

“Seven whole days not one in seven”

Inspiring people through worship and word to live out God’s love in their daily lives



The Parochial Church Council of Horne, St Mary the Virgin

The Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for 2023-2024

General Functions of the Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council of Horne, St Mary the Virgin (PCC) co-operates and consults with the Rector and liaises with other members of the Windmill United Benefice in promoting the whole mission of the Church in the ecclesiastical parish of Horne and the Windmill United Benefice.

Meetings of the Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council of Horne, St Mary the Virgin (PCC) met on three occasions during this year and for three Benefice Joint PCC meetings called to work on a Benefice Mission Action Plan, Vision Statement and as part of the clergy recruitment process due to Nicholas Calver’s retirement.

Members of the Parochial Church Council

The PCC consists of the Rector (Chair) and a maximum of twelve representatives including ex officio members made up of churchwardens and deanery synod representatives.

During the year 2023-2024 the following have served as members of the PCC:

Nicholas Calver	Rector and Chair – Retired January 31 st 2024
Andrew Goudie	Joint Churchwarden and Safeguarding Officer
Susan Wates	Joint Churchwarden and Secretary to the PCC
Sara Gough	Deanery Synod Representative
David Spruce	Deanery Synod Representative
Liam Harvey	Elected Representative
Michael Harvey	Elected Representative
Peter Hill	Elected Representative
Veronica Hill	Elected Representative
Lauma Kazusa	Elected Representative
Steve Robinson	Elected Representative
Barbara Verco	Elected Representative and Treasurer

Events

I am pleased to report the events listed below that took place during the year:

Saturday May 20 th 2023	Plant sale
Saturday October 7 th 2023	Harvest Barn Dance
Sunday October 29 th 2023	Organ Recital in church with Peter Nye
Sunday November 26 th 2023	Organ Recital in church with Peter Nye
Sunday February 25 th 2024	Organ Recital in church with Peter Nye
During December 2023	Pop-up Christmas bulb sales in church
Saturday December 30 th 2023	St Mary’s Church winter deep clean.

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Southwark Diocese is committed to caring for God’s Creation in every way. In working to become an Eco Diocese, Southwark asks us to deepen our commitment to the fifth Mark of Mission, to Treasure: To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

St Mary the Virgin, Horne chose to join Southwark Diocese on this journey by “signing-up” to Eco Church and members of our Eco Church group worked as permitted by prevailing restrictions during the pandemic to achieve an Eco Church Bronze Award in 2021 and our plan is to work towards achieving an Eco Church Silver Award.

So, what have we done since then?

We continue to:

- affirm our commitment to the fifth Mark of Mission during worship, teaching in clergy sermons and talks and in prayers led by members of our congregation.
- affirm our commitment to Fairtrade and raising awareness of places locally where a wide range of Fairtrade products are available and how changing our buying choices locally can help ... if more of us choose to buy Fairtrade that means extra income, power and support for vulnerable communities.
By making the small switch to buy Fairtrade, we can all support producers who are living on the edge of financial survival.
- we have completed an eco-energy efficiency project at Horne Parochial School that demonstrates our commitment to Southwark Eco-Diocese and our next Eco Church Award.
- we are developing a churchyard management policy that embraces Eco Church objectives within the parameters of St Mary’s churchyard as an open graveyard and as an outside space of worship.
- in church we encourage using sustainable alternatives to plastics, re-using, recycling and reducing food waste.

Please visit the Windmill United Benefice website Eco Church page to read about Eco Church at St Mary’s and tell wardens or a member of the Eco Church team if you would like to know how you can help.

Windmill United Benefice Occasions

During the year St Mary the Virgin, Horne has joined with St Bartholomew, Burstow and St John, Outwood on several occasions to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III, for Choral Evensong, Lammas, All Souls, Advent Carols, Christmas Eve Midnight Mass, Candlemas, Palm Sunday, a Maundy Thursday Meal with Holy Communion, Good Friday Liturgy and an Easter Day dawn service on Outwood Common.

Choristers at St Mary’s have delighted in the fellowship of singing regularly with choristers from St Bartholomew and St John as members of the Benefice choir under the expert direction of Ginette and Peter Nye.

St Mary the Virgin, Horne church members have connected with and support other Benefice activities such as Café Church, the Community lunch and Hear Here, all of which helps to enhance our Windmill United Benefice community.

The Burstow and Smallfield News has been developed to include Horne and from April 2023, will become The Smallfield, Burstow and Horne News produced for the community by St Mary the Virgin, Horne and St Bartholomew, Burstow. From May 2023 distribution will be extended to include the Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Horne.

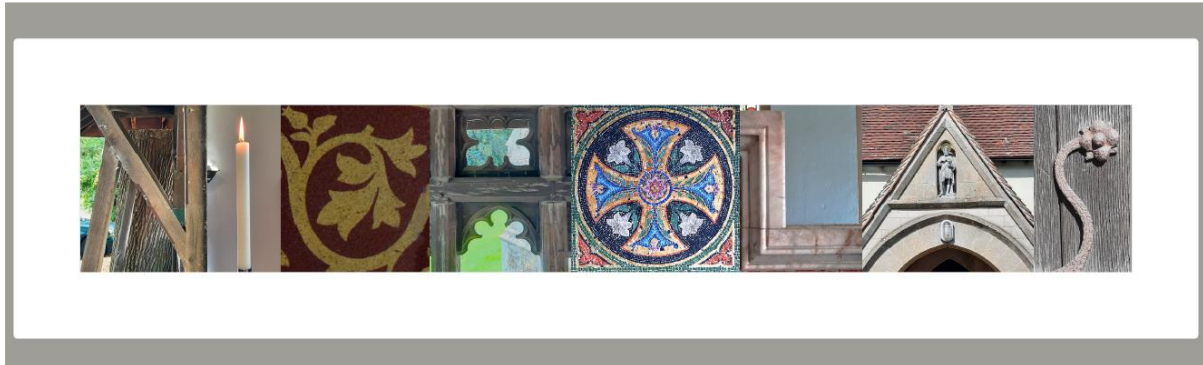
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The landmark Benefice event this year has been the retirement of Nicholas Calver on January 31st 2024.

The Benefice celebrated Nicholas’ final service at St Mary the Virgin, Horne on Sunday January 7th 2024 culminating in the exchange of gifts ... Nicholas gave each of us an olive wood heart that he explained illustrates two contrasting aspects of love with the soft curves of one end of the heart representing the joy of love and the opposite pointy end representing the pain of love. The Benefice gave Nicholas an image of his name, each letter represented by a photograph of an appropriate part of one or other church ... see photograph below! We gave Judith a rose, Desdemona, and for both of them a plump cheque!

We all moved over the road to Horne Parochial School for refreshments, lots of conversation and final good-byes. Food and drinks were provided by parishioners from all three Benefice churches ... it was a memorable Benefice occasion!



So, What Shows us that St Mary the Virgin, Horne is “Hot to Trot”?!

Peter Nye generously treated us to his first in-church organ recital on Sunday October 29th 2023, themed “Hymn Tunes for the Organ”; this is an idea that Peter has been nurturing for some time and it has proved a great success!

Although there is no entrance charge, donations towards the restoration of St Mary’s pipe organ are invited. St Mary’s parishioners provide tea, coffee and cakes!

Further recitals on November 26th 2023, themed “How does the Organ Work?”, and February 25th 2024, themed “Lent, Passiontide and Easter”, have been well and generously supported. The recitals are proving to be popular and a lovely way to spend a Sunday afternoon!

This year at St Mary the Virgin, Horne the PCC has continued to review and appraise fundraising events.

The Harvest Barn Dance on Saturday October 7th 2023 was well attended and enjoyed by those who ate, drank, danced and were very merry!

The Christmas Café was deferred in favour of a series of pop-up Christmas planted bulb sales opportunities run very successfully by Lauma Kazusa and generously supported by parishioners who bought the planted bulbs. The pop-up sales generated a pleasing amount of income and parishioners walked away with lots of beautiful bulbs to enjoy.

The Plant Sale was, once again, a successful fundraiser and a happy meeting place.

Many had generously grown an impressive range of plants for the sale and many came along to buy them.

Regular attention to detail by the cleaning team and a structured cleaning routine continues to reap benefits. There was a winter team deep clean in the Church on December 30th ... we are very grateful to all of those who came along to take part.

Many have joined the teams that clean inside the Church, tidy, mow, strim and trim outside and make a much-valued contribution to the life of St Mary’s.

The PCC is grateful to everyone who contributes to the work and success of these events and activities ... we appreciate your energy and commitment to St Mary the Virgin, Horne.

Sue Wates - Secretary to The Parochial Church Council of Horne, St Mary the Virgin