



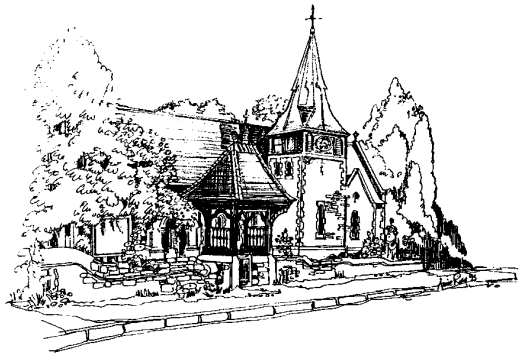
# **All Saints Church**

Grayswood

*For God, for one another, for the world*

## **Reports of teams for Ministry and Mission 2022**

### **For the Annual Parish Meeting 2023**



*Annie Ridd ©*

## WORSHIP AND LEARNING TEAMS

### HOME GROUP

On a Tuesday evening at 7:30 up to 12 of us meet together which has turned into an evening of friendship, fun, prayer, meditation whilst we look at God's word.

We have used the resources from '24:7 prayer international'

In the Autumn term we looked to see what it means 'To be Still' a challenge in this busy world. This last term was on 'How to hear God by praying the Bible' by exploring the ancient practice of Lectio Divina.

"How can I grow in my prayer life?"

"What on earth is God saying?"

"How do I make sense of the Bible?"

Tuesday evenings have become a great time to get to know each other.

*Pippa Hollins-McLean(Group Leader).*

### TIME TO BE: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month 7-8pm on zoom

Time to Be, a quiet contemplative hour of prayer, meets monthly (7-8 pm 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month with a summer break in August) via zoom.

We begin each hour with a time of quiet stilling, using music, poetry and silence, as we put to one side the concerns of our day and bring ourselves fully into God's presence.

Praying with scripture follows and most often we focus on a psalm and the Gospel for the following Sunday. As we pray in this way we allow ourselves to listen with greater intention to what God might be saying to us. As St Benedict wrote, it is in silence we can listen with the 'ears of our hearts'. We conclude each Time to Be with a time of intercession.

Everyone is welcome to join us.

### LENT COURSE 2022

Our Lent course for 2022 was Difference. Difference is part of the reconciling leaders network, linked to the Archbishop of Canterbury's Reconciliation Ministry. The aim of the course is to explore what it means to be a disciple of Christ in an extremely complex and divided world.

Over the five weeks of our Lent course, we were challenged and encouraged to develop the following three Habits as we listened to and learned from stories of conflict, divide, disagreement and discrimination:

Be curious - to listen to other's stories and see the world through their eyes.

Be present - encounter others with authenticity and confidence.

Reimagine - finding hope and opportunity in the places where we long to see change.

Each session included a video story, scripture, times for individual reflection, group activities and discussion, as we each reflected upon our own responses and reactions to encountering difference in the communities in which we live and work. A practical course helping us to be more Christ like in our discipleship.

*Elaine Collins, Assistant Priest*

## PRAYER MINISTRY

Below is an overview of 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 prayer needs. 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 approach or phone one of the prayer chain members: Fiona Gwynn, Dian Mordin, Pippa Hollins, Jane White, Daphne Bleach, Tracy Garland.

### Prayer Triplets

These are small individual groups who meet together weekly in each other's homes to pray about concerns for themselves, friends and family. These groups are highly recommended for encouraging and supporting each other, and for seeing prayers answered in surprising ways!

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, please approach either Dian Mordin, Mary Gorniak, Pippa Hollins, Richard Everett or John McLean who 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

The choir has continued to lead the singing at All Saints to the best of our abilities. We were happy that we had a whole year during which we were permitted to sing, because Covid-19 restrictions has been lifted, but sad that our numbers are still quite low and we no longer have any junior choir members. If anyone would like to join us, they would be very welcome. Please contact me or any other choir member if you are interested.

Jean White is continuing to set records for the length of service as church organist and we are very grateful to her for the work she puts in. We are also grateful to George Gorniak for stepping in when Jean has been unavailable, sometimes at very short notice, and to George and Mary for playing the piano and flute so beautifully on the fourth Sundays of the month.

*Nicola Miller*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School was not re-established in 2022 but provision was made for the children in church by creating age appropriate bags containing books and toys. Our Children's provision will be reviewed in 2023.

The Christingle with Crib Service was popular with over 70 children attending. The school children were able to return to the church for their harvest service and Christmas services and Rev Fi Gwynn has been able to resume Weekly Assemblies.

## **MISSION TEAMS**

### CHURCH FAYRES

In 2022 we were able to hold both Spring and Christmas Fayres, a welcome return to normality after the pandemic lockdowns. Both were wonderful community events and a huge success financially, raising over £4,000 for church funds.

We are very grateful to those who donated items for sale, baked, sold raffle tickets, set up on the morning and tidied the hall after the event, ran the stalls on the day, served teas coffees and bacon butties, or helped in any way - and of course to those who supported the events by spending money.

A large number of people are involved in making the Fayres a success but we would particularly welcome anyone who would like to join Di and I in the organisation.

*Jackie Holmes* (Fayre team co-ordinator)

## HOSPITALITY

We have had a few events this year to get our teeth into. Over Easter, we had a very enjoyable mezze supper on Maundy Thursday and hot cross buns after the service on Good Friday.

In October, we prepared a ploughman's lunch in the village hall after the harvest service – it was an enjoyable time of food and fellowship and it would be lovely to see more people there next year.

It was a pleasure to arrange the refreshments for Richard's reading of The Lion The Witch and the Wardrobe and the Selfish Giant and also for A Christmas Carol before Christmas. The children had snack boxes for the Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe, which went down well. It was daunting following in Jasmin's footsteps in preparing canapes for the Christmas Carol night, but everyone was complimentary.

We have been asked to provide refreshments at a few funerals as well which is always a pleasure, anything to take the load from families and it always seems such a small thing to do.

Jackie and Jane are looking forward to another packed Church calendar with events to cater for!

*Jackie Holmes & Jane White (Hospitality co-ordinators)*

## 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). Coffee after our Sunday services resumed this year and the PCC adds £300 to each of the donations. Our three main quarterly missions are CMS (our Mission partner Katia Rocks 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 2022 was Crossways Counselling, a local mental health charity. Totals sent to these missions were:

Crossways counselling	£ 440
CMS	£ 378
Through Faith Missions (TFM)	£ 431
Skillway	£ 490

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 the Royal British Legion, the Childrens' Society and Water Aid at Harvest.

*Tracy Garland*

## COFFEE AND CHAT

Once again we managed to get regular mornings organised, missing only January and July due to Covid issues.

They were well attended, with many groups regularly seen around their favourite tables and others sitting chatting to catch up with friends.

We decided in February to donate any money raised to the local Food Bank, with families struggling after the pandemic.

However, by March, Ukraine was under attack so all monies collected from March through to September were given to the Red Cross Ukraine Fund.

As Christmas came into view, we decided to split donations between the two causes.

The generosity of the village and the humanity shown by so many meant that by the end of the year we had given £265.82 to the Food Bank and £758.10 to the Ukraine Fund.

How blessed we have been to have such a response!

I would like to express my thanks to Vera and Janet for helping make these ventures so enjoyable and successful.

*Di Cook*

## TODDLER GROUP

Our Toddler Group now meets on a Wednesday in the Oonagh Jeffrey room during term time and is well attended, with a group of 5 or 6 regulars. It is always a pleasure to meet new mums/dads/grandparents/nannies with their little ones and to have a chat over a piece of cake and a cup of coffee. We have a happy band of volunteers but, as always, if it is something you would like to help with we would welcome you

*Jackie Holmes*

## THE RUNNER

2022 marked not only 120 years of All Saints Church, but of course 120 years of a parish newsletter.

The March 1902 Newsletter reported on the life of the new church, the forthcoming services and parish events – including the Cricket Club, updates on the school and news of fundraising. And so the rhythm continues. The Grayswood Runner has continued to be a source of information not only for the congregation but also for the wider community as we journeyed through the many changes of 2022.

It was so lovely that many of the articles included the words “is returning”, “we’re back” and “open again” as local events re-started after pandemic and others reverted to face-to-face meetings from online gatherings. We have supported The Hunter Centre and Friends of All Saints events, advertised courses for Lent and Advent and promoted our Christmas Fayre and Christmas Carol Reading. Our regular contributors include the Women’s Institute, Grayswood Nursery, Friends of Grayswood School (PTA) and the Village Club with their varied events.

Runner Folding has returned to church – with a faithful band of volunteers folding, bundling and inserting fliers – with cups of tea, biscuits and time to chat. A big thank you to those who give up their time once a month and also to those who, as the final link in the chain, distribute copies around the village. If you would like to be on the folding or distribution team, please do let Sarah or Val know.

If you would consider writing a short article (100 or so words) for one of the editions, please email [allsaintsgrayswood@gmail.com](mailto: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 15<sup>th</sup> of the month), and the Runner is displayed on the church website: [allsaintsgrayswood.org](http://allsaintsgrayswood.org).

*Sarah Bennett (Editor)*

## **PASTORAL TEAMS**

The Pastoral Team meet twice a year. It is comprised of trained Pastoral Assistants and those who are willing to take on the responsibility of having an oversight of particular areas in the village. This is a vital part of our role to care for those in the village regardless of whether they worship at All Saints or not.

In previous years we have distributed biscuits and cards to people who have moved into the village, had a baby or been bereaved. As a result of increased safeguarding and health and safety restrictions it has become much harder to get the school involved in this area. Consequently the decision was taken this year simply to deliver a card to let people know that we were thinking of them and inviting them to our services. We haven't received any negative comments about this stopping so can only assume that this was the correct decision.

We continue to distribute hand knitted cardigans to new-born babies in the village and to those in the wider community who attend the toddler group (and the occasional grandchild). A huge thank you to our knitters who provide our supply of cardigans.

If you know of anyone in the village who is in need of any extra support then please do contact a member of the team.

Also, if anyone is interested in joining the pastoral team then please do speak to me. You could either join as a general team member or you may like to consider taking the Pastoral visitors training which is run by Guildford Diocese.

*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 Q1 2022, All Saints Grayswood PCC carried out an inspection of the memorials in the churchyard and several memorials were found to be unsafe. In August 2022 notices were placed on memorials for which there were no contact details of the individual who organised the erection of the memorial, it is their responsibility for keeping the memorial in a safe condition. To date no one has contacted the Church Office claiming responsibility.

In Q1, contractor PGH successfully completed the removal of doves, pigeons, nests and waste from church loft space. Additional work undertaken included the supply and fitting of polyurethane netting to all sides of bell tower.

During the year, the following additional actions were under:

1. Ash tree was felled following risk assessment and inspection of trees in church grounds.
2. Cherry tree was planted to replace a tree that was felled following a health and safety risk assessment undertaken several years ago.
3. Loose church floor tiles were lifted and re-seated.

*John McLean (Co-ordinator)*

### FLOWERS

During 2022 we welcomed new members to the team who brought their creativity and ideas to our floral displays. The team have continued to provide an arrangement each week and fill the church with fresh flowers for the annual festivals.

Early in the year Claire Wright and Tracy attended a workshop at St Barts led by Claire Brown who owns a flower farm at East Clandon. Claire demonstrated how to arrange flowers without floristry foam, which is not bio-degradable and pollutes our water systems. Claire is passionate about environmental issues and sustainability, arranging with locally sourced and seasonal flowers. Chicken wire is now used in all arrangements and we are mindful of the provenance of flowers used. At Harvest all the flowers and foliage were from gardens and allotments, not a single flower was bought.



In December some members of the team attended a wreath-making event using locally sourced foliage. The wreaths were stunning and sold well at the Christmas fayre, raising much needed funds for the maintenance of the church.

Thanks to Claire Wright for organising the festival flowers and the rota of arrangers.

We continue to welcome new members to the team. If you would like to help with displays on an occasional or regular basis or at festival times please get in touch. New ideas are always welcome!

*Tracy Garland* (Flower team co-ordinator)

### PLANNED GIVING AND GIFT AID

2022 was a year when communities began to get used to life after the Covid pandemic and live with a general downturn in the economic situation. All Saints has always enjoyed a steady income from donations made by standing orders and this kept up throughout the pandemic and ensured that we managed to continue with the church work over the last few years. During the last two years some of our standing order donors have moved away from the area and some others have sadly died. During this time although some donors have increased their standing orders amounts this has not compensated for the standing orders that have stopped so our income from standing orders has reduced by £2,800 from £32,400 in 2021 to £29,600 in 2022.

Collections in church started slowly, we were not able to pass the collection plate along the pews during the services and relied on collections at the end of the services. Towards the end of the year we were able to restart the collections in the pews and the amounts increased. As the year progressed our congregation began to increase including people new to the church. The use of a card reader in church has helped although we are still working on the best way to utilise it. In 2022 we collected £5,100 from service donations which is well down on the £10,000 that we received in 2019,

Overall our donations from standing orders and church collections was £34,700. which is £3,000 below the 2021 level, and £6,000 below the level in 2019 and the same as the donations in 2013. We need to increase donations to enable us to cover the increases in the running costs of the church including heating and lighting.

The Gift Aid situation remains strong and donations to the value of £31,000 were gift aided and the rebate from HMRC was £7,700.

Planned giving leaflets are always available at the back of the church and will soon also be available to download from the church's website. Periodically details of the how to give through Gift Aid and how to set up a standing order are included on the church's weekly information sheet.

We are grateful for all donations, however received, and hope that the congregation will continue to be as generous in the years to come.

*David Hutton* (Gift Aid Admin [danddhutton@gmail.com](mailto:danddhutton@gmail.com))

## CHURCH BRING AND BUY

Unfortunately we have not brought this back to our coffee services after restrictions have been lifted. As more and more happy coffee people come over after the service perhaps this is something we could return to, especially as summer is coming and allotments and gardens will be (hopefully) producing a great deal of produce!

*Jane White*

## CHURCH ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Another busy year in the church office with all its variety. In addition to the weekly notice sheets and monthly publication of The Runner; there has been administration for 2 weddings, 10 baptisms and 7 funeral services at church, 5 funeral services held at the crematorium and 4 full burials/burials of ashes. There has been correspondence for 1 faculty for a gravespace, and 5 headstones or memorial stones. Other tasks included updating the electoral roll (with Val Digby), maintaining the register of those buried in the graveyard (with David Hutton), and updating the Welcome leaflets. Following the graveyard inspection, some headstones were found to be unstable and there is an ongoing project to contact next of kin regarding the upkeep of memorials. The orders of service for the church year have now been updated to reflect the new logo and font.

The implementation of ChurchSuite (our content management system) continues to prove its worth for back-office functions and more and more church members and community members use the app to see when they are serving and organise swaps, volunteer in the community and keep their own details up to date. We are currently trialling the sending of event advertising and weekly emails.

The website continues to be updated - not just with information on services happening at church, but also information on PCC activities, church events and local news. The online church guide continues with the section on the interior nearing completion and next year's project being to add information about the exterior and grounds. We are also adding updates on our commitment to being an eco-church.

It has been a privilege to work alongside so many amazing 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)