

PARISH OF HORNCHURCH

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING AND
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

22 MAY 2025

AGENDA AND REPORTS

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VICAR'S REPORT

Dear Family in Christ,

2024 was a year of continued blessing upon our parish in the midst of great busy-ness. We were blessed to be busy with so many things happening and blessed to have so many volunteers who do so much for the life, mission and ministry of the church within the parish and wider community. You will read of many of these within the annual report and it is a great joy to celebrate what we achieve together as church.

There is always more that we could do and let us never be complacent in our thinking of what the Lord has in store for us.

It is most important then that I offer thanks to those who ensure that we can operate as functioning churches. From those who give of their time and skills to those who give of their finances. I owe you all a debt of gratitude as does the whole church membership and, of course, the community which we serve and pray for, even if they do not realise it!

I will not seek to cover every aspect of church life but two or three snapshots:

We are blessed with a large leadership team, which means all our services are covered and where necessary, we are able to cover other parishes when there are clergy vacancies across the deanery.

Marianne was officially licensed as Associate Minister in the parish while remaining and recognising her role as a Minister in Secular Employment.

The year saw changes in the incumbent status of two of our neighbouring parishes which has led to us developing and building relationships with Holy Cross, Hornchurch and All Saint's, Ardleigh Green. To encourage the developing partnerships I was installed as Priest in Charge of Holy Cross and Revd Julian Patching, Associate Priest at Holy Cross, will be made Associate Priest in the parish in due course¹. We have also been covering the vast majority of services at All Saint's (alongside the Archdeacon) while there are proposals for working together under the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board (SMMIB) application being made for funding to develop our collective ministry. We enjoyed cross parish fellowship when we ran The Bible Course together.

Of the many things we are engaged with, we continued to develop our links with schools and had more student visits than ever – primary, secondary and visiting Japanese students along with some visits by clergy to local schools. These were both educational and seasonal – it was lovely to welcome Langtons Junior School once again for their Nativity Service.

In the educational visits the children experience something of the building, our faith and (most memorably) the bells when they get an opportunity to try ringing a single bell.

Further engagement with all ages, from toddlers through our uniformed organisations to older members of our community are covered in various other reports.

We have the joy and burden of having a Grade 1 listed building as our principle centre of worship. In school visits we often speak of the age and history of St Andrew's and we can easily link it to some of the many major events of world and national history. The East end of the church reminds us of the effects of the Second World War with the replacement windows. It was a pleasure to welcome a couple who had been married in the church 70 years ago! It was only as I was standing with them in the church and the husband mentioned how much he liked the East Window that I suddenly realised

¹ Effected 23 March 2025.

that they would have been married the same year that it had been installed! There is work to be done in respect of maintaining our buildings and we will be planning and strategic with regards to raising funds and prioritising works.

We are, once again, thankful to the Dorcas Group; this time, for fulfilling the commission to produce a new altar cloth for the Side Chapel. It beautifully follows the seasons of the natural year and will be a blessing to many who spend time in quiet reflection and services in the chapel.

I have had the honour of being The Mayor of Havering's Chaplain for the year beginning in June. This has been a fascinating experience where I have been alongside the Mayor, Councillor Gerry O'Sullivan, in offering prayers at flag raisings and Full Council Meetings as well as having the opportunity to host the Mayor's Civic and Carol Services. The Civic Service was particularly memorable as it formed part of October's Parade Service offering the Uniformed Organisations an alternative addition to the Procession and Ceremony and to allow the Mayor and his guests to join in with our worship.

It is always good to remind ourselves of the call on our lives as followers of Jesus Christ. The letter to the Romans states:

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. (Romans 12.1)

May it be, as we prayerfully give thanks for 2024, that we are able to look afresh, with excitement and anticipation, at the call that God has on our lives and so devote ourselves to that call using the gifts and talents that we have been blessed with.

My personal thanks for all of you who do so much to enable the mission and ministry of the parish and beyond!

May we know God's Peace,

Revd Ken Wylie
Vicar

Parish of Hornchurch St Andrew

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

The Annual Vestry Meeting will be held in St Andrew's Church
on 22 May 2025 commencing at 7.30 pm

AGENDA

1. Opening prayers
2. Appointment of Clerk to both Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meetings
3. To confirm and sign the minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on 23 May 2024
4. To elect two Churchwardens for the parish of Hornchurch St Andrew
5. To receive and approve nominations of four Assistant Wardens for St Andrew's, Hornchurch
6. Prayer to be offered for the officers elected

Parish of Hornchurch St Andrew

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on 23 May 2024 in St Andrew's Church,
commencing at 7.30 pm.

Present: the Vicar and 25 parishioners. Apologies for absence were received from four people unable to attend.

1. The Vicar welcomed all present and led prayer for God's blessing on the meeting and the parish's future activities.

2. Appointment of Clerk

The meeting appointed Mrs Patricia Clark as Clerk to the Vestry meeting and to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (proposed Rev'd Hayward, seconded Rev'd Bewick, carried unanimously).

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 May 2023 were confirmed as a true and complete record.

4. Election of Church Wardens

Mr N McCarren and Mr J Shearmur had been duly nominated and, there being no other nominations, were declared elected unopposed.

5. Appointment of Assistant Wardens for St Andrew's, Hornchurch

Five valid nominations had been received for four positions. Proposed Mrs McCarren, seconded Mrs Withers, THAT the number of Assistant Wardens be increased from four to five: passed on a majority vote (24:1)

Mrs P Clark, Mrs S Cox, Mrs L Girkin, Mrs J Street and Mrs K Wenborn were declared elected unopposed.

There being no other business the meeting closed in prayer for the elected officers.

.....

Date

Parish of Hornchurch St Andrew

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in St Andrew's Church
immediately after the Annual Vestry Meeting on 22 May 2025

AGENDA

1. To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 23 May 2024 and to consider any matters arising.
2. To receive the Electoral Roll report
3. To receive the Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024.
4. To receive the Annual Reports for the year ended 31 December 2024 including reports of the Vicar, the Parochial Church Council, Wardens' Report, Church Fabric, Deanery Synod and the Young People's Reports.
5. To appoint two tellers (if necessary)
6. To elect five members of the Parochial Church Council
7. To appoint an independent examiner of the accounts
8. To consider any other matters of special interest
9. Closing prayers

Parish of Hornchurch

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 23 May 2024
In St Andrew's Church commencing at 7:40 pm

Present: the Vicar and 25 parishioners. Apologies for absence were received from four people unable to attend.

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 May 2023 were confirmed as a true and complete record for signature by the Vicar.

2. Electoral Roll Report

A report received from Mr Dines, Electoral Roll Officer, reported that there had been 322 roll members at the at the previous APCM, now increased to 328, being 181 resident and 147 non-resident.

3. Accounts for 2023

Mr Cox, Treasurer, advised that there had been delays in preparing the accounts for various reasons, all of which were out of the parish's control. Work was nearing completion and once the accounts were ready they would be considered by the Parochial Church Council with a view to being approved for presentation to the parish as a whole. Mr Cox thanked the accounts team for their support and hard work. The Vicar thanked Mr Cox and his team and reminded the meeting that the 2023 accounts were Mr Cox's final contribution to the financial matters of the parish.

4. Annual Reports

The reports from the Vicar, the Secretary, the Parish Wardens, Deanery Synod, parish groups, young persons and uniformed organisations were received. The Vicar added that the work of The Bridge was greatly appreciated as the importance of maintaining connections could not be overstated. The youth work in the parish was also of great value as evidenced by the number of youth group reports presented.

The Vicar's report was read, as was a letter from Archbishop Stephen of York.

5. Elections to Parochial Church Council

There were five places to serve until 2027 but only two completed nominations had been received in advance of the meeting, for Mrs S Cox and Mrs K Wenborn who were declared elected unopposed.

6. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Mr Cox recommended the re-appointment of Mr Stephen Lescott FCCA. Proposed Mr Cox, seconded Mr Sherratt THAT Mr Stephen Lescott be appointed as examiner for the coming year: agreed unanimously.

7. Any other business

Mrs Brooks thanked the Vicar for his service.

There being no other business the meeting closed with the Grace at 8:20 pm.

.....
Chairman

Date

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Background

The Parish of St Andrew, Hornchurch, incorporates the daughter churches of St George and St Matthew and Messy Church. It has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, Rev'd Ken Wylie. Rev'd Dr Marianne Hayward, Associate Priest, joined the parish in summer 2021 and Rev'd Lisa Bewick, Associate Vicar, joined the parish in autumn 2021. Rev'd Mark Smeed, Curate, joined the parish in the summer 2022. During the year the parish entered into a quasi-partnership with Holy Cross under which the Rev'd Julian Patching of Holy Cross would be licenced to the parish. At 31 December 2024 we also had among our clergy Rev'd Sonia Groombridge and Rev'd Barbara Baker (semi-retired) who join with the Parish and the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical.

The Parish also has maintenance responsibility for three church buildings and adjoining halls, together with houses at 85 Kenilworth Gardens, 49 Burnway, 55a Chelmsford Drive and the Church House and two halls in North Street.

Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The PCC met seven times during 2024 and the current members are listed below, together with their attendance during the year:

Clergy	Rev'd K Wylie	7
	Rev'd L Bewick, Associate Vicar	6
	Rev'd M Hayward, Associate Priest	6
	Rev'd M Smeed, Curate	6
	Rev'd B Baker (co-opted)	4
	Rev'd S Groombridge (co-opted)	2
Readers	Mrs P Bromhall	0
	Mrs C Sherratt	7
Wardens	Mr N McCarren	3
	Mr J Shearmur	5
Deanery Synod Representatives <i>Term of office 2023-2026</i>	Mrs J Brooks	4
	Mr R Dines	5
	Mrs K Dunstan	4
	Mrs S Hill	2
Elected Members (<i>term expiry</i>) <i>* First elected May 2024</i>	Mrs C Beech (<i>to May 2024</i>)	1
	Mrs P Clark, Secretary (<i>2025</i>)	5
	Mr C Cox (<i>to May 2024</i>)	3
	Mrs S Cox (<i>2027</i>)	7
	Mr K Green (<i>2025</i>)	6
	Ms A Jarrett (<i>2026</i>)	7
	Mrs J John (<i>2026</i>)	4
	Mrs D McCarren (<i>2025</i>)	3
	Mrs M Powell (<i>2026</i>)	5
	Mrs A Tansley (<i>to May 2024</i>)	3
	Mrs K Wenborn (<i>2027</i>)*	1
	Mrs C Withers (<i>2025</i>)	5

Committees

The PCC operates through a number of committees, which meet between full meetings of the PCC.

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC. Members of this committee are the Vicar, Parish Wardens, PCC Treasurer and the PCC Secretary.

Magazine Committee

The Magazine Committee attends to publishing articles of interest and details of matters of importance to the Parish in the Bullseye magazine. This has been published online throughout 2024.

Electoral Roll

	December 2023	May 2024	December 2024	May 2025
Within the parish	177	181	179	
Without the parish	142	147	146	
Total	319	328	325	

The electoral roll was completely renewed in 2025.

Patricia Clark
Hon. Secretary
Hornchurch Parochial Church Council

CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT

Warden's Report

The wardens would again like to offer our thanks to all those who give of their time and gifts to the running of the parish. It is only by this commitment and dedication by the church family that we can enjoy our worship and Christian community.

We give thanks for our clergy and reader team in all that they do and for their unfailing commitment. We would also take the opportunity to thank all our paid staff.

Fabric Report

All the mandatory checks and certifications have been carried out and are up to date in our churches and properties. Regular minor repairs are organised as needed.

St Andrews

- We are still in the process of obtaining quotes for the repair of the roof. We have had unforeseen problems getting a third quote but now have had a site visit by a contractor and await a quote.
- We are in the process of writing a faculty request to have new gates for the north porch. The existing gates are proving problematic as we have had people climbing over them and sleeping in the porch. There has been some antisocial behaviour by those sleeping in the porch which requires new gates to design out this problem. Our gratitude goes to all who have raised funds and made donations for this project.
- Another faculty that is being pursued is for a young children's friendly area to be made in the north west corner of the church.

St George's

- Ongoing maintenance has been carried out. A new door and frame to the kitchen has been installed.

St Matthew's

- The pre-school organisation who lease the Fellowship Hall have settled in well.

North Street halls

- Minor repairs have been carried out. Some painting and decorating has been carried out after repairs to rot in some windows.

Business report

Rental properties

- We review our rental properties annually using a local estate agent and we are getting a commercial rent. We have new tenants in the North Street flat and the Kenilworth Gardens house.
- The leases on North Street offices and the Fellowship Hall are going to plan.
- The lease on the scout hut at Chelmsford drive has not been renewed due to circumstances beyond our control. We are hoping to renew it in the future.

Hall hire fees have been increased in line with inflation.

Jeremy Shearmur

MESSY CHURCH

As the fourth Church within the Parish of Hornchurch, Messy Church is **Christ-centred**, providing space for **all-ages** to encounter God, discover Jesus and the Holy Spirit through **creativity, hospitality** and **celebration**. The amazing team of volunteers including young helpers freely share their skills and experience in a wide range of roles including: administration, welcome, prayer, craft, games, catering, flower arranging, knitting and worship. In addition, our Services are supported in prayer by team members unable to join us on the day, which is greatly valued.

Messy Church in Hornchurch reaches out into the local community sharing the Christian faith within a creative, inclusive, welcoming environment. We met monthly in the hall and/or grounds of St Andrew's Church during 2024 providing opportunities for multi-generational interaction and to reflect together, usually outdoors. We focussed on the 'I am..' saying of Jesus in 2024 and explored Bible stories and the Christian Faith through activities, crafts, games, prayer, worship and themed refreshments. We welcomed a number of new people of all ages to Messy Church and the Parish throughout the year and have been blessed to have four generations of one family come along and a number of families gathering with us with three generations as well as people who come along on their own and make new friends whilst creatively exploring and discovering more about our faith.

The annual Light Party at the end of October in North Street Hall, was an opportunity for Messy Church and the Parish to share God's Light and Love. The drop-in format over three hours, included two different times for worship and an opportunity to eat together, this enabled a wide range of age groups to arrive and leave at a time convenient for them.

Our Facebook page continues to enable us to share news and photos about our Services and projects we are involved with. It is always lovely to discover the Diocese of Chelmsford and/or Messy Church-BRF have shared our posts so others can be inspired or share in our services, events or news. At the start of each year, our knitting team request a list of seasonal projects for outreach from Messy Church and then they begin the amazing job of creating fantastic resources that we freely give to those who attend Messy Church, the Prayer Network and local Care Homes. We are very grateful for the generous use of their time, energy and wool resources to provide this ministry and the gift of Easter eggs to hide inside the knitted items too, Thank-you.

Our young helpers are a great asset to Messy Church and gain lots of valuable skills as they grow in confidence through volunteering their time. In 2024, they started a structured scheme for helping out with different elements of Messy Church including leading prayers, worship, planning, food preparation, welcoming and leading activities. There is a checklist to work through before gaining accreditation as a young helper at each level of the 'one splat, two splat and three splat' levels to achieve Messy Church BRF Young Helpers Accreditation.

With prayer and encouragement that God is with us on this journey, we thank our Team for their time and energy, and look forward to seeing the opportunities and experiences Messy Church in Hornchurch shares with the local community continue to grow in the years ahead. If you would like to join our team of volunteers please speak to a member of the team, Clergy, or contact the Parish Office for further details.

Details of when we are meeting next can be found on the Parish website, notice boards in the Churches and the Messy Church in Hornchurch Facebook page. Looking forward to welcoming you, your family and/or friends to Messy Church Services soon.

Karen Dunstan, Messy Church in Hornchurch Co-ordinator.

THE WELL

The Well is now into its third year. The initial small congregation of 16 is increasing slowly, although our numbers do inevitably fluctuate each month.

We have several members from Holy Cross Church who have become very much part of The Well family, getting involved not only in the service itself but also happily helping to put away chairs and tables at the end.

Archdeacon Chris graced us with his presence at the 2nd birthday celebrations. He was probably out of his comfort zone but did get up and walked around singing and joined in with the sermon slot like everyone else.

We endeavour to bring the Bible to life by making it relevant in today's society. Hence the nativity had a makeover. Instead of a stable we used a tent to represent the homeless and refugees who are seen sleeping in shop doorways or crouching under a tarpaulin, as they have nowhere else to stay. Suggesting that if Mary and Joseph were looking for somewhere to stay today maybe that would be where they would end up too.

Making the sermon slot fun, something that everyone can join in with as well as something that speaks to the here and now, can be quite a challenge. However, the congregation have now started to suggest ideas we could use. For instance the account of the Good Samaritan:- instead of riding on a donkey, the Good Samaritan came past on a scooter and stopped, unlike the others who'd walked away pretending not to notice the injured person. The care the Good Samaritan then gave was to ring for an ambulance and stayed with the injured person until the ambulance arrived - a very real scenario of a Good Samaritan in today's society where everyone seems too busy to notice what is going on around them as they rush by blindly, not wanting to get involved or interact with those in need of help.

It is a real privilege to be part of The Well and to witness how everyone joins in with worship and gives of themselves in so many ways. We even have one lady who makes cupcakes and decorates them to go with the theme of the sermon. And, of course, both congregations at St. Matthew's have benefitted from the new sound system.

Visitors and new members are always welcome at The Well.

Rev'd Sonia Groombridge

DEANERY SYNOD

Havering Deanery Synod met four times in 2024 on 19 February, 17 June, 16 September and 21 November.

Throughout the year we were updated on various ongoing situations regarding parish share, health of clergy and other routine notices pertaining to life in the deanery.

In the meeting of 19 February, we heard from David Shearing of the London Borough of Culture Bid. He explained that the Board of Queen's Theatre (Hornchurch) had been approached by Havering Council to lead the bid process for Havering to become the London Borough of Culture for 2025. Winning the bid was worth £1.3million to invest in culture across the borough, working with a range of partners. It would involve working with a range of partners which could include faith bodies. It was hoped that even if Havering was not selected then the impetus behind the bid would be

maintained. *(The decision to select the London Borough of Culture was made soon after Synod and Havering was not successful.)*

The June meeting heard from Archdeacon Chris Burke and Dawn Weddell (Head of SDF Programme Management) in relation to a proposed application for funding from the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board (SMMIB).

£2.2m had already been awarded to the Barking Episcopal Area as a capacity grant to be able to scale up and apply for full funding. This meeting was an opportunity to gather feedback on perceived needs in the deanery which might translate into the final bid for missional opportunities. Each Synod received updates through the year on the progress of the application for SMMIB funding with an anticipated submission early in 2025.

The September meeting was addressed by Michaela Southworth, Diocesan Secretary and CEO, where she presented on the current Parish Share Scheme in the diocese. She dealt with what the diocese pays for and where Parish Share giving fits in with the equation; parishes are asked for roughly 80% of the total budget.

Thus, the Havering Deanery 2025 requested figure is £1.375m against a total cost of £1.727m, so it is roughly 80% of the deanery's costs that are being requested. This means the diocese is contributing £353k, which is sustainable on an ongoing basis, but if there is a shortfall on the £1.375m, ultimately, there will need to be conversations about sustainability. The concern regarding funding is ongoing and will be affected adversely by non-payment of parish share.

In November we heard from Revd Becca Rogers who is employed, on a part time basis, through the Margaret Clitherow Trust as Chaplain to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller People. Hers was a revealing presentation particularly with respect to the largely Christian faith of many in these communities and she spoke of opportunities that churches may have in welcoming and connecting with them.

Rev'd Ken Wylie
Area Dean of Havering

ST ANDREW'S CHOIR

The choir continues to work hard at its repertoire, and is enjoying adding new pieces, particularly for the Choral Evensong services.

The youngster's voices are continuing to mature well gaining more confidence as time goes on. The children continue to take their RSCM tests to move through the different levels, and are making good progress there.

We have been pleased to welcome some new and returning adult members to our ranks, as our reputation develops.

Choral Evensong is sung regularly on the first Sunday of the month, and over the past year included a Blue Christmas service, and Advent Carols. In addition, we sang at the annual St. Francis Hospice Concert helping their choir to raise much needed funds, and also the Mayor of Havering's Carol Service which was held at St Andrews in December.

There was of course the annual "Nine Lessons and Carols" service which I felt was particularly well received by the congregation and we continued to expand our repertoire of carols as well as singing some old favourites.

On Palm Sunday the choir performed Fauré "Requiem" as our Easter choral celebration.

There are several people I would again like to thank for their support over the last year. First of all, Judith our choir “matron” checking that everyone arrives and leaves safely and helping me organise the resources and Safeguarding for the choir, and of course Ken who has been a wonderful support and guide throughout the year. Also, John Morris who fills in the breach if I’m unable to be there.

Finally, I must of course thank Andrew and all members of the choir for their unwavering loyalty over the past year, and Lucy Hill and Carys Hayward our Head Chorister and Team Leader. Their support means a great deal to me, and together we will always do our best to support the worship at St. Andrew’s.

Bill Brooks

SERVERS’ GUILD REPORT

We give thanks for the dedication of our servers in all our churches. They provide an important service in making our church services run smoothly. Our four young people who have recently been trained up are now carrying out their duties on their own. We still need more servers for the 8.30am services at St Andrews as there are only two servers available: if anyone is interested, please contact me.

Jeremy Shearmur

HEALING PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM

Healing Prayer Services are held at 6.30 pm on 5th Sundays of the month although, in March 2024 Easter fell on the 5th Sunday so the Healing Service was moved to the 3rd Sunday of that month. There were three Healing Services during the past year, inside St Andrew’s church and, once, outside in the church grounds. These are joyous times, sometimes with testimonies from people who come to worship, and are led by members of the healing team with Jacky our worship leader. So often we see people touched deeply.

The first Healing Prayer Service of 2025 was on Sunday 30 March which was also Mothering Sunday and the service touched on the “motherly” side of our God.

The team prepare for the Services by meeting a few weeks beforehand, and spend time in listening prayer to sense where the Holy Spirit is leading, and to plan the service. This past year, we were “given” themes for the year and so it is for this coming year. We will be looking at and celebrating a few of the many Names of Jesus. As well as the practical details, the team derive great strength from these times of fellowship and nurturing and there have been additional gatherings during the past year for this very purpose, as well as for training.

The team work on a rota basis with ministry offered after every 10.15 am service at St Andrew’s, and once a month at St George’s and St Matthew’s (although prayer is available at other times at St George’s)

We love to participate with God in His ministry of healing. Our aim is to create a confidential space for the person to meet with Him, away from the distractions of everyday life, and to lift their or their loved ones’ needs to Him in prayer. Christian prayer ministry has been described as, “The ministry of bringing the on-going touch of Jesus that transforms us into the people we were meant to be.” We have seen so many answers to prayer and feel very humbled and privileged that we can participate in this way.

If you are hurting, worried, worn down by life's troubles, or for any other reason, don't leave church carrying the same burdens that you came in with. Let members of the team carry those burdens to God in prayer as you meet with Him, in a confidential and non-judgemental space. You will be so glad you did. And do please come to the Healing Prayer Services when they are held - *the remaining dates for this year are 29 June, 31 August and 30 November* - to participate in a time of worship, reflection and meeting with God.

Mandy Green

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

In 2024 our Safeguarding team welcomed Jody Whitehead to the team and are grateful for her valued contributions. We continued to facilitate the safeguarding processes required of the Parish by The Church of England. Regular meetings are planned including relevant clergy, Church Wardens and the Parish Safeguarding Officers to discuss processes and ensure as a Parish we are meeting the Church of England requirements.

Annual Action Plans and Risk Assessments

Following on from last year all groups involving children submitted their Annual Action Plans and Risk Assessments promptly and these were duly agreed and signed by a Parish Warden on behalf of the PCC. As most groups begin their year in September, this will be continued in 2025.

Safer Recruitment

Volunteers are expected to complete our safer recruitment process before taking up their role and we will send out a reminder to group leaders about the process to ensure this continues. We are grateful that our group leaders are now quite familiar with the requirements and have been referring new volunteers to us promptly. The new Open Church Welcome Team attended training and where necessary have completed the safer recruitment process. There was a very positive response from these members of the importance of completing safeguarding procedures. Jody has been checking with all groups who their volunteers are to ensure that people are not missed with the safer recruitment process.

Training

We continue to encourage our volunteers to keep their safeguarding training up to date. Many of our volunteers do not have the technical skills or equipment to do this. Lynne held two group training sessions throughout the year to support those who have difficulty accessing online training. Jody has completed all the necessary training and we will continue to ensure our training is up to date.

DBS

DBS's were completed where necessary

We have been available throughout the year to offer advice on any safeguarding concerns in the Parish. Safeguarding concerns that have arisen have been dealt with promptly and in line with the Diocese requirements. With regard to any special arrangements we have entered into the risk has been assessed and has been agreed with the Diocese and signed off by the clergy and a safeguarding officer. This process has been completed on every occasion necessary. We have been very well supported by the Clergy, Church Warden and the Parish office.

Jody and Lynne worked together across both adult and child groups. As a reminder, please note that for practical purposes we are using just the child.safeguarding@parishofhornchurch email address for both adult and child matters.

We would still like to increase the safeguarding team to four people. This would enable us to share the admin tasks and to ensure that when members of the team are away, there is always someone available to give advice and deal with any issues that arise.

Lynne Girkin & Jody Whitehead

TIME OUT

The group welcomed members from the parish and local area of Hornchurch. Forty ladies received fortnightly updates of meetings and local entertainment.

Meetings were held on the second and fourth Mondays alternating where possible between North Street Hall and St Andrew's church hall and afternoon and evening sessions to accommodate cold dark winter evenings and ladies who can't attend daytime meetings. Three new members joined us during the year.

The most popular meetings were the Ladies' Day cream tea, the AGM with the fish and chip supper and the group's Christmas carol service. The group enjoyed several crafts during the year to include Easter decorations, lanterns for Pentecost and Christmas stars and paper angels. There was a talk about the church's building and its bells and visiting speakers included an equine therapist, an apiarist and a collector of WW1 artefacts. Board games, book swaps and favourite holiday locations were also popular topics. Members also got together in smaller groups to do other social outings such as a visit to Rainham Hall, a quiz night at Upminster, a murder mystery play and the Queens Theatre for a Christmas concert.

A team of members helped with producing and selling homemade cakes and sweets for the Winter Market and once again raised a significant sum for St Andrews church. The group helped on the church rota for Sunday morning refreshments.

During the year the ladies donated to various good causes including the Foodbank, Royal British Legion and Silverbirch Animal Therapy.

Val Cooper

ESCAPE MEN'S GROUP

It has been another enjoyable year for the group. Our membership stands at 18. This includes two new members who have contributed greatly to the group. We continue to meet on the second and fourth Monday of the month in the church small hall.

Our programme has been varied: the vicar from All Saints Church, Cranham gave a talk in September. We also saw the Counterfeit Stones at the Queens Theatre. Other events have included our own version of Would I Lie To You, a whist drive, wine tasting evening and Spanish Cuisine evenings. We continue to have film evenings - our latest one being Gladiator 2 – and bowling. On 17 March we celebrated the 80th birthday of Gordon, our oldest but one of our sprightliest members, with a fish and chip meal and bingo.

It is my honour and pleasure to be Chairman of such a friendly, co-operative group of men.

John Speller, Chairman

PARISH MEN'S GROUP

The Hornchurch Parish Men's Group held their final lunch at The Cranleigh on 11 December 2024 when twenty-seven members attended. Due to our membership declining and the Cranleigh closing for redevelopment into flats, it was decided the Group would cease to meet on a formal basis. Attempts were made to find another suitable venue in Hornchurch, but this was not successful. However, a number of our members have gone on to attend a Probus group which meets in Upminster.

Meanwhile, as a 3-month trial, the Group is having an informal lunch on the third Wednesday in the month at the Ther Railway Hotel, Station Lane, Hornchurch, (meeting from 12.00 onwards). At the first lunch in January there were eight members who had an enjoyable time and agreed to carry on for the time being. If you would like to join us, please come along. David Scrutton is organising the trial arrangements and can be contacted on 07776 210052

Peter Fanning, Chairman

BELLRINGERS' REPORT

It has been another busy and successful year for the Guild. We have rung twice on most Sundays with numbers in double figures most of the time. Tuesday practices have been well supported with progress in both striking and range of methods.

- Ellen is ringing well on 6 and 8 and has very good bell handling skills.
- Kim and Connor are ringing more confidently on 8 and 10;
- James is making good progress with Treble Bob Hunt;
- Carys is ringing Plain Bob and Grandsire inside;
- Val is ringing Bob Doubles to a quarter peal standard and should achieve that very soon;
- Michelle has progressed to Cambridge Minor and will hopefully ring a quarter of that in the coming year;
- John Church has progressed with his 10 bell ringing and
- Julie has made excellent progress with Surprise Major and ringing on 10 and 12.

We have lost a few members due to moving away and ill health but recently have several more new recruits, both young and old.

Clement Danes was visited every month up until October scoring 9 quarter peal attempts out of 10. Clement Danes is now out of action for the coming year. We can still go out and ring at other towers on a 3rd Sunday morning; for example we visited Magnus twice in the past year and Garlickhythe once.

Quarter Peals at St Andrew's totalled 51 including a date touch on Christmas Eve. Methods included Kent Royal and spliced Surprise Major up to 20 methods.

Personal achievements for quarter peals are as follows:

- Mark rang his first on 8 (cover);
- Carys rang her first quarter peal on the treble, first of Minor (on the treble) and first on 8 (again on the treble);
- Ethan rang his first inside on 8 and 10 and 25th quarter;
- James rang his first on 10 (cover), first away from cover on the treble, first Minor (on the treble) and first Triples (on the treble) and his 10th quarter;
- John rang firsts in Bob Royal, Kent Royal and Grandsire Caters;
- Michelle rang her first inside on 10, first Royal, Grandsire Caters, Treble Bob Hunt on 8, Double Oxford Minor, St Clements Minor, Stedman Doubles and 50th quarter.

- Julie rang her first of Kent Royal, Cambridge Royal, first on 12, first inside on 12, first Lincolnshire Major, Pudsey Major and first 4-spliced Surprise Major.

Quarters for special occasions:

We rang quarters for

- Julie & Tony Bloomfield's Silver Wedding;
- Mark's 70th birthday;
- Tina's 70th birthday and
- sadly to celebrate the life of Carol Lendon (on the day of her funeral).

We also rang quarters for the licensing of Marianne Hayward as Associate Priest of our Parish, the 80th anniversary of D-Day and the Mayor's Carol Service.

Peals: We lost a peal attempt for the 80th anniversary of D-Day but scored the re-run just before Christmas which was 12-spliced Surprise Major.

District Events:

We took part in the District 6-bell striking competition at Hornchurch and came 2nd to West Ham with only 2 teams taking part. In the finals at Great Easton, we finished 6th out of the 11 teams taking part.

In the District Call Change Competition at Leytonstone, we came 1st out of 6 teams. We have supported other District practices when possible.

Social Events:

We again held two coach outings in 2024. The spring outing was to North Sussex organised by Clive and supported by 45 members and friends. The autumn outing to Suffolk was organised by John & Jonathan and supported by 53. The Annual Dinner was again held at Top Meadow Golf Club and attended by 38. There were 20 of us at the Christmas social in the tower.

Other Ringing:

We rang for

- the funeral of Wendy Warren (Call Changes on 8),
- the 80th Anniversary of D-Day;
- Easter Day (8 present),
- half-muffled on Remembrance Sunday (12 present),
- the carol service (15),
- Christmas morning (12) and
- New Year's Eve when 12 of us rang in 2025.

At Promotion Sunday in September, Carys was presented with a prize for ringing her first quarter peal.

Weddings:

We rang for seven weddings in 2024, each ringer paid the increased rate of £25.

Clive Stephenson, Captain

FOODBANK

The Rainham Foodbank continues to be most grateful for our food contributions of over 400kg and financial gifts in 2024. Members assisted with the Christmas collections at Tesco and the Foodbank team looks forward to continuing to work with us to alleviate food poverty in Havering.

Pat Clark

COINS FOR KENYA

The ability of 'education' to drastically change a girl's life in Kenya has obviously touched other people's hearts as well as it has my own, because I received many personal donations over the last year which boosted the usual income from my usual fundraisers.

In 2024 we held two Cake Sales, received the donations from the sale of Chris Felstead's vegetables, ran our annual Quiz Night for Kenya and were given various personal donations. So, along with the ongoing 'spare change' I am given, which gave rise to our name "Coins for Kenya", we raised £2,491.98 last year. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way.

The need for school fees will always be there but, as the world changes, there are currently other needs. Now that USAID is being stopped, there will be no more HIV drugs or anti malarial vaccinations and, without an NHS, people are going to become ill and die.

Sr Marion told me recently that people are desperately hungry as they wait for 'the rains' to come and their crops to grow; meanwhile, they can't afford to pay the high price of basic food stuff in the shops. She also told me about the big seed companies developing 'suicide seed' which means that it can only be used once and then it dies which means that people have to buy new seed every year; and those prices have risen too!

So, I will continue to raise money in 2025 because you can't change the world, but you can change the world for one person!

Terry Keens

Reports from Young People's Groups 2024-25

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Tadpoles	Monday morning	Birth – pre-school	
Table Top Fun	Friday afternoon	All ages	
3 rd Hornchurch Girls Brigade	Friday evening	4 – 18 years	
8 th Hornchurch Scout Group: three Beaver Colonies; four Cub Packs; two Scout Units	Sections run throughout the week	6 to 15 years	
Hornchurch East District Guides: two Rainbow Units; five Brownie Packs; two Guide Units	Sections run throughout the week	5 to 18 years	

The Parish of Horncchurch St Andrew hosts a wide range of groups for Young People, providing for youngsters from babies to 18 years.

There are currently 30 groups, including 11 organised directly by the Church. The other 19 are units of Uniformed Organisations: one Girl's Brigade unit; one Scout Group, with nine sections - three Beaver Colonies, four cub packs and two scout troops; and nine Girlguiding units – two of Rainbows, five of Brownies and two of Guides.

These groups are all led by volunteers, to whom the Parish is grateful for their dedication and for the time they spend in planning and running programmes and activities for their groups throughout the year: without their leadership, these groups would not be able to run.

As can be seen from the reports below, these groups cover a variety of activities within their programmes, which provide opportunities for the personal, physical and spiritual development of the Young People who are their members.

If you know of a young person who would like to join one of these groups, or if you thought you would like to join a leadership team, please get in touch with the Parish Office staff, who will be able to tell you who to contact.



0-2 Group

Our group has had another lovely year. It's a pleasure to watch all the little ones and adults having a great time playing, chatting and being busy, knowing that they really enjoy their Wednesday mornings. We are currently full which is a nice place to be as the hall is filled with lovely noises. The adults all chat to each other catching up over a cuppa.

We've had lots of fun creating fun crafts that the little ones love to show off. There's lots to make with crafts reflecting the church calendar, Easter and Christmas or special events like Mothers/Father's Day. Recently we have made snakes for Chinese New Year and paper plate pancakes decorated in fruity stickers.

Mark and Lisa pop in to chat to our families, which makes our parents and carers feel welcome into the church family. Our parties in the Summer and at Christmas are always a wonderful fun time, Mr Skittleman makes everyone laugh out loud. At Christmas we had a Nativity in the church with Lisa, where they explored the Christmas story with fun and carols. Each summer we sadly say goodbye to some of our older ones, as they go off to adventures new.

Thanks, as always go to Leanne, Laura, Amanda and Natalie who help create, make tea and clear up with me and who are invaluable.

Beverley Musham
0-2 Group Leader

Little Fishes

At the time I wrote the report to the PCC in March 2024 we were still reeling from the sudden death of Margaret Gammans. The leaders still miss her, both personally and for her input. But life is such that new families attend now that never knew her and don't recognize the name. And this is how it should be, however much we might look back, because new children coming, growing and moving onto school is life.

We have been joined by Claire Cook who has settled in well and we are very glad to have her.

As well as her famous cakes Marlene assists Rita with greeting families and keeping the register.

In July Fishes astounded Carol Metcalfe with a surprise party for her 70th birthday. Special guests were her husband, Rev'd Ken and Arlene Trump who had made her favourite rich fruit cake with icing and decent marzipan. And her daughter came down secretly from Yorkshire and having spent lunchtime hiding in the office brought in the cake with candles burning.

All the children who left in July for school received a gift of a Mick Inkpen and Nick Butterworth storybook about Jesus.

Numbers were low in September when we returned after the summer but they picked up slowly and by New Year our numbers were good again. Our adults are a ratio of 60% grandparents to 40% parents. We have several fathers and grandfathers. The presence of Revd Mark as often as his other duties permit helps men feel valued.

We ran the one Craft Fair in October which went well. We are the only Craft Fair operating in Hornchurch. Two commercial operations do hire the Windmill Hall and St Laurence's Hall in Upminster several times a year. This year we are running two fairs in May and October. In May, Lucy Lusher will be the lead for a fund-raising fair after her selection for the Girlguiding Anglia International Expedition 2026.

At Christmas we had our nativity in church led by Rev'd Mark, with music from members of the Thurrock Accordion Club Band and Rev'd Lisa on clarinet. The following week our Christmas party was well attended with a visit from Father Christmas who had a present for every child.

Yesterday we had pancakes again, we discussed daffodil posies for Mothering Sunday and Lynn has the Easter egg hunt in hand.

The year goes round.

Carol Metcalfe

Tadpoles Toddler Group

Tadpoles have been very busy this year, with numbers of children attending increasing significantly since last year's report. We now have high 20's to 30+ children every week. We have looked at the safety of session when we have higher numbers attending. We felt that when we have more than 30 children the session is too crowded and noisy for some children. We have therefore taken steps to limit the number to around 30. We do this by posting a message in our WhatsApp group and place a notice on the front door saying the session is closed. We don't want to turn anyone away but feel it's safer to keep the number to around 30.

We did a survey amongst our parents and carers, to find out what their child likes to do at the group as well as what they wished we did do. This was the first time we have done this, and it was very informative. From the survey we have developed a quiet area to share a story book. We also trailed an outside play; both have been well received.

Suzanne joined our team in September, we now have a team of seven.

Tadpoles enjoyed Ken sharing the Christmas story with us in church. The children were very enthusiastic, it was great to see so many young children in the church having fun. We are now looking forward to the warmer weather so we can further develop our outside play.

Sandy Warry and team

Table Top Fun

Table Top Fun is about to celebrate its second anniversary at St Matthew's Church with a planned lively event showcasing its commitment to intergenerational engagement. Over the past year, Table Top Fun has evolved to include sports related activities and continues to grow now regularly attracting over 45 people weekly and has served over 1,200 light dinners, fostering both community bonds and nourishment. Since our last report, we held a Christingle service that was well attended and saw people from all backgrounds and faiths singing along to Christmas Carols as well as exploring the Christian Message through an orange, candles and sweets! We continue to grow our diverse selection of tabletop games like Uno, Chess, and now Lego and have introduced crafts, with an Easter one already planned. We are currently looking for people who might like to volunteer a few hours on a Friday to support the existing committed voluntary team.

Reverend Mark Smeed



3rd Hornchurch Girls' Brigade

We meet on Friday nights during the school term at St. Andrews Church Hall from 6:00 pm to 7:15pm.

It's been a busy year since our last report! We've welcomed new girls to our group, and we're still seeing a waiting list. Some of our girls have earned Jack Petchey Awards, and we had a memorable evening watching The Lion King in London, complete with ice cream during the interval. We also enjoyed a fun bowling night, followed by a visit to Kaspas's Ice Cream Parlour where we indulged in hot chocolate, ice cream, and waffles. Another theatre outing saw us heading to the West End to see Mrs. Doubtfire.

In November, we hosted our District Fun Afternoon, where we played games, ran a tuck shop, and had a special visit from our Chaplain, Rev. Lisa. She led us in making Christingles and shared their meaning with the group. Over 40 girls attended, along with leaders from across the district. Our Parents' Evening in July was a wonderful celebration of the achievements of our girls. We shared cake, stories, and plenty of socializing as we reflected on the year.

One of the highlights of the year was our second camp in June 2024. We took the girls (ages 6 to 15) to stay in a lodge at Thriftwood Scout Camp. Some girls joined us just for the day, but everyone had the opportunity to try new activities, including climbing, water rollers, crate stacking, and axe throwing. The older girls even took part in a challenging 'leap of faith'. The looks of astonishment on their faces as they realized what they had accomplished were priceless. We also joined the rest of the campsite for a big campfire, where we were joined by our vicar, Rev'd Ken, and our Rev'd. Lisa. They spent the evening with us, adding to the special atmosphere. The overall theme for the camp was Noah's Arc. We are already looking forward to our next adventure in June 2025!

We will continue to play an active role in parish life, attending Church Parades, Remembrance Day Services, and more. As part of our badge work this term, we're focusing on the theme of Obedience. Terry Keens will be joining the group to speak with the girls, and we will be donating to the Kenya Fund.

We will continue to take an active role in parish life, attending Church Parades and Remembrance Day Services etc... As part of our badge work, we collected food for the Foodbank, and this was greatly received.

Captain Karen and Emma



8th Hornchurch Scout Group

To write my report this year I looked back over the past few years' reports to see what has changed and what hasn't. It makes for interesting reading and in some cases I was uplifted and in other cases a little dispirited.

The excellent group of Leaders we have within the 8th Hornchurch Scout Group continue to provide excellent Scouting for a great number of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts supported by our very able Young Leaders, several of whom having reached the age of 18 converted to adult leaders in the past 12 months. I am, as always, very grateful for everything that all of our adult volunteers do for the Scout Group.

On the more challenging side despite the new leaders joining up we are still in need of more volunteers whether with the young members or supporting the Group is one of many 'behind the scenes' roles.

Like so many of us in so many ways we continue to come to terms with changing technology and the introduction of a new database for adult volunteers has brought with it a significant number of challenges which I am sure we will overcome but I probably speak for many of our volunteers when I say, right now, it seems to have made our volunteering somewhat harder.

Looking ahead for this year many of my leaders will be making plans to get their Beavers, Cubs and Scouts out into the great outdoors. Camping and day trips and even just evenings playing outside are an essential part of our children's development and a part that is all too often lost in this current world of online entertainment and being stuck in front of a computer screen.

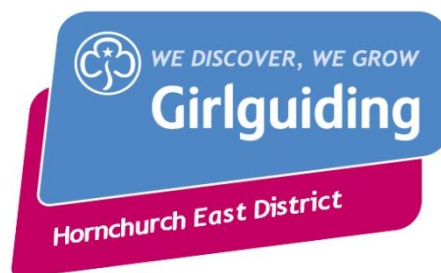
The 8th Hornchurch Scout Group have continued to be as active as always and this is reflected in the number of members we have coming along every week. But we could do so much more if we had more adult volunteers and our next challenge (possibly) is to open our very first Squirrel Drey. Squirrels are for new members aged four to six and at the moment the 8th don't have any, but we would like to address that.

Looking outside of immediate member related activities, we have great plans to further enhance our headquarters and grounds and look forward to implementing those plans in the near future. The HQ is the main hub of the Scout Group and is essential in the many things we do as our equipment and transport provision is stored there and six of our ten sections meet there. We continue to be grateful to the Church for their ongoing support of the Scout Group.

Yours in Scouting

Andy Rice

Group Lead Volunteer (Group Scout Leader) – 8th Hornchurch Scout Group



Hornchurch East District Guide Report

Girlguiding UK, as part of a worldwide movement, enables girls and young women to fulfil their potential to take an active and responsible role in society through its distinctive, stimulating and enjoyable programme of activities delivered by trained volunteer leaders.

Guiding aims to help girls and young women develop emotionally, mentally, physically and spiritually, so that they can make a positive contribution to their community and the wider world.

In the District, which is sponsored by the Parish of Hornchurch, these formal aims are put into practice, week by week, by 55 volunteer Leaders who lead 181 girls and young women in nine units: two Rainbow Units, five Brownie Packs and two Guide Units.

It is only the extra help from those older Guides, Young Leaders, Unit Helpers and Unit Residential Occasional Helpers, who make possible the viability of nine units. Because of changing personal circumstances, there are always changes in the Leader group and there are always vacancies, which need filling. If any reader wishes to find out how much fun you can have as a leader, please contact me via the Parish Office.

The girls and young women comprise: 27 Rainbows, 108 Brownies, 46 Guides and 55 Guiders and Young Leaders.

Seven Guides have received the Jack Petchey Award during the year: Alexandra C, Hannah S, Isabel C, Ella F, Ella S, Chloe S, Sophie N.

On behalf of all the young members, we thank all the Guiders, Young Leaders and Unit Helpers for all the hard work they do and for their time and commitment to so many girls in our Parish. We also thank the Parish for allowing us to use all the halls in the Parish for our meetings and also our trainings.

Helen Norford and Melanie Whitehead, District Commissioners

2nd Hornchurch (St Andrew's) Rainbows

The Rainbows have been very busy over the last year. We have continued to follow the Rainbow programme. The girls have been working on Theme Awards that encompass a wide range of activities, such as Know Myself, Have Adventures and Skills for my Future.

The Rainbows have also enjoyed completing a range of interest badges such as the Helpers badge and the Construction badge. They have been very enthusiastic about completing them and have worked very hard. We then have a small ceremony every few weeks where the girls receive their badges. They really enjoy this.

Olivia K, Charlotte Mc and Bella all received Bronze awards, but Naomi and Lamayssa won Gold Awards this year, which is the highest reward a Rainbow can achieve, then they all went up to Brownies.

Alongside this we have done a range of other activities. In February police officers visited, in April the girls did Easter activities, including an Easter Treasure Hunt as an end of term treat and we had a Summer Treasure Hunt in July. We made things for both Mother's Day and Father's Day. At the end of November the girls made angels which were displayed in the assembly area in church and In December, we visited Pink Parachute and painted our own Christmas decorations. We also went to the Queens Theatre to see a pantomime - this year it was Cinderella.

Throughout the year we have enjoyed submitting photos of what we have been doing to the parish 'Bullseye' Magazine. We also regularly share photos on the unit's Facebook page. We are looking forward to the new year ahead and can't wait to welcome some new Rainbows to the unit.

Sandra Cox, Marion Overy, Helen Norford.

6th Hornchurch (St Andrew's) Rainbows.

Our Unit is thriving. We have a Waiting List and many enquiries about joining the Unit.

We have a trip or event every term, the last being a visit to The Pink Parachute in Hornchurch where they painted Disney Christmas characters for the family. Everyone enjoyed themselves.

This Term the Rainbows have earned several Girl guiding badges and are enthusiastic about being awarded more.

A few weeks ago we had a fantastic Anglia District Sleepover with Brownies, Guides and Young Leaders. We made crafts, sang around the camp fire and had a marvellous time. Most of the Rainbows participated, and they're already asking when we're going to have another one!

This year has started well and we will continue to encourage Rainbows to be kind and helpful, and to have fun!

Judith Paxton (Unit Leader)

2nd Hornchurch (St Andrew's) Brownies

The 2nd Hornchurch Brownies runs every Wednesday at St Andrews from 6.30-8.00pm. The pack is run by Laura Hobbs with three assistant leaders: Lauren Coventry, Katie Coventry and Lauren Stewart, and two young leaders.

Our pack numbers dipped towards the end of the year but have come back up in January 2025 to be almost at capacity again, girls are continuing to move up to guides and we have new brownies both having come up from rainbows as well as being brand new to guiding.

We have had a lot of new brownies taking their promise in their enrollment ceremony as well as having a lot of girls working towards and completing their bronze, silver and gold awards. We currently have five 6's within our pack.

In our meetings we have run a wide variety of different activities both running alongside the brownie program completing badges, as well as separate games and crafts. We have completed our grow your own and charities badges this year to name a few as well as plenty of other unit activities to lead towards badges and awards. For our charities badge the girls visited Sainsburys with a budget and worked out what to buy in groups to donate to the food bank – was wonderful to see what the girls decided to purchase, and the wide variety that was donated in the end. We had our annual summer party to finish the summer term, where we had the candy floss machine, popcorn machine and chocolate fountain out.

Some of the activities we have achieved through the year include; crafts for St Patrick's day, making and eating heart shaped pancakes to celebrate both pancake day and Valentine's Day, learning some ballet moves as well as tennis and boxing, making clay necklaces and pop-up cards for Mother's Day, sweets for Father's Day and chocolate easter nests for easter. We learnt the alphabet in sign language as part of our thinking day celebrations and how to sign our names. We had an evening crafting where the girls could choose what craft or crafts they would like to do, including Hama beads, bracelet making and diamond painting, we made sock puppets one evening and then created our own plays using them. When the weather was better, we played games with water outside girls had to use team work to fill buckets with water. The church asked for everyone to make angels for a display, so we spent an evening making angels together – some girls made multiples so they had one to take home as well. The brownies made butter from cream which was an interesting evening! All girls tried the butter and compared it to shop bought – as well as them being able to take some home to share with their families. There was a night creating foot paintings which was lovely and messy but came out wonderfully, and another night where we toasted marshmallows for smores and sang campfire songs.

Some of our girls joined the leaders in the poppy day parade this year which was a lovely memorial, and the girls enjoyed being able to show their respect in this way. We have also been taking part in parade services, and although our numbers for this are still lower than we would have liked they are on the rise, and with parade services getting more interactive we hope to see these numbers rise further.

We have managed a few trips this year; we have been to see the pantomime at the Queen's Theatre where as a district we get special badges made, this was enjoyed by all. We took part in the Chigwell row activity day where they had lots of activities on offer and we all got to try things such as axe throwing, archery and rock climbing. We visited Thames Chase where we met with the Royal Astronomy Society and got to talk about space while looking through some of their telescopes. We also managed a trip to visit the windmill in Upminster, the girls were shown around and we could see all the renovations that happened and learnt how it worked and why it was there. We also took part in the county trip for the muddy race – the girls got to complete obstacle courses through the very very muddy nuclear race courses – some of the girls have told us this has been their favorite activity!

We had Fab Science come to visit us for one of our meetings – this was very fun and the girls got to take part in loads of experiments. It was a very hands-on evening and a lot was learnt. We also got a chance to have a look at the bell ringing in the church, see how it works and take a look at the bells up in the tower, which was very special!

All in all, 2024 was a successful and fun year for our pack and so far, this year we have started off with a bang – although Our Brown Owl is currently off after having had a baby with Lauren Coventry taking over temporarily with Laura's help where needed. We have lots planned for the rest of 2025 including a pack holiday in May.

We would like to thank everyone who have supported us this year and look forward to what fun we will have in the year to come.

Laura Hobbs, Lauren Coventry, Katie Coventry, Lauren Stewart, Amelia Larsen and Asha.

6th and 7th Hornchurch (St Andrew's) Brownies

January – April 2024:

During this term we completed the Communicate Stage 2 Skills Builder Badge. We also had a games night, PJ party, made pancakes, Mother's Day Craft, Easter craft and had an egg hunt. We went to see Wish at the cinema and to Da Vinci's restaurant in Hornchurch to make pizzas.

April – July 2024:

During this term we completed various unit meeting activities working towards the 'Be Well' Theme Award, and the Mindfulness Badge. We also had a games night, Father's Day Craft, a show & tell evening and a summer party. We spent a lot of time outdoors completed the 'Feel Good in Nature' Badge. Our trip this term was to Build a Bear Workshop. We also had a Pack Holiday which was a lot of fun!

September – December 2024:

During this term we completed the Feel-Good Stage 2 Skills Builder Badge. We also had a games night, and toasting marshmallows, firework pictures and campfire songs for Bonfire Night. We took part in the Angel Community Project. We celebrated International Day of the Girl and Black History Month. We also took part in UK Parliament Week, made Poppy pictures for Remembrance Day, and we had a Christmas Party. Our trips this term was to the Pink Parachute for Glass Fusing and the

Queen's Theatre for the Panto. We went out to visit the Material Girls Exhibition at Fairkytes Arts Centre.

Melanie Whitehead, Brown Owl

12th Hornchurch (St Matthew's) Brownies

We have continued to offer the Brownies a varied programme, thanks to our three brilliant Young Leaders who have attended when GCSE exams allowed and a reliable group of parents who come along to ensure that we have sufficient adults present. We would welcome another uniformed leader so that we are not having to ask other leaders in the District to cover if either Kim or myself are unable to attend.

We have presented several Bronze and Silver Awards this past year and are excited to be presenting our first Gold Award after half term. Unfortunately, we have struggled to get the girls to transfer onto Guides when they turn 10, but hopefully this will improve next year. We scooped up some Rainbows from Upminster when their unit closed, and they have settled in well.

One thing that the girls learn through Girlguiding is self-confidence and self-worth, so it was encouraging to have an enquiry from a parent whose daughter was very shy, but the class teacher advised them to find a Brownie unit last summer. This has worked a treat, and mum has reported that the school has noted a vast improvement!

One of our Unit Meeting Activities was to discuss "What do Brownies Do?" and to produce posters to advertise our presence. It was interesting to read what the girls put on their posters, so I shall leave you with some of their thoughts:

Playing with my friends • Earning badges • Playing games • Days out • Making new friends
Using my imagination and being creative – making things • Our leaders are helpful.
Eggs + flour + milk + sugar + love + chocolate = BROWNIES!
A Brownie is: caring, nice, a good friend, loving, kind, very helpful, inclusive, happy,
and does Good Turns • Be yourself • Be amazing • Brownies is the place to B
Brownies is the best place • Brownies is a fun and exotic place.

Ann Hails & Kim Kemp

14th Hornchurch (St Georges) Brownies

We aim to run a varied programme of activities over each term using the outline of the Brownie programme. Our termly programme, day trips, sleepovers and weekend holidays will incorporate activities towards the Bronze, Silver and Gold awards.

We currently have 35 Brownies at the 14th Hornchurch Brownies, three adult leaders, four Young Leaders. We meet at St George's Church. This is the largest pack we have ever had and we still have a waiting list. Girlguiding is definitely popular in Hornchurch.

We love to see the girls enjoying earning their badges and we have had several girls complete their Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. All of our Brownie leavers this year have gone on to Guides within the district which is lovely to see them progressing through the sections.

We have enjoyed as unit trips to the trampoline park to celebrate the leap year, Christmas pottery painting at Pink Parachute and of course the Queens Theatre panto which was this year Cinderella.

We love to get the girls outside and taking part in adventurous activities and enjoying nature. The Brownies have taken part in Star gazing at Thames Chase as part of their Space badge, the Mud Run and nuclear races in Kelvedon Hatch, Axe throwing, campfires, Bushcraft at Stubbers. One of our favourite outdoor activities is the Spooky Fun Day at Thriftwood where the girls spend the whole day taking part in Archery, cresta run, water roller, axe throwing, creepy crawlies, making smores, crafts and a sing song at the campfire.

Our Pack Holiday was back again this year which the Brownies loved! We took 18 Brownies to Chigwell Row. The girls all earned their Autumn night away and archeology badges over the weekend. They took part in climbing, crate stacking, pamper night, grass sledging and completing their archeology badge. They are all desperate for us to book another trip away!

During the meetings at the hall, we have celebrated Chinese New Year, Easter crafts, St Patrick's Day completed mother and father's day crafts, finished our space badge, held badge testing nights, teddy bears' picnic, board game fun, trash fashion show and bring a friend night amongst other things. The Brownies really enjoyed our visit from Exotic Encounters where they got close to owls, skunks, snakes, tree frogs and a blue tegus. This really helps build their confidence around animals and is amazing to see. We have them rebooked for this year.

As part of one of our Brownies Gold Award they ran a cake sale to raise money for Diabetes UK which raised over £80 for the charity. This is a charity close to our unit's heart as we have a Brownie with type 1 diabetes.

The Brownies really enjoyed creating angels for the church Christmas installation. They particularly enjoyed seeing them displayed in the church at the Toy and Nativity service parade. We have also been attending church parades at St Andrews once a month and the Brownies really enjoy getting involved in the service reading prayers, creating the banner and other activities. We have created jars for the jam jar jamboree at the winter market and this is a favourite amongst the brownies at seeing what weird and wonderful things they can put in a jar – pet treats are a favourite!

We would like to thank all our Guiders and Young Leaders for the support and hard work throughout this year especially with Pack Holiday and lots of trips outside normal meeting hours. They are always very hard work and take many hours of planning and preparation

Amy Saunders, Paige Shankshaft and Chloe Archer (Guiders)

5th Hornchurch (St George's) Guides

At guides, we aim to run a fun and varied programme of activities over each term using the outline of the Guiding programme.

We currently have 30 Guides, four Adult Leaders and four Young Leaders.

We have completed Unit Meeting Activities and Skills Builders across a variety of themes on 'Be Well', 'Know Myself', Have Adventures and 'Express Myself'. These activities included local visits to Sainsburys, walks around Hornchurch to recreate the town centre and twisted a pizza which had the girls creating some very whacky and some delicious pizza options.

We are delighted to have offered a range of overnight opportunities this year. In October, we ran our first camp since Covid at The Pines in Brentwood. The girls enjoyed going 'back to basics' and completed their Camp skills builder and Backwoods Cooking badges. In December we held an indoor holiday at Skreens Park Activity Day where we did rifle shooting and crate stacking alongside completing the Natural Remedies badge. Finally in February, we joined the Anglia Sleepover and

stayed overnight at North Street Hall before walking down to Church Parade. We not only started the Meditation badge but as it was Thinking Day, we also explored different countries in our activities and food throughout our stay.

Throughout the year, we also did our investigating badge, completed a range of craft activities and even tested a new badge 'Bug Finder' which is due to be released to the rest of the Girlguiding family in the Summer term.

Church parades and Remembrance Sunday Parade were attended by our Guides during the year.

All this hard work on badges has enabled the girls to earn some special Guide Awards which is a huge achievement: -

- Bronze – Lily-Rose.
- Silver – Amy, Bella, Chloe S and Jasmine.
- Gold – Freya and Hannah.

Four girls – Hannah, Ella and Chloe S, have all been nominated and gained the Jack Petchey Award. This is given for outstanding contribution to the units. These grants have gone towards our camp and holiday weekends as well as

One of our Guiders, Megan, was awarded the Jack Petchey Leader's Award.

Two of our Young Leaders – Megan and Isla - completed their Silver Duke of Edinburgh.

Our meetings have been documented with photographic evidence and shared in the 'Bullseye' Magazine.

We would like to thank all our Guiders and Young Leaders for the support they have given us during this year.

Helen Norford, Sandra Cox and Amy Saunders

6th Hornchurch (St Andrew's) Guides

Another successful year for our Guide Unit. Our numbers have stayed pretty level, with 21 girls at the start of the year and 18 now. Several of our older girls are now Young Leaders with Brownies and Rainbows – really pleasing that they want to remain a member of Girlguiding and are keen to progress and become our future unit leaders.

The guides have continued to do the activities within the Girlguiding programme, and we have seen numerous girls achieve their badges, and bronze, silver and gold awards. And some of our guides have achieved Jack Petchey awards as well.

The guides love to go on trips, both on guide nights and at other times. Some of the outside activities we have done in 2024 include: Tubing at Brentwood Ski Centre, The Escape Rooms in Hornchurch, going on a Chip walk, the Mud Run at Kelvedon Hatch, and of course the Pantomime at Queens Theatre in Hornchurch.

The guides helped at the Winter Market and ran their own "Lucky Dip" and "Name the Soft Toy" stalls, as well as contributing to the District Tombola Stall. This year the monies raised from these were donated to the church. We continue to attend church parades, taking our turn in reading, prayers and banner making, and of course, serving teas after the services. We also joined in the Remembrance Day parade through Hornchurch and the service outside.

The highlight of the year was the Essex International Jamboree – a camp where there were over 8,000 guides and scouts and leaders in attendance from over 40 different countries. From activities during the day to the “village” entertainment in the evenings, it was an amazing experience for us all. The guides still love their hoodies (with their individual names on) and continue to wear them whenever they can.

2025 looks to be another good year. We have already had a joint Thinking Day Sleepover event with the Brownies and Rainbows, and have booked summer camp in August, and the Pantomime in December.

Kim, Unit Leader