

# St Mary's Church, Cholsey – giving of time and talents



## About you

Your Name.....

Address.....

.....

..... Phone.....

Email.....

**Please complete as much of this as you would like.**

- What do you do/have you done in your working life?

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- Would you be prepared to use any relevant experience in the church community? Or perhaps occasionally give of your expertise if needed?

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- Have you other skills and hobbies that you would be happy to use in church activities? (music, football, photography, BBQ-ing, storytelling to name a few)

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**Please now look at the list of possible areas of ministry.**

When you find something you are interested in, then get in touch with the person who organises the activity e.g. if it's coffee after the service talk to Alison. Their name should be with the information about the ministry. If you need training for anything it will be available. How often you volunteer is up for discussion, eg: once a month, once a term or once!

**So, what would you like to help with? And how often? \***

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**And is there anything else for which you would like a one-off taster?**

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**Is there anything you currently do that you would like to stop? \***

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**Please return this front sheet to the box at church or to the church office. Any questions ring Susie at the church office 01491 651812**

**We will review all the responses and will come back to you.**

**Thank you for reading this and thinking prayerfully about it.**

*\* We are having a new policy for all roles in the church being on a similar basis as that of PCC membership i.e. for a **maximum** initial term of 3 years. After 3 years, **if you wish to continue**, you may do another (maximum) 3 year term, but after 6 years, you must step down for at least a year. This should help avoid job fatigue, and give the opportunity for new people to discover their gifts and ministries, and contribute to the life and ministry of our church.*



## **AREAS OF MINISTRY in St Mary's Cholsey**

### **Sunday worship**

#### **Reading**

Note the reading on the newsletter. You can print it out if the print in the pew bibles is too small!

There is usually a sentence to say before and after the reading in the service sheet. If you've never read before and would like to try Alice is happy to find you a private time to have a go!

#### **Leading intercessions**

There are many ways to do this. Some people use the traditional format, praying in turn for the church, the world, the local community, those in need and ourselves. Some use the ROOTs website which has really helpful with well written prayers appropriate to the lectionary, the season and even the weather. There are many different ways to do it. Prayers should last no more than five minutes and your turn will come once a term. If you would like to have a go but want support the first time, do ask someone on the existing rota.

**Helping on the day with Family Worship** from time to time *Contact Andrew*

#### **Welcome team**

We welcome people into the church on Sunday mornings and especially anyone who is new, explaining a little about the service and if needed we take people to a seat and introduce them to a regular member if they are on their own. This is a very important job as you are the face of the church when someone walks in.

*Contact Joan Gander or Jane Gibbons.*

#### **Prayer ministry**

We have currently 15 people on the team. We meet monthly to pray for people who have requested prayer and to pray for each other on the third Sunday of every month at 6 pm. We have a rota of pairs that provides prayer after every Sunday service and we pray for people in their own homes. We lead a Sunday morning service each year. We consider it a privilege to pray. *Contact Joan Gander.*

#### **Coffee and tea after the service**

We work on a rota basis in pairs. The Sunday you are on, one brings the milk the other biscuits. You will need to arrive early to make the coffee and lay the mugs out before the service. During the last hymn you make a pot of tea and jug of squash and are ready to serve the drinks as the service ends. Once everyone has had a drink, wash up and tidy away everything you have used including removing the bin bag to the skip by the front gate. Please take the tea towels home to wash and return the next week. Alison would help you on the first session, if needed.

*Contact Alison Nathanielsz*

#### **Preaching**

As well as the ordained clergy, we like to use lay authorised preachers either on a regular or on an occasional or even one-off basis. If this is something you believe God might be calling you to do, please talk to Andrew. We will try to give you as much support and training as you need.

## **Leading a service**

If this is something you believe God might be calling you to do, please talk to Andrew. We will try to give you as much support and training as you need.

## **Creative**

### **Music Group**

We meet once a month to practise the music for the 4 main services of that month. Anyone is welcome to come along and membership of the group is open to anyone who wants to sing and/or play an instrument! You do not have to attend every service to be a part of the group.

*Contact Susie Cross*

### **Bell ringing**

We are a band of 12 ringers, four of whom are our newest recruits. The learning process to be able to ring the Bell safely is approximately six months. We ring for Sunday Morning Service from 9.15-9.45. Practice night is Wednesday 8-9pm. It is also a great pleasure to be able to ring for weddings when asked. We are always ready to welcome new recruits.

*Contact Jenny Jeskins*

### **Banner making group**

You will have seen banners behind the Altar every Sunday. These have all been made by members of the Banner Group. If you want to join in the fun and joy of creating banners that enhance our worship, and experience how God leads us in what is created and then stitched, please get in touch.

*Contact Howard Gander.*

### **Drama**

It often enlivens and can enhance the message of a service. To have a group of people willing to be called on occasionally to perform a sketch would be a great resource for those putting together a service. This would be a new group.

*Contact Andrew.*

### **Puppets**

So far we have performed at Christmas and Easter but there are lots of other possibilities. We are having fun learning together and would love you to join us. Practices take 1 to 2 hours per week for 6-8 weeks beforehand.

*Contact Richard Price or Claire White.*

### **Living Nativity**

The scenes of this nativity play takes place in various locations around Cholsey. It is a single performance but requires a large team and several rehearsals. We need actors, people for sound, lighting, props and costumes.

*Contact Richard Price*

### **Flower arranging**

Each festival, Easter, Harvest and Christmas, a team decorate the Church with flowers. You don't need to be an expert, but come along and be creative.

*Contact Jean Buck*

### **Communications**

Creating a Facebook page for church. Developing other social media and the website, building community links and relationships

*Contact Chris Greenhalgh or Mark Billinge (or John Thorns re website)*

Publicity - creating posters/flyers

*Contact Chris Greenhalgh and the Communications team*

Help with the news sheet and the bulletin *Contact Lynda Petit or the church Office*

## **Children's Music Group**

Refreshments/overseeing children - during a rehearsal (about an hour and half) you would help to keep the children focussed on playing and organise squash and biscuits part way through. Currently this happens a couple of times a year.

*Contact Sallie Greenhalgh*

## **Children and youth**

**Crèche Leader** - Prepare a story, craft and possibly some play ideas around the week's theme in advance. Lead the session with the crèche children and play with them. Once or twice a term.

Crèche helper - be 'another pair of hands' in crèche on a Sunday morning, play with the children and get to know them. No advance preparation required.

Once or twice a term.

*Contact Joan Adams*

## **Kids Club: ages 5-10**

To prepare together and take the kids club session (which is typically 45 minutes from after the children's hymn to communion in a typical Parish Communion service for example). The leader is supported by a helper (plus an extra member of the congregation depending on numbers and age group) and literature and lesson notes are provided together with craft templates. Leader and helper roles form part of a rota and aim to do two Sundays in a row (for continuity) per term.

*Contact James Bennett*

## **Supporting ages 11 – 14**

We also like to have a member of the congregation available for the older children with whom to have a more mature conversation about the week's theme. This is an occasional role requiring no preparation but a willingness to discuss.

*Contact James Bennett*

## **Little Fishes**

Tuesday term time 9am to 12midday. Ad hoc or regular support to the existing team.

Setting up and clearing away. Takes about 20 to 30 minutes from around 8-15 and 11-45 as part of a group.

Preparing/serving drinks and snacks, including washing up. one to two hours per session.

Spending time with the adults who attend (reaching out, talking and listening). All or part of any session.

Helping with planning and setting up crafts for the children. Reading stories or helping with singing songs. All or part of any session.

*Contact Joan Adams or Dot Chapman*

## **Growing in Faith**

### **Alpha**

Usually our Alpha courses are held once a year in the Spring term in church and begin with a meal.

**Alpha hosting:** Would you be willing for 1 or 2 sessions of the course,

- to help provide a meal and/or
- to help set up, serve and clear up ?

*Contact Andrew*

**Alpha helping:** after the main Alpha talk, we split into small groups to discuss the topic for the evening. Would you be willing to be a leader or assistant leader for such a group?

We would provide you with discussion questions and also Nicky Gumbel's *Questions of life* (which has a lot of the answers as well!).

*Contact Andrew*

## **Home groups**

There are a variety of small groups operating in our Church at St Mary's both evening and daytime. The purpose of the groups is to get to know each other better, offer love and support and to grow in our faith by studying the bible and other relevant books.

The leaders of the groups are named in our notice sheet and all the leaders would be delighted to welcome anyone who would like to join. We meet weekly and there is a variety of choice on different days of the week. We try and cover a variety of bible books and topics. This last year we have offered *The Grace Course, Promises Kept, Ephesians, Alpha, Philippians* and *The appearances of Jesus*.

In September we are planning to run another Freedom in Christ Course by popular request.

*Please speak to Alex Hammond or Jane Billinge*

*if you would like to know more, to join a group or even help lead one.*

## **Brave Worship**

Brave Worship is a monthly worship session for everyone to enjoy, usually occurring on the last Friday of the month in church at 8pm.

We are also looking for someone to help us with the presentation during the worship session. You would be responsible for setting up the computer/project and running the presentation.

*Contact Sallie*

## **Pastoral**

### **Pastoral team**

We are a small team meeting quarterly. For those who live in the village we send out cards to those baptised or married in our church. We celebrate special anniversaries and birthdays (80 onwards), deliver bereavement cards to next of kin who live in the village and deliver plants at Christmas to those who have been bereaved that year. We do home visits to those who are not well, the bereaved and those who are no longer able to get to church, and sometimes organise meals for families with new babies or who are not well on a long term basis.

Do join us, either as a regular member of the team or to help with home visiting.

*Contact Joan Gander*

### **Verger – at weddings and funerals**

It is likely that you would assist at one or two weddings a year. It often involves attending the wedding rehearsal, usually the night before for about an hour, and then on the wedding day arriving early to set up, helping during the service and then tidying up afterwards. This usually takes about 2 and a half hours.

The number of funerals obviously varies but you get as much notice as possible. It involves setting up the church and supporting those who attend, in a variety of ways. Usually a funeral lasts between 20 and 45 minutes.

A small fee is payable for each service you attend.

*Contact Jane Gibbons*

## **Hosting marriage Preparation**

Andrew normally leads 2 or 3 marriage preparation groups a year (each as a series of 3 Friday evenings) for 3 or 4 couples preparing to get married.

We like to hold each course in the house of a married couple who can provide a friendly welcome, tea and coffee (and maybe biscuits or cake!) and be willing to join in the discussion by sharing sometimes from their own experience of married life. We would only expect you to host one course in a year. *Contact Andrew*

## **Practical**

### **Help with annual deep clean of the church**

Usually early September during the Ride and Stride. We'll provide the equipment, if you would lend us some elbow grease. *Contact Rebecca Thomasson*

### **Other Cleaning - Church linen**

At the end of a communion service you are attending ask the churchwarden for the linen that needs washing. Wash and iron and return to church office or at the next service. About the equivalent of a couple of pillowcases. Church brass sometimes included in the deep clean, but any help at other times would be willingly accepted.

*Contact Rebecca Thomasson*

### **Distributing publicity or post**

*Contact church office or Graham Chapman*

### **Maintenance and repair**

*Contact Alice.*

### **Projection – projector / computer, sound system for services**

and also for *Brave worship*

*Contact Chris Greenhalgh or Mark Billinge*

### **Teashop**

This happens once every 7 weeks. You can bake a cake or make some cookies and drop them to the Pavilion on the Saturday about 9.30. You can help serve, 10 - 12.30. You can do either or both and just once a year, if you like. It's a rather lovely way to spend the morning.

*Contact Alice*

### **Catering for events / special services / Living Nativity / Carol services etc**

From cooking large vats of chilli, BBQ helper, making cakes, buying a packet of mince pies or coming along to help serve and wash up. Your offers will be greedily snapped up as many hands make light work. *Please speak to Rebecca for more information or indicate on the form how you would be willing to help and how often.*

### **Events Co-ordinator / team**

Events assist in outreach, fundraising and ensure that the church family meet together in fellowship. Members are not obliged to be involved in organising and running every event in which the Church is interested!

As events come on the horizon, the church should be advised and asked if it wants to participate and, if so, who would like to be involved in organising and running that particular event. St Mary's needs a coordinator/team leader who would have an overview and forward vision as to what events the church might be involved in so that there was time to form an organising team for that particular event. They would also try to ensure that clashes with other events (church and village) are minimal. You can be involved as little or as much as you would like to be. *Contact Rebecca*

## **Fundraising**

We are always looking for ways to put the fun in fundraising, both to raise money for mission giving including the Big Project and for needs closer to home. At the moment for example the Laurence Hall. If you have ideas for events then please speak to the Mission Support team (Thea Price) for the Big Project or Properties Team (Alice Penney) for the Laurence Hall. These can just be ideas...you do not have to feel that you have to do it all.

Could you help with initiating fundraising ideas and developing them?

## **PCC secretary**

Taking minutes for the PCC meetings. Business meetings are every two months and require detailed notes. The discussion meetings are less onerous. It would be great to have someone to share the role with Jane Gibbons who already does the business meetings. If you could do this even once or twice a year it would be wonderful.

*Contact Alice, Rebecca, or Graham Chapman*

## **Administering the safe recruitment of children's workers and DBS checks**

Give applicants appropriate forms. On return request references. When clear references received arrange interviews for applicants with appropriate people. Give successful applicants DBS application forms and explain the verifying process.

*Contact Alice*

## **Being the Verifier for DBS checks.**

See applicants with their forms of ID and their application. Confirm their identity. Sign off the application. This can be done online depending on how the initial application is made.

*Contact Malcolm*

## **Representation**

### **PCC - member**

The PCC has overall responsibility for the life of the church and its mission.

We usually meet 9 or 10 times a year, normally from 8pm to 10pm on a Monday night at church. The meeting is chaired by Andrew or a lay chairperson and each member receives an agenda for the meeting along with accompanying documents in advance of the meeting.

*Contact Andrew, or Graham Chapman*

### **Sub committees** *(you don't need to be on the PCC to serve on these !)*

Mission support     Property     Family Worship     Communications

### **Churches Together representative**

CTWA has 3 forum meetings each year where each member church is represented by the minister and 1 or 2 lay representatives. We are now aiming to have a visiting speaker at each forum and also an opportunity to share and hear about initiatives and ministries in each church. Sometimes this leads to several or all of the member churches (about 11) working together in a joint initiative. If you would like to try attending one such forum.

*Contact Andrew.*

### **Deanery Synod representative**

Deanery Synod - the group meets roughly 3 or 4 times a year and is made up from all the churches in our area deanery. The meetings are held in various churches in the deanery and often have speakers covering different areas of church life and mission and goals for our parishes to aim for. It is an opportunity to meet other members of the different parishes.

*Contact Andrew, or Joan Gander*