

THE DIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK REIGATE DEANERY

St Philip's Church, Reigate



Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council for the year beginning 1st January 2023 and ending 31st December 2023

www.stphilipsreigate.com

St Philip's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Archdeacon of Reigate, Moira Astin and Area Dean, Martin Colton.

The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St Philip's Church Hall, Nutley Lane, Reigate.

The Electoral Roll at the APCM in 2023 was 116.

St Philip's PCC:

All regular members of the congregation are encouraged to be members of the Electoral Roll, from which up to nine PCC members are elected annually. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of concern and importance to the parish including deciding how the PCC funds are to be spent.

PCC members 2023:

Ex Officio members:

- Incumbent: Revd Jennifer Penn (Chair) until 1st August 2023)
- Chair: Michelle Pegley (From 1st August 2023)
- Warden: Michelle Pegley (Deputy Chair – until 1st August 2023)
- Warden: Mrs Annie Hilder
- Non Stipendary Minister (Permission To Officiate): Revd Eileen Stanghan

Elected members:

- Mr Tim Blatt (Treasurer)
- Mr Charles Blatt
- Mr David Collett
- Mrs Helen Jerome
- Ms Anne Millington
- Mrs Christine Perera
- Mrs Susan Sargent
- Mrs Susan Stallard

PCC Secretary: Mrs Kay Wheatley

Hall Managers: Mr Russell Pearson (Operations) and Mrs Kay Wheatley (Lettings)

Electoral Roll Officer: Mrs Michelle Pegley

PCC Treasurer: Mr Tim Blatt

.....

Chairman's Welcome and review of 2023: Michelle Pegley

Thank you all for coming and thank you to all who have contributed to our Annual Report for 2023, which is a great encouragement during the vacancy at St Philip's. We will look back on 2023 with mixed feelings. In April, our vicar, Jenny and husband, Austin, told us that they would be moving on in the summer and are now happily installed back in Lancashire. By that time, we had already enjoyed Easter services together and we continued to fill the last months of their time here with joyful worship and gave them a happy send-off with a well-attended afternoon tea and many heartfelt messages of love and goodwill.

Jenny had helped prepare, and has continued to support the Churchwardens, Michelle and Annie, as they took over the day-to-day running of the church from mid-July. The responsibility has at times been dizzying but with the kind support of the congregation, the hard work of those leading groups and committees, and the wealth of experience and wisdom of PCC colleagues, we have made it this far. Thank you all!

We have held services here every Sunday since the vacancy began. With the help of visiting clergy including Archdeacon Moira and Bishop Rosemarie of Croydon, and regular appearances by Rev. Eileen Stanghan and Rev. Arthur Bowyer, we have been able to keep the doors open and we are very grateful to David Collett for co-ordinating the worship rota which also includes the readings, intercessions, and chalice assistants. And each week, he has printed the service sheet that guides us through our worship and provides the 'news' for that week. These communications are so important during a vacancy and we hope that we have done all we can to keep the congregation informed.

We are so fortunate to have our own organist. With no vicar in post, Annie has taken on the task of selecting hymns for each service, as well as playing them so beautifully! She has also continued with leading our singing group who have performed for us at Harvest and Christmas and are practicing now for Easter Services. And we are blessed with so many strong voices in the congregation.

The welcome team have also played a huge part in keeping services running smoothly. Where would we be without a friendly greeting at the door and a guiding nod during communion? After Easter, our welcomers will resume the practice of collecting the offertory during services. This element of the service was deemed unsafe during the pandemic and had not been resumed since, partly because we had all lost the habit of carrying cash. We are not expecting everyone to start carrying notes and coins again but some still prefer to give in this way and regular givers who donate by Direct Debit and/or use the card machine can simply pass the bag on or use a 'token'. The prayer 'All things come from you and of your own do we give you' will be said once the welcomers have presented the collection at the altar.

Sunday school has gone from strength to strength. Huge thanks to the leaders and helpers for providing interesting and engaging sessions for our young people and for contributing to our worship at special services. It is heartening to see the group flourish. We don't underestimate the planning and team-working that goes into keeping Sunday School going – thank you! The success of Sunday school is also helped by our Safeguarding team. All church officers have a level of responsibility for this and must undertake training, including all PCC members. Those looking after our children at Sunday School will also undergo a DBS check. Our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Eileen, will report more on this later in this document but I would like to make a special mention that we have strengthened our resources in this area, thanks to Charles Blatt, who has already taken on the role of Assistant Safeguarding Officer.

The recruitment process for our new vicar started in August, although Archdeacon Moira Astin had spent an evening outlining the various steps to the churchwardens in July. The PCC was tasked with producing a 'Parish Profile' which is the key document in the search for a new incumbent. This must present a full and honest description of the church, its strengths and its weaknesses, and must also include a description of the 'ideal candidate' for vicar of the parish. As St Philip's is a relatively small parish, the vicar will earn a proportion of their stipend in working alongside other churches in Reigate and Redhill, on projects for young people, specifically those in the early years of secondary school, aged 10-14. The PCC worked on a draft of the profile at its meeting in September and had it ready to present to the Archdeacon at our 'pre-section 11' meeting on 31st October. Job advertisements were written and agreed with the diocese and advertising on the Southwark Diocese website and the Pathways website were posted in early December. After a month of advertising, we learned that the diocese had not received any applications. A new timeline has been agreed and the post will be re-advertised, as before, but also in Church Times, the most widely read clerical magazine. At a cost of just over £1000, the advertisement can be repeated until the vacancy is filled.

During the months of the vacancy, we have taken steps to polish our image! We love our church and are rightly proud of its community and all the activities and fellowship that we enjoy but we have not had to 'showcase' what St Philip's has to offer before now! To be honest, it is a little bit like selling a house – in fact, it *is* selling a house (the parsonage) but with a job and a church and a community attached! Our website contract was about to expire and the costs of hosting on the platform we were using would have increased significantly so we took the opportunity to change provider and revamp the whole site. Simon Curd set up the new contract and has created a more user-friendly and attractive site. Each group at St Philip's is represented and we hope that soon, we will be posting regular updates on these pages. If you haven't already, please visit www.stphilipsreigate.com to see the changes for yourself.

Financially, the year has had its ups and downs. Thank you to Tim Blatt, our treasurer for preparing and to Helen Ainsworth for examining, the accounts again for us this year. As you will see in Tim's notes, there were quite a few large expenses in 2023 including some building repairs. We have also met the cost of asbestos and electrical surveys. Parishes in vacancy are required to pay their 'diocesan contribution' in full. In 2023, we pledged £47,000 – an increase of almost £12,000 on the previous year. At the same time, we saw a slight decrease in our planned (regular) giving. We are hoping that direct links from the "donate" page on our website will make setting up regular payments, and one-off donations, quicker and easier.

The Church Hall is an important asset to St Philip's and to the local community. Hall income rose significantly in 2023, thanks to the retention of several long term weekly lets and a full year of hosting the after-school club which provides a meal and activities for children from Holmsdale and Priory schools until 6pm in term-time. However, there were a number of unexpected expenses, the largest being some repairs to the flat roof over the entrance which caused the accessible toilet to flood on more than one occasion! Heating costs also ran high in 2023. We are blessed to have Kay Wheatley looking after bookings and Russell Pearson taking care of the maintenance and cleaning of the hall. They have both taken on extra tasks and responsibilities due the vacancy. A word must also be put in here for an unofficial, unpaid but fully qualified member of the maintenance team. He fixes taps, he services boilers and he unblocks gutters. Thank you, Phil Dilworth! And in David Collett we have the electrical skills to fix the light fittings and do the PAT testing – we are blessed again!

On the following pages, you will read about the groups and activities that all play a part in making St Philip's the warm and welcoming church that it is. Whether you belong to St Philip's as a regular worshipper or drop into our First Steps' toddler service or Tuesday Coffee Morning, please know that you *belong* to this church and we are doing everything we can to 'hold the fort' until the next chapter in its life begins. Stay with us! Pray for us! And when the new vicar arrives, rejoice with us!

Churchwardens' report: Michelle Pegley and Annie Hilder

Both churchwardens attended the 'swearing-in' on 19th June at St Mildred's in Addiscombe. Michelle's holiday plans meant that we had to join the service hosted by the Croydon Archdeaconry but Archdeacon Greg and the team at the church made us feel very welcome!

Since the start of the vacancy, the churchwardens have been supported by David Collett, Tim Blatt and our PCC secretary, Kay Wheatley who together form the "Standing Committee" which has met regularly since May 2023 once Jenny's resignation was made known, to manage the day-to-day running of church life.

In the recruitment process, we have been helped and guided by Area Dean, Martin Colton and Archdeacon Moira and her Assistant, Kathleen Bailey. Kathleen has kept in regular contact and steered us through every stage of the process. As chair and co-chair, Michelle and Annie are grateful to other PCC members for their loyalty and encouragement. Meetings have been well attended with lively discussion and everyone pulling together to keep things on track. The team also showed great resilience when the first round of recruitment advertising proved unsuccessful.

On 1st April 2023, Michelle met with Moira for our Archdeacon's inspection which happens every 3 years. This required us to complete Our Articles of Enquiry before that date so that these could be discussed at the meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to check the inventory and registers (services, baptisms etc.) and any records of works carried out on the fabric of the building. Moira advised that we have a simple Maintenance Action Plan - a list of work carried out on the church, names of contractors and dates of inspections and work due. We had started to keep a folder for this purpose which has become even more a valuable during the vacancy.

On 24th May, Jenny and Michelle met with our Architect, Sue Kent, for the Quinquennial Inspection. Although the architect was pleased with the generally improved presentation of the building since her last visit in 2018, there were several outstanding actions which are now in progress. Co-incidentally, shortly before her visit, we had had to cordon off the 'children's corner' of the church due to some stone fragments falling at the end of a Sunday Service. Some remedial building work was carried out and a structural survey has since recommended further monitoring of the church's front wall.

An inspection of the church's fixed electrical wiring (heating and lighting) was carried on 9th January 2023. As a goodwill gesture, the company also completed an inspection of the church hall on the same day. The most urgent remedial works were needed in the hall and these were completed in February 2024.

Our 'Statistics for Mission' were submitted to the Diocese ahead of the deadline of 31st January, giving a full account of the numbers of services, attendance figures and information about our Fresh Expressions and other outreach activities in the community. We were pleased to report that the congregation has not dropped in size since the vacancy and that groups are still attracting good numbers.

Michelle has also taken on responsibility for The Parsonage. Twice weekly visits are carried out as a condition of our insurances and to collect the post. Contractors are sent by arrangement by the Property Services Department of the diocese. So far these have included replacing fence panels and servicing the central heating. The alarm system has also been serviced.

Electoral Roll Officer's Report: Michelle Pegley

A revision of the Electoral Roll for St Philip's took place between 4th February and 25th February 2024. The revision was advertised using the monthly newsletter and weekly pew sheets and announcements during Notices at the start of services. A notice was also displayed by the church entrance giving 2 weeks notice of the revision. 10 names were removed from the roll and 5 were added so the total number on the roll stands at 111. 43 are residents of the Parish and 68 reside outside of the Parish. In 2025, a whole new roll will be prepared so all members will need to re-apply.

PCC Secretary's report: Kay Wheatley

The PCC have met 5 times since the last Annual Parochial Church Meetings and consisted of Revd Jenny Penn – Chair (who left in August 2023), Revd Eileen Stangan – ex-officio, Michelle Pegley – Churchwarden and Chair since August 2023, Annie Hilder – Churchwarden, Tim Blatt – Treasurer and elected PCC member, Kay Wheatley – PCC Secretary, and 7 other elected members.

The average attendance at meetings is 10. Highlights of PCC meetings are published in Pew News and the newsletter and the PCC deals with the general administration of the parish and complying with Deanery and Diocesan requests.

Once Revd Jenny Penn left the Parish, a Standing Committee was set up comprising of Michelle Pegley, Annie Hilder, David Collett and Tim Blatt. Kay Wheatley attends to take minutes. These meetings are held bi-monthly and are held to focus on the running of the Parish during vacancy and the recruitment process of the new incumbent.

Treasurer's Report: Tim and Kamala Blatt

The Financial Statements for the parish show the Receipts and Payments for 2023 alongside the comparative figures for 2022. These accounts were approved by the PCC on 7th February 2024 and we have received confirmation from our Independent Examiner that she has completed her review.

During 2023 there was an overall excess of payments over receipts of £15,071. This deficit compares with a surplus in 2022 of £15,583. The main reasons for this deficit are that, during the year, we increased our Diocesan Parish Contribution from £35,200 to £47,000, we purchased cushions for the pews (£5,049) using a legacy received in 2022 and there were additional building costs relating to church repairs, the quinquennial visit as well as significantly increased energy costs.

Incoming resources from donors (Planned Giving, Collections at services, Donations and Tax recovered) amounted to £31,815 in 2023 which was a small decrease of £888 from 2022 (£32,707). Income from interest & investments and garages totalled £13,969 (2022: £13,220).

The main payments during 2023 were the Diocesan Parish Contribution (£47,000), church running costs, church furnishings (cushions £5,049) and building maintenance costs.

During 2023 the Hall generated income of £16,560 with expenditure of £10,864 (including £1,920 on roof repairs), a surplus of £5,696.

The Investment Funds, held by the Diocese as Custodian Trustee, stand at £379,364 at 31 December 2023, an overall increase in value of £23,750 during the year.

We would like to record our thanks to everyone who has helped us with our duties throughout the year especially our independent examiner, Helen Ainsworth, and our Assistant Treasurers, David Collett and Annie Hilder.

Planned Regular Giving: Tim Blatt

The number of parishioners who give through some form of planned regular giving has fallen by one since last year. This regular giving can take the form of payment by banker's order, weekly envelopes or through the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) that St Philip's joined in 2022.

We would encourage church members to consider giving by one of these methods and we would be happy to supply further information on these schemes.

The numbers who gave by these methods in 2023 are shown below:

<u>Method</u>	<u>Current Number</u>
Weekly	3
Monthly banker's order	18
Monthly through PGS	16
Annual through PGS	1
Quarterly banker's order	3
Annual banker's order	2
Total	43

During 2023 a total of £17,470 was donated by pledged regular giving, a small reduction from the previous year.

St Philip's Church Hall: Kay Wheatley

The hall has been well used in 2023. Bookings have included plenty of children's parties, local residents' group meetings, a Reigate & Banstead Polling day, Brownies, Table Tennis Club, Karate, the regular after school club, a drama group, Music Bees, ballroom dancing practice, PCC meetings, Tuesday coffee group and our coffee together after the service each Sunday.

Essential maintenance has been carried out on the flat roof and electrical updates were required.

As far as logistics are concerned Kay Wheatley is in charge of lettings and Russell Pearson runs the hall operations. This combination is working well.

Social and Fundraising: Michelle Pegley

St Philip's members have enjoyed refreshments after every church service this year. There are many regular helpers on the Coffee Rota which makes planning so much easier as it means that the rota never

has more than a few empty slots. During a year of such uncertainty, it has been comforting and reassuring to have a chat with each other in the relaxed setting of the church hall with a coffee and slice of cake. It also provides an opportunity for informal meetings before we all go our separate ways for another week.

It is particularly good to be able to share special occasions in this way. At Easter, Harvest and Christmas we cater for larger numbers and there is always plenty to cake to go around. On 9th July, we held a 'farewell afternoon tea' for Jenny and Austin when we welcomed many local people from outside the congregation as well as our 'regulars'. There was an informal bake-off between Annie and Michelle who both made "goodbye" cakes, but the recipients were too gracious to declare a winner! We all signed a book of farewell messages and raised £700 for Jenny & Austin's chosen charities – divided equally between Redhill Foodbank and St Philip's church.

Last March, we held a Quiz Night in the church hall, hosted by a good friend of St Philip's, Roger Hillier. Former Churchwarden and PCC secretary, Mary White visited us to help with the judging and it did get very competitive! The winning team was decided on a tie-breaker. The event raised over £200 for church funds and we would like to hold a similar event in 2024.

Church members have also given generously to charity appeals at other times of the year. During Lent 2023, we raised over £900 for the 'Tent for Lent' a campaign run by Shelterbox, a charity which provides emergency shelter and support to victims of war and natural disasters. Thank you to Lynne Macleod for organising this appeal for St Philip's, now in its 3rd year.

At Harvest, together with the Brownies, we delivered several bags and boxes of much-needed food items to the Foodbank at St Matthew's, Redhill and presented a cheque for £187 to Rev. Anna Moore, Vicar at St Matthew's when she came to preach for us on the following Sunday. We have also continued to support the work of the Children's Society – our collections at our Christingle services raised £530.

Christmas Trees

From late November, the various groups at St Philip's got to work on creating eco-friendly Christmas tree decorations to adorn trees that can stand or hang in the windows of St Philip's for the festive period. These were installed in time for the Carol Service and remained into the New Year. The groups again worked with the flowers team – Sarah and Zanna to ensure a coherent, natural and beautiful display. Having started this tradition in 2022, it is hoped that this will remain a feature of our festive celebrations. Not only does it provide an opportunity for all the various groups from St Philip's to work together, making and hanging the decorations, but it also draws in passers-by who can visit the displays during the week when the church is open for private prayer.

Thanks go to Helen Jerome for the idea and for everyone who took part in this project. It is hoped that we can make it bigger and better for Christmas 2024!

Child Protection and Safeguarding: Rev. Eileen Stanghan (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

Those who require DBS clearance for specific roles in St Philip's Church are all up to date. Those who received theirs in September/October 2021, will need to apply for renewal in August/September 2024, because all DBS and Safeguarding training needs to be renewed now after three years instead of five years.

I am sent reminders for DBS, but not for training, so I would be grateful if all PCC Members and others check the expiry date of their training and renew as required. it. Although my present medication prevents me working with large numbers of people, I am still available by phone or can meet individuals who need help face-to-face.

I am so pleased that Charles Blatt will be joining me as Assistant Safeguarding Officer. He has already started training and will be working alongside me. For urgent matters, please contact me, Charles or the churchwardens, Michelle and Annie. Michelle has recently completed Leadership in Safeguarding (C2) with Southwark Diocese.

Thanks so much for all that is being done to keep St Philip's a Safe Church!

Sunday School: Emma Maslen & Caroline Stratford

There are around 50 children registered for Sunday School and average weekly attendance is 15. The children leave the service just before the sermon and return after communion. Sometimes, there is an opportunity for the children to share with the congregation how they have spent their time together and we can display some of their artworks on a noticeboard.

The activities throughout the year were linked to the weekly readings and included crafts relating to grapes, the world, candles, crosses and many more!

At Harvest some of the children performed "He's got the whole world in his hands" and "Away in a Manger" on the last Sunday before Christmas. The Christmas craft decorations for 2023 included Angels, Christmas presents, baby Jesus and felt stars.

Tuesday Coffee Group: Sue Sargent

Tuesday coffee mornings are still very popular with about 20 attendees (men and women) with about 50% being non-churchgoers from the local community. Some come every week others just when they fancy a morning out.

We make regular payments into church funds for use of the hall and through the sale of marmalade and donations have raised the money for the Leprosy Mission to purchase a "nanny" goat for a leprosy affected community in Bangladesh.

There is a rota for those who wish to provide refreshments or a raffle – expenses reimbursed– and to make the coffee. Do please spread the word to anyone you know who would enjoy some lively conversation with a good cup of coffee or tea, cake and the chance to win a raffle prize all for the princely sum of £2.50.

First Steps: Rev. Eileen Stangan

First Steps is our pre-school children's group. We meet on the second Friday in the month at 10am in the church. It is an informal group, consisting of Mums, Dads, Grandparents or Carers, and their little ones, and, of course, our willing group of helpers that make it all possible, Michelle, Doreen, Kay, Helen, Susan and Christine.

We enjoy nursery rhymes, songs, a bible story, often with actions, and a prayer, before we have a craft activity, followed by refreshments. Sometimes our craft is linked with something that is going on in the church, such as some angels to decorate the Christmas trees.

Every September, a few of our children have to start school or nursery, and we miss them, but then we begin to welcome a new group of little ones to join our merry band. We have about fifteen children on our books. If you have a pre-school little one, please do come and join us. We love to see new people.

St Philip's Flower Team: Sarah Reader

The church has been decorated throughout the year with locally grown garden and allotment flowers supplemented by garden foliage and foraged greenery. The small plot of cutting flowers outside the hall provided a haven for bees and a supply of flowers for the church which will be planted up again this year.

Arrangements will be prepared for our Easter Services and over 50 daffodil posies were tied for our Mothering Sunday celebration.

St Philip's ECO- group: Annie Hilder

Eco Church remains central to our worship and who we are as a Church. Having achieved our Bronze award we are now actively seeking to meet the requirements of the Silver Award and this will continue this year, working to change the small things that can make such a big difference.

Over the summer, some of our members grew sunflowers from seeds which we gave out in church with care instructions. Some of the results were quite startling with flowers reaching over 2 metres high. Some of these were in the 'no dig' garden which Sarah Reader planted next to our 'bug church' last Spring so they were visible to all visitors to St Philip's and passers-by.

We will refresh our thinking with new initiatives and another Eco Sunday in the coming months.

Music and singing Group Report: Annie Hilder

The Music Group have continued to meet through the last year, to share in the lighthearted fellowship of the practices that provide a backdrop of music for our more special services. These included Easter, Remembrance Sunday, Eco Sunday and Christmas. We also enjoyed Hymn Sunday when we celebrated the place of music in our worship, raising the roof singing our top ten favourite hymns and hearing a little about their background.

Reigate Grange Residential Care Home: Eileen Stangan

Several Years ago, local clergy were invited to visit the newly established Reigate Grange Residential Care Home. Jenny Penn arranged to provide a monthly Morning Service there. Disruption to that was caused by the Pandemic closures, which prevented us going there until partway through 2022. During that time, Austin Penn, provided recordings of our weekly Sunday Services that were then projected from YouTube in The Grange's own cinema room. It was very much appreciated by the Grange. This continued until Jenny and Austin left St Philip's in July 2023. I am sure that, if someone in our congregation would be able set up something similar, that would be very much appreciated, not only by The Grange, but also those of our congregation who are unable to come to church, through illness.

Services were carried on by me. At Christmas, we also had a shorter Carol Service, of Four lessons and five carols, with readings from two members of staff, plus Michelle and me. That was a great pleasure.

My recent treatment of a new targeted drug, that lowers the immune system, prevents me from taking the service at the moment, in largish groups, because of infections, but I still have not given up looking for a

way around that. Hopefully that may not be too long, or that we may be joined by a new vicar. We will keep in touch with Reigate Grange and hope to strengthen our relationship when the new vicar arrives.

Communion services at the Abbeyfield Community: Eileen Stangan

St Philip's has had a long association with Abbeyfield and when our dear friend, Elizabeth Shroff moved to Abbeyfield, she arranged a time that Jenny Penn could regularly take a short service of Holy Communion once a month, sometimes accompanied by a few members of the congregation in the newly built, lovely conservatory, with refreshments afterwards. Since that time, we have forged even closer links, through invitations for our Coffee Group to go occasionally to coffee at Abbeyfield, which benefits both groups. A few of our singing group at St Philip's joined Abbeyfield to celebrate a Christmas Carol Service. The numbers are small but both Abbeyfield and we enjoy the time we have together. We also helped Elizabeth to celebrate her 99th birthday there in September 2023.

"Holy Dusters" church cleaners and Garden Team : Sandra Ellis-Smith

Our garden team and the Holy Dusters cleaning team are both led by Sandra Ellis-Smith and Sue Ballardie and are possibly the 'unsung heroes' at St Philip's. Before and during the vacancy, the group which has included Christine Perera, Margaret Hendrick, Jean Phipps and others, has quietly gone about making St Philip's a tidy and more beautiful place to worship. The spring bulbs that were planted by the group are now in bloom and we are grateful for the clean of the pews which quietly happens on a Wednesday morning each month. Weather conditions this past year made the job of keeping plants alive quite difficult and Sue and Sandra were often seen on hands and knees tending to them or removing weeds from the paving. Thanks to you all and in 2024, we will find some new members of the team to help share these important tasks. Several church members have already helped with hoovering and sorting the 'busy bags.'

4th Reigate Brownies: Elaine Eagleton

2023 was another busy year for the Brownies. For many of our sessions we followed the Guiding programme, working on the Jobs badge, learning amongst other things about various methods of communication, fire safety, DNA and relaxation techniques. We had a Scottish night to celebrate Burns night and another to celebrate World Thinking Day which is a special day for members of the Girlguiding association. We went Pond Dipping. We also did our annual trip to Magic & Mayhem for circus themed fun. Sadly this will be the last year we can do this as the Guiding Activity Centre is closing.

As usual we did a lot of craft including making cards for Mother's Day, Keyrings for Father's Day, Origami Easter Boxes filled with eggs for Easter, pinecone snowy owls and Christmas Gnomes.

The Brownies attended the Harvest service at the Church and collected items to donate to the food bank. We made poppies wreaths and brought them with us to decorate the Church on Remembrance Sunday. We took part in the ceremony including lowering the flag. They also participated in the Carol Service including doing a reading.

In June we said goodbye to Wren one of our long time Leaders who left to pursue other interests. We also said goodbye to Rev. Jenny we had a leaving ceremony for her and sang 'Go well and safely'. We were all very sad to see her go.

Thanks again to all have written reports for this document and to Alexia Hartman at St Mark's for printing it for us. Thank you to all who are supporting our church through the vacancy and to our congregation for continuing to make Sunday services so special. As evidenced by this report, St Philip's is a vibrant and resilient church at the heart of a faithful and supportive community. 2023 was a year of sad goodbyes but also a year of pulling together to make things happen. We look forward to new beginnings and with God's guidance, another happy year of worship and fellowship ahead.

Michelle Pegley & Annie Hilder
Churchwardens, St Philip's Church Reigate
17th March 2024



“And we know that for those who love God, all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose”. Romans 8:28