

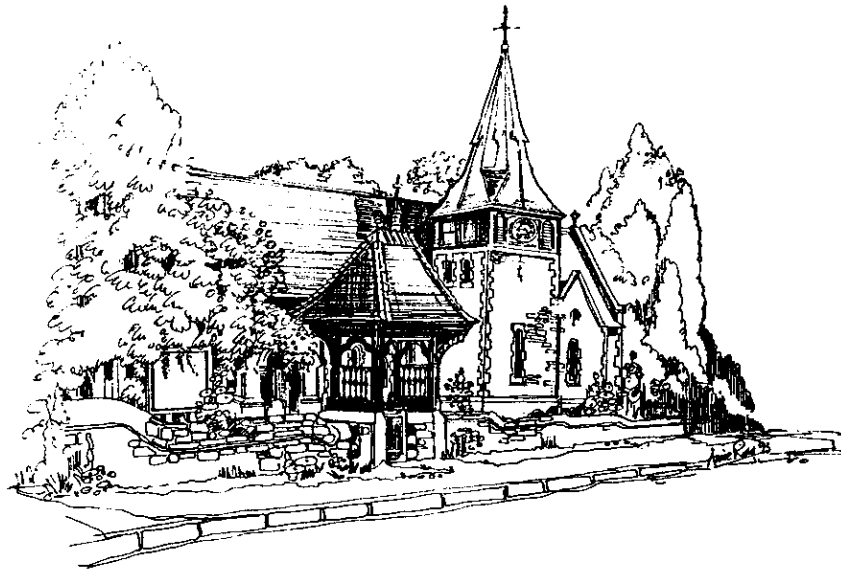


All Saints Church

Grayswood

For God, for one another, for the world

Reports of teams for Ministry and Mission 2021 For the Annual Parish Meeting 2022



Annie Ridd ©

WORSHIP AND LEARNING TEAMS

HOME GROUP

Home group is an informal evening where 10-12 of us meet to look, reflect, discuss, and learn more about our Christian Faith.

In our first term, we looked at Prayer, using the 24-7 prayer course (check it out on YouTube). The Lord's Prayer was a tool we used over eight sessions. Session 1 'Why Pray?' unpacked the importance of prayer. Session 2 'Our Father who art in Heaven Hallowed be Your name' the theme adoration, explored God's presence in praise and worship. Each week we enjoyed honest discussion through the difficulties and joy of talking and listening to our Heavenly Father.

This term we are using J John's book 'Curious questions we might like to ask God': 'Will I be fat in Heaven' and other deeper questions about The Trinity, suffering and there is more still to unpack. It's an honour to host this group with John and create a safe, honest environment to explore our Faith.

Pippa Hollins-McLean

Time to Be: 3rd Wednesday of each month 7-8pm on zoom

Time to Be began in September 2021 and a small number of us gather monthly on-line to spend quiet time with God, in contemplative style prayer. Each session follows a similar pattern beginning with a time of stilling, to settle ourselves into God's presence, using images, a short reading and music to help us put the worries of the day aside. Two scripture readings are chosen for each session, selected from the following Sunday's lectionary. With time for reading, silence and sharing, we use this time of prayer to listen to what God might be saying to us through these readings, as we connect the words in scripture to our experience of life and faith. We conclude with intercessions, praying for the needs of the world, for those in particular need and for each other. Everyone is welcome; no need to attend each session. Just come when you can.

Lent course 2021

Lent 2021 was of course during lockdown, so the Lent course was held on-line. The book on which this course was based was, *Opening our Lives: Devotional readings for Lent*, written by Trystan Owain Hughes; this was the Bible Reading Fellowship Lent book for 2021. This book is both a daily devotional and a one which can be adapted for a course. Over the five sessions we followed the main themes set out in the book, through which we were encouraged to deepen our faith, our relationship with Christ and to consider how we might live out our faith in the world, as we negotiate the many challenges of life. The last session concluded with Compline as we looked ahead to Holy Week.

The Treasures of Advent: Quiet Time for Advent: Saturday 27 November 2021

Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. Lk 2:19

A group of us gathered on a chilly Saturday in All Saints Church for this quiet morning, just prior to the beginning of Advent. It was an opportunity for us to take time out of our busy schedules, to reflect and ponder upon the treasures of the Advent season to come. The morning began and concluded with a short act of worship; the scriptural focus for the morning being the story of the Annunciation to Mary. The Annunciation was also the basis for a time of imaginative prayer, to help us engage with this familiar story at a deeper level. A significant portion of the day allowed space for our own personal quiet time, with resources to hand as required. At the close of the morning as we prepared to return back into the world and the busyness of the pre-Christmas season, we each set ourselves one intention to take forward for Advent.

Elaine Collins Assistant Priest

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 prayer requests that are to be 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.

Parish 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, 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 witness God answer to prayer in ways you never thought possible.

If you would like to be a part of a prayer triplet group please contact Dian Mordin 644143 who can put you in touch with others.

Do you Need Prayer?

If you would like someone to pray with you after a 10am service, Dian Mordin, Mary Gorniak or Pippa Hollins-McLean, will be very willing to find a quiet place to pray with you.

Reflect and Prayer

The church is opened throughout each day to make available to anyone who would like a peaceful area to quietly reflect, read or pray.

Dian Mordin (Co-ordinator)

MUSIC

2021 was a strange year, for most of which singing was not allowed in church and so there was no choir.

We started singing again in the Autumn, in a largely informal way; we do not normally wear choir robes, as we feel our role is to lead the congregation in singing, rather than to be a separate body of people in the church. We were all pretty rusty but we are gradually getting back into the swing of things.

Although we have no youngsters in the choir at present, we are very pleased that Naomi, Anne and Ngozi have joined us. We would welcome anyone who is interested in singing with us.

In 2021 we were allowed to have a Carol Service, which I think we all enjoyed and was a welcome indication of life after Covid-19.

I should like to express my thanks to Jean White and George Gorniak for their organ playing and Mary Gorniak for her beautiful flute playing at services and to George for being prepared to step in at short notice.

Nicola Miller

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school did not meet during 2021 due to lockdown and Covid restrictions. There was no Nativity play this year but the children in the village were very engaged in the 'Advent Windows' activity. The Christingle service moved online at short notice due to increasing Covid numbers but was well supported.

School assemblies, prayer space events and other materials are available on the website.

Sunday School will resume after Easter 2022.

MISSION TEAMS

CHURCH FAYRES

Although the continuing pandemic meant that we were unable to hold the Spring Fayre in the village hall, we decided to go ahead with planning for the Christmas Fayre in the hope that there would not be another lock-down in December. Thankfully, we were able to go ahead and the morning was a huge success, both as a long-awaited community event and also in raising just over £2,000 for church funds.

Earlier in the year we also held several cake and book sales outside the Village Club which boosted our fundraising and were very sociable mornings. They were well-supported by people from the village as well as church family and, although coffee was made available in the Club, those who did not feel comfortable going inside were able to stay outside and still enjoy the occasion.

We are very grateful to those who donated items for sale, baked, set up or helped in any way - and of course to those who supported any or all of the events by spending money. A particular thanks to Di Cook for being the driving force behind the cake and book sales.

Jackie Holmes (Fayre team co-ordinator)

HOSPITALITY

Although we were prevented from showing our church hospitality for most of 2021, we were very lucky to be able to organise an outreach event in December just before Omicron took off.

On 10th December 2021, a member of our church family gave an outstanding performance, reading Dickens own shortened version of 'A Christmas Carol'. The congregation was asked to bring along someone who doesn't normally attend All Saints which proved to be a highly successful endeavour. It was wonderful to see so many new faces sitting in the pews (as well as familiar ones) and to hear their thunderous applause at the end.

For hospitality, it was decided to offer canapes and mulled wine on arrival then mince pies and more mulled wine during the interval. The mission was for our audience to 'Taste the Love of God' and with that in mind we hand-made nearly 280 canapes on the day, catering for all, from gluten-free to vegan as well as children. To protect the eighty-strong audience and those serving, it was decided to seat our audience in pews rather than allow them to wander and to serve them there, thus minimising the potential for Covid transmission. For the same reason, it was decided to buy

disposable tableware. In keeping with the Church initiative on sustainability, the cups, plates, forks and napkins used to serve the food were all 100% biodegradable and people were encouraged to take them home for use in their gardens. We were able to get Merry Christmas imprinted onto the cups and napkins adding to the festive atmosphere.

As always, it was a team effort from the younger members of All-Saints who served the mulled wine, to super-efficient Jackie getting plates of canapes delivered in record time. From Rosie and Susai who gave their time freely despite not being members of All Saints to the many others who offered support.

It was an enormous pleasure to host the hospitality for this wonderful event and to highlight the marvellous All Saints Grayswood Church. It would be a blessing if some of those attending were happy to walk through the doors again and meet on a Sunday.

Jasmin Tempest (Hospitality 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 were not able to meet for coffee until July, 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 2021 was Crossways Counselling, a local mental health charity. Totals sent to these missions were:

Crossways counselling	£ 350
CMS	£ 325
Through Faith Missions (TFM)	£ 400
Skillway	£ 300

Each year we support Grayswood primary school and Grayswood Nursery. All primary school children are given a bible when they leave. In addition we supported Christian Aid, the British Legion and UNHCR at Harvest.

Tracy Garland

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. Unfortunately, there were no meetings in the first half of the year due to lockdown and then Covid restrictions. 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, there is no agenda and there is usually a lively chatter going on as people share their joys and sorrows.

We hope to resume meetings after Easter 2022, 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.

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 in February 2022.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us in the past.

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. We are relaunching the group on Thursday mornings in February 2022.

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 another year of challenges. Digital copies were emailed to over 200 homes and placed on the website to download. As lockdown restrictions varied, we were able to produce printed copies for every edition which have been variously folded in homes and in the church and delivered by the dedicated team of volunteers around the parish.

We have supported The Hunter Centre and Friends of All Saints events including the Open Gardens and Jazz Evening, advertised courses for Start, Lent and Advent and promoted our Christmas Fayre and the Christmas Carol Reading.

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 temporarily moved online during lockdowns.

We celebrated worshipping in church for Easter, welcoming our school children back into church and completing the LED lighting project.

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 2021 but there was lots of pastoral activity happening in the village.

The village WhatsApp has proved invaluable for finding out about people in need and there was lots of very positive encounters with people helping each other out.

Harvest Festival went ahead this year, and we were able to distribute biscuits to individuals, although this was done by members of the team, rather than getting the children from the school involved.

A large delivery of goods was taken to the Food Bank both at Harvest and at Christmas. A big thank you to Jasmin Tempest who sat in a cold church every morning for a week collecting donations in December.

There have been quite a few new people who have moved into the village and there is generally someone on hand to welcome them and to tell them about the church.

We hope to re-launch the pastoral team in 2022 and if anyone would like to join us you would be most welcome.

A huge thank you to all those already on the team who provide such a great support to many in the village.

Fi Gwynn, Associate Priest

MAINTENANCE TEAMS

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

We continue to be grateful for our Buildings and Grounds team of volunteers who conscientiously watch over and maintain the church fabric, and its grounds to a very high standard in terms of appearance and safety. Additionally, the team maintain and manage the garden of Remembrance ensuring it is always visually tidy.

As previous years our grass maintenance contractors continue to provide an excellent service and meet their contracted obligations ensuring that the grass and pathways are kept tidy and weed free.

A health and safety risk assessment of the graveyard, with particular attention being paid to the memorials, was commissioned during the year with the result that several headstones were deemed to present a potential risk of falling over and causing an accident. In December 2021, a notice was placed on the relevant memorials in an attempt to trace individuals who would be responsible for their upkeep. To date no one has contacted the Church Office claiming responsibility.

LED lighting project was successfully completed in Q2 2021 by our preferred contractors CES. The light system is now fully operational and significantly improves the ambiance within the church.

Pigeons continue to roost in the church loft space causing potential health and safety concerns. PCC has approved contractors PGH pest prevention, to:

1. Supply and fit polyurethane netting to all sides of the bell tower, repair and refit broken slats, remove nests and clean area.
2. Remove bird fouling and nesting materials and decontaminate area.

Work to commence Q1 2022.

John McLean (Co-ordinator)

FLOWERS

Despite the disruptions of COVID and lockdowns, this year has been a great one for the flower team. We had a wonderful response to our advert and subsequently increased our team into double figures. New recruits are now on the rota for 2022 and have already helped at festivals displaying their individual talents. Flowers have been uniquely displayed like a Van Gogh painting in

a pottery vase, allotment produce has been used demonstrating the positives to the situation we all faced, and yet again Claire and the team produced a wonderful display for Harvest.

A new system has been put in place for 2022, which was trialled in 2021 with a few hiccups along the way but hopefully this will spread the load. So the rota has volunteers doing a two week stint so they can put fresh flowers in place one week and freshen their arrangement the next. At festivals a colour scheme is noted on the rota and jobs have been distributed so everyone brings their own flowers for their display along with their own container or one from the cupboard. I hope this proves successful and All Saints continues to lead the way in floral artistry.

I am now living in Southsea, but I will be returning from time to time to be part of the family at All Saints which I have enjoyed both spiritually, socially and artistically. I shall miss the team greatly but know that they will continue their good works. If anyone wants to take on the responsibilities of flower co-ordinator, please contact the church office for details.

Sasi Cave (Flower team co-ordinator)

PLANNED GIVING AND GIFT AID

2021 was another year disrupted by Covid 19 lockdowns. From the start of the year until the beginning of April we had no services in church, but online services were "Zoomed" live to all of us from the church building and I am sure we are very all grateful to Fiona and her team for providing that service.

Planned giving via Bank Standing Orders continued throughout the year and some people decided to start donating by Standing Order instead of donating by cash in church. All Saints has always received a large proportion of its donations from Standing orders and this year it accounted for 80% of the total planned donations.

During the early part of the year when there were no services in church many of the people who normally donate in church in cash, sent in block amounts by cheques to cover the amounts they would normally have donated in church. When services did resume there were no collection plates during the service, but a retiring collection bowl was available. We also had a card reader available for donations by card, the uptake on this method has been patchy but I am sure it will improve as using a card instead of cash becomes the norm.

Below is comparison on donations over the last 3 years

	2021	2020	2019
Standing Order Donations	£32,390	£33,465	£29,895
Church Service Donations	£5,237	£5,107	£10,742
Other Donations	£2,385	£3,083	£2,973
Total	£40,012	£41,655	£40,690

During the year we also raised funds for the repair of the church clock, Gift Aided donations were £3,040 and the tax rebate from this added £760 to the clock fund.

Total rebate from HMRC for 2021 was £9,713, which is a very worthwhile increase to church funds. Thanks to all those donors who qualify for Gift Aid and opted-in.

I would like to encourage more people to make their regular donation to All Saints by Bank Standing Order, if you bank online it is very simple to set up to amend or to cancel. You can find details of how to set it up and register for Gift Aid on the church website, or you can contact me and I will send you the details you need. So that we can claim the 25% Gift Aid rebate you will need to register with us. If you do not qualify for Gift Aid you can still donate by Standing Order.

I think that this years result is very good considering the difficulties we are all facing during the Covid pandemic.

CHURCH BRING AND BUY

Unfortunately due to ongoing Covid regulations and restrictions we have not been able to have our table sales. We hope to restart as soon as guidance allows and we can welcome all your lovely bakes and jams again soon.

Jane White

BUCKET COLLECTIONS

Prior to the advent of Covid-19 the bucket collection provided a steady income stream. In February 2021 a sum of £50 was paid into the church account. Collections this financial year have been minimal, following the general trend for people to switch away from cash transactions. Lockdowns and reduced attendance have also impacted on giving, which totalled £8.43 for the period from March 2021 to January, 2022.

Angela Wheeler

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

What a difference a year makes. After the many lockdowns and instructions to 'work from home', I am now mainly back working in the office in the church. It is lovely to welcome back visitors to the office, see the runner folders and to be able to occasionally join morning prayers on a Wednesday. The website continues to be a source of information for the events and services happening at church (and the inevitable changes to them) and we were able to provide a range of online content - recordings, meditations, sermons, intercessions, and children's activities - to support the variety of worship offerings throughout the year. This has enabled those unable to attend church an opportunity to remain connected and those who are curious to have an insight into what we are all about.

This year we hope to add more on the architecture of the building and provide an online church guide to a building that has been part of Grayswood for 120 years.

The implementation of ChurchSuite (our content management system) continues and has been invaluable for back-office functions including maintaining a dynamic address book (and electoral roll), raising invoices and creating bookings for weddings etc. The user-friendly app enables both church members and community members to see when they are serving and organise swaps on a variety of rotas (Sunday services, runner folding, coffee), to volunteer in the community and keep their own details up to date.

In addition to the weekly service sheets and monthly publication of The Runner, there has been administration for: 3 weddings, 7 baptisms and 3 funeral services at church, 7 funeral services held at the crematorium and 8 full burials/burials of ashes. There has been correspondence for 3 faculties for gravespaces, and 5 headstones or memorial stones. Other tasks included updating the electoral roll (with Val Digby), maintaining the graveyard register (with David Hutton), and producing the church calendar (with Tracy Garland).

We have made a start on overhauling and streamlining the procedures file to reflect the very many changes that have occurred in the last three years: The office moving to the vestry from Church House, Barbara retiring (after a period of ill health), working through a vacancy, Fi becoming priest in charge, welcoming Elaine as assistant priest, a pandemic and online working, and digital processing accelerating faster than some of the Church of England systems can grind!

Hopefully the systems are in place to support All Saints as a church very much at the heart of the community of Grayswood.

Sarah Bennett (Church Administrator)