



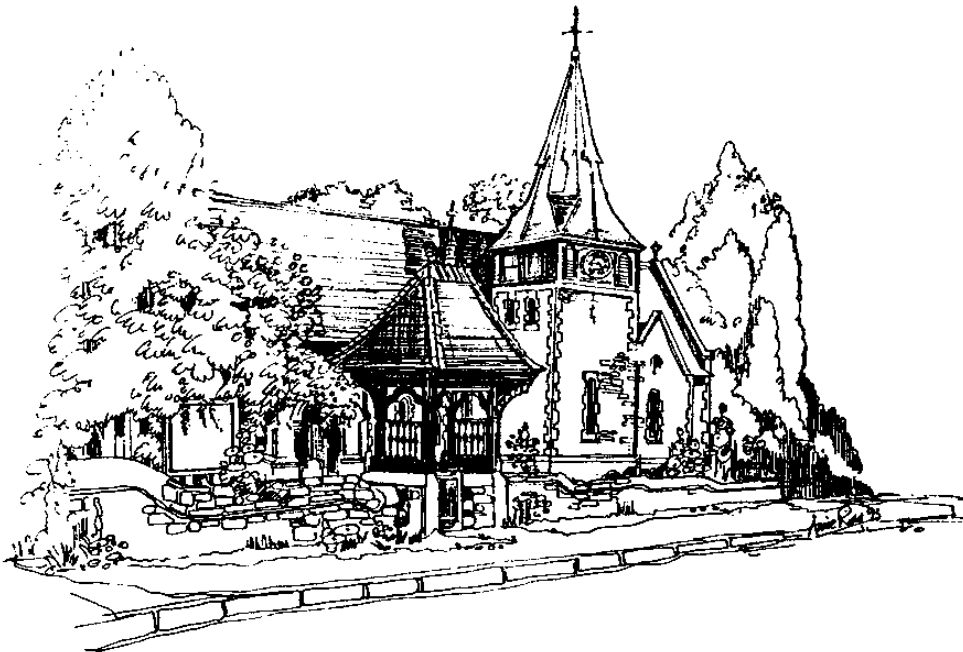
# **All Saints Church**

Grayswood

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

## **Reports of teams for Ministry and Mission 2025**

### **For the Annual Parish Meeting 2026**



*Annie Ridd ©*

## **WORSHIP AND LEARNING TEAMS**

### **Home group**

The Home Group continues to be a blessing for us all, a safe, friendly open place where we can explore, discuss and discover different aspects of our Christian faith. We learn so much from each other.

This last year 2025, we looked at 'Unanswered prayer' a course from 24-7 prayer. We discussed St Francis of Assisi's prayer 'Lord make us an instrument of your peace'. How do we adopt and apply this prayer? We looked at the wonderful topic of 'Grace' and we also examined some of the hymns we sing and challenged ourselves to ask do we know what we are singing?

In and amongst these and other chats we pray, we eat cake and at the end of each term we have a social time of relaxing together which involves food and friendship.

*Pippa Hollins-McLean (Group Leader).*

### **Lent 2025**

*Pray without ceasing* 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Prayer is fundamental to our faith. Poet George Herbert describes prayer as the '*churches banquet*' and Rowan Williams writes that prayer is an already flowing stream between God and ourselves. If we are honest though, prayer is a challenge for us all so we took the opportunity for Lent to explore the nature of prayer in its rich variety.

During our Lenten Hours (as suggested by the IF group), after the introductory evening, we prayed in colour, prayed with the body, (not as scary as that sounds), got creative with intercessions, and walked our prayers in a labyrinth. We concluded our final Lenten Hour with a service of Compline.

As not everyone is able to commit to an evening gathering, we continued our Lent theme through three of our normal Sunday services, covering praying with art, *lectio divina* (praying with scripture) and imaginative prayer.

Prayer is a subject that we will often return to!

*Revd Elaine Collins, Assistant Priest*

### **Advent Quiet Day 2025**

*In Holy Communion Jesus Christ tells us he wants our company:* Rowan Williams

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!

For our 2025 Advent Quiet Day we focussed on The Communion. Holy Communion is so central to our worship, is familiar to many of us in Grayswood and yet we rarely spend time going deeper with the liturgy.

The day was structured around the different sections of the Communion service – the Gathering, The Word, and the Communion itself. This was a day not just for information (although it did provide Fi and myself with an opportunity to explain why we each preside as we do), but for reflection and prayer. We were encouraged to offer just one 'sermon thought' from the Gospel reading and the use of prayer prompt cards invited a wealth of intercessions.

The day concluded with the taking of Communion and the final prayers, as we prepared to leave the quiet of the church building and rejoin the manic pre-Christmas world!

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.

*Revd 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 open 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.

#### Intercessions

During the service each Sunday, prayers are offered and can include the needs of our community, our clergy, worldwide needs and for individuals we know and have requested prayer, with the opportunity to lift in our hearts those we know individually. God says He hears the prayers of His people, they are like incense - a sweet aroma.

The rota of intercessors would be grateful of volunteers. Please speak to Fi or Elaine if you would like to know more.

#### Parish Prayer Cover

The Weekly Service sheet and The Runner highlight prayer needs which include: Our church, Our quarterly mission, Our village (highlighting different areas each week), and Individuals in particular need.

#### Morning Prayer

Held in the side chapel on Wednesday mornings between 9-9.30am using the Northumbria Community Service.

#### 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, Daphanie Bleach, Dian Mordin, Pippa Hollins, Jane White, 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, Richard Everett or John McLean who will be very willing to find a quiet place to pray with you.

#### Reflection 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

Our choir leads the singing at the 10am service on Sundays and we have an annual Carol Service which is led by the choir. At present there are 8 regular choir members, all of whom are adults. We are fairly informal and wear red robes at most services, but more formal black cassocks and surplices are worn at funerals and occasional special formal services.

New members are always welcome to the choir. We do not have auditions and neither do we have regular practices. If a new piece of music has been introduced or a special service is in the offing, we practice on a Saturday morning or immediately after the Sunday morning service.

#### The organist

We were blessed to have the services of Jean White as organist for over 70 years until the Autumn of 2025. Since then, George Gorniak has assumed the role of organist. He usually plays at 3 services a month, while George and Mary Gorniak play the piano and flute respectively on the fourth Sunday of

the month. George also plays the keyboard when we have our morning worship in the Village Hall. We have occasional visiting organists and are always looking for musicians to assist with our worship.

### The music

At most services we sing traditional hymns from Hymns New and Old. The installation of a modern audio-visual system has enabled us to introduce hymns and worship songs which are not in the hymn book and to use recorded music during talks or throughout the service if no-one is available to play the organ or piano. We hope to extend our repertoire of songs using this system.

*Nicola Miller*

### **Children and families**

We continue to welcome children and families to services. This is facilitated by a family friendly space at the back of the church, 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 Sunday of Advent service is popular, also Christingle and Crib Services. Café Church is a more relaxed 'service' in the village hall starting with coffee and pastries, more space for children and often a craft activity.

We continue to develop links with the school; Rev Fi Gwynn takes a weekly Assembly. The school children held five services in church this year, including harvest, Christmas, the end of term school service and some individual RE lessons.

### **MISSION TEAMS**

#### **Church Fayres**

In 2025 we decided to replace the Spring Fayre with the All Saints 100 Club, as it was proving more and more difficult to find willing helpers at that time of year and quite a few people seemed to go away then. The Christmas Fayre, however, will definitely continue and numbers through the door were up on last year. It once again turned out to be a wonderful community event and was a perfect way to kick off the festivities in the run up to Christmas. The weather was kind to us and the Fayre was a huge success financially, again raising over £2,000 for church funds. We are as always very grateful to those who donated items for sale, baked, grew plants, planted bulbs, bought 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 event by spending money.

Di and I would very much like to hear from anyone who would like to get more involved in the planning and organising of the Fayre and any new ideas for stalls/activities to make the morning even more enjoyable for all concerned would be very welcome.

*Jackie Holmes (Fayre team co-ordinator)*

#### **Hospitality**

As a church we hosted a number of very enjoyable events during the year. We held two Café Church services, in March and September, where croissants and pastries were offered as well as the usual coffee and tea. Over Easter week, a group of us shared a meal in the upper room at the village hall on Maundy Thursday and joined together in a very special communion service. Then after the service on Good Friday, we served hot cross buns. In September we invited all parents of children joining Grayswood School in Reception to come over for coffee/tea and biscuits after drop-off so that they could meet and chat with other parents/carers in a relaxed environment. In November we provided refreshments after the All Saints Memorial service and afternoon tea after the Advent afternoon service for families. Our last event of the year (catering-wise) was the Carol Service, after which we enjoyed wine and mince pies.

We look forward to many more sociable events in the coming year and opportunities to show hospitality to those in our community.

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

### **Sunday morning coffee**

We have strong team of 14 volunteers, who are amazingly flexible and happily reschedule to cover unexpected events. I am always very grateful for the generous way team members give of their time. Volunteers also supply the milk free of charge and both the coffee and biscuits continue to be donated by individuals. This year your donations supported CMS, Crossways Counselling, Skillway and Christians against Poverty. Thank you.

Angela Wheeler (*Team 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 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	£ 394
CMS	£ 427
Crossways counselling	£ 472
Skillway	£ 448

Each year we give a grant to Grayswood Primary School based on the number of children on the roll, the children are given a bible when they leave and the church funded a visit to Wintershall.

In addition, we supported Water Aid and the prizes awarded to the winners of the Christmas window competition in Haslemere.

*Tracy Garland*

### **Coffee and chat**

Over the last year, the Coffee and Chat mornings have continued to be well supported and appreciated by friends, old and new. Again, Angela has managed the rotas admirably, for which I am extremely grateful.

Once more, through everyone's generosity, we raised over £800. We are immensely grateful to the Club Committee for now renting the room free of charge. This has enabled us to send a total of £780 to the British Red Cross for its multiple appeals.

My thanks as ever to everyone who makes these mornings so successful and enjoyable – coffee makers, bakers and our supportive villagers.

*Di Cook*

### **Toddler group**

Our Toddler Group continues to meet on a Wednesday morning in the Oonagh Jeffrey room during term time. We were sorry to lose several of our regulars at the end of the academic year as they moved on to nursery or school but towards the end of the year we welcomed a number of babies to the group, to the extent that they often outnumbered the toddlers. Snack time continues to be very popular with the children, as is having a chat over a piece of cake and a cuppa for the adults. It has been great getting to know some new mums/dads/grandparents/nannies, although numbers are very variable and there are some days when we have no children at all! We could really do with some more volunteers, so if it is something you would like to get involved with we would love to hear from you.

*Jackie Holmes*

### **Ideas Forum (IF group)**

The Ideas Forum has been meeting for at least 4 times per annum for over 5 years. It comprises about 8 regular church members and is a free space to think inventively and explore brave ideas that will

support church growth and Fi's ministry. It is run by Richard Everett and the only agenda for each meeting is the ideas the members bring. Our dates coincide with the PCC meeting of the following week so that suggestions can be referred to the PCC for approval - or not! Ideas vary in size and ambition, and some just fall by the wayside, but a sample of this year's topics have been 'Practicing the Way' - John Mark Comer's study course; exploring different ways to develop Café Church; A special Advent Service for Families. Meetings last about 90 minutes usually in Ailsa Guida's home and opening and closing in prayer, but much helped by wine, crisps and chocolate brownies.

*Richard Everett (co-ordinator)*

### **The Runner**

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

Our big challenge for next year is that the software used to produce The Runner (MS Publisher) is being retired in Oct 2026 and so begins the hunt for a new software that meets our needs. Hopefully once learned, the transition will be seamless!

We continue to network within the community and embed the church in village life, not just through advertising church events (showing that the church is not just about Sundays) but by including more 'spiritual' content in the Runner.

If you would consider writing a short article (100 or so words) for one of the editions, about a faith experience, God-incidence or just want to share your favourite bible verse, please email [allsaintsgrayswood@gmail.com](mailto:allsaintsgrayswood@gmail.com) or drop a note into the post box in the Church porch.

Next year the deadline for receiving contributions for the following month's edition will move one week earlier to 8th of the preceding month to account for changes in the office.

A big thank you to those who give up their time once a month to fold the Runner, contribute articles and also to those who, as the final link in the chain, distribute over 380 copies around the village.

Copies of The Runner (and the back catalogue to 2004) can also be found at the back of church and on the website: [allsaintsgrayswood.org](http://allsaintsgrayswood.org).

*Sarah Dowd (Editor)*

### **Eco Church**

As part of the Church of England, we are encouraged to safeguard the world God has given us. This has led the PCC to become part of the Eco Church movement where we can get helpful advice about ways to improve our relationship with nature and reduce our detrimental impact on the environment, as well as sharing the beauty of the church and its grounds with the village. In 2021 we received the Bronze Eco Church Award, confirming that the PCC had started to make changes and raise awareness. In 2025 we were able to qualify for the Silver Award, partly due to changes made in the churchyard but also because of steps taken to reduce our carbon footprint.

We have made some changes to reduce our fuel consumption, for example, by holding meetings in winter months on Zoom rather than in church. We are monitoring fuel consumption and have reviewed the central heating settings in the hope of reducing fuel use without a noticeable change in the level of heating for services etc. We have also stopped using floristry foam, which disperses harmful microplastics into the water system.

It is pleasing that areas of the churchyard which cannot be used for burials and the garden of remembrance are becoming increasingly wildlife and nature friendly. We have several birdboxes, the bug mansion and an impressive range of wildflowers, which are particularly beautiful in late spring.

The church and grounds were again part of the Grayswood Open Gardens in 2025. Our administrator, Sarah, produced leaflets for trails in the churchyard and church. These are a fascinating window into the church and grounds and are still available at the back of church for visitors and others to use.

During 2025 we joined Surrey County Council's campaign to plant trees which attract wildlife. In the Autumn two plum trees were planted in the grassed area in front of the church. The hope is that

these trees will attract birds and pollinating insects and ultimately provide some fruit for the people of Grayswood to enjoy. We also undertook to plant 50 whips of hedging plants; these did not arrive until January.

I would like to thank people who have helped with the Eco Church project during the year, especially Sarah, Fi, John, Ben and Phil.

*Nicola Miller*

## **PASTORAL TEAM**

We are a relatively small team of 9 who meet 2-3 times a year under Fi's guidance and support. We are there to support Fi and aim to ease the demands on her time.

We advertise ourselves through The Runner and the Sunday service sheets and encourage others to contact us if they hear of anyone who would benefit from a one-off visit, regular visits or keep in regular contact and offer telephone support to people at home.

The team were throughout 2025, visiting a Grayswood resident in her home on a regular basis, supported her family by continuing our visits whilst she was in hospital and more recently in a nursing home, our support was greatly appreciated.

We do rely on the church family, and the Grayswood community, to keep us informed of newcomers to the village, the frail or lonely, the bereaved, the newborn and those in hospital or housebound. We continue to deliver cards to the newcomers and distribute cardigans and knitted mice to the newborn, all of which are kindly knitted by volunteers and greatly admired and cherished.

We look forward to being there for others in 2026, please contact us if you think we may be able to help or we can sign post you to someone that may be able to do so.

Thank you to everyone on the team for all their ongoing support and those that support us in our role.

*Daphne Bleach (Pastoral Team Leader)*

## **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.

### Grass

As previous years our grass maintenance contractor continues to provide an excellent service and meet their contracted obligations ensuring that the grass, graveyard and pathways are kept tidy and weed free. As detailed in 2024 report, the responsibility for the grass cutting of the Remembrance Garden was passed onto our grass cutting contractor with responsibility for the care and appearance of name plaques passing onto church grounds team.

### 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.

Responsibility for the care and appearance of name plaques in Garden of Remembrance is now undertaken by church grounds team following a rota prepared and updated by David Hutton.

### Church Stonework

In 2024, 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 was completed in Q1 2025.

#### Tree Maintenance

In June 2025, Professional Tree Surgeon, Arbortech were requested to undertake a tree survey of ash trees within the church grounds. Resultant survey identified 23 diseased trees, of which 9 trees needed felling within 1 year, 5 trees within 2 years and 8 within 3 years.

The 9 trees which fell into the 1 year timescale were felled in Q3. Additionally, 2 conifers whose roots interfered with grave stones were also felled.

#### External Flood Lighting

In Q4, a 2 channel blue tooth, multi-function time switch, to program and control external flood lighting, was installed to replace broken mechanical timer.

*John McLean (Co-ordinator)*

#### **Flowers**

We continue support the 'sustainable church flowers' ethos, arranging 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.

Sarah, one of the team did a wonderful window arrangement at the flower festival held at St Christopher's church as a fund raiser for The Link. The church looked stunning and it was great to contribute to the event. 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 and Easter 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!

*Tracy Garland (Flower team co-ordinator)*

#### **Donations and Gift Aid report**

First I would like to thank everyone who has given money or skills or time to enable All Saints Grayswood to continue giving spiritual leadership and much more to the village community and beyond.

For most of you 2025 was year of financial uncertainty, but despite that the donations we received were only slightly less than in 2024, £33,843 compared to £34,091 in 2024.

Regular monthly donations by Direct Debit and Bank Standing Orders accounted for 77% of the total and this reliable income makes it easier to plan church expenditure. During 2025 we completed the change over from Standing Orders to Direct Debits and we now have 36 Direct Debits in place covering 46 adults. During the year we sadly lost two of our long term regular monthly donors, and another moved away from the village. Two new Direct Debits were added during the year, one from a new member of the congregation and the other by an existing donor who transferred from cash donations. 39 households donated by Direct Debits, Standing Orders and regular card and cash donations.

Donation collections at the 8am and 10am services continued the downward trend of the past few years and this year the total was £4,287 compared to £5,200 in 2024. These figures are for "cash on the plate" and by card, the proportion of donations by card continued to increase over the year.

Other Donations which are eligible for HMRC rebates through the Gift Aid scheme (GA) and the Small Donations scheme (GASDS) are also included in the report. The Other donations include Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms, visitors to the church and larger one-off donations. The amounts donated vary widely from year to year, this year the Other Donations totalled £3,429 which is about double what I would normally expect,

Despite many tax changes during the year HMRC rebates for Gift Aid (GA) donations and the Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) remain unchanged at 25%. Total HMRC rebate for 2025 was £8,011 including £663 from the Small donations scheme (GASDS).

Summary of donations and HMRC rebates for Gift Aid (GA) and Small Donations (GASDS)

	<u>2025Donation</u>	<u>GA rebate</u>	<u>2024Donation</u>	<u>GA rebate</u>
Direct Debits PGS	£23,354	£5,548	£23,008	£5,382
Bank Standing Orders	£2,773	£623	£5,129	£1,180
<b>Total regular donations</b>	<b>£26,127</b>		<b>£28,137</b>	
8am/10am Collections	£4287	£585	£5,200	£775
Other Donations	£3,429	£592	£754	£85
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£33,843</b>	<b>£7,348</b>	<b>£34,091</b>	<b>£7,422</b>
GASDS rebate		£663		£514

I would like to thank our Treasurer Nicola and the Administrator Sarah for their help during the year.

*David Hutton (Giving and Gift Aid)*

**Church administrators 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 focussed on a few main items.

Eco Church: All Saints received its Silver eco Award this year. It was great working with Nicola on the application. Take a look at the updated website and see all the small changes we have made which have contributed to protecting God’s wonderful world.

Terrier: The digitised version has needed refining as items have been found (a paten) and extra information has come to light. I’m in contact with Haslemere Museum about items that we placed on short term loan and with Surrey History Services about items that we may be able to archive with them in the future for better safekeeping.

Visitor Information: This year I updated all our visitor leaflets and created four church trails for children (flowers, animals, saints and angels) as part of the Open Gardens Event run by the Friends of All Saints; Fi and I also worked with Haslemere Arts Society on their proposal for a Children’s Trail which we hope will be launched later this year.

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)*