



A Prayer on the death of Her Majesty the Queen

Gracious God, we give thanks
for the life of your servant Queen Elizabeth,
for her faith and her dedication to duty.
Bless our nation as we mourn her death
and may her example continue to inspire us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



We, the Churches of Oxted and District:

- recognise that Christ wills the unity of his Church;
- acknowledge the sincerity of each tradition of faith;
- rejoice in our common Christian faith and heritage;
- give thanks to the Holy Spirit for leading us into closer friendship and unity of purpose.

So we covenant with each other to:

- continue our pilgrimage towards a visible unity, praying that God will lead us to the form that it will eventually take;
- share our Christian life together as fully as we can, in love and service to God and to God's world.

To do this we will:

- worship, pray and study together so that we may understand, know and value each other;
- wherever possible, carry out our mission to our local community and the wider world as Churches Together;
- commit ourselves, as individual churches and together, to find ways to promote unity;
- every year, review our progress towards these objectives.

We commend each other to the love of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and pray for God's wisdom and strength to fulfil this Covenant. (revised Nov 2018, from 2009)

	2020-22 CTOD Executive Committee	
Chair	Wendy Hewitt	St John's HG
Vice Chair	Revd Mark Anderson until Dec 2021	Oxted team
Treasurer	David Cook	St Mary Oxted
Communications/Sec	Barbara Hester until Sep 2021	
	John Tolley	St Peter's L'Fd
	Naomi Ward	Kings Church
	Diana Jones	URC
	Keith Dickson	HG Evangelical
	Richard Piskorz	All Saints
Minute Sec	Gwen Hand	Methodist
	Bob Evans	Methodist

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Report from the Chair

Welcome to the report of Churches Together in Oxted and District for 2021 - Oct 2022. This has been a strange and challenging period after covid put a stop to many of our habitual CTOD activities and normal church worship. Many worshipped online, on ZOOM, in Teams and other forums which we could not have imagined in our last report in 2019. Two world changing events have marked 2022 so far. Ukraine 'celebrated' on 24 August 2022 its independence day, after six months of war against Russian invaders. On 5th September, the Oxted and Warlingham Ukraine Support Group, led by Damian Kilgallon and Nick Banfield of All Saints with many other local organisations, writes that Surrey has seen 2,639 arrivals of Ukrainian guests at host homes. Tandridge hosts 180, of whom some have now arranged local accommodation, many have jobs and lessons are held weekly to assist with learning English. This war continues profoundly to affect our world economy. After the national celebration of the Platinum Jubilee in June the nation was rocked by the news of our Queen's death. It has been a time to remember all our griefs, and now to pick up the torch, throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, so that we may run with perseverance the race marked out for us (Hebrews 12:1). Many of our Churches and local events have also raised awareness of Climate Crisis, all of us have seen the effects of Global Warming, have watched David Attenborough's *Frozen Planet* and seen the aftermath of wildfires, hurricanes and floods in Pakistan, Florida and Australia after our own summer drought.

The Church of England in the Diocese of Southwark held online as a webinar and in person a Lay and Ordained Conference for three days at the beginning of September 22. The theme was Christ Centred, Outward Focused, a link to the programme is below. All the recorded seminars are now available and highly recommended.

https://issuu.com/southwarkcofe/docs/sdc_programme_final

CTOD continues to try to be a communicating hub to inform all our local churches of events and efforts to reach out to our neighbours as well as deepen faith in our congregations. May we continue as Churches Together to inform, inspire and gather, to be Christ Centred and Outward Focused. CTOD Executive has welcomed Richard Piskorz, Naomi Ward, and Pastor Keith Dickson. We bade farewell, with many prayers for their ongoing mission, to our outgoing Chair Revd. Mark Anderson and Margaret and Steven Cox (HG Evangelical Church) also Barbara Hester who had skilfully given much time to Communications.

It was a huge privilege this year as Churches Together to have witnessed Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. So many churches, roads, shops and communities celebrated 70 years not just of her reign, but of her devoted service to our country and her people. Many flocked up to London and some to churches to share a moment of grief at her death on 8 September aged 96. CTOD also celebrated the lives in February this year of David Young, from the URC, a former Chair of CTOD, and in September Vic Farmer, former WW2 bomber navigator who worshipped not just at All Saints his home church, but also in the spirit of Ecumenism most Sundays at St John's Hurst Green. We now humbly take on the challenge of bearing the torch of Christ's Light into the future, praying that we will be inspired by their sacrificial devotion, wisdom, humour and faith. May God help us in this task.

Wendy Hewitt

Next CTOD COUNCIL MEETING: - Thursday 17 November 2022 from 7.30pm at 33 Amy Road Kings Church offices. We will hear from our new CTOD Charity Children's Hospital Pyjamas.

CTOD 5th Sunday Services

CTOD Churches have continued to host services during the past two years, some hybrid/online/in person; some taking the form of smaller gatherings for prayer. On 30 Oct 2022, All Souls Day, Pastor Keith Dickson will kindly host a service for CTOD at HGEC @ 1830. An annual rota will help so all churches can prepare. In 2022 5th Sundays were held at: St Mary's Oxted Café Church; Palm Sunday St Peter's Tandridge; Ukraine prayer service St John's; St James' Titsey on St James' Day. In 2023 we hope to hold services on 29 Jan 2023 St Andrew's Limpsfield Chart; on Palm Sunday 2 Apr at St John's Hurst Green; 30 Apr St Peter's Limpsfield; 30 Jul St George's Crowhurst; on 29 Oct URC; and we hope to have a special watchnight service on 31 Dec 2023 – all times/venues are to be confirmed.

Easter Walk of Witness 2022

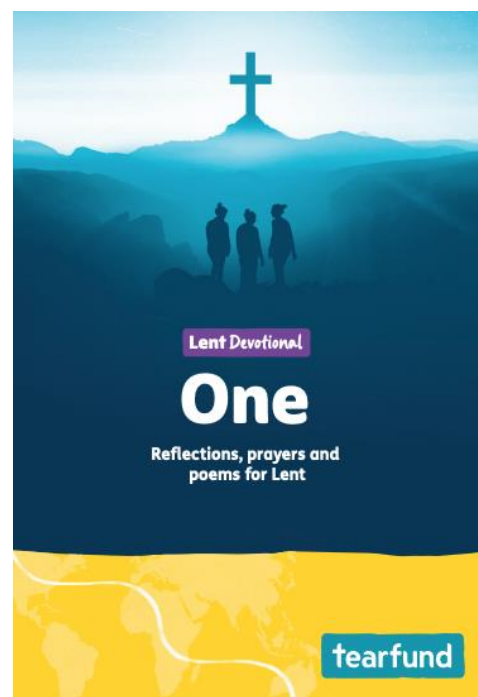


It was with Good Friday Joy that 40+ CTOD members from all our churches met at the Oxted Council Offices and processed around central Oxted with the CTOD banner, singing and being led in readings and worship by Father Stephen Hardaker of All Saints. We even got applauded by folk lunching at the Weatherspoons. To have joint fellowship again after the restrictions of covid was a delight indeed.

Lent Groups



Groups for Lent have not met as normal since covid restrictions. However, during the past two Lent periods a daily devotional study has been shared widely, with some meeting either in person or on Zoom to discuss their Lenten Journey. IN 2021 the theme was Care for Creation to fit with the year of COP 26 and a desire to show God's love for His World in crisis. IN 2022 Revd Lotwina Farodoye suggested the Tear Fund devotional, a moving booklet prepared by Gideon Heugh, poet and writer. 100 booklets were given to us, 64 signed up for 5 groups, individual study and copies were available in all our churches. A moving service was held on Palm Sunday at St Peter's Tandridge where feedback and challenges were given and received.



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

In 2021, since many churches were not open for meeting due to covid the Week of Prayer was not as well supported as usual. However, all our churches read the Covenant at their main services, online in some cases, and several people met to pray outside churches in the circuit. In 2022 from 18-25 January Gathering in Faith Together (GIFT – the successor to TicToc =Together in Christ Toddlers of Oxted Churches) used the material provided by Churches in the Middle East. The material worked successfully on Zoom, thanks go to Tim Maton of King’s Church and John Tolley of St Peter’s Limpsfield who hosted Zoom prayer times. Keith Dickson hosted an in-person meeting at HGEC.

Women’s World Day of Prayer

In 2021 the Women’s World Day of Prayer material was written by the women of Vanuatu. Recorded by St Peter’s Limpsfield, this service was a real blessing to those who could watch at home during lockdown. If you would like to see it, it is still available on 5 March 2021 on St Peter’s Facebook page. <https://fb.watch/fZqhlw-M8/> St John’s was able to host and share on Zoom with David Gresham House residents and other folk who joined us live in 2022. The theme ‘I know the plans I have for you’ was written by women in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Hurst Green Evangelical Church and St John’s worked together to present the service, with candles lit, moving from darkness to light, acknowledging daily struggles, but trusting in God’s resources. After the service, we played the Ukrainian National Anthem and said a prayer for strength at what was just the start of the ongoing war. ‘In the challenges and joys we face, may we be assured we do not face them alone. Let us go in peace hope and love, in the name of God, in the name of Jesus Christ and in the name of the Holy Spirit. Amen’

Coat of Hopes

Most of the Hurst Green Evangelical Church attended St John’s for a service introducing the Coat of Hopes <https://www.coatofhopes.uk>. While no longer having patches added to it, the Coat is still travelling the country to alert people to Climate Crisis. A pilgrimage from Hurst Green to central Oxted took the coat to meet CTOD folk, then gathered at Titsey for lunch. The URC were still mid service when we arrived. A profound time was shared singing the song of the Coat kindly put up on the screen for all to join in. St John’s and URC are involved with AROCHA UK and have awards for responding practically to tackle Climate Change.



Carol Singing with Rotary

Singing once again took place before Christmas in Station Road West and outside Boots in Oxted. It was wonderful to sing together again.



G.I.F.T 2021-2022

Sarah Darby

Perhaps the most important message in this report is to explain the new name for the former Tic Toc group. Tic Toc stood for Together in Christ Toddlers of Oxted Churches. Thirty-four years ago, when the group was founded, parents brought their preschool children to the group and they played quietly in the same room. For many years we have not had any preschool children with us, so the name no longer described our current group. Coupled with this evolution, the social media platform Tik Tok has gained much notoriety. It is very anti-Christian and draws bad publicity. We did not wish to be mistakenly linked to this platform. Following many suggestions for a new name an electronic ballot was set up by Catharina Hickson and GIFT was the newly elected name meaning: Gathering in Faith Together. A new logo was created to closely resemble the old one, but also better explain the name and the group. See above. Other than that, our membership and programs of events remains unchanged.

Following the Lent study of 2021 "Live Lent" members were inspired to plant a tree locally. Following the mantra "Plant a tree in the Jubilee!" In early January 2022 GIFT members joined Helen Ellson, founder of Limpsfield Orchard, to plant a new apple tree in the rejuvenated small community orchard on Limpsfield Chart. The tree had been nurtured by Helen's son James Ellson so we knew it was born from good stock and would thrive on the Chart. Thanks to Sue Mallinson's effort, it was satisfying to bring this project to fruition. During Advent St Mary's Oxted invited us to present an evening of the Oxted Adventure. Gill Hall co-ordinated a small group of members to decorate and animate Advent decorations and music. It was cold but enjoyed by all.

During Lent 2022 we studied the Tearfund course 'One'. The short sections were beautifully written and permitted thoughtful discussion around the topic of the day. Thank you to Lotwina for proposing this study. During the Spring term of 2022 it was difficult to meet everybody's needs. Some wished to continue to meet on zoom but many preferred to meet in person. A hybrid system was attempted of both in person meetings linked to zoom. This only lasted half a term as many members had no longer continued their zoom subscription so after February half term, we resumed face to face meetings. This made the Lent study even more enjoyable. Numbers have been a bit up and down. We have lost a few people who joined during the pandemic to prevent isolation. Many members have enjoyed the freedom of holidays and seeing old friends so have missed quite a few sessions.

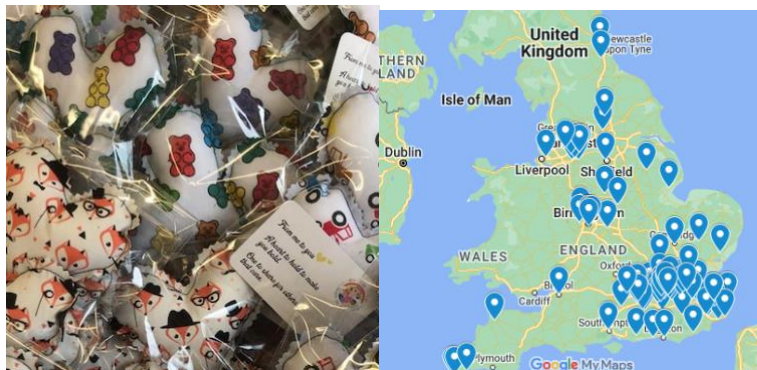
As we are now much more 'tech savvy' we have learnt to access pod casts on BBC sounds as well as interesting talks on You Tube. We hope that next term numbers will be more stable so that we can again welcome a variety of speakers. September brought us great pleasure! A new member called Hugo. He is 8 months old and is the grandson of a member. We are thrilled to have him. He has significantly reduced our average age! So, we all feel young again, and have returned to the original purpose of the group...even though we changed the name to omit 'toddlers'! October 2022

CTOD Charity of the Year 2022 - Children's Hospital Pyjamas

<https://www.childrenshospitalpyjamas.co.uk/>

We are very excited to announce our CTOD Charity of the Year 2022 is Children's Hospital Pyjamas. The administrator lives locally. We have discovered how important it is for us to be able to meet real people involved in our chosen charity. We can relate clearly to the need and see how we can help. Already several donations of pyjamas have been given and fabric hearts sewn by CTOD members. Donations from services and events this year will go to the Charity that has had a stall at the past two Hurst Green Fairs.

They are a UK based charity (no.1185739), who collect donations of brand-new pyjamas from the public, which are donated to Hospitals, Hospices, School Hospital Teams and Women's refuges up and down the country. These are given to poorly or less fortunate children who are inpatients. No child wants to be in a hospital, but if they must be, they do not want to be wearing a hospital gown. ALL children who are inpatients in receiving hospitals, for whatever reason, are gifted a brand-new pair of comfy pyjamas. The Pyjamas are donated and sent with love, so that each child who receives a pair, knows that someone is wishing them a speedy recovery and is thinking of them. They are accompanied by a heart for the child and one for the parent who may not be able to stay with them in hospital. Julie White will speak to CTOD Council to tell us how our donations are helping on: **Thursday 17 November 2022 from 1930 at 33 Amy Road Kings Church offices.**



Oxtd Bereavement Support Group

Initially run as a shared venture between St Catherine's Hospice and Oxtd central churches, the OBSG is now supported and administered by CTOD, since covid diminished St Catherine's funds to run such groups. St Catherine's provided training and fortnightly drop-in meetings have now recommenced from 1300-1500, in the foyer kindly lent by URC Bluehouse Lane. The drop-in has benefitted many, bereaved and volunteers alike! Three of the original visitors still come occasionally to lend support, sharing their experience of how Bereavement Support helped them on their journey through grief. We are indebted to Lesley Bunce, a bereavement support volunteer for St Catherine's who ably leads a group of dedicated helpers. The group has been well advertised recently in local free magazines.

CTOD Men's Breakfast

You will be pleased to hear that the CTOD Monday Men's Breakfast is still thriving and has done during covid online. If you would like to join in, please contact John Roberts of All Saints.

Here is the link for a recent session at which Eddie shared the Word:

Prayer Breakfast Zoom Meeting Monday October 10th, 7.30am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8908598775?pwd=MDBPNUlpOGNZa2RhTm9mOUlQKzVwQT09>

Meeting ID: 890 859 8775

Passcode: 096927

Christmas Cards for Prisoners of Conscience

Sue Mallinson (St Mary's) and Felicity Dick (All Saints)

Every year around the world people are imprisoned because they stand up for their faith or to protest about particular inequalities in their society. Their action can offend the political leaders, and so they lose their freedom, we know them as 'prisoners of conscience'. Each year we invite you to come to 'Write a Card to a Prisoner of Conscience'. We have their names from Amnesty International and other Christian organisations; we are assured the cards reach these people; we know they are encouraged and strengthened by our messages because they know they are remembered.

These prisoners may be people of any faith or none, many are Christians. Some of the cards are seasonal, for Christmas; others are a variety of pictures; but all are sent in our concern with warm greeting and good wishes.

We offer tea, coffee and cake and a place to choose a card and sit to write to someone on the list. During the viral pandemic this was not possible. This year we will meet in the new St Mary's Church Room in the Oxted Community Hall on Saturday 26th November between 10am and 1pm. Fairtrade and other charity goods will also be on sale.

The cards are small to ensure the postage, sending around the world, is as low as possible. Your donations will be appreciated! If you would also like to help on the day, just come along and serve the tea.

Oxted One World Group – CTOD Charity of 2021. WATER HARVEST, KUTCH, GUJARAT, NORTH WEST INDIA

Towards the end of June 2022, the committee was delighted to receive £1,271 from CTOD raised from collections at joint services. This was far more than originally anticipated and was more than enough to cover the cost of one water Tank. The committee agreed to match the sum raised by Churches Together and then round up the amount sent to £2,850 to cover the cost of three Tanks. The Tanks capture the short-lived monsoon rains off a roof and through a filter channel the water into a covered underground tank which has a capacity of 21,000 litres. Sufficient water is collected to last an extended family a whole year which means that the very poor communities receiving the Tanks no longer spend half the family's income on buying water and the women and girls must no longer make several journeys per day to collect what is often salty and polluted water from water holes. This frees up the time of the girls so that they can attend school – one girl was reported as saying that she queued at the water supply point very early in the morning so that she could be sure of getting some. The clean water the Tanks provide improves the health of the whole family and has led to less stunting of the growth of children.

Community Outreach from CTOD Churches:

Members of CTOD and some of our churches have pioneered outreach into our neighbourhoods especially during lockdowns and after covid restrictions started lifting. St Mary's Oxted developed 'Love Oxted', reaching out with advice from the local council to any lonely or isolated people requiring befriending and assistance. Richard Piskorz of All Saints set up a Job Club. This has been active in helping folk to devise good CVs and attain jobs. The Kings' Church not only assists local folk referred by the Caterham Food Bank but have also set up the Oxted Debt Advice Centre. This has eight trained Money Mentors, some from Caterham. With the support of the Community Money Advice team and a Mentor some have made steps on their journey to debt freedom. A successful outcome for at least one was reported early in 2022. We prayed in Council that the sessions would enable good and trusting relationships to develop and offer a chance to talk about Jesus. St John's commenced a Community Fridge with free items for all to take to avoid food waste and create a space to develop friendships. The local Ukraine Support Group recognised the need for English Lessons as well as socialising for our Ukrainian visitors. Thanks go to All Saints for initially hosting this outreach now held in Oxted School.

The Housing and Homelessness group

Housing Justice continues to reach out to people in need. Homeless Sunday this year is 9 October 2022 followed by World Mental Health Day on Monday 10 October. Please visit their website for details of resources. https://housingjustice.org.uk/homeless-sunday?mc_cid=fc81c7546a&mc_eid=abcdc2deb1 St John's is raising awareness of this particularly among our Youth at Sunday School and the Sunday Munch session where folk have also learned about human trafficking and discussed how to avoid social media pressure. There is an online Homeless Church Service on the CofE website, and **ROBES SLEEPOUT - 25th November 6.30pm to 6am**. Robes is a charity supporting homeless people with food and shelter in Southwark and Lambeth. Every year there is a sponsored sleep out in the grounds of Southwark cathedral. Many people attend to experience what it must be like to be homeless and raise much needed funds. Revd. Anna Eltringham is keen to go this year (and James from St Mary's might too) if some young people and families wish to join me! Age 12+ can attend with responsible adults from the church and there is capacity for some families with younger children in the cathedral. Please email revd.anna@gmail.com for more info and a YouTube video. <https://robes.org.uk/sleepout-robes>

St Mary's Bletchingley Refugee family

The Syrian refugee family in Bletchingley now numbers nine covering three generations. The original mum and dad and their two younger sons remain in Bletchingley although they are now looking for a smaller property to rent. Any ideas or offers regarding this would be gratefully received. Their eldest son Mohammed Noor and his wife and children have now moved to Hurst Green. Their third child was due to be born a week after they moved and I am eternally grateful to the St Vincent DePaul group from All Saints Oxted for keeping an eye on them during this exciting time!

All the boys are still in education and taking on part time jobs. Nariman our young mum is working hard at her English qualifications online plus dealing with her three little girls. This little family in Hurst Green have not found it easy since leaving Bletchingley and we at St Mary's are keeping an eye on them with backup from SVP at All Saints.

CTOD Annual Report 2021-22 – REPORTS FROM CTOD CHURCHES

All Saints Church Oxted

Richard Piskorz

Throughout the pandemic and since, our Masses have been streamed on www.churchservices.tv. Numbers participating online have dropped since the return to Mass but several hundred watch each weekend.

- Coffee after the Wednesday morning Mass has resumed and is a real social focal point of the midweek.
- The Wednesday evening Christian Meditation Group continues to thrive, mostly now on line it means that many housebound and elderly can join the prayer time. Social gatherings with a Mass in church start and end each 'term'
- The Parish Book club is a new venture and the numbers continue to grow. A different book is read each month and then discussion about it takes place in the Parish Room on a Tuesday. The group has developed into a strong supportive presence.
- The Parish Men's Group is also quite new and involves a time of Lectio Divina, followed by some spiritual topic and ends with singing Night Prayer in church. The meetings start with pizza and a glass of beer once a month on a Sunday evening and the age ranges from 19-85.
- The Parish Film Night continues to be a good social event. Once a month a film with a Christian content is shown, popcorn and wine are served and a good discussion follows. See posters in church for details of forthcoming films.
- The Parish Rosary Group are very faithful on a Tuesday evening to gather and pray for the needs of the church and the world. The Divine Mercy chaplet is also recited.
- Fr Stephen led another pilgrimage to the Holy Land this past May. 35 people spent ten days walking in the footsteps of Our Lord and meeting the Living Stones of the Holy Land. Fr Stephen is a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre and has led many such pilgrimages.
- Parish involvement continues at St Francis School, our local Catholic Primary School in Caterham, Masses have been celebrated in St Bede's School in Redhill and on a regular basis at Oakwood School in Croydon.
- The St Vincent de Paul Conference is very active with those who may be in need and in keeping contact with many on the fringes of the church. It recently organised a very well attended Tea & Cakes Sunday afternoon session and has held the regular Mass for the Anointing of the Sick together with a lunch for many of the housebound. Members are also proactive in many visits to those in our many care homes.
- Members of the parish continue to be involved and supportive of the Caterham Foodbank and collection baskets at church are regularly well stocked.
- The Parish based Ukrainian Support Group, Human Sighs is an amazing organisation. Guests from the conflict are assisted in many ways and it is wonderful that this has become a very ecumenical and community venture.
- Sadly, our parish deacon, Stuart Geary died recently. Stuart had been resident in Windmill Manor for some years but was very active in the parish and ecumenically before his illness. May he rest in peace.
- Looking ahead, the Diocese has launched its Pastoral Plan, The Word who is Life, and we are to begin looking at the role of the ministries of Lector, Acolyte and Catechist as envisaged by Pope Francis in a recent papal document. This is linked with a three-

pronged approach to the continued building of the community through Faith Formation, Prayer and Mission

All told it has been a very full year with numbers back to pre-covid levels and many signs of growth. Thanks be to God.

Hurst Green Evangelical Church

Keith Dickson, Pastor

The last two years have been a quite an experience for Hurst Green Evangelical Church. The well-known words from Charles Dickens' novel "A Tale of Two Cities" best sum up these two years: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times."

The fellowship continued to meet during lock-down on Zoom each Sunday morning. Whilst many, including myself, had misgivings about meeting on Zoom, it proved an inspired choice by Steve Cox. After a rather bumpy start on my part, we found some joy and satisfaction in meeting together and even saw God bring along some new people to worship with us.

We returned to meeting in person for worship at the beginning of October 2021 and, if I am being honest, it took a bit of getting used to after Zoom. Since then, God has been generous, and we have seen the fellowship grow not only in numbers but in people's relationship with God. Perhaps one of the most encouraging aspects of meeting together is seeing the young people coming along week after week and taking part in our worship together.

Trustees' meetings also continued on Zoom and, during lock-down, a significant problem emerged. A survey of the building revealed Asbestos in the roofs and the walls of the rear hall. After getting many quotations it became clear that the cost of removing the asbestos was prohibitive and simply not affordable by the fellowship.

The Trustees decided to look at other solutions and after much prayer and discussion it was decided to re-develop the whole site, both the church and Manse buildings. This led to another long period of prayer and discussion before meeting with several developers and eventually deciding to partner with Novo Land and Development.

Planning submission for a new church and pastors' accommodation has been submitted and a decision is expected in the early spring of 2023.

Although the last two-years have been difficult and challenging I think that perhaps what we have learned as a fellowship is Romans 8: 31 "What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"

Former Hurst Green Methodist Church

Bob Edwards

Since the Church held its Moving On Service in 2020, the Purley Circuit of the Methodist Church has organised occasional communion services at the Hurst Green premises. These are generally at 6.00pm (probably earlier in the winter months) on the last Sunday of the month. we hope to hold a Carol service at 12 on Wednesday 21 December.

Additionally, members of the former Church attend monthly meetings at 2.30pm on the last Friday in the month. These meetings are held by kind invitation of Hurst Green Evangelical Church, for which many thanks.

King's Church

Naomi Ward

This year has seen a lot of changes in the leadership at King's Church. Our lead elder, Dale Barlow has handed over the reins to Simon Quincey (known as Quincey or Quince to pretty much everyone!). This enables Dale to continue on the King's Church eldership team but devote more time to the leadership of our wider family of churches, New Ground. Tim Maton, another member of the King's eldership team, has been called to leadership at Everyday Church in Wimbledon. We held an emotional goodbye in September thanking the whole Maton family for loving us so well over the last nine years, followed by praying Tim in at Wimbledon. However, you might still spot Tim around Oxted in the immediate future, as moving to Wimbledon is lagging behind starting the new post! Kevin Rose continues on our eldership team, whilst planning to retire from his New Ground role in the near future.

The ongoing vision of King's church is being God's family on earth, shaped by a three-word vision: Loving. Authentic. Family.

A number of our long-running activities are being re-shaped and re-launched to focus on church as family.

For the 5-11s, our Children's lead Claire Blades is in the process of re-formatting the Sunday club to integrate children better into the wider church community. Our after-school Friday Club has also been paused since the pandemic, but is planned to be re-launched sometime in the new year in a new format.

It was so great to link up with Hope Church in Sevenoaks to take a group of teenagers to Newday festival at Norfolk Showground for a week in August. And this academic year has seen Impact, our youth club for teenagers, switch from Friday evenings to Sundays, and include a monthly link-up with the Sevenoaks youth group Pioneer.

Ongoing activities in the life of the church include Life Groups, a monthly Men's Breakfast and King's Women activities.

We are continuing serving the community of Oxted and the surrounding area by operating a pick-up point for Caterham Food Bank, with the opportunity for clients to enjoy a cup of tea, cake, a chat and prayer if they choose. The fledgeling debt advice centre is also ongoing, with clients offered appointments at the church offices in Amy Road.

Oxted Team - St Mary's Oxted

David Cook

2021/22 has been a period of "returning to normal" after the years of covid restrictions. which James has led with inspiration and energy. Our afternoon Café services have proved increasingly popular as well as informal monthly "All Age" services. These have featured lay-led talks on Old Testament characters as well as Monday night sessions on OT prophets, Galatians and a series on "Four gospels – One Jesus" and Paul's missionary journeys.

We now have an enlarged area in the Oxted Community Hall, which is being used in local outreach and Mission, including many fund-raising activities to help the Ukrainian people. Our home groups continued to meet throughout the year.

Our Wardens Vic and Austin have worked steadily on practical tasks such as hedge cutting and organising the videoing of services for the housebound. We rejoice that Vic has been accepted as a trainee ordinand and wish her well in her ministry.

Our East Wall has been repainted. We were pleased to continue to support CTOD financially together with our sister Churches by paying half the previous subscription. We understand that this reduced subscription will continue next year – if approved at the AGM.

St John's Hurst Green

Revd Anna Eltringham

"The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock." Matthew 7 v 25

From 2021-22 the storms and challenges have continued to beat against us and in some ways our life at St John's has been more uncertain and unpredictable. During the months of Lockdown, we managed to worship together as the Oxted Team through creative You-Tube services. This was a wonderful way of mobilising families and musicians who otherwise may not have been involved. In Summer 2021 we held outdoor services too, the most wonderful being the outdoor Easter service.



Since then, we slowly returned as a congregation at the later times of 8.30am and 9.45am, sharing Holy Communion, in a covid-safe way, streaming services if possible. We have now updated the video and sound systems after struggling with phones and laptops. Many thanks to all who have assisted in these efforts, too many to mention by name. Returning to full attendance has been challenging. We miss some families who found practical activities at weekends to alleviate online school. Christmas Eve 2021 crib services nearly failed, but Sarah Belton and the cafe church band rose to the occasion and provided two wonderful services for families. Since covid restrictions began lifting, café church and services at Windmill Manor and David Gresham House Residential Homes recommenced. We have tried various ways to reach young folk in weekly services. This month's Munch for folk from 10-teens will tackle the issue of homelessness. We look forward to working with St Mary's and our newly appointed Youth Minister Mira Cook to reach younger age groups. Pretty much the whole ministry team got covid at some point and the rector underwent major heart surgery, but we are still standing, and thanks to Ché and Charlotte we are even managing Big Brekkies between services – not just bacon butties, but avocado toast! We are ever grateful for our band of helpers and volunteers.

Vision and Mission

St John's: a church without walls, at the heart of the community, meeting people's needs with compassion and nurturing relationships with Jesus.

St John's aims to make a difference in our community. YoYos, carers and toddler group recommenced; An Easter craft morning was held at Aggies. The fortnightly coffee morning is popular. We had a clear presence at the Hurst Green Fair in September 2021 and 22 with art/craft, puppets, Aggies refreshments and bouncy castle. This year the Fair had an Eco Theme. In July 2022 Lotwina Farodoye our Curate, ordained Deacon in 2021 collaborated with community leaders to open a Community Fridge at Aggies from 1115-1230 each Wednesday. This has become a much-valued space with refreshment and chat as well as given food and staples without any charge, for any visitor, perhaps grown in gardens/allotments or donated by local supermarkets. Everything goes at the end of the morning, e.g., two boxes of left-over lettuces went to Godstone farm to feed the animals. NO WASTE!

A group of people from different churches in the team also came together as a study group for the 'Living in Love and Faith' initiative created by the Church of England. An Eco group formed after the Climate Change service in 2021 and have already led a service to involve the congregation in deciding our environmental priorities as a church and are now getting underway to address them. We are proud that we have been awarded Arocha UK Bronze award for steps already taken.

St George's Crowhurst

Carol Din

St George's continues since covid restrictions eased to have a service, with helpers manfully providing refreshments outside weather permitting. Local folk loyally support this small, unique church especially on feast days such as Remembrance and Harvest. A regular minister is Revd Charles Bradshaw, despite the death of his dear wife Janet last year, who is remembered with great affection. She was a tireless supporter of Community Gardens. Visitors continue to come to see the ancient yew tree. Despite the heat of this summer, latter rains have ensured that farmers have managed a harvest to feed their animals over winter. St George's continues likewise to feed her spiritual flock.



St Peter's Tandridge

Sue Mallinson

January 2020: Revd Mark Anderson had left for Winchester Diocese. Revd James Ashton arrived to be our vicar, and Team Vicar in the Oxted Team Ministry. Within weeks the covid pandemic took over and we were in lockdown. James had made a flying start and we quickly learned about on-line worship (across the Oxted Team), keeping connected with church and village people - including the school - and wearing masks. There was even worship outdoors on Summer Sundays with the organist's music relayed to match our singing. This ended with an annual Pet Blessing Service. In 2022 there were two horses, a variety of dogs, a single cat, smaller pets and many people!

The path through the churchyard is regularly followed by folk walking dogs or for exercise, or to see the Ancient Tandridge Yew. There were more visitors during the pandemic. They come to see the ancient church, to admire the repainted clock face and repaired spire. As the covid scare diminished we have slowly rebuilt church life. The Sunday Morning Service is alternately modern Holy Communion and less formal All Age Worship, with activities for children. In the evenings it is traditional BCP. We welcome the new Levante choir of local singers - many we know from the on-line services - and the Reigate School Choir. Seasonal services at Christmas, Easter and Harvest follow tradition with the church well decorated.

In 2022 it was also red, white and blue for the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth 11. There were special services in church and a Village Celebration Supper. 70 donated trees were planted along the Greensand Way to be the Queen's Jubilee Canopy.

There have been Alpha courses shared with St Mary's - informal discussion about faith - and Lent courses with CTOD. Every term St Peter's School come for a service in church. Revd James visits the school most weeks and this term their Christian Values are 'Love, Friendship and Thankfulness'. He talked about how we are different and unique, special in our own ways, but needing to be friends, and to be accepted. There will be a 52 Acts of Kindness workshop, about helping others who are having a tricky time for all kinds of reasons - something adults might benefit from!

St Andrew's Limpsfield Chart

Susan Compton

In 2020 St Andrew's welcomed the Rev. Paul Perkin with his wife Christine, as our new 'House for duty' priest in charge. Despite following problems of closed churches, Paul made it possible for us to meet on 'Zoom' for a simple Sunday morning service. This helped to keep our congregation together as he included time for us to greet each other as we arrived. 'Zoom' came into good use again this Spring when Paul provided an evening Alpha Course online, with time for us to ask questions or make comments. By May we were able to gather in the Vicarage for lunch and watch the final episode on the 'Holy Spirit'. It was a great success.

In a brief pause from covid upsets last year, we again held the 'Posada' in Advent when the miniature figures of 'Joseph and Mary and the donkey' circulated among Chart homes that enjoy having them for a night or two. The Christingle Service on Christmas Eve filled the church to the brim with children. Paul and Christine have just begun holding an afternoon Service in the Hall for small children on the second Sunday of the month at 4 pm - including children's tea.

This year several of us joined CTOD Lent groups – including one held on the Chart which brought back the joy of talking to each other - much preferred to Zoom groups of 2021 – apt to run out of time. On Good Friday some of us joined the CTOD Walk of Witness which is always appreciated.

We used our 'August Teas' as a way of including a short evening service on the third Sunday - 'Summer Songs of Praise'. During the tea – with people sitting out of doors – we went around tables with hymn books, inviting them to choose their favourite. They wrote this on a slip of paper which was put into a basket - folded – and nearly 40 people moved into the church, where their choices were picked out for all to sing between several readings and prayers. Our organist is brilliant at playing whatever hymn is chosen and makes the service a great success! Recently we held an enjoyable Harvest Festival Lunch in the Hall following our morning service. It was well attended and much better than in 2021 when a few of us brought picnics to share in the Hall or in 2020 with none!

The Church continued with the 'Chart Fair' early in September, this year held on the newly restored Cricket pitch and very successfully. Our Quiz nights and other events also link us with our community. On November 12th we are to have an evening celebration of 'The Muses on the Chart' in church - to include music and writings from the many celebrities who settled nearby from the end of the 19th century. Posters are available!

St Peter's Limpsfield

John Tolley, Sarah Darby

Recovering from the effects of the Pandemic has been difficult. People have gladly come back to church following its closure in the early stages and church activities have resumed. We have been able to continue or restart regular prayer groups and this autumn we will commence a weekly group studying the Psalms. This year we have been able to continue the "Musical Memories" these meetings help so many people who find their memories helped by music they know. Thanks to Sarah Butt (formerly Sarah Paxton) we have been able to continue with the regular support and craft afternoons at our local care home Wolfe's House.

Throughout the pandemic we worked hard to keep in touch with children and young families by distributing Messy Church kits of craft activities themed around a Bible story. A copy of the story was also included in the kit bag. Messy Church on the third Sunday of the month restarted in Autumn 2021. Initially numbers were meagre but have gradually grown. A Bible themed story, craft activities around the story, a drink and cake all inside the church attracts a different congregation. Parents also enjoy the crafts and having time to stop and chat together in a relaxed environment. Revd Helen has greatly modernised the weekly all age worship. There is a music group who accompany songs already known to the children from school, an interactive talk, and no communion. This shorter less formal service is proving very popular with young families and those who have just had their babies baptised at St Peter's

Our marvellous Rector, Helen Cook, supports us so much in church and local schools. This October we are delighted to welcome a new curate in training. Victoria Stone has been a member of St Mary's Oxted for many years. She will now study to be ordained and receive practical experience under the guidance of Revd. Helen Cook, within our team of churches. This appointment is a great example of CTOD cooperation! Ann Osborn, who was our musical

director since 1988, was finally able to retire at the end of 2021, in her place, we have recruited Cole Bendall, a highly experienced and qualified musician to lead our choir. He has already introduced us to a whole book of works by female composers. Jane Tozer, our churchwarden during the worst part of the pandemic, came to the end of her term. Nila Spiller has now joined Joy Moore as our valued church wardens.

We all miss Revd. Vince Short, our team Vicar, who looked after St Mary's Tatsfield. He was also a very welcome participant in so many St Peter's activities. St Mary's Tatsfield is now in an interregnum. The post is advertised as a 'house for duty' and part time youth minister.



St Mary's Tatsfield was gloriously arrayed by the Titsey Estate. We have never seen an altar and church so beautifully decorated! Thanks so much to all at Titsey. Revd. Paul Perkin continues to bring renewed vitality to the community of Limpsfield Chart.

I think it will always be difficult to find people willing to help with the administration of the church, but so far most of the people are able to continue with what they do. Alas, we are all getting older! We shall continue to try to achieve our Mission Action Plan tasks and to use our church premises not only for our own services, but also for many other community activities. We strive ***'to be a beacon, shining as a light and sharing the love of God in Christ for all'***.

Oxted United Reformed Church

Diana Jones

In the 12 months since our minister retired, the United Reformed Church in Oxted has remained in good heart, led prayerfully by the eldership and our church secretary, Stuart Milloy. In the spring Stuart was succeeded by Jane Damesick and Matthew Griffiths took on leadership of the elders. Following the restrictions of covid, church activities, such as Wednesday Fellowship and the Prayer and Share group, have gradually returned to normal and it has been a great joy to meet and socialise again, face to face.

Worship, led regularly by Matthew Griffiths our own URC accredited lay preacher, is at the heart of our church life, and has been enriched by a wide variety of worship leaders. These have been drawn from members of our own congregation, from across denominational boundaries, both local and from further afield. A particular joy has been to welcome friends from within the CTOD family to lead worship. Occasionally, worship material provided digitally from the United Reformed Church office, has been used to good effect. Live-streamed and recorded links to weekly services is now provided and much valued by those who are unable to attend worship in person.

Oxted URC is strongly committed to being an Eco-friendly church, with two eco services a year, led by Rosemary Addison and the Eco Group. Other eco initiatives include:

- our five toilets, twinned with latrines in less well-developed areas of the world, with relevant certificates displayed in each
- support for the sale of Traidcraft products
- small wildlife garden within the church grounds
- no-mow May of the grass at the front of the church
- members of the congregation growing wild flowers and vegetables in pots
- OURC Recipe Book 'Saving the planet one recipe at a time', containing recipes provided by the congregation using gluts of produce and leftovers
- trees for the Xmas Trees Festival decorated using waste materials
- achieving the AROCHA UK Bronze award and working towards Silver.
A Rocha a global family of Christian organisations, inspired by God's love, engages in scientific research, environmental education and community-based conservation, providing practical resources to guide action.

Churches Together In Oxted and District

Give thanks for the life and faith
Of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
And pledge to pray for King Charles III



Queen Puppet I'm here because I heard that God was sending His Holy Spirit at Pentecost today and old men would dream dreams and young men would see visions. Well, what about the old women, that's what I want to know. I want to have God's Holy Spirit.

Little Boy Puppet Don't you think God would give Himself just as much to US too, even if we don't get to have any 'birthday of the church' cake. Let's rest here in the peace and quiet. God is with us anyway.