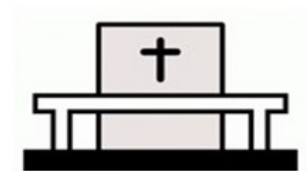


Waterlooville Baptist Church



Annual Report 2024



Waterlooville Baptist Church
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Registered Charity: 1130500

Waterlooville Baptist Church Reports

Year ended 31st December 2024

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Church Leadership 2024

Minister - Pastoral Vacancy

Secretary - Mrs Rachel Nassif

Treasurer – Mr Mike Davis

Deacons

Mrs Gill Cawte

Mr. Mike Davis

Mrs Sandie Davis

Mrs Karen Foster

Miss Pat Knowles

Mrs Rachel Nassif

Mr. Richard Ostler

Mr. Geoff Reilly

ORGANISATION LEADERS 2024

Art Group	Leader Book keeper	Steve Phillips Jan Peck
Boys' Brigade	Captain Lieutenant	Chris Ware Pat Knowles
368 Community Café	Volunteers	Bernie Chance Anita Clement Thelma Doherty Dorothy Earley Rachel Nassif Pam Nelson Richard Ostler Christine Reilly Poh Yong Tan Sandy Weston
Home Education Group	Co-ordinator	Pat Knowles
Junior Church	Co-ordinator	Pat Knowles
Life Groups	Leaders	Gill Cawte Rachel Nassif Richard Ostler
Re-Tyred	Leader	Alan Perry
Tea@3	Leader Book keeper Helpers	Anita Clement John Everett Karen Foster Steve Foster O'Linda Giles Christine Reilly
Toddlers at WBC	Leader Helpers	Pat Knowles Gill Cawte Pat Davies Dorothy Earley Darrell Griffin Elspeth Lynch Pam Nelson Sandy Weston

CHURCH OFFICE HOLDERS

BMS Birthday Scheme	Co-ordinator	Pat Knowles
BMS World Mission	Church Partner Link Secretary	Valerie Lindridge
Church Cleaning	Co-ordinator	Pat Knowles
Church Flowers	Co-ordinator	Pat Knowles
Church Grounds and Gardens	Gardeners	Gill Phillips Steve Phillips Pat Knowles
Church Office	Administrators	Sandie Davis Anita Clement
Church Refreshments	Co-ordinator	Elsbeth Lynch
Church Stewards	Co-ordinator	Anita Clement
Communion	Stewards	Rachel Nassif Poh Yong Tan
Fabric	Steward	Overseen by Mike Davis and Richard Ostler
Finance Administration	Administrator	Steve Foster
Fire Prevention	Officer	Responsible Deacon – Mike Davis
Food Bank	Co-ordinators	Steve Phillips Gill Phillips
Health and Safety	Officer	Responsible Deacon – Mike Davis
Leprosy Mission	Representative	Pat Knowles
Marriage Registrar	Officer	Pat Knowles
Membership	Registrar	Karen Foster
Operation Agri Link	Co-ordinator	Darrell Griffin
Pastoral Care Groups	Co-ordinator	Pat Knowles
Safeguarding	Safeguarding Trustee Designated Person	Mike Davis Gill Phillips
Video Projection System PA and on-line services	Co-ordinators	Mike Davis Steve Foster
Worship	Leaders Organist Accompanists Band Members	Sandie Davis Annie Harding Richard Wort Karen Foster Richard Wort Steve Harding Ray King Roly Wort

Church Secretary's Report

As I have reflected on last year I have brought to mind our statement of faith "Honouring and Serving Jesus, Caring for People and Building Community". Have we remained true to this during 2024.

The arrival of the new year was heralded by a covenant service. We re-committed ourselves to God, to the church and to each other and our community. We heard about the work of all the organisations within the church. Some who have been members for many years, acknowledged that they had no idea of how much went on within the Church during the week; all these activities in the service of God in a variety of ways.

We have honoured God week by week as we have had a range of speakers, faithfully preaching God's word. My thanks to Martin Mant for his regular mini series and to the Mant family, for becoming part of our church family. We were also blessed by many other individuals, some representing organisations; Leprosy Mission and Missionary Aviation fellowship come to mind as organisations that many of us support and it is good to hear more of their work overseas.

During January there was a hive of activity to enable the Manse to be in an appropriate condition to be let. We were successful and tenants moved in at the end of February, enabling the church to receive a regular income.

God's people faithfully give week by week enabling the work of the church here and beyond to continue. We were successful in being granted a Home Mission Grant; this will enable us, when the time is right, to appoint a part time maintenance/ building manager and call a full time Pastor. We are aware that some major work needs to be done on the building to enable us to better serve the community and, in the days of escalating energy bills, adapt the building to allow conservation of energy and better use of our financial resources.

The fellowship has demonstrated its care and love for one another, through the work of the pastoral care committee, the regular visiting and the delivering of flowers each week and the prayer chain. We have stood alongside those who mourn the loss of a loved one and we rejoiced with Damian and Dee Walker as they celebrated their marriage. I am mindful too of the informal contact that one has with the other, showing love and compassion to those in need.

Our Community Café opens weekly and has a regular clientele of non church people who find support from one another and from the welcome there. A few attended the Christmas service and we continue to encourage and support them. A community choir rehearses weekly and we were able to encourage a good number of them to attend Carols by Candlelight.

We were approached by the Prince's Trust as to whether there were projects that the young people could work on for a couple of weeks. The Prince's Trust is supported in this area by Hampshire Fire Service, who employ youth leaders.

Those selected to participate on the programme have often dropped out of school or college, are neurodiverse or need additional help to get established in the world of work. They were responsible for raising their own funds for work undertaken. They did much clearing of the patio, and the area at the front of the church. There are murals on the front walls, the back patio wall and the Marshall room, that can be attributed to their skills. I was privileged to spend some considerable time with these groups. Some of these young people had never been into a church before and I was put through my paces as to what we believed and were impressed that we received no outside funding and that we were all volunteers, but are motivated to give and serve because of our love of God.

For those present on Remembrance Day, it was a truly memorable day and one where we inadvertently witnessed to our local community. A smell of gas about 10.20am resulted in the evacuation of the church building and the service was held in the fairly full carpark, attracting a couple of passers by to join us.

My thanks go to Rev. Hayley Young who was preaching that day and continued, barely missing a beat! My thanks, too, for Hayley's continued support and care for us as a fellowship, attending deacons' and church meetings when available and providing me and others with a listening ear and wise advice.

I am grateful to my fellow deacons who have continued to work for the good of us all.

Each Sunday we are blessed by the faithfulness of our skilled musicians, and for Sandie and Annie who lead worship. I do not underestimate the amount of work that goes into each service, and for Steve Foster and Mike Davis who faithfully upload music, words, videos, PowerPoint presentations and almost anything visiting preachers request to enhance our worship, enable our participation and those at home to join the service online.

My particular thanks must go to Mike Davis, for the multiple roles he undertakes, in addition to his role as treasurer and working full time. Mike is a frequent source of wisdom and support for me, as although this is my second year in the role, I still have much to learn.

In January as we entered a time of pastoral vacancy once again, our profile was posted on the BU website and during the year we received 4 profiles of prospective ministers. Three of these individuals the deacons met informally. One we proceeded to interview formally, but it was unanimous from the deacons that this was not the right person for us to bring to the church and further contact with the individual confirmed that, although initially disappointed, agreed this was the right course of action for church and minister.

As we enter 2025 let us continue to pray earnestly for a minister to walk with us and to lead us in the coming years as we seek to serve God and the community in Waterlooville.

Rachel Nassif

Membership Registrar's Report 2024

Membership statistics

Membership on 31st December 2023 was 69

Membership on 31st December 2024 was 63

Members who left in 2024:

At the beginning of the year we heard from Sarah Newell that she was settled in a small church in Bradford so felt the time was right to resign from WBC.

Mr Tony Ormonde-Dobbin had been a member of WBC since 2008 and passed away in October. On moving to Horndean with Valerie, the church became a central part of their lives, where they shared many happy moments with their extended church family. Tony was remembered for his love of music, having been a member of the Royal Marines before he retired.

In October letters were written to some members who had not been worshipping at WBC for some time. David and Jacqui Thompson replied to say they felt God calling them to explore elsewhere so they are now worshipping at another local church but will continue to hold WBC in their prayers. David and Julie Barnes acknowledged the letter and are now worshipping elsewhere.

Karen Foster

Church Administrator's Report

Sandie Davis, Anita Clement and our Church Secretary, Rachel Nassif, work together to cover the administration tasks of the church, along with the Treasurer, Mike Davis. This includes picking up phone messages, answering emails, compiling rotas, overseeing room bookings, producing the church monthly news and ordering hand towels! We must thank Anita for the wonderful colourful posters that decorate the church and give information about special services.

There are the more complex tasks, e.g. converting our governance to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), safeguarding, finance and fabric and we are so grateful for a number of people who take on these tasks and ensure we comply with everything we need to as a church of our size.

We aim to keep our church members and friends informed about the work of the church through the monthly news. The church office is a centre for dropping off information or random things found in the church.

A huge thank you to anyone who supports the administration of the church in whatever way – you are truly appreciated.

The number of groups using our church premises during the week has grown, both church groups and external hirers of rooms who use our church building for community provision – not only does this make us a centre for community activity but it brings in income to support the work of the church. There may be challenges in hiring out church rooms, but this raises awareness of WBC in the community and supports our work. Our weekly diary includes sessions from Toddlers to the Steady and Strong exercise group and from home education provision to model car racing! Even our car park is used by other groups during the week; we aim to be open to our neighbours and hopefully this is a way to be a witness in the community.

Anita co-ordinates the stewarding team; this is such a valuable role as the stewards are often the first people who greet newcomers and support with directions to the toilet or the crèche and handing out our visitor gift bags! We do thank all our stewards for their commitment. If you are thinking of volunteering as a steward or in any capacity in the church, we will help you find a role – just ask us and we can point you in the right direction.

Rachel, Anita and Sandie would like to thank all our fellowship for keeping in touch, for patience and for feedback on the work of the church.

Sandie Davis

CHURCH ORGANISATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Art Group

The Art group continues to meet on Thursday mornings from 9.30am till 12.00 noon. We have had a good year with two new ladies joining us in September which means the class is nearly full with just one vacancy. If anyone is interested in joining us please speak to me or Steve Phillips. The new ladies settled in well and have become valued members of the group.



We had a few social events during the year, one member hosted us at her house for lunch in March for which we were all very grateful, and she again invited us all back for mince pies in December, so we must have behaved ok! We also went out for coffee and cakes in July. We do not spend the whole time planning on eating, and some very good art has been produced, also craft items.

The group are very supportive of each other and there are many discussions during the morning on various topics and much laughter. We made a donation to Wet Wheels during the year; this is a charity that enables disabled people to go sailing.

We look forward to another interesting year.

Jan Peck

BMS Church Partner



Our long term missionary partners Liz and Sergio, returned to the UK permanently in 2023. The church agreed to a new missionary partner working in Afghanistan, a country that had fallen from the mainstream news and a region of the world with which most of us were unfamiliar. Little did we know how challenging this would be both for the missionary and for us as a church.

Due to security concerns, we refer to our missionary partner as Oksana, rather than her real name. She has extensive experience in mission in many parts of the world. Oksana was able to spend 6 months learning the language and was able to start working fully in August.

Oksana works within the finance side of an organisation that helps women with a livelihood programme, this involves training in skills to help them earn a living. And a clinic advising regarding health care. This has become increasingly difficult during 2024 as more restrictions placed on women in public places.

We are asked to pray for a new executive director for the organisation and that God will open the door for more workers to be able to enter Afghanistan.

Valerie Lindridge

BMS Birthday Scheme

It's good to have cards and presents on your birthday, isn't it? If you join the BMS Birthday Scheme, you will **receive** a card, but **give** a present! That present, (a monetary donation of your choice) will go towards helping and supporting some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world to have the life-saving medical treatment, preventative health care, education and so much more that they so desperately need.



It helps people like Kamal, a little boy born in the west of Nepal. As a young baby, his parents started noticing his development was a lot slower than that of other babies. Worried about their little boy, they travelled to India and Kathmandu, spending all their money trying to find a treatment. Kamal was eventually diagnosed with cerebral palsy – but little help was offered by these hospitals to him or his mum, Mina.

That's all changed, thanks to everyone contributing to the BMS Birthday Scheme. By giving to this scheme, people helped enable Mina and Kamal to be part of a nine-day cerebral palsy camp. Run by a paediatric consultant at the BMS-supported Green Pastures Hospital in Pokhara, Mina learned how to better support Kamal's development. She was taught exercises to do with him to help strengthen his muscles and improve his motor skills. She also learned different feeding techniques, so Kamal can now swallow his food more easily; something that we can so easily take for granted.



Coming together with other children with cerebral palsy and their parents on this camp was transformative for Kamal and Mina. Mina now knows she is not alone, and she's better equipped to care for Kamal and help him have the best chance to develop and grow into all God has created him to be.

That's some birthday present to be able to give!

If you would like to be involved in giving such wonderful presents, just come and speak to or email me. All I need to know is the day and month of your birthday. (Year optional!) On the Sunday before your birthday, I will give or send you a birthday card, with a gift envelope enclosed. Donations of any amounts will be most gratefully received for the vital work of the BMS. These can be sent directly to the church bank account if you wish; alternatively cheques or cash can be given to me, to forward.

Pat Knowles

Boys' Brigade

This past year has been another enjoyable and busy time for our boys. We continue to be stable in numbers and our greatest recruiters and marketeers are the boys themselves as they invite and encourage their friends along.

We are in the interesting position of being weighted towards the teenage age groups with our smallest section being the Anchor Section, ending the year with 2 boys. Juniors upwards is healthy and across all sections we have what I would term a welcoming and inclusive culture that the boys seem to be enjoying.

A key part of the year has been our participation in the Building Stronger Programme.



1st Waterlooville Company

This engagement has been in conjunction with the Uniformed Youth Fund and saw us working with our local BB Development Worker to understand where we could improve as a Company and where some of the challenges were. It also encouraged growth among the 10+ age group. We completed the programme successfully, rounding off with the Company Health Check which has been shared with the Church

Leadership. We now have some granted funding towards marketing and promoting our Company locally.

We have continued to hold short residential opportunities for our boys where we can. A night up at Fort Widley was enjoyed in May, with most of the Company Section and Seniors attending a lightweight camp out. A night walk and early rising cockerel were notable parts of the trip. We headed to Tile Barn in the New Forest for a weekend camp along with Portsmouth Company; we hope to make this an annual trip if we can. Activities included archery, abseiling and crate stacking kept the boys going. We shared a campfire and enjoyable times of devotional together as well.

We have 2 members taking part in their Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Islwyn has completed his Bronze Award via Scouts and has been putting his help with Juniors and Anchors towards his Silver Volunteer section. Kieran has been working on his Bronze as the first member of the company to do the award directly with us in a long time. He joined with Leigh Park GB to complete his Expedition in October.

Boys' Brigade

Our own Company and Battalion programme has been busy. We were awarded with the Battalion Proficiency Shield for 2024 as overall best company and the Barry Mills Sports Trophy. We have also been:

- 10-pin Bowling at Gunwharf Quays
- Company Section Sports afternoon
- Company Orienteering
- Masterteam National Quiz
- Junior Sports Afternoon
- International Team Games



We head into 2025 excited that BB is offering a safe and fun place for boys to come weekly and grow as young men. They have the chance to be recognised for their achievements and be part of a family that extends past Waterlooville. We are also planting seeds that give the boys chance to question what it is to have a Christian faith. Our prayer is that these seeds grow and develop in them as they get older so they will know Jesus.

The challenges we face remain similar to last year, predominantly centred around leader and boy recruitment. We are running a small, dedicated team who are probably at their maximum in what they can offer. This limits the growth of the company and what we can do. All our leaders deserve massive thanks along with those who support us behind the scenes in different ways through prayer, encouragement and financial support.

Chris Ware

368 Community Café

If anyone had not visited the café for a while they would have observed significant improvements during 2024.

We had new carpet laid and this brought a warmer and clean feel to the environment.

The hard upright wooden chairs have been replaced by padded and far more comfortable seats. So comfortable, some customers arrive soon after 10am and leave at 12pm. Many thanks to Keith Clement with some assistance from the Boys' Brigade who assembled these.

We continue to deepen relationships with some people and a few once again attended Carols by Candlelight and occasionally T @ 3.

There is genuine concern and love for one another among our regulars, particularly regarding hospital admissions and health issues. Support is always there in the form of a listening ear and prayer.

Customers planned a bring and share lunch around Harvest and 20 people sat down to a table creaking with all manner of food. There was much laughter and chatter and it is certainly to be repeated. Their thoughts have now turned to a cream tea in the coming year.

The room in winter needs additional heating. In addition the acoustics are not good for those who are hard of hearing, when there are multiple conversations going on simultaneously. Although we have some money, it seems extravagant to spend a significant amount to address either issue on a room only used for two hours on a weekly basis.

We would love to host more customers and are looking for ways to spread the word of the welcome and the warmth that people find on a Tuesday morning.

The loyal volunteers serve faithfully and I am grateful to all of them, whatever role they have in making the venture a success. Thanks also to Steve Foster who manages our accounts.

We would love to open more frequently and in order to do this we need more volunteers, in all capacities.

Rachel Nassif



Junior Church

While WBC welcomes people of all ages at its services, we realise the need to make special provision for our youngest friends. There is a designated Baby Area at the back of the church, and a very well equipped crèche, to which the service is relayed.

Primary aged children have the opportunity to leave the main area and come, usually with me and another church member, to the Marshal Room, to share stories, creative activities and sometimes games and songs. Over the year these have included hunting for lost sheep, then building them a pen, measuring our heights and comparing them with that of Goliath, retelling the events of Jesus stilling the storm using percussion instruments and creating an ark (using Duplo bricks) for all Noah's animals (borrowed from Toddlers.)

Although attendances are low in number and intermittent, we are always glad to have the privilege of having children coming to join us.

I very much appreciate the help of Gill Cawte, Karen Foster and Rachel Nassif, and the prayerful support and interest of the wider church family.

Pat Knowles

The Leprosy Mission

The Leprosy Mission was founded in 1834, and is the oldest and largest group working to treat and support sufferers from the disease and seek ways to eradicate it, and has the aim of zero transmission by 2025. Leprosy is a mildly infectious, easily cured disease, but it can so easily lead to blindness and disability if its symptoms are disregarded or not recognised, due to ignorance, fear or discrimination. TLM is funded almost entirely by donations and very much relies on prayer, as it works in many parts of the world, to see "leprosy defeated, lives transformed".



WBC members have supported TLM for many years, both financially and in prayer, and this is much appreciated. If you would like to know more about the Mission's work, receive an annual or quarterly Prayer Diary or make a monetary contribution, please speak to me. Any help will be most gratefully received.

Pat Knowles

Life Groups

Three Life Groups continued to meet fortnightly through 2024, with between 4 and 9 members in each group. Meeting in a home provides a warm and friendly environment. Here members get to know each other better, offer encouragement and support and help each other strengthen their faith.. No one has a theology degree and we simply share rather than teach.

Some like to listen most of the time and some have to be discouraged from saying too much! Trust and relationships are deepened and strengthened.

Groups have covered a wide range of subjects as selected by the group members. Our aim is to understand more of the things of God. The time together will involve prayer, Bible reading and studying a theme, a book of the Bible or an individual, usually with questions which should generate discussion rather than one word answers.

One of the most liked series from one group was "God's Big Picture" in which the great theme of God working his loving purpose out from Genesis to revelation is started with a helpful DVD, followed by discussion around questions.

Another group followed series appropriate for Lent, Pentecost and Advent. It is amazing what there is to learn and understand even when studying such well known stories and aspects of the Christian Life.

It would be wonderful to be able to link more people into Life Groups to deepen fellowship with one another.

Gill Cawte

Rachel Nassif

Richard Ostler

Pastoral Care Groups

As part of WBC's care for every member of the church family, we have six Pastoral Care Groups. The aim of the Group leaders is to ensure that each member of their group should have someone to look out for them, and be there for them, if needed. The six leaders try to stay in touch with those in their group by chatting, visiting, telephoning and writing. Membership of the pastoral care Groups is open to everyone who feels part of the family at WBC. If you are not in a group and would like to be, or you would like to know more about the groups and how they function, please speak to me or one of the deacons.

Pat Knowles

Re-Tyred Men's Group Lunch

Every second Thursday of the month men of the Church gather at the Red Lion, Horndean for lunch, usually at 1pm. We don't get together in August because of holidays. Numbers each month varied but averaged some 12 to 15. Those attending are existing and past men of WBC.

At Christmas time ladies of the church are also invited to take part; this year there were a total of 21 people who took over the main dining room area of the Red Lion. A great time was had by all. We did enjoy singing grace before our meal for all in the pub to hear.

The Christmas meal marked the last time the organising was dealt with by Alan Perry, having held the post for 10 years. The group showed their appreciation by presenting Angela Perry with a bouquet of flowers and they covered the cost of their meal. The role of organiser is now taken over by Steve Foster. It involves the booking and collection of cash for payment to the Red Lion. They are grateful to have the bill sorted out in the way we do.

Meeting together for lunch gives us an opportunity to get to know one another more, to talk about world and church affairs. Lately we have reduced in numbers due to health problems of certain members, but we are sure it remains clear that the group will continue.

Steve's contact details are in the church directory. You will find us listed in the Church Monthly.

Alan Perry

Tea@3

Tea@3 is an integral part of the life of this Church which we hope will continue and grow in strength in 2025. For those who are not familiar with what Tea@3 is, we meet once a month on the second Saturday of the month. Anyone over the age of 50 is welcome to join us. We start the afternoon with a moment of reflection followed by an activity. At 4 o'clock we serve tea or coffee and cake and have general chat.

2024 has been a difficult year in many ways;

First Christine announced that she could no longer continue to provide us with sandwiches, which have been much enjoyed by all. But all was not lost because there were several offers of sandwich makers which was a great help. Thank you, Christine, for all that you did to help at Tea@3.

Secondly O'Linda, who has been baking the most delicious and varied cakes for many years, was no longer able to carry on due to ill health. Thank you, O'Linda, for your incredible contribution to Tea@3.

Finally John Everett also announced that after many, many years of faithful accounting he is ready to retire. I made a small presentation and gave a word of thanks to John at our Christmas Tea@3.



Thank you again, all of you, for your invaluable service to Tea@3.

In 2024 we had an excellent mix of events to suit all tastes. We invited several speakers who talked to us about "What did you do during the war Mum?", Caroline spoke to us about Village Africa, David McDowell and his band played for us a mixture of songs, and John from St John's Ambulance gave us a presentation and demonstration of first aid and lifesaving skills, tailored to the older generation. We enjoyed a Beetle Drive, a Quiz organised by Derek, Bingo and Carol singing.

During the year we have welcomed some new members from outside the church and Bernie has been helping us set out the tables and chairs; thank you, Bernie.

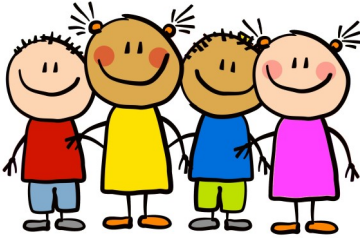
For 2025 we are announcing each month's activity a month in advance. Valerie has kindly offered to take over the bookkeeping, and Karen and Steve remain part of the team.

Do come and join us for tea and cake for £2.50 and by all means bring a friend or a neighbour. The more the merrier!

Anita Clement

Toddlers

We've had another busy, but happy year at Toddlers, with an average of 35 children and their adults joining us each week, for the first two terms of 2024, during term time. As always, we went into the church for short Easter, Harvest and Christmas services, with a welcome visit from Martin Mant at the Christmas one.



We also made cards for Mothering Sunday and Easter, and decorations for Christmas. During the summer term, the children enjoyed being outside (weather permitting!) when the summer toys came out of the shed and a sand pit, water table, tent and ride-in cars and trikes all added to the fun.

Then, at the end of the summer term, we had fun at our Teddy Bears Picnic, enjoying extra goodies at Snack Time and presenting Leaving Certificates to those setting out on the big adventure of school.

Things changed quite dramatically and unexpectedly in September, when the number of children, and their ages, dropped considerably. Chatting to the parents, it turned out that the government was providing 15 hours of free child care to working mothers for children from 9 months and over. As this is being increased to 30 hours in September 2025, it remains to see what that time will bring.

Meanwhile, we now have an average of 16 children joining us each week, who enjoy playing with a wide range of toys, puzzles, bricks, dolls and their clothes, prams and pushchairs, as well as our dolls' house and train set, as well as sharing books in and from the Book Corner.

It is both a joy and a privilege to welcome so many little ones at Toddlers each Thursday morning, and we would value your prayers for them and their families, and us as we seek to serve them.

A willing team of helpers: Pam Nelson, Elspeth Lynch, Gill Cawte and Darrell Griffin regularly turn up to ensure a good time is had by all, while Sandy Weston, Dorothy Earley and Pat Davies make sure that Snack Time is always ready for both children and adults. Their support is very much appreciated.

Pat Knowles

Waterlooville Food Bank Donations

Food banks are community organisations that can help those who cannot afford the food they need and respond to local need where necessary. They are run by dedicated teams of staff and volunteers.

Waterlooville Food Bank is in Wecock Church, Kite Close. PO8 9UX .

It is open Mondays 09.30 – 11.30 and Friday 12 – 2pm where collections and donations can be made.

Food hampers are made up for those who are genuinely in need. A referral is needed by someone who works within a recognised organisation such as Children services, Social Worker, Housing association, CBA, or Church Minister. For those who are already getting support or help with finances from a front-line agency, they can be asked for a referral to the food bank.

For those people wishing for a referral from Waterlooville Baptist Church, the named person to contact is Gill Phillips.

DONATIONS

All donations are welcome. Large or small, regular, or one-off, they all help support local people in difficulties.



Easiest for small donations: Drop off your food/ toiletries donation at one of our collection points in the front and side entrances of the church.

Larger donations: If you have a larger donation of food/ toiletries, please speak to Gill or Steve Phillips and we can arrange a collection.

WBC donations are delivered to the food bank on the first Friday of each month where the food is checked, sorted, and packed by a team of volunteers. During this year, the Waterlooville Food Bank has helped with 179 food parcels for local families that are vulnerable, and this could not happen without the many wonderful donators.

Gill and Steve Phillips

Waterlooville Baptist Church has made 4 referrals to the food bank.

Gill Phillips

Waterlooville Home Education Social Group

Most weeks between twenty and thirty home educated youngsters, sometimes more, and from a wide area, meet up to have fun together and socialise at our church. The majority of them are primary school aged children, although there are some younger and older ones too, all accompanied by at least one parent. Some come occasionally, whilst others are there almost every week.

The Marshal Room continues to be the place where the youngsters play board games, create all sorts of things with Lego, weave with loom bands, chat away to each other (as do the adults ☺), while dinosaurs often take over a corner.

Other pastimes such as table tennis, basketball (well, trying to get the ball through the net anyway) remote -controlled cars and scooter use the space provided by the Owens Hall.

Outside, ball games, skipping and general racing happen, weather permitting, and that's only if it's raining, the temperature doesn't seem to bother the youngsters (brr!)

Meanwhile, our youngest members have a very happy time in the crèche, where the toys, bricks and so on there are very well used.

The group is organised by a small number of parents, who also take it in turn to help set up the activities each week. The wider group contribute to our collection of items for the Food Bank at Harvest time and respond to the Shoe Box appeal at Christmas. Several of the boys are very regular at Boys' Brigade.

Thank you for your prayer support and interest in our group.

Pat Knowles

Worship Report

Here at Waterlooville Baptist Church, we express our faith and our mission to our community in a number of ways, from outreach through the Community Café and Toddlers to donating food and donations to the Waterlooville Foodbank and other agencies. This is all practical outworking of our worship but our primary worship activity is our Sunday morning service, open to all, to sing, listen to Bible readings, pray together and joining together as a community of believers to worship our awesome God.

We were without a minister for the whole of 2024 and as such have heard from many different preachers; we are so grateful for the support from SCBA and we have heard from Rev. Hayley Young many times during the year. We are also grateful for the commitment to our fellowship from Martin and Louise Mant, who have joined us for many Sunday mornings to preach God's word and bring some consistency to our services – and regular chocolate!

On other Sundays we have had local(ish) preachers such as Steve MacFarlane, Matthew Grandage, Roger Vann, Paul Mortimore, Jeri Swaffer and Phil Hiscock – there are not many churches where worshippers could hear from such a range of gifted and diverse preachers. We have had visits from Rev. Jim Thomas, also from SCBA and in 2024 we had some pastoral support from Martin and Sue Hardwidge which included them preaching for a couple of services.

Our preaching plan included services highlighting Christian charities such as Mission Aviation Fellowship and the Leprosy Mission; we have learned a lot about Christian activity worldwide.

We have made good use of the Christian maturity and commitment from our own fellowship: at the start of the year we held a covenant service where all the groups in the church chose a song or hymn and told us more about their work. In September we had individual choices from our fellowship to mark new starts and we heard from a number of people telling us about their favourite hymns or songs. Of course, at Christmas we had a favourite carol service bringing a really diverse range of music into the service.

We held quieter, more reflective services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday and at Christmas, acknowledging the different ways people need to worship at challenging times in our life.

We are blessed as a church to have gifted musicians and worship leaders to ensure we offer a regular Sunday morning service. We are also very blessed to have our ‘tech’ team, who make sure that the services are streamed so that people who are unable to attend in person are still able to share in worship with the fellowship. Sincere thanks go to our tech team: Steve Foster and Mike Davis; our keyboard players: Richard Wort and Karen Foster; on bass: Ray King and Steve Harding; on drums: Roly Wort; and our worship leaders: Annie Harding and Sandie Davis. Special thanks to Richard Wort as he keeps us guessing which TV theme he will play on the organ after some services!

Thanks go to all those who lead us in worship, through music, by bringing the word, by reading the Bible, by leading church prayers, by preparing and serving communion, by setting up the microphones, by compiling the order of service, by arranging the flowers and by using their God given gifts for us all.

We look forward to making a joyful noise to the Lord in 2025 and continuing to be a worshipping community that we hope will grow as we faithfully worship our Father God.

Sandie Davis

If you are interested in joining any of the above organisations and activities or helping in any way to keep our church and grounds neat and tidy then please speak to the organisation leader or one of the Deacons.

Thank you

