

## **Share Team Report 2021**

The groups within the Share Team develop relationships with communities beyond St Peter's. We meet people where they are and share God's love through our care, commitment, and prayer.

### **Gems**

COVID-19 restrictions continued to prevent Gems from meeting. The appointment of Rachel as our Children and Family Worker presented the opportunity to reassess this pre-school provision and Morning Stars was formed, a new group incorporating some Christian teaching.

Gems has been a very popular and successful part of our outreach to the community of Hersham for 21 years, serving the needs of young children and their carers. Over the whole of this time, Lulu Button has been an enthusiastic and motivational leader. Many within the local community and beyond have valued her wisdom, care, and compassion. We thank Lulu for her years of commitment to the community.

### **Hersham Churches Together**

The restrictions of COVID-19 meant we were unable to hold a face-to-face service for the World Day of Prayer, written by the women of Vanuatu. We encouraged people to participate in live or recorded online services. Christmas services were advertised on the HCT website. The clergy held a carol service at the Day Centre and All Saints decorated the Day Centre windows as part of our Nativity windows display.

### **Mission Partners**

The Mission Support Team met by Zoom. With Jackie's help and support we were able to hear presentations by the Peace and Hope Trust, Casa Reom and Mission Aviation Fellowship in the 10am services. Hersham Youth Trust is planned for 2022. We made our payments to all four during the year. We gave £600 of the Christian Relief Fund to Elmbridge CAN (ECAN), a local charity supporting refugee Afghan and Syrian families. This charity was also guest beneficiary of our Christmas collection: in total we collected £800. We may be able to build a longer-term relationship with ECAN. Each of our four partners has suffered heavily from the economic downturn that resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic, more than from the pandemic itself, but they are still pursuing the same objectives with the same vigour. Our role has been mostly providing prayer and reassurance that we are still here and still care.

## Publicity

Sue Burke and Sarah Tourell headed up the Publicity Team in the absence of a chairperson. A new sign was put above the church hall and, following Jackie's Gift Day, a new church noticeboard/display cabinet was erected. Lynne Watson reorganised the noticeboards in the church porch with new signage for the three main boards: PCC, General, and Community. New posters and fliers promoted children's activities. The reintroduction of the weekly pew sheet was widely welcomed. Sarah continued to advertise all our services and activities on local Facebook groups. Sue updated the website regularly, giving information on Upcoming Events and how people can be involved. The Church Diary continued to give clear details of church services and other events, who to contact for weddings, baptisms, or funerals, and information for people new to the area. Online services stopped towards the end of the year to encourage people back into church. When Music to Calm the Soul finished during the year, all the online sessions continued to be available on YouTube via the website.

## St Peter's Fellowship

Between 14 and 22 members met weekly since September. They enjoyed a variety of sessions, including a cream tea; Rob Stafford playing the organ; a poetry afternoon; a talk on the Three Peaks Challenge; and another on Eco Church. In recognition of Remembrance Day, Maggs Latter gave a talk on *The Forgotten Voices of WW1* and 40 people attended a presentation on Odette Churchill, SOE, given by her granddaughter. The year finished with Christmas Lunch at the Day Centre.

## Foodbank

The most common causes of crisis in 2021 were low income, benefit changes, and debt. Referrals in 2021 show significant rises from several agencies in comparison with 2019, pre-COVID-19.

Agency	Number of referrals 2021	Number of referrals 2019
Schools	244	47
Elmbridge Family Centres	90	47
Home Start (inc. over 5's project)	59	9
Community Mental Health Recovery Service	60	18

	<b>Number of food parcels</b>	<b>Number fed</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Children</b>
<b>2021</b>	1,514	4,054	2,148	1,906
<b>2020</b>	1,591	4,390	2,397	1,993
<b>2019</b>	1,249	3,004	1,903	1101

212 Christmas hampers were also issued.

	<b>Donated stock (Kg)</b>	<b>Stock distributed (Kg)</b>
<b>2021</b>	34,235	38,510
<b>2020</b>	41,251	35,500

£62,095 was given in cash donations from individuals, local companies and corporates, and supermarkets in 2021, compared to £91,257 in 2020.

### **Schools and Uniformed Groups**

Jackie pre-recorded and edited assemblies each week for Bell Farm School until the end of the Summer term. From September, she went into school to do face-to-face assemblies twice a month for KS1 and KS2 and pre-recorded assemblies for the other weeks.

Deborah also pre-recorded a couple of assemblies in the Autumn term. Burhill School had pre-recorded assemblies up to the end of the Summer term and then, from September, they had face-to-face assemblies once a fortnight. Year 2 from Burhill went into church last term to learn about Christian Symbols. Pupils also made poppies to decorate the church on Remembrance Sunday. There were three Harvest Festival services in church for Burhill pupils from KS1, lower KS2 and upper KS2 and two Christingle services for pupils from lower KS2 and upper KS2. Bell Farm held a year 4 Carol Service in church.

Guides, Brownies, and Rainbows helped decorate the church for Harvest. They took part in the Remembrance Sunday services, both in church and at the War Memorial, and helped make Christingles for our service this year, before attending the service on the Sunday.

Katherine Ind

February 2022