

**Annual Meeting of Parishioners
and
Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

21st May 2023

busbridgechurch 

9.30am

hambledonchurch 

11.30am

**Annual Report of the
Parochial Church Council**

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Meeting Agendas

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

21st May 2023, 9.30 am and 11.30am

1. Minutes of the last Meeting (*22nd May 2022*) and Extraordinary Parochial Church Meeting (*16th Oct 2022*)
2. Election of Churchwardens
3. Appointment of Assistant Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

21st May 2023

1. Prayer
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the last Meeting (*22nd May 2022*) and Matters Arising
4. Electoral Roll Officer's Report
5. Deanery Synod Report
6. Report on the Proceedings of the PCC and Review of the Year
7. Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church
8. Report on the Activities of the Parish
9. Financial Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022
10. Election to Deanery Synod
11. Elections to the PCC
12. Associate Minister's Address
13. Closing Prayer

Rector's Comments

Glancing back and looking forward "Take courage! It is I; do not be afraid"

This year (2023) we are centred on becoming the Minster Church of Godalming for the revitalisation of Christian faith, worship and witness. We reached this historic moment in 2022 through special EPCMs, prior to which the church community spent 24 hours in prayer and fasting. The EPCMs considered the work that had been conducted by nearly 50 people from across the current parishes, that work having been presented to the PCCs in July 2022 after another period of prayer and seeking the Lord's wisdom.

Our preaching, teaching, small groups, Lent material and discussions recognise that we are living in challenging times locally, nationally and globally. We've left covid lockdowns behind in 2022 but the legacy continues to rumble around us like thunder after a storm.

In the midst challenges, we've centred ourselves afresh on who Jesus Christ is, His power through the Holy Spirit and the Grace of the Father in calling each of us by name. We've recognised our name being called by God.

This has given us as a church community a strength of character to endure even in the midst of differences of opinion. We're together in the boat of faith, shaped by the Word of God and living as people who worship through our lives, values and attitudes. The past year and 2023 is about being reassured in this living walk with God who is holy.

We are only able to be in the place because of the phenomenal witness of those who have gone before us. We are looking to the future as a Minster because we have a secure witness of faith from many people who have left the mark of Christ on Busbridge and Hambledon Church. Some of those saints, as St Paul calls all believers, have departed this local church for glory and resurrection in the everlasting Church of God. We miss them and we are grateful to them for their quiet, loving attention to faith and service.

It was lovely to see the BHC community come out of lockdowns and rally, not by looking backwards but in looking forward to what we are meant to be like now. There is an old world of pre 2019/20 and there is the world around us that is challenging in so many ways. In this new way, we have seen new people step forward. Some have almost literally jumped out of the boat to get involved in new ways. Others have quietly found different ways to serve God's people and the local community. Some have needed a time of rest and restoration after the rigours of covid, lockdowns and wondering how their faith and life might move forward.

As we look back, particular thanks must be given to David Wilkin for the way he has steered the ship that is the Minster through many discussions and questions.

As we look forward, we are reminded of Jesus' own words: *"Take courage! It is I; do not be afraid"* (Mark 6:50) as his followers sought to reach the shore during stormy weather. And then Peter jumped from the boat and the rest, as they say, is history.

We're water walking in faith in Christ, from 2022 into 2023 and our new future.

Simon Taylor



Associate Minister's Comments

Worship and Ministry in Hambledon

After the pandemic it took some time to rebuild our services. Indeed a low point came when we had as few as 17 at our Heritage service and 4 at the Contemporary service. After much consultation we took the decision to combine and provide a simple service using common worship liturgy but with a Hambledon village flavour, namely, blending traditional and informal styles of worship alongside a generous, warm welcome and of course coffee and croissant from the village shop!

We also introduced a Sunday club for children. Whilst this is still a work in progress, it has provided an opportunity for us to reach a new generation in Hambledon. Special thanks to Fran Duffell, Georgie Aylward, Will Godwin, Liz Jenkins and Pauline Underwood for this significant provision.

I am delighted to report that our morning worship is now thriving with attendance regularly over 40 people. Throughout 2022 we had our live streaming equipment permanently installed; many still join us online with an average of 40 views per week. Many thanks to Mary Caroe and family for Mary's generous legacy as well as to Philip Underwood and the Community Foundation for Surrey for their generous donations to enable this to happen. We are truly grateful to Dan Duffell, Graham Holford and Derek Pearsall for their wonderful efforts running the stream so faithfully week by week.

Seasonal services and special occasions continue to be landmarks in the life of the village with a packed church for Remembrance, the Queen's Jubilee and her funeral. I am grateful to Stewart Payne for his support in his role as local parish councilor. A special mention as well to Derek Miller and George Pitt for being at the ready to raise the flag and toll the bell!

It was a joy to return to "normal" Christmas life in the village, not least to see the Merry Harriers in good voice and packed for Carols in the Pub. The World Cup football final didn't detract from our main carol service which was also a full house. Special thanks to Kate Walford, Stewart Payne and Jeremy Hunt for their support.

At our recent Easter services we re-wrote history (as far as I know) with llamas attending our Palm Sunday service. Champagne and Diesel behaved themselves wonderfully and we are particularly grateful to Martine at the Merry Harriers, Head Trekker - Clara Hughes, as well as Tilda and Abb who led us so well to the oak tree and back.

Messy Church

Special thanks to our team: Fran and Dan Duffell, Juliet Gilbert, Cat and Chris Garner, Liz Jenkins, Georgie Aylward, Sheelagh Vacher, Jacqui Rook, Helen Hudgell and Jaqueline Hindley.

Messy Church continues to thrive, going from strength to strength, meeting in the village hall at 4pm once a month on a Sunday afternoon. We provide a packed tea at the end of our services. This has been working really well. We have followed the theme of Jesus' miracles, the Exodus and even a Passover meal. We explored these themes through songs, games and crafts. We have a fantastic team who work tirelessly to make each Messy Church so special.

Our Pastoral Care team - Jacqui Rook, Alan Harvey, and David Jenkins - do a wonderful job of helping to care for our church family and parish community. A huge amount of time and compassion is given to this vital ministry and we are so grateful for the skills and spirit by which they serve.

Hambledon Church is well resourced by our leaders and preachers who help us apply God's word to our lives week in, week out. We are grateful to Simon Taylor, David Jenkins, Dudley Hilton, Andy and Margot Spencer, Hilary Pettman, Peter Shaw, Patrick Samuels and Philippa Baker for your wonderful leadership.

Governance

I am grateful for the wisdom, support, time and tireless work of our Wardens - Dudley Hilton and Fran Duffell - as well as our Assistant Warden, David Chadwick. Similarly a huge thank you to our Treasurer, Andrew Dunn, who does a fantastic job of keeping our finances running smoothly and supporting the vision of the church. A special thanks also to Andrew for his help with Mervil Bottom. We are grateful too for the faithful hearts and wisdom of our PCC members: Arthur Blackman, Philip Underwood, Nigel Pollock, Ron Vickery.

We also have a Hambledon leadership team: Alison Martin, Jacqui Rooke, Andrew Dunn, Fran Duffell, Dudley Hilton, Alan Harvey and David Jenkins. We regularly meet to think through church life and ministry. I am grateful for the wisdom around the table.

Sunday by Sunday, as well as for funerals and weddings, we have a wonderfully faithful team of welcomers and vergers. We are so grateful for the way you help our services run so smoothly and for making everyone feel so welcome. Thank you too to our unsung heroes who help around the churchyard, not least Paul Vacher, Ron Vickery, George and Caroline Pitt.

God has blessed us with some fabulous musicians. Thank you to Alan Harvey especially for coordinating our music and helping us plan our worship, choosing our hymns and planning special events, not least some wonderful Choral Evensong services. Alan not only plays but organises our organists: William Edwards, Sally Falk, Shelagh Godwin and Iain Beckingham. Thank you to you all for providing us with such wonderful musical offerings week-in, week-out. Thanks for hitting just the right note!

Another huge thank you to John and Jaqueline Hindley who so faithfully produce our wonderful church parish magazine each month. We are grateful too for the hard work and support of Jane Woolley and Emma Dunn.

Village life

I continue in my role as one of the trustees for the Village Nursery School. It was great fun to play the piano for their Christmas service. The Nursery School also made lots of Christmas “stars” that we decorated the church with. We really enjoy hosting their termly services at the church which are well supported by parents and teachers alike.

It has been wonderful to start building connections with St. Dominic’s. We are looking at ways in which we can develop support. I regularly meet to pray with some of the staff there.

I continue to volunteer in the village shop. This is such a useful way to meet people, support the shop and be involved in village life. Over the summer I was delighted to play for the charity cricket matches between the cricket club and the shop!

In September in collaboration with John and Ruth Canham we established The Hambledon Table Tennis Club. This is well attended by a mixed range of ages. We meet every Wednesday night in the village hall. We are grateful to Philip Underwood and the Parish Council for the provision of two quality tables.

Simon Willetts

Reference and Administrative Information

For the Year ended 31st December 2022

Busbridge Church (also known as St John the Baptist, Busbridge), is situated on Brighton Road, Godalming. Hambledon Church (also known as St Peter's, Hambledon), is situated on Church Lane, Hambledon. Both churches are part of the Diocese of Guildford within the Church of England, and comprise the Ecclesiastical District of the United Benefice of Busbridge and Hambledon.

The correspondence address is:

The Old Rectory, Old Rectory Gardens, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1XB

PCC Membership

PCC members who have served from 23rd May 2022 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio

Incumbent The Rev Simon Taylor

Associate Minister The Rev Simon Willetts

Curate in training The Rev Patrick Samuels

Licensed Lay Ministers

Mr Dudley Hilton LLM Representative on PCC

Churchwardens (Busbridge) Mrs Sue Hardy (year 2), Mr David Wilkin (year 1)

Churchwardens (Hambledon) Mrs Fran Duffell (year 2), Mr Dudley Hilton (year 1).

Treasurer (Busbridge) Mr Martin Lambert

Treasurer (Hambledon) Mr Andrew Dunn

PCC Secretary (Busbridge) Mrs Jane Lambert (non-member)

PCC Secretary (Hambledon) Vacant

Co-opted Member (Busbridge) Rev Andrew Spencer

Co-opted Member (Hambledon) Rev David Jenkin

Elected Lay Members (Hambledon)

Mr Arthur Blackman

Mr Nigel Pollock

Mr Philip Underwood

Mr Ron Vickery

Elected Lay Members (Busbridge)

Mrs Shelagh Godwin (year 6)

Dr Karen Hart (year 5)

Mr Stephen Kinder (year 2)

Mrs Jill Mace (year 6)

Mr Mark Williams (year 4)

Mr Graham Sopp (year 2)

Mrs Penny Harris (year 2)

Mr Chris Garner (year 2)

Mr Robin Morris (year 2)

Mrs Sarah Black (year 1)

Mr Patrick Elshen (year 1)

Mr Ian Tomes (year 1)

PCC Teams (May 2022 - May 2023)

(The PCC teams also co-opt and take advice from other people)

Health & Safety/Risk

Alison Martin (Co-opted to chair, non PCC), Dudley Hilton, David Jenkins, Arthur Blackman (secretary)

EDS (Evangelism, Discipleship & Small Groups)

Jill Mace (Chair), Chris Garner, Steve Kinder, Robin Morris, Simon Willetts, Hilary Pettman

SAM (Specific Age Ministry)

Penny Harris (Chair), Mark Williams, Sue Hardy, Ben Barnes, Penny Naylor

Outward Giving Group

Shelagh Godwin (Chair), David Jenkins, Nigel Pollock, Annie Bryett, Sandra Campbell (secretary)

Human Resources

Martin Lambert (Chair), Andrew Dunn, Fran Duffell, Suzie Lambert, Hilda Barrett

Property and Fabric

David Wilkin (Chair), Frances Shaw, Ian Tomes, Mark Williams, Liz Gorst

Culture of Volunteering

Graham Sopp (Chair), Patrick Samuels

Creation Care

Will Godwin (Co-opted to chair, non PCC), Fran Duffell, Chris Garner, Sarah Higgins

Racism Review Task Group

Andrew Spencer, Karen Hart

Standing Committee

Simon Taylor, Simon Willetts, Patrick Samuels, Sue Hardy, David Wilkin, Dudley Hilton, Fran Duffell, Martin Lambert, Andrew Dunn, Jill Mace, Karen Hart (secretary)

Finance/Governance Group

Simon Taylor, David Wilkin, Sue Hardy, Dudley Hilton, Fran Duffell, Martin Lambert, Andrew Dunn, Simon Willetts, Patrick Samuels, Jane Lambert (secretary)

Safeguarding

Simon Taylor, Dudley Hilton, Fran Duffell, Sue Hardy, David Wilkin, Jenny Lansdowne

2022-2023 Café Management Team (CMT)

Karen Hart (Chair), Chris Garner, Carol Jones, Sarah Black, Lizzie Soar

Support for Ukraine

Sarah Black, Julia Stubbs

Principal Professional Advisers

Independent Auditors (Busbridge)

Moore South LLP
Priory House
Pilgrims Court
Sydenham Road
Guildford
GU1 3RX

Independent Examiners (Hambledon)

Mr Nic Karonias
66 Palewell Park
London
SW14 8JH

Architects

Carden & Godfrey
33 Clerkenwell Close
London
EC1R OAU

Bankers (1) (Busbridge & Hambledon)

NatWest Bank plc
77 High Street
Godalming GU7 1AR

Bankers (2) (Hambledon)

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent ME19 4JQ

Safeguarding Officers

Jenny Lansdowne –BB (and then both churches from May 2020)

Structure, Governance and Management

Busbridge Church and Hambledon Church were united in 1998 as a Benefice under one Incumbent, and retain their individual governing PCC structures.

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England, within the current system of church governance based on synods, each with a mixed clerical and lay membership, at national, diocesan and deanery levels. The legal status of PCCs was established by the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, as amended. Busbridge PCC is registered with the Charity Commission (charity number 1128305), as is Hambledon PCC (charity number 1172197). The scope of PCC business, its conduct and composition are set out in the Church Representation Rules, as last amended in 2022.

All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to participate in the governance of church life via the Annual Meeting. Lay members are encouraged to stand for election to the PCC.

All clergy (except those with “Permission to Officiate”) are members of the PCC ex officio, as are the Churchwardens and Deanery Synod representatives. One Licensed Lay Minister (Reader) is appointed by the Annual Meeting to each PCC. Elected lay members of Busbridge PCC hold office for three years and are eligible to stand for a second three-year term. Elected lay members of Hambledon PCC hold office indefinitely. Busbridge PCC members and Hambledon PCC members are also charity trustees and are registered with the Charity Commission.

PCC members are responsible for addressing central issues of importance to the whole church. PCC meets corporately six times per year and delegates much of its oversight to sub-teams. The Governance Group of the PCC comprises Incumbent, Associate Minister, four Churchwardens, PCC Secretary and two Treasurers. The respective Standing Committee transacts PCC business for each PCC between its meetings, subject to delegated powers. The Governance Group sets the PCC agenda.

All PCC members are commissioned each year, and agree to fulfil their responsibilities as they are best able. An annual declaration of any conflicts of interest is also made.

Congregational Teams at Busbridge oversee the worship life of the Classic, Contemporary and evening congregations. They also have responsibility for pastoral care and support. At Hambledon, local Christian presence, mission and organisation is led by Rev Simon Willetts.

The Incumbent acts as chair, and one of the wardens acts as vice-chair of each PCC. Day-to-day church management is delegated to the Incumbent, which office was held in the period under review by the Rev. Simon Taylor.

The major risks to which the PCC is exposed are recorded in a Risk Register (separately for Busbridge and Hambledon) together with mitigating measures. The risk register is reviewed annually and approved by PCC (last approved in March 2023). PCC is satisfied that systems and procedures had been established to manage significant risks. The adequacy of the systems which are in place is kept under review in the light of changing circumstances. Current measures regarding cash handling and our safeguarding policy are considered to be effective.

Busbridge PCC has maintenance responsibilities for Busbridge Church and the Yew Tree Café, and owns the following buildings: Old Rectory, Church Cottage and School House, GU7 1XA (both currently rented out), 34 High Ridge, Godalming GU7 1YF (currently rented out), 14 Phillips Close Godalming GU7 1XZ (currently occupied by Youth Minister).

Hambledon PCC has maintenance responsibilities for Hambledon Church, and rents a property (formerly Mervil Bottom, owned by the Diocese) for occupation by the Associate Minister.

Objectives

PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, evangelistic, pastoral, social and ecumenical.

Report on PCC Proceedings and Review of the Year

Both PCCs met together for regular planned meetings 6 times during the year. In addition one Special meeting was held for both PCCs (May 31st) and one for Hambledon PCC only (September 25th).

Apart from routine business matters, a number of significant decisions were made and are summarised as follows:

Children's Work: At a Special Meeting 31st May PCC agreed to appoint (a) a new Director of Children and Youth and (b) a Children's Worker to replace Anto Ficatier and Ed Sherwin respectively. This resulted in the appointment of Ben Barnes as Director of Children and Youth who started in August 2022.

By end of 2022, we had been unable to recruit a Children's Worker. This situation is unchanged at time of writing, but January 2023 PCC approved an increase in proposed salary and the role was re-advertised in February 2023.

Hambledon Tech: Following a legacy and generous donations, the audio-visual equipment at Hambledon church has been upgraded to improve the experience in church and facilitate live-streaming.

Worship Pastor role: In March 2022 PCC approved extension of Ben Ford's contract until end December 2022. In the event, he resigned and left his post in August. In July 2022 recruitment of a full-time Worship Pastor was approved. In an attempt to attract a high calibre applicant, a salary increase from £26 to £30k was approved 14/11/22. This vacancy had not been filled by end 2022.

Ukrainian refugees: March 2022 PCC approved setting up support for refugees initially through the Outward Giving Team but it quickly became apparent that a separate team was needed for this. Volunteers came forward for this role and ongoing support and social events are being provided.

Busbridge lectern: On 13/9/22 Busbridge PCC voted to approve submission of a faculty for installation of a new lectern in Busbridge to be funded by a generous donation in memory of the late Rev David Mace.

Yew Tree Café: This has been an exciting and successful initiative, though funding has been challenging. On May 10th, PCC approved payment of additional costs which had exceeded the initial budget. By this point the work had already been completed so it was recognised the invoices must be covered. A review of why money was spent prior to approval was conducted and learning was taken from this. In November 2022, Busbridge PCC approved that the post for Lizzie Soar, Yew Tree Café Manager be made permanent.

Fabric: Various minor building projects and repairs have been approved across both parishes.

Godalming Minster After much consultation and debate, both PCCs agreed in July 2022, subject to certain conditions, to unite the existing parishes of Busbridge, Hambledon and Godalming into one parish to be known as "Godalming Minster". Extensive work and planning of this initiative is ongoing.

Heating Policy: In view of rising costs of fuel, a Heating Policy was agreed on 13/9/22, for Busbridge Church and associated buildings.

Jane Lambert (Busbridge PCC Secretary)

Plans for Future Periods

An exciting period lies ahead of us and much discernment has taken place as we continue to respond to the life, death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. With the Minster in view three key areas of church life will be focussed on as we continue in our mission to love God, make disciples and transform communities.

These 3 areas are:

1. Growing younger: A renewed focus on children's and youth work. (Please note this is not to the neglect of the wonderful work we do with our other age specific ministries)
2. Community Engagement: Finding new and creative ways to engage with our communities around Godalming and local contexts
3. Small Groups: Placing a greater emphasis on discipleship and growing in confidence to share our faith.

Simon Willetts

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS and

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

St John the Baptist Church Busbridge

Sunday 22nd May 2022

Present: Chair- Simon Taylor (ST), Simon Willetts, Margot & Andy Spencer, Martin & Jane Lambert, Jill Mace, June Higgins, Peter & Frances Shaw, Vic Hicks, Graham Sopp, Ben Rogers, Sarah Black, Keith Harper, Jane & Ian Tomes, Pat Hawkins, Karen Hart, Sally & Owen Morgan, Chris Sollars, Veronica Jeffery, Patrick Samuels, David & Sandra Wilkin, Maggie & Chris Jagger, Barbara Hodge, Clare Haddad, Lynne Hargreaves, Sandra Campbell, Nitha & Sarah Nelson, Richard & Frances Morris, Sharon Whiteford, Kirsty Glaysher, Ben Ford, Chris Rothwell, Carol-Ann Jones, Nikki Wilson-Balchin, Robert & Abigail Hewlett, Suzie Lambert, Julie Nelson, Anthony & Toni Charter, Jacob Taylor, Mark & Katrina Williams, Graham Sheldrake, Esther & Patrick Elshen, Kate & David Brockman, John & Jeannie Postill, Ruth Roseblade, Daniel & Beth Head, Richard & Frances Morris, John & Catherine Valentine, Shelagh Godwin, Andrew & Philippa Baker, Lesley Reeves, Ed Payne, Pat Oxborough, Jill Johnston, Kate Kaye, Luke Taylor, David & Kyra Mumford, Liz Beckingham, Jenna & Stephen Brown, Leonardo & Emilia Guerra, Silvina Brangold.

Apologies: Sue Hardy, Jenny Lansdowne, Souheil Haddad, Janet Harvey, Liz Gorst, Shân Hallam, Penny Naylor.

Welcome by Rector, Simon Taylor (ST).

(Page numbers refer to the 2021 Annual Report of the Parochial Church Councils for Busbridge and Hambledon Churches.)

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

1. **Minutes:** The minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners of 23rd May 2021 (p. 12) were accepted as an accurate record by all present and signed by ST.
2. **Election of Church Wardens:** ST thanked Keith Harper for 5 years faithful service as Churchwarden of Busbridge and gave him a gift on behalf of us all. David Wilkin is standing for election and Sue Hardy is standing for re-election. There were no other candidates, so they were both duly elected as Wardens for Busbridge. They were thanked for their willingness to serve.

David Wilkin was elected for the first time.

Proposed: Keith Harper. Seconded Jeannie Postill.

Sue Hardy was elected for a 2nd year

Proposed: Karen Hart. Seconded: Penny Harris.

3. **Appointment of Assistant Churchwardens:** We don't currently have Assistant Church Wardens in Busbridge.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (to be read in conjunction with the Annual Report of the PCC which had been circulated prior to the meeting – to which page numbers below relate)

1. ST welcomed all present to stay for the meeting but reminded us that in the event of a vote, only people registered on the electoral roll are entitled to vote. He opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. **Apologies** as per list at the top of this document.
3. **Minutes of APCM held on 23rd May 2021** (page 12) These were accepted as a true record by all present and signed by ST. There were no matters arising.
4. **Electoral Roll Officer's Report** (see page 16) – Maggie Jagger, Electoral Roll Officer for Busbridge reported the Busbridge electoral roll is 238. Thanks were expressed to Maggie for fulfilling this role.
5. **Deanery Synod Report** (see page 16). There were no comments to add to the report.

6. **Report on the Proceedings of the PCC and Review of the Year** (see page 11) Thanks were expressed to Cat Garner, Liz Gorst and Vic Hicks for putting this comprehensive document together.
7. **Reports on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church** (see page 17) – these reports are compiled by the Church Wardens who were thanked for their efforts. There were no questions.
8. **Reports on the Activities of the Parish** (see pages 20-29) ST drew attention to the length of this report as an indication of how active our mission is.
9. **Financial Report and Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021.** Full audited accounts are available to view on the church website. Martin Lambert gave a short Powerpoint presentation highlighting key points from the accounts:
 - Thanks to everyone who gives so faithfully and generously to enable the activity of the church.
 - Currently Busbridge and Hambledon are separate parishes in a united Benefice so finances are managed separately.
 - Busbridge is expected to have a deficit of around £15,000 in 2022, despite an assumption that giving increased by around 10% compared to 2021.
 - The café was doing reasonably well, but income was below the level projected by the project team. A deficit of £5000 for the café was in the budget, but if this were higher it could lead to a larger overall deficit for Busbridge.
 - Anyone with questions is welcome to contact Treasurer.

Martin thanked his team - Lesley Reeves and David Burndred - and church office staff, for their contribution to managing church finances. ST thanked Treasurer and finance team for faithful stewardship of financial resources.

10. **Appointment of Auditors.** Martin Lambert advised this was not required at the APCM, as choice of auditors is a matter to be decided by PCC. It is good practice to change auditors every few years to minimise costs and avoid complacency so this is likely to happen this year.

11. **Election to Deanery Synod** – There were no nominations.

12. **Elections to PCC** – Mark Williams has completed a term of 3 years and agreed to stand for re-election.

Proposed: Martin Lambert Seconded: Luke Taylor

3 new members were nominated:

Patrick Elshen: Proposed by Jenna Brown, Seconded by Ruth Roseblade.

Sarah Black: Proposed by Jane Tomes, Seconded by Ian Tomes

Ian Tomes: Proposed by Keith Harper, Seconded by Mark Puddephat.

All were approved unanimously.

Dudley Hilton has agreed to continue in his role as LLM rep. There were no other volunteers, so he was approved unanimously.

Thanks were expressed and gifts of appreciation to:

Jill Johnston for faithfully leading the pastoral support team for many years as she steps down and hands the role over to Sandra Wilkin and Chris Sollars

Cathy Brooks, who has been editor of The Bridge but has now handed this over to Dave Brockman.

13. **Rector's Address:**

Simon Taylor (Rector) based his reflection on Daniel 5 and asked the question "What does it mean to glorify God?".

Each attendee was offered a Quality Street chocolate which symbolises **quality** of worship in our **streets**. Referring to Daniel 5, he asked the question “When the writing is on the wall, what is written on our heart?”. He reminded us that God has chosen us for his purpose and that together we can make a difference. Proverbs 3:6 “in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

The meeting closed with a prayer.

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS
and ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
St Peter’s Church Hambledon
Sunday 22nd May 2022**

Present:

Rev Simon Taylor	Rector
Rev Simon Willetts	Associate Vicar
Rev David Jenkins	Assistant Vicar
Mr Andrew Dunn	Treasurer
Mrs Fran Duffell	Church Warden
Mr Derek Pearsall	Church Warden
Mr Alan Harvey	Acting Secretary

Also in attendance were the following PCC members:

Mr Arthur Blackman, Mr Dudley Hilton, Mr Nigel Pollock, Mr Philip Underwood, and 10 other parishioners.

Apologies: Mrs Jacqueline Hindley, Mr John Hindley, Mr Derek Miller, Mrs Ann Vickery, Mr Ron Vickery,

Simon Willetts welcomed everyone to the meeting, which began with prayer and an opening hymn.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. Minutes of meeting of 23rd May 2021
Agreed.
2. Election of churchwardens
Fran Duffell: re-elected – proposed by Elizabeth Cooke and seconded by Andrew Dunn.
Dudley Hilton: elected - proposed by Arthur Blackman and seconded by Alison Martin.
Fran was thanked for her work and support, and Dudley for his willingness to serve.
Derek Pearsall, standing aside, was thanked for his time and diligent service as churchwarden.
Dave Chadwick was thanked for all his ongoing valuable, practical work as assistant churchwarden.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes of the meeting of 23rd May 2021
Approved.
2. Electoral Roll Officer’s report
Now up to 108, from the 106 stated in the APCM document. Mary Parker was thanked for continuing to keep the roll up to date.
3. Deanery Synod Report

As read. There are now no elected members from either Busbridge or Hambledon, with no-one prepared to stand.

4. Report on the proceedings of the PCC and review of the year

As read.

5. Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

As read.

6. Report on activities of the Parish

As read.

7. Financial Report and statements.

Andrew drew our attention to the following:

A deficit of £14,000 had been carried forward from last year. The moving away of certain donors was a factor in a reduction of income. Nonetheless, current reserves were in excess of 3 months expenditure, which was a healthy sign. With the recent resumption of more normal worship patterns of attendance, and with the worst of the pandemic hopefully past us, there were some grounds for optimism.

Salaries with admin expenses, and parish share (paid to the Diocese) represented 2 key elements of costs. Churchyard expenses, rent on Mervil Bottom, and annual accountancy costs were all significant items of expenditure. Hambledon continued to obtain very good value from its 20% share of central costs for the cross-Benefice work administered at the Busbridge church office. Philip Underwood spoke in support of the ongoing wonderful provision of support to Hambledon provided by the Busbridge-based team, which represented very good value for money.

Andrew flagged up that 50% of Hambledon giving was provided by a small number of people, some of whom did not even attend church. Of concern is that the church finances are quite dependant on a limited number of ageing people (a demographic not unusual in the wider nation church). A key message is the need to generate a new generation of income support, through mission and congregation expansion.

Andrew was warmly thanked for all his diligent work as Treasurer.

8. Rector's address

Key points included:

Hambledon's gift to the Benefice was its deep heritage of the Christian faith, drawing on the protestant tradition of grace and mercy. That lift provided by the Spirit of God was indeed earnestly sought after by other Godalming churches. We needed to recognise that what we stood for may not be attractive in worldly terms. There could be no return to the life of two-and-a-half years ago, pre-pandemic. The world had changed. It could not mean a life of ease. Wisdom came from the heart. The message to 'guard your heart' remained an imperative.

9. Associate Minister's address

This had been a challenging year, with a number of beloved people in the village passing away. Support to the grieving had been, and remains, key.

We had to build a church which would outlive us. Simon recalled words when he was inducted: the need to base ministry around loving God and loving people. Hopeful developments here included a greater reach now possible into St Dominic's school in the village, building on existing links with staff there which were bearing fruit. Messy Church held in the village hall is providing an important opportunity for community outreach. Building a church which will indeed outlive us may well mean things not being done in the way we have always been used to.

Simon went on to thank a number of people, including David for his preaching, Fran and Derek for their tireless work as wardens, and those involved in pastoral care. Simon warmly welcomed being part of that great Ministry team at Busbridge and Hambledon which was so obviously working really well.

Anto Ficatier would be leaving us soon as Youth Minister, though would be staying in the area. Children, Youth and Families ministry remained a key priority for the church as a whole, which could require a drawing on funding reserves to develop this work further (PCC would soon be addressing this).

David Jenkins warmly thanked Richard Cooke and Andrew Dunn on behalf of us all for organising the recent vital remedial work to Mervil Bottom. As the meeting drew to a conclusion, Mary Parker, to warm applause, thanked both Simons for all their hard work which was an inspiration to us all.

The meeting closed with prayer.

MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

St John the Baptist Church Busbridge

Sunday 16th October 2022

Present: Chair- Simon Taylor (ST), David Wilkin (DW), Archdeacon Paul Davies (PD), Margot & Andy Spencer, Linda & Mark Alcock, Ceri Apark, Hilda Barrett, Liz Beckingham, Alan & Carolyn Betts, Sarah Black, Annie Bryett, Seb Cheek, Simon Gilbert, Jim & Shelagh Godwin, Will Godwin, Chad Grayer, Clare & Souheil Haddad, Vic Hicks, June Higgins, Janet Harvey, Lynda Donaldson, Jill & George Johnston, Steve Kinder, Peter & Frances Shaw, Jenny Lansdowne, Martin & Jane Lambert, Jill Mace, Ben Rogers, Robin Morris, Nin & Nick Moore, Keith Harper, David & Karen Hart, Annie Bryett, Chris Garner, Patrick Samuels, Sandra Wilkin, Carol Jones, Tom & Debra Jones, Chris & Maggie Jagger, Anthony & Toni Charter, Jackie & Matthew Rooke, Gaye Callaghan, Catherine Taylor, Katrina & Mark Williams, Lesley Reeves, Julie Nelson, Sue & Mike Hardy, Patrick Elshen, Michael Stubbs, Andrew Baker, Ed & Chris Payne, Kate Kaye, Mike & Judith Hawkey, Niki Ford, Hilary Pettman, Jeannie Postill, Ariannna Pisetti, Mark Puddephat, Dawn O'Toole, Isabelle & James Wilson, John & Catherine Valentine, Jane & Ian Tones, Chris Sollars, Bob Sallybanks, Ruth Roseblade, Anne Rawson, Pat Oxborough, Penny & Andrew Naylor, Sandra Campbell, Owen Morgan, Una & Raymond Moore

Electoral Roll Officer Maggie Jagger confirmed there were 86 members of the Busbridge electoral roll present who were eligible to vote.

Observer: Canon John Harkin.

Welcome by Rector, Simon Taylor (ST).

ST welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer.

Comments from Archdeacon Paul Davies (PD) gave a summary of the background to the proposal. He stated that one church should not flourish to the detriment of another. The vision of a Godalming Minster, formed by combining 4 churches and represented by 3 PCCs, started because there is a church in Godalming that was not flourishing. Godalming is a town with coherence, and a single united ministry to the town led by a team working together and sharing gifts could extend the Kingdom of God by reaching parts we aren't reaching at the moment. In terms of pastoral care for the clergy, a team ministry could be more supportive and attract people of high calibre.

David Wilkin (DW) gave a summary of the Minster proposal and outlined the proposed motion. This has been a journey over the past year or so and we don't have final answers to many of the details at this point. Initially the parishes were suspicious of each other but much of the fear has now dissipated and there is a sense of opportunity.

Our options are: to stop the process completely, or accept the motion to continue to move forward over the next year or so. If accepted, the plan would be for the parishes to merge formally from January 2024. Many questions need to be answered and details worked out before this date. PCCs had agreed for the project to move forward subject to 4 conditions being met:

- i. The Diocese securing funding and housing for a 5 year 'Post of First Responsibility' at St Marks/Ockford Ridge (c. £330,000).
- ii. The Diocese securing an additional £135,000 funding over three years (2023-25) to support the establishment of a Minster.
- iii. A stipendiary clergy presence continuing at Hambledon and St Peter and St Paul immediately after the retirement of Canon John Harkin.
- iv. All patrons give their patronage voting rights to CPAS

Questions (Q), answers (A) and comments (C) were invited and are summarised as follows:

Q: What about St John's church in Farncombe? A (PD): They were invited to participate but did not feel the time was right.

Q: Does this process have legality and constitutional validity given we have excluded the hospitalised and housebound? A: (DW) We have tried to be as inclusive as possible. PCCs have the deciding vote and are the governing body of the church. They have already approved the motion.

C: The Minster model is based on the work of an American psychologist. A (PD): The Minster model is ancient. There is a similar recent model in US but this proposal is based on what is right for Godalming.

C: Clergy wellbeing is a concern as there have been a recent high "casualty rate" among local clergy. A: (PD) There has indeed been a high number of clergy leaving their roles but this has been for a variety of reasons. Specific details are confidential. Speculation and generalisation are inappropriate. Pastoral care and clergy welfare are a high priority for the Diocese.

ST expressed a vote of affirmation for PD and said he was the best Archdeacon he had ever worked with. He also confirmed he will be giving up his role as Area Dean as soon as possible in the next couple of months, to free up more resource for the Minster role. This has been agreed with the Bishop and PD.

C: This would be a £multi-million property portfolio merger with no up-to-date maintenance or management plan. The timing of the merger is dreadful following on from Covid and when Busbridge church has "project fatigue".

C: The timing of the vote is unfortunate as it is at the same time as Messy Church.

ST announced he would facilitate collecting votes from those who are unable to attend.

C: If the merger doesn't go ahead, collaboration and joint working between the churches should continue. Will the time ever be right, or should we just get on with it?

C: Thanks to the planning team and the Diocese for their support. We should prioritise children's and youth work. The creation of Godalming Minster would enable a more coherent approach to bring a Christian presence to Godalming. It is premature to state the intention of relocating the current Busbridge Contemporary service to St P+P as there are many issues to resolve. Parents and families should be involved in thinking through next steps. We should keep an open mind about where this journey might be taking us without being tied to an outcome. Choices in the next phase and possible consequences should be looked at carefully.

Q: Is there a plan for the future of St P+P if the Minster is not approved?

A(PD): No other plan exists at present. If St P+P were thriving, this would not be under discussion. The vision should come first before deciding what resources are needed. Closing the iconic town centre church would be adverse publicity and a poor outcome for the town.

C: Support for the proposal, and aspiration that there will be continued dialogue with children's group leaders, parents and the contemporary leadership group about the development of contemporary family worship in the centre of Godalming.

A: (DW) children, families and contemporary worship is central to the vision and there has been ongoing consultation with groups and individuals. Several options have been explored, and the best so far is to move the contemporary congregation to St P&P. We would consider a better alternative if one could be found, and we continue to look for possibilities. Consultation with parents, leaders and the contemporary team is ongoing, with the current expectation that the contemporary congregation will move by end 2023.

Q: What is the situation like in the town centre parish? If it is not good, it would be helpful to know this, so people are aware they are voting to support fellow Christians.

A (PD): Opening remarks addressed that when we see other Christians struggling, we have a duty of care for one another as Christians, particularly in a town such as Godalming where a united vision for the town will serve all the churches.

C: Attention was drawn to the relevance of John 17: 20-23 which was read aloud.

PD read the motion aloud and there was a moment of silence to discern the mind of the Spirit before the voting.

Motion: *To unite the parishes of St Peter and St Paul with St Mark's, Busbridge and Hambledon to create the Godalming Minster, which will be committed to the following principal goals and parameters:*

- *Introduce a more coherent strategic approach to mission across the Greater Godalming area*
- *Create a united and mutually supportive clergy leadership team across four church locations*
- *See more people coming to faith in each of our churches by offering a variety of distinctive service styles*
- *Introduce a contemporary service at St Peter and St Paul's Church to create informal family worship with associated children's ministries*
- *Maintain and develop the Choral tradition at St Peter and St Paul's Church*

For: 82 Against: 3 Abstained: 1

ST thanked Archdeacon Paul Davies for his support and presented David and Sandra Wilkin with a gift as a token of gratitude for their work on this proposal over the past year.

The meeting closed with a prayer.

ST then went to Messy Church (Hambledon). He explained that the Archdeacon had invited anyone at Messy Church to vote if:

- *They were on the Busbridge Electoral Roll and wished to vote.*
- *Would have voted at the EPCM except that Messy Church timing conflicted with the vote.*

4 people were eligible and voted as follows:

For: 3 Against: 0 Abstained: 1

Total votes from meeting and Messy Church:

For: 85 Against: 3 Abstained: 2

**EPCM 16th October 1.30pm
St Peters Church Hambledon**

Those present; Simon Taylor, Simon Willetts, David Wilkin, Patrick Samuels, John Harkin, Archdeacon Paul, 27 members of the Hambledon Electoral roll, 1 guest.

Simon T opened the meeting, welcomed all and prayed. He introduced archdeacon Paul who said a few words, including his thanks to David Wilkin.

David Wilkin gave us a brief summary of the steering groups' journey starting Sept 2021 and explained the 'July voting statement, approved by each PCC'. He gave us a summary of the minster proposal.

The motion for the EPCM was displayed and read aloud. "To unite the parishes of St Peter and St Paul with St Mark's, Busbridge and Hambledon, to create Godalming Minster". It was explained that if passed the Minster would not formally come into existence until Jan 2024.

A session of Q and A's followed, covering finances, churchyards and outcomes. It was stressed that this is 'not an exercise in rearranging deckchairs, but in seeing the Kingdom of God been extended in Godalming' and the sum of all the parts coming together to create something much bigger.

Archdeacon Paul explained that if the motion was passed it was to agree that the conversation would continue.

Pray before the vote.

Votes for - 26

Votes against - 0

Abstained - 0

Electoral Roll Officers' Reports

On 6th May 2023 the number of people on the Electoral Roll at:

- Hambledon Church is 110
- Busbridge Church is 238

Mary Parker and Judith Rolfe, Electoral Roll Officers (Hambledon and Busbridge)

Church Attendance

The average weekly attendance for the year at:

- Hambledon Church was 40 adults and 3 children (under 16)
- Busbridge Church was 115 adults and 30 children (under 16)
- Online services are watched by 49 devices on average each week – with larger numbers seen at Easter and Christmas

Deanery Synod

There have been no elected members from Busbridge or Hambledon on Deanery synod since the last APCM. Elections are due for the next three-year term with 4 spaces for Busbridge and 3 for Hambledon. Meetings are held twice a year, currently on a Wednesday evening.

At the meetings in 2022, Deanery Synod discussed (amongst other things) volunteer stress, skill sharing among churches and the parish needs process. Criteria were also established for parishes to apply for grants from the Deanery Mission Fund, as follows:

- For specific expenditure on a new evangelistic project or significant extension to an existing evangelistic project
- With the intention of making new disciples or bringing people to know or be aware of Jesus
- Up to a maximum of £1,000 per project

Jenny Lansdowne

Safeguarding

The PCC adopted the House of Bishops' 'Promoting a Safer Church: Safeguarding Policy Statement' in May 2017 and continues to comply with the duty to have due regard to this. A Parish Statement of Safeguarding Policy is signed by the Rector at the first PCC meeting of each Church year and hard copies displayed appropriately. This was last signed on behalf of the PCC in July 2022.

The PCC has overall responsibility for Safeguarding issues. Responsibility for Parish Safeguarding is delegated to the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) on behalf of the PCC. The PSO is responsible for ensuring that any Safeguarding issues are fully investigated, documented, reviewed with the Diocese, closed out in an appropriate way, and any recommended actions arising are communicated to PCC for follow up.

The PSO and Wardens provide a brief update to PCC on any current Safeguarding cases under investigation within this Benefice. The Rector is informed on every occasion and is also kept fully in the communications loop. All cases are dealt with on a "need to know" basis. Should there be specific recommendations arising from a particular case, the PCC would be informed on the recommended action/s arising, e.g. should there be a need for further training of any personnel, and how the actions will be implemented.

Jenny Lansdowne is currently the PSO for Busbridge & Hambledon. The DBS Validators for the Benefice are Jenny Lansdowne and Alan Harvey.

During the year (2022) there were 5 safeguarding concerns reported to PCC for either adults or children: 5 were for Busbridge and none for Hambledon. All of these concerns were discussed with the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor but none required further escalation.

As at the middle of February 2023, there were 66 individuals from Busbridge and 9 from Hambledon who have current DBS clearance validation, with 8 applications in process for Busbridge and 2 for Hambledon (including renewals). These figures do not include clergy, whose DBS checks are administered centrally via the Diocese.

There are currently (excluding clergy) 87 people from Busbridge and 11 people from Hambledon who have undertaken some level of Safeguarding training within the past three years. There are 40 people from Busbridge and 8 people from Hambledon who need to complete further safeguarding training at some level.

Jenny Lansdowne (PSO Busbridge & Hambledon)

Data Protection

Busbridge & Hambledon is committed to protecting the data entrusted to the benefice and continues to work to ensure the correct procedures are followed. The relevant annual data protection fee has been paid. 2 data breaches or potential breaches were recorded during 2022, neither of which was serious enough to require notification to the PCC or the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

Jenny Lansdowne

PCC Sub-Group Reports

Fabric Reports

Hambledon Church Fabric and Churchyard Report

This year, in Hambledon, it has been another year of routine maintenance inside and out, along with a few bigger projects. Major work inside the church has included installation of a new AV system which has enhanced our streaming ability as well as providing screens and improving sound inside the church. Huge thanks to those who donated to this project.

We had some repointing work done to the external church walls and replaced the vent grilles. A few of the external window frames were also defrassed (defrassing is the process of cleaning up stone and wood to stabilise it prior to restoration) and lime watered.

We have changed gardeners this year, who've been maintaining our churchyard to a good standard. A new memorial bench was placed in the churchyard (with thanks to the family). We are looking at options to provide more space, longer term, in the garden of remembrance and working on an up-to-date mapping of the entire churchyard.

Later this year we have a quinquennial inspection to look forward to!

Away from the church, Mervil Bottom has had a major recurrence of its damp problems resulting in Simon and Naomi moving out with plans for the property to be sold by the diocese.

Many thanks to Dave Chadwick for yet another year of invaluable service as deputy warden and thank you to all who came along to support the working party day last Autumn.

Fran Duffell and Dudley Hilton

Busbridge Church and Churchyard Fabric Report

The Property and Fabric Group (PFG) has been recently re-established after an absence of six years due to major reordering works, COVID and absence of volunteers. This new group still requires some further members but is intended to help identify, prioritise and coordinate necessary ongoing maintenance across the Busbridge 'estate'. Top priority is the inspection and repair of the guttering on the south side of the church, as evidenced by the re-occurrence of damp in the interior front right nave area, despite remedial works in 2022. The PFG will also re-evaluate and seek to close out necessary outstanding work remaining from the Old Rectory and Church reordering projects, for which restricted funds still remain.

Following the Q4 2021 Quinquennial inspection, work continued to address identified priority work. The most urgent item was the need to remove moss from the church roof, particularly the north side. This was addressed in April 2022. Gutters were also cleared.

A churchyard maintenance plan was introduced with a new contractor to ensure the churchyard remains neat and tidy and wildflowers protected. A cutting schedule, including 'No Mow May' has been approved by the PCC.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has replaced three headstones, including that of the Hon Francis McLaren. Awaiting confirmation from RAF Montrose that the original McLaren wooden grave marker is now exhibited and we can sign off on Faculty completion. In addition, the two Boer war grave headstones have been inspected, cleaned and lettering repaired.

Garden of remembrance extension is under consideration due to lack of space.

PCC and Faculty approval was received for design and construction of a new oak lectern in memory of the Rev David Mace. This was formally installed in April 2023.

Two unsuccessful attempts were made to remove minor lead flashing at the edge of the roof of the Yew Tree Café. Repairs were made to damage caused and a sign will be placed to deter future attempts. Further optimisation of our CCTV cameras will be considered.

After an approach by Waverley Council, a new section of yew hedging has been planted behind the Jekyll family memorial gravestone in order to be in compliance with the Old Rectory planning permission stipulations.

Non-Church Buildings and Fabric Report

All four non-church buildings are now managed by Grantley Sales and Lettings. All have been occupied throughout 2022, apart from a month hiatus at Phillips Close due to tenant change.

It is expected that from 1 April 2025, the Government will change the law to require that all properties let on a new tenancy must have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) of at least Band C (currently E). Existing tenancies will have until 2028 to comply with the new rule changes. This legislative change will require significant potential expenditure on several of our properties, notably High Ridge.

14 Phillips Close – Minor redecorating and lounge carpet replacement at time of tenancy change. Over the winter months the property suffered from excessive humidity giving rise to persistent mould in several upper floor rooms, particularly the bathroom. Despite the installation of a bathroom extractor fan and soffit vents to reduce attic moisture, a drymaster Nuair ecosystem will be installed to provide a fresh positive air flow throughout the house.

34 High Ridge – Remains on a long term let (13 years) but on a 12 month rolling contract. Original single glazed windows in need of replacement in 2023. Kitchen and bathroom will also need to be replaced soon.

School House – Commercially let from January 2021 on a 12-month rolling contract.

Church Cottage – Property remained let on the commercial market throughout 2022. Partial window replacement is required, ideally in 2023.

Both Church Cottage and School House sit in a conservation area. Our thanks to Guildford Probation Service for unpaid work teams for various grounds work on Old Rectory grounds, Church Cottage (including sheds) and School House front fences.

[David Wilkin](#)

Community Payback Team

The use of a community payback team provided by Guildford Probation Service not only continued to save money in the churchyard and Old Rectory gardens, Church Cottage and School House gardens (and latterly at St Mark's) but continues to provide an outreach opportunity for church members.

The Probation Service wrote: 'Your church has practised what you preach and shown us respect and treated all who attend with kindness. This positive impact on the offenders cannot be measured.'

[Keith Harper](#)

SAM Group (Specific Age Ministry)

We have overall responsibility for the effectiveness of the children's, youth, families and older people's ministry.

It has been a busy year for the group which comprises Penny Harris, Sue Hardy, Mark Williams, Ben Barnes and Penny Naylor.

In the summer Anto Ficatier left his role as Director of Youth and Children and Ed Sherwin, our part time Assistant Children's Worker left us to go on his gap year travels. We thank them for all their hard work and encouragement of our young people. We were delighted to welcome Ben Barnes to the role of Director of Youth and Children in September and Ben came to our PCC meeting in January to share his vision and exciting plans for CYF. We are currently advertising for a full time Children & Families Pastor and praying God sends us His person for this important role, as we look to widen our reach to the children and youth of the wider parish of Godalming with the formation of Godalming Minster. Rev Patrick Samuels has become an ex-officio member of the SAM group.

Our older people's ministry continues to support many people in the wider community. Prime Time numbers are increasing and there are about 130 who participate. A wide range of activities are organised by Penny Naylor including Coffee Drop-ins at the Yew Tree Café, hearing aid clinics (now also running in the library in Godalming) and regular Prime Time socials. We are delighted that Jane Tomes has been commissioned in church as our Anna Chaplain (offering spiritual care in later life) and she is going to take on a special role in care home ministry.

[Penny Harris](#)

Outward Giving Group (formerly Channel for Mission)

The Outward Giving Group is responsible for disbursing the money (£10,000) allocated by BHC for charitable giving, including awarding bursaries. In 2022 donations of £750 each were made to Bible Society, CPAS, A Rocha, Tearfund, Trinity Trust, Open Doors, The Nazareth Way initiative at HMP Send, Mechanics for Africa, Elam Ministries, and the Salvadorian Children's Earthquake Trust. In November an additional grant of £500 was made to Tearfund hoping to provide cows or goats for needy families, but Tearfund could not guarantee a specific use. £500 each was given to Godalming Food Bank and the Sanctuary Foundation to provide welcome books of hope for Ukrainian children forced to flee to the UK from the terrible conflict in their own country.

The Outward Giving Group was initially charged with spearheading the BHC4Ukraine initiative, but soon the people heading this were able to move ahead independently and continue to do a tremendous job: we must thank Sarah Black, Will Godwin and Jo Gidley of the Godalming & Villages Support for Ukraine Facebook Group, and everybody who has provided or arranged accommodation and support for Ukrainian refugees, and also the Afghan refugees who fled after the Taliban conquest.

Appeals in 2022 were made for Guildford Besom at Easter (£700), Five Talents at Harvest (£1,112.50), and the Cellar at Christmas (£2,530.60)

The Group was instrumental in the Christmas Hamper appeal and would like to thank all those through whose generosity in time and money resulted in 30 hampers being delivered to people in need.

Thanks must go to David and Liz Jenkins who spearheaded the 'Lunch with Helen' appeal to provide help for women released from HMP Send with very little. Through community lunches in Hambledon and Witley, and generous donations from people who gave up a meal, giving the money saved to the appeal, and sales of crab apple jelly, a cheque for a magnificent £3,250 was presented to the Reverend Lesley Mason, Senior Chaplain at HMP Send, outside the prison on 30th November.

Group members are currently Shelagh Godwin (chair), Sandra Campbell (minutes secretary), Annie Bryett, David Jenkins, and Nigel Pollock. Warm thanks go to them all but with Shelagh and Nigel both leaving the PCC at the APCM, the group desperately needs more members to carry the group forward into the Minster.

[Shelagh Godwin](#)

Health & Safety/Risk Group

The group has 4 members, Arthur Blackman (secretary), Rev David Jenkins, Dudley Hilton and Alison Martin (co-opted chair).

Arthur Blackman and Alison Martin conducted the annual inspection of both churchyards on 15th March 2022 and a report was submitted to the PCC.

A meeting was held in person between all four members of the subgroup on 13th October 2022. We reviewed the terms of reference, health and safety policies and Covid 19 rules and guidance.

The budget in 2022 for the provision of training costs was not spent. We have asked for this to be rolled over to 2023 for Life Support training.

[Alison Martin](#)

Human Resources

During 2022 the HR sub group comprised four PCC members - Martin Lambert, Andrew Dunn, Fran Duffell and Alan Harvey - and one non-PCC co-opted member, Suzie Lambert. Hilda Barrett then joined towards the end of 2022, as a second non-PCC co-opted member.

In summary, the team provides guidance, advice and practical support to the clergy, staff leadership team and churchwardens on staffing and people-related topics, as required. In 2022 this included the following activities:

- Staffing: Provided advice and assisted in interview processes for job vacancies, produced contract documentation for several new hires, handled changes to terms and conditions of employment, including contract extensions, conducted exit interviews and recommended actions as a result and generally offered support to staff in employment related matters.
- HR Policies: conducted a handbook review and provided support with producing people related policies
- Staff salary review: Provided recommendations.
- Staff appraisals: Provided advice and support for the performance reviews where requested.
- Minster Project: Began preparations to provide assistance on people related matters connected with the Minster Project.

HR Sub-Group

Small Groups

This year has seen some significant developments in the life of our Small Groups. In light of the Minster we have taken the opportunity alongside our Small Group Leaders to re-envisage Small Group life. This has been explored in conjunction with Rev Richard Lloyd from our diocesan Mission Enabler team. Our Small Groups are now exploring a developed model of Small Group life – the 6Ws: Welcome, Worship, Word, Wait (praying) Weighing (reflecting) and Witness. Of particular note is the (easier to lead) bible study called “the Swedish Bible Study” which asks open questions about the Bible and facilitates easier discussion. Our aim is to increase the number of our Small Groups so that more of our church members can join and develop in their relationship with Jesus and one another. To support this we are looking to raise up new Small Group leaders from within our groups.

Rev Hilary Pettman joined me in leading and has done a wonderful job visiting each of our groups. Hilary will now be taking on leadership of our Small Groups as I step aside to help develop music and worship.

Our group leaders and reps do a fantastic job discipling and caring for our group members. We are so grateful to Shân Hallam, Toni Charter, Niki Ford, Ed Payne, Caroline Luard, Tony Nunn, Dudley Hilton, Carolyn Betts, Jon Warnke, Martin Lambert, Lynda Donaldson, Nicky Hemery, Julia Stubbs, Chris Garner, Anne Rawson, Kate and Dave Brockman, Mark Puddephatt, Cathy Brook, John and Jaqueline Hindley, Jill Johnston, and Graham Sheldrake.

Simon Willetts

Racial Justice and the Church

This small PCC sub-group helps the church to look at ways to promote Racial Justice, particularly with regards to the local church. The main activity this year was to promote Racial Justice Sunday in February. The group monitors what is happening nationally, ready to respond if needed and to follow the C of E, both nationally and in the diocese, as the Racial Justice Commission deliberations are turned into action. The group keeps the PCC informed.

We would welcome a few more people to be part of our team.

Andy Spencer

Church Activity Reports

Congregations

9.30am – Contemporary (Busbridge)

While the foundation for this service remains the same, ie maintaining its informality, the format has evolved since Covid restrictions were lifted. The service is designed to offer an opportunity to those exploring their faith afresh or reconnecting with church in an informal atmosphere and is paying off as many new individuals/couples have starting worshipping at this service. In addition, this service also offers discipleship opportunities to those who are exploring the ‘What next might God be calling me to?’ question by offering them the opportunity to experience upfront roles such as Bible reading and leading intercessions. Since September 2023, in consultation with the Classic congregational leader, the time for the Contemporary service has been moved to a 9.30am start followed by the Classic service at 11.15am, which seems to be working well. The tea/coffee in between the two services offer the

opportunity for the two congregation to share hospitality and fellowship. In addition to that, every second Sunday of the month, doughnuts at the tea/coffee are a highlight for many. Prayer ministry has also become a prominent feature, offered throughout the Contemporary service.

10am – Morning Worship (Hambledon)

A new service since September 2022 - previously separate Heritage and Contemporary services - Morning Worship follows Common Worship liturgy, blending traditional and informal styles, with Sunday Club for children, and coffee and croissants from the village shop.

11.15am - Classic (Busbridge)

A structured service following Common Worship, including well-known hymns, and space for listening and reflecting, with Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month. This format serves the spiritual needs of many, and numbers increased through the year, especially since moving to the new time of 11.15 in September.

4pm Messy Church (Hambledon)

Messy Church meets at 4pm in Hambledon Village Hall once a month on a Sunday afternoon. This is well attended with lots of crafts, games and activities followed by a sandwich tea.

6.00pm – The Busbridge Evening Service

An informal evening worship service for the whole Benefice with emphasis on going deeper into God's word, openness to the Holy Spirit and transformational discipleship. The service follows a relaxed framework with extended times of sung worship and space for reflection and prayer ministry. Sarah Rowden, our Ordinand on a 2-year placement at BHC, took on the rôle of leading this congregation in September 2022.

Combined

Thankfully, life returned to something approaching normal in 2022 and we were back to celebrating Palm Sunday, Easter and beyond, in ways we remembered from pre-pandemic times.

We joined in with the Churches Together service in celebration of the Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It was scheduled to happen at the bandstand, but the weather defeated us, so we adjourned to Godalming Parish Church, where it was lovely to have a full church and joyful singing.

In the summer, we met on six Sundays, including the Churches Together service at the Bandstand, which was another joyous occasion, with the congregation gathered under the shelter of the trees, because of the extreme heat!

Over the Christmas period, we enjoyed the usual mix, with Family Carols, carol services, a (reinstated) Midnight Communion and Christmas Day celebrations.

In October we held our annual Memorial Service, to which we invite those recently – and not so recently – bereaved. A full house seems to indicate that it fulfils a need, not least amongst the many people who are not normally churchgoers, but who attend this service every year without fail.

Remembrance Sunday is an important date in the church – and national – calendar. Reading the names on the memorial walls in church is a powerful reminder of the number of local families who were bereaved through both world wars, with several having lost more than one family member. This year, we were also very aware of the war in Ukraine, and the presence of people, in our midst, who have had to leave behind everything and everyone familiar.

The over-riding feeling is joy at being able to resume worship in church and to enjoy being together again.

Children, Youth and Families

It is the mission of the CYF ministry team to equip and walk alongside the families as they grow in their faith and relationship with Jesus.

Anto Ficatier left the team in July 2022 and was replaced as Youth Minister by Ben Barnes in September 2022. Juliet Gilbert (0-4 Families Worker) and Jenny Lansdowne are still in position. Jenny Lansdowne provides invaluable administrative support for the team.

Hambledon

Nursery School

This Year the Nursery School has received Christmas books to give to all the children and also children's books for all the leavers in the summer. Simon Willetts is a trustee for the school and the links are growing really positively between the school and the church. The school hold their termly services at the church led by Kate Walford (head teacher) and many of the parents regularly attend.

Hambletons / Toddler Group

Occasional help on Wednesday from the 0-4 Families Worker, with Georgina Aylward supporting on a regular basis.

Busbridge

ABC

ABC toddler group provides a space for parents, carers and children age 0-4 of the surrounding community to meet in a relaxed, friendly and fun environment. It takes place every Tuesday morning, term-time only, in the Old Rectory. Sessions involve plenty of toys to play with, and a social time for all ages. The garden has also been well used and appreciated all year round. The group is co-ordinated by the 0-4 Families Worker.

Pray and Play

In November 2022 Pray and Play was launched by Suzie Lambert. It's a toddler group that offers prayer ministry, a short time of worship and support for parents with young children, while also being a space they can bring their children to play. Suzie has done a great job of launching and establishing the group.

Smarttots

Held at St. Mark's. Occasional help on Wednesday from the 0-4 Families Worker.

Meals for families with new babies

Families with new babies have continued to receive meals provided by a wonderful group of cooks, organised by Samantha Morris and overseen by the 0-4's Families Worker.

Crèche and Tiny Tigers (0-4 year olds)

The crèche is a group for babies and toddlers under the age of 3 that takes place during the Contemporary service. The live stream of the service is accessible in crèche so that parents can still be part of the service. Tiny Tigers is aimed at pre-schoolers with Bible stories, songs, craft and toys.

Both gatherings take place in the Old Rectory (Malthouse and Minster rooms) on Sunday morning during the Contemporary service. The crèche and Tiny Tigers are co-ordinated by the 0-4 Families Worker.

Ark (4-7 year olds)

Every session is a blend of group teaching, worship, games and craft. In the absence of a 4-11 Children and Families Pastor, the Ark is co-ordinated by Jenny Lansdowne and Tom Penlington.

This term both Ark and Explorers have been using a new online resource called Energize for their teaching material and we have been following a series called Christian Foundations. The series looks at the basics of living a Christian life and what it means to be a follower of Jesus. This includes topics such as Who is God?, Why did Jesus come to earth?, Why did Jesus have to die?

Explorers (7-11 year olds)

Every child learns about God through games, crafts, story-telling, drama, and conversation. In the absence of a Children and Families Pastor, the group is coordinated and run by an incredible team of volunteers and overseen by the Youth Minister.

Pathfinders (11-15 year olds) and Ichthus (15-18 year olds)

Pathfinders and Ichthus meet in the Hut every Sunday evening between 6 and 7.30pm during school terms; starting in the 6pm service for the first 20 minutes on the weeks when the service is running. The sessions always start by having dinner together before dividing into the separate groups for age specific teaching and discussion. The sessions typically include games, Bible study, discussions, and prayers. During Lent term we looked at series such as What would Jesus do? and Youth Alpha.

Ichthus also meets on a Tuesday evening between 7.30 and 8.45pm in the Hut for a fellowship orientated evening.

Pathfinders and Ichthus is coordinated by the Youth Minister.

Unplugged (All youth)

Unplugged has been put on pause for the time being and instead, the 1st Sunday of the month has been amalgamated back into the 6pm service. The youth are now in for the duration of this service which isn't a youth service but is more accessible than the usual 6pm service. The youth band help to lead worship at the service and Ben helps to plan the service with Sarah Rowden, Ordinand.

ONE (All youth)

ONE is a youth worship event run in partnership with Youth Ministers representing more than 8 different churches across Guildford. It happens once a half term at St Saviour's in Guildford between 7 and 9pm. Every event includes sung worship, a relevant and applicable talk, opportunities to pray with and for each other, Ice Breakers and a social café. ONE is a space where we have tried to equip and champion young leaders and enable them to use their gifting.

Ben Barnes, on behalf of the CYF team

Busbridge Junior School

BJS was founded by the church in 1867 and has served our local children ever since. The school's vision is thus: *'To be a school that reflects the love of Christ: cherishing each other as unique individuals and challenging all to achieve and succeed'*. The work of the school is driven in all areas by balancing the Cherish and the Challenge. As it is our parish church school we appoint the majority of the governors and, as a voluntary aided school, we normally provide some limited funding towards the cost of capital projects. The foundation (i.e. the church) governors continue to be involved with the school. The foundation governors are Philippa Baker, Sebastian Cheek, Ron Downhill, Matt Rooke, Ruth Roseblade and Beckie Whiteman. We are grateful to them for their time and commitment. We are particularly grateful to Patrick Samuels who is the main church link and also an active member of the governing body. Ben Barnes has ongoing contact with the school and leads weekly assemblies there. Assemblies are held in Church for key times of year such as Year 3 welcome, Christmas and Easter. The school and church organise these services together for pupils, parents and staff. The school staff are dedicated, and are absolutely fantastic in all they do. Pupils at both the Infant and Junior School were also involved in creating stars for our Christmas display in Busbridge Church this year. We continue to foster links with other local schools, particularly Busbridge Infant School, where Patrick Samuels leads assemblies bi-weekly and St Mark & All Saints Primary School, where Sheila Samuels leads weekly assemblies.

Music and Creativity

Busbridge Contemporary and 6pm

The last year has seen changes in our musical worship. Ben Ford left at the end of August 2022 after 9 months as Interim Worship Pastor; we are very grateful to him for his time with us. Since then, Karen Hart has been holding the music ministry voluntarily, pending the appointment of a full time Worship Pastor. We were unable to recruit at our initial round of interviews in autumn 2022, but we are so pleased that Simon Willetts, who has a strong background in leading worship, has felt called to take on this role for the foreseeable future.

Since the morning service times have switched around we have more time to prepare and set up bands. We have brought back many musicians who have not played since lockdown and all the surrounding restrictions, and now have a wonderful group of around 20 musicians who serve our worship life regularly at both 9.30am and 6pm services. Annie Bryett, Aimee Hayter and Arianna Pisetti have stepped forward into worship leading roles and are doing an amazing job. Lisa Oldsworth-Peter has also been leading when she is able. We have welcomed some new

singers and musicians into the bands, and are always open to anyone who feels drawn to this ministry; do talk to any of the worship leaders or contact Karen via the church office to discuss if this is you.

The church has purchased an electronic drum kit, now set up permanently in church which enables our drummers to have the musical variety of a full kit, but for the volume to be adjusted appropriately for our limited space. It also saves hours of set up and set down and many trips to cars carrying heavy drums!

Our purpose and passion is to lead music in a way that helps people to enter into God's presence, to open and soften hearts to hear His word, and to help us to respond to that word.

Karen Hart

Busbridge Classic

We have a talented and dedicated team of organists who share playing at Busbridge Classic and Hambledon morning services. Frances Shaw co-ordinates the rota at Busbridge and everyone tries to be as flexible as they can with their other commitments, and covering for last minute unavailability. Thanks to Iain Beckingham, William Edwards, Shelagh Godwin, Alan Harvey, and Rachel Sopp. Classic enjoys a wide repertoire of hymns and songs from Common Worship and Songs of Fellowship, and the sound of the organ and singing fills the building.

Frances Shaw

Hambledon

We are most grateful to our organists - Sally Falk and William Edwards from the village, and to Iain Beckingham and Shelagh Godwin coming over from Busbridge - for their much valued input to the music/worship life at Hambledon morning services. The challenge in recent times has been to broaden the scope of the hymns and songs we sing, now we are all worshipping together at the one morning service. That has meant learning some more contemporary material, alongside the old favourites. A work in progress!

We also have a choir who lead us for a Choral Evensong 2 or 3 times a year. We all enjoyed a 'Hymns with Pimms' evening in September, with church members coming forward with their choices. The 'Nine Lessons' Christmas carol service was a notable highlight of the year, with a scratch choir ably leading us in festive song.

Alan Harvey

Men's Ministry

Since regrouping after Covid in October 2021 our breakfast numbers have increased and now average 15-20 including a few new faces. As always we meet for a light breakfast in the Old Rectory on the first Saturday of the month and reflect on a topical subject and its relevance to our Christian faith and witness. Again this year it has been remarkable that every subject has been informed not only by The Bible but more especially by the words and teaching of Jesus. One of our main conclusions is that, because the culture of our society is changing so rapidly, it can be difficult to hold on to some basic and simple reflections of our faith. In such circumstances it has been really good to share our thoughts with each other. Our only departure from the norm came with our annual January breakfast at a well-known town centre pub. Generally our formula seems to work well – one month a newcomer suggested we should have a big porridge free fried breakfast...so we did the next month...but the newcomer never returned...there must be a lesson there somewhere?

Alan Betts

Women's Ministry

If you feel you would like to lead Women's Ministry (currently a vacancy), please contact the church office.

Nexus

Although we had to hold our January event via Zoom, Shirley and David Faraday still managed to convey their ambition to adopt a 'green' lifestyle. In February, Jen Clay and Jane Felton, from our 2022 charity 'Oakleaf Enterprise: Making life work with mental illness', told us how they support people to regain the confidence to get back to work.

Other highlights: a talk by Surrey Search and Rescue; a musically accompanied presentation by Chris Jagger on the relocated Cellar Camino Café; a talk on conservation of local butterflies and wildflowers; and we made colourful festive wreaths, with guidance from Helen Sturney. Our Curate, Patrick Samuels gave us an interesting trip through his life journey before coming to BHC, and Jess Ficatier enlightened us on the work of Habitat for Humanity-providing sustainable homes in climate risk locations. In June, we visited delightful NGS Whitehanger Garden and on a lovely August day we had a memorable tour and wine tasting at Blackdown Ridge Winery.

We ended 2022 with a wonderful 'live' Quiz in the festively decorated Busbridge Church, with our brilliant quizmaster team of Alan Betts and Dudley Hilton. Thanks to the generosity of our guests and others, we raised the fantastic sum of £850.00 for Oakleaf Enterprise. All in all, a very good year!

Kate Kaye and Janet Harvey

Pastoral Care

As a church we offer support to anyone within our community in need of pastoral care. After a challenging two years during the pandemic, the team has been refreshed since March 2022. Sandra Wilkin has taken on the role of Pastoral Coordinator and Chris Sollars is now Assistant Pastoral Coordinator. The team has been augmented by the addition of Esther Elshen, who completed her training as a Pastoral Visitor with the Diocese last autumn and who will focus her time largely on the Contemporary congregation. This has always posed a more challenging pastoral task, due to the less regular pattern of Sunday attendance by many in that congregation. Pastoral care across all congregations has continued throughout the year with more face-to-face visits now happening again. All members of the team have been encouraged and affirmed in their role by the initiation of regular (six-monthly) one-to-one supervision sessions with Sandra and Chris.

We try to maintain regular contact with vulnerable or housebound individuals making sure they are well cared for, and this has been enhanced by the resumption of home communion in April 2022. As well as individual contacts, a new initiative has recently begun in the form of a six-week small group Bereavement course, based on material developed by Holy Trinity Brompton. It is hoped to develop a similar initiative relating to mental health in the autumn. Members of our team have completed training in the areas of safeguarding, mental health first aid and domestic abuse awareness. These are all aspects of pastoral care which pastoral assistants may encounter, and this enables them to be well equipped to carry out their roles in a professional way.

Sandra Wilkin and Chris Sollars

Prayer

Prayer Ministry has long been a valued and important part of our church life at Busbridge and Hambledon. Following on from the disruption of Covid, during the past year prayer ministry has once again been possible. At Busbridge, prayer ministry teams have been available at both the Contemporary and 6pm services each week. This prayer is entirely confidential. Trained team members pray in pairs and follow strict guidelines. Prayer ministers are also available at the Classic service and at Hambledon. In November 2022 members of the BHC prayer ministry team took part in a most valuable training and refreshing morning led by visiting trainer Rev Emmy Wilson from HTB. It is our desire to see prayer ministry grow and develop in our church in the coming year and as we transition into becoming a Minster Church.

Toni Charter

Busbridge Wednesday Morning Prayer

This group meets once a week by Zoom from 9.00 to 9.30am. The sessions begin with a structured time of praise and confession, followed by a short reading. One of the group reflects on the passage for 3- 5 minutes. We then have a time of open prayer including using the Prayer Cards from the Yew Tree Café. We conclude with the Lord's Prayer and a prayer for the coming days. Anyone is welcome to join by clicking on *Connect* at the top of the first page of the BHC website and then scrolling down to prayer.

Andy Spencer

Hambledon Morning Prayer

We have resumed meeting in person regularly for half an hour at 9.00am every Wednesday in the Hambledon Church room. Our time together takes us through a brief liturgy, using seasonal cards. This allows space for:

- Bible readings (taken from the Church of England liturgy, for the day in question)
- Prayers for the world, our nation, local community and individuals.

All are welcome!

Alan Harvey

Other areas where prayer has been happening

The 2nd Saturday of each month has also seen the continuation of the 8am prayer meeting + Prayerfest 0-30 in Busbridge Church (contact Michael Stubbs)

The Emergency Prayer Chain (Contact Toni Charter)

Daily 5pm Prayer in Busbridge Church (Contact Shelagh Godwin)

Small groups (contact Hilary Pettman)

Reflective Prayer Mondays at 8.45am online (contact Gertrud Sollars or Shân Hallam)

If you would like to be the organiser and contact point for Prayer Triplets, please contact the office.

Older People's Ministry

Older People's Ministry at BHC is a person-centred and non-judgemental ministry for people in their third (and increasingly fourth) age. It is a ministry for people of strong, little or no faith at all. The aim of this ministry is to demonstrate God's love for every individual by having people who are willing to walk alongside others as they journey through this stage of life. In so doing, we aim to address some of the issues associated with older age; namely isolation and loneliness and a perceived lack of value and purpose that often accompanies advancing age. As a church, we hope that as a result of interacting with our Older People's Ministry Team, individuals feel better connected to the community around them in addition to feeling valued and encouraged. Increasingly, our Older People's Ministry is offering opportunities for older adults to explore some of the big questions that will occur to many of us as we age by providing safe spaces as well as worship opportunities which allow individuals to build or strengthen their relationship with God.

In December 2022, Jane Tomes was commissioned as BHC's first Anna Chaplain for Older People. Having felt a call to care-home ministry, Jane will be focussing on this specific area of Older People's Ministry and initially at least, will be exploring how as a church we can best support the residents and staff of Hydon Hill Leonard Cheshire Home in Hydestile.

Prime Time: 2022 saw a full programme of Prime Time events for the first time since 2019, with events taking place at least once a month, quite often twice or more, thanks to our collaboration with Prior's Field School who regularly offer additional activities for Prime Time members to enjoy which are in addition to the main programme.

A new addition to the Prime Time programme in 2022 were Shrove Tuesday Celebrations. We welcomed 36 people to this event; a Tea & Talk with a difference as the usual cake was replaced with pancakes. A talk was given by LLM Keith Harper as to some of the symbolism behind Shrove Tuesday and a new Busbridge tradition of ringing the Pancake Bell was started. A number of requests were made on the day for this event to become a regular feature in the Prime Time programme and so by popular request, the Prime Time Shrove Tuesday Celebrations made a comeback in 2023!

The Shrove Tuesday Celebrations allowed the flexibility of the re-ordered church to come into its own. A microwave was even moved into the Nave for the afternoon. Table configurations and layout can be adapted to suit each event and the numbers of people expected; Prime Time is now able to utilise the church building to hold events much more frequently since the reordering was completed. In addition to the Shrove Tuesday celebrations, Busbridge Church has been used by Prime Time this year for 2 further Tea & Talks, 7 Movie Matinéés, a card making session, Sherry with the Rector (Christingle pack preparations) and our annual Carol Service in December.

The opening of the Yew Tree Café at Busbridge Church has enabled a new weekly Prime Time ministry to develop – the Monday morning Coffee Drop-in sessions. A member of the Prime Time Team will be at the café between

10.30 and 11.30am every Monday morning to chat with any Prime Time member who wishes to come along and spend time in the company of others for an hour on a Monday morning. We have a core group of 6-8 members who regularly come along to these sessions, a number of whom prefer these small, more intimate gatherings as opposed to the larger monthly events. The opening of the Yew Tree Café has enabled us to meet this need that was previously hidden and allows us to connect with more people on a regular basis. This additional aspect of our ministry is only possible thanks to the commitment of 4 members of the Prime Time Team; Di Drudge, Wendy Wilkins, Jane Tomes and Penny Naylor who agreed to go on a rota covering one Monday morning a month each, which enables these sessions to happen.

Olwen Downhill, a long-serving member of the Prime Time Team stepped down this year. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Olwen for her many years of committed service to this ministry and look forward to welcoming her back to events now as a Prime Time member! We also welcomed two new additions to the Prime Time Team during 2022; Sally Morgan and Lizzie Burndred. We thank them for wishing to be part of this busy ministry and we look forward to the fresh perspective and ideas that new volunteers bring to what we are able to offer.

At the close of 2022, there were 128 people on the Prime Time mailing list, 93 of whom had attended at least one Prime Time event during the course of the year.

Befriending: We continue to partner with the Christian befriending organisation 'Linking Lives UK' to offer 1:1 befriending for whom group activities such as Prime Time are not an option. Using their 'Two's Company' model, we are able to offer both telephone and face-to-face befriending. Befriending is the smallest enterprise within our current offering of support for older adults in our community, but it is none-the-less a valuable addition in terms of what we can offer to people who find themselves lonely or socially-isolated. Grateful thanks go out to all the volunteers across both Busbridge and Hambledon who are involved in this ministry and who have faithfully continued with telephone calls and visits throughout the past year.

Hearing Aid Clinics: The monthly Hearing Aid Clinic in Busbridge has continued throughout 2022. As the year commenced, the operation of such clinics remained subject to strict COVID restrictions – but as the year progressed, these were gradually eased. During the late spring we were able to start offering refreshments again to our clinic visitors; these were served on the veranda and lawn at the Old Rectory initially until the cooler autumn weather set in, by which time users of the clinic were confident to have an indoor café-style waiting area as was the case prior to the pandemic.

Attendance at the Busbridge Clinic remains much more erratic than was the case prior to the pandemic – which makes it difficult to staff the clinic appropriately. Numbers attending each session have varied during the year between 8 and 24, with the average for the year being 13.

We have had 4 new Hearing Champions join the BHC team during 2022, bringing the total number of Hearing Champions across our benefice to 8. Rachel Hargreaves who had fulfilled the welcomer & host role at the Busbridge Hearing Aid Clinic for a number of years had to step down in the autumn due to increasing work commitments. We have as yet been unable to fill this important role on a permanent basis and would welcome expressions of interest. At present, one of the Hearing Champions covers the welcome and hosting responsibilities, but there is a real need to grow this area of the team.

In the spring of 2022, BHC was approached by Godalming Library, enquiring if it would be possible for BHC to re-start the Hearing Aid Clinic at the Library that prior to the pandemic had been run by the Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul. With the blessing of Canon John Harkin, incumbent at St Peter & St Paul, the BHC-led monthly Hearing Aid Clinic at Godalming Library held its first session in May 2022, with 3 people making use of this new service. Visitor numbers built during the year and by December there was an obvious need for additional Hearing Champions to be in attendance at this clinic as numbers were consistently more than it is possible for one Champion to manage in a two-hour session, (numbers for each session now regularly being in double figures).

August 2022 saw the resumption of the monthly Coffee Morning at Hambledon Church which enabled the restart of the Hambledon Hearing Aid Clinic as the two activities are run in conjunction with each other. Numbers at the coffee morning (and hence the Hearing Aid Clinic) are significantly lower than prior to the pandemic, but none-the-less this activity remains an important part of our outreach for the village and ensuring the sustainability of this clinic is one of our priorities.

The 6-weekly Hearing Aid Clinic at Ladywell Convent has continued throughout 2022, with numbers of Sisters in attendance at these sessions varying between 11 and 15. This clinic is an important part of our outreach work into our local community and has helped enable a mutually beneficial relationship between our two organisations to thrive.

During 2022, across all Hearing Aid Clinics run by BHC, the Hearing Champion Team welcomed 270 visitors, re-tubed 266 hearing aids, gave out 380 packs of batteries, assisted 44 people seeking advice and information and referred 27 people back to Audiology.

BHC donate half a day per month of Penny Naylor's time to the wider Guildford Diocese Hear Here! Project, of which the BHC clinics are a part. Penny's role within this is to assist in the training and support of new Hearing Champions, enabling the project to grow and be available to even more churches across the Diocese.

Penny Naylor

Alpha

We celebrated our first physical Alpha in 2022 Q4 (9 attendees) after running zoom Alphas through lockdown. Grateful thanks to all the caterers from Busbridge, St Peter & St Paul, and St Mark's; as well as to Clare Haddad who stepped in when Sheila was unavailable.

Sheila Samuels and Keith Harper

Movie Ministry

Following the pandemic, the decision was to focus Movie Ministry towards the Prime Time generation as this is where this particular ministry seems to appeal. It was also decided that films should be shown monthly throughout the autumn, winter and early spring with a break taken over the summer months, mainly due to practicalities because of the tendency of the sun to obscure the projector screen in Busbridge Church between about 3 and 4pm during summer! We also hope that people will find they have more opportunities to get out and about in the warmer weather and therefore that there wouldn't be the same demand for an indoors activity as perhaps there is in the depths of winter. Films are therefore shown on a monthly basis January - April and October – December. The average attendance for the year at a Movie Matinee is 25-30 and there is an identifiable core group of people who will attend most months. The highest attendance for a Movie Matinee during the year was in October when we welcomed 41 people to Busbridge Church to watch 'The Duke'.

This flourishing ministry is made possible by the committed team of Cat Garner, Fiona Jolley and Penny Naylor who give up their time one Saturday afternoon for seven months of the year, thus enabling this activity not only to continue, but to grow. Grateful thanks are due to all three for their enthusiasm and commitment to this ministry.

Penny Naylor

Marriage, Weddings and Support

Happily, I can report that the number of weddings held in the benefice is back to pre-pandemic levels, with twelve marriages in 2022, evenly split between Busbridge and Hambledon.

We are now able to deliver all our Marriage Preparation Days in person again, which has been a great joy and enables us to get to know the couples better. Deb and Tom Jones and their team keep us well-fed and look after us all. The couples' feedback remains consistently positive, and we trust that this ministry will have a far-reaching effect on the lives of those who come.

Please pray that this vital ministry will continue to provide a good grounding for all who entrust us with their nuptials, especially in these times when marriage seems to be under threat from various quarters. We continue to believe that both marriage itself and our wedding ministry are God-given and worth the investment of time and love we are so privileged to offer.

Margot Spencer

Funerals, Bereavement and Support

As with marriages, our funeral ministry has resumed a more normal pattern during 2022, though we have been personally saddened by having quite a few deaths within our own church communities and congregations. It is good to be able to celebrate these lives, knowing that they are now with the God they have faithfully served for so long, but it is still painful for those left behind and we are indebted to all who have so enriched our lives.

We had a very full church for our annual Memorial Service and it was a pleasure to welcome back many familiar faces, as well as those who have been bereaved more recently. During the time of remembrance, we remembered almost 150 people by name, beginning with Her Majesty the Queen, which was particularly poignant for us all.

As always, my heartfelt thanks to the pastoral team and all who help in any way to make our guests welcome, as we offer the opportunity to remember those we have loved and lost.

Margot Spencer

Yew Tree Café

Looking back to the original Faculty set out for the café, key objectives include:

- Provide a warm and welcoming environment which draws people in from outside the church during their daily lives and provides opportunities for fellowship over food and drink.
- Create a new 'front door' to the church which offers a facility that meets a known need of addressing loneliness and isolation in our community.
- Extend the outreach work of the church by training and developing a volunteer team that can provide pastoral care to visitors while serving them food and drink.

The café has now reached its 1-year milestone and is now a firm feature in the Busbridge community! Meeting the above objectives & providing a safe space with no other agenda or expectation, building relationships with members of the community that may never have entered a church space otherwise, now finding community in the café. This is regularly remarked on by those who have become familiar faces and the atmosphere is also noticed by those who are not locals but have visited in passing. They remark that the café is approachable, exudes kindness and 'feels different' somehow.

This atmosphere is cultivated by a truly incredible and dedicated team of volunteers who not only keep the café running beautifully but show God's love, and build an atmosphere of pastoral care through who they are and the values they hold. This year they have been no stranger to important heartfelt conversations. We've celebrated with our regulars and volunteers in times of joy and also shared in their loss and hardships too.

Quality of the product is also a high priority which the café team work tirelessly to deliver. Fresh lunch foods and cakes, all made by volunteers, speciality coffee brewed to perfection by our barista trained staff. The suppliers are carefully picked for their quality and social responsibility, many of which are certified B-Corps. Finally, the space itself is designed beautifully and remains an attractional space for people to enjoy this lovely site at Busbridge Church. All of which contributes to the café's positive reputation.

Lizzie Soar

Online Ministry

YouTube records that in the year 17 April 2022 to 16 April 2023, there was a total of 8,940 views of the BHCgodalmingonline channel including Sunday services, funerals, recorded notices, and promo videos such as the Yew Tree Café.

Sunday services average around 100 views for the 3 services which are livestreamed, though most people watch on demand, after the service. It is certainly a useful means for Small Groups to listen, or re-listen to the sermons in preparation for their studies.

This is encouraging evidence that it is a necessary channel for those who wish to worship at home or elsewhere remotely, as well as a means of giving prospective church members a flavour of our different services. Anecdotally we have heard that people can watch online for months or even years before stepping through the physical church door, and this is borne out by several new people in our congregations who have said they found BHC online before visiting in person. We hope to explore how to keep making the most of this opportunity further as we become part of Godalming Minster.

We are so grateful for the small team involved in the broadcasts each week: Jacob Taylor and other members of the Busbridge production team who cover both 9.30am and 11.15am services, and to Dan Duffell and team at Hambledon. It is currently a big commitment for a few, and we seek to expand the teams in 2023-24. The recent advert in the notices failed to yield more volunteers but we will keep trying to recruit.

Lent 2022 also saw the start of the Godalming Minster Podcast, which was used to publish daily reflections recorded by the clergy team. It was easy and cheap to produce and manage, and the quality is great, so we look forward to using the podcast as a vehicle for teaching and discipleship in the future.

Social Media remains an area for a better strategy and more consistent content. We are lucky to have Jacob Taylor to support on this, but ultimately the challenge is a time issue and a wealth of good quality pics. We aim to address this as part of the identity exercise for Godalming Minster. If you are not already following BHC Godalming on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, please do. The more engagement the better.

Vic Hicks

Parish Magazines

Hambledon Parish Magazine

The magazine continues to be edited by me and Jane Woolley. I supply the framework for all 12 months of each year, and we share formatting of the monthly editions. We are indebted to all contributors, from the church, from village clubs and organizations and from individuals. The magazine has maintained a length of more than 50 pages A4, several issues reaching 56 pages. We have designed special covers for The Platinum Jubilee, The Hambledon Festival, an issue marking the death of Queen Elizabeth II, and Christmas. As well as the print edition, the magazine appears later in the month on the village website. *The Church Times* in a lengthy article about whether print magazines had a future, cited our magazine as a good example, even displaying our normal cover. Mary Parker and Jane organize the wonderful team of distributors. Emma Dunn continues as treasurer and advertisement manager. Accounts are about OK but we have lost a few advertisers. The magazine team: Jane, Mary, Emma, + Gary at the printers, and I, are most grateful to all contributors, distributors and advertisers.

John Hindley

The Bridge (Busbridge)

The Bridge magazine forms a vital link between church and community and each edition is delivered to around 1900 homes locally. Our aim is to produce a good quality magazine with a range of articles and information of interest to those in the parish, while also advertising church activities and giving a flavour of the many ministries of Busbridge Church.

It is now just over a year since I took over from Cathy Brook as Editor. I have tried to build on her excellent work while introducing new features such as local walks. The Editorial team of Chris Payne, Jacky Beale and Lorna Sherwin has recently been supplemented with Gemma Taylor and Emilia Guerra. Many thanks also to Lesley Reeves for her work as Treasurer over many years; she has now handed over to Stephen Rail. Thank you also to the Road Stewards who ensure delivery of the magazines.

We believe The Bridge to be an important part of our outreach - please speak to any of the team if you have any feedback or suggestions for articles. We value your prayers for this ministry.

David Brockman

Road Stewards

The Bridge has a dedicated network of over 50 road stewards who generously volunteer their time to distribute their bi-monthly magazine. Each road steward delivers to a designated patch and we are able to reach out to over 1850 local homes in Busbridge, Bargate Wood, Tuesley, Munstead and Hydestile. For more information please contact Lorna Sherwin.

Church Family Support Fund

The fund received regular donations of £4,341 and a one off donation of £915. The gifts paid out during the year totalled £7,650, and of those £5,200 was paid to Ukrainians based in the Godalming area.

The fund holds an investment in the CBF Church of England Investment fund and £10,000 was added to this from the Nat West current account during the year. The fund has gone down in value this year by £4,906 and now totals £55,961.

There is still a healthy balance of £9,615 in the Nat West current account, available to meet any applications in the year ahead.

The fund received a donation of £300 from the Henry Smith charity before Christmas with the condition that it be used to help families and in particular children in need over the Christmas period. The stewards used this donation to make a gift of £350 to a single parent family to help purchase equipment for their self-employment.

[Jill Johnston](#)

Godalming Minster

The 'Godalming Minster' initiative commenced with a visit by Bishop Andrew to our PCCs on 27th September 2021. He challenged us all to consider a fresh and exciting Christian vision across greater Godalming, one that would bring a unified, strategic approach to mission and which would more proactively spread the good news of Jesus Christ into our immediate communities. So much has happened since that time!

After extensive prayer, consultation and scoping work overseen by a Minster Steering Group, the Godalming Minster Evaluation document was issued in July 2022, recommending that the Minster proceed subject to certain pre-conditions. On this basis each PCC voted overwhelmingly to proceed. The pre-conditions were effectively met by the Diocese and the PCCs decision to proceed was positively reinforced by members of the Electoral Rolls at Extraordinary Parochial Church Council meetings held in October.

The Diocese and Bishop Andrew have been extremely supportive by providing funding support in excess of £400,000. This includes funding for a five year 'Post of First Responsibility' with housing at St. Marks, Ockford Ridge. This position has been taken up by Rev Sheila Samuels in January, who was licensed by Archdeacon Paul in January and moved with her family into the adjacent Vicarage. The local impact has been immediate.

Diocesan funding (£135,000 over three years) is now being realised from January 2023. This is primarily earmarked to pay for a Worship Pastor and Children & Families Pastor, help toward Minster re-branding/website redesign, and initial reordering/AV set up at St Peter & St Paul's (SPSP).

BHC patronage has now become 100% CPAS, thus facilitating the transfer of the Bishop's patronage of SPSP to CPAS. This cannot occur legally until January 1, 2024 because of the technicality of Godalming parish being in 'Suspension', which means Bishop Andrew doesn't have the legal right to do anything about his patronage transfer to CPAS until he lifts the suspension.

Several trial Contemporary services have taken place at SPSP to identify key issues. These have all been well attended and huge thanks go to those who have taken time to set-up/set-down as well as to those in SPSP who have made BB so welcome. Many valuable learnings have been identified, primarily centred around children's ministries, equipment and service start times. The Board of Governors of Moss Lane School, three minutes' walk from SPSP, have now generously agreed to rent their premises on Sundays. This allows for significant future growth of Ark and Explorer age children's work.

Numerous meetings have taken place to establish what is specifically required to bring the current SPSP audio/visual (AV) system up to modern church standards yet minimise the impact on existing church fabric. Some re-ordering of the church interior is also required, including the temporary removal of 3 rows of pews at the front, some at the back, and re-positioning of some of the front side pews. The costs estimate for the AV and reordering amounts to £87,000. This has been approved by the SPSP PCC, who have now initiated a fund raising program to contribute to the overall cost. The Faculty process has commenced, including an Archdeacon's Licence to undertake the re-ordering, with the objective to complete all key works by end 2023.

After exhaustive discussions on service times, particularly those at SPSP on Sunday mornings, all PCCs have now approved a Minster service schedule that will commence January 2024. It is acknowledged that this schedule requires significant compromise on the part of some and that change will be difficult. The schedule will be reviewed after 12 months.

A Minster Senior Leadership Team (SLT) formed at the beginning of this year, comprising the Rector (Simon Taylor), Associated Clergy (John Harkin, Simon Willets & Sheila Samuels), Ben Barnes (CYF), Vic Hicks (Communications/Operations) and current churchwardens. In addition, Patrick Samuels attends as Curate. As Worship Pastor, Simon Willets sits on the team in two capacities. The SLT will report to the Minster PCC and is primarily responsible for setting the strategic vision and ensuring actionable mission plans are put in place. It will also ensure effective leadership and provide clear, consistent guidance to our four Minster churches.

The SLT has worked with the Diocesan Mission Enabling Team and used the 'Diocesan Parish Needs Process' (PNP) to identify three mid-term areas for focus: Growing Mission and Evangelism through community engagement; Intentional Discipleship; and Growing Younger. The leaders of these three areas are developing 14-month action plans to bring to the PCCs for approval before sharing with the Diocese and Bishop Andrew in July.

The process of pastoral reorganisation and merger of our three parishes is progressing. A revised 'Pastoral Scheme' summary, negotiated with the Diocese, has been approved by the PCCs. The Church Commissioners now develop the legal language as part of a formal consultation which comes back to PCCs for final approval in July. The Church Commissioners finalise the scheme by obtaining Bishop Andrew's signature and the process of merging the existing three charities into one (to be named Godalming Minster) can commence, culminating January 2024, when the Godalming Minster comes into existence.

Following on from the Minster PCC framework set out in the July 2022 Minster document, a small group has worked with the Diocese to develop the process for establishing the new Minster PCC. This is based on Electoral Rolls, usual Sunday Attendance and Finance and equates to 15 laity and 2 Churchwardens (the maximum allowable under the Church Representation Rules). Known as the 'Scheme', the 15 laity will be elected from the existing parish congregations, made up of 8 from Busbridge, 3 from Hambledon, 3 from SPSP and 1 from STM. Each existing PCC will select its intended representation this autumn, which will then be formally adopted at the inaugural PCM of the new Minster in January 2024.

A special Minster Celebration Service, officiated by Bishop Andrew and with Archdeacon Paul present, is scheduled for January 14, 2024 at SPSP.

David Wilkin, Chair of the Minster Steering Group