

# PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL TEAM

## REPORT TO THE ST MARY'S CHURCH CONGREGATION

AGM 2<sup>nd</sup> APRIL 2017

Team members : Richard Herrington, Tim Fifield, Pam Dexter, Martin Malyon, Myra Ansell, Guy Bridgewater (team leader til Autumn), Jimmy Young (team leader after Autumn)

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### Objectives for 2016

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- **New informal service planned**
  - **Flower festival enhanced with prayer exercises**
  - **Welcome Teas held and 3 Pilgrim Groups recruited/resourced**
  - Look into resourcing a "Super Kairos" service (with other MAP teams) to reach & retain older children eg 6 to 10s
  - Planning for Flower Festival to be a larger Festival of Faith every few years
  - Continue to hold Welcome Teas plus new "Pilgrim" Course groups for enquirers & newcomers
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### Objectives for the Year 2017/18

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- **Plan 2019 Year of Mission – inc prayer, programme details, booking speakers & venues etc**
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### Comments on other areas that the team oversees

- **Baptism Visitors**  
Many thanks to this team who are "front-line missionaries" on behalf of St. Mary's, and for which the Vicar would welcome further members. They have helped provide our now established four step Baptism preparation process, including the "First Steps" session run by the clergy.

- ***Horsham Churches Together***

Many thanks to our HCT representatives Maureen Muggleton and Jimmy Young. Brenda Large has also served on the Executive of Horsham Matters, which makes a significant contribution to the ministry of the Church in our town. With the active contribution and leadership of our members HCT has for a fifth winter seen through to fruition its plans for the Homeless Shelter (of which more details are elsewhere in these reports).

- ***Church Stewards***

Warmest thanks to Terry Brinkworth for all his sterling work as coordinator, who has done a grand job of looking after the team of faithful volunteers who turn out in all weathers, to add such an important dimension to our welcome ministry at St. Mary's.

- ***TGI Friday***

## Annual Report 2017

Since last year, Matt Lee (St Mary's Student Youth Worker) has stepped up to take on overall leadership of TGIF. This has been a crucial part of his training into becoming a professional youth worker. Matt is now responsible for the week to week running of the club and all the behind scenes planning, however he is still supported by Judi in his role. The club meets on Fridays in term time, 7.30 – 9pm in the Barn for young people Year 6 up!

TGIF continues to be a 'Faces to Friendships' club. A club with huge opportunity for Young People to come, and bring their friends in order that we, the leaders and crew can give them all a sense of front line church. A place where they can feel they belong, are loved and cared for. Out of this club, it also enables us to create a space where we can encourage/introduce the idea of exploring Faith, potentially allowing a shift from 'Friendship to Faith' for those who come. This can be done through invitations to Café Connect, Youth Alpha courses, May Camp and Soul Survivor, as well as weekends away for the club (perhaps) in the future?

Since last year, we have seen fairly consistent attendance from the members who attend TGIF each week. In the past, we have seen attendance fluctuate. This is because there are always other options for young people to go to, once they reach secondary school age, but we still feel that what we offer, is important. In smaller groups, and less busy spaces, it just allows for more opportunity to get to know individuals, build relationships, and support, and enjoy each other's company. It has also sometimes enabled us to support those who perhaps have more specific need, which is fantastic! At the beginning of the academic year we decided to lower the age limit to Year 6, which has been a great way of getting to know them better and allow us to support them more effectively through the transition to secondary school.

There continues to be regular activities of basketball, blanket volleyball, football, and table games. We continue to run quizzes, cooking, bingo, karaoke and Wii, along with many others. More recently we have tried to do a trip away each term – Bowling, Laser Questing and Climbing. Most recently, we

borrowed the Holy Trinity School Minibus and went to Air Hop (Trampoline park) in Guildford, and they loved it!

At Christmas, we had a UV Disco – We had lots of fun with disco lights and glow sticks!

Thank you so much for your prayers and support for this exciting outreach club! Please keep praying! This club continues to be a great opportunity to reach out into the community ourselves, but it also enables our young people to do the same!

Lastly, a huge thank you to the volunteers who have supported, but are stepping down, and to those who are now involved! Please know how valued your help is!



**Matt Lee, Judi Cox & our amazing Volunteers & Crew February 2017**