



Sanderstead
United
Reformed
Church

Sanderstead United Reformed Church

Annual Report

September 2024 to August 2025



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Introduction

Another year has flown by and the key activities of the church for the last 12 months are summarised in this annual report.

Thank you to Bill Bowman, Paul and Jenny Hollingum, Jon and Connie Dean, Ted and Sylvia Trickey, Bryn Thomas, Lyn Thomas, Elaine Leck, Kathy Nichols, Michael Read-Leah, Merril Archer, Mary McLachlan, Albert and Elizabeth Wood, Rod Newman and everyone else who has led our worship over the last 12 months. The Elders have had to step in on several occasions so many thanks to those who have done so.

Particular thanks must go Alan Mayall, our Organist, and the Choir for enhancing the music in our worship and to Mike Goss and the AV and Sound teams for their support and hard work in ensuring that services were streamed live for those unable to attend in person.

The last 12 months have not been an easy time for the SURC family so thank you to everyone who has stepped up to help out in a myriad of ways. I would like to say a special thanks to Dick Griffin and the Premises Committee helping to maintain the fabric of our buildings and dealing with the many issues that have arisen. Also to Linda Currión for all the work she does in managing the hire of our premises and generating essential revenue.

Other activities such as the very popular Café Church, Bible Study and the production of our monthly Community magazine have continued and thanks to everyone involved with those and any other aspects of Church life. All help in making SURC an important part of our local community in both a physical and spiritual sense.

Over the last 12 months we have had to say goodbye to some very well loved friends who have been so important to the life of SURC over the years. Their loss has been keenly felt. Several others have left as they have moved away or had other demands on their time.

On behalf of the Officers, Elders and Members, I wish to express my appreciation of all that the committees and organisations do for the church

and for the community. It is with gratitude that I thank all those who have contributed to this book of reports.

Hopefully the next few months will see a resolution to our search for a new Minister and that this will help us maintain and develop our Church.

May you all feel truly blessed by how you have contributed to furthering God's Kingdom here at SURC and I look forward to another challenging year ahead!

Yours in Christ,
Malcolm Dalton

Pastoral Committee—Jenny Hollingum

(Pastoral Team members are Shirley Steele, Jenny Hollingum and Barbara Hill)

In May of this year we had our annual Friendship Tea; as usual, we invited people connected to the church who currently live on their own. The afternoon was enjoyed by those who attended and many thanks go to all who contributed in any way.

Although we have sadly lost several members this year (and they will be sorely missed), we have been delighted to see a few new people attending services on a Sunday morning and welcome them warmly.

In a church where many in the congregation are aging, pastoral needs have been growing, whilst those in positions offering pastoral help have been reducing in number. As ever, a lot of dedication behind the scenes has taken place by the pastoral elders as they look after the people in their groups. This work is much appreciated and is what helps the church to be known as the caring church it is. Many members of the church have enjoyed the coffee and cake at the weekly Open Door café on a Wednesday morning, which provides company and the chance for a chat.

As ever, as a congregation we mourn with those who mourn and celebrate with those who celebrate, praying that when support is needed it will be found among friends at SURC.

Cards continue to be sent from the church by the pastoral team conveying best wishes and assurance of the love and prayers of friends at SURC to people who are bereaved, unwell or celebrating something special. At Christmas small gifts were given to members who find it difficult to attend church regularly through ill-health.

Shirley Steele has continued to prepare a pastoral report every month to present to Elders and church members. It is also printed in Community. We are aware that some people do not want personal information to be shared publicly, even though they appreciate the support of the church. For this reason, some of the reports are fairly general, unless the person involved has given specific permission for details to be shared. A pastoral team relies heavily on other members of the church telling them of people who are going through a difficult time, who are bereaved or unwell, or who are celebrating a special occasion. Help in identifying them is always much appreciated.

Finance Committee—Julie Barrington (Treasurer)

During 2024, the Church made a surplus of £44k, which was significantly better than the previous year's £13k surplus, and also the budgeted deficit for 2024. The main reason for this was due to the Church receiving legacies and significant donations in memory of loved ones during the year totaling in excess of £40k. The Trustees are mindful of the loss of these members to the Church family, their contribution to the work and life of the Church and to the loss of their on-going regular financial contribution to the Church.

In addition, the Church benefited from having a full year of interest from the reserves invested in the Flagstone platform. Also, the Minister post at the Church remained vacant during 2024 so we continued to be able to rent out the manse for the full year.

The Finance Committee and Trustees continue to monitor all expenditure closely and after a review, we have transferred our electricity supplier to Octopus Energy. We became aware that gas costs had increased significantly during 2023 and investigations proved that the Church had been using excessive gas to heat water which had been leaking. The aging pipework was replaced during 2024, at considerable cost, to address the issue and gas costs have now reduced.

Members of the Church have approved a deficit budget for 2025. This is primarily due to Trustees being prudent and not anticipating any legacy income, a request to increase our Ministry & Mission giving by 5%, and a reduction in our expected manse rental income in the light of our long-awaited new minister joining the Church in the summer of 2025. The Trustees are mindful of the precarious nature of the Church finances, and will be working with the new minister to review the longer-term prospects for the Church.

Sadly, Janet Crowder, a key member of our small Finance Committee for many years passed away in July 2025. She had relocated to Friars Cliff near Bournemouth a few years ago with her husband, but continued to oversee the payments to suppliers and staff on behalf of the Church. Janet had been ill for some time, but she wanted to carry on doing her work for the finances of the Church, despite her condition and even as her health worsened. Her passing left a gaping hole in the Finance Committee, but we have managed to redistribute the work that Janet had carried out behind the scenes.

R.I.P. Janet and grateful thanks to Brian Dymond, Ian Spring and Robin Worthington.

Premises Committee—Dick Griffin

The last 12 months have been challenging, but as with previous years, the Premises team have achieved a lot during the year!

Main works carried out are:-

Works to the electrical systems, including a number of repairs and replacements and the installation of some emergency lighting to the sanctuary.

A lot of gardening and tree work to maintain the grounds in a tidy and safe condition. In particular the front hedges have been trimmed back heavily in order to maintain an appealing frontage to the premises.

Provision of a projector screen to the Parlour to make visual presentations by various groups and hirers easier.

Other routine works have also been completed including testing all the portable electrical items (PAT testing), and other sundry repair items.

Much work has been carried out at the Manse in order to get it ready for the arrival of a new minister and family. This included replacement of the downstairs floor coverings, upgrading of the electrical system, modernisation of the downstairs WC facility, redecoration of all rooms and replacement of the ageing boiler.

A large repair has been completed to the front roof valley gutters and various minor items have been dealt with as found necessary.

Yet to be completed are a couple of flat roof repairs to which have been causing trouble over a long period of time.

The Premises Committee is presently made up of Caroline Melrose, Lynda Talbot, Freda Watson-Stewart, Yvonne Murdoch (who is acting as Safety Officer) and Dick Griffin.

Youth and Children—Jon Dean

Junior church continues to meet on the first Sunday of every month in the parlour. All ages are together and take part in a variety of activities organised by Hilary, Debbie, Caroline Jon and Connie. Elders are rota-ed on to assist and usually find this a very positive experience, although some need to be reminded. Roots continues to be a very useful resource, upon which we base many of our sessions.

This year we have had a maximum of two children and on some occasions when they cannot make it there have been none.

Unfortunately, the arrival of Maurice has been postponed, but when this does happen it is proposed to run junior church every week.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

In December was the Toy and Festival service on the theme of Joy. There were a few children present but it was not well attended. Year by year it becomes increasingly difficult to find charities willing to take the toys so we may do something different this coming Christmas.

In December we do not hold the usual Christingle service but instead performed a puppet show 'Gary and Lornas Christmas Carol', which included real people and children. This was lots of fun. There were a few toddler group members present as well as other children and families, several from other churches. The lack of a rehearsal didn't seem to detract from the enjoyment.

There were two parade services. The turn out for Remembrance Sunday was very good and the scouts, cubs and beavers learnt a lot from a very meaningful service. Youth Day was back to the 'right angle' format and was on the theme of not being afraid. It was less well attended but was very interactive and enjoyed by the participants. Again it has been pointed out that the St Georges Day service is very close to Youth Day and it is therefore difficult for the uniformed leaders to encourage participation so this needs a rethink.

Jon has also been leading some assemblies for Key stage 1 and 2 at Ridgeway school which is always a rewarding experience. Ridgeway also used our premises for their carol concert.

Following the closure of the library we have been running a Community Book Exchange. Due to the shortage of supervisors this has only effectively been open on Mondays (when the toddlers are operating) and Wednesday mornings

(when the Open Door café is running). It would be great to have it at other times. During August the library service operated the Reading Challenge so that parents are encouraged to bring their children to read books (or borrow them to read) and then answer some simple questions on characters, the plot etc. in return for some prizes. Each week had a theme with associated crafts so that one was potatoes, another snakes and a third was crocodiles.

OVERVIEW

In writing this there was a sense of repeating what has been said for a few years now. Apart from the toddler group and scouts, we have little interaction with children and families in our community. There is talk of employing a Children and Families worker but that would involve the need for a lot of extra helpers for new activities and we struggle to get those even for the toddler group. The lack of children is not uncommon in many churches but we do need a lot of prayer.

When Maurice does join us we will need to refocus, not least because he has a young family and this is a great opportunity.

Many thanks to the Committee members: Jon and Connie Dean, Caroline Melrose, Debbie Knight, Hilary Grainger and Robin Worthington

Social and Catering Committees—Shirley Steele and Debbie Knight

Once again this is a joint report for these two committees.

The Social Committee consists of Convenor Leigh Watson-Steward, Secretary Shirley Steele, Barbara Gregory (elder's rep), Debbie Knight (catering), Rod Newman, Sylvia Trickey and Paula Wilcox.

The Catering Committee consist of Convenor Debbie Knight, Maureen Devereaux and Jenny Hollingum and only meets if there is an event in prospect, mainly relying on volunteers who are available on the day.

05 October 2023 Church Quiz

Bill Bowman our Interim Moderator once again prepared the quiz and acted as quizmaster with the assistance of Rod Newman as MC. There was a turnout of 48 and it was a lively and fun evening.

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Refreshments were changed this year to a sandwich platter and dessert. The event raised £504 including the proceeds of the raffle.

23 November 2024 Christmas Fayre

Once again, this annual event was very successful with a good attendance and a varied collection of stalls. The refreshments were well attended throughout with good sales of light lunches. The profit made overall was £1,270.

18 January 2025 Tea Party for Prospective Minister

There was a very good attendance at the tea party to meet Maurice Omorogie and his family prior to him “Preaching with a View” the following day. Tea and donated cakes were consumed and there was plenty of time for everyone to interact with Maurice.

29 March 2025 Would I Tell a Lie?

Loosely based on the television programme with a similar name this was the brainchild of Sylvia Trickey who cajoled some rather reluctant team members into participating with Leigh as the Chair. In the event it turned out very well and the audience got into the spirit of things with some supplementary questions. A Ploughman’s platter was served at the interval and the event raised £523.

14 May 2025 Friendship Tea

Once again, we hosted guests who live alone for afternoon tea and a table quiz. As ever this was managed by the Pastoral Team with Jenny organising the volunteers and donations of cakes.

15th June 2024, Home and Garden Sale

Sunflowers were once again popular this year and one buyer of tomato plants is so impressed with how well they have done he plans to grow his own and donate some next year. We had a number of generous plant and produce donations, but less than in previous years. There was a good crowd of buyers and refreshments were popular. The amount raised was £453

AV & Sound Team—Robin Worthington

This report covers the support for both the Voice Desk and the AV system.

The Voice Desk rota is managed by Niall Monaghan and has included Ian Spring, Paul Hollingum, Richard Hamlyn and Niall himself. Michael Goss does provide technical support when appropriate. He has a wealth of experience in sound services which is extremely useful.

The AV Desk is manned by a team of two each week, and Robin Worthington manages the rota. The following are members: Julie Barrington, Malcolm Dalton, Jon Dean, Michael Goss, Niall Monaghan, Freda Watson-Steward and Robin himself .

Although the AV system was set up to display the Hymns and certain photographs and pictures to enhance the Sunday service, it now enables the services to be streamed via YouTube and this facility has proven very popular for allowing those unable to be present to enjoy the services from home or even on holiday. The streaming of funeral services has also proven popular, particularly when folk are distributed around the world and cannot travel.

The facility is also used during Café Church, during the Sunday Concerts, to allow presentations eg Lent Talks and indeed any time anyone needs to display anything generally within the Sanctuary.

The new desk built a couple of years has allowed the team to operate more efficiently, since that removed the need for the computers to be rewired each week.

We are most grateful for the reliability of everyone involved. We do have a vacancy on the team so if anyone fancies taking part and joining us, we'd be delighted. Do not hold back – come and see what we do!

Women's Guild—Kathy Nichols

We sadly report the passing of Pat Cowan. Thanks go to Barbara Gregory for taking over the role of Treasurer and to Lynda Talbot who joined the Committee. However, it is very pleasing to report a growth in membership and a consequent drop in the age profile of the group. Nevertheless, we are pleased that Meg, (aged 105) has been able to join us on several occasions. We thank Robin Worthington who chaired the 2025 AGM.

Throughout this year, we have continued the system of speakers at alternate meetings with discussions, quizzes and in house activities on the other Tuesday afternoons. Thanks to Lynda for a varied and interesting programme which included a number of highly entertaining events. As often happens the topic, which seemed less interesting from the title, exceeded expectations. We enjoyed the talk about Hamsey Green Airfield and were fascinated by the description of Astrology. Many thanks to Caroline Melrose for her talk about her mother, "The Cheshire Nightingale," Cecily Peover.

Two young people, who attend activities at The Garwood Foundation, contributed to a lively discussion about this longstanding local charity. Our own afternoons ranged in topics from Superstitions to Careers and Pets to Cars. The quiz prepared by Monica Carly with assistance from Judy Taylor became very competitive.

Thanks to committee members who organised a Christmas Lunch at The Horseshoe, an afternoon tea and a splendid lunch for 19 in the Parlour on July 22nd to end a very successful year. Everyone is invited to join us at 2pm on alternate Tuesdays.

Chairwoman	Maureen Devereaux	
Secretary	Kathy Nichols	
Treasurer	Barbara Gregory	
Committee Members	Ronnie Berry, Lynda Talbot	Sheila Emmerson, Joy Hamilton
Speakers' Secretary	Lynda Talbot	
Elders; Representative	Lynda Talbot	

Working Circle—Susan Roberts

We are a friendly band of about 13 members who meet on alternative Tuesday afternoons to the Women's Guild, in the Parlour at 2pm. We are a knitting group that makes items for various charities. This year we have been supporting St George's Hospital shop, the Linus Project and the Children's Cancer shop in Selsdon.

Pat Brady and Sheila Emmerson stood down from the committee in May and Susan Roberts took over as facilitator. Ann Saunders keeps the record of our charity makes. This year we have made 25 baby blankets, 26 large blankets, 26 pairs of bootees, 21 pairs of mittens, 50 baby coats, 8 baby dresses, 21 baby sets and 27 scarves.

At the AGM, it was agreed to close our bank account after donations of £50 to Abbeyfield and £50 to Croydon Hearing Centre in Selsdon were made. The closing balance of £790.18 was transferred to the SURC account. It was agreed that we would continue to collect our meeting dues to cover the cost of tea/coffee and biscuits. Should we need additional money to buy wool for our charity work, it was agreed with Robin Worthington that we could claim from that balance held on our behalf. Pat handed over the Petty Cash box to Susan.

This summer we decided to continue meeting but had to cancel twice due to heatwaves. Our Autumn session began on Tuesday 2 September and we are very open to new members who can be assured of a warm welcome.

Tennis Club—Sue Fairchild

Rod Newman has still kindly agreed to continue as Tennis Captain ably assisted by the Committee. We have not required any new members but would still like some male or female tennis players to join us. Committee members, Glynis & Chris, do a good job on the tennis surrounds & Fernando cuts the grass surrounding the courts & especially the bank. We are regularly visited by two former members who enjoy our company & us there's as well as enjoying tea & cakes.

Terry Currión has retired after many years as Treasurer & Rod McClaughry has taken over. Sue Fairchild is no longer Secretary & Glynis Martin has taken over.

Captain - Rod Newman

Secretary - Glynis Martin

Treasurer - Rod McClaughry

Committee - Sue Fairchild, Linda Currión, Chris Holbrook



18th Purley Scout Group—Rod Newman

At the end of another busy year, our numbers are at a maximum. With 20 Beavers, 32 Cubs & 30 Scouts so we are really full. Each section has a waiting list. It would be wonderful if we had more leaders to open another Cub pack !

The Beavers have been out & about – several times to Purley Beeches, to Oxygen (Trampolining) One interesting badge they worked on was 'Disability awareness' where they experienced using a wheelchair & crutches. They learnt to use sign BSL to do the Beaver promise. Cooking is always popular & as well as learning about food hygiene they cooked pitta /pizzas at the HQ.

4 more cubs achieved their Chief Scouts silver award. They have attended District events & were mid table in the annual Baloo Trophy. Many activity badges were awarded including 'communication' A parent – Dr Alex Wan took a science evening.

They attended the annual fireworks at 19th Purley HQ & have had joint activity with the 16th (all saints). 12 Samaritan boxes were handed to the church. Their annual camp was again at Shaws in Cudham with 18 cubs. Sadly their evening at Watersports centre was cancelled because of the dubious weather.

In Scouts Dick has handed over some reins to other Leaders. This has helped with his time as he has taken on the of GVL – Group Volunteer Leader. Thank you Dick. Their activities include – roasting popcorn over open fire, Space badge. They visited Brooklands one Friday evening. They took part in 2 district events – Pot Luck Cook off & a night hike. They even entered some cakes in Sanderstead Horticulture show & won I believe.

We should give heart felt thanks to all our Leaders – Dick, Dave, Ellie, Steve, Jonathon, Tony, Murray, Cindy & Sarah not forgetting many parents who all helped. Back at the HQ, things have been maintained, our long fence has been painted & a protective fence built in corner of den.

Toddlers—Connie Dean

The 'Toddlers' continues to be a happy and well attended group and there is not much change in the way we run things from last year's report. Membership numbers have dropped slightly possibly due to a general drop in birth rate in the last few years. However, I suspect we are about to see a rise in attendees as we usually do when the weather turns bad.

A typical morning will see about 20 – 25 family groups – this might be one adult and one child or 2 adults with 3 children. Our membership consists of parents (obviously) but also many grandparents and in the case of one family, a great aunt! Since our subs have been £2 since before covid, from this term we have increased our cost to £2.50 per family.

We continue with the same lay out in the hall – a selection of toys for 0 to 5-year-olds, ride-ons and activity toys and a craft table where the children create something with their parent or grandparent. New additions this year are a new trampoline and a dinosaur area – loved by children of all ages! We mark Christian festivals with age-appropriate crafts and puppet shows – nearly always including Herman the emu who always has a message for everyone. The Christmas party was great fun, and Father Christmas was a welcome visitor as usual.

Like everyone at church, we eagerly await the arrival of Maurice and his family and look forward to introducing him to the youngest people in our church family.

With the departure of Richard, setting up for the group is a lot harder and takes longer. However, Eze, our temporary and part time caretaker is learning fast where everything goes and is becoming quite expert at cramming lots of big toys into small spaces.

Our 'leadership' team has not changed. Jon and Connie run the group every week with Maureen and Caroline doing refreshments. Caroline then hurriedly hangs up her tea towel and runs down to the small hall to play the piano for song time. We are lucky that Debbie helps from time to time if we know we are going to be short of help and particularly at the Christmas party when things can get very busy. It would be wonderful to have more help and as I say every year, the best way to see what the Toddler group is about is to visit us one Monday morning and have a coffee.

Abbeyfield Sanderstead—Mary Brown/Roger Brimble

It has been another good year for the Society with seven residents.

Our social events were very popular with both residents and visitors. We all enjoyed the Afternoon Tea in March with a real cream tea! Our annual Garden Party in July was serenaded by Songsation and had a record attendance.

Looking ahead we have a Coffee Afternoon on 15th November, and Roger Packham will be coming to give a talk on local history at 2pm on Monday 24th November. Our Mince Pies and Music evening (postponed from last December) will be on Tuesday 16th December for everyone to enjoy a sing-song with Songsation. Further details will be in Community nearer the date.

These events are organised by the Friends of Abbeyfield, a group of volunteers who help with catering, baking cakes, providing items for raffles and coming along to the House to socialise with the residents, play board games with them or just have a cup of tea and a chat! **If you would like to join them please ring the office on 020 8768 3737 for more details.**

We now offer a few places for friends to come and join us for lunch on any day of the week. Also, although we cannot provide any nursing care, we can offer respite care (subject to room availability). Please ring our administrator, Louise, on 020 8768 3737 for further details or to book a place.

We will keep our friends at SURC informed of our events either by Newsflash or articles in Community.

Parlour Players—Theo Spring

The Parlour Players enjoyed another very successful year - our forty-fifth in existence. Not bad for one of the dwindling number of small theatre companies still performing in church halls across the country.

While competing with the larger amateur dramatic companies with their own dedicated theatres, and in terms of the quality of drama we provide, we have consistently punched above our weight. And this past year has been no exception.

November 2024 saw the production of *Private Lives* - Noel Coward's classic comedy of manners - making best use of our small stage with an innovative set design featuring adjoining balconies in a South of France hotel and the spectacular Art Deco interior of a Parisian apartment. The cast of five included two new members and the show broke our box office record held since we began to keep records in 2017.

But when it came to our May 2025 presentation - Agatha's Christie's murder mystery *The Unexpected Guest* - that record was once again smashed. The larger cast also featured three new members and a number of clever sound and lighting special effects.

The larger audience numbers - despite the fact that we only put on four performances (including a Saturday matinee) twice a year - reflects the enduring loyalty of our core audience the majority of whom are members or adherents of the church. And with the influx of new members from time to time we are able to maintain a membership in excess of sixty people most of whom engage in acting, working backstage or manning the Front of House team on performance days.

Parlour Players also contributed their usual Bottle Stall to the annual SURC Christmas Fair and enjoyed three social events for our members during the year - a skittles evening, a ramble and our annual BBQ.

Parlour Players' committee:

Chairman - Chester Stern
Elders Representative - Linda Currión
Secretary - Mary-Rose Goodliffe
Treasurer - Phil Wright
Members - Sue Woods
 Delphine Scott
 Claire Connery

Sanderstead Literary Society—Glynis Martin

During the year there were 58 members. The season opened on 9th October 2024 with an interesting and amusing talk about Colin Jones' cruise ship garden experiences and visits to towns and cities around the Mediterranean.

On 23rd October Clare Walker told us about visiting an orphanage in Vietnam before continuing to New Zealand. Beautiful scenery in New Zealand and we learnt quite a few facts about the country.

6th November Jennie Randall talked about the V2 Rocket attack on the Crooked Billet Pub in Bromley in 1944. She told us how she became interested in this topic and how she organized a blue plaque after so many years.

Antonia Gallop returned on the 20th November and was very amusing and entertaining as she described using a 1955 A50 car to visit 55 piers in the UK ranging from the one-mile-long Southend pier to others that are no more than a short jetty.

On 4th December John Halligan gave an interesting insight into the history and traditions of the role of the Lord Mayor of London.

The musical evening on 18th December was due to be performed by Charlie and Ronnie but unfortunately Ronnie was in hospital. However, Charlie entertained us on his own with a mixture of Christmas and well-known songs with which the audience participated.

The new year was due to start on 8th January with the story of the town crier from Gary Miles. However, snow started early in the evening so it was decided to cancel.

On January 22nd Carole Roberts spoke about the Davis theatre in Croydon. This was particularly interesting for several of the audience who had remembered, recognised and had experiences of the Theatre.

Joe Mendell returned on the 5th February with the Magical History of Houdini. A fascinating insight into his life and career.

On 19th February there was a change to the programme and Ian Bevan gave 'a tour' in words and pictures of the Theatre Royal Drury Lane.

The penultimate talk of the season saw Sue Henning take us on a trek across Japan in Springtime seeing the wonderful cherry blossom.

Finally on 19th March after a short AGM and in a further programme change, Tony Harris a Literary favourite, talked in character about the secrets of London.

Sunday Afternoon Concerts—Caroline Melrose

Over the last 12 months some changes in the organisation of the Sunday Afternoon Concerts have taken place, but we are pleased that they continue throughout the year.

In September talented performers from the Coulsdon and Purley Festival gave a varied concert: some sixteen separate performances including instrumental, singing and speech and drama. Malcolm and Gwen, who organise the festival, said these prize winners had been delighted to have the opportunity to show their talents and the concert was very well attended and enjoyed.

The concert in December 2024 welcomed back the popular Croydon Symphonic Band. This concert was dedicated to the memory of Jenny Bates, a long serving and beloved member of SURC. The Croydon Symphonic Band has been making music in Croydon since 1973 and has trailblazed the performance of original works for symphonic and concert bands. They like to play lighthearted selections from musicals and shows as well as jazz, big band and classical arrangements. Ably led by conductor Robert Mason they provided their audience with 9 quality pieces of which one, Jack Simpson's 'On the Track', included a xylophone solo by Nigel Bates.

This was also the last concert to be organised by Nigel Bates. He took over as Chairman of the organising committee in 2013 and his musical talent and wide range of contacts in the musical world ensured that SURC has been able to put on dozens of successful concerts over the last 11 years. Many thanks to him and all the other members of the committee and Nigel's family who worked so hard alongside him.

From 2025 a new Concert committee has been in place, with Caroline Melrose, Debbie and Murray Knight, Malcolm Dalton, George Ferrier, Kathy Nichols and Gwen Russell.

Guitarist Will Scott entertained us in February. He had studied both classical and jazz guitar at the Royal College of Music and gave a varied programme which showcased his excellent versatility and skill. This concluded with the beautiful 'Libertango' by Argentinian composer Astor Pizolla and the concert was very warmly received.

The season concluded with the return of accomplished pianist Madeleine Brown in July. A graduate from Trinity College, Cambridge, Madeleine came to SURC having just performed to international acclaim, receiving first prize at the Bromsgrove International Musician's Competition in May. Her programme was a varied selection of works by Debussy, Haydn and Rachmaninoff and was much appreciated by the audience.

No SURC Concert would be complete without the lovely cakes and tea provided after the concert. Many thanks to everyone who was involved in providing the refreshments and in the organisation.

We look forward to continuing to host quality music at SURC in the years ahead.

Scottish Country Dancing—Madeline Reeve

Our year at Scottish Country Dancing on Tuesday evenings (8-10pm) at a weekly cost of £5.00, was successful once again. We took part in several dances each evening; a selection of old and new, easy and not so easy, called by our experienced team, accompanied by traditional music . . . and laughter.

In addition to weekly dancing, we held our usual drinks and nibbles party on our last evening before Christmas. We gathered for the official and also social side at our AGM in June. We were also happy to accept the usual invitation from two members to enjoy a delightful summer party in their beautiful garden.

Unfortunately, we are no longer able to host the annual Burn's Night celebration.

We raised funds at the church fair at the end of 2024, and also donated £2000 to church funds during our financial year ending April 2025.

Committee:-

Chair	Graeme Wood
Secretary	Madeline Reeve
Treasurer	David Courtney
Elders' Rep	Jenny Russell
Committee Members	Linda Currion
	Alan Wilson
	Beth Voute

Church Organisations

Choir – Sundays	Practise before morning worship	Alan Mayall 020 8680 8287
Toddlers Group	Mondays at 9.30am	Connie Dean 020 8657 8660
Working Circle	Alt Tuesdays at 2pm	Sheila Emmerson 020 8405 4855
Women's Guild	Alt Tuesdays at 2pm	Kathy Nichols 07484 803316
Beavers	Thursdays at 5pm	Dave Harewood 07745 839770
Cubs	Mondays at 6.30pm	Stephen Gadsby 07986 965146
Rainbows	Wednesdays at 5pm	Sue Thomas 07870 318366
Scouts	Thursdays at 7.30pm	Dick Griffin 020 8657 7045
Literary Society	Alt. Wednesdays in Winter 8pm	John Ellery 020 8657 6278
Parlour Players	Details from	Theo Spring 020 8657 7878
Scottish Country Dancing	Tuesdays at 8pm	Madeline Reeve 020 8657 5661
Sunday Afternoon Concerts	Details from	Charles Murdoch 01883 818511
Tennis Club	Details from	Sue Fairchild 020 8657 3761

