relaunch is possible. A donation of £5.06 this year brings the total raised since I took over the job from Shirley Richmond to £69 (plus reclaimed VAT).

Angela Wheeler

CHURCH ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Through the wonders of technology I am submitting this report from home where I have worked for the last twelve months (with just a few interruptions from home schooling!).

Fi has kindly taken on the tasks that could not be completed remotely - thank you.

The website has come into its own this year - we introduced an online booking system for services, created a point of information for the many changes to events and services, and a one-stop shop for online content - recordings, meditations, sermons, intercessions and children's activities - to support the variety of worship offerings throughout the year. There has been much positive feedback and the visitor data shows a reach beyond the parish which is always encouraging.

We trialled the introduction of Church Suite (a content management system) in the latter part of the year and it has been agreed that this will be fully adopted over the coming months. This should not only streamline some of the back office functions but also provide a user-friendly app for booking onto events and services, paying for items (such as Lent books) and making donations.

I look forward to working back in the Church building as soon as circumstances allow.

Sarah Bennett (Church Administrator)

