



2023

To know Christ and make him known

IMPACT REPORT

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD,
CARSHALTON BEECHES



Good Shepherd
CARSHALTON BEECHES



Discovering the Awe in the Ordinary

2 WHAT'S THE STORY? FROM THE VICAR

Our church community is like the natural world – from a distance it may look unchanging, full of familiar rhythms and patterns; yet look closer, and you see constant change, growth, loss and reinvention, like the turn of the seasons with their constancy and creativity. You are welcome to journey back with us through 2023 and see how God has nudged, challenged, disturbed, comforted, welcomed and loved us, during which we said goodbye to Hannah and we welcomed Ian, and throughout which we have always sought to remain rooted in Christ, growing in faith and fruitful in love:

To be rooted in Christ is focusing on our gathered worship. From said communion to the joyful chaos of our all-age services, from prayers on Zoom to our informal evening worship, I am once again grateful to the many people who participate in enabling our gathered worship. This includes our music teams, AV teams, hospitality teams, youth & children's teams, prayer teams, readers, and our leaders and preachers, flower teams and all who come, for being flexible, hopeful and rooted in Christ.

To be growing in faith is nurturing our faith as everyday disciples, remembering that whilst gathering is important, faith remains alive every day. This is why we encourage people into small groups that meet at different times during the week, and I am thankful to all our group leaders and those who host them. It is why we share ideas and inspiration and prayers from things we read in the week, from Lectio 365 or elsewhere, and why we are interested in our Monday-Saturday lives at home or school or work or wherever we find ourselves. Scripture repeatedly shows us life matters to Jesus.

To be fruitful in love is desiring to see our world changed by Jesus, seeing people come to faith, and to seeing people blessed and loved by God. This is why we are focused on opening our building, on providing groups to support all ages and all circumstances. Thank you to all those who support and run these groups and activities, and all who are part of turning our view to look not just upwards to God and inwards to ourselves, but outwards to others.

There will be more later about what has happened through this year, but it's safe to say it was a year of change, and a huge thank you to all. I thank you all. In all the changes, Jesus remains our constant, our nourishing stream, and in him we have hope.

"Blessed are they who trust in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought, and never fails to bear fruit."
(Jeremiah 17.7-8)



Kevin

Rev Kevin Lewis,
Vicar



2 WHAT'S THE STORY? FROM THE CURATE

I was reminded the other day that I have now been at Good Shepherd for nearly eight months; how the time has flown by!

Since arriving, I've spent the past year settling in and getting to know the church family and the wider parish. It has been a genuine blessing to be a part of church and parish life, taking part in all of the services and diverse activities that take place both inside and outside the church. Obviously, the highlights have to be the 'pastoral coffees' at the Bakery and taking the young people climbing at Yellow Spider last November - anybody else fancy a go?

It is such a wonderful gift that you all provide one another and the wider community.

As part of my ongoing training within my curacy, I have spent time at St Mary's church, Beddington, learning and experiencing a different church tradition. I have also taken part in the planning of a baptism and a number of funerals. It is such a privilege to be able to journey with people at this time and I am very thankful that I have been able to part of this.

Outside of the parish, I have visited the local prison, where I spent time with the women involved in the Sycamore project, visited the food shop, spent the night with the Street Pastors and worked with Sutton Schools Work to raise awareness among teenagers about the dangers of knife crime and the distribution of substances.

It has been great to be able to part of Churches Together whether at the Eco-Fair or helping to organise and take part in the Walk of Witness. I am looking forward to continuing to be a part of this in the coming year.

It has been a genuine pleasure to get to know and meet each of you. One of the most exciting aspects of ministry is beginning to make friendships, discovering one's place in the church family, and remembering everyone's names - well, two out of three ain't bad - (sorry had to get Meatloaf in!)

As a family we have felt blessed and looked after by all of you, whether it's the meals being brought to our house when we moved in, the invites for supper or the lovely chats after the service over coffee.

Caris, Izzy, Josh and I very much appreciate the love and kindness you have all shown us.



Ian

Rev Ian Nott,
Curate



WHAT'S THE STORY? FROM THE WARDENS

The Good Shepherd continues to be an absolute joy to be part of, under Kevin's excellent leadership. We bade a sad-happy farewell to Hannah and her family as she moved to her new leadership role in Chipstead, and were overjoyed to welcome Ian, Caris, Izzy and Josh, as Ian took on the role of Curate in July.

The church bustles with services, gatherings and activities throughout the week, including Twiglets, LOAF, Shepherd Singers, Wednesday Club, Small Groups, BEES, Game On, Youth@5, and more. Fran and Michaela continue to be the ever-smiling faces front-of-house to welcome everyone, and the dynamos who provide engaging communications, support our lettings visitors, and in so many ways keep the wheels on.

After last year's focus on repairing our heating, this year has been a period of consolidation and looking to the future. Our Quinquennial Inspection of the building identified quite a long list of matters to attend to over the next few years, but no showstoppers in terms of major works. So we are well-placed to push on with replanning and refurbishment of the South Extension which is in need of an update after 24 years of service. We now have teams focusing on front, inside, and garden aspects, so be prepared for further news and action to provide for easier access, new welcoming looks, the smell of fresh paint and new carpets!

This year has also been one of consolidation around our commitments to promoting equality and social justice, with focus on our giving, sermons, children's and youth work, web presence, books and printed materials, and training and engagement events. We are aware that justice requires ears that hear, eyes that see, hearts that love, and hands that work, and we welcome more conversations that will help our community to continue moving forwards for everyone.

There are so many ministries, seen and unseen, that make invaluable contributions to our worshipping community: Chris as our faithful and expert financial steward; the PCC; hospitality teams; flower team; AV team; children's and youth teams; premises team; gardening team; Holy Roast; safeguarding team; Parish Nursing team; Flower Team; Deputy Wardens; and many others. We are convinced that God is working powerfully, and lovingly, through all of these, and we thank them all.



Anthony & Mark

Anthony Thompson & Mark Crompton,
Wardens



4 HOW ARE WE ROOTED, GROWING AND FRUITFUL?

Rooted in Christ: Gathered Worship

We came into 2023 from a Christmas season in which God spoke to us about illuminating the shadows, and we took that with confidence into a year of change. Hannah was discerning her next steps, and moved on in April, and we thank Hannah for her 4 years with us, and the positive impact she had on our gathered worship. Ian then joined us in June beginning his curacy with us, and I thank you again for your warm welcome to him and his family and look forward to what God has in store.

Through the year, as well as the major seasons and festivals, we looked at **'Encounters with Jesus'**, looking at the variety of people who had been impacted by meeting him; moving into Pentecost our theme was **'Spirit encounters'**. **'Echoes, Silence, Patience and Grace'** engaged us in remembering where we are from, stilling our inner core, finding contentment in the waiting, managing the mystery of grace, and in the summer our series was **'Jesus goes to...'** opening some of the travels of Jesus, and included our first outdoor service! In the autumn we studied the highlights of Exodus in **'God's emerging community'**, and before we knew it we were into Advent again, where **awe in the ordinary** of life encouraged us to look at where God is so very presence in the ordinary. Our young people had an absolute blast at the **Satellites youth festival** in August, gathering with thousands of others to worship, to learn and to have lots of fun and don't forget all the food!

Advent and Christmas was once again a joy, including the Christmas fair, followed by our Nativity, Carols by Candlelight, Carols by Starlight, Midnight Communion and the highlight of having Bishop Rosemarie join us for Christmas Day!

So many people are involved in our gathered worship, and we thank all of you who have roles we see and those we don't. Across our quiet 'said' services and our bigger, noisier ones, from Sundays through Wednesdays and occasional others, there is something for everyone!

Growing in Faith: Everyday Discipleship

We continue to prioritise growing our faith through everyday discipleship, happening through our **small groups**, including bible studies, trips out to see speakers, reflections on art or music, prayer, conversation and helping each other navigate life through the lens of faith. We also had several opportunities this year to learn more through **the Jesus Story course** in January and in October, and we met during **Lent Evening Services** to do the Lectio Course together. We heard from people during our **'This time tomorrow'** slot in the service, as we prioritise faith in everyday life, and the many ways that our faith is expressed through volunteering, and in **how we seek to reflect Jesus** at work, school, home, on holiday and on our own.



4 HOW ARE WE ROOTED, GROWING AND FRUITFUL?

Fruitful in Love: Community Well-being

We began the year offering a 'warm hub' during the cold winter months, as we continue to seek ways to serve our community. **The Bereavement Journey** ran twice during the year, and along with **BEES** continues to be valuable to many people. We are able to offer many different regular activities, including the **Tea Parties** for the elderly, **Wednesday Club**, **Game On**, **Shepherd Singers**, **Coffee & Craft** and **Twiglets**, all of which means our facilities are well-used! Our monthly **Holy Roast** serves up a wonderful roast meal for folk to gather and chat about their weeks. Supporting the **Eco-Fair Churches Together** Stall in August, **the walk of witness** and the **Week of prayer for Christian Unity** are ways we work together with other churches in the local area.

There are many examples of individuals being fruitful in love, and in particular we thank Nikki Potter as **Parish Nurse**, and our **Health and Well-being team** of June Watson and Jacquie Kinch. They have been invaluable in the support of a wide range of our community, and go over and above what is asked of them. I would also like to thank you all for the many informal pastoral visits and support you give each other, seeking to ensure that nobody is forgotten even if they cannot currently come to church.

Being fruitful also includes fundraising, and along with our **Summer** and **Christmas Fairs**, which were a great success, there were also many events for the **Bishop's Lent Appeal**, the **Auction of Promises**, **shoeboxes for Romania**, our **Harvest offering for CAP** and **Christmas offerings for the Children's Society** and all the runners and walkers who brought the **Marathon of Hope** home.

We continue to seek to be a church community looking inwards and outwards, being open to the Spirit guiding us and taking our every day ordinary lives and placing it before God as our offering.



THE STORY OF THE YEAR - 2023

Holy Roast | Lent Events | Coffee and Craft | Bereavement Journey | BEES | Twiglets | Tea Parties | Small Groups | Wednesday Communion | Sunday 8.30am | 10am | Kids@10 | Youth@10 | Youth@5 | Baptisms | Funerals | Pastoral Care | Morning Prayer | Friday Zoom Listening Prayer | WhatsApp Groups | Live Stream Services | LOAF | Wednesday Club | GAME ON | Shepherd Singers | Hospitality Teams | Parish Nurse & Wellbeing | Youth on Team | Volunteering with CAP, Homestart, Food Shop, Foodbank, Prison Fellowship, Oasis bookshop, Linking Lives, Creative hope, MAPS, Refugee & Migrant (and many others) | Flower Team | Premises Team | Tech Team | Garden Team | Pastoral Visiting | Church Open Team | Grill a Christian in High Schools | Community Hub | Park Run | Supporting Charities | All the many welcomers | Many volunteers making lots of things happen

January 2023: Bereavement Journey | Week of Prayer for Christian Unity | The Jesus Story

February 2023: Clergy Conference | Ash Wednesday Reflections | A conversation about Menopause | Racial Justice Sunday

March 2023: LENT Course: Evening Service | Bishop's Lent Appeal Events, Big Breakfast, Ploughmans Lunch, Ginny's Dog Walk, Horsham Lunch, Ramble, | Mothering Sunday flowers | Bereavement Journey

April 2023: Lent Event: Railway talk | Maundy Thursday Service | Twiglets Easter Service | Good Friday All Age Service | Good Friday Walk of Witness | Easter Celebration with butterflies | Lent Gnome Hunt | Farewell to the Gordons

May 2023: Coronation Celebrations | Christian Aid Week | Eurovision Party | Rev Hannah installed as Rector at St Margaret's

June 2023: Summer Fair | Rev Ian Nott Ordained | The Nott/Grimes Family Arrive | Rev David Atkinson Licenced at Springfield

July 2023: World Cup 2023 | Holy BBQ

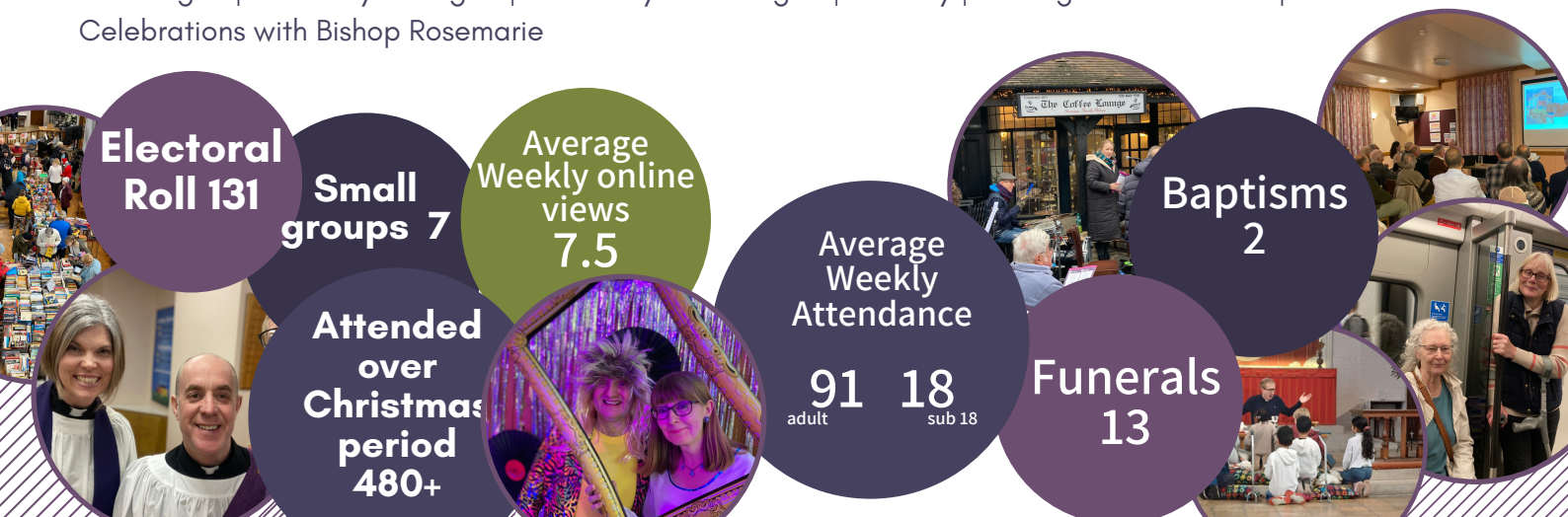
August 2023: Youth go to Satellites | Summer Service outside | Faith Football Falafels World Cup Final with Lebanese deliciousness | Eco-Fair Churches Together Stand

September 2023: The Forge | Harvest Lunch and Appeal | Macmillian Coffee Morning | Light a Candle in the chapel arrives | St Paul's Rowan Williams & Paula Gooder (My Spirit Rejoices)

October 2023: The Jesus Story Part 2 | The Moon visits the Cathedral | Cry in the Dark Christmas Boxes | LICC Pete Greig

November 2023: Hope Remembered - Memorial Service | Wednesday Club Film Night with fish and chips | Bereavement Journey | Advent Wednesdays

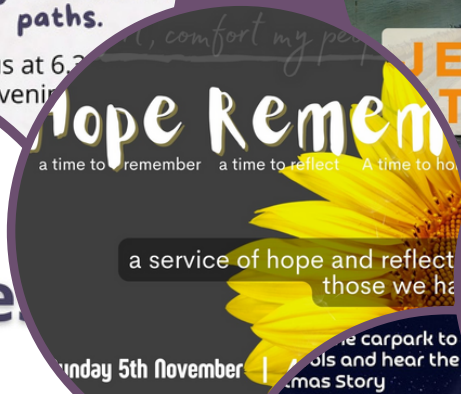
December 2023: Advent | Christmas Fair | Marathon of Hope | Twiglets Christmas Special | All age Christingle | Carols by Starlight | Carols by Candlelight | Nativity | Midnight Communion | Christmas Celebrations with Bishop Rosemarie



FAITH IN PICTURES 2023



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2023

THE STORY OF THE YEAR

Rooted in Christ



faithfulness



gentleness

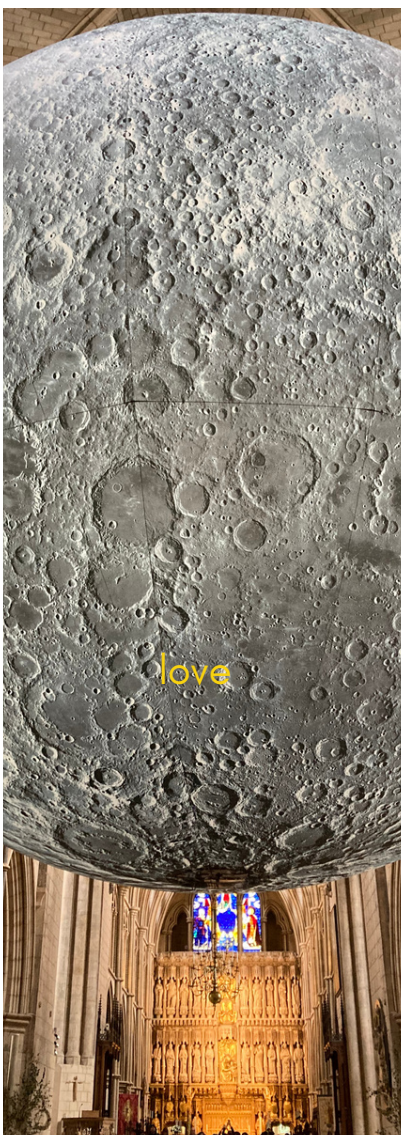




2023



THE STORY OF THE YEAR
Growing in Faith





kindness



science



2023

THE STORY OF THE YEAR

Fruitful in love



Discovering the awe in the ordinary.
Noticing where God is moving
around, through, above, below,
within, enabling us to be His hands,
feet and hearts



*May the Lord bless you
and keep you
May He make his face
shine upon you and grant
you His peace.*