

# Annual Profile 2019



*Knowing Jesus,  
Making Jesus known*



# **Welcome to Hailsham Parish Church – an Annual Profile 2019**

**You have called us out of darkest night into your glorious light,  
that we may sing the wonders of the risen Christ.**

**May our every breath retell the grace that broke into our strife,  
with boundless love and deepest joy, with endless life.**

***May the peoples praise you,  
let the nations be glad!  
All your blessing comes that we may praise,  
may praise the name of Jesus.***

**All the earth is yours and all within, each harvest is your own;  
and from your hand we give to you to make Christ known.**

**May the seeds of mercy grow in us for those who have not heard;  
may songs of praise build lives of grace to spread your word.**

***May the peoples praise you...***

**This our holy privilege to declare your praises and your name;  
to every nation, tribe and tongue your church proclaims!**

***May the peoples praise you...***

**Holy, holy, is the Lord Almighty.  
Worthy, worthy, is the Lamb who was slain.  
Holy, holy, is the Lord Almighty.  
All creation praise your glorious name!**

***May the peoples praise you...***

# Electoral Roll

This year we have been required to produce an entirely new roll, this happens every six years.

During the year, however, we note with sadness and yet resurrection hope the deaths of Joan Ayres and Bill Brooks.

We also said farewell to Mia McCarroll, Dawn Kimpton. Stuart & Fay Smith and their family and James & Monica Isaacs and their family.

The new Electoral Roll stands at 187

## The Churchwardens' Report

*Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptised by one Spirit so as to form one body - whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free - and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. And so the body is not made up of one part but of many.*  
**1 Corinthians 12:12-14**

Looking back over the last year we continue to thank God for his church at HPC and the many people that make up the body of his church. We are blessed to have a vibrant church proclaiming the Gospel in Hailsham and supporting others in different areas of the world. Isn't it wonderful that we have been blessed with the Spirit so that we can follow Jesus and work together to make Him known in Hailsham and further afield?

There have been many things to be grateful for in the life of HPC during 2018. Our mission week, Connect 2018, held during March was a wonderful witness of God's church working together to spread the Gospel. There was a large and varied programme put on throughout the week, starting with the family afternoon featuring Bertie Pearce, a bouncy castle and many families having great fun and hearing the Gospel and ending with a wonderful concert by All Souls Orchestra. In between there were many other activities, including meals at local Hailsham restaurants, walks, craft, ten pin bowling, afternoon teas and much more. It was great to see our church family inviting friends, work colleagues and family along. We were supported so well by All Souls church in Eastbourne who brought along a team to help and to give their testimonies during the events. We pray that through this event seeds have been sown that will bear fruit.

We did see evidence of that fruit as some came along to Christianity Explored. We thank Rory and James Isaacs for leading this and continue to pray that those who attended continue to grow in their love for Jesus.

There have been many other opportunities through the year to welcome people into our family, including Women to Women Events, Men at HPC, The Bite In, Pulse, ABC's, Open Church, Harvest Supper (we thank John Ibbett for his wonderful testimony), Firework night, Holiday Clubs (for both young and not so young) and also the many services that were held over Christmas. Again, we saw so many families coming to the three Christingles on Christmas Eve and we thank God for this.

We also thank God for the many opportunities we have to go out into our community to show God's love and tell people of the Gospel. We thank him that we are still able to go into all of the schools in Hailsham and talk in school assemblies and also for the many Care Home services that we run.

Our, now annual, church weekend away was another glorious weekend weather wise and we thank all those involved for making this a wonderful weekend together. Special thanks to Dave Fenton for his teaching and for the children's teaching team as well.

In July our curate, James and his family moved to Riseley for James to take on the incumbent post where David Bourne had previously been before coming to Hailsham. We took the opportunity to thank James and Monica for their witness during their time with us and we are sure the church family at Riseley will be blessed by the Isaacs family.

We continue to pray for and thank the staff team at HPC as they work so hard in ministering and supporting the church, we thank David, Rory, Chris, Lyn and their families for all they do and also to the admin team of Denise, Sara and Ken for all they do to keep everything and everybody on track!

We have had some changes to our church building during 2018, the most obvious being the removal of the church organ. This was to enable the opening up of the West End and the changes that will happen during 2019 (which we hope to report on and show in the next Profile). We now have a very new state of the art digital organ and thank all those involved for making this happen.

Other buildings work included new screens in the South Chapel/Office, major roof works to ensure we have a water tight building, new chairs replacing the last remaining pews, replacing the boiler at Emmanuel and many other general maintenance works.

You will see through reading the Profile details of many other activities happening week in and week out at HPC which show that we have many parts to our body, and we pray that all these continue to glorify Jesus and make him known in our town and beyond.

**David Gooding & Margery Luffingham.**

## **P.C.C. Secretary's Report**

The PCC has met 5 times since the last Annual Parish Meeting. At the beginning of each meeting we have been working through the Articles of Religion, understanding what they mean and why they are important to us in helping define foundational gospel truth. We have also had reports with discussion on GAFCON and important Church of England issues. At each meeting there is a buildings and finance report. There has been a lot of activity in these areas over the past year and we look forward to the west end development project in the coming months and acknowledge with gratitude to God the gospel impact of legacies.

Thanks are recorded for the hard work of the Buildings and Finance committees which help to inform the PCC as they meet to encourage one another and make decisions on behalf of the church as a whole for the continued gospel witness of HPC in the centre of Hailsham.

**Denise Sinden**

## **Safeguarding**

At Hailsham Parish Church we take safeguarding matters seriously and it is a priority to keep our children, young people and vulnerable adults safe. We strive to provide a safe and caring environment not just for our church family on a Sunday morning but also for those we meet throughout the week at ABCs, Pulse, Salt, Bite In, Youth Zone, Bridge Racing, Families at 4, holiday clubs and pastoral visits. The Diocesan Children's & Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Policies have been adopted by HPC and are implemented in all our work with children, young people and vulnerable adults. We continue to ensure that all clergy, wardens, PCC members and those who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults have current Disclosure & Barring checks (DBS) and are up to date with their safeguarding training. Please pray that we, at HPC, would continue to be wise and committed to the safeguarding of those in our care as we seek to point them to Jesus.

**Lyn Gooding & Alan Baldock**

## Accounts (1)

### Statement of Financial Activities - For the Year ended 31 DECEMBER 2018

*The following figures are an extract of the key information contained in our Accounts  
copies will be available in the Church or upon Request.*

<b>Unrestricted Income:</b>		
<b>2017</b>		<b>2018</b>
<b>£</b>		<b>£</b>
5,577	Collections	6,190
69,396	‘Giving’ Direct to Bank	78,963
16,686	Weekly Envelopes	17,627
720	Pledge Sunday’ Donations	1,030
279	Emmanuel Giving	260
		<hr/>
92,659	<b>Collections &amp; Committed giving:</b>	104,070
22,518	Tax recovered	21,019
0	Chancel Fund	0
14,291	Hire of Emmanuel Hall	15,102
17,162	Donations / Gifts	22,372
10,500	Rental Income	10,830
1,994	Interest Income	37,564
2,748	Bite-In	2,713
4,310	Fees / Grant / Magazine Income	4,960
1,617	Youth Groups / Pastoral Care / Connect receipts	3,062
6,939	Sundry Income	13,130
0	Insurance claim	0
2,100	Legacies	20,910
		<hr/>
176,837	<b>Total Unrestricted Income</b>	255,732
4,138	<b>MEMO</b> Donations for Mission and other Restricted Donations & Gifts (see page 3)	2,748
		<hr/>
<b>180,975</b>		<b>258,480</b>
		<hr/> <hr/>

## Accounts (2)

<b>Unrestricted Expenditure:</b>		
<b>2017</b>		<b>2018</b>
<b>£</b>		<b>£</b>
86,000	Parish Contribution	88,162
46,809	Staff costs and Clergy Expenses	58,995
25,518	Staff Housing	22,976
1,876	Service costs / Flowers	1,595
9,277	Lighting / Heating / Water rates	9,510
0	Insurance	3,188
4,481	Training fees and study materials	6,743
17,928	Repairs (net of VAT refund) including roof repairs	73,398
2,529	Caretaking and Cleaning	3,777
4,274	Youth work and Music	4,473
8,568	Print/Post, Photocopier, Stationery, Hire of Equipment/premises	9,116
381	Telephone and Fax	746
1,601	Churchyard upkeep	1,719
3,109	Lynton Management Fees & Repairs/Refurbishment	3,041
0	Lynton New Project Costs & Professional fees	10,381
30,079	Mission giving / restricted funds (see page 5)	13,264
5,279	Legal and Professional fees /insurance	3,548
1,020	Accountancy Independent Governance costs	1,074
1,551	Investment Management Costs	9,576
7,504	Sundries	14,509
13,552	Depreciation Assets : kitchen/sound system/chairs	32,875
3,997	Loan Interest and Bank Charges	406
<hr/> 275,333		<hr/> 373,075
176,837	Income (see Accounts page 1)	255,732
<hr/> <b>(98,496)</b>	<b>General / Unrestricted Fund: (Deficit 2017) : (Deficit2018):</b>	<hr/> <b>(117,342)</b>
	<b>Extraordinary Items: Income (Expenses)</b>	
1,712,911	Gain on sale of Investment Property "Designated Funds"	-
-	Investment Revaluation / Amortisation	(90,820)
-	Prior year adjustment Chancel Trust	2,443
738	Gains On Investment assets	-
<hr/> 1,615,153		<hr/> (205,720)
	<b>Memo</b>	
	<b>Restricted Outgoings</b>	
10,751	Restricted funds expenditure (see page 3)	8,927
	Incl restricted Mission giving	
<hr/> <b>10,751</b>		<hr/> <b>8,927</b>

### Accounts (3)

In addition to the unrestricted Funding we received and spent the following 'Restricted' Funding:  
(ie money given for a specific purpose)

2017	Restricted Income:	2018
£		£
300	Kitchen & Toilet fund	0
0	Foodbank Donations	0
2,075	Riseley Trust plus other donations re Asha & Sangster	1,875
215	Discretionary Donations	0
209	Women to Women	538
23	Men at HPC	0
500	Photocopier	0
88	Youth Zone	35
441	Connect 18 Mission receipts	0
13	Restricted interest	0
275	Friends of St. Mary's Donations	300
<hr/>		<hr/>
4,138	<b>Total Restricted Receipts/ Transfers:</b>	2,748
	<b>Restricted / Other Expenditure:</b>	
	Spending in Year:	
0	- Connect mission payments	5,030
2,075	- restricted outward giving	1,725
25	- Women to Women payments	496
2,482	- reordering repairs Sundries	0
0	- Fund payments ie foodbank etc	50
358	- trf Contribution to Training and studies	0
6,504	- trf Contribution to Children & Family Worker cost	1,626
<hr/>		<hr/>
11,444		8,927
(693)	- Funds / transfers closures	0
<hr/>		<hr/>
10,751		8,927
<hr/>		<hr/>
(6,613)	<b>Movement in Restricted funds: (Deficit 2017) and Surplus/(Deficit 2018)</b>	(6,178)
	<b>And</b>	

- N.B.
- At the beginning of the year HPC had Loans outstanding totalling £44,000. This balance was made up of HPC Members loans of £40,000 and the Archdeacon loan of £4,000.
  - The final instalment of the Archdeacon loan was paid in October 2018 leaving loans outstanding of £40,000 as reflected in the accounts and noted below.
  - The bungalow known as Lynton is still owned by Hailsham PCC and the rent received helps to fund the activities of HPC. The related costs and value of the remaining property asset are reflected in the accounts.
  - Extraordinary Items are made up of: Receipts of £2,443 being a prior year adjustment for the Chancel Trust and Payments totalling £90,820 made up of the revaluation of the Investment fund. Trust Investment value at 31 December 2018 £880,084.



## Accounts (4)

Following the Unrestricted & Restricted Income & Expenses, and the loan, detailed overleaf we show below our Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2018

### Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2018:

(extracted from Balance Sheet in Accounts)

Balance as at 31.12.17 £				Balance as at 31.12.18 £
	<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
108,413	Tangible assets - Kitchen & Toilet/Organ/Office Screen/Chairs			194,088
1,366,639	Investments ( included Investment Property)			1,264,003
<u>1,475,052</u>				<u>1,458,091</u>
	<b>Current Assets:</b>			
426,829	Cash at Bank		214,017	
5,598	Debtors		<u>26,502</u>	
<u>432,427</u>			<u>240,519</u>	
	<b>Less : Current Liabilities</b>			
	Creditors (due within 1 year)			
	20,994 Trade creditors and accruals	21,539		
	- Provisions eg Promotor adv/Diocese	-		
	4,000 Loan due within one year	<u>-</u>		
	<u>24,994</u>		<u>21,539</u>	
407,433				218,980
<u>1,882,485</u>				<u>1,677,071</u>
	<b>Less:</b>			
40,000	Loan (repayable within 10 yrs)			40,000
<u>1,842,485</u>				<u>1,637,071</u>
	<b>Restricted Funds:</b>			
365	Discretionary Fund			465
2410	Children & Family Worker Fund			784
402	Women to Women fund			444
1529	Friends of St. Mary's			1,829
88	Youth Zone			123
0	Kitchen & Toilet Fund			-
441	Connect 18 Mission			-
23	Men at HPC			23
1,483,414	<b>Designated funds</b>			1,476,873
342,452	<b>Unrestricted Fund:</b>			144,854
11,361	<b>Endowment Reserve:</b>			11,676
<u>1,842,485</u>	<b>Net Assets:</b>			<u>1,637,071</u>

## Accounts (5)

### Mission & Outward Gifts – Year 2018:

We are pleased to report that we made the following gift donations during the year:  
(enhanced by Charity Donations from 'Riseley Trust.')

2017		2018
£		£
3,282	BCMS-Crosslinks	3,000
-	Crosslinks - Milsons	2,000
3,014	Sangster & Asha	3,300
1,750	Tear Fund - Philippines appeal	1,050
2,550	Sussex Gospel Partnership	1,550
400	Meg Northcote (WEC)	400
3,982	Food Bank	3,400
1,300	Bible By The Beach	1,350
650	Chichester Diocese - Family Social Work	650
500	Childrens Society	550
500	Release International	600
1,000	Church Society	1,250
400	Other Donations	1,168
10,750	Pledged Giving from Lynton now paid out within above figures	(9,250)
<b>30,079</b>		<b>11,018</b>
	<b>Add:</b>	
0	Restricted Gifts for Food bank	50
2,075	Riseley Trust & Warbleton Donations Asha & Sangster	1,700
0	Discretionary Fund	0
0	Restricted funds used on Mission outreach	496
<b>£32,154</b>	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>13,264</b>

Riseley Trust support the ongoing development, training and support of Asha and Sangster.  
Funds are sent along with HPC to save on bank charges which are shared.

The Pledged Mission giving voted by the PCC in 2017 of £20,000 has been paid out. £10,750 in 2017 the balance £9, 250 in 2018 and is included in the above breakdown.

We give thanks to have have been able to share God's wonderful blessing of Lynton.

## Treasurer's Report - 2018

As always my thanks to everyone who has supported the Church with gifts both financially and with their time, of physical gifts during the year. This is very much appreciated, and we give thanks to God for our Church family.

Yet again this year there have been new challenges with the finances and accounts for HPC. Hence a busy but interestingly rewarding year again as treasurer. We should all give thanks to Roger again for his diligence and hardwork and also to my finance team in sharing the responsibility of verifying the financial data required to enable the preparation of the accounts for their back up and on going support, advice & guidance during the normal day to day running of the activities at Hailsham Parish Church.

More importantly I give thanks to our Lord for his strength in all that he enables us to do at Hailsham Parish Church.

### General Overview

**The main issues to this years finances has been :-**

**A}      *The commencement and in some instances the completion of various major works, from the funds raised from Estate of the late Ruth Deacon. The balance of the proceeds of the sale of the property has been invested. Works as follows :***

*Roof repairs and replacement of all damages, to tiles beams guttering leading etc*

*Office development, screening and wiring etc*

*West End opening, stage one with Organ project and access to the Church building.*

The Investment has been planned, to be held to generate income to help to maintain future staffing of HPC. It is also planned that the Capital element will be maintained as tangible fixed assets.

As previously reported the PCC, as custodians of the church property, under the Charities Act have a duty to maximise the return on any gifts to the church. To this end we are holding the asset of the Investment Fund plus the Bungalow "Lynton" and remaining land, while continuing to seek advice on potential future, further development.

The property as in prior years is fully reflected in the accounts and is continually being rented out, providing an income towards costs, which are being incurred in the maintenance, insurance and management fees.

**B}      *Cash Flow:*** Had it not been for the sale of the land we would not have been able to meet our obligations in maintaining the current level of Church Activities. Cashflow continues to be an issue affecting finances for HPC. As shown by the General unrestricted funds accounts (see pages 1 and 2) which had deficits both last year of £98,496 and current year a larger deficit of £117,342, due in part to roof repairs.

Our regular and planned giving has increased by nearly £11,000 pa which is approximately £900 per mth this is lower than the increase in our monthly expenditure hence diminishing the general funds available to meet normal day to day running costs of our church. The shortfalls have been supported by reserves brought forward from previous years and investment funds held since the sale of the land.

As mentioned above the remaining funds are designated for future projects and should not be used for General purposes.

The Parish Giving Scheme has continued to help the Cashflow in the prompt collecting of Gift Aid Tax relief.

The scheme has been successfully taken up by a large portion of our members. **Should anyone, who is a tax payer, like to join the scheme please see Roger Booth or myself for a sign up form. Your help in joining this scheme would be very much appreciated.**

Without these gifts we could not have met our committed outgoings, we give thanks to God.

### Unrestricted Income: (Page - Accounts 1)

As reported above regular collections & 'Committed giving' Income increased from £92,659:2017 to £104,070 in 2018. Regular Giving is below our budget target of £110,000 per annum (£9,170 per month), by £500 per mth.

This 'giving' has been boosted by a further £21,019 refund of Tax, from the Inland Revenue.

The total amount received for Unrestricted Income was a total of £255,732 in the year.

Restricted income received in the year totalled £2,748.

**Unrestricted Expenses: (Page – Accounts 2)**

The combined Parish Contribution (pays for cost of clergy, housing, church insurance etc.) was £88,162 in 2018. Our Total Expenses were £373,075, leaving a deficit of £117,342 for the year on the unrestricted figures.

Restricted fund income amounted to £2,748 so after deducting costs of £8,927 the deficit is £6,178.

**Restricted funding: (Page – Accounts 3)**

Page 3 to the accounts provides details of the Restricted fund movements in the year and an explanation of how we arrive at the restricted fund deficit mentioned above of £6,178.

**Balance Sheet: (Page – Accounts 4)**

On this page you will see a list of our Assets & Liabilities as at 31 December 2018.

The above Financial reports are based on "pre final audited financial statements".

Francine Newton – Hon. Treasurer

## Legacies

At the beginning of the year we were very grateful to receive a legacy from Margaret Frost's estate of £20,650 for the ongoing work at Hailsham Parish Church.

This very generous gift is a reminder of the many projects that have been completed over the years which have been largely dependent on members of the congregation thinking about the future and the ongoing work for God's glory at Hailsham Parish Church after their death.

Some of the projects that have been completed as a result of Legacies include the lounge, along with the first kitchen and toilets, Emmanuel Hall (the church plant in the north of Hailsham). Then, with the help of John Hills' legacy the PCC had the opportunity to update the kitchen and toilets. The benefits of this have been immeasurable not only for the church members but also as we reach out to the wider Hailsham community. Then, of course, there was Ruth Deacon's legacy which has, among other things, enabled the PCC to reorder the Chancel including creating an enclosed office space, updating the sound system and replacing the pews with chairs giving the flexibility to use the entire church seven days a week not just one. The roof has been extensively repaired and the organ has been replaced giving the opportunity to open up the West End as the main entrance to the church building. However, of even greater significance it has enabled us to maintain staffing at the present levels for the future.

Legacies come in all forms and sizes but for Hailsham Parish Church they are vital to financially assist the ongoing work of spreading the Gospel of Jesus.

When you are next in church take time to look round the building and think what has and will be achieved by the legacies that many forward thinking members of the congregation have given. So, have you thought about making a provision in your will for the church and, if not, just think about the future benefits of doing so.

Roger Booth

## Deanery Synod Report

Deanery Synod meets three times per year, hosted by various churches in the group. In the last year we have received presentations on a variety of topics. For example, early in 2018 we heard from Mr Scott Ralph, Diocesan Property Director, on the work of his department in management of Diocesan houses etc., and a number of questions were asked from the floor. In December 2018 Revd Diane Watts, Together in Sussex Development Worker, spoke on her role providing advice and support for community outreach projects, and encouraging churches to share resources and expertise. This year we are also considering "Vocation and What It Means to Me," with an encouraging contribution by our own Rory Graham on his call to follow Christ. We also receive reports from our members of General and Diocesan Synod, as well as updates from parishes across the Deanery.

Cori Bromfield

## Music

The music team at Hailsham Parish Church **aims:**

- a) with the church leaders, to select **hymns and songs** whose words, when we sing them, build us up in Christ, serving the purposes of church (such as teaching and reflecting on Biblical truth; encouraging one another in the faith; praying to and praising God); and
- b) to make good use of the **musical gifts** with which Christ has blessed our church, using them for its edification and to God's glory.

The **hymns and songs** we sing are chosen by me and David Bourne, often with input from others, including staff and musicians. Over the past year fifteen new songs have been introduced.



The **team**, incorporating those involved in sound reinforcement, visual projection and action leading, currently consists of fifty-nine people, of whom forty-eight serve on a regular basis. Twenty-one people serve regularly as singers in the **choir**, seven as **lead singers** in a band and/or choir context, nineteen as **instrumentalists**, six as **audio technicians**, seven as **visual technicians** and four as **action leaders**. Roger Tipping, our organist, plays for 6.30 p.m. Sunday services (as well as many 10.30 a.m. services). Colin Dadswell co-ordinates the team of audio and visual technicians.

Whilst musical activity continues to centre on our **10.30 a.m. services**, the past year has seen the introduction of a small informal ensemble to our **6.30 p.m. services** roughly once a month. In addition to serving the regular Sunday congregations, musicians lead songs at **Pulse**, at **special services** at church and in the community (e.g. in local care home), at **meetings** such as the monthly evening *Meet and Pray* and at **events** such as the Easter and summer holiday clubs.

In 2018 **special music** was prepared for Easter Sunday, a choral evening service for Harvest Festival and Carols by Candlelight. In addition, a candlelit advent carol service presented a special opportunity to mark the arrival of our wonderful **new organ**, on which note many thanks are due to Ken Thomas for his very hard work on the organ replacement project. Exactly a year ago (at the time of writing) an evening of jazz in Chapter 12 began our *Connect 2018* mission week, which culminated in an amazing, unforgettable concert by the All Souls Orchestra.



Four **whole-team events** have taken place within the past year: a **ten-pin bowling** social on 29th June provided a chance to welcome some newer members; a **prayer, review and planning meeting** was held on 10th July; a **meal out** at The Cottage on 16th November was enjoyed by thirty-two; and a contingent from HPC attended at a **training day**, *Promoting a Culture of Congregational Singing*, run by Music Ministry at Christ Church Kensington on 2nd February.

**Music Extra** is back this academic year: five optional Wednesday evening meetings for adults in the music team to tap into. So far, a group Bible study, a new songs evening and a 'trickier songs' evening have averaged an attendance of twelve. A song-writing evening and a book discussion are on the horizon.

**Junior Band**, supported by Susie Graham and John Kimble, meets on Saturday afternoons about six times a year. Most recently five children aged 6-11 got together on 19th January to practise *The greatest in the kingdom are the servants* before launching it in the 10.30 service the next morning.

**Youth Band**, supported by Jazz Dixon and Sylvia Robinson, meets on Tuesday evenings during term time, usually fortnightly. Currently six young people (aged 11+) belong to the band. Most recently we enjoyed learning a freshly-written song by one of our founder members, Adam Tomalin: *Preserve us, God, for in you we take refuge* (Psalm 16). Keep your ears open for it! Those in Youth Band take it in turns to join our regular rota groups on selected Sunday mornings.

**Phoenix Academy Music Club** continues to run after school on Wednesdays with help from Rena Barrow, Margaret Booth and Jazz Dixon. At present about fourteen children aged 5 to 10 are attending regularly and enjoying learning the recorder. In December a new link was made with **White House Academy**, who invited us to sing carols at their **Christmas fair**. These activities help in strengthening links with two schools on our doorstep, where I also serve as a parent governor.

**Thank you** to everybody who has helped with church music in any way over the past year.

**Please pray** for the music team, especially that we would have an increased desire to sing, play, lead actions and operate equipment for the encouragement of our brothers and sisters in Christ and for God's glory.

*'Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you... sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.'* **Colossians 3: 16**

Chris Taylor

## Reports from our Sunday Groups

### Little Diggers

Little Diggers is our Sunday group for babies and pre-school children. The group gives little ones a safe place to play, enabling their parents / carers to participate in the main service without distraction. In addition, Little Diggers sessions include a short Bible story/teaching time plus a related activity. We usually have between two and seven children in the group.



At the moment our team is made up of three main leaders as well as eight others who help. We're thankful for those in Little Diggers and for the opportunity to introduce them to Bible truths at a young age. Please pray that they would grow up knowing and loving our Lord Jesus.

The Little Diggers Team

### Seekers

The Seekers Group covers the 4 to 7 year olds, (children in Reception and Key Stage 1 at Primary School). Our weekly numbers average 4 with visitors joining us from time to time.

Sadly, Ruth Jardine has had to step down from teaching due to family commitments and we thank Ruth for her very valuable contribution to the group. We are, however, pleased to say that Charlotte Smith has now joined the team and we welcome her.

As always, we value your continuing prayers for Sophia Joel, Amelia, Danny and Sophia.

We are still using the TNT ministries Mustard Seed programme and so far this year we have looked at ...

- **Parables of the Kingdom** with the memory verse - Seek first the Kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33)
- **Beginnings** with the Memory verse - For all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God {Romans 3:23} .



It is pleasing and rewarding to see the children's confidence growing over the weeks when answering our questions and taking part in the activities.

The prayers of the whole church are so important in the children's work so we ask for your continuing support that with Gods help we show the children how much Jesus loves them.

The Seekers Team

## Discoverers

Discoverers is the Sunday group for Key Stage 2 children, (age 7-11 years). There are eight children on the register at present and we see, averagely, 6 each week. Tim Robson, Sylvia Robinson and Jazz Dixon led the group until Jazz stepped down in October. We miss her and would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her teaching and support of Discoverers. Since Christmas we have welcomed back David and Lyn Gooding and the fresh face of Susie Graham to the teaching team. The leaders are always very appreciative for the team of helpers and their contribution to the group, also, to Julie Bell for organising the rota and Lyn for organising the teaching.

Our aim is to make the bible accessible by engaging with the children through study and life application, with games, craft, drama, fun visual aids, discussions and video clips all based on the TNT Children's Ministries online teaching resource.



Over the past year we have looked at Israel's first kings Saul, David and Solomon. How they started well but all were tempted away from doing what God wanted of them and fell short of being the perfect Sovereign, but they pointed the way to the Promised King to come, King Jesus. Since Christmas we have looked at the **Parables of the Kingdom** series, based in Matthew; stories that Jesus told which have a deeper meaning often missed by many of his listeners. Presently we are back in the Old Testament with **Beginnings**, looking at Genesis, how everything began so perfectly and then went so horribly wrong. After this we will look afresh at the **King on the Cross** and what the Easter story means for us.

Over a year we cover quite a lot of biblical ground and would ask for your prayers over our teaching; that we find time to faithfully prepare and bring the truth of the Bible to the children, in a way that will engage them and lead them into a deeper understanding and to a personal faith. The children are often challenged by applying what they hear in church to their everyday lives, as most of us are, so please pray about this; that they get the support and encouragement they need to trust Jesus as their king and rescuer.

The Discoverers Team.

## Quest

Last year's report asked for prayers for the new material to be used in Quest (our Sunday group for school years 6-9). It was so encouraging to see how God used those sessions, on the key doctrines of the Christian faith, to help our young people grow and learn. Since then we have learned about Kings



David and Solomon, and how they point us to Jesus. At time of writing we are in the middle of more new material on the book of Colossians, thinking about real faith and lives lived as followers of the king.

# QUEST. →



There have been some changes to the team this year. Please give thanks for David Rycroft's hard work as leader, as he has now stepped down from this role, and for Lennie Cannon who has joined the team. Heartfelt thanks are also due, as ever, to Ron and Kay for the use of the Link.

Cori Bromfield

## Families at 4



Families at 4 is fun, friendly and fragile! We meet once a month on Sunday afternoons for an informal service with a light meal to finish. Our events are geared to reach out with the good news of Jesus to families with primary-aged children. We sing songs, watch puppets, listen to Bible talks, engage in opportunities for prayer, make crafts and generally enjoy being together. Over the past year numbers have varied widely, with a couple of sessions being cancelled as no-one came and a couple reaching around 25.

As Rory, Susie and family stepped back from Families at 4 in October, Chris now plans and leads sessions with Lyn. Catherine Bridger and others continue to prepare and serve our delicious tea-time meals. Thank you to everyone who has contributed in one way or another to Families at 4 over the past year. Please pray that our base of attendees would stabilise and grow, and that God would cause children and their grown-ups to come to know Jesus.

Chris Taylor and Lyn Gooding



# Reports from our Midweek Groups

## ABC Playgroup



Each Thursday morning the church and lounge are filled with toys and noise as we welcome in lots of adults, babies and pre-school children. They enjoy a fun morning of play, craft, cups of tea, chatting, snacks, bible story and song time.

In a recent survey it was found that

52% of children in England access some form of parent and toddler group via churches. At HPC we see this as not just an opportunity to serve the local community but as an amazing privilege to welcome little people and adults into the church building and share Jesus with them. We might only have contact with these families for a limited time before their children start school and we want to make the most of every opportunity we have. Due to the popularity of the group we continue to implement a waiting list which helps us to keep numbers at a manageable level and therefore enabling good conversations and relationship building. As the trust and friendships grow, it leads to opportunities to invite them to Families at 4, Pulse, holiday clubs and women's events. We have been very thankful for two new team members this year who have been great at chatting to parents and grandparents over a cuppa. If this is something you feel that you could do, there is always room for more on the team!



Throughout the year we have enjoyed a Teddy Bear's picnic at Abbott's Wood and celebrated Easter, Summer and Christmas with bouncy castle parties and books about Jesus to take home and share with their families.



Please do continue to pray for ABCs.....

- For the team to continue to grow in number and that we might be faithful, wise and bold as we seek to point both children and adults to Jesus.
- Thank God for answered prayers as some of the families have come along to Christingle services, Families at 4 and Pulse.
- That these little ones and their parents/grandparents would be excited by what they hear about Jesus and want to know more.

Lyn Gooding & the ABCs team



# Pulse

Where in Hailsham on a Tuesday afternoon can you play table football, build a Lego model, create a boat from a scourer, eat toast with lots of chocolate spread and hear the great good news of Jesus? At Pulse!!



This is our after-school club where we welcome in energetic children and weary parents for a fun hour or so with craft, games, snacks, cups of tea, songs and a bible talk. We began the school year with a bible overview, and we are currently learning how God cares for us as we look at Jesus and some of the stories he told. We held a Light Party in October, enjoyed a Christmas celebration and even had a team of puppeteers lead story time in January. We end each term with a family meal for around 50 hungry people and we are still so thankful for our amazing kitchen and the ladies who provide such delicious food! This year, the team have been greatly encouraged by the 12 or so families who come each week, seeing relationships and trust grow. This led to a good number of the mums and grandmas coming along to the Women2Women Gingerbread evening in November and some families beginning to come along to Families at 4.

Please pray

- That these families would continue to come to Pulse and would invite their friends to come too.
- For the team to be wise, loving and bold as we seek to maintain and grow those relationships built, whilst making Jesus known.
- That the children and adults would listen well during the bible story time and hear the good news of Jesus and want to follow him as their Lord and Saviour.



**The Pulse Team**  
(Margaret Booth, Kim Bourne, Sue Buswell, Lyn Gooding, Susie Graham, Joan Guile, Jackie Hayden, Chris & Emily Taylor)

## Bridge Racing

A wonderful activity held every second Saturday of the month. A great team assemble every month to set up the track in a different way every session. Dads bring their children, boys and girls to enjoy an evening of Scalextric racing. A great selection of cars are on offer to use, and some of the boys and girls bring their own cars. The wonderful know-how of the team ensures that the races are linked to a computer to monitor laps and teams, so we know who wins after every race, which is exciting to all that watch and take part.

The dads who come along know that we are a church group and the attendance is very good on every session, we now have several dads who are regulars and turn up each month. As a witness to God, this is a work in progress, and we are all aware of how precious each person is, who attends Bridge Racing, and we hope and pray that this work will bear fruit over time. Good relationships have and are



being built by member of the Bridge Racing team and the dads that attend, this has enabled us to invite the dads to other church/Men's Group events but so far with limited success, this is certainly an area in which prayer support would be very much appreciated. Each member of the team enjoys serving, and the refreshments run by Tim always go down well, thirsty work running lots of cars (and lorries now and then!).

We thank God for the opportunity that we have with every session of Bridge Racing and look forward even more to the opportunities it provides of connecting with the wider community.

**Tony Roberts**

## Youth Zone

Youth Zone has been running at HPC for many years and is a Saturday evening youth group for Year 6 (last year of primary school) upwards. In 2017 it changed from a monthly youth group to meeting weekly during term-time.

Up until summer 2018 the group continued to meet weekly with about 12 to 16 young people coming along. It was encouraging to see young people from church inviting along their friends and we often had 4 or 5 young people each week who had no other involvement with HPC. The group usually meets at Emmanuel Church but also goes out and about. We had games evenings in Abbots Wood, rounders on Longleys Farm, bowling at Freedom Leisure and walks in Park Wood. The summer session ended with a trip from Sovereign Harbour on "East Sussex 1" courtesy of the Maritime Volunteer Service, plus a barbecue on the beach at Holywell.



Due to changes in people's circumstances (moving, having a baby, etc) and the move of James our Curate we weren't able to continue Youth Zone in the autumn of 2018. This was a real loss for HPC as we have very few activities to offer those in the 11 - 14 age group. Following prayer and a number of discussions we have now managed to put together a smaller programme of monthly activities up until the summer of 2019. For the first time we are introducing a short gospel message or Christian discussion point as part of each evening. The group still needs help and you can do this in two main ways: First, consider whether you might be the right person to help on Saturday evenings to run Youth Zone (we are still short of leaders) and second, pray for Youth Zone. In particular pray that we will have sufficient leaders to run the group and that the young people from church who attend will have the confidence to invite their friends along who will then get to hear those short gospel messages.

**Dan Saxby**



## SALT – 14+ Youth Group

SALT is a group that meets weekly for teenagers at HPC and their friends. It is a chance for them to chat, eat, play and discover the greatness of our God. The group have missed James and Monica since they went to Riseley, but Cori and Rory are trying to fill their shoes.



We have had a fun term with socials to Bebbles, Hailsham's top rated restaurant(!) and a pancake evening. Food often seems to feature but we do make time to look at the Bible together as well. We have thought about how Christians should respond to Halloween, seen how amazing Jesus is from the book of Hebrews and are currently enjoying the Changing Lanes course – which is giving us an overview of the Christian Faith.

Please pray that the group would grow in love for each other and Jesus.

**Rory Graham and Cori Bromfield**

## TNT



TNT is the Bible study group for (mostly!) 20s-30s at HPC. There have been several changes in the last year, with a move from Rory & Susie's house to the Vicarage, some not-quite-20 and 30s joining us for a period before moving to their own home group, and the arrival of the second TNT baby.

Over the year we have spent time in John's gospel, looking at Jesus' teaching shortly before his death. We've studied the opening chapters of Genesis, learning more about what it means to be humans, created by God; and recently we joined the other home groups in reading through Ruth. We've also had good fun with our time together (often involving food) – a particular highlight being "ball shaped snacks" during the World Cup.

Please do pray for the group, particularly that we will be able to encourage those who find it harder to join us regularly now. If you are interested in coming along, please come and have a chat!

**Cori Bromfield**

## Bellringing

Bell ringing continues regularly but with reduced numbers we have found it difficult to ring even six of our eight bells on Sunday mornings. Sunday evening quarter peals have continued for virtually every evening service with the help of other local ringers who are pleased to come and ring with us, but even this is getting more difficult. Over Christmas we managed to get enough ringers to ring for four of the six services, ringing between two of the Christingle services and only missing the 7.30 a.m. service on Christmas morning.

It is expected that the bells will be rung for Sunday morning and evening services to call people to worship as they have done for hundreds of years. At the morning service we get as many of our

ringers as possible to attend. For the evening service we get six or eight ringers and ring a “quarter peal” – this, in layman’s terms, is ringing in a set pattern(s) (called a method) and lasts for about 40 minutes, non-stop. “Peals” are also rung at other times, to celebrate special events, and these last for around 3 hours non-stop.

We practice on Monday evenings here at St Mary’s and are particularly lucky to have a few ringers from other towers who are willing to come regularly to make up our numbers and enable us to practice more advanced methods. Again this year we had an evening outing, ringing the bells at Laughton and having a meal together afterwards, which everyone very much enjoyed. The Ringing Centre at St Mary’s is no longer operating.

During the last year bell ringing around the world has been remembering the ringers who gave their lives during the First World War – some 1,400 and their objective of recruiting this number of new ringers was far exceeded although we were not able to obtain any new ringers at Hailsham, we had been lucky enough to get two new ringers just before this time.

Elizabeth Munday

## Creative Craft Group

The Creative Craft Group was founded in 2005, by Daphne Elphick, Vac Price, Hilda Walder, Audrey Hillman, Shelagh Walter and Gill Smithers, and was known as the St Mary’s Church Craft Group. We started with just a few members, but soon grew too large, and it was decided to split the group into morning and afternoon sessions, hence Creative Craft Group, and the Crafty Companions, who both meet on a Wednesday every week.

Here are some comments from members about the year:



*Once again, we have had a very happy year sharing our ideas. Mary moved to be nearer her family, but we gained Pam. Peggy has supplied us with some new prayers, which we say together after a cup of tea or coffee, and then we launch into the business of card making, wax art, and other types of craft. We joined in poppy making in November for displays in the town commemorating 100 years since the First World War. We also made baby hats for premature babies and continue knitting squares for blankets. What will our future projects be? Who knows? (Sue Wilson)*

*I transferred from the afternoon to morning craft group a few weeks ago. There are a few differences, e.g. written organised recited prayer instead of extempore (off the cuff), also doing our own work once a month, instead of now and again. It helps that I knew some of the “girls” already and am enjoying getting to know the others. (it is an added excitement to discuss the forthcoming marriage of our leader!) The “Big Shot”(a cutting machine) is a fearsome mystery I will leave alone, but I am enjoying settling into a new group, and mornings suit me so much better, I am awake then! (Pam Smith)*

*What do we gain at Creative Craft? Good company, a laugh and a joke. We continue to learn new ways of making cards and we encourage one another in whichever craft we are engaged in. (Peggy Knight)*

We were lucky this year to have Iris Tipping talk to us about her calling into the Salvation Army, which we all found most interesting. We have also had Rory Graham, our assistant Minister, speak to us about his work and how he came into the Ministry.

In December, we all enjoyed a Christmas Meal at the Link, where Kay and her staff looked after us well. It turned out to be the wettest day in December.

I will be leaving the Craft Group at Easter, as I will be moving to Eastbourne in June, and will be worshipping at Holy Trinity Church, which is my future husband's Church. I will miss wonderful friends, who have been so supportive of me in the difficult times, and I know that with the help of God, the group will go from strength to strength, and I wish them every success in the future.

Val Bulgin

## Crafty Companions



Again, this year we made many different articles, including a Hedgehog phone cover, we decorated boxes, made key rings and made many different cards including pop-up cards and exploding cards. We were shown how to make Zentangle patterns and we had a demonstration by a lady who showed us how to make a padded Christmas decoration. At Remembrance time we made knitted or crocheted Poppies which were donated to Hertsmonceux who attached them to a huge net that was put over the Community Centre. It was in the style of the Poppies at the Tower so they flowed over the roof.

Each term we hold a Beetle Drive which we all enjoy. As we have lost some of our members we have advertised in the magazine and the weekly pink sheet to see if we can recruit more members.

We always start our meeting with a prayer to the Lord mainly thanking God for the time we spend together and asking for his guidance with our crafts. We have had to pray this year for the members of our group who have been ill, and one member has a very sick husband - we try to pray for them at each meeting.

We are praying for the continued success of our group.



Dawn Kimpton



## Meeting Point

35 - 40 people continue to meet monthly in the lounge on a Monday afternoon and we have had a variety of speakers, Christian and Secular, including learning about the work of FEBA, the history of Teddy Bears (including a variety of bears attending the meeting!) and the work of the local Gideon Branch.

It was encouraging to have a good number of visitors attend our Cream Tea as part of Connect 18 in March; and it has been lovely that some of our visitors have continued to attend our monthly meetings. Our annual carol service was not so well attended but folk enjoyed singing the familiar carols followed by seasonal refreshments.



Holiday at Home was held again this year in August with record numbers on the Tuesday; and the church kitchen was well used by the catering team ably led by Elizabeth. Our committee continue to meet regularly and we have welcomed new members to the team; although we have sadly said goodbye to our Secretary, Rosie, who felt it was time to step down after doing a sterling job for many years. The New Year started with a tea, quiz and singing led by Roger followed by some wonderful photographic memories in February by Seaford Photograph Society. We praise God for His goodness through another year and look forward with anticipation to 2019

**Margaret Surrey and Pam Brooks**

## Bite In

Our year began enjoying each Friday and looking forward to the first event of the church, "Connect 2018", the mission week timed for March which was disappointing (as far as numbers were concerned), but we pray that God worked in the hearts of those who did become involved.

Open Church for us began at Easter with the hope of continuing each Friday throughout the year. This has been difficult to maintain due to the Church Building Works beginning with the removal of the organ and the effect of Health and Safety Regulations which leaves us unable to access the building.





We expect our customers to be duly impressed when the work is finished and it again becomes an oasis of calm.

Our own Midsummer event in June was a lovely occasion. Morning coffee and cake followed by ploughman's lunch in the churchyard. A good time was had by all. A wet winter has rather dampened numbers at times but our 'regulars' are at the door at 9.30 prompt, expecting coffee / tea / hot chocolate and cake with good cheer.

We would very much like to welcome more church members to the Bite-In and there is still a need for one more core helper and others to do a Friday as and when it would be convenient to them. (Please contact Ron, Elizabeth or Dot if you can help).

Prayer underpins the Friday session, offering all our work to the Lord and asking for his strength in us and for those who are unwell or in difficulty.

**Bite-In Team**

## **Men @ HPC**

We continue to meet and encourage each other with our walk with Jesus. During the year we hold various events and this year they have included an evening at Ribs n Co as part of the Connect 2018 mission week, an evening on the golf range at Eastbourne followed by a meal and a games evening with pizza. I am sure you will see there is a definite theme, men and food!



**menathpc**



We have also been looking at what it looks like to be “Men of God” during one of our hot potato evenings, challenging us all to live as men of God, not only on a Sunday but throughout the week and 24/7. We welcome all men to our group and encourage all men to bring friends along who may not know Jesus but would like to find out more.

**David Gooding & Rory Graham.**

# Women2Women

## Women's breakfasts

On a Saturday morning, once a term we meet around a continental breakfast, share our lives, listen to a passage of scripture opened up, discuss and pray for each other. Generally, we are taught by one of the ladies from our church family, many of whom have been learning to teach the bible at our local Sussex gospel partnership. The aim is to build each other up following the NT pattern of women teaching women in 1 Titus.

May brought our spring breakfast. Following lots of chatting Kim Bourne helped us to look at the book of Nehemiah and challenged us to trust and follow our promise keeping God.

September brought a change of venue for our women's breakfast. We gathered at our Emmanuel building and heard from Rena Barrow, who shared how a faithful God had sustained her over many years of the ups and downs of Bi-polar, through the comfort of His promises in His word and His people. Michelle Canning took us to Habbakuk 3: 'Rejoicing in the Lord when things are not ideal', reflecting on some of the challenges of parenting two precious, high functioning young sons, one who has been diagnosed with autism.

Cori Bromfield is a member of the congregation who we as a church are supporting as she studies part-time on the Youth and Children's course at Oak Hill Theological College. Her training has led her to branch out and teach the ladies of HPC from the Old Testament; in February we had a very challenging look at Joseph, his brothers' envy, yet Joseph's trust in God's sovereign plan of salvation pointing to our saviour Jesus.



## Reaching out (encouraging Christian women to share their faith)

In addition to breakfasts, once a term we have an evening event which is fun and engaging and easy to invite non-Christian friends along to, but always with a talk from the Bible which introduces the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, who he is and what he came to do. These events are encouraging Christian women to share their faith.

We invited Liz Sadler from All Souls Church in Eastbourne to return in July to speak at our summer Pimms and Pudding event in the vicarage garden. Yet again God graciously supplied a warm, sunny evening to chat, enjoy homemade desserts, and consider Jesus from Mark's gospel.

In November we gathered with a bit of creativity in mind, building and decorating gingerbread houses, ready for the Christmas season. Cori really helpfully opened up John's gospel, tracing the Bible's view of where our creativity comes from and introducing us to Jesus, who is our creator and our Saviour.

We are planning a smaller Chocolate Evening only for ladies from ABCs and Pulse in April.



*Please be praying that God might mercifully take His word spoken at these events and bring new life to friends, neighbours and family brought along.*

Kim Bourne

## Oasis

We are a group of ladies who meet weekly, on a Tuesday morning in term time, to study the bible, pray together, enjoy cake and encourage one another as we seek to live as Christian women. We are faithfully served by our lovely creche ladies who look after the babies and pre-schoolers enabling mums to join us with less distractions!

*"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." Colossians 2:6-7*



During the past year we have looked at the book of **Nehemiah**. We saw how God's people worked together to rebuild the city walls under Nehemiah's leadership and yet despite recommitting to the Law of Moses they disobeyed God yet again and faced judgement. What did we learn from this book? That because of Jesus, we can trust in the promises of God and the fulfilment of his plans to rebuild, renovate and revive his people.

Reading and studying **Colossians** together helped us to see that knowing exactly who Jesus is - the awesome creator and ruler of the universe who became a man to reconcile us to God – is the only true way to grow and be fruitful as a Christian believer.

**Contentment – healing the hunger of our hearts.** We all know what it is to feel discontented with our lives and so we have begun looking at what the Bible has to say about this heart problem. We have taken a break from these studies to attend the Core Convictions Lent Course but will resume again after Easter.

We are a friendly group and would love to welcome ladies of any age who want to know Jesus and love him more.

Lyn Gooding & Susie Graham

## Homegroups

'Knowing Jesus.....' is one half of our strapline as a church and home groups are a key part in enabling us to do that.

It has been a real answer to prayer to have another Home Group starting this year. We thank God for providing us with the leaders we need. Please pray that God will raise up more people to serve in this way. It has been a joy to see some of the people who came along to Connect 2018, doing Christianity Explored courses, meeting Jesus and finding their way into Home Groups.

Home Groups really are important in the discipleship of God's people here at HPC. I would love to see everyone who is a member of HPC involved in one. They meet fortnightly during the day and in the

evening, in homes and the church lounge. They are a great place to make friends and to grow in love for Jesus.

Over the last year we have been challenged by the practical nature of our faith through the book of James, we've been stretched as we have thought about our prayer lives and been bowled over by the love of God seen in Ruth.

Rory Graham

## Evangelistic courses

'...making Jesus Known', is the other half of the strapline that summarises what we say we are about as a church. That happens in a whole host of different ways at HPC, but one of the easiest ways is by coming with a friend to an evangelistic course. We tend to use the Christianity Explored course. It is cringe free and nothing is assumed. In an informal setting people are shown the claims of Jesus from Mark's gospel and then asked what do they make of what they are hearing? There is time for discussion and questions and no one is made to feel pressured.

The course after Connect 2018 was particularly encouraging, with a good number of people who had come along to an event wanting to dig a bit deeper.

Please pray that as a church we would grow a mentality of 'who could I bring?' so that we are all praying for and inviting people who we meet in church or outside to come along with us.

Rory Graham

## Pastoral Care Team

*'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.'* **Matthew 11v28**

It has been a challenging year for many at HPC because of illness, advancing years, bereavement and loneliness. Life can be a struggle and the love and support of Christian friends through prayers and actions are such a blessing.

We praise and thank God for all the pastoral care that takes place in the name of Jesus among the Church family at HPC and in our community. May we encourage one another to trust in Jesus whatever the circumstances and to continue to reach out to those around us with His love.

One facet of HPC's pastoral care is our ongoing ministry of taking services in seven care homes (and other similar residential settings) within our parish. Around thirty people in total make visits to these homes at four points through the year – harvest, Christmas, Easter and summer. A core team of five people plan the services and lead, speak and pray at them. Thanks are due to all who have helped with these services over the past year, from taking some kind of up-front role, to chatting with residents over a drink and a biscuit or, to provide a 'flavour' of our year, a mince pie or even a lemonade lolly! Please pray that, as we engage with residents, staff members and visitors at the various homes, we would be able to both encourage believers and prompt others to think more seriously about Jesus.

Margery Luffingham (Pastoral Care Co-ordinator)  
Chris Taylor (Care Homes Services Co-ordinator)



## Open Church – At the Heart of Hailsham

Being in the centre of Hailsham is a great privilege and particularly as we are able to open the church building to visitors during the summer months (midweek lunchtimes). It's an opportunity to welcome people who visit for a variety of reasons and engage in conversation. As well as seeing the building and its historic features many comment positively on hearing about how many activities take place during the week and are warmly welcomed to the Sunday services.

Importantly too we are able to engage with community events going on in Hailsham town centre throughout the year as the church is open: September's Arts Festival week, Hailsham Bonfire night in October, the Christmas light switch on in November and the Christmas market in December. All of these are good opportunities to welcome a larger number of visitors from the local community and we are grateful to the Town Council for advertising Open Church as part of the town events.

With new people moving into the area let's pray that we will be able to welcome them and share the great gospel good news.

Thanks to all involved - we would love to have more volunteers as part of the team in the year ahead.

Denise Sinden



## The Link Coffee Shop

This year at The Link we have remained busy. We still have a lot of regular customers, many of whom would otherwise be on their own all day. Also, several of our customers have long term health problems and dementia. We feel we are able to offer friendship, faith and a comfortable, safe place to be.

Staffing continues to be difficult. Although we appreciate Gordon and Charlie in charge of the kitchen for three days a week, we have lost one cook which leaves a gap. There are enough counter staff to give us cover, although this means several volunteers work more than one shift a week. Our



volunteers with learning disabilities continue to support us well and we are very appreciative of their help.

We enjoyed joining HPC for the Christingle Service and the pantomime this year and many of our vulnerable volunteers still attend Sampson Group at the Free Church where they have the chance to explore the Christian faith (and have tea!!)

At Christmas, we welcomed about 40 people for Home Alone lunch – a happy time.

Please continue to pray for customers and staff alike as we celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 1<sup>st</sup> October this year.

Kay Timms

# Hailsham Foodbank

The past year has been very busy at the foodbank but we have had many blessings to help us along the way.

The main change was that due to losing our warehouse space we completely relocated our operation. Our distribution centre moved to our new office space in Market Square and our warehouse moved to our old distribution centre behind The Link. It's amazing that we had our own plans for the new office space but God had other plans which have, of course, worked out really well for us and the people that we serve.

Last year we had a 52% increase in foodbank use giving out 1486 three-day emergency food supplies and by the end of March (end of this foodbank year) that number will be up to more than 2000. As you can imagine, this creates a lot more work and we have recruited additional volunteers to help out. We were also extremely blessed that PJ Skips, a local company, came on board at the end of the summer and gives a significant donation to us each month that employs 2 part-time admin support staff – Tracey and Owen – which is a great help.



I was privileged to attend the first 2 day Mental Health First Aid Course, along with a member of the management team and one of the Crosslink trustees, funded by Different Minds last June. We have secured some funding which will enable volunteers to attend a 1 day course in the next few months which will give them a better understanding of mental health – something which affects many of our clients and indeed those in our community.

We have continued to have good support from local businesses, schools, churches and the wider community.

The Holiday Shack still runs during the longer school holidays providing activities and meals for families. This is where we struggle most to get enough volunteers so please look out for details of these sessions if you are happy to give up some time for us.

Relying purely on donations of food, we do often get imbalances of stock (along with every other foodbank in the country!). This has resulted in a couple of inventive ways of passing on baked beans during the year at Hailsham Street Market. If you can do just one thing to help us, it would be to check which items we are most in need of before you buy them. You can either pop in and ask or look on our website.

During this year Rory Graham became our trustee on the Crosslink Trust. This has been a real blessing and do feel free to ask Rory if you have any questions about the foodbank and how the churches link with it.

This is a very brief overview of the last year. If you are on social media do follow us on Facebook, Twitter and/or Instagram and you will see more of what we do on a week by week basis.

We would particularly value your prayers for the increase in people we are continuing to feed and for discernment in how we spend our time and money to best help those people. We are very much working to do God's will through the work of the foodbank and need the prayers of many to do this.

**Julie Coates – Hailsham foodbank Manager**

## Caring and Sharing

As supporters of Caring & Sharing we are encouraged to make a small sacrifice from our comparative wealth so that poorer communities can enjoy life's basic needs.

The 4 projects supported by Hailsham folk reflect challenges facing Christians today e.g. poverty, disease, climate change, drug abuse and nuclear accidents. In Lima, Peru (illustrated) Shanty Towns Church Nurseries tackle the effects of poverty & climate change. The Little Flower Leprosy Village, India seeks to rebuild lives and bodies by rehabilitation and employment (but monsoon floods have not helped!). In Medellin, Columbia, street educators continue to rescue children from drug gangs. At the Pinsk Hospice, Belarus, nurses care for sick children 32 years after the Chernobyl nuclear explosion.



So, we must continue to support these Christian, humanitarian projects by our gifts and prayers as they build bridges for the gospel. Please contact me or Roger Booth for information and newsletters.

Michael Partridge

## Reports from our Mission Partners

### Sangster and Asha

Paul writes in 2 Thessalonians *"We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers as it is right because your faith is growing abundantly and the love of everyone of you for one another is increasing. Therefore we ourselves boast about you (HPC) in the church of God in (Bangalore) for your steadfastness and faith"* This is so true of our partnership with HPC. We are thankful for your prayers, and calling us and encouraging us through e- mail, WhatsApp and the regular financial support.

#### The Local Community Church

The church which used to meet at our house went through a major transition. It was very hard for us to decide to stop the church plant and look out for a church closer to home and cafe. God guided us to join Bangalore Bible Church, and welcomed us. Now they are part of the cafe mission. When we are involved in the Kingdom work, there are ups and downs. God supports us through his Church all over the world. God continues to use our home as a light house to partner and help **Compassion** on Saturday's for their weekly kids programs to do their Children's outreach ministry and on Monday's, **Living Hope community church** gathers at our home for their Tamil outreach prayer fellowship. There is a constant threat all around but we have to tread cautiously in the Indian context. **Partnership with International Students.** We have been working with International students who come to our cafe and FBB (Friends Beyond border). Asha helped at their first camp with 58 students from 21 nations. It was nice to see God at work in Bangalore reaching out to students from Afghanistan, Middle East and



African nations. God is opening doors to reach closed nation. We are very excited about how God is using the cafe in this area. The whole experience took us back to our time with Careforce.

### **Stars Cafe**

The cafe has been doing well for the last one year in the area of ministry. We have seen an increase no of students coming regularly. By God's grace a lovely team is coming together to help us Jaichand is a Novelist, formerly a pastor his wife Saritha is a School Teacher, Praveen owns a business and Miriam works for Adventure and Camping ministry. Yannick a student from bible college help at cafe regularly for the Bible study on Thursday, monthly time of prayer and follow up on discipleship. Benjamin and Dave the two pastors of our new church also come to help in doing Discipleship and Evangelism training. This was an answer to prayer and a joy to work with a team who have passion for youth ministry. We have 6 Christian students and 9 Non christian students come regularly. We have seen them growing in faith and openness to gospel. It was sad we lost one muslim girl who was part of Christianity Explored and Prodigal God series, she died of an Over Dose and this really shook us all and helped us to know the urgency in reaching out. And being very much watchful for many students who are lonely and addicted to various habits. Especially students from LGBTQ community. Suicide rate is very high in Bangalore.

### **Library and play home**

Thomas a cafe student is partnering with Asha to open a library and playtime at our home. We have collected a lot of toys and books over past 8 years and thought it will be good to use the space above the house - Ruth and her friends and Timothy and his friends will enjoy this summer and we are very excited that the space above our home will continue to draw in kids from our neighbourhood.

### **D'Localites Podcast**

I was able to start a new initiative online by voicing out news, views and interviews. Most of the work done is online. This way we are able to engage with people around the country and speak to them about key issues in life. Our highest rating online was on the movie 'Green Book' and on 'Life of a woman in India' Our aim is to engage with the Christian and the secular of the country and the world. We are a team of four people making unheard voices heard.



### **Goat Farm**

This year we put in new planks and did minor repair works at farm. We began to use water from the school, that way fodder cultivation was better than last year. We desperately need a bore well to water the farm. This year it's been declared in the country as the worst drought seasons. We've had no rainfall for about 6 months or more. We have a long way to go but we are hoping this year things will change. Continue to pray that this farm will thrive well and will bring in the finance to sustain it and expand. We are hoping to extend the fodder and farm space.

### **Neerekshe Trust**

I had to take more responsibility at the School in the village. One of our friends, Shibani, is helping with staff development, I visit the school twice a month and check the progress.

### **Family**

We, as a couple, really struggle to love one another well. We are going through a season of discouragement and sense of failure of the church plant. We also are facing increasing responsibility to help our parents and in parenting two high energy kids. We saw our rebellion to God and the mercy of God. We need His mercy and Grace to teach us that without



his help we can do nothing and we are still in the season of discouragement, The church is been so supportive and we meet the pastor and his wife and share our struggles and pray together.

We are grateful and thankful for all your support through these years. we look forward to your support in the coming years. Thank you so much once again, your partnership in the Lord is a great blessing in Bangalore.

### Prayer points

1. Thank God for new church family and their involvement at cafe mission
2. Thank God for good health and protection on road
3. Thank God for the new cafe and the tremendous opportunity that brings to us. Also the new team with mature Christian couples.
4. With additional staff to work with we have needs for their salary. please pray that cafe will create sufficient money to self sustain.
5. Pray for our marriage and parenting. Pray that we will submit to God in all our struggle.
6. Pray that we as a family will continue to be faithful to gospel in Bangalore.

Much love and Prayers  
Sangster, Asha, Timothy and Ruth

## Julian and Nicky Milson

We have just celebrated our first anniversary here in Valencia, Spain and, although we have settled into life here, we are still often surprised at differences, usually related to food and eating!

Jemima continues to be home educated throughout the week and Theo attends the British School of Valencia which is located just over the road from our flat. His hours are 9am - 5pm which sometimes feels quite a long day for him although he does have a two-hour lunch break. He also has a private Spanish tutor twice a week after school. Our usual weekly routine consists of Monday and Wednesday morning Spanish lessons for Nicky while Julian helps Jemima with her learning at home. Julian has lessons on Tuesday and Thursday mornings although he will stop these in April.



Julian leads a small weekly bible study group, 'Grupo de Vida' at our house and this has proved to be a great time for not only sharing God's word together, but also getting to know some of the church family a little better. The group is made up of Spanish-speakers so Nicky is accessing the group little by little as her Spanish improves.

We run an English-speaking service at church on the first Sunday of every month in addition to the regular weekly Spanish service. Julian has gradually taken on more responsibility in the general ministry at church including preaching and leading regularly, while Nicky helps with children's work and music.

We are so thankful to God for many things this year and have seen His work in our family, helping us to settle into this new life and adjust to learning a new language (the latter mainly for Nicky and the children). He has sustained and encouraged us when we have been faced with illness, sadness, loneliness or lack of confidence. And He has provided for us when we have needed friends, medical care or messages of encouragement from friends and family, to name a few examples.

The ministry at church continues to develop and we are thankful to God for the on-going witness in Valencia of that church. There are a good few people who regularly attend and serve the church family lovingly.

We are slowly getting to know people outside of church life too, for example, at Theo's school, at language classes, at our local dog park where Jemima knows everyone (and every dog!) and in local shops and cafes around where we live. Julian met one man when he was walking the dog in the park near our house who contacted him for advice after finding out he is a minister. He and his wife ended up completing Christianity Explored with Julian and they now regularly attend the English service with their son.

Please pray;

- For faithful ministry at the church of all the believers who attend and their relationships with each other, and that people turn to Jesus as their Saviour.
- For our specific ministry at the church, that we may be good examples of being Jesus-centred.
- For the relationships being built outside of church that they may be fruitful and ultimately lead people to God.
- For Nicky's (and the children's) on-going language learning.
- That both Theo and Jemima will have friends.
- For on-going, day-to-day learning for both Jemima and Theo in their different school settings.

We thank God for your faithfulness in supporting us in this ministry here in Valencia.

**Julian, Nicky, Jemima and Theo Milson**

## **Chris & Ros Howles**

We continue to thank God for the ministry opportunities He provides here at Uganda Martyrs Seminary, Namugongo (UMSN), a Bible college training men and women from across Uganda, Kenya, Sudan, South Sudan and Tanzania for gospel ministry. We've been at UMSN for 7.5 years now (time flies!) My (Chris') main work as 'Head of Theology' is in teaching and mentoring students, running Bible studies, and organising the smooth-running of the whole department so that our 85 or so current theology students would by God's grace receive the best, most biblical, faithful, Uganda-specific and Christ-honouring training possible.

Ros is involved in many different ways including, but not limited to, teaching some lectures to students, running a weekly Bible-study with female students, co-ordinating the college development such as supervising the building of 3 new dormitories, and acting as a health-adviser for all students, as well as home-schooling Josh (9), Danny (7) and Chloe (4).



As we look back over the past 12 months, we're very grateful for many things. Chloe has successfully begun home-schooling and integrated well into the 'class'. We've sent out over 40 students into gospel-ministry across Eastern Africa, some of them into extremely difficult contexts to serve boldly and faithfully. All college students have participated in over 20 Bible studies each which has sharpened and strengthened their Bible knowledge, spiritual maturity and leadership skills. We've run 2 preaching conferences for current students and 1 for former students, to sharpen their skills. As a college we've been able to run marriage conferences, invite many guest lecturers to come and speak, taught thousands of hours of lectures to our students, and taken them out for mission work on several occasions. However, any facts and figures like this will always fail to tell the full story. What's most important is that we've seen God, by His grace and through His word and for the glory of His son, transform students and call and commission and send them into tough settings to preach the gospel faithfully, call people to come follow Christ, and disciple them for lifelong Christian faith and service.

We'd be lying if we suggested there weren't disappointments, setbacks, and frustrations every step of the way, but God is faithful and he is using the seminary to spread His name throughout the nations of East Africa. We're so grateful to God, and thankful for HPC and your partnership with us as a family and us as a college in this work.

Looking ahead – we ask our gracious and kind God for...more of the same! We pray that the college will be able, amidst many challenges, to continue in this work. We pray that we'd be able to find the resources to complete the third (and probably final) dormitory we're building. We pray that we as a family, would remain healthy, well and sustained amidst the ongoing challenge of living with 'culture stress' (where you can never really feel fully at ease as you are in your own culture). We pray that our students would be fully captured by the immense privilege of serving the Lord Jesus even in such arduous circumstances. We're praying for more staff to come in and join us in this work, and we're praying for more students to be sent who we can train up. We're praying for all of us – college principal, ourselves, all staff and all students, to grow in godliness and faithfulness to trust God in His word.

So please do pray with us in these things. Please also receive our warmest greetings and our deepest admiration for your partnership with us in this work. We pray for you and ask God to bless you as you make Christ known throughout Hailsham, as we do here in Uganda.

In His service,

Chris and Ros Howles (With Josh, Dan, and Chloe).

# Other Mission Partners

## Adam Tomalin

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. Romans 1:16*

It's a wonderful privilege to be part of God's unstoppable mission to get the monumental news of all that has been done for us, through Jesus, to the ends of the earth. You are part of this mission too and it's wonderful to know that we're both partners in the Gospel together to get this monumental news out to those around us.

So, without further ado, let me explain a little more about what I've been doing on my side - in Johannesburg. Every intern at Hope Church and most other staff members are given two key areas of ministry - a primary area and secondary area of focus. My primary area of ministry has been youth ministry which I've thoroughly enjoyed. Working in this area has presented many challenges as well but by God's grace, I really feel that I've grown in my ability to minister to the young people in our unique context and I've learnt a lot from the team around me. The youth work I'm involved in comprises helping to run our Friday evening youth sessions. With these sessions, I've had the opportunity to give a lot more talks which I've really enjoyed. I also meet with some of our youth on a one to one basis, to read the Bible with them. This year, I'm going to be focussing more on student ministry as my secondary area of responsibility. The student ministry has taken quite a heavy hit recently, for various reasons, so I've been asked if I could take over a Bible study in a nearby flat for private student accommodation. So far, these studies have been going well and it's been really good to get to know students better.

On top of involvement in these two areas of ministry, I'm also receiving training through two main programmes. I attend a local Bible college for two mornings a week, which is the highlight of my week at the moment. I've loved the teaching (which is given at Johannesburg Bible College) and feel immensely privileged that I've got another year to spend studying there. Also, once a week, the interns at Hope church gather together to receive some more formal 'in house' training. In these sessions we practice giving talks, we go through a Bible passage in a lot of depth and focus on talking about our various experiences in ministry.

It's also been a joy to engage with various different cultures that I'm surrounded with. In many ways, Jo'burg is a melting pot of cultures and having the privilege to minister in this context has been of great encouragement to me.





To wrap things up, going forward, I'd really appreciate your prayer that God would sustain and grow the youth work and student ministry that I'm involved in. Please pray, in particular, that I would grow in greater dependence on God, as the one who grows the Kingdom, not me. Please also pray for me as I'm about to make some big decisions for the future – pray that they would be wise and God honouring decisions for the sake of his Kingdom.

Thank you so much for your love and partnership. Do keep in touch and if you want to follow more of what I'm doing please do check out my blog, online. 'atomalinontour'.

Much love in Christ,

Adam Tomalin

## **We continue to support in prayer and giving.....**

**Meg and Dave Northcote** working as area reps for Kent and Sussex for **WEC International** (Reaching the Unreached) encouraging supporters in prayer for world mission.

**Release International** works with persecuted Christians across the world.

**The Children's Society** works with vulnerable young people in the UK.

## **New to HPC**

### **John and Pamela Fisher**

**JOHN:** I grew up in a small mining village near Doncaster and as a boy attended the village church three times each Sunday, but this meant very little to me so at the age of twelve I started going to the village chapel.

In my middle teens I stopped going to church altogether except for special occasions.

In 1963, My family moved from South Yorkshire to Tunbridge Wells as I became a lecturer at The West Kent College in Tonbridge.

In 1964 I started to attend a newly formed church, held in the school on The Sherwood Estate, after a back baptism call by a curate. This was then part of the St James Church, but is now known as St Phillips Church.

I committed my life fully to Christ after attending a Billy Graham Crusade in London in 1965. This was an important milestone in my life, since then I changed my lifestyle completely and became a better person for it and a more understanding husband and father to my two children.

My wife Betty was already a Christian and together we soon became involved at the main church; as youth leaders, churchwardens and lay readers.

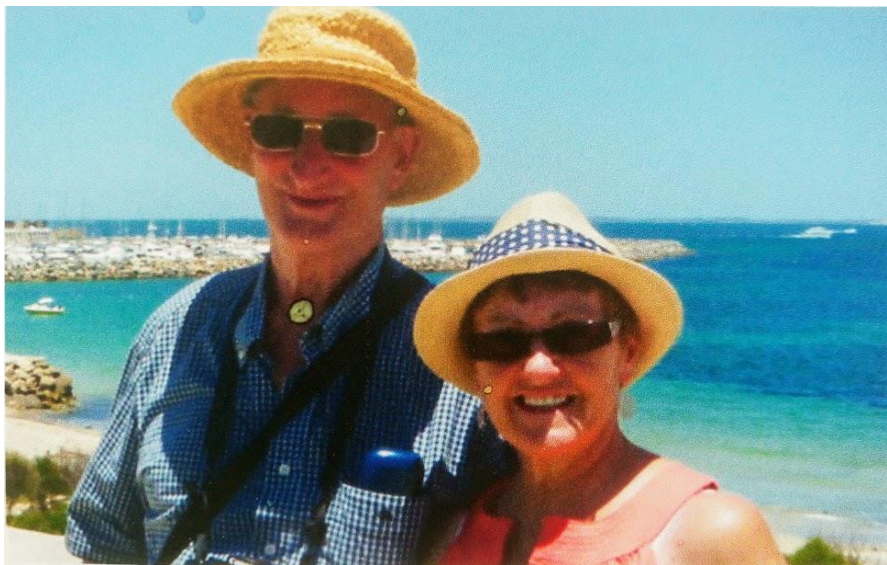
Betty died with cancer in 1998 and It was my Christian faith that helped me through this difficult period and kept me going.

**PAMELA:** I was brought up in a Christian household, attending Church and Sunday School every Sunday and also having the privilege of attending schools where we had assemblies every morning. Some of the hymns I still remember with great fondness. The Christian teaching has never left me, but it wasn't until I was in my late teens that I realised that there was more to it, than going to church, reading the Bible and listening to sermons.

It wasn't until I attended a Christian convention that I actually received the gift of the Holy Spirit and then the Bible opened up to me. It was the Holy Spirit talking to me through the words of the Bible.

I am still on a Christian journey and the Spirit of God is very real to me in all that I do.

I am not Church of England background, but when I moved to Tunbridge Wells, I attended St James Church because John was there.



I was privileged to meet Pamela whilst on holiday in Cyprus in 2002 and since she was a Christian had a lot in common. After the holiday we arranged to meet up in London and then in her home town of Stamford and in Tunbridge Wells. Pamela and I were married in 2004.

We moved to Hailsham last April, mainly to downsize and because we already knew people who lived here.

Our first task was to find a church for us to attend for worship and HPC was the one that appealed to us. The church made us welcome, the people were friendly to us and wanted to get to know us. We felt guided by the Spirit that this was to be our place of worship.

Having now moved to Hailsham, we both enjoy the fellowship and worship at HPC. We have joined the choir, a house group and help with the visits to the nursing homes.

We look forward to sharing with you all in worship at this church.

**John and Pamela Fisher**

# Overview – Looking Back - Looking Forward

## LOOKING BACK

It's remarkable how time flies! It only seems a moment ago that our mission week, 'Connect 2018', was coming to its fantastic musical climax and now another year has passed. We've made progress in some areas, consolidated in others and yet there has been sadness and disappointment too, it's normal church life!

As you know we sum up our life together with the strap line – 'knowing Jesus, making Jesus known'. That's our aim, that's what we do, the task the Lord has entrusted to us at the heart of Hailsham.

Knowing Jesus is, of course, more like a journey through life in the company of the King as He leads us home. That's the picture given us in the book of Exodus, a pilgrim people listening to the word the Lord and learning to trust Him amid all the challenges of the journey. And it's important to understand that we take this journey as a people, a family. So, we meet week by week, in meetings large and small, we open the Scriptures, hungry for God to speak, we pray with expectation trusting God is at work and we support, encourage and strengthen one another – it's called church! In fact, as we've been discovering in our Core Convictions series for Lent, there really is no substitute to meeting together to meet with the Lord, it really is our overwhelming priority for travelling safely home. And we see the benefit in house groups and weekends away and Bible by the Beach and Sunday by Sunday, even as we dip into less familiar parts of the Bible like Esther and Job with conviction that this too is God's word, this too shows us Jesus. That's it, getting to know Jesus better and trusting more as we search the Scriptures and meet the glorious Lord Jesus.



However, it is also about inviting others to join us on the journey – making Jesus known. Building on our Connect 2018 week we were able to run fresh Christianity Explored groups through the year and watch on as a number of people came to put their trust in Jesus. Throughout the year our regular work of building relationships, listening to people's stories and sharing both the good news of Jesus and our lives as well goes on, whether through ABC's or Bite In, Families@4 or

care home services. This was augmented by a number of special events in 2018/19, a fantastic harvest supper at which John Ibbett gave a compelling testimony to Jesus, Pimms and Pudding and Chocolate evenings, and Holiday Clubs and of course Christmas where again this year we welcomed just short of a thousand people over Christmas Eve/Day. Praise God for these continued opportunities to speak.



There has been progress too towards the final phase of re-ordering the building. The new organ has been installed, and what a difference! All around sound and all at the same time! The final pews were removed and replaced with chairs already giving the benefit of more space. And as I write the builders have just arrived to erect their scaffolding to create the new west end entrance. Thank you, Lord!

However, not surprisingly there has been sadness and disappointment too. For some their journey here was over as the Lord took them home, Joan Ayres and Bill Brooks. We mourn the loss of family, yet we are confident that now in Christ they are at home, rejoicing with their King!

For others their journey took them on a different path - to join with a different branch of the family. So, Stuart and Fay Smith with Alicia, Beth and Abigail moved to Crowborough to join the church family of St Richard's while James and Monica Isaacs with Rebecca, Isabella and Thomas moved to Riseley; James becoming vicar of All Saints. Great for them but a real loss for us and we have certainly missed having a curate here. We also said goodbye to Mia McCarroll and Dawn Kimpton who both moved to be nearer to family members.

However, wherever we are on the journey, whatever our particular path and however hard or easy the road at any point the following words that we often sing are a massive encouragement. They remind us that when our grasp may be weak and failing, his hold is sure and certain!

*Those He saves are His delight  
Christ will hold me fast  
Precious in His holy sight  
He will hold me fast  
He'll not let my soul be lost  
His promises shall last  
Bought by Him at such a cost  
He will hold me fast*

*(Ada Habershon and Keith and Kristyn Getty)*

## LOOKING FORWARD

As we look ahead, we inevitably anticipate change and uncertainty. We are living through a time of real political uncertainty and division and whatever the outcome, it will mean change. Our town too is going through a period of major change as more housing comes and with the prospect of the redevelopment of the town centre. Our church family is changing and will go on changing as new people join us. Our building will change as this coming year will see the completion of a new entrance and all the benefits of extra space and flexibility and we all have to work out how to get in! Joking apart I'm sure it will take a while for us to work out how to use our building to its best advantage.



However, as you know, change can be unsettling, it's not always easy to adjust and we don't always like it. Yet change is an opportunity for growth and new life. At the heart of Hailsham we have the opportunity more and more to make Jesus known. If new homes are eventually built in the town centre, as Wealden are proposing, then we will have more people on our doorstep to welcome. If more houses are built, then we will have new neighbours with whom to share the good news. And we will have an historic building retaining its character, yet with more flexibility and space than ever before. A light, bright, warm building in which to provide a rich welcome to all who come. In fact, the completion of the work will give us a specific mission opportunity next March, literally an open house week, for people to come in and see. A series of 'open house' events to celebrate not only the history of the building but all that now takes place within it. The climax of the week will be an official opening with the Bishop of Lewes on 15

March 2020! To build on that we're planning for another 'Connect' week, Connect 2021! Yet, as we do that, let's not forget that every Sunday we welcome new people, some Christians, some not, some passing visitors, others 'nudged' to come and find out more. And with our new entrance it will be important to expand our 'open church' to include lunchtimes for far more of the year – can you volunteer to join that team? Indeed, as our town grows it will be essential to keep 'making Jesus known' at the top of our agenda to meet all, not just with a bright warm building, but bright, warm and welcoming hearts that beat to the tune of our Lord Jesus.



However, if change provides opportunity for mission and growth, it is equally essential that we face that change and the accompanying uncertainties from a position of real confidence, confidence in what does not change. And what does not change is Our God and his word, the gospel He speaks. At our recent Core Convictions we spelled out those unchanging realities and here's a reminder of who we are, our DNA, and at its core the Scriptures which speak infallibly of Jesus.

## **We are a CHRISTIAN church**

### **..... Trinitarian**

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (*Matthew 28:19*)

### **..... Jesus Centred**

This God has revealed himself to us in Jesus Christ. (*John 1:1 - 14*)

### **..... Cross Focussed**

Jesus came ultimately to die on the cross (*John 12:24 - 27*) for us and for our salvation. (*1 Timothy 1:15*)

### **..... Grace Dependent**

We depend on the grace of God through the Holy Spirit to open our eyes, lead us to Christ, to supply our spiritual need and to lead us home. (*Romans 8*)

## **We are an EVANGELICAL church**

..... We believe the Bible, we preach the Bible

The Bible is God's Word to us, all Scripture is God speaking (2 Timothy 3 :14 - 17, Psalm 119:42,142, 2 Peter 1:18 – 20)

It is **sure** – reliable, true and our supreme authority (2 Peter 1, 2 Timothy 3)

**enough** – sufficient, we do not need any new revelation, we neither add to nor subtract from the Bible. (Hebrews 1:1 – 4, 2 Timothy 3)

**clear** – understandable. (Deuteronomy 30:11 – 14)

**necessary** – we need his wisdom not ours. (2 Corinthians 2:6 – 13)

**final** – just as Jesus is God's final word, so is the Bible. (Revelation 22;18\_ and it's all about **JESUS**. (John 5:39, Luke 24:44)

## **We are an ANGLICAN church. That means we are**

### **..... a confessional (and historic) Church**

The Church of England through its 39 Articles and Book of Common Prayer proclaims the great truths of the reformation. In particular – the final and supreme authority of the Bible (Article VI, XX, XXI) and that we are justified (reckoned right with God) by the grace of God alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone (Articles X, XI, XVIII, XXXI) and all to the glory of God alone.

### **..... a liturgical church**

In returning the Church to the Bible, the Reformers saw liturgy as a key tool in that task. So, Anglican liturgy includes extensive use of Scripture, including the reading and preaching of

Scripture and a content and structure aiming to teach Bible truth, especially justification by faith alone.

..... **a connectional church**

As an Anglican church we are a connectional church, linked to a wider Diocese and to Anglican churches throughout the world. In particular, we are linked through GAFCON and the Jerusalem Declaration ([gafconuk.org](http://gafconuk.org)) to orthodox Anglican churches throughout the world and through the Church Society ([churchsociety.org](http://churchsociety.org)) to orthodox Anglican churches in the UK and to other local gospel centred churches locally through the Sussex Gospel Partnership ([sussexgospelpartnership.org.uk](http://sussexgospelpartnership.org.uk))

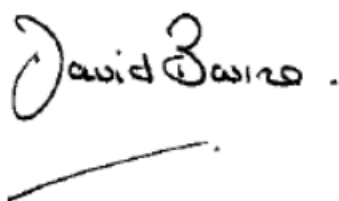
..... **a parish church**

As an Anglican church we have a responsibility to a specific geographical area/parish in our case Hailsham. As a parish church that also gives us unique opportunities for mission in the wider community, in our schools and in civic life.

So, as we go forward we will need to make sure we have the finances in place through the PCC and the new Hailsham Parish Mission Trust, with its focus on employing gospel workers; that we are equipped to serve each other with generosity and love; that we learn to make the most of a re-ordered building with open doors; that we are ready to meet Hailsham's growing population with a warm welcome and the good news of Jesus, that we learn more deeply to call on the Lord in prayer without whose grace we can do nothing and that amid all the change we remain unchanging in preaching and living the word of God for our generation and for generations to come, to the glory of God alone!

*Generations rise, generations fall  
But his word is living,  
And his word is sure  
Evermore, evermore, evermore*  
*(Michael Morrow)*

With much joy and great thanksgiving to God



David Bourne

8 April 2019



PS. A special thank you to all who have contributed to this profile and especially for its production to Sara Dadswell and Denise Sinden.

