

# ST PAUL'S CHURCH



# REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2023



## THE VICAR'S REPORT

This year (2023-2024) has been a year of dramatic change on the one-hand, but also of the steady and faithful fulfilment of God's Kingdom work here at St Paul's.

The year began, of course, with the APCM and perhaps most notable was the appointment of Simon Mettrick as Church warden. I am so grateful to Laurel for serving as our only warden in 2022-23, but also for all those PCC members who supported him over that challenging year. But I am also grateful to Simon for stepping up and for his service alongside Laurel for the past year. We have two excellent wardens. They are godly and prayerful men who I trust to help St Paul's, with the PCC, to move forward in a challenging year. Please do support them both practically and in your prayers.

In April and May, we also ran the Hope Explored course, in partnership with St Matthew's and St Georges. The Hope Explored course looks at Luke's Gospel, and shows how Jesus offers us a hope worth having, a hope that won't disappoint us. Those who attended the course found it challenging and very worthwhile.

A highlight of May was, of course, the King's Coronation. We marked it here at St Paul's. Firstly, I visited Southborough School and unveiled a commemorative plaque in the school. But then on 13 May we shared a wonderful Coronation Cream Tea as a Church. It was a joyful celebration and a day to remember, with a special Crown shaped cake as a centre piece, with the inside being red, white & blue, made by Julie Mason.

In fact, May was a particularly busy month, with the CHAT Ascension Day service at St Mary's and the joint Thy Kingdom Come prayer meetings, once again held as joint prayer meetings with St Matthew's and St George's.

In July we had the pleasure of a visit from the new Bishop of Kingston, the Right Revd Martin Gainsborough who visited the Church and spoke to myself, Helen and the Church Wardens.

But it was August and October that brought the biggest changes. Helen announced her resignation as our team Rector in August, and was eventually licensed on 2 November at St John's, Churt and in October I also announced my imminent departure, and left to begin as Rector of the Avon Valley Churches in February. In December, we also had a new Parish Administrator, with Kate moving on to pastures new, and with the appointment of Julie Mason as her excellent replacement. I'm sure that Julie will do a wonderful job serving the church and the local community.

In the midst of all these changes, God's work continues here at St Paul's and across the Tolworth Hook and Surbiton Team. We must all remember that God is faithful. He has worked in and through St Paul's for 140 years and he will continue to work. God is faithful and we can all put our trust in Him.

So, although I have now moved on, I remain so thankful for the past eight and a half years when I have had the privilege to serve as Vicar of St Paul's. Sarah and I remain massively grateful to you all for your generous gifts and for the wonderful 'goodbye' that you gave to us. We love you and thank God for you. And, with you, we trust God for the future of St Paul's and for our own futures.

*Rev Luke Wickings*



## THIS Team Matters

*Trusting in the Father, Honouring the Son,  
Serving in the Spirit*

### Trusting in the Father, Honouring the Son, Serving in the Spirit



In 2023 we were able to have a team weekend which included a joint service on the 5<sup>th</sup> February hosted by St Matthews, it was a lovely occasion to be able to meet together in person for the first time in a couple of years

In Lent the team shared a sermon series exploring a number of spiritual disciplines over three Sundays, during which we were also able to have pulpit swaps and hear Helen, Luke and Nicholas at all three churches. Between Ascension and Pentecost, ably organised by St George's we were able to share in Thy Kingdon come, each hosting prayer meetings as well as having one on zoom



**Fuel** group for young people 10-13 has continued to operate on a monthly basis, and in September 2023 a new group for older young people called **Ignite** started. Please continue to pray for these groups and their leaders as we seek to keep the young people engaged and questioning on faith issues

The autumn brought a team farewell for the Rector Helen Hancock at St Pauls on the 24<sup>th</sup> September, before her final farewell to St Matthews on the 1<sup>st</sup> October; and the year ended knowing that as Luke would be leaving to take up a new role in the New Forest in 2024, that the team will start the new year without two full time incumbents and facing a year of change, opportunity and expectation.

*Carolyn Lucas*

## Churchwarden's report

The wardens are very grateful to help received for both the church indoor working party day in the summer and the outdoor working party day in the autumn. The interior of the church building had not had this much attention since before the Covid pandemic, so there was much dust and many cobwebs to be removed - particularly from the upper reaches. Nevertheless, after much cleaning, sorting and general tidying a real difference could be seen with the satisfaction of a good day's work all-round.



The churchyard day in the autumn was blessed with excellent weather.

All set to work very enthusiastically with much trimming and chopping

back. In particular, lost beds at the front of the church were recovered

and there is now an appropriate amount of space in the parking bays. After an incredible amount of

green-waste recycling, the churchyard was transformed: trees and shrubs reshaped and

paths safe

and clear for winter. Aided much by the weather, this too was a lovely day where the church

community came together, bonding over common purpose.

During the year, the lighting to illuminate the war memorial as well as the chancel uplighter

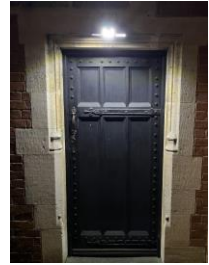
failed. In both cases, we were able to contact the original suppliers who

were very obliging in providing a fix at minimal charge. I am grateful to Graham Cocks for continuing to

liaise with the suppliers.



A stand-alone solar-powered outdoor light for the vestry door has also been donated; this is particularly useful for finding the keyhole after dark! The overall condition of the church buildings is fairly good, as confirmed in the 2021 Quinquennial Inspection, but we have ongoing concerns with the roof of the St. Paul's Centre, which



continues to leak in several places. This is linked to blocked guttering between the centre extension and the main building in combination with heavy rainfall (of which there has been much this winter). Leaves, moss (from the main roof north face) and other plant debris needs to be regularly cleared to keep the drainage lines clear, particularly in the autumn and after high winds (again a frequent occurrence). During a dry spell of weather (once one occurs) the roof will be re-sealed. Whilst this will help in the short-term, the profile of the roof has warped, so that it no longer drains as designed with puddles forming in wet weather. The roof of the St Paul's Centre is beyond its design lifetime and will need to be replaced soon; the opportunity is to do this at the same time as replacing the heating system. Following-up the work of the Eco-committee last year, preliminary enquiries have been made regarding alternative heating solutions with outline options expected in the coming months.



In the churchyard, minor repairs will be required to one of the benches to the rear of the church and fastening the latch for the Lych gate remains problematic. With Luke moving on to the Avon Valley Churches, the resulting

interregnum creates additional responsibilities and challenges for the church wardens. The PCC has set up a Steering Committee and a Worship Committee to help meet the challenge of both finding God's choice of successor to Luke as well as continuing the worshipping, gathered life of our church community. We are

grateful for your support and are confident that together we can meet these challenges.

We are also grateful to Carolyn and Nicholas for their continued generous support, particularly in taking communion services at this time, as well as Bishop Martin and Archdeacon John Kiddle for their visits around Easter.

*Laurel Devadasan and Simon Mettrick.*

### **Servers/Sacristan**

As Servers, we have had a busy year covering all services. It has helped having Graham back on the team, taking our number back up to three. It is always nice to have visiting Clergy to serve, as it keeps us on our toes as they all like to do things slightly different to each other and they all say what a lovely Church St Pauls is.

With great sadness, this year has seen us lose our fellow server and dear friend Claire Jones, who served at St Pauls for many years. She was such a lovely lady, always happy to help and pass on a wise word of support. We hope she would have liked us leading her in and out of Church on the day of her funeral. It was an honour for us to do this and a fitting way to say goodbye.

Later in the year we had the sad news that Luke was moving on to take up a new role of Team Rector of a group of Churches in Fordinbridge in Hampshire. It was an honour to serve Luke for the eight and half years he was here.

If you feel you would like to find out more about the role of a server, please come and ask any one of us and we will be more than happy to explain the duties of a Server to you and even happier to welcome you to the team, should you feel this is your calling.

As St Pauls enters this interregnum, may we all work hard together to maintain the love and kindness that St Pauls is so well known for and to feel God's love and guidance in all we do.

*Susan Hodgson, Jane Greenfield and Graham Robini- Sacristan and Servers.*



## Treasurers Report

2023 has been a quiet year with nothing spectacular happening. We have abandoned social distancing and are back greeting each other and sitting together normally. In fact, Covid seems a long time ago now, although cases still keep cropping up.

Thanks to many of you, we have had some very successful fundraising. Over £1.900 came in from our Winter Fair and the Coronation Tea. Special thanks should go to Julie Mason for her wonderful cakes, not only for special occasions, but also her mini-Christmas cakes, the sale of which raised over £100!

Donations to our Christmas card box totalled over £220 and throughout the year the table with jam, chutney and marmalade in the Mary Wise room brought in over £150.

I am ever grateful to those of you who give regularly to our Church by whatever method, and as our Gift Aid claims are dealt with promptly now, our regular income is steadier. Plus, the card machine at the back of Church brings in extra contributions from those who no longer carry cash.

As you know, if it is at all possible to claim Gift Aid from your contributions, this increases eligible giving by 25% at no extra cost to the giver. All donations and contributions are completely confidential.

It is good to see more children regularly attending and happily receiving their box of raisins at the Altar as a substitute for wine. Hopefully they will pass the word around, as we need more families to attend, keeping our much-loved Church open and running for future generations.

*Jane Greenfield, PCC Treasurer*

## **Baptisms**

The baptism families come to be introduced to the congregation on the first Sunday of the month and then again on the third Sunday of the following month to be formally welcomed into the family of the Church and presented with 'My First Bible' and certificates for their baptism and for each of their Godparents.



During 2023 we welcomed the following children to baptism: *Jude Wijesekera, Louie Lucas & William Manley.*

## **Parish Office**

St Paul's Parish Office is open Tuesday to Thursday 9.00am to 12.30pm, mostly term time. The job is very varied and the queries and questions that come via phone or email are very different!

I am enjoying meeting and getting to know the various groups that meet and regularly use the Mary Wise room.

Having taken over just before Christmas 2023 and an Interregnum that started in February 2024, it has been rather a baptism of fire! I am thankful to everyone at Church for making me feel so warmly welcomed and guiding me through so far.

Feel free to pop in on a Tues, Weds or Thurs morning to say hello.

*Julie Mason, Parish Administrator*



## **The Children's Society**

This year's Box Opening Day was held on Saturday 14th October 2023 at St Paul's Centre. The small change from the boxes was counted and totalled £1680.25, unfortunately a decrease of £257.66 on last year's total.

Christmas cards were on sale and there was also a raffle, lunch and refreshments to enjoy. Including donations, a further £322.34 was sent to The Children's Society. If anyone else would like to help us raise funds for The Children's Society, please speak to Graham or Jill Cocks and they will let you have a box to start collecting in. Our support will help change the lives of extremely vulnerable children across the country and shows our love and care for all.

*Sarah (Earl), Vanessa (Kearns) & Nigel Ling*

## **Churchyard and Gardens**

Thanks to our lawnmower operatives--Graham, Simon, Laurel and Peter, the grass area has been kept looking good. We do not normally cut in January, but we wanted it looking good for Sam and Mythily's wedding day. Another good work day in October saw the far end tidied up and the ivy removed from the brick wall on the south side. We have over fifty roses on site which have to be dead headed and pruned, along with other plants and weeding keeps one occupied. The Bramley apple tree again gave us a good crop, much enjoyed by members of the church. Thank you to everyone who has helped to keep the churchyard looking good.

*David Freeman*

## Electoral Roll

Every Parish must have an electoral roll on which the names of lay persons are entered. A person is entitled to have their name on the roll of this parish if they are baptised, aged 16 or over, are resident in the parish and/or have attended public worship habitually in the last six months.

Being on the electoral roll of St. Paul's is a statement of intent to be a fully participating member of this church through regular worship and support across the range of church and parish life.

The roll is revised annually.

We have one addition this year – Susan Craig has rejoined the electoral roll.

There are five deletions:

Mrs Claire Jones – a valued and loved church member who has passed away in the last year.

Mr Anthony (Tony) Edwards – a much loved member of the church who has recently passed away and will be deeply missed by all his family and friends.

Mrs Sarah Watson – who has moved with Luke to their new parish in Fordingbridge.

Miss Christine Smithers

Miss Belinda Lee

The Roll revised this year contains 105 names, with 1 addition and 5 deletions.

Very special thanks are owed to Marlene Whitlock, who has stepped down as the Electoral Role Officer after 12 years of service. I personally would like to thank her for her guidance as I take on this role.

I would also like to thank Julie Mason, the Parish Administrator, for her help in preparing the Electoral Roll, both of us new to the task in hand.

*Sue Russell, Church Electoral Roll Officer*

### **Jams and Pickles Basket**

Our produce continues to be displayed on a table in the Mary Wise Room, with an honesty pot for donations. In 2023 we were able to make large extra quantities of jams and pickles due to a generous donation of surplus crops of plums, apples and redcurrants.

Any help to make marmalade, jams, chutneys is always most welcome. I am also happy to receive 'spare produce' as the summer and autumn crops arrive.

Thank you to the 'pickled onion' team and others who made produce for the stall at the 2023 Winter Fair, raising £89.00 on the day.

*Sue Russell*

### **Sunday Refreshments**

It is quite amazing for us to realise that it is fifteen years since Chris Hollingshurst asked if Ian, Maggie and myself would take on the task of providing refreshments between the then two services on Sunday mornings. He had the idea of 'proper' coffee and brioche that would encourage the two congregations to mingle. Maggie sourced our four cafetières (still going strong!) and we set to. A year later, Pam joined us and has efficiently organised the team ever since!

We are so grateful to all the volunteers in the team who continue to serve coffee, tea, cold drinks, bake delicious cakes, and superior shop bought edibles ... and then do all the washing up too. We (Ian and I) have yet to visit another church where the aroma of real coffee and the sight of cakes (not rich tea biscuits) welcomes regular worshippers and visitors.

Should anyone feel inspired to join us – please let us know. Speak to anyone in the kitchen or at the refreshment table each Sunday!

*Ian and Jane Jarman, Maggie Dowd, Pam Ingram*

## **Catering Team**

We held a fantastic Harvest Festival Lunch with hot food and we were able to be very sociable.

At the All-Soul's Service in November we had light refreshments, where everyone was pleased to be made so welcome at such a special service.

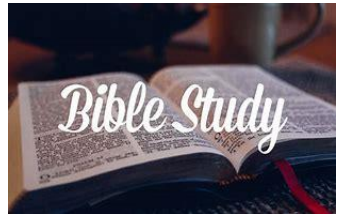
Throughout the year, we hold Thursday morning refreshments for the Thursday morning Communion service which is always very welcome. Thank you to everyone who helps on the rota, and those who donate to our raffle each week.

*Diane Tink, Verger*

## **Reading the Bible Together**

Monday Mornings 10.30am to 12 noon  
January to December 2023

These sessions have continued to be held at Ann's home, 36a Hunter's Road, Hook.



These sessions usually take place at Ann's, bungalow 36a Hunter's Road, Hook, though on occasions in the Mary Wise room at Church. We meet for coffee and chat from 10.30am, then starting with prayer at 11am we pray for the needs of people we know and ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We decide together which book of the Bible to study then take in turns to read, pausing to reflect then discuss meaning and message for us today, finishing at 12 noon.

During the first part of 2023 we have looked at passages from Ecclesiastes, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel. Then we read the Minor prophets Amos to Malachi. During the summer we concentrated on the Gospel of Matthew and towards the end of the year studied Paul's letters to the Galatians and Ephesians.

The group decide what they would like to do next. No preparation or previous knowledge required.

Everyone is welcome. Contact Ann Fernihough (020 8397 5954) e-mail [fernihough443@btinternet.com](mailto:fernihough443@btinternet.com)

*Ann Fernihough*

## **Hook & Southborough Parish Hall**



The Parish Hall is located 300 metres up the road from St Paul's Church. It is a large hall that is widely used during the week by many different groups within our community – Hook Pre-School, FitSteps Dance, Guides, Tai Chi, Kumon, Line Dancing, Women's Institute, Games Club and St Paul's Players. At the weekends it is used mainly by families for children's parties and also for fundraising events by both St Paul's Church and other charities. We allow these charities to use the hall for free in our attempt to 'give something back' to the

community.

With regards to the upkeep of the hall, we re-invest the funds from the hire of the hall back into maintaining and improving the facilities. Works have picked up pace this year to maintain and update the facility. Works still progress on the Annexe albeit at a slower pace with the intention to complete as soon as possible. This has been delayed whilst trying to resolve hall storage issues. Most of the work on the annexe has been done by volunteers at no or low cost.

During 2023 we completed the below works:

- New front doors (as seen in the picture above)
- New side gates.

We have a programme of improvements lined up for future years, subject to funds, which include:

- Kitchen cooker & dishwasher to allow for larger hall functions
- New LED lighting throughout
- Improved access for wheelchair / disabled people
- Toilet remodels
- New flooring (long term goal)
- Photo Voltaic Panels (Solar)
- Insulated roof with new ceiling

the list goes on..... If you have any ideas, you would like us to consider, please let the Parish Hall Committee know.

During 2023 we had to micromanage our energy costs due to an increase in tariffs from the energy companies by 5x from previous years. Our gas demand was kept tightly under control, and we thank our users for their understanding during this time. Electricity was not so easy to maintain but again our thanks to our users who turned off lights when not required.

Kevin Connelly is the Parish Hall 'handman' & you may see him around the hall a few hours a week assisting with the general maintenance of the hall. This has proved to be a positive step with lots of small jobs being completed promptly as required. As we hire out to external users this is an important requirement. If you see him around the hall, please say 'hello'. We are holding a Parish Hall workday on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July from 9.30-3.30pm, if you can assist even for only an hour this will be a great help. Turn up at any time during this period and we will find you something to do. ***'Many hands make light work'***.



I did resign from the Parish Hall Committee during 2023 but have since been re-appointed. The current committee members are: Myself, Joanne Griffiths, Graham Cocks, Ian Reid, Sue Russell, Paula Thompson.

The committee gives its time for free, and we still urgently require help to spread the workload, so if you would like to come and join the Parish Hall Committee please contact: Graham Cocks, Ian Reid, Sue Russell, Paula Thompson, Joanne or Steve Griffiths.

If you would like to book the hall, we now have a new Lettings Clerk, Andrea Al-Alem and she can be contacted at the Parish Office on 020 8391 2362 or email: [premises@stpaulschurchhook.org.uk](mailto:premises@stpaulschurchhook.org.uk) She works Monday and Wednesday afternoons 2-4pm if you would like to pop in and say 'hello'.

*Steve Griffiths, Parish Hall Committee*

### **St Paul's Hook Mothers Union**



St Paul's Hook Mothers Union meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 10.30 to 12noon in the Mary Wise Room at the church with coffee served from 10am.

Our meetings open with prayers. We have had some very interesting speakers during the course of the year and an enjoyable garden tea in July held in the Church grounds, with a bring and buy stall and raffle that raised money for various Mother Union charities

We also have two evening meetings booked this year with speakers. The knit and natter group meet every Monday afternoon in the Mary Wise room from 2pm to 4pm, making blankets and little jackets for the born too soon unit at Kingston Hospital.

Mothers Union is open to anyone who is a baptised member of the church. It has a worldwide membership of four million working to strengthen family life.

All are welcome at our meetings. For further information contact Ann Fernihough at the Church.

*Carol Noakes*

## **Safeguarding**

The Parochial Church Council of St Paul's has upheld its duty of care for the safety of those who attend or use its church premises. The PCC has complied with this duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

A hard copy of 'A Safe Church' can be found in the cupboard at the back of the church and via the Southwark Diocesan website:

<https://southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/diocesan-policies-and-procedures>

A link to this guidance can be found via the Parish website.

Any queries or concerns you may have should be addressed in confidence to Sue Russell, Parish Safeguarding Officer or Natalie Loible, Parish Safeguarding Officer, who will as necessary liaise with the Safeguarding team at Southwark Diocese. Email addresses and telephone numbers of both can be found on the Safeguarding posters around church, which also carry details of key helplines.

All PCC members, Children's Group Leaders and Home Visitors have DBS clearance as appropriate. Online Safeguarding training is also completed appropriate to their roles.

*Sue Russell*

## Prayer Chain

Would you like St Paul's folk to pray for you, or for someone you know, or for a situation you are concerned about? Drop an email to me and I will share the subject (anonymously if you like) with our Prayer Chain. Would you like to commit to praying for the needs of our community? Again, contact me and I will add you to the Prayer Chain.

[mary@maryreid.org.uk](mailto:mary@maryreid.org.uk)

*Mary Reid*

## Technology



The Church AV system seems to be working well. A small team of people put together the PowerPoint slides for the services. We try to stream as many services as possible on the "St Paul's Church, Hook" YouTube channel. Look for the one with the cross logo – we're trying to get the other one renamed or removed.

If creating the PowerPoint files and / or operating the equipment is something you'd like to know more about, please do speak to one of the people at the desk on a Sunday morning. If you want to sit with us to see what goes on, you would be more than welcome.

*Brian Dale*

## Website and Social Media

St Paul's makes good use of its online presence. Some services are livestreamed on our YouTube channel

([www.youtube.com/@stpaulschurchhook](http://www.youtube.com/@stpaulschurchhook)),

whilst you can find daily prayers and other notices on our Facebook group ([www.facebook.com/stpaulschurchhook](http://www.facebook.com/stpaulschurchhook)).

Our website ([stpaulschurchhook.co.uk/](http://stpaulschurchhook.co.uk/)) Our church website went through a complete redesign in September. Do check it out if you haven't dropped in for a while.

We are always on the lookout for photos of the church and news about events, so please send them to me.

Mary Reid

[mary@maryreid.org.uk](mailto:mary@maryreid.org.uk)

*Mary Reid*

### **St Paul's Primary School.**

2023 was another busy year for the school. One key area of focus for us has been continuing to develop and embed an 'attached aware' approach to support pupils' emotional wellbeing alongside developing their academic ability. We have been awarded the 'Bronze' and 'Silver' Attached Aware School Awards and have been commended for the strength of the whole school development with regards to this. We are currently working on the Gold Award which focuses on support for parents and carers too. The school continues to be recognised for examples of 'excellent practice' and the head and deputy have both been offering outreach support to other local church schools – most recently to a local school C of E primary school who wish to develop their Christian Distinctiveness further. For the last two years, the leadership team have ensured that there is a development point on the school's development plan (SDP) linked to Christian Distinctiveness; in 2022 the development area was further development of prayer (particularly open prayer) which is now well established. Pupils of all ages will lead prayer for the whole school and are encouraged to reflect on the themes of worship and lead their own conversation with Jesus for the community to share in – it is truly wonderful to watch. This year



the school's development point linked into Christian Distinctiveness is focused on a celebration of diversity within the school's community linked to the theme of 'All Made in God' Image'. This is work that the school's leadership team are incredibly passionate about – ensuring that all pupils have the chance to see representations of themselves within the curriculum that they are being taught and to ensure that the St Paul's community is a truly inclusive one. The school's Key Stage 2 SATs results continue to be broadly in line with or above national averages. We were particularly pleased with their results for pupils working at greater depth in 2022 as these were some of the strongest that we have had. We have launched a new 'Fast Feedback' approach to giving the pupils feedback on their learning which encourages the children (all the way from Reception) to take more ownership over their own learning, identifying what they have done well and what they need to work on next. The most recent School Improvement Partner (SIP) visit recognised the development of this approach and the positive impact that it has had on both pupils and staff. It is an exciting development for the school and will continue to be developed and fully embedded into 2024. Finally, the role of the Faith Reps (a small group of Year 6 pupils) continues to go from strength to strength. Sharon Griffin works with this group of pupils who lead worships in school, supported Luke in leading worships in the church and who will lead worships in the church for the school until a new vicar is appointed to continue to offer the opportunity for the school community to join together within the church building. We are delighted that the church are keen to continue to develop the links between us and the church and look forward to further opportunities to share in celebrations and events in the coming year.

*Emily Evans, Headteacher*

## St Pauls Church Children Group

The Childrens Group started in December 2023 with several volunteers helping encourage our families to come with their children and be part of something new. Luke was very delighted and supportive of us all as we made plans for the group.

The children are persuaded to stay with their families as part of the **All Age Worship**, which we felt was very important so that families feel they are an active part of the service. During that Sunday, the children are given a pew bag, which contains a bible story, colouring book and crayons, a copy of the Lord's Prayer and a children's prayer, a wooden cross and a handmade knitted bear to pray with (thank you to the Knit and Natter Group for providing our lovely bears!). For all the other Sundays in the month, we hold a discussion of things that have happened with our week with our resident Bear, colouring, a bible story, a prayer and an activity. We have had specific colouring for any particular religious event, we had a 'kindness' based theme for Lent which made a wonderful display in church and recently we have been discussing about prayer and what it means to us.

Initially, we had a couple of children as regular attendees, which has now grown to around seven children. This is very encouraging, considering that we have only been running for five months! As I write, we are expecting another family to join us too.

We have lots of plans moving forward, including working closer with our school, so watch this space and keep us in your prayers.

As ever, I couldn't run and plan the group without the help of Alison, Karen, Julie, Paula, Sarah and the encouragement of Angie and Natalie - my heartfelt thanks to you all. A bigger thank you to all my church friends for your enthusiastic comments and support.

*Alison Forrester*

## **St Paul's Hook – Our achievements and progress over the year 2023-24**

1. April & May 23 – Hope Explored course as a THS team
2. May 23 – 'Thy Kingdom Come' (Joint THS prayer meetings).
3. May 23 – Coronation Tea at the Parish Hall
4. June 23 – Church building work-day
5. Sept 23 – Macmillan coffee morning and raffle
6. Oct 23 – Churchyard work-day.
7. Oct 23 – Harvest lunch in the church after the Sunday service
8. Oct 23 – Children's Society Box Opening and lunch
9. Nov 23 – All Souls and Armistice Remembrance Services
10. Nov 23 – Winter Fair in the Parish Hall
11. Dec 23 – Julie starts as our new Church administrator
12. Dec 23 – Advent soup and a roll.
13. Dec 23 – St Paul's and Lovelace schools' carol services
14. Dec 23 – Began children's groups during services again
15. Jan 24 – Andrea starts as the new Parish Hall Lettings Clerk
16. Jan 24 – Farewell to Luke at the Patronal Service and lunch afterwards
17. Feb 24 – United THS Team service at St Paul's.
18. Mar 24 – Welcomed Archdeacon John Kiddle for Palm Sunday (and took church family photo)

19. Mar 24 – CHAT combined Maundy Thursday Service and Good Friday Walk of Witness
20. Mar 24 – Welcomed Bishop Martin for Easter Sunday (and held churchyard egg-hunt)
21. April 24 – Men's Breakfast in the Parish Hall with a talk from Bob Bailey (trustee and retired operational director of Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness (KCAH))
22. April 24 – Bring and share supper evening in the Mary Wise room
23. April & May 24 – The Sacred Spaces course

### **PCC Review of the Year**

A review of the business done by the PCC In 2023-24

May 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We reviewed the APCM and appointed significant Church offices</li> <li>● Parish Hall development plans</li> </ul>
June 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Proposed improving arrangements for communion regarding inclusivity</li> <li>● Finance Report</li> </ul>
July 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We discussed the Parish Hall and the future of the bungalow (276 Hook Road)</li> </ul>
Sept 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Report from Finance Committee</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discussed Parish Hall and the future of the bungalow</li> <li>● Way forward for heating following the Eco-report</li> </ul>
Oct 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discussed Parish Hall and Vicarage</li> <li>● Review of cleaners pay</li> <li>● Inclusive Arrangements for Communion</li> <li>● Draft Profile for THS Rector</li> <li>● Raise Faculty for dead tree</li> </ul>
Nov 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Soup and a roll for advent</li> <li>● Rector Vacancy</li> <li>● Starting Children's groups on Sundays again</li> <li>● Finance report</li> <li>● Buildings Report</li> </ul>
Jan 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Plans for interregnum with Archdeacon John Kiddle</li> <li>● Approved next years' budget</li> <li>● Review of the administrator's pay</li> <li>● Service plans until May</li> </ul>
Feb 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Deanery Synod Feedback</li> <li>● Setup Worship Committee and Steering Committee for the interregnum</li> <li>● High-level service plan for the year</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Finance report</li><li>● Buildings report and investigation of infra-red heaters</li></ul>
March 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Agreed input to revised profile for Rector (based at St Matthew's)</li><li>● Approved finance accounts</li><li>● St Paul's Instagram Account</li></ul>
April 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Briefing from Bishop Martin and Archdeacon John Kiddle</li><li>● Steering Committee Report – timeline and questionnaires</li><li>● Worship Committee Report – services for May and June</li><li>● Buildings report – plan for church centre roof</li></ul>