

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

23rd May 2021

hambledonchurch 

9.30 am

busbridgechurch 

10.30 am

**Annual Report of the
Parochial Church Council**

busbridge&hambledonchurch 
loving God • making disciples • transforming communities

Contents of Annual Report 2021

Agendas	3
Rector's Comments	4
Associate Minister's Comments	6
Reference and Administrative Information	8
Structure, Governance & Management	10
Objectives	11
Report on the Proceedings of the PCC and Review of the Year	11
Plans for Future Periods	12
Minutes of the last meetings	13
Electoral Roll Officers' Reports	17
Church Attendance	17
Deanery Synod	17
Safeguarding	17
Data Protection	18
<i>PCC Sub-Group Reports</i>	
Fabric Reports	19
Outward Giving Group (formerly Channel for Mission)	20
Health and Safety / Risk	21
Human Resources	21
Evangelism, Discipleship & Small Groups	21
Racism in the local church	22
<i>Church Activity Reports</i>	
Congregations	22
Children, Youth and Families	23
Busbridge Junior School	25
Music and Creativity	25
Men's Ministry	26
Women's Ministry	26
Pastoral Care	27
Prayer	27
Older People's Ministry	28
Alpha	29
Movie Ministry	29
Marriage, Weddings and Support	29
Baptism Preparation	30
Funerals, Bereavement and Support	30
Busbridge Church Re-ordering	31
Church Technology	31
Parish Magazines	32
Church Family Support Fund	32
Road Stewards	32
Squires Lunch Club	32

Meeting Agendas

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

23rd May 2021, 9.30 am and 10.30 am

1. Minutes of the last Meeting (*25th October 2020*)
2. Election of Churchwardens
3. Appointment of Assistant Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

23rd May 2021

1. Prayer
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the last Meeting (*25th October 2020*) 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 2020
10. Appointment of Independent Examiners
11. Election to Deanery Synod
12. Elections to the PCC
13. Rector's Address
14. Closing Prayer

Rector's Comments

MIRACULOUS

2020 has been a year of some tough challenges. We aren't the largest church family and our resources at the start of 2020 were not at all geared towards online, distance or remote care, ministry, signs of love, teaching and worship. We are not the smallest church either and some of the resources we have developed have been invaluable to other local church communities and we've always reached out freely to help where we can.

We have seen some almost miraculous moments of people standing together and stepping forward to help, sometimes at emotional cost to themselves. Those people who stepped up to lead worship, preach and make online videos know the cost involved; but also the most incredible way that the Holy Spirit took what we had and used it for His glory.

It has been incredible to see home group leaders become central to the entire ministry of our church family. Some leaders even did this despite having to work long hours of home-working and yet they expanded home group ministry and reached out, deeper, further and with great love.

A phenomenal community care team formed in a matter of days and it was amazing to see how volunteers stepped forward to lead this new adventure for the Lord. I cannot list everyone who did things nor name every idea and step of faith that was taken – from the Busbridge chain of hope pebbles to the stars around Hambledon. All I can say is that if you stepped forward then 'thank you' from everyone. Particular thanks must though go to the small teams of children's work volunteers and staff and to Penny and her older people's team – you have been magnificent.

Mentioning staff, it is important that we thank them. Words fail me in expressing this because I know the depth of their commitment and the long hours – often voluntarily – they have put in over the past year. We made some mistakes, but we tried to learn from them and in doing so we began to see that this church family has the most loving and generous attitude of grace. Early on in the first Lockdown we considered whether we should furlough staff. I do not know if we made the right decision, but we decided that this was the moment that we were called to as Christians and we should bring all we had to this time.

Ours is truly a unique church community and it is made up of each of you who are reading this! Thank you for all your signs of care, thanks and encouragements to so many of the incredible volunteers and staff who have led things over the past year.

IDENTITY

Last year (APCM) we looked at Acts 2:42 and doing life together. It was about being real with one another, digging into God's Word and recognising that we have distinctive ways of worshipping. Central to this was the DNA of our identity as Christians.

Little did we know as we prepared the comments for the 2020 APCM that 'doing life together' would soon take on new meaning, urgency and expression. COVID has tested, proved and refined the centrality of our faith in Jesus, infused by the Holy Spirit and our seeking solace and assurance in God's Word. This has enabled us to express our love for all people and to fold in with one another so that no-one has been left behind over the past year.

In the midst of all of this the PCC (trustees) have been discussing how to strengthen us as one. We can see that some changes may be coming in the future and we value one another deeply; Busbridge learns from Hambledon and vice versa. Both PCCs voted to become one. This is now with the relevant legal authorities for their consideration. Practically, it makes little difference. It is more about systems, governance and structures of shared resources and vision. Theologically, it is vital because it says we love our brothers and sisters in Christ and we have the humility to recognise that no church is an island that can just do its own thing.

The PCC also asked the church planning authorities for permission to make changes to the Busbridge church centre. This was granted and we are delighted that the development of coffee-chat-community-care-cake, all in the name of Christ, is now to take place.

One thing that has struck me throughout covid is that while Hambledon has an important very clear village and rural area identity, this is not quite the same for Busbridge. Busbridge has many people who walk to church (or did until covid!) but there are people from Elstead, Farncombe, Wormley, Ockford Ridge, Hascombe, Hurtmore, Frith Hill... and we had to try and reflect this in the online services. We could not just 'reference Busbridge'. It has left me wondering what the future holds in a landscape that has altered. We can revert to what we were, but that seems to ignore the significance of the past year.

We can recover a sense of localised and perhaps an inward looking identity, but in this past year we were asked by the Diocese to begin supporting the church in Aaron's Hill and Patrick and Sheila Samuels joined our staff team. Where do we go from here? It seems to me that we want renewal – or perhaps even revival. I long for something good to come out of 2020 and I long for it to be about revived faith in Christ and engagement with the Word of God.

HUMBLED

I believe that the past year has shown us what really matters as a church family. It is about our core mission of loving God, making disciples and transforming communities, but not in the way we might have expected. Instead, it is about a depth of commitment to Scripture, open to the Holy Spirit intervening (which in some terminology and some, though not all congregations, might be termed 'charismatic') and ready for God's future.

When I wrote the preamble for the APCM in Feb 2020 I had no idea what was coming next. God's future seems to be about a humble church, leaner and more focused on who we are in Christ, ready to step into tomorrow as people who reconcile and bring release. It is time to gather once again, renew our relationships and step out in humble faith in Christ. This needs each of us to consider the active part we are called to play in this local church family because we are stronger together.

TOMORROW

I would like to look forward by looking back into the New Year 2021 message of where we are heading as a church family:

- **Released**
- **Ready**
- **Reconcilers**

As Christians we are **released** from needing to be defensive. We have a vision for seeing people released from the bondage of fear, timidity and worry. We know that this only comes through the work of the Holy Spirit. A released church is one where we are looking at how we can add to people's lives in good ways.

We are **ready** to play our part in the future of the local community. We bring something unique to recovery because we have a bigger picture of the purpose of life. All life belongs to God and this makes us people ready to step out and include people – especially to welcome and listen to those who we may not always agree with or seem to have an affinity with. A ready church is one where we are ready for the movement of the Holy Spirit to renew and revive us.

Christian faith is about being **reconciled** to God through the death and resurrection of Christ. In a sense, this is the beginning and ending of our belief. Everything else is part of this foundational DNA. We are already seeing elements of fragmenting around us in society. A church that reconciles is one that does not look to recreating the past but seeks where God is asking us to cross divides towards others. People who lead the way in reconciling are people who take the first steps to others.



Associate Minister's Comments

In the opening moments of the first lockdown, I discussed with the village parish council how the church might support the village and complement the valiant efforts of the shop and pub.

The church began an online service on You Tube for each Sunday. It consisted of pre-recorded sermons, prayers and musical worship. The ministry is now live streamed and continues to supplement our gathered worship. This online ministry grew rapidly with an average of 80 people viewing each week and up to 150 for festival weeks. A huge shout out to Liz and Richard Cooke for their tireless efforts in getting the internet into the church vestry! I'm grateful too to our Treasurer Andrew Dunn, our Wardens Fran and Derek (Liz Cooke) for their faithful wisdom and support during this testing time.

The church continued its important work of pastoral care. This was conducted mainly over the phone and with visits when permitted. A flyer was produced and posted to every house in the village offering pastoral help and care to any that might need it. I am particularly grateful to Jacqui Rook and Alan Harvey (our trained Pastoral Assistants) who together with myself have been making regular contact with members of the village. A particular effort has been made to reach those who are not online as well offering "tech" help to those unfamiliar with emails and the internet. We also set up a weekly prayer meeting on Zoom to include prayers for the village and key workers.

A church family support fund was expanded to aid those in crisis. Some of these funds are still available if anyone needs support. I am grateful to the Village Parish Council who through the Henry Smith Fund have been kind enough to donate to the Foodbank in Godalming. A special thank you too, to Emma Dunn and Mary Grove for helping to coordinate this.

In the summer the Church ran the Hope in Depression course (on Zoom) to offer help to those suffering with poor mental health and to those who care for sufferers.

In April 2020 to help boost morale, the church donated lemon drizzle cakes with every order/delivery at the village shop! In July, lemon trees were given to key workers in the shop and pub as a thank you on behalf of the village by the church for their hard work. As a treat for the summer holidays St. Dominic's and the Nursery School staff were treated to a bag of goodies as a thank you for their sustained efforts throughout the pandemic.

I continue in my role as one of the trustees for the Village Nursery School and whilst we've not been able to host the termly school services it's been great fun to produce a short message for the end of term videos: Polar bears at

Christmas and hot cross buns and Easter eggs for Easter! Easter books were also donated to the school for each child.

We were delighted to host Messy Church (on Zoom) for the Harvest Festival, Christingle at Christmas – and more recently Messy Easter. Craft and goodies for the services were left on the church porch for families to join in and make at home.

To celebrate Christmas, Busbridge and Hambledon Church hosted a “Drive in Service” at Godalming college. Guests were able to tune into the service through their car radios and join in with the carols in their bubbles! Our resident MP Jeremy Hunt kindly read the lesson for us.

In Hambledon we displayed “stars” around the village as a sign of community and this was a simple but poignant way to mark the hope of God’s guidance during the pandemic in the Christmas Season. Jo Kirkland was particularly helpful in orchestrating this. She also helped design the recent Hambledon Easter Egg Hunt which has proved very popular. I’m grateful to Martin Thompson at the shop for keeping it topped up! Thank you to the cricket club for letting us keep the treasure chest at the pavilion. Huge thanks too to the CYF Team for their leadership in this.

Behind the scenes our small groups have been revamped into Pastorate groups. This means that our 17 or so small group leaders have formed into 5 pastorates and with each pastorate being supported by a member of the clergy. Once a term we have joined together on Zoom to look at leadership from a biblical and Christian perspective. This training has had a particular emphasis on growth and discipleship. We have also begun the work of looking at how we might support local mission partners as part of our small groups.

Recently Hambledon PCC held a special meeting to vote on a proposal to take the next steps towards unifying the Parishes of Busbridge and Hambledon into a single parish. The proposal was passed with a significant majority. Given our very special relationship with Hambledon Village, the village was informed and given the opportunity to feedback prior to the vote. The feedback was supportive. Special thanks again to Andrew Dunn for his role in chairing the PCC subcommittee and his hard work preparing the proposal.

As we look forwards I have formed a Hambledon leadership team. Together we have been brainstorming how we might grow the church as we move out of lockdown and discern God’s calling. Whilst we have only been able to provide the one service at 9am during lockdown. We are looking at ways in which we can “replace” the service that used to run at 10:30. As this emerges we have a clear conviction that what develops must build up the faithful, be outward looking and attract a younger generation.

I continue in my role of overseeing Online ministry. Online has been a great “shop window” for those in our community and beyond. Indeed, we have a fair number join in person as result of seeing our online offerings. It’s been a steep learning curve for us all but wonderful to have Jacob Taylor and Tim Davies’ expertise in helping us develop this lifeline during the lockdown. In Hambledon Dan Duffel and Graham Holford have done an amazing job setting up, running the stream and packing down each week since we’ve been live streaming. Thanks to Alan Harvey, our singers and Lisa Olsworth-Peter in providing us with musical offerings Sunday by Sunday. A big shout out to you all from us all! For the foreseeable the PCC have agreed that we will continue to provide gathered as well as Online worship across the benefice. For Hambledon this will be focussed on the 9am service.

Simon Taylor and I have enjoyed working closely together through this testing time and I am grateful for his wisdom and leadership. I would also like to say a special thank you to my colleagues on the staff team who have been inspirational in their attitude and service to both Busbridge and Hambledon.

Simon Willetts

Reference and Administrative Information

For the Year ended 31st December 2020

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 1st January 2020 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 David Preece (until February 2021)

Licensed Lay Ministers

Mr Dudley Hilton	LLM Representative on PCC
------------------	---------------------------

Churchwardens (Busbridge)	Dr Frances Shaw (Year 5) Mr Keith Harper (Year 4)
-------------------------------------	--

Churchwardens (Hambledon)	Mrs Elizabeth Cooke (until October 2020) Mrs Fran Duffell (from October 2020) Mr Derek Pearsall (Year 2)
-------------------------------------	--

Treasurer (Busbridge)	Mr Martin Lambert
Treasurer (Hambledon)	Mr Andrew Dunn

PCC Secretary	Mrs Jane Lambert
PCC Secretary (Hambledon)	Mrs Jenny Henderson

Elected Lay Members (Hambledon)

Mr Arthur Blackman
Mrs Elizabeth Cooke (from October 2020)
Mr Keith Harper (from October 2020)
Mr Alan Harvey (from October 2020)
Mr Dudley Hilton (from October 2020)
Mr David Hodson (until October 2020)
Mrs Helen Hudgell (until October 2020)
Dr Alison Martin (until October 2020)
Mr Nigel Pollock
Mr Philip Underwood
Mr Ron Vickery

Elected Lay Members (Busbridge)

Mr Guy Cookes	Year 2
Mr Simon Gilbert	(until October 2020)
Mrs Shelagh Godwin	Year 4
Dr Karen Hart	Year 3
Mr Mike Hawkey	Year 6
Mr Ellis Jones	(until October 2020)

Mr Stephen Kinder	(until October 2020)
Mrs Jill Mace	Year 4
Mr Jon Whiteman	(until October 2020)
Mr Mark Williams	Year 2

Co-opted Members

The Rev Andrew Spencer	Curate
The Rev David Jenkins	Curate

PCC Teams

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

Health & Safety/Risk

Alison Martin, Arthur Blackman, Dudley Hilton, David Jenkins

EDS (Evangelism, Discipleship & Small Groups)

Jill Mace, Simon Willetts, *Chris Garner (co-opted)*

SAM (Specific Age Ministry)

Mike Hawkey (*from April 2021, previously vacant*)

Channel for Mission

Shelagh Godwin, David Jenkins, *Julia Stubbs (co-opted)*

HR/Safeguarding

Martin Lambert, Karen Hart, Alan Harvey, Andrew Dunn, *Suzie Lambert (co-opted)*

Buildings and Churchyards

Mark Williams, Ron Vickery, Liz Cooke

Racism Review Task Group

Andrew Spencer, Karen Hart, David Preece, *Sheila Samuels (co-opted)*

Standing Committee

Simon Taylor, Frances Shaw, Keith Harper, Liz Cooke (until October 2020), Derek Pearsall, Fran Duffell (from October 2020), Martin Lambert, Andrew Dunn, Simon Willetts, David Preece, Jill Mace, Jenny Henderson

Churches Together

No PCC member, *Margot Spencer (co-opted)*

Finance/Governance Group

Simon Taylor, Frances Shaw, Keith Harper, Liz Cooke (until October 2020), Derek Pearsall, Fran Duffell (from October 2020), Martin Lambert, Andrew Dunn, Simon Willetts, David Preece

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 0AU

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)
Alan Harvey – HA (until 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 modern system of church government based on synods, each with a mixed clerical and lay membership, at national, diocesan and ruridecanal 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). Both need to be registered as annual income for each exceeds £100,000.

The scope of PCC business, its conduct and composition are set out in the Church Representation Rules, as last amended January 2020.

All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to participate in the government 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, Treasurers 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.

The PCC members renew their commitment to serving the church and the council annually and 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.

In normal times, congregational Teams at Busbridge oversee the worship life of the Classic, Contemporary and 6.30pm congregations. They also have responsibility for pastoral care and support. To this end, the Classic pastoral team maintains a strong link with the 8am congregation. During Covid restrictions contact has been maintained as far as possible by Zoom and phone calls.

At Hambledon, local Christian presence, mission and leadership is led by Rev Simon Willetts.

One of the wardens acts as vice-chair of the United Benefice PCC(s).

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 January 2021). 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 Centre, and owns the following buildings: Old Rectory, Church Cottage GU7 1XA (currently rented out), 34 High Ridge, Godalming GU7 1YF (currently rented out), 14 Phillips Close Godalming GU7 1XZ (currently occupied by Youth Minister), and School House, Brighton Road, Godalming GU7 1XA (rented out since January 2021).

Busbridge PCC rented a property from the Diocese for occupation by the Curate at 2 South Hill, Godalming GU7 1JT until February 2021.

Hambledon PCC has maintenance responsibilities for Hambledon Church, and rents Mervil Bottom, Malthouse Lane, Hambledon GU8 4HG from 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

The Joint PCC met 6 times, meetings since May 2020 being held virtually via Zoom due to Covid restrictions. There were also Special meetings held by each PCC separately (see below).

The main issues discussed and agreed during the year are summarised:

- Given the fast-changing policy and guidance issued by Government, Church of England and Guildford Diocese, there was much ongoing debate around how best to provide worship opportunity and serve the community during the Covid pandemic.
- The remit of the Church Family Support Fund was extended to address issues raised by the pandemic.
- Various minor building works were approved to be carried out at each church to facilitate disabled access and enable provision of online streaming of services.
- The APCM was delayed from May until October, when virtual meeting was permitted under Diocesan policy.
- A proposal to merge Busbridge and Hambledon PCCs to become a single body has been approved by each PCC at separate meetings. A request has been made to the Diocese to start the formal consultation process with a view to the merger taking effect from January 2022.
- To comply with Church Governance requirements, a separate Standing Committee was set up for each parish within the Benefice.
- A team was set up to look into the implications of the “Black Lives Matter” initiative.
- Further development of the Church Centre to create a “Coffee Shop” has been delayed pending faculty approval as well as greater clarity on the possibilities of provision and likely demand once Covid restrictions are eased.
- PCC approved a contribution to Busbridge Junior School to help settle a dispute between the school and the tenant of School House, to enable School House to be returned to the church. This has now been resolved, the house renovated and let to new tenants from January 2021.
- A closer relationship has been forged with St Mark’s, Ockford Ridge. PCC accepted Patrick Samuels for an Ordinand placement starting in July 2020, to be followed by a Curacy in the United Benefice of Busbridge and Hambledon starting a year later.
- PCC voted to adopt the Church of England “Promoting a Safer Church” Policy Statement along with supporting safeguarding guidance.
- Busbridge PCC approved and applied for a faculty for the replacement of the wooden McLaren grave marker with a Portland stone replica, allowing the original to be relocated to the Montrose Air Heritage Museum to protect it from further weather-related deterioration. This was to be financed by a gift from the family of the deceased. An objection to this proposal was subsequently raised by Historic England so plans are currently undecided.

Jane Lambert, PCC Secretary

Plans for Future Periods

Our plans are:

- To unify BHC as one parish, reflecting the existing structures and arrangements
- Reopen the church office and church facilities in a way which leads to growth in faith and new people coming to Christ
- To complete conversion of the Church Centre and start operation as a coffee drop in facility to strengthen links between the church and the wider community
- Consider our place working with other churches in the locality and especially St Mark's, Ockford Ridge, as no church is an island and, post covid, we are stronger supporting one another
- Continue to growth our important courses on Christian introduction (Alpha, baptism course) and community support (Hope in Depression)
- Restart gathered worship in a way which is sensible and sustainable and look at new forms of worship

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS and ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

**St John the Baptist Church Busbridge (conducted remotely via Zoom)
Sunday 25th October 2020**

Present: Chair – Simon Willetts (SM), Simon Taylor, Margot & Andy Spencer, Dudley Hilton, Martin & Jane Lambert, Jill Mace, Alan & Janet Harvey, Dave Preece, Lesley Reeves, Penny Naylor, Julie Nelson, George & Jill Johnston, Shelagh & Jim Godwin, Michael Stubbs, Peter & Frances Shaw, Hilary Pettman, Vic Hicks, Jenny Lansdowne, David & Lizzie Burndred, Chris Sollars, Liz Gorst, Simon & Juliet Gilbert, Mark & Katrina Williams, Sarah Black, Chris & Ed Payne, Lisa Olsworth-Peter, Susie & Phil Musk, Judith Rolfe, Keith Harper, Shan Hallam, Karen & David Hart, Annie Bryett, Ceri Apark, Anne Rawson, Chris & Cat Garner, Clare Haddad, Martyn Sandford, Patrick Samuels, David & Sandra Wilkin, Tom Jones, Catherine Taylor

Apologies: Maggie & Chris Jagger

Welcome by Associate Minister Simon Willetts.

He said there would be two separate meetings. The first brief meeting is to elect church wardens. The second is the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

- 1. Minutes:** The minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners of 28th April 2019 were accepted as an accurate record by all present and will be signed by Simon Willetts
- 2. Election of Church Wardens:** Frances Shaw and Keith Harper are both standing for re-election. There were no other candidates, so they were duly re-elected as Wardens for Busbridge. They were thanked for their hard work and faithful service.
Frances Shaw was elected for a 5th year.
Proposed: Olwen Downhill. Seconded: Annie Bryett.
Keith Harper was elected for a 4th year
Proposed: Mike Hawkey. Seconded: Judith Hawkey.
- 3. Appointment of Assistant Churchwardens:** We don't currently have Assistant Church Wardens in Busbridge though there are many individuals who serve informally in this way.

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. SW had already opened the meetings with a prayer.
2. **Apologies** as per list at the top of this document.
3. **Minutes of APCM held on 28th April 2019** (see page 10) – were accepted as an accurate record by all present and will be signed by Simon Willetts.
4. **Electoral Roll Officer's Report** (see page 13) – As in the report, the Busbridge electoral roll is 223. Thanks were expressed to Maggie Jagger, Electoral Roll Officer for Busbridge, for fulfilling this role.
5. **Deanery Synod Report** (see page 13). There were no comments to add to the report.
6. **Report on the Proceedings of the PCC and Review of the Year** (see page 9) 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 15) – these reports are compiled by the Church Wardens.

Thanks were expressed to wardens Keith Harper and Frances Shaw and team for their role in caring for buildings and ornaments.

8. Reports on the Activities of the Parish (see pages 18-28) – Chair gave thanks to God for the work being achieved and invited others to highlight things that had struck them about the activities of the church last year.

9. Financial Report and Statements for the year ended 31 December 2019. Full audited accounts are available to view on the church website. Martin Lambert gave a short Powerpoint presentation highlighting key points from the accounts:

- Unrestricted income and expenditure remains around £400,000 per year.
- There had been small surpluses in 2018 and 2019 on account of some staff vacancies. It is expected there will be a small deficit in 2020 now all positions are filled.
- Unrestricted reserves end-2019 were just over £300,000 sufficient to fund around 9 months of normal expenditure.
- Despite the unexpected events of 2020, planned giving has remained reasonably steady. Thanks to all our givers.

SW thanked Martin, and his team, Lesley Reeves and David Burndred, for diligent stewardship of church finances.

10. Vote on the re-appointment of Auditors. Martin Lambert recommended the re-appointment of Moore South as Auditors for 2020. **Proposed: Clare Haddad. Seconded: Michael Stubbs. Approved unanimously.**

11. Election to Deanery Synod – Keith Harper agreed to stand for election as a lay member to Deanery Synod. **Proposed: Shelagh Godwin. Seconded: Michael Stubbs. Approved unanimously.**

12. Elections to PCC – Thanks to 3 members standing down from PCC after 6 years of service: Steve Kinder, Simon Gilbert and Jon Whiteman.

Two members have completed a term of 3 years and agreed to stand for re-election: Jill Mace (**Proposed: Chris Garner, Seconded: Martin Lambert**) and Shelagh Godwin (**Proposed: Maggie Jagger. Seconded: Jim Godwin**). **Approved unanimously.**

New Church Representation Rules now require Treasurer to be an elected member of PCC. Martin Lambert is willing to continue in this role and stand for election. **Proposed: Lesley Reeves. Seconded: Peter Shaw. Approved unanimously.**

13. Rector's Address:

Keith Harper thanked Simon and Catherine Taylor on behalf of the wardens and congregation for their faithful service.

Simon Taylor (Rector) based his reflection on Acts 2: 42-47. He commended all to be generously devoted, to provide generous homes and generous care and acknowledged how much has been and continues to be achieved.

He thanked Tim Davies for his magnificent contribution to enable set up of livestreaming and online services, and encouraged all to consider how they can support and enhance ongoing provision as Tim and Jacob Taylor strive to take this forward. It is likely to continue to be an important part of our mission.

The meeting closed with a prayer at 16.55.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS and ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

**St Peter's Church Hambledon (conducted remotely via Zoom)
Sunday 25th October 2020**

Present:

Rev. Simon Taylor	Rector
Rev. Simon Willetts	Associate Vicar
Rev. David Jenkins	Assistant Vicar
Mr Andrew Dunn	Treasurer
Mrs Elizabeth Cooke	Churchwarden
Mrs Jenny Henderson	Secretary

Also in attendance were the following PCC members:

Rev David Preece, Mr Arthur Blackman, Mr Ron Vickery, Mr Keith Harper, Mr Dudley Hilton, Dr Alison Martin, Mr Nigel Pollock, Mr Alan Harvey, Mr Philip Underwood, Mr David Hodson and 12 other parishioners including a couple from Busbridge

Simon Willetts welcomed everyone to the Zoom meeting and asked they used the thumbs up sign to vote. He opened the meeting with a prayer.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners (Open Meeting)

1. Minutes of the 2019 meeting

Agreed

2. Election of churchwardens

Simon gave warm thanks to Liz and Derek for their time and energy. Liz is stepping down but applauded and greatly thanked for her 6 and a half years service. She replied she had much enjoyed spending the money that Alison had 'found' for all the refurbishments, especially the vestry and church windows! Liz had been presented with gifts at the earlier service, and now opened them and was delighted and thanked everyone. Richard was also thanked for his continual support, particularly with the creation of the car park and ushering car parking at services.

Simon was pleased to welcome Frances Duffel to the role of churchwarden, already known to most people, and she was elected.

3. Election of assistant churchwarden

Dave Chadwick was thanked for being willing to continue his sterling work.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes of the 2019 meeting

Approved.

2. Electoral Roll officer's report

As read, 113. Mary Parker was thanked for continuing to keep the roll up to date.

3. Deanery Synod report

None. Keith is kindly willing to represent both Busbridge and Hambledon PCCs at the Deanery Synod and was duly elected.

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

As read.

5. Report on fabric and goods of the church

As read for 2019. Liz reported that the church was in good order and the automatic door opening system had arrived and would soon be installed. Simon wished to thank all the people who have been doing this manually, particularly during the Covid era. It was also noted that the stone cross was back in place on the church roof.

6. Report on activities of the parish

As read for 2019. Liz added that the new internet services were wonderful and appreciated by everyone.

7. Financial reports and statements

Accounts for 2019 were already distributed. Andrew emphasised that the church depended entirely on giving so expressed a huge thank you to everyone. He gave an onscreen presentation of the finances and was applauded for its clarity and brevity. Points made: church costs are parish share, church maintenance, staff and centre costs. Income had suffered a downward turn until arrested after the fund-raising campaign last year. Collections form 10-15% of income, the remainder is occasional and regular giving with gift aid an importance source of top-up income. He reported there are 59 regular givers, 29 are monthly and 30 give when convenient for them. He made the point that of the 59, 14 do not attend church but value its presence in the community. Two thirds of income comes from 11 people, 2 of whom are non church goers. When asked about supporting people in hardship, he referred to the Church Community Fund and the Outward Giving group who were involved in this work. Andrew was warmly thanked for his continued work and large amount of time spent running the finances, and according to the new church representation rules, re-elected as treasurer.

8. Independent examiner

Alison volunteered to ask Mr Nic Karonias to act again for the church.

9. Election to the PCC

Grateful thanks were given to Alison Martin, David Hodson and Helen Hudgell who are all retiring. Simon thanked David for his work, experience, wisdom and preaching. Helen was thanked for her contribution over the last year and a half to the PCC. Alison was thanked for her 13 years on the PCC including those as treasurer, her insight and support, her leadership on the archive project and for opening her house for services and meetings. Fortunately, she has been persuaded to stay in her role as chair of the Health and Safety group!

Simon was pleased to say that Liz is staying on the PCC, she and Alan who was co-opted, were both elected. Dudley and Keith who as LLMs are now on Hambledon PCC were also formally elected.

10. Rector's address

Simon T showed a short video inspired by Acts 2 42-47, of an American preacher talking about the apostles who sold their possessions to help those in need and went out to the people teaching about Christ. He developed this theme of generosity, saying how generous he found the giving in Hambledon, thinking it was unique that non-churchgoers should give in order to keep the church alive. He stated that online services are here to stay, many people still tune into the heritage service online despite the church being open, and hoped those who liked the 10.30 service might try the 7pm at Busbridge. The development of this technology is largely due to the work and expertise of Tim Davies, and although recent gifts at Hambledon are enabling the installation of online streaming etc there will be the need of ongoing support - and someone at the services who can work the systems!

He pointed out that support and resources were needed by Ockford Ridge and greater connection with parish councils, food banks and other agencies. Looking to the future, he mentioned the merger but felt any changes in the benefice should be done carefully and slowly.

11. Associate Minister's address

Simon said he had felt a strong sense of calling and peace when coming to Hambledon, and felt it a privilege to serve in a church with a long history of spirituality. He felt there had been a great sense of community during lockdown (he and Naomi had spent longer in lockdown than not!) and was grateful to David J, the Hindleys and Jacqui for helping those who could not be online, and Emma Dunn who had the idea of giving out cake with every shop order. There had been 120 people dialling into the online services, even from New Zealand, South Africa and Wales. He thanked everyone for being patient during the new services, including the organists even though we cannot sing. He wished to truly thank everyone who helped him settle in, especially Alison and David J, Andrew for his finances and wisdom, Alan and Jacqui for their pastoral care, and to Simon T for his leadership, patience and smile and Dave for being such a good colleague.

Andrew added how grateful everyone was to him for his spiritually edifying preaching.

Simon closed the meeting in prayer.

Electoral Roll Officers' Reports

On 5th May 2021 the number of people on the Electoral Roll at:

- Hambledon Church is 113
- Busbridge Church is 227 (132 females and 95 males)

Mary Parker and Maggie Jagger, Electoral Roll Officers (Hambledon and Busbridge)

Church Attendance

Church attendance is harder to quantify for the 2020 period, due to the restrictions on physically gathering. With online attendance (for example, watching on YouTube) only capturing the number of devices that chose to watch a service, it is difficult to give an accurate picture.

On average, 120 devices watched the Heritage service, 132 watched the Classic and 200 watched the Contemporary services in 2020.

Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod is current considering two things:

- Its mode of operation (standing orders)
- A deanery strategy for resourcing churches and for closer working relationships

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 May 2020.

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 PCC Safeguarding Leads 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.

At the start of 2020, Alan Harvey was PSO for Hambledon and Jenny Lansdowne was PSO for Busbridge, with Karen Hart being the Safeguarding Lead on Busbridge PCC. Following a slight reorganisation in May 2020, Jenny Lansdowne is now PSO for Busbridge and Hambledon, whilst the PCC Safeguarding Leads are Karen Hart for Busbridge and Alan Harvey for Hambledon. Jenny Lansdowne is a DBS Validator and Alan Harvey is due to undertake the training for this role as well. Jenny Lansdowne has also volunteered to be the Deanery Safeguarding Representative for Godalming Deanery. Thank you to Karen and Alan for all the support which they provide.

During the year (2020) there were 7 safeguarding concerns reported to PCC for either adults or children: 7 were for Busbridge and none for Hambledon. None of these concerns required further escalation, nor involved misconduct on the part of a church officer.

As at the middle of February 2021, there were 88 individuals from Busbridge and 8 from Hambledon who have current DBS clearance validation, with 18 applications in process for Busbridge and 3 for Hambledon (including renewals).

Towards the end of 2020, the Church of England updated its Safeguarding training pathway. Under the new system it is estimated that there are 60 people from Busbridge and 10 from Hambledon who will require Safeguarding training at some level over the course of the year. This includes the Domestic Abuse training module which is currently not due to be available until July 2021.

During 2020 Busbridge took part in a pilot scheme using the Parish Dashboard system to manage and report on safeguarding matters. This has assisted in the continued implementation of the recommendations from the Safeguarding review undertaken by Jo Cookes in 2019. Parish Dashboard is due to be rolled out to other parishes across the Diocese in due course, meaning that Hambledon will also be included.

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. Over the past year, this has particularly revolved around NHS Test & Trace. The relevant data protection fee has been paid. During 2020 there were 11 data breaches reported to PCC, none of which required notification to the Information Commissioner's Office. The majority of these breaches related to incorrectly sent emails.

Jenny Lansdowne

PCC Sub-Group Reports

Fabric Reports

Hambledon Church Fabric and Churchyard Report

Although 2020 was generally a quiet year for the church building itself we had a flurry of activity towards the end. In December fast broadband was installed in Hambledon Church allowing the ability to livestream services.

Also in December we had an automated door locking and unlocking system installed to the main church door. We would like to thank Liz and Richard Cooke for their perseverance on these projects.

It was otherwise just a year of maintenance for the building and churchyard including completion of our five year electrical safety certificate.

We wish to thank Dave Chadwick for his continued service as assistant church warden, and to Liz Cooke for such a comprehensive handover and her ongoing support.

Fran Duffell

Busbridge Church and Churchyard Fabric Report

A report on the progress of the reordering of the Church following the grant of a faculty in September 2018 appears elsewhere.

The intermittent (due to Covid) use of a community payback team provided by Guildford Probation Service not only continued to save money in cutting back the virulent ivy growing on the graveyard walls in both Hambledon Road and Brighton Road as well as other maintenance work in the Centre, churchyard and Old Rectory gardens and School House garden but continues to provide an outreach opportunity for a handful of church members. Grateful thanks to David Smith for his faithful attendance and interest in these teams.

Another section (1 sq metre) of dry stone graveyard wall collapsed on Hambledon Road and was repaired.

A handrail designed in consultation with the diocesan architect was installed at the main entrance following two people slipping on the steps.

The wooden McLaren grave marker was removed for remedial work and will now be exhibited for posterity at the Montrose RAF museum. The original is the subject of a faculty petition to be replaced by a Portland stone replica. The grandson of Francis McLaren has underwritten the costs involved.

Keith Harper

Non-Church Buildings Fabric Report

14 Phillips Close – occupied by Youth Worker and his wife.

34 High Ridge – remains on a long term let.

School House – the tenant from Busbridge Junior School left, and the building was returned and refurbished (including new kitchen) for letting on the commercial market with effect from 15th January 2021. Roof and chimneys are outstanding work requiring attention. Front garden remedial work completed by volunteers (thanks to Jimmy Black, Ed Payne and Cathy Brook for their passion for this project). Side and rear gardens are a work in progress. Thanks to the community payback team and Jimmy for dismantling and clearing the substantial rotten wooden structures at the rear.

Church Cottage – remains let on the commercial market.

South Hill – returned to diocese on 23rd February 2021 following departure of Dave Preece and family at the end of his curacy.

Keith Harper

Outward Giving Group (formerly Channel for Mission)

At the beginning of 2020 the Outward Giving Group welcomed Annie Bryett to its team, and in May we were delighted to welcome David Jenkins. The group also includes Julia Stubbs, Sandra Campbell, and is chaired by Shelagh Godwin. The sad loss of Pat Hilton was noted at a PCC meeting in May 2020.

The Outward Giving Group's aims are:

- To encourage those on Mission by providing bursaries and prayer support and to provide one-off gifts to specific Christian charities doing valuable work in our communities.
- Through our Church to identify Christian charities that cover a cross section of society locally, nationally and internationally. At least one member of the congregation acts as a bridge with the charities we support.
- To give money from the budget allocated to OGG by the PCC (£10,000 in 2020) to the identified charities.
- To educate church members of the charities we support and others, through our monthly Updates and through our appeals three times a year, when speakers from the selected charities visit the church and money is raised from the congregations.

In 2020 donations were made to:

- The Warehouse Christian Trust (the Cellar Camino Cafe and Skillway)
- Guildford Besom - helps people make a difference. It provides a bridge between those who want to give time, money, things or skills and those who are in need locally in Guildford
- Chaplaincy Team at HMP Send - for helping and rehabilitating prisoners
- Church Pastoral Aid Society - looks to assist churches become more mission-focused by developing effective leadership. Busbridge is a CPAS church
- The Salvadorean Children's Earthquake Trust – supporting communities in disaster prone regions, notably El Salvador and more recently Uganda
- Five Talents – - enabling the enterprising poor to set up small businesses by providing business training alongside savings and microloan facilities for those in need in rural East Africa.
- Elam Ministries – to churches in Iran and the Iranian diaspora
- A Rocha – a Christian environmental charity suggested by the youth groups
- Bible Society - exists because millions of people lack the Bible in a language they can understand, in a form they can use, or at a price they can afford

Our Mission Sundays focused on three charities, Open Doors (working for the persecuted church), Tearfund (working with those in poverty throughout the world to help enable people to bring change into their situations), and the Trinity Trust Team (formed in 2000 with the vision to support the young people of Godalming through Churches, Schools and Community). The Open Doors Easter appeal with speakers organised was cancelled because of the national lockdown and closure of all churches. Members of the congregation were advised to donate to Open Doors direct. The appeals for Tearfund and the TTT went ahead, as churches had by then been allowed to open.

In conjunction with the home groups, the Outward Giving Group organized the preparation and distribution of 40 hampers to needy folk identified by Besom, by Busbridge Infants' and St Mark's and All Saints' School, and by local church members. Going forward we are planning more co-operation with home groups, encouraging them to take a charity on board and get involved in fundraising, education, or volunteering. In November/December a member of the Outward Giving Group raised £1300 through a Just Giving crowdfunding appeal to provide additional phone cards for inmates of HMP Send to use during the Christmas period. This was very much appreciated.

Shelagh Godwin

Health & Safety/Risk Group

The group has 4 members. An annual inspection of both churchyards and a meeting took place on 17.3.2020. Only Arthur Blackman and Alison Martin were able to attend. A report was submitted to the PCC.

Advice on preparing for a safe return to work was provided to the office in June.

A meeting was held in person between all four members, outside in October between 'lock-downs', to ensure there were no outstanding issues to deal with.

The budget this year in 2020 was intended to be spent on food safety training related to the re-developed church room. We have asked for this to be rolled over to 2021.

Many thanks again to Arthur Blackman, Rev David Jenkins and Dudley Hilton for their help and support.

Alison Martin

Human Resources

During 2020 the HR sub group comprised three PCC members [Guy Cookes, Martin Lambert and Andrew Dunn: Guy Cookes stepped down during 2020 and Martin Lambert and Andrew Dunn joined] and one non-PCC co-opted member [Suzie Lambert]. Karen Hart and Alan Harvey (both PCC members) have also joined the sub group, at the start of 2021.

In summary, the team provides guidance, advice and practical support to the clergy, staff leadership team and Wardens on staffing and people-related topics, as required. In 2020 this included the following activities:

- Job Description Review: Worked closely with the office line managers to review all job descriptions for staff in the church office in order to get them up to date. This process is still in progress.
- Staffing: Provided advice and produced contract documentation for one new hire in 2020 and offered support and guidance for the online tech and ministry work.
- Staff salary review: Provided recommendations.
- Staff appraisals: Provided advice and ensured performance reviews were carried out.
- Covid-19: Practical support and guidance offered to staff members and the office team as a whole in considering changes to working arrangements during the pandemic (e.g. working from home and furlough arrangements).

HR Sub Group

Evangelism, Discipleship & Small Groups

The EDS team has been somewhat diminished for various reasons but with the arrival of Simon Willetts taking over the Small Groups side we are still a viable group with Chris Garner and myself keeping very much in touch. With the lockdown scenario we are somewhat hampered in what we can do and with Simon Gilbert on the frontline as a paramedic it has been difficult. We do have plans to add to our number and have someone in mind to invite to join the team. Simon Willetts has set up a small group leaders Pastorate oversight for all the small groups and has introduced some very helpful sessions on Zoom. Each pastorate has a member of the clergy to help and support a number of small group leaders by meeting every two months. A different subject prepared by Simon Willetts is presented at these meetings and have invoked some good discussions in the chat rooms.

Jill Mace

Behind the scenes our small groups have been revamped into Pastorate groups. This means that our 17 or so small group leaders have formed into 5 pastorates and with each pastorate being supported by a member of the clergy. Once a term we have joined together on Zoom to look at leadership from a biblical and Christian perspective. This training has had a particular emphasis on growth and discipleship. We have also begun the work of looking at how we might support local mission partners as part of our small groups.

Simon Willetts

Racism in the local church

A small PCC sub-group was set up and chaired by Andy Spencer, looking at a PCC response to Racism in the local church.

The group has met once in person and then virtually. The group consists of Revd Dave Preece (until February 2021), Karen Hart, Revd Andy Spencer and Revd Sheila Samuels (co-opted)

The group has reviewed the theology of Racism, surveyed the churches' historical documents and churchyards for evidence of historical Racism, studied literature and media presentations on the subject and produced a service devoted to the topic as part of the Lent Sermon Series.

The group has also reported back to the PCC. A final response document is yet to be written.

Andy Spencer

Church Activity Reports

Congregations

8.00am – The Quiet Service (Busbridge) – until March 2020

This is a quiet, reflective service which follows the Common Worship Holy Communion liturgy. This service did not run after the national lockdown.

9.00am - Heritage (Hambledon)

A relaxed, friendly and popular service following the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, with hymns led from our dedicated organist team. Holy Communion was celebrated on the twice a month before lockdown and the other times were Morning Prayer. Psalms and canticles are said or sung by the congregation. This service was pre-recorded and broadcast on YouTube during lockdown.

10.00am - Classic (Busbridge)

A structured service following Common Worship, including well-known hymns and space for listening and reflecting. During COVID restrictions and lock-downs this moved online to YouTube, and moved location to the Old Rectory Garden, at 9.00 am.

10.30am - Contemporary (Hambledon) – until March 2020

A relaxed and welcoming congregation in an informal and contemporary style. The first Sunday is an all age service and every month this takes a 'Messy Church' format, with a variety of activities, craft and worship involving people of all ages. Communion was celebrated once a month. Songs and liturgy are projected onto a screen and music is guitar or keyboard led. This service did not run after the national lockdown.

10.00am – Contemporary (Busbridge) – until 1st November 2020

A relaxed gathering in a school setting with the aim of being a place of preaching, teaching and worship in a setting where the unchurched will be comfortable. During COVID restrictions and lock-downs this moved online to YouTube, and moved location to the Old Rectory Garden.

10.15am – Conversations from the couch (from 15th November 2020)

A contemporary couch based service where the talk is given in an interview between different members of the ministry team each week. The service includes worship and prayer.

6.30pm – The 6.30 Service (Busbridge)

An informal evening worship service for the whole Benefice with a focus on going deeper into God's word and its application to real life. The service follows a relaxed framework with extended times of sung worship and space for reflection and prayer ministry.

6.30pm – Unplugged Service (Busbridge)

A once a month youth focus service. It has the purpose of helping people meet Jesus and be equipped to live their lives for him. There are three primary core aims of unplugged to have band led sung worship, teaching that is relevant to teenagers, and a deeper focus on prayer ministry for one-another. We enjoy great music, some good speakers, food and spending time together in worship.

Combined

Several festivals have passed without our usual gatherings for combined worship. However, the lifting of restrictions over the summer enabled us to meet in church for a few weeks, though it felt strange to be such a small congregation, instead of having the customary full church.

Our Act of Remembrance was moved online at short notice and live-streamed; it seemed to work well and drew a lot of viewers who we hope felt that they could participate fully.

Hambleton's service was pre-recorded and likewise attracted many viewers.

Christmas and Epiphany services took place outdoors, with a few attendees. The exceptions were the Drive-in Carols, which drew large numbers and were much enjoyed by those who attended.

Children, Youth and Families

Since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, the Children, Youth, and Families (CYF) team has worked on adapting its ministry to the new situation. Materials - such as short devotionals, songs, and stories - were created and made available on our Youtube channel. Some of our groups also switched entirely to Zoom gatherings, which was a great way to keep in touch. The team also kept in touch with the families through phone calls, visits, and care packages deliveries.

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

The CYF team is composed of Anto Ficatier (Youth Minister) Judith Hawkey (4-11 Children's Worker), Juliet Gilbert (0-4 Families Worker), and Jenny Lansdowne, who provides administrative support.

Hambleton

Nursery School

Every other Monday the Nursery School receives a visit from the 0-4 Families Worker, who is in charge of nurturing the relationship.

Hambletons / Toddler Group

Occasional help on Wednesday from the 0-4 Families Worker, with Georgina Alyward supporting on a weekly basis, Hambletons toddler group is also given support from the church in a variety of ways.

Messy Church

Messy Church is a worship service run at Hambleton to enable worship and creativity to flourish in a variety of ways, mixing young and old together. It ran online on a quarterly basis in 2020.

Busbridge

ABC

ABC toddler group provides a space for parents, carers and children 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, lots of learning activities and a social time for all ages. The group is co-ordinated by the 0-4 Families Worker. Since March 2020, the group moved online and is now called "Sing-a-long with Ted". It attracted many families who previously came to the ABC toddler group.

Sing it Out

Sing it Out is a choir for primarily mums with young pre-school age children. It takes place on Wednesday morning, twice a month, in the Old Rectory. This choir is for the adults, but children are welcomed and cared for in a safe environment. It is also open to people without children. Music covers both secular-pop and Gospel with a child focused musical session at the end.

Sing it Out is co-ordinated by the Worship Director and the 0-4 Families Worker. It ran until March 2020 and then stopped due to the pandemic.

Meals for families with new babies

Organising the delivery of meals for families with new babies. The 0-4 Families Worker helps Ruth Roseblade to coordinate this ministry, which has been continuing throughout lockdowns. In 2020, 76 meals across seven families were provided (a slightly higher number than usual, as two of the families had the mothers in hospital).

Crèche (0-3 year olds)

The Crèche is a group for babies and toddlers under the age of 3. The gathering takes place in the room next to the main hall of Busbridge Junior School on Sunday morning during the Classic and Contemporary congregations. Parents can either stay with their children or leave them supervised by the Crèche team. The Crèche stopped in March 2020 and the families were invited to watch content from our YouTube Channel.

The Crèche is co-ordinated by the 0-4 Families Worker.

Ark (3-7 year olds)

Ark is a group for 3-7 year olds that meets in the dining hall of Busbridge Junior School on Sunday morning. Every session is a blend of group teaching, worship, games and craft with a small group discussion that is age appropriate. Groups are allocated for each school year. Tiny Tigers is aimed at pre-schoolers and typically moves into a different classroom after the opening session, and is coordinated by the 0-4 families worker.

There are also 3 other groups for older children: Busy Fishes, Cheeky Monkeys and Cool Camels. Since March 2020, the Ark meets on Zoom or has a special video on our YouTube channel.

Ark is co-ordinated by the 4-11 Children's Worker.

Explorers (7-11 year olds)

Explorers is a group for 7-11 year olds that meets in the Village Hall on Sunday morning during the Classic and Contemporary congregations. Children learn about God through games, crafts, story-telling and drama. Since March 2020, the Explorers meet online on Zoom every week. The group is co-ordinated by the 4-11 Children's Worker.

Pathfinders (11-15 year olds)

Pathfinders is a group for 11-15 year olds that meets in the Hut on Sunday. The sessions typically include games, Bible study, discussions, and prayers. Pathfinders moved online in March 2020, and is now happening at 4PM on Sunday afternoon. Strictly Pathfinders used to meet in the Old Rectory every other Friday, term time only, but has not happened since the pandemic.

Since March 2020, Pathfinders started to meet during the week, for a 45min Zoom call on Wednesday afternoon 4:15-5PM.

Pathfinders is co-ordinated by the Youth Minister.

ICHTHUS (15-18 year olds)

Ichthus is a group for 15-18 year olds that meets in the Hut on Tuesday and Sunday. Tuesday evening is a Bible-centred Conversation from 07:30 to 08:15pm. Sunday evening is more fellowship-oriented (07:30-08:30pm). Ichthus moved online since March 2020 and meets on Zoom. The group is co-ordinated by the Youth Minister.

Unplugged (All youth)

Unplugged is a worship service designed for the youth and by the youth. It used to take place the third Sunday of the month at 6:30PM but since the pandemic it moved to the last Sunday of the month at 6PM on Zoom. The service is co-ordinated by the Youth Minister.

Anto Ficatier

Busbridge Junior School

BJS was founded by the Church in 1867 and has served children ever since. We work with the school and with Busbridge Infant School. As it is our parish church school we appoint the majority of the governors. The foundation (ie the Church) governors continue to be closely involved with the school and we are grateful for their commitment on all of our behalf. The school staff are dedicated and absolutely fantastic in all they do.

Simon Taylor

Music and Creativity

Services

We continue to have a strong team of music leaders and musicians across all services.

This year due to the pandemic our leaders have embraced new skills and have been instrumental in maintaining our worship through online and recorded worship and most recently in person. Our music worship has maintained its core values of praising and glorifying God whilst adapting to the different styles of worship across the benefice.

With particular thanks to Karen Hart for leading the Classic worship for the last 10 months working closely with Frances Shaw, Alan Harvey for his continued commitment to Hambledon Music Worship and Paul Ridsdale-Smith, David Marson and Beckie Whiteman for embracing new skills through the recording of worship songs both at home and in the Church. Also to those very talented and gifted musicians who have continued throughout the pandemic to provide inspiring worship both in person and through pre-recorded worship. This would also not have been possible without the support and exceptional gifts of Tim Davies and Jacob Taylor who have produced outstanding videos and audio recordings for online services as well as the new Busbridge Church Tech Installation and the Hambledon free standing audio visual equipment.

Unplugged has grown and developed over the last year despite the pandemic and we are now supporting a wonderful group of 'new leaders in the making' each month as they create the worship for their peers and existing congregation on the 4th Sunday of each month. This group comprises of those gifted in both music, drama, creativity and prayer. On behalf of Anto and myself I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Arianna and Davide who have been an incredible support and instrumental in the development of this incredible team.

Sing it Out!

Sing it out sadly had to stop meeting when the pandemic hit in March 2020. We are hopeful it will continue when singing becomes permissible indoors.

Sing it Out! is a choir for primarily (but not exclusively) mums with young pre-school age children. It also welcomes people without children that are looking for a lively choir, whilst supporting the parents and the young children. This choir is for the adults, but it is a place where they know their children are welcomed and cared for in a safe environment.

Sing a long with Ted has been running throughout the pandemic as a 30 minute zoom music and story session for children aged 0-4 years. It was also attended by older siblings during those times when schools were closed. Relationships have been built throughout the year and we are very excited to meet the children in person very soon when we re start toddler groups.

Creativity Matters

Creativity Matters was set up in the Summer of 2019.

The purpose of the group:

- To celebrate the creative gifts that God has given each of us.
- To provide a space for people to engage with God through creativity.
- Using these gifts, come up with creative ways to reach out within the community and share the gospel message and love of Jesus Christ.

The most recent project was led by the very talented Rob Hewlett who built two beautiful stars that were positioned in both Hambledon and Busbridge Churchyards through the Christmas period. These provided inspiration and were sources of hope in what has been a difficult year.

Alongside this was a creative art installation entitled 'Comfort and Joy' led by a small team including Chad Grayer, Steve Kinder and Cathy Brooke that was built inside Busbridge Church and open throughout the Christmas period to Church family and the local and wider community. People attended from all over Godalming and found it to be an incredible source of comfort and inspiration. The pieces which ranged from paintings, sculptures to knitted items were provided by local and professional artists across Godalming, Milford, Witley and Bramley. The installation saw a steady stream attend throughout the Christmas period and received very positive feedback.

I am planning a creative session in June / July which will provide a space for creatives to come together and inspire one another with music and reflection.

Lisa Olsworth-Peter

Men's Ministry

Men Matters has carried on our discussion and fellowship via monthly Zoom during this difficult year. We are very grateful to those that joined us for our First Saturday chat and indeed sometimes we got more attendees than for our real live porridge and marmalade. We look forwards to resuming normal breakfasts as soon as we can...but who can say what normal is anymore?

Alan Betts

Women's Ministry

2020 has inevitably been a somewhat different year in the life of the Women's ministry across the Benefice. Many regular activities such as WOW (Women on Wednesday), and the Hambledon Ladies Breakfast have been unable to function since the first lockdown in March. We did however kick off the year with a fun Curry themed social evening at the end of January. Aply organised and hosted by Katrina Williams and her wonderful team of helpers we were delighted to welcome several new ladies along with the regulars! Little did we know that this would be the last event where we could all meet together in 2020!

Nexus has kept going despite everything! We met in person each month until March and since September have hosted online Zoom talks (welcoming men, too!) – we even managed a few socially distanced walks between Lockdowns. Lisa Olsworth-Peter opened 2020 for us by sharing her musical career, including singing on a West End stage and setting up choirs, before delighting us with songs from Les Misérables. Other highlights were a presentation by the Director of Guildford Samaritans, our 2020 charity; a talk by an international specialist on climate change & conservation; and Simon Willetts, openly sharing his life story – very moving. In December, the annual Charity Quiz Night moved online and was enjoyed by all, with 18 teams being split off into 'break out rooms' to finalise their quiz answers. Many thanks to Dudley Hilton and Alan Betts for brilliantly organising the technicalities and quiz questions. The evening was a great success and raised the grand total of £1,380 for the Guildford Samaritans.

At the end of the year the ladies raised an impressive £370 to purchase Christian themed chocolate advent calendars and chocolate angels which were donated to the Godalming Community Store and St Mark's Food Bank. These all included a booklet with the nativity story and real meaning behind why we celebrate Christmas.

Nicky Hemery

Pastoral Care

This has been a very difficult year for all of us adjusting to new ways of operating within the restrictions of the pandemic. Pastoral work has continued throughout the parish but quite often in a very different way. For most of the year the Pastoral Assistants have been limited to phone or WhatsApp conversations and we have done all we can to keep in regular contact especially with the vulnerable and housebound. There have also been times when PAs have been able to have more face-to-face contact such as going on a walk with someone or having a distanced conversation on a doorstep. I want to extend our grateful thanks to our eight dedicated Pastoral Assistants Shan Hallam, David Hart, Janet Harvey, Alan Harvey, Jacqui Rook, Chris Sollars and Sandra Wilkin who willingly give their time and love to support those in need within the parish of Busbridge and Hambledon.

As well as the initial training all the Pastoral Assistants undertake additional training on a fairly regular basis, such as safeguarding, domestic violence, alcoholism, end of life care, loss and suicide. All these are aspects of pastoral care they may encounter and so they have to ensure they are well equipped to carry out their roles in a professional way. We also have access to several local counselling services that are able to offer more specialised assistance.

During this year we have been joined by Ceri Apark who has recently undertaken the Parish Befrienders course. We also mourned the loss in April 2020 of Pat Hilton, who had been a dedicated member of our team for many years and served God and the community right to the end of her life. We greatly miss her warmth and cheery smile.

Jill Johnston

Prayer

Here is an area that encompasses every one of us. We are the team undergirding everything the church is and undertakes. Prayer is a major way we build our personal relationship with the Lord and where all of us have a role in bringing about His good purposes.

During the pandemic usual opportunities to meet to pray both in small groups and as a whole community have been difficult. Sadly, due to social distancing measures being put in place and the closure of Churches last Spring/Summer we were not able to continue prayer ministry during and after services.

The **Emergency Prayer Chain** led by Toni Charter however became even more vital than before and prayers were lifted daily for those affected by Covid. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those that are part of this ministry, it has been a source of comfort to so many.

The Prayer Ministry Team alongside the monthly Saturday prayer team led two 12-hour **Prayer Vigils** in October and November from 8am-8pm for people who have been affected by the pandemic.

Prayer Room

The Prayer Room was born out of the pandemic. When restrictions came in Spring of last year, the Prayer Room was open from Monday to Friday from 9.00 to 9.20. The format was fairly simple with different volunteers giving a short reflection and leading into open prayer, followed by a few minutes of silent prayer and concluding with collective rendering of the Lord's Prayer.

When the Prayer Room started up to 20 people would attend including some with full-time jobs but working from home and therefore able to join in for twenty minutes. In time it was decided to reduce the frequency to two days a week (Tuesday and Thursday) with Wednesday reserved for Hambledon Morning Prayer. There is now a regular attendance of 10-12.

During special seasons we have used material from the Advent and Lent Reflections as well as 'Thy Kingdom Come'. As more attend than used to come to the in-person Wednesday Morning Prayer, for the time being we will continue to meet on line.

Andy Spencer

Hambledon Prayer Group

Every Wednesday a number of people meet at 9.30 for a short time of morning prayer. We have continued to follow a seasonal pattern, in place at Hambledon since June 2016, using a liturgy set out in prayer cards which changes with the seasons. The psalm and NT reading are taken from the Church of England lectionary. We take it in turns to lead. It's an opportunity to be together, to reflect and share whatever had landed with us from the readings. We then move on to bring before God in prayer the needs of the world, the church, the community, and those in need. Held virtually at the moment. It's not a closed shop, still less a 'holy huddle' – all are welcome. Likewise, the monthly prayer breakfast has continued on 3rd Saturday mornings. The sumptuous feast Liz & David Jenkins used to provide in the church room is sadly on hold for now, given the constraints of covid regulations. But we continue to get together virtually, which at least has one benefit - enabling two much loved ex Hambledon kiwis, now back in New Zealand, to join us!

Alan Harvey

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

Other areas where prayer has been happening

The Emergency Prayer Chain (Contact Toni Charter)

Daily 5pm Prayer in Busbridge Church (Contact Chris Jagger)

Small groups (contact Simon Willetts)

Helpful Habits 1 + 2 which ran on zoom during lockdown– A 6 week course (Contact Gertrud Sollars)

Prayer triplets (Contact Caroline Luard)

Mid-week Listening Prayer which has been available on individual request (Contact Jeannie Postill)

Lisa Olsworth-Peter

Older People's Ministry

Older Person'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. Increasingly, many older people are feeling that they are beyond the interest and concern of their wider community; to the extent that being an older person can be isolating as well as challenging.

As we entered 2020, a full programme of events and activities was in place for the year ahead to provide opportunities for older adults from across our local community to gather together, thereby reducing the amount of time they spend on their own. These might be in a group setting through our Prime Time social activities programme, 1:1 in a person's home by the provision of a volunteer befriender or through the café-style hearing aid clinics that BHC at the time was running on a monthly basis in 3 locations within the Deanery area.

However, due to the pandemic, from mid-March onwards all face to face activities in relation to Older Person's Ministry had to be suspended in order to try and minimize the risk of spreading the virus and also to protect this group of people who due to their age were recognized as being the most vulnerable to severe illness from Covid.

Covid-era Prime Time: There have been a number of successful online events, commencing with a VE Day Anniversary Sing-a-Long Tea Party led by Lisa Olsworth-Peter. Regular monthly quizzes followed and 2020 was rounded off by 3 online events in December culminating with the popular Prime Time Carol Service which this year was pre-recorded and available online and featured contributions from Busbridge Junior School and the Chapel Choir of King Edward's School, Witley.

The Prime Time weekly email quickly became a feature of our Lock Down activity at the start of the pandemic and due to its popularity is now included as a weekly bog on the BHC website too! As the nation went into Lock Down in March, those Prime Time members not on email were swiftly identified and the Prime Time Team with assistance from the BHC Pastoral Team have been keeping in touch either by phone or letter on a regular basis.

We have been able to maintain our link with Priors Field School throughout Lock Down, with the staff and pupils sending out cards to Prime Time members in the summer term as well as giving Prime Time access to some of their online concerts and performances on a regular basis.

Covid-era 1:1 Befriending: All 1:1 visits were suspended throughout the first Lock Down in line with Government guidance. Where it was appropriate, befriending by telephone was substituted – but this is not suitable for all as some health conditions as well as sensory loss, can make use of the telephone very difficult. BHC has adopted the Linking Lives telephone befriending model known as ‘Two’s Company’ in order to fully support and protect those engaged in this activity. As restrictions eased garden visiting or having a chat through an open window became possible, particularly through the warmer summer months. However, as winter approached and Covid cases rose again, visiting restrictions tightened and the telephone and the internet for those who can access it, became the main form of contact once more.

Covid-era Hearing Aid Maintenance: Following joint instructions from the Audiology Department and the Diocese of Guildford, all hearing aid maintenance activity was suspended in mid-March due to the pandemic and this order had not been reversed by the end of the year. For the first few months, the BHC Hearing Champions had enough battery supplies to be able to respond to urgent requests, particularly to those without access to the internet and who would therefore have struggled to make contact with the audiology department. However, our supplies have now been exhausted and until the clinics re-open we are unable to acquire more supplies, so we are now restricted to having to signpost people to audiology, acting as a go-between for those who are not on email.

Our Older Person’s Ministry has a wider mission within our local community; advocating for older adults and championing the contribution older people make to society. We also have a focus on facilitating cross-generational encounters in the church and wider community for the benefit of people of all ages

Lock Down has not prevented such intergenerational activity and the restrictions have spawned innovative projects such as ‘Creative Kindness’ and ‘Kindness for Keyworkers’ which have created opportunities for the CYF and Older Person’s Ministry team to work together. The year ended with a wonderful creative project that Ark and Explorers children were involved in; creating Christmas cards which were then delivered to Prime Time members.

Penny Naylor

Alpha

Alpha went online in Autumn 2020 thanks to Dave Preece leading and Hilary Pettman and Keith Harper facilitating. The success of that group led to another group starting on 9th February 2021 led by Hilary and Keith.

Keith Harper

Movie Ministry

Movie matinees ran on a monthly basis for the first three months of the year, before restrictions on meeting in group were introduced. They alternated between films for grown-ups and films for families. These were held in Busbridge Church. At the events we offered free drinks and popcorn (plus biscuits for the grown-ups). The films are a mixture of recent releases and some classics, picked by the team or suggested by attendees. We use the church licence to show the films, so cannot show everything, but have a large selection to choose from. The films for grown-ups are supported heavily by the Prime Time attendees who make up the majority of the audience. We benefit from the advertising Busbridge Infant and Junior schools do to support the family films. On average we had 16 attendees for the grown-up films and 12 attendees for the family films. Thank you to the team for the continued support: Catherine Garner, Chris Garner, Shelagh Godwin and Fiona Jolleys.

Cat Garner

Marriage, Weddings and Support

For obvious reasons, there have not been many marriages celebrated in our churches this year – just three weddings and one service of blessing. Nevertheless, all of them have been joyful occasions, leading one to wonder if maybe the day of the mega-wedding is on its way out. Small is proving to be beautiful and couples are realising that the important part of it is actually their marriage, before God, in a place which is special to them.

It has not been possible to hold the Marriage Course this year, but Marriage Preparation has continued online, with Tom and Deb Jones and their team doing a wonderful job of helping couples to prepare - not just for the wedding day itself but, more importantly, for a faithful, life-long partnership.

Expressions of appreciation from the couples almost always centre on the fact that we are committed to investing in their relationship; we hope this may also speak to them of God's investment in them and may be something they remember, further down the line.

We have no idea when we shall be able to resume our courses in person – or indeed when we may be able to offer weddings again – but please pray for those to whom we minister at these important milestones in their lives, that we may show the love of God in all our dealings with them, from first 'phone call to final hymn.

Margot Spencer

Baptism Preparation

In 2020 there were 3 baptisms, with the pandemic meaning many were postponed until restrictions and the health and safety of everyone allows.

At the beginning of 2020 we were in the process of changing how baptism and thanksgiving preparation was delivered. We set dates throughout 2020 for the preparation sessions and were inviting families to book into, and complete, the sessions before setting a date for a service.

However, as with many things in 2020 the pandemic meant that this changed. With the closure of churches in the first lockdown baptisms and thanksgivings did not go ahead. During the summer months when worship was tentatively resumed we conducted a couple of baptisms under strict COVID-risk assessed conditions.

Towards the end of 2020 worship moved online again and so baptisms and thanksgivings were once again paused for safety reasons. A small handful of families undertook online baptism preparation with a date for the baptism to be set once the service can be done safely for all involved.

Dave Preece

Funerals, Bereavement and Support

During 2020, we were privileged to officiate at seventeen services, including interments. Apart from the first few, these were necessarily limited by the severe restrictions on numbers, though Guildford Borough generously instigated free live-streaming of all funerals at Guildford Crematorium, which has meant that people unable to attend could still take part in the service, albeit remotely. That has been a comfort to many, for whom being at the service, with the opportunity to say farewell, is an important part of the grieving process.

Many members of our church family have been bereaved during the year, and our team of bereavement visitors has done its best to support them, despite the inherent difficulties posed by not being able to visit in the usual way.

One major change which was forced upon us by coronavirus was that we took the decision to move our annual Memorial Service online, and held it as the main benefice service at All Souls' Tide. This service is normally very personal and takes place in a full church, so we were not sure how it would work with just a few invited guests in church (restricted to church family members who had been bereaved during the year) and everyone else 'out there'. To our relief, it was well-received, and the number of participants was many more than usual, as people shared the link with far-flung relatives who would not normally be able to attend. Live, on air, we remembered 126 people by name, which is something of a record; it also bears testament to our work with bereaved families over many years, and the importance of crafting a fitting tribute to those we have loved and lost.

Margot Spencer

Busbridge Church Re-Ordering

The pandemic meant that my previous report, welcoming the newly flexible worship space in Busbridge Church (called Phase 1), and written in late January 2020, could not be published until last October 2020. One year on I now look back over the last eleven challenging months and thank God for his wonderful provision!

Some of our works needed further faculty approval and were therefore delayed until early 2020 (Phase 2). This phase included additional heating and for horizontal cables to be buried within the plaster to comply with fire regulations; and we are fortunate that most was completed before the March 2020 lockdown began, with the remainder taking place in July.

The Reordering Project had always incorporated a scheme for relaying church services to other premises on the church estate and to the internet; and some of these items were brought forward to ease the transition to live church streaming. Equipment included a designated mini-PC and duplicate means of live streaming; together with a dedicated switcher that can feed different signals to screens across the church estate.

The remaining phases of the project – new low-energy lighting and liturgical furniture – are temporarily on hold as we reassess our design criteria better to meet the developing needs of both physically present and remote congregations. Overall, the project remains on budget.

We remain grateful to all who have contributed to the success of this project which has enabled us to move as if it were seamlessly into the exciting next phase of our ministry.

Tim Davies

Church Technology

2020 was certainly an exciting and challenging year for church technology! In early March our Leadership and Clergy Team became quickly adept at DIY broadcasting whilst our musicians learnt to record themselves at home, in bedrooms and even a shower room, so that those of us fortunate enough to have remixing facilities at home could combine them into choirs, orchestras and bands!

The crossover between Church Reordering and Church Technology enabled many already budgeted technical facilities to be brought forward, thus easing the return to live worship.

Early July brought a return to worship in church buildings and the installation at Busbridge of outside loudspeakers so that we could welcome those who would rather not be indoors. September brought our inaugural Sunday Morning YouTube Live Relay from Busbridge Church, which after a few weeks spawned a second, afternoon contemporary, Live Relay from the Old Rectory Garden. Mid-October brought a return to Sunday morning simultaneous services, albeit with live 'classic' and edited highlights of 'contemporary'. Congregations inside Busbridge Church also combined with those outside and online for the well-attended All Souls and Remembrance Sunday services.

November brought another lockdown and a new set of rules – Stay Local – which meant that those volunteers from outside Busbridge had to fade away, increasing the pressure on those who lived in the parish. We remain grateful to them all.

However, no review of 2020 Church Technology can be complete without mention of the two Drive-in Services which were pushing new boundaries in outreach. Huge thanks, especially, to all who took part and those who worked behind the scenes.

2021 is already set to be a challenging year as those of us involved with technology continue to help resource the churches' mission in an ever-changing landscape. The arrival of broadband at Hambledon Church – finally! – especially brings many new opportunities.

Tim Davies

Parish Magazines

Hambleton 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, and occasionally a 'Kids magazine' thanks to Jenna Gordon. The magazine has increased in length during a challenging year, several issues reaching 60 pages A4. As well as the print edition, the magazine appears later in the month on the village website.

Mary Parker (and Jane during virus era) organize(s) the wonderful team of distributors. Emma Dunn continues as treasurer and advertisement manager. We hope usually to break about even.

The magazine team, Jane, Mary, Emma and I are most grateful to all contributors, distributors and advertisers.

John Hindley

The Bridge (Busbridge)

The Bridge magazine has proved to be a vital link connecting church and community during the pandemic. Our hope is that it has deepened the bonds of community and church, provided hope and cheer in dark times, and been a source offering help and support. It hasn't been an easy year – two editions have been lost due to the impact of Covid and other operational issues beyond our control. There are likely to be financial challenges ahead; in consequence of the aforementioned and also a changing advertising base which is used to fund the magazine. It reaches out to over 1900 homes in the locality; between 3 – 4000 people. A dedicated team of Chris Sollars, Chris Payne, Jacky Beale, Lesley Reeves and Lorna Sherwin graciously volunteer their time and gifts. The magazine is blessed to have a backbone of volunteer road stewards who have battled on through difficult times. It is a team effort and all the support is very much appreciated by the editor, Cathy Brook. As members of our church, please feel part of that wider team, such that your input is always valued – whether it be through prayer, sharing ideas and articles or simply encouragement. Thank you.

Cathy Brook

Church Family Support Fund

The Church Family Support Fund (CFSF) exists to help church members or others in our community, in financial need. It has been very active this year and COVID has meant that there have been significant calls on its resources. The management team has met regularly and has been able to provide confidential support to a number of individuals, families and groups. The CFSF has also offered to underwrite some the St Mark's foodbank costs in the event that foodbank funds run out. We never give details of the support we have provided to individuals but we can say that we have been able to be very generous to many people this year. We have been grateful for donations from church members this year, including one very generous gift of £10,000.

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.

Squires Lunch Club

A monthly occasion in the Squires Café Bar in Milford – up to 10 usually attend. In 2020 the group were only able to meet in January and February. For more information, please contact Pat and Brian Oxborough.