



The Parochial Church Council of Horne, St Mary the Virgin

The Annual Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments for 2022-2023

Worship in Church

The wardens thank Nicholas for his prayer, thought, planning and devotion to leading our congregational worship together and the many ways in which he nurtures and encourages the Windmill United Benefice community and our community at St Mary, Horne.

We were sorry to say farewell to Tony Rich who was a much valued member of the Benefice clergy team. We wish him well in his new home and we will miss him ...

We are very pleased to welcome Steve Bishop who has joined the clergy team and we are looking forward to getting to know him during his ministry with us.

We have enjoyed the different themes of the talks and sermons that we hear from Nicholas, Charles, Steve and Tony as they share their thoughts and knowledge with us in their own characteristic ways.

The wardens thank Ginette and Peter Nye for the gift and spiritual inspiration of the music and singing that so enriches our worship in this church and the other Churches of the Windmill Benefice.

Duties in Church

The wardens thank David Spruce for his work to allocate people to the various key duties in our Church each month. Sometimes, such as at peak holiday times it can be difficult to find enough people who are available so if you feel called to take part in one or more of the rota duties please tell Nicholas, Andrew or Sue. Ongoing training & guidance is available for readers, organising refreshments, intercessors (leading prayers), minister of Communion (offering the Chalice) and sides people. These are valued roles and you are very welcome to join the duties team.

The Church and Churchyard

Following the Quinquennial Inspection in June 2020, the work identified in the Architect's Report remains to be addressed. Work to re-shingle the spire is the most significant requirement, however, lack of funding is an issue. The Wardens approached the Architect about seeking external funding but up until now there is no progress to report.

Damage to the Church main roof and south porch roof as a result of a storm in February 2022 has been repaired and we have recovered our insured losses from Ecclesiastical Insurance.

Routine maintenance and inspections at St Mary, Horne have been carried out; for example, fire extinguisher and lightning conductor checks, the boiler serviced, oil tank checked, portable electrical appliances tested and gutters, downpipes and drains cleared.

Andrew Goudie has investigated how we can support members of the congregation who have varying degrees of hearing impairment. He has found that the provision of support is a complex issue that requires further investigation to find a suitable solution that is appropriate for members of St Mary's congregation.

The Surrey Churches Preservation Trust (a volunteer organisation set up to stimulate interest in Surrey churches of all Christian denominations) visited St Mary, Horne in October 2022. The wardens gave a short talk about St Mary's and were available for questions whilst our visitors explored inside and outside the church. The Trust thanked us for an interesting and enjoyable visit and for our part it was lovely to share St Mary's in this way. Visit their website to find out more about [Surrey Churches Preservation Trust](#) |

Thank you to Bozi and Julie Mohacek for continuing their work to maintain the grass and hedges in the churchyard and for generally keeping an eye on things.

Thank you to the regular strimming team for their dedication to keeping things tidy in places that the mowers cannot reach. Thank you to many others who come along unseen to work in the churchyard as and when they are able.

Our church interior cleaning regime is important as it not only ensures that St Mary's looks as good as possible but also is a way of regularly inspecting the fabric of St Mary's to identify items that might need attention and damage that needs repair. Thank you to Suzanne Robinson for organising the cleaning rota, leading the cleaning team and especially for her organisation and leading of the recent two-day Spring clean. Thank you to the cleaning team who turn out regularly to do an excellent job and to those who answered the appeal to spring clean which has made those less often tended areas so much cleaner and brighter.

We are pleased to let you know that our old "Hymns Ancient & Modern" that we donated to the charity, Books2Africa, have now been sent to a community in Africa. The Wardens are grateful to Gill Robinson who researched and arranged this donation.

Lauma Kazusa, who stepped forward last year to take on the role of organising floral arrangements at St Mary has been creating an awareness of important environmental issues to consider when providing church flowers. At St Mary, we discourage the use of floral foam in arrangements as it is a toxic microplastic that is harmful to people, animals and pollutes waterways. We encourage the use of seasonal local flowers to help reduce our carbon footprint. For further information and guidance please follow the link below to an article in the Church Times.

[Not mourning Oasis glory: the environmental impact of church flowers \(churchtimes.co.uk\)](https://www.churchtimes.co.uk)

Horne Parochial School Building

The wardens have arranged minor ad hoc repairs, regular maintenance and repairs following storm damage at the school.

Over a period of several years parts of the structure have been deteriorating, particularly the roof and window frames. Due to financial constraints, the PCC has kept repairs to a minimum and arranged them as and when they affected the use of the building such as to resolve and prevent water ingress. Enough to render the building usable but not a long-term solution. Unfortunately, minor repairs are no longer sufficient to maintain the building appropriately.

Following the failure of the heating oil tank at the school the PCC agreed not to reinstate a fossil fuelled heating system. The PCC sought independent advice and embarked on a project with a third party to install a new non-fossil fuelled heating system and to maximise the benefits of the new system by replacing damaged windows and doors, insulating the roof space and cavity walls, installing energy efficient lighting inside and outside the building and solar panels to include a roof survey and repair as required.

Progress hasn't been as rapid as we hoped for as prospective installers are inundated with work post Covid, however, there has been steady progress.

The PCC is grateful to the headteacher and staff at Butterfly Nursery who have worked with us to progress this project and have utilised the secondary electrical heating system provided at the school pending a permanent solution.

This work to make the building energy efficient is the first stage of our project to make it fit for purpose as a resource for church, nursery and community use.

The project is being funded by the proceeds from the sale of Newchapel Hall set aside for this purpose.

Andrew Goudie and Sue Wates

Joint Churchwardens - St Mary the Virgin, Horne