



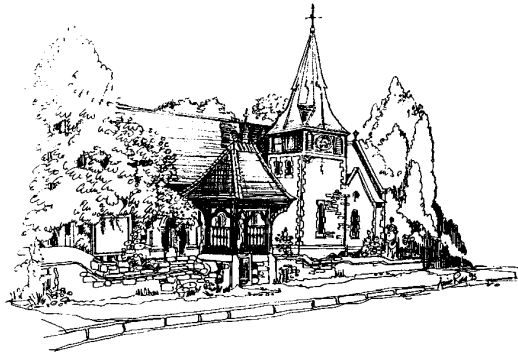
All Saints Church

Grayswood

For God, for one another, for the world

Reports of teams for Ministry and Mission 2024

For the Annual Parish Meeting 2025



Annie Ridd ©

Worship and Learning

Home Group

The past year has seen more regular people coming along at least 14 or more, with new folk coming along too. It's an evening where we form friendships, support each other and chat over a cuppa. We open with prayer before opening God's word and looking at various themes. There is always a lively discussion.

This last year we started with exploring 'Finding Peace' through material from 'Burning Heart'. We then looked 'How to be unsuccessful' looking at what is being successful in God's eye. Interesting as this can be different to the world's or our own ideas!!

The 'God Story' took us through the Bible encouraging us to see how our personal Story is unique and precious and created to connect with God's overarching plan for humanity.

All huge subjects but I believe from the comments received from the group, each feel able to speak, listen and be heard dipping into our different personalities, experiences and walk with our personal Christian faith.

We look forward into the 2025 and what it holds for this House group.

Pippa Hollins-McLean (Group Leader).

Lent Course

For the 2024 Lent Course we used the diocesan Lent materials: Jesus and Calling – on the Road to Easter. The premise of the course was to encourage us to gently discern how we might live out our faith through our everyday lives.

Each week featured a video where the Gospel reading for that week was discussed and pointers for further discussion were identified. Through both quiet personal reflection and discussion, we were able to learn from each other and discuss the challenges and implications of each reading. For our final session, using music, poetry and readings from Mark's Gospel, we followed our own road to Easter, accompanying Jesus through his passion, crucifixion and culminating in the joy of the resurrection.

The Lent course as in previous years concluded with the service of Compline. Each year we hold a Lent Course, please do join us if you can.

Advent Quiet Day: The word made flesh

And the Word became flesh & lived among us. (John 1: 14 New Testament for Everyone)

Just prior to the season of Advent, a group of us gathered in the church for some quiet time to prepare us for the season and the busyness which we know is characteristic of this time of year!

The BRF 2024 Advent book, Embracing Humanity by Isabelle Hamley, was the foundation for this quiet day. We began the day with prayer and the lighting of the Advent candles followed by two reflections: Embodied and Embodying the Promise. Our Advent sermons developed this theme, preaching on the titles so associated with Jesus: Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace.

Throughout the day, there was ample opportunity for individual quiet time - we were encouraged if we wished to, to sample Lectio Divina, Visio Divina, imaginative prayer, to be creative, or simply be quiet or go out for a stroll. The day concluded with a service of Holy Communion from the Iona Community.

Some time set aside for God is invaluable at any time of year or during any season of our life. So, if you sense that God might be 'nudging' you to take time out, here is an open invitation to join us on any future occasion.

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

An open 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 highlight prayer cover which include: Our church: Our quarterly mission: Our village - highlighting different areas each week: And Individuals in particular need.

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, and confidences are ALWAYS respected.

To make a prayer request please approach or phone one of the prayer chain members: Fiona Gwynn, Dian Mordin, Pippa Hollins-McLean, Jane White, Daphne Bleach, Tracy Garland, Ros Webb, Hilary Donaldson & Peter Donaldson.

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-McLean, 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 highlight of 2024 was the 70th anniversary of Jean's terms as organist at All Saints, which was marked at the Harvest Festival. Other than this things have been fairly quiet (no pun intended) on the music front. We continue to rely on Jean, George and Mary for the playing and have occasionally had recourse to technology when sickness has meant that they were not available. For the future we need to make more and better use of the audio-visual system.

The choir continues to enjoy trying to lead the singing. Sadly, we lost Anne Thomas in November and Anthony Ramsden's attendance has been reduced since his move away from the area. We would be very happy to welcome new members, so please get in touch if you are interested.

Nicola Miller

Children & Families (previously Sunday School)

Sunday School has not been re-established, but we continue to welcome children and families to services. A pew has been removed at the rear of the church to create a family friendly space with age-appropriate books and toys. Our Church Development plan includes planning of children and family services including use of the new AV system, a craft activity and tea afterwards. The first service celebrated Advent and 50 adults and 20 children attended.

The Christingle with Crib Service was popular with over 100 adults and 41 children attending.

School Worship

We continue to develop links with the school, Richard Everett regularly reads with Year 5 and Rev Fi Gwynn takes a weekly Assembly. The school children held five services in church this year, including harvest and Christmas, as well as some individual RE lessons.

Mission Teams

Hospitality

This year we have been able to offer refreshments after the Good Friday service, the Carol Service, bacon butties at the Fayres held in May and December as well as the Maundy Thursday supper. We have also provided a children's tea after The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe and after the Advent service. It is always a privilege to be able to offer a light sustenance to our church family and we hope this continues.

Jackie Holmes & Jane White (Hospitality co-ordinators)

Church Fairs

Our Spring and Christmas Fayres were, as usual, wonderful community events. The weather was kind to us and both Fayres were a huge success financially, again raising over £4,000 for church funds.

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

We have decided that we will not have a Spring Fayre in 2025 given that quite a few regular helpers are away and we plan to look at alternative fundraising in the future with only one Fayre a year to be held in December - watch this space!

Jackie Holmes (Fayre team co-ordinator)

The Runner Magazine

Once again we have published the monthly parish magazine and then distributed it in person not only all the homes in Grayswood in person but also to Grayswood School, Grayswood Club and Wispers - thank you!

Runner folding continues on the last Thursday of the month in the 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 over 380 copies around the village.

When discussing the Church Development Plan, the Archdeacon highlighted the importance of keeping our community connected and highlighting the different services and events available for all - showing the church is not just about Sunday.

The Grayswood Runner is a source of information not only for the congregation but also for the wider community and we receive many requests to advertise events from other organisations.

We have supported The Hunter Centre, Friends of All Saints events and Haslemere Food Bank, Crossways, Skillway and the newly re-opened Wheatsheaf.

Our regular contributors include the Women's Institute, Grayswood Nursery, Friends of Grayswood School (PTA) and the Village Club with their varied events.

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 post box 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 Dowd (Editor)

Mission Links

Every year we support four charities – one in each quarter of the year through gifts donated and from all the money generously put in the coffee tin after church each week and the PCC adds £300 to each of the quarterly donations (we do not take out any expenses). Our three main quarterly missions are Crossways counselling, CMS (our Mission partner Katia Rocks working in Brazil), 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. The PCC decided to continue to support Christians Against Poverty, for our first quarter of 2025 for the advice and support given to those struggling with the cost-of-living crisis. Totals sent to these missions were:

Christians against poverty	£ 467	CMS	£ 506
Crossways counselling	£ 390	Skillway	£ 484

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 Haslemere food bank, the Royal British Legion, the Children's Society and Water Aid.

Tracy Garland

Toddler Group

Our Toddler Group continues to meet on a Wednesday morning in the Oonagh Jeffrey room during term time and we have a group of 5 or 6 regulars, with others who attend slightly less regularly. In addition, we have welcomed several babies to the group this year, which has been great. We miss our regular Dad, Nick, but it has been great getting to know the newer Mums and see the children growing and developing over the year. Snack time remains very popular with the children, and the adults usually enjoy a piece of cake with their cup of coffee or tea. The Tidy Up song heralds the start of the sing and dance time at the end of the session, which the children love, and they are all very helpful putting the toys away to clear the floor.

We still remain short of volunteers to go on the rota so if it is something you would like to get involved with we would love to hear from you.

IF Group (Ideas Forum)

The Ideas Forum (The IF Group) was formed a couple of years ago, meets 4 - 6 times a year and comprises about 8 regular church members. It is intended as a free space to explore ideas that will support church growth and Fi's ministry. It is run by Richard Everett and, apart from prayer, the only agenda for each meeting is the ideas the members bring - the braver and whackier the better! Meetings last about 90 mins usually in Ailsa Guida's home and are relaxed in order to be a safe, honest and inventive place to push boundaries and kick ideas around - much helped, of course by wine, crisps and chocolate brownies.

Many ideas fall by the wayside but here are some memorable ones that have emanated from this forum: Church library, Children's 'pray and play' space, Pilgrimage walk, 'A Christmas Carol' presentation, school children's service for parents, Pet Service, Paella Nights, Advent Windows, 'Gospel According to ..' interviews, The Christmas 'Love' sign', 'Lion Witch & Wardrobe' presentation.

Richard Everett (co-ordinator)

Coffee and Chat

With a new rota in place with a team of volunteers ably organised by Angela, the Coffee and Chat sessions have continued to flourish. Regular monthly sessions continued throughout the year with many regulars and also new faces as more recent residents, or those with spare time, came along to see us.

Again, through the generosity of the villagers, the helpers and the bakers we have managed to raise an amazing total of £1222.82.

After paying for the room hire, we were able to send £250 to Breast Cancer Now charity, an initial £321 to the Red Cross Gaza Fund and later in the year, £190 each to the Red Cross Gaza and Ukraine Funds.

My thanks as ever to everyone who makes these mornings so successful and enjoyable.

Di Cook

PASTORAL TEAMS

Pastoral Team

The Pastoral Team meets 2-3 times a year and this year the role description was updated, thanks to the PCC secretary. There are now nine of us on the team which is comprised of trained Pastoral Assistants and those of us happy to provide pastoral support to the local community under Fi's guidance and support. Hazel Morgan stepped down from the team after many years of being on the team, thank you Hazel for her years of support. John & Ros joined us during the 2024 season.

We visit newcomers to the church, the village, the frail & bereaved, those in hospital and the housebound. We now have the details of the Pastoral Team with contact details on the back of The Runner and consequently the team now visit a lady in the village who is housebound on a weekly basis at the request of the family who contacted us asking if we could do so.

The deliverers of the monthly Runner, continue to be our 'eyes and ears' and feedback to Fi if there are any concerns or if anyone would like a visit. We continue to deliver cards to those who have moved into the village, those that have recently bereaved and new babies to whom we also give a knitted cardigan, kindly knitted by a band of people to whom we give our thanks.

Daphne Bleach (Pastoral Team Leader)

Maintenance Teams

Buildings and Grounds

General Thank you to 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. The team also maintain and manage the Garden of Remembrance.

Grass As previous years our grass maintenance contractors continue to provide an excellent service and meet their contracted obligations ensuring that the grass, graveyard and pathways are kept tidy and weed free. For 2025, Garden of Remembrance grass will be cut by the contractor.

Graveyard David Hutton continues to manage and update the church graveyard plan ensuring that it is always up to date and available for inspection. A health and safety inspection of graves and headstones is undertaken annually with action taken should any found to be unsafe. It has been agreed that for 2025, a team of volunteers will be asked to undertake remedial work in Garden of Remembrance to keep name plaques tidy and weed free.

Church Stonework An inspection of church roof stonework and boundary wall was undertaken by contractors Anstey and Stone Limited who identified loose/flaking stonework to the tower in the north transept area and loose stonework to the church boundary wall. Remedial work planned to commence Q1 2025.

John McLean (Co-ordinator)

Sunday Morning Coffee

Despite some volunteers having to give up because of poor health or other demands being made on them we now have a very strong team of 14 volunteers, which means we are flexible enough to accommodate last minute swaps. It's a great team & I am hugely grateful for the way people support one another, ensuring a reliable service of coffee, biscuits (and occasional cake) each Sunday.

Members of the coffee team kindly donate milk each week and both coffee and biscuits are donated by individuals. Consequently, all money donated goes directly to our nominated charity each quarter. This year your donations supported CMS, Crossways Counselling, Skillway and Christians against Poverty. Thank you.

Angela Wheeler (Team Co-ordinator)

Cleaning

The church cleaning team continue to do an excellent job in ensuring that the church is clean and welcoming. Working in pairs doing up to 2 hours each visit, the teams cover general cleaning tasks - hoovering, dusting, cleaning the WC and kitchen areas - entailing a commitment of 5- 6 visits a year. We have additional Spring Cleans and big cleans after contractors have carried out any work. I'm so grateful for everyone's reliability and commitment in helping to keep our beautiful church so well cared for and to be the warm and welcoming place that is All Saints

Flowers

We continue to arrange the flowers in chicken wire, avoiding floristry foam. We are mindful of the provenance of the flowers used and aim to use home grown flowers and foliage as much as possible.

In December 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 are also grateful for the donation of flowers for Christmas from a florist who lives locally. 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!

Planned Giving and Gift Aid

2023 was a difficult year financially for many of us, however church donations were only very slightly down on 2022. During the year we lost some regular donors because they moved out of the area or died but we gained some new regular donors. Sunday congregations, though still less than in the past, have improved during the year. The table below summarizes the donations for 2023 and 2022.

	2022	2023
Regular bank Standing Orders and Direct Debits	£28,958	£26,430
Church service collections	£5,107	£6,408
Gift Aid and GASDS rebates	£7,357	£7,232
Total funds	£41,422	£40,070
Gift Aid & GASDS %	17.8%	18%

In April 2023 we introduced Direct Debit giving through the Parish Giving Scheme for regular donations. The Parish Giving Scheme is a Church of England initiative and is free to use for all parishes. The Parish Giving Scheme greatly improves the church cash flow and reduces All Saints' administration time. For donors the direct debit scheme is very easy to set up and is also easy to amend, it can be set up and managed by post or telephone or online. We have encouraged donors with standing orders to change to the direct debit scheme and so far 75% of the donors have made the change. There were 41 standing orders and direct debits in place at the end of 2023, which is 3 less than at the start of the year and included 2 new donors.

In April 2023 we also introduced an improved bank card reader unit for one-off donations. The PAYAZ unit is fixed just inside the church door and can be used at any time the church is open. Use of the PAYAZ unit has gradually increased as people get used to donating by card instead of cash.

David Hutton (Gift Aid Admin)

Church Administration Report

The rhythm of life continues in the church office. Alongside the weekly notice sheets, monthly publication of The Runner and paperwork for weddings, baptisms, funerals and faculties, we have continued our two large projects:

1. Recording the Churchyard online: We completed the main Churchyard and have now recorded the Garden of Remembrance. All the memorial plaques have been photographed and the plot numbers, burial register entries and memorial garden plans have been added to the website. David Hutton has worked tirelessly to see this project completed.
2. Digitising the Terrier: The main documents for the Terrier (the record of the church, churchyard, and everything in the church itself, including its fabric, furniture, plate, bells, books and candles) have been typed and now all the key items have been photographed and digital images added. Thanks to Fi, Jackie, Tracy, Jean and Nicola for their knowledge and support; and to David for over 280 photographs!

On a personal note, a special thank you to all those who contributed to my 'big day' when Jon and I were married at All Saints in July 2024. The church looked amazing with the flowers gifted from the PCC and we were truly blessed to be married in this special place.

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 us.

Sarah Dowd (!) (Church Administrator)