

2022

Annual Profile



Hailsham
Parish Church

***Knowing Jesus,
Making Jesus known***

Registered Charity No. 1132922

Welcome to Hailsham Parish Church

Annual Profile 2022

How I love the voice of Jesus
on the cross of Calvary:
he declares his work is finished;
he has spoken this hope to me.
Though the sun had ceased its shining,
though the war appeared as lost,
Christ has triumphed over evil:
it was finished upon that cross.

Now the curse – it has been broken –
Jesus paid the price for me:
full the pardon he has offered;
great the welcome that I receive.
Boldly I approach my Father,
clothed in Jesus' righteousness;
there is no more guilt to carry:
it was finished upon that cross.

Death was once my great opponent,
fear once had a hold on me,
but the Son who died to save us
rose that we would be free indeed!

Death was once my great opponent,
fear once had a hold on me,
but the Son who died to save us
rose that we would be free indeed!
Yes, he rose that we would be free indeed!

Free from every plan of darkness –
free to live and free to love!
Death is dead and Christ is risen:
it was finished upon that cross.
Onward to eternal glory –
to my Saviour and my God!
I rejoice in Jesus' victory:
it was finished upon that cross,
it was finished upon that cross,
it was finished upon that cross.

Electoral Roll

It is always a joy to welcome new people into the church family and this continued to happen over the past year even in times of the ongoing effects of Covid 19 and as restrictions eased. It was a joy to be able to welcome new folk more fully. During the year we note with particular sadness and yet resurrection hope the deaths of Alan Baldock, Peter Brook, Val Honney, Ann Thomas and Win Waters.

We said farewell to Maggie Taylor who moved to Scotland, Wendy Bysouth who moved to the Isle of Wight to be nearer family and to Cori Bromfield who moved to London as Women and Families Worker at St John's Church, Walthamstow. We thank them for their fellowship in the gospel over the years.

The electoral roll stands at 203 with 20 having joined the electoral roll since the AGM in April 2021 which is a great encouragement.

The Churchwardens' Report

A new year brings hope and anticipation of what lies ahead and so to start 2021 with another lockdown was frustrating and challenging for us all. But we know that God our Father is the same yesterday, today and forever, unchanging, and faithful to his promise to never leave us or forsake us and by the spring we began meeting in person once again, socially distanced, wearing our masks and many of us having had our Covid vaccinations.

After so many events being cancelled in 2020 it was great that David and Kim welcomed us to the Vicarage Garden during the summer beginning with their traditional coffee mornings helped by the provision of a marquee, which was also used by Sunday School groups.

In August it was lovely to welcome our mission partners Chris and Ros Howles and their family from Uganda for a church picnic and, at the end of the month, we held a fish and chip lunch after the Jungle Jamboree Children's Holiday Club. It was wonderful to welcome so many especially the children and their families who had attended the club.



'Thank you, David and Kim, for your hospitality and to everyone who helped to make these events so enjoyable.'

Throughout this time weekly groups began to meet again, continuing our outreach to families through Pulse and ABC's, the Men @ HPC 'Man Up' breakfast series and those wanting to explore and grow in their Christian faith.

In our Growth Groups we began preparing for Mission 22 by studying Ephesians and looking at what it means to 'Love your church' and after Christmas 'Sharing Jesus'.

Our Care home ministry restarted in September with services for Harvest and continued at Christmas despite restrictions. Thanks to Chris Taylor and the team for sharing the love of Jesus in this way to residents and staff.

One of the highlights of the year in October was the service of baptism and confirmation and the dedication of the West End. It was a wonderful day to be able to share and celebrate, support, and encourage those taking that step of faith and to be led by Bishop Will and Lee Gatiss, Director of Church Society (HPC Patrons). We have been blessed by God's generosity to enable the transformation of our building to be a welcoming place for 'Knowing Jesus and Making Jesus known.'



Christmas proved to be challenging with the virus on the increase, but a full programme was planned to include Christmas Cracker, Wealden Brass concert, Candlelight Carols and four Christingles. We welcomed 200+ for the Hailsham Christmas Light Switch On, a time of sharing good conversations and establishing new contacts and, of course, hot chocolate and marshmallows! We pray that many who came will want to return to find out more about Jesus and what it means to follow him.

It has been a real joy to welcome many new faces during the year and we thank God for that opportunity and to see our HPC family grow. We also continue to pray that those who not been able to make it back to church since the pandemic are able to do so.



We have much to look forward to as the year progresses as we thank and praise God for his church at HPC set in the heart of our community. By the time you read this our Mission week **Connect for Life** will have taken place and we pray it will bear fruit.

What a joy to be able to share in Bible by The Beach live again in Eastbourne with the theme 'Devoted to Jesus from the inside out' and to look forward to our Church Weekend in May. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee is another occasion to welcome many into our building and the opportunity to share the good news of Jesus.

By God's grace our outreach will continue through the year to local schools, among young people through Sunday School groups, Salt, Youth Zone, Junior band, Pulse and ABC's, Care Home visits and Sunday morning services continuing to be shown live online.

We continue to pray for our staff team David Bourne, Rory, David Griffin, Lyn and Chris and thank God for their faithful ministry and teaching to the church family and community.

Our thanks also to all who contribute to the life of HPC week by week, our Admin team of Denise and Sara who keep us so well informed and those who welcome, move furniture, serve refreshments, and arrange flowers, as well as our musicians and singers, under Chris's guidance, enriching our worship.

Work on the building has almost finished and our thanks to Ken Thomas for his enormous contribution in guiding us through the various stages and procedures.

We pray that together we will move forward with the joy, confidence and reassurance that walking with Jesus brings and that we will be empowered by the Holy Spirit to welcome all who come in search of Jesus Christ.

*Jesus said, "A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you so you must love one another." **John 13:34.***

Margery Luffingham and David Gooding

P.C.C. Secretary's Report

The APCM (Annual Parochial Council Meeting) and AGM took place in April 2021 and the PCC were able to meet in person for five PCC meetings at Hailsham Parish Church in July, September, & November 2021 and February & March 2022.

At PCC meetings there are buildings and finance reports as well as wider reporting on a number of matters including important Church of England issues in particular the 'teaching and learning' process entitled *Living in Love and Faith exploring issues of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage*. In May 2021 there was a special PCC Meeting via Zoom organised by Sussex Gospel Partnership with a number of Evangelical Anglican PCC's from Sussex to hear a presentation on *Living in Love and Faith* led by Lee Gatiss, Director of Church Society and Kirsten Birkett, Oak Hill College. It was a helpful overview in giving an understanding to some of the issues and biblical responses.

In September Dick Farr from The Church Society (Patron) gave a presentation to the PCC and as part of that Hailsham Parish Church formally became a Supporter Church.

There has been a lot of activity regarding Premises with the West End project and it was with **much** joy that the west end entrance was opened formally in October 2021 alongside the completion of the footpath giving a more visible and accessible entrance area. Enhanced technology and livestream has enabled services to be made accessible for those who are unable to join in person church as well as serving the wider community. There was much gratitude to God for this, serving gospel purposes, and we are grateful to all those who have used their skills to enable this to happen.



We continue to acknowledge with gratitude to God the gospel impact of legacies in the past year.

Lynnie Cannon, Andrew Risbridger and Roger Tipping were welcomed onto the PCC in April 2021 and thanks expressed to Ruth Smith for her valued contribution on the PCC over the years. 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.

As a PCC we give thanks for the Lord's kindness in the past year. He is sovereign, working His purposes out and we recognise our total dependence on the Lord for the way ahead.

Denise Sinden

Deanery Synod Report

As like much else last year, Synod succumbed to Covid restrictions. The first meeting of the year in June was held on Zoom, with a presentation on Rural Ministry by a vicar from Hampshire.

In November we were able to meet in person at HPC with synod members joining on Zoom if they so wished. We had an excellent and informative presentation on Giving by Rev Andrew Smith the Diocesan Generous Giving Advisor. We were reminded that the Anglican Church is asset rich, but cash poor and various scenarios were shown to encourage giving. Electronic giving was mentioned, which of course, HPC has now embraced. Overall, we were reminded that the 3 keys to generous giving are discipleship, information, and prayer.

The final meeting of the year (for our profile purposes) was this month, in March, where we met in person at St. Richards, Heathfield. We were introduced to Rev Canon Gary Cregeen, Vicar of Ashburnham and Penfold since September 2021, and Rural Officer for East Sussex. The highs and lows of rural ministry were discussed with it being noted that, like urban parishes, congregations had changed as a result of the Covid epidemic. Gary mentioned that rural communities often turn out for Special Festivals- i.e. Harvest, Christmas but not on a regular basis. Again, we were reminded that both rural and urban congregations should be welcoming and witnessing throughout the year, and reminding people that God loves them.

Margaret Surrey



Safeguarding

At Hailsham Parish Church we aim to keep our children, young people and vulnerable adults safe and so we take safeguarding seriously. It's important that we provide a caring and safe environment, not just on a Sunday morning for our church family, but throughout the week too with all those we meet at Pulse, Salt, ABCs, Bridge Racing, holiday clubs and during 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 are up to date with their safeguarding training and have current Disclosure & Barring checks (DBS). The guidelines have recently changed making this job slightly harder. Instead of renewing DBS checks every 5 years, they now need to be renewed every 3 years. After doing this role for two years, Julie was finally able to complete her Lead Recruiters training which had been postponed due to the pandemic.

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 (Safeguarding Officer) & Julie Harden (Deputy Safeguarding Officer)

Open Church

Being located right in the centre of our town is a great privilege. It is good to be able to open the church building to offer a warm welcome, an opportunity to point people to Jesus.

On the way through the new west end entrance is the Bible verse with Jesus's words:

*"Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest" **Matthew 11: 28***

And over the arch in the main church building are Jesus's words

*"I am the way the truth and the life" **John 14:6***

Jesus's words are an invitation and a promise of new life in Him and we pray this for those we know, and also for those in our community that don't yet know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

Hailsham

- A town growing in size with many new homes and people moving into the area
- A town and community still coming back to **life** again after the effects of Lockdown and Covid 19.
- a town with lots of people that need to hear the good news of Jesus and **life** in Him

The impact of having the new prominent west end entrance with enhanced visibility – a shop window to the town - and accessible footpath has already been seen in increased numbers of visitors coming into the church building not just on Sundays but also when the church building has been open at other times too

(hence the name Open Church) to welcome visitors. People have commented so warmly and positively on the welcoming entrance and lobby area.

Open Church has run in a number of ways:

1. Opening to coincide with larger community events going on in the town such as Bonfire Night (16 October), Christmas light switch on (25 November), in the lead up to Christmas/Christmas Cracker, What's on in Hailsham large community event (scheduled for January 2022 – but sadly cancelled due to covid).
2. Being open in response to other events – Thanksgiving and Commemoration for the life of HRH Prince Philip (April 2021), formal opening of Victoria Gate/entrance and acknowledging its civic place in the High Street with the Mayor and a number of Town Councillors in attendance followed by a small drinks reception in the lobby (October 2021).
3. Summer programme of opening for a few hours on weekdays between June and August (this sadly could not happen in the same way in 2020 or 2021).

In addition, there are other times when many from the community come into the building as it is used by external groups, concerts and events such as Hailsham Festival in September.

On Remembrance Sunday an invitation is given by the Vicar to all those at the War Memorial to come into the church building for coffee and it is warmly appreciated by the large number of those who regularly do this.

In September 2021 there were two special evenings for HPC church family, mainly in response to the Serving Survey sent out in July, as HPC family committed to serving on various teams for gospel purposes in the life of HPC and it's been great to have a good number commit to serving as part of the Open Church team.

We look back with gratitude to the Lord for His kindness and we look forward with excitement and anticipation to new opportunities, praying for the Lord to be at work in softening hearts to the gospel and we pray specifically for the unique opportunity in 2022 of the special Platinum Jubilee weekend, 2nd - 5th June 2022, when the church building will be open to welcome people in.

Denise Sinden



Finance Report

Accounts (1)

Statement of Financial Activities - For the Year ended 31 DECEMBER 2021

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

Unrestricted Income:		
2020 £		2021 £
1,698	Collections	2,679
65,681	'Giving' Direct to Bank	72,805
15,014	Weekly Envelopes	13,347
900	Pledge Sunday' Donations	430
86	Emmanuel Giving	0
83,379	Collections & Committed giving:	89,261
28,614	Tax recovered Gift Aid and VAT on Listed Places of Worship	21,932
0	Chancel Fund Call Down/Grant	0
7,887	Hire of Emmanuel Hall	10,398
11,817	Donations / Gifts	49,953
11,415	Rental Income	11,326
22,597	Interest Income	17,841
927	Bite-In	0
14,426	Fees / Grants / Magazine Income	5,481
159	Youth Groups	382
2,808	Sundry Income	1,785
0	Insurance claim	0
9,594	Job Retention Scheme	0
71,088	Legacies	0
264,712	Total Unrestricted Income	208,358
414	MEMO Donations for Mission and other Restricted Donations & Gifts (see page 3)	63,372
265,125		271,730

Unrestricted Expenditure:		
2020		2021
£		£
109,599	Parish Contribution	108,000
78,535	Staff costs and Clergy Expenses	108,043
21,803	Staff Housing	23,120
848	Service costs / Flowers	1,445
8,552	Lighting / Heating / Water rates	7,502
3,355	Insurance	3,363
352	Training fees and study materials	1,393
9,221	Repairs - including roof repairs	25,075
73,537	Further Works in year on West End	77,684
3,338	Caretaking and Cleaning	2,866
2,226	Youth work and Music	2,942
7,696	Print/Post, Photocopier, Stationery, Hire of Equipment/premises	6,574
1,119	Telephone / Internet and Fax	1,574
1,822	Churchyard upkeep	2,359
3,993	Lynton Management Fees & Repairs/Refurbishment	3,848
720	Lynton New Project Costs & Professional fees	5,530
11,406	Mission giving / restricted funds (see page 5)	13,479
2,322	Legal and Professional fees	3,540
2,992	Accountancy Independent Governance costs	2,460
7,614	Investment Management Costs	7,119
4,097	Sundries	4,320
380,830	Depreciation Assets : kitchen/sound system/chairs	21,469
414	Loan Interest and Bank Charges	274
<hr/>		<hr/>
736,389		433,977
264,712	Income (see Accounts page 1)	208,358
<hr/>		<hr/>
(471,677)	General / Unrestricted Fund: (Deficit 2020) : (Deficit2021):	(225,619)
<hr/>	Extraordinary Items: Income (Expenses)	<hr/>
	MEMO	
287,500	Gain / (Loss) on Revaluation Investment Property	(142,500)
(11,111)	Investment Revaluation / Amortisation : Increase 2020 (Increase 2019)	0
(43,458)	(Losses) / Gains On Investment assets valuation Loss 2020 : [Gain 2019]	35,346
<hr/>		<hr/>
232,931		(107,154)
<hr/>		<hr/>
	Memo	
	Restricted Outgoings	
15	Restricted funds expenditure (see page 3)	62,903
	Incl restricted Mission giving	
<hr/>		<hr/>
15		62,903
<hr/>		<hr/>

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

2020 £	Restricted Income:	2021 £
0	Foodbank Donations	0
0	Other donations re Asha & Sangster	20
0	Discretionary Donations	0
	Children and Family Worker Fund	16,785
47	Women to Women	267
67	Men at HPC	0
0	Youth Zone	0
1	Restricted interest	0
0	Curate Support Fund	46,000
300	Friends of St. Mary's Donations	300
<hr/>		
414	Total Restricted Receipts/ Transfers:	63,372
	Restricted / Other Expenditure:	
	Spending in Year:	
15	- Discretionary fund outgoings	0
0	- restricted outward giving	20
0	- Children and Family Worker outgoings	16,978
0	- Women to Women payments	403
	- Men at HPC	125
0	- reordering repairs Sundries	0
0	- Fund payments ie foodbank etc	0
	- Curate Support fund	45,377
0	- trf Contribution to Training and studies	0
<hr/>		
15		62,903
0	- Funds / transfers closures	0
<hr/>		
15		62,903
<hr/>		
399	Movement in Restricted funds: Surplus 2020 and Surplus 2021	469

And

- N.B.
- At the beginning of the year HPC had Loans outstanding totalling £40,000. This Loan has been kindly gifted to the HPC, hence written off the balance sheet. On behalf of the HPC I would like to take this opportunity in expressing our thanks for this very generous anonymous gift.
 - The bungalow known as Lynton is still owned by Hailsham PCC and the rent received during the year helped to fund the activities of HPC. The related costs and value of the remaining property asset are reflected in the accounts. The property has been revalued to reflect the decreased in value of the land & building. During the final month of the financial year the tenants have vacated the property which is in line with the on going works with a view to selling in 2022.
 - Extraordinary Items are made up of: Net (Gain for 2021 of £35,346 /losses 2020 (£43,458) : This is **on sales and purchases of investment assets** during the year to 31 December 2021. This gain has been reduced by the revaluation of the Lynton, which has fallen by £142,500. This has been reflected in the Balance sheet extract on Page 4.
As I am sure you all appreciate the detrimental effect on the economy Covid 19 has had, with various shortfalls in materials and increasing costs for any potential developer. Plus the effect on businesses and the Investment Fund.

Following the Unrestricted & Restricted Income & Expenses, detailed overleaf we show below our Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2021

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2021:

(extracted from Balance Sheet in Accounts)

Balance as at 31.12.20 £				Balance as at 31.12.21 £
	Fixed Assets			
43,837	Tangible assets-Kitchen & Toilet/Organ/Office Screen/Chairs/West End work			28,019
662,500	Investment Property			520,000
674,974	Investments			538,138
<u>1,381,311</u>				<u>1,086,157</u>
	Current Assets:			
98,846	Cash at Bank		88,369	
6,434	Debtors		14,635	
<u>105,280</u>			<u>103,004</u>	
	Less : Current Liabilities			
	Creditors (due within 1 year)			
20,004	Trade creditors and accruals	31,995		
-	Loan due within one year	-		
<u>20,004</u>			<u>31,995</u>	
85,276				71,009
<u>1,466,587</u>				<u>1,157,166</u>
	Less:			
40,000	Loan (repayable within 10 yrs)			0
<u>1,426,587</u>				<u>1,157,166</u>
	Restricted Funds:			
344	Discretionary Fund			345
9	Children & Family Worker Fund			-
375	Women to Women fund			238
2,429	Friends of St. Mary's			2,729
238	Youth Zone			239
-	Kitchen & Toilet Fund			-
-	Connect 18 Mission			-
-	Employment of Curate			623
157	Men at HPC			33
1,395,126	Designated funds			1,114,011
27,908	Unrestricted Fund:			38,948
<u>1,426,587</u>	Net Assets:			<u>1,157,166</u>

Mission & Outward Gifts – Year 2021:

We are pleased to report that we made the following gift donations during the year:

2020		2021
£		£
1,900	BCMS-Crosslinks - Howles plus General donation £100	2,100
2,000	Crosslinks - Milsons	2,000
1,900	Sangster & Asha	1,899
600	Tear Fund - Philippines appeal	600
1,350	Sussex Gospel Partnership	1,400
-	Faith in Kids	150
1,400	Food Bank	1,925
400	Bible By The Beach	400
700	Chichester Diocese - Family Social Work	750
600	Childrens Society	600
600	Release International	600
350	Church Society	655
606	Other Donations	400
(1,000)	Pledged Giving from Lynton provision Reversal of provision overstated	0
11,406		13,479
	Add:	
0	Restricted Gifts for Food bank	0
0	Restricted Gifts for Asha & Sangster	20
0	Discretionary Fund	0
0	Restricted funds used on Mission outreach	0
£11,406	TOTAL:	13,499

Treasurer's Report

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

Finances are still and always a challenge. This year now includes the new and ongoing costs of additional sanitizing and cleaning in order to allow the Church building to reopen in full, at the same time keeping us all as safe as possible from Covid 19. Financially there has been a fall in collections. We are not yet back up to pre Covid attendance levels with some members being hesitant to return, possibly feeling anxious. Should anyone have any concerns and would like some help please contact one of the staff team as listed at the back of the Service Sheet booklet.

We give thanks to our Clergy, IT staff, volunteers, our musicians & office workers who have and continue to sacrifice so much time and made such tremendous efforts, over this difficult time to support and keep us uplifted & connected. Ours thanks and praise to God for providing the skills and equipment required.

The West End project within the Church building and the exterior works on the paths are now complete. I am sure you can see what a true blessing this project has been, resulting in a bright and welcoming entrance for both visitors to Hailsham and locals. I understand this has attracted many people to pop in when passing. We give thanks to Ken for his continued hard work with the maintenance of the Church buildings and management of the West End project which has saved substantial funds over the period of the project.

It is anticipated that the Lynton Stage two development project will crystalise in 2022. Once sold funds received to be used to further support the HPC to contribute towards staff salaries, running costs and mission work . Lynton Stage two development has been particularly problematic. Roger on the main, has been dealing with the difficult forms and meetings and keeping us up to date with on going progress. We give thanks to Roger for all this additional and diligent on going work and stress.

As always with the running of the finances of HPC there has been lots to process and discuss, but rewarding to be involved and great that the finance team has been able to meet in person again for regular meetings. I give my thanks & appreciation to the Finance Team for their guidance and assistance in decisions for the processing of the accounts. A special thanks to Di Millar who has decided to step down from the finance team after many years as Emmanuel Treasurer and then joining the HPC finance team when Emmanuel merged with HPC. Thank you.

We now have our new accountants on board and dealing with the formal preparation of the financial statements. From which the above extracts have been prepared.

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 major works on the West End Project which at the year end is nearing completion. This project has been possible through the funds raised from the Estate of the late Ruth Deacon. The balance of the proceeds of the sale of the property is continued to be invested during the year.*

The second Stage in development of the Estate of Ruth Deacon has continued to be pushed towards selling, costs have been incurred and are reflected in the accounts. It is anticipated this project will crystalize in 2022.

As previously reported, the Investment had been planned, to be held to generate income to help to maintain future staffing of HPC. It was also planned that the Capital element would be maintained as tangible fixed asset and is shown in the accounts. Unfortunately, due to the fall in the income from the investment, the delay in Lynton stage two and various additional repair costs we have again had to call down funds that had been held on investment to meet staff costs. When funds from the stage two development for Lynton comes through, we hope to replace some of the cash that has been used covering shortfalls.

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. Planning has been approved and we are seeking advice on sale.

The property as in prior years is fully reflected in the accounts and was continually rented out, providing an income towards costs, which are being incurred in the maintenance, insurance and management fees. During the last month of 2021 the tenants vacated the property in line with agreements to facilitate a sale.

B} **Cash Flow:** Drawing on the funds invested from the sale of the land enabled us 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 & 2) which had deficits both last year of £471,677 and current year a deficit of £225,4619, (includes further costs of West end works).

Our regular and planned giving has increased by around £6,000 pa in 2021 which is approximately £500 per mth. This increase in regular giving is much appreciated, though still under our pre Covid levels. The shortfall in income to cover costs results in the requirement of the finance team to use investment funds for day to day running costs due to diminishing general funds available. Shortfalls have been supported by reserves brought forward from previous years and balance of investment funds, held since the sale of the land from stage one of Lynton legacy development.

As mentioned above the remaining funds are designated for future projects and support staff and should not be used for General purposes. Any increases to planned giving would be much appreciated.

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 taxpayer, 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 has increased but is still below budget target of £92,000 per annum. (7,670 per month) by around £3000 per annum ie £250 per month.

This 'giving' has been boosted by £21,932 refund of Tax, from the Inland Revenue due to Gift Aid Relief and VAT refunded from Listed Places of Worship Scheme. The total amount received for Unrestricted Income was a total of £208,358 in the year.

Restricted income surplus received in the year totalled £469.

Unrestricted Expenses: (Page – Accounts 2)

The combined Parish Contribution (pays for cost of clergy, housing etc.) was £108,000 in 2021. Our Total Expenses were £433,977, leaving a deficit of £225,619 for the year on the unrestricted figures. This deficit includes costs of the West End works carried out of £77,684 in this year.

Restricted fund income amounted to £63,372 so after deducting costs of £62,903 the surplus is £469.

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 small, restricted fund surplus of £469 mentioned above (surplus 2020 £399).

Balance Sheet: (Page – Accounts 4)

On this page you will see a list of our Assets & Liabilities as at 31 December 2021.

The above financial reports are based on financial statements prepared by Caladine, Chartered Certified Accountants.

Francine Newton, Hon. Treasurer

Legacies - A lasting gift to your church

Many of us give regularly to the mission and ministry of the church. We are stewards of everything we own, not just our income, and gifts in wills are a natural part of that giving. They are a valuable and lasting way to revitalise the life of Hailsham Parish Church and consolidate its future and remember it's never too early or too late to make or review your will and make provision for YOUR CHURCH. As I write this article, we have just received a legacy from Win Waters estate. Win was a long standing faithful member of both HPC and Emmanuel and we thank her for generously thinking of her churches at this time.

Interestingly many charities, such as the RNLI and the RSPCA, receive the majority of their funds from Legacies, whereas the Church of England receives less than 5% of their revenue in that form.

HPC have been blessed over the years having received a number of Legacies from their generous and committed congregation. These are some of the works completed over several years for the benefit of the congregation and the community of Hailsham and to glorify our Lord and Saviour. The lounge and the original kitchen and toilets were the result of a legacy and what a benefit they are and have been over the years. Then due to another legacy the toilets and kitchen have been reordered to a very high standard. Then as we move on into the church, legacies enabled us to upgrade the Chancel and Sanctuary and make the south chapel area into a permanent office space.



Then, of course, due to further legacies received, the PCC were able to remove all the pews and replace them with chairs, giving much more flexibility in the Nave, especially for the children's work with ABC's, Pulse and holiday clubs. The programme of reordering has now been completed with the removal of the old organ and replacing it with a new digital one which in turn enabled the reopening of the West End as the main entrance. However, of even greater significance it enables us to maintain staffing at the present levels now and for the future. These are just some of the ways that HPC has benefited from legacies.

As you will see from the summary above it has always been and will continue to be the policy of the PCC to use gifts in wills to help equip our church to move with the times whether it be buildings, equipment, or staff. Since needs do change over the years, we do encourage people to leave their gifts to general purposes rather than restricting to a specific purpose.

Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you. 1 Chronicles: 29

So, have you thought about making a provision in your will for the church? If not, just think about the future benefits of doing so, to help people to know the Lord Jesus and make Jesus known in Hailsham.

Roger Booth

Music

What a privilege it's been, since the end of July, to be able to sing with one another at church once again! Even whilst wearing face masks, we've been able to make a joyful noise in **singing God's praises together**. Thinking back to last spring, many thanks are due to those who took part in our home-grown **remote recordings**, whether by singing, playing or editing. These required much effort but, importantly, were a source of much encouragement to the church.

As a music team, we **aim**:

- with our church leaders, to select **hymns and songs** whose words, when we sing them, build us up in Christ, serving the purposes of church (e.g., teaching and reflecting on Biblical truth; encouraging one another in the faith; praying to and praising God); and
- 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 David Bourne and me, often with input from others, including staff and musicians. Fourteen new songs have been introduced in the past nine months, a number of these having first been used as videos during the period without congregational singing.

The way the music **team** has been developing and is continuing to develop connects closely to the emergence from Covid lockdown periods and the changing needs and opportunities associated with this. At the moment, our team – incorporating audio and visual technicians as well as action leaders – consists of fifty-four people, of whom forty-one serve on a regular basis. Sixteen people serve regularly as singers in the **choir**, five as **lead singers**, seventeen as **instrumentalists**, six as **audio technicians**, five as **visual technicians** and two 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.



From June to August, groups of musicians served on a given Sunday at both **9.15** and **11.00am** morning services. As the main morning service at **10.30am** was reintroduced in September, now, as before the pandemic, musical activity centres on that. Our **rehearsals** for Sunday mornings normally take place on Friday evenings (7.30 - 9.00pm). The evening service series, *Confronting Christianity* (in March) has seen the return of a small informal ensemble to some **6.30pm** services. In addition to serving the regular Sunday congregations, musicians lead songs at **Pulse**, at **special services** at church and in the community (for example at local care homes), and at events such as Holiday Club.

Special music in 2021 included a lively recording of the song *He has risen*, put together remotely for Easter Sunday. Later, in October, the Harvest Praise, baptism and confirmation services each saw about a dozen musicians coming together to lead a varied selection of hymns and songs. In December, two identical Carols by Candlelight services involved a choir of eighteen plus seven instrumentalists.

Youth Band, supported by Michelle Lashley and John Kimble, meets on Tuesday evenings during term time, usually fortnightly. Having resumed sessions in September, six young people (aged 11+) regularly take part. We tend to begin with a brief Bible study before practising a song that relates to the passage(s) we've read and discussed. After some hard work preparing, Youth Band recently led the morning service congregation in singing the song *Amazing grace (My Chains Are Gone)*.



Junior Band, supported by Susie Graham and John Kimble, is for children aged 6-11, and meets on occasional Saturday afternoons. We got together in December for the first time since March 2020 and had fun practising two Christmas songs before leading them the next day at *Christmas Cracker*.

The activity that's started back most recently is the weekly after-school **Music Club** at **Phoenix Academy**. At present, twenty children aged 5 to 11 are enjoying a project on rhythms from Ghana. The club plays a part in developing links with the school, part of a group of four in the town where I also serve as chair of governors.

A music team **prayer, review and planning meeting** is due to take place on 28th June. Of course, since the last one, in July 2019, our sovereign Lord has graciously led us through many things – many difficult things – unforeseen by us.

'Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music...' Psalm 98:4

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 be focused on serving the church and glorifying God with the gifts that he has given.

Chris Taylor

Reports from our Sunday & Midweek 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.

Since Little Diggers resumed in September, we've had one to four children in the group. We would love to see more families with young children coming along on a regular basis. At the moment our team is made up of six adults plus two young helpers, serving on a rota. 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.



Please pray, too, for more people to join the Little Diggers team.

The Little Diggers Team

Seekers & Discoverers

What a strange time it's been again this year! Once we were able to get together again, we spent the summer meeting in the Vicarage garden which both children and adults really enjoyed.

Since September 2021, Sunday school has been back to meeting in the lounge, with the children leaving part way through the service. It is a privilege to be able to teach these children stories from the Bible, but even more importantly, to work together to apply it to our hearts.



Balaam's donkey and Balak

We are still using the Mustard Seeds material -

we have covered stories from Exodus, Christmas, Joshua and we are currently looking at Jesus' kingship from the perspective of Peter. We are blessed with committed teachers and helpers who work hard to make it accessible, fun and interactive. Our great encouragement is the enthusiasm that the children have for learning more about our Lord Jesus.



Jesus & his disciples in the boat

The numbers and regular attendance of families at HPC (similar to many churches) have been highly affected by the pandemic. Because of low numbers of children, both the Seekers group (ages 4-7) and

Discoverers group (ages 8-11) have been combined. We are very thankful for those in our group who are there nearly every week. However, there have been a few weeks when we haven't had a single primary school-aged child, and other weeks where there have just been 2. This is sad for those who have worked hard to prepare the lesson and concerning for the whole church. We long for both groups to flourish.

We rely on and thank the whole church for their continuing prayers as, with our Lords help, we show the children the love of Jesus. Please join us in praying for our families to be with us week by week, and that the time spent in Sunday school will build a secure foundation for lifelong commitment to Jesus and His church.



*Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me. **Mark 9:37.***



The Seekers & Discoverers Teams

Quest

Quest (for students in years 7-9) resumed meetings in September with an almost entirely new group of children. Many of our group from March 2020 are now meeting with the main Church family on a Sunday morning, so we welcomed a new cohort. We missed Cori after her move, but were delighted to welcome Sylvia back into the team along with our faithful helpers Helen and Ruth.



We began with a series of lessons recalling Israel's journey to the promised land. We were reminded that sin has consequences and must be dealt with if we are to dwell with God. When God's people turned their back on God, they were punished, but God forgave them when they repented and turned to him. We then looked at Luke's account of the birth of Christ seeing the wonder of God's gift.

January saw us looking at the story of Joshua and how faith leads to obedience. We were struck by Rahab's faith in God, and her trust in the simple and slightly crazy plan to rescue her and her family. We asked whether we were trusting in God's rescue plan.



The group have enthusiastically embraced God's word, and also the hot chocolate and biscuits which have become a regular feature of our meetings.

Colin Dadswell and Sylvia Robinson

ABC Playgroup

ABCs is our Adult, Baby and Child group which meets on a Thursday morning in the church building. Due to the pandemic, we were unable to meet at HPC for 18 months. However, we stayed in contact with some of the families and managed some outdoor sessions at local parks last summer. In September 2021, we resumed meeting in the church building and we have been inundated with families wanting to come, many parents with babies and toddlers who were born during lockdown, mums desperate for adult company and children needing a safe place to play and to learn social skills.

We have had to implement a waiting list to keep numbers at a safe level but it feels hard making families wait for a space. We have seen our ABCS team grow too with Dawn, Celia and Brenda joining us. This has been an answer to prayer, and they have been a huge encouragement to the rest of us in the team. We also greatly appreciate the team of men who come to help us move chairs and tables after ABCS. We would always welcome more help with this as we do grow weary after a busy morning chatting and playing!

ABCs is a great way to meet and build relationships with local families who come, and as they get to know and trust the team, it gives us the opportunity to share Jesus with them. The mums, dads and grandparents appreciate the friendly welcome and the chance to chat. It's amazing the conversations you might have at the craft table or whilst making playdough shapes or just over a cup of coffee! It's great to be able to personally invite families to services or other activities and it's been such an encouragement to see some of the families come along to Pulse, holiday clubs, women's events, Christmas Cracker and Christingle services.

ABCs is not just about talking to the adults though... we love to teach the little ones about Jesus each week during our story and song time and we use special times throughout the year like Christmas and Easter to give them bibles and Christian books to take home to read more about Jesus and share with their families.



ABC Playgroup

Please do pray....

- That these children and adults would see how amazing Jesus is and want to know more
- That the ABCs team would depend on God for wisdom, compassion and boldness as we seek to build good relationships with the families and point them to Jesus.

The ABCs Team

Pulse

Pulse meets on a Tuesday afternoon and is our after-school club for primary age children and their families. Pre-Covid Pulse was going really well, we had a growing number of families coming along regularly, we were seeing one or two of them beginning to attend church on a Sunday morning and three of the mums were keen to do Christianity Explored. Then Covid struck! It seemed a frustrating time for the pandemic to hit meaning we couldn't meet in person, but we had to trust that although we had plans to do ministry one way, God had better plans. During the pandemic, the team kept in touch with the families, and we recorded some bible stories for them to watch on YouTube. We also had fun meeting in the churchyard and vicarage garden during the summer for outdoor Pulse sessions.



Since we re-opened Pulse in September 2021, numbers have been lower and Covid is still having an impact, though we do have a small number of core church and non-church families who come each Tuesday afternoon. We have been thrilled that some new families have come along to try us. We would love for some of these families to become regular at Pulse, so that we can build more relationships with local families. We are very thankful to have the opportunity not only to enjoy doing craft or playing games with them, but also to share Jesus as we've taught them stories from the gospels of Matthew and Luke.

We are also very thankful for Ruth who has joined the Pulse team and for the team of men who help us set up for Pulse by moving chairs and tables. We are always on the lookout for new members to help us set up or to join the Pulse team!



Please pray:

- That families would come regularly to Pulse and would invite their friends to come too
- That the children and adults would engage with the bible teaching, hear the good news of Jesus and want to follow him
- For the team to be loving, faithful and bold as we seek to be creative and point people to Jesus
- For the team to depend on God for wisdom and clarity as we think through the future of Pulse

The Pulse Team

Bridge Racing

After a break of over 18 months, it was fantastic to be able to restart meetings back in September. The biggest concern was just how many dads and their children would turn up and how many of those who regularly attended before the Covid-19 pandemic would return. In a real answer to prayer, that first meeting exceeded any expectations that we might have had. Most of our regulars were there and clearly glad to be back. Since then, we have continued to have a healthy regular attendance of 6 or 7 dads and their children. We have had some new dads and children turn up who are now regular attenders.



As well as giving dads a chance to spend time with their children, we also keep in mind that Bridge Racing is part of the regular outreach activities of HPC, albeit soft outreach. To this end it has been great to be able to pick up on those relationships that members of the team had built with the dads who come along. This is an aspect that has developed over time and enables us to speak to dads about

church and faith, with the ultimate goal to be to invite them along to other HPC outreach events. None of this would be possible without the team of regulars who come along each month and build those all-important relationships with the dads.

Thanks go to Tim, Roger, John, Phil and Robin for their continued help and support.

If anyone is interested in becoming part of the team then please let us know, all you need to be able to do is be able to have a chat with the dads and get to know them. Please pray for the group and that opportunities will arise to be able to share the gospel message with the dads who come along.

Tony Roberts

Youth Zone

Youth Zone is our monthly Saturday evening group for young people in Year 6 or above. It provides an opportunity for youngsters in our church family to enjoy spending time with one another and to welcome friends who don't normally come to church. Since the group got going again in June, we've enjoyed a variety of activities, including a reunion at the rec, a chip shop crawl, indoor games at Emmanuel, ten-pin bowling at Freedom Leisure and a very muddy walk in the dark around Park Wood!





Our sessions include a short and informal Bible discussion/activity/talk, often around the same time as drinks and snacks. There are currently nine adults in the Youth Zone team serving on a rota basis, with at least three present at each session. We're delighted that a total of fifteen youngsters have come along to Youth Zone over recent months.

Please pray for increasing opportunities to build up and reach out with the gospel through Youth Zone, including that children moving up from Pulse and Holiday Club would join us.

Chris Taylor

SALT – 14+ Youth Group

SALT is the Bible study group for 14–18 year olds at HPC. We meet weekly to chat, play games and get to know Jesus better through Bible studies and prayer.



This year we have been reading through 1 Corinthians. In the early chapters we looked at God's wisdom: it looks foolish but it's actually wise, and the best place to see it is the cross of Jesus. We're currently looking at the different ways Paul teaches us to respond to this with our lives and lifestyles. Please pray that we would love God's wisdom and live day to day in the light of Jesus' death and resurrection.

We've also heard from a scientist (Dr Griffin - David's brother!) about whether science contradicts the Bible.



Since January Andrew and Anthea Risbridger have been leading SALT alongside David. They have been fantastic at throwing themselves in. Please thank God for their willingness to serve and pray they'd be a great encouragement to the young people - and the young people to them.

David and Esther Griffin

Work in Schools

Here at HPC we love Jesus and seek to make him known. That's not just for Sundays, but during the week and out in our local community. We see it as a great privilege to be invited into our local schools to lead assemblies, the Christian Union, an after-school music club and occasionally R.E lessons. Our aim is always to be engaging and clear as we teach the children what the Bible says and what Christians believe.

Over the years HPC has built links with Grovelands, Park Mead, Hawkes Farm, Phoenix and Whitehouse Primary schools and Hailsham Community College. Although the opportunities for face-to-face contact have been less during covid, with the wonders of technology, we were able to record assemblies to send into schools and we managed to lead some RE lessons via Zoom. However, It's been a real joy to be able to resume 'in person' assemblies since Autumn 2021 and this has enabled us to strengthen those links and relationships with the children and staff.

It was a great pleasure to be asked recently, to present Phoenix Academy with some children's Bibles for their new library. We hope these will be helpful and greatly used by the children and staff.



Many children walk past the church building each week but have never been inside this or any other church. We are very thankful that we have opportunities to invite the school children and staff to visit the church building, to see it in use, to meet other church members and to hear the Bible taught in a creative way. In December, Phoenix and Whitehouse Academies came for their carol services and two classes from



Hawkes Farm joined us for our 'Meet the Characters of Christmas'- an interactive retelling of the Christmas story. The children had great fun 'going back in time' to meet Mary, Joseph, some shepherds and three wise men. The 'characters' (members of the HPC family) were delighted by the children's engagement and their questions as they discovered more about what was so special about the baby Jesus.

As we approach Easter, we look forward to welcoming classes from four primary schools for our 'Easter Experience' – an interactive workshop which includes a murder mystery style investigation to find out who killed Jesus Christ. The Easter Experience is a unique opportunity to share the events and significance of the Easter story with the children, many of whom may be exploring this for the first time.

Lyn Gooding

Evangelistic courses

People come to know and love Jesus in many different ways. One of the most effective means of people coming to understand their sin and to see Jesus as their Saviour is through a range of different evangelistic courses. These warm, cringe free, back to basis sessions assume nothing other than a desire to find out more. There is lots of opportunity for discussion and questions as well as chance for people to just sit and listen as the words of Jesus are explained.

Hundreds of people have done these courses over the years at HPC, and millions have come to faith around the world through them. Over the past year Christianity Explored courses have been run online and in person, sometimes in groups and sometimes with individuals.

Following on from our connect for life mission we are going to run a new three-week course called Hope Explored. Do be praying for your friends and then bringing them along. All the courses we run are aimed at new believers, but I regularly find my faith strengthened as I look again at the Lord Jesus. Why don't you come and join us

Rory Graham



Growth Groups

Here at Hailsham Parish Church we are convinced that Jesus brings life in all its fullness. His loving word to us in the Scriptures is our daily bread. We want to be a people who are feeding deeply and consistently on him. Wonderfully he helps us to do that by his Spirit and in the company of friends.



Growth Groups, the new name for the small group ministry at HPC exist to help believers to grow in their knowledge and love of Jesus and of each other. It can be difficult to know where to begin in getting to know people in a church family of our size. Growth Groups give an opportunity for friendship, prayer and support.

It has been another awkward year for meeting together with restrictions and concerns about COVID. Leaders have been brilliant at getting people together both in person and online. Having some of the afternoon groups meeting in the church building has enabled new people to join us. Recently we have been encouraged as we have met online to discuss our Ephesians sermons, we have done studies from the book 'Love your Church' and been encouraged and equipped to Share the good news of Jesus with our friends. Next term we will be looking together at the continuing mission of Jesus from the book of Acts.

Rory Graham

Oasis

The ladies at Oasis are delighted to be back in the lounge on a Tuesday morning, meeting together to share our lives, to study the Bible and to think about how it applies to our life. It has been a joy to have new people come along, including some who have recently joined our church family. We have been challenged by studying the books of Daniel, Job and most recently the 'Love your church' book.

We are very thankful for our lovely crèche helpers and for all they do to make it possible for those with young children to study the Bible without interruptions.

We have enjoyed a few social times outside, meeting up in gardens when it was warm enough.



We would love to see the group grow further, for there to be more ladies of all ages and stages, for it to be more accessible to those who are new to church, and especially for young mums to be able to use this opportunity to grow deeper in their faith. Do be in touch with Susie Graham if you would like to know more.

Susie Graham

Pastoral Care Team

'And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.' **Colossians 3:17**

We give praise and thanks to God that by his grace, through the Lord Jesus, we are a loving and caring church family at HPC. As we worship, pray and grow on our Christian journey together we are blessed by the love, care and support of each other especially in our divided world and in our own individual times of need.

May we encourage one another to trust in Jesus, whatever the circumstances, and continue to reach out to those around us with his love

Margery Luffingham

Care Homes Services

As Covid-related restrictions have been lifted, it's been wonderful to be able to resume visiting local care homes and similar residential settings in our parish to lead services for residents, guests and staff members. With Covid control measures in place, we made visits to six homes at harvest time and then seven in the run-up to Christmas. At the time of writing, there are eight Easter services on the horizon.

We're thankful for fresh links with Ersham House, where we've been twice, and Filsham Lodge, where we're looking forward to going for the first time soon. In addition to our visits, which generally take place quarterly, a number of local care home residents value watching our live-streamed Sunday services week by week. A growing team is helping resource ministry to an increasing number of homes. At present, around 32 people are involved, with a core team of four people who plan our services and do much of the leading and speaking.

Please pray for all those with whom we have contact – that Christians would be encouraged as they hear and sing of Jesus, and that others would be prompted to think seriously about Jesus and welcome him into their lives.

Chris Taylor

Women2Women

Building Christian women up & encouraging Christian women to share their faith in Jesus.

As lockdowns gradually lifted, we had the joy of being able to engage more face-to-face. To enable this we, as a church family, had quite a few events to bring people back together during the summer of 2021.

On a dry, albeit chilly Friday evening we had 30 women (the maximum number allowed!) in the Vicarage garden for drinks, cakes and a catch up. We used the opportunity to interview Esther, our curate's wife who moved here during lockdown! Oh, the joy of Christian women of HPC being able to gather together again!



Following the evening in June we ran our annual Pimms and Pudding, also in the Vicarage garden, in July. We had a last-minute change of date so we could allow over 30 to safely join in. As a result, on a lovely, warm Thursday evening almost 60 women (HPC and guests) gathered for Pimms and lots of delicious homemade puddings.

It was a joy to have Susie Graham illustrate, using a broken jug, how our lives have beauty and value, with the maker's name stamped on it, though like the jug, they are broken and not fit for purpose. And yet a kind and generous God came in the person of Jesus to die for us and offer us forgiveness and ultimately lives that are renewed (helpfully illustrated by a whole, unbroken jug identical to the broken one).





Christmas gave us another opportunity to invite friends to hear the good news of Jesus. Our festive Gingerbread Evening, involving over 40 women on 2nd December, went off smoothly with no collapsed houses; what a relief! 20 women from HPC gathered with 20 or so invited friends/family to construct and decorate gingerbread houses and enjoy some mulled wine

ready for the festive season. Our speaker, Katie Lowries, mum of 3, kindly come from Newhaven to share something of her life and Jesus from Luke 2, pointing us to the Shepherds' news of a Saviour come for ordinary people in our messy world, a Saviour who could make all things right.

We are thankful to God for the opportunity to introduce our friends and family to our Lord and Saviour Jesus. Please pray for the ongoing fruit of these opportunities.



Kim Bourne

Men @ HPC

2021 continued to be a challenging year for meeting together due to the various stages of COVID. However, we were not to be stopped and the first half of the year saw us utilising Zoom to meet together. In January we discussed Living in Love and Faith and in March supporting each other in telling others about Jesus. In May we were able to meet together in person outside and made use of the vicarage garden for a BBQ and looking at the Word 1-2-1 and how we can use the material to talk to others about Jesus. In July we met up at Abbots Wood for a walk and a visit to the pub. In September we set out on a new venture, bi-monthly breakfasts at B12 which includes an evangelistic speaker with the objective of being able to invite non-Christian friends along for a meal and to hear about Jesus.



Man Up Breakfast at B12 September 2021

We continue to pray for these breakfasts, that the men at HPC will be encouraged and be bold in inviting their friends along to hear the great news of our Saviour Jesus.

David Gooding, Tony Cannon, David Sinden &, Rory Graham.

Meeting Point

After a long break due to Covid Meeting Point relaunched in September 2021 with a Cream Tea, a new format and a new location, changing from the Church lounge to the Main Church . This has been a very positive move, with many favourable comments. The new format gives us time in the middle of the meeting for tea and biscuits and a time for members to chat informally. We continue to have a variety of speakers, both Christian and local organisations, which is proving popular with members. So far this year we have heard about the work of HOPS here in Hailsham, and an encouraging informative talk about Eastbourne Street Pastors.



We give thanks to our Heavenly Father that despite so many months apart our numbers have grown, with monthly meetings now averaging about 50. It has been so good to welcome many new folk - currently 8 since January. We praise God for His goodness through another year and look forward with anticipation to the rest of 2022

Margaret Surrey and Pam Brooks

Creative Craft Group

The past 2 years have been very testing times and, like everyone else, we have not escaped them.

In September last year the afternoon craft group disbanded, and some of their people came to join in with us at the morning group. This has had many benefits as we now have ladies with different skills that we can call upon.





We start our weekly sessions with a prayer and thanking God for bringing us all together safely. One week someone may demonstrate a particular skill, e.g. card making, how to use a die machine, sewing, diamond painting etc. Other weeks we can bring some project to work on ourselves and by doing this we can share our knowledge. All these activities are very happy occasions and together we enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and the obligatory biscuit! We are forever grateful for these skills and talents that our Lord has given us.

The Creative Craft team

Bellringing

The past year has been very difficult = as has been the case with most things because of Covid. We commenced ringing again as soon as restrictions were lifted around the middle of last year – in accordance with the guidance issued by the Central Council of Church Bellringers and the Church of England authorities. But we were restricted to only 6 ringers in the tower at one time and we had to ring the same bell and not move around ringing different bells as we would normally have done. Also, we were lucky that our own tower ringers returned to ringing, but the visitors from other local towers who had supported our practices regularly have not returned and we are therefore restricted in our repertoire. We received special dispensation to ring for the Easter services but then had to stop again but just before Christmas restrictions were lifted a bit more and we were able to ring for most services.

In our profile two years ago we asked for volunteers who would like to learn to ring and we started to teach four people but almost as soon as we started we had to stop again because of the lockdowns and only one of these people has returned. We have also had one ringer return after a very long period of non-ringing and we have just started teaching one new person. We trust that these people will progress and become an asset to our tower.



Please pray for us. We are pleased to receive your enthusiastic comments on our Sunday morning ringing when we sound out a welcome from our tower and remind the neighbourhood that our church is very much alive and well and preaching the good news of the Gospel.

Elizabeth Munday

The Link Coffee Shop

Covid lockdown again meant that the Link did not open until May 2021, but since that date we have been encouraged to see many customers, old and new. Initially we worked with fewer tables to allow distancing, but since restrictions were lifted earlier this year we are back to our normal seating plan.

We did manage to hold a socially distanced Home Alone meal on Christmas Day with our regulars, having missed Christmas Day 2020.

We are still very grateful to our volunteers for returning with enthusiasm!

Please continue to pray for God's guidance at the Link and give thanks with us for his continued leading and enabling through the difficult last two years.

Kay Timms

Caring and Sharing

A big thank you for your continuing prayer & financial support of Caring & Sharing ...***Live more simply that others may simply live***

Covid 19, Climate Change & War in the Ukraine are continuing to handicap the three projects we support:

Fr Sergey at Pinsk Hospice, treating children with cancer following the Chernobyl disaster, has difficulties in getting care and medical equipment due to Belarus' isolation and sanctions.

Isabel Montoya from Lima, Peru's nurseries describes the worsening life of families in shanty towns due to climate extremes and high numbers of Covid cases, so that food & medicines have to be delivered when the nurseries can't open. The ballet scene (illustrated) looks back to better times!



Pauline Allen from "Let the Children Live" in Medellin, Columbia has some good news of youngsters who have graduated to High School but coronavirus, plus ongoing drug wars, mean that many children can't get to the safety of Casa Walsingham home and school. Here is their prayer:

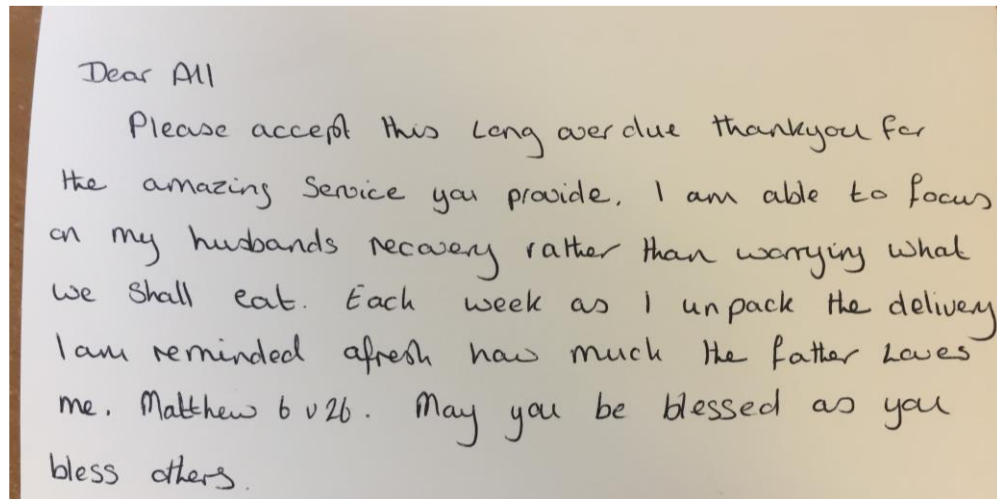
God ,our Father, guide and protect the street children of Columbia and form in us a heart that sees, so that we may recognise in their dirty faces the features of your Son, who said that what we do to the least of his brothers and sisters, we do for Him. Bless, we pray, the work of "Let the children live" that all, through whom the charity cares, may have life and have it to the full. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Amen

Michael Partridge

Hailsham Foodbank

Since April 2021, when we re-opened in our new premises at 4 Market Square, we have given out over 4000 emergency food parcels. We have received just under 32000kg of food and given out just over 32200kg.

We have been able, alongside our food parcels, to help out families with a total of around £2500 of extra items such as kitchen items, baby goods, school uniform, furniture, essential car repairs, white goods and items for family who experienced a devastating fire in their property. This has been through Acts 435 who we signed up to be an advocate last summer.



A note from a grateful recipient

We've also been working closely with Sussex Energise to help people with utility vouchers/debt and to ensure they have adequate insulation measures in place etc.

We had a successful Crowdfunding campaign which raised an amazing £10000 for a Community Fridge and Freezer. This has just got up and running and gives the addition of fresh food to families while helping eliminate food waste locally.

One of the most exciting projects we have just secured funding for is to have a Citizens Advice Advisor based at the foodbank to give benefits advice and help with form filling (thereby maximising income) and also a Debt Advisor from Community Money Advice.

Thank God for the bountiful provision and that we can help more people out of food poverty in the coming year.

Julie Coates

Reports from our Mission Partners

Chris & Ros Howles - UMS Namugongo, Kampala.

Like for so many of you, the last few years have been demanding. A genuine highlight of it though was our trip back to the UK, and the wonderful, warm welcome we received so kindly and hospitably from our partner churches, including you, dear brothers and sisters at HPC!! We had a wonderful day with you, we just wished it were longer and for that we apologise. But we continue to be grateful for your love and support in innumerable ways, not least your prayers for us!



Over here at Uganda Martyrs Seminary, the Bible college on the outskirts of Kampala, where we live and work (joining with Ugandan colleagues to help train church leaders for gospel ministry across East Africa) we've had a quite remarkable year. Since the foundation of UMSN in the late 1970s, the average number of students has normally floated at around 50 – 90 people studying here at any given time. We now have over 220 students training for church leadership and that is set to increase substantially in the summer again. Amazing!

What's happened? Well, humanly-speaking the lockdown closures have caused a small backlog of students wanting to study. But in addition to this it seems that the reputation of UMSN is currently very high. Dioceses across the region seem to be recognizing and appreciating the ministry and leadership exhibited by our alumni and are sending their future leaders to us in greater numbers. Students are also being sent to us from places further afield than we would normally expect, including as far away as the Kenyan Coast (over 1000km and a 40-hour bus ride away!). Of course, we recognise that this current blessing is of the Lord and whether it is sustained long-term or not is almost irrelevant for now – we're just grateful for the opportunities to invest in the academic, personal and spiritual development of these students as we assist them to understand and practice their calling to be faithful, fearless, fruit-filled gospel teachers and leaders across East Africa.

So, please join us in thanking the Lord for each of these students. Please pray from 1 Peter 5:1 – 10 that UMSN students might develop as Christian leaders who are true shepherds of God's flock under their care, motivated by eagerness to serve and not dishonest gain (v1 – 3).

In other news, Chris has been combining college work with doctoral studies. Gladly, he is approaching the final stages of the final 250-page dissertation, and is due to graduate in June 2022 (from Fuller Theological Seminary, California) in 'Missiology', (the study of missions). The research has focused on how to help UMSN become a missions-minded college that trains church leaders to be passionate for, and equipped in, sending Ugandan missionaries out across the region to preach the name of Jesus where it is not known! ,



The children continue to thrive in their homeschooling but please keep praying for Ros in this – it seems to give her almost no spare capacity at present, although she's still doing some occasional health lectures at college. Please pray for wise considerations about how to negotiate these challenges as the children get older – Josh turns 13 (!) later this year.

We'd ask you to pray for us as a family (as we have from the day we moved here) that in this cross-cultural context we might love one another, love the people around us and of course love the Lord with all our heart, soul and strength. Of course such things are true for all Christians anywhere, and please pray that for the Howles family too, as we pray it for you. With love and thanks to you all at HPC.

Chris Howles

Julian and Nicky Milson - Valencia, Spain

Julian & Nicky Milson are missionaries in Valencia, Spain, along with Jemima (16) and Theo (14) their children. They have now been in Valencia for four years.



Julian is the Rector of the Anglican Church in Valencia which is part of the Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain. There's one Bishop (who is technically under the Archbishop of Canterbury) in Madrid and there are approximately 30 small congregations across the country. The Diocese of Spain works alongside the Church of England's Diocese in Europe.

There is a family of Australian CMS Missionaries who are part of the church family and Julian shares an office space with them and a local Spanish Christian journalist. Shortly another Missionary couple with Crosslinks (the Redfearns) will be joining us and Chris will take on a kind of Curacy role with Julian.

The past year has obviously been challenging in many ways and the pandemic has once again meant that plans have had to be adapted or put on hold. Despite being able to meet regularly in person throughout the year, we have lost touch with some members of the church family and our numbers on a Sunday have reduced significantly. In October last year we said a sad farewell to an Australian Missionary family who helped enormously with the children's work at church and worked with Youth Groups across the city. They had to return to Australia for family reasons.

However, God has been so faithful and good in so many ways! Our church family has worked hard to support one another, and we have seen a spirit of kindness and care motivated by the Gospel. There have been several serious illnesses and medical problems amongst the church family in the past year and it has been a joy to see the church family caring for each other in very practical ways.

Last Summer we installed an audiovisual system in church to make it easier for people to join us online and to improve the sound quality in the building. We were heartened to see many members of the church giving sacrificially so that we could raise some of the required finances for the project.

In October we started a new, monthly All-Age service which has been a great success. It has been useful to be able to offer something a little more informal alongside our usual, more liturgical services. It also gives the Sunday School leaders a break once a month.

Last month (February) we started a new Youth Group and since then we have seen a dozen or more teenagers meeting fortnightly to have fun studying the Bible and playing games together. We've been particularly encouraged that some members have been inviting friends along.

Nicky continues to Home Educate Jemima full time and support her everyday living. She is also continuing to learn the Spanish in her spare time. She helps lead the music each week at church by playing the piano. Jemima and Theo both study hard and they enjoy learning in their own ways. Their level of Spanish acquisition is quite different but both seem to enjoy living in Spain and they have adapted well to life in a different culture.

Please pray:

- For plans to visit the UK this Summer, including a visit to HPC.
- Our families in the UK, that they would know and follow Jesus as their Saviour.
- For our church family; that we would each grow deeper in our faith and that everyone would take up the challenge of evangelism.
- That the Youth Group will continue to flourish and that the young people will be equipped to serve Christ faithfully every day.
- That our Gospel witness would produce fruit.
- Give thanks that our children finally have been granted Residency status and that Jemima's disabilities have been officially recognised here.
- Give thanks that the church family love Jesus and love each other.

May we take this opportunity to thank you all for your prayerful support - it is a joy to partner with you in the gospel work here in Valencia.

Past HPC Members in Mission

Adam Tomalin - Johannesburg, S. Africa

Just as I thought, things couldn't get busier and more crazy, 2021 then happened! What a year and looking back, what a year to reflect on God's faithfulness.

God was faithful in sustaining

At the end of January 2021, I had an operation on my ACL (in my knee). I sustained an injury on my knee two years ago and scans showed that getting an operation was the best thing to do. The brace on my leg did make it look like I'd been given a bionic leg upgrade! I was incredibly grateful for the support which I was getting from Nomfundo, other friends and church family. I praise God that my knee made a full recovery after lots of physio and I'm even back to playing sports too.

Going into 2021, my role at church didn't change much but I did take on a little bit more. My role within the youth ministry was more to train and oversee the ministry which, freed me up a little. I was freed up so I could help a little more in the new men's ministry but also so I could do some counselling study modules, as well.

God was faithful in uniting Nomfi and I



On the 12th November 2021, Nomfundo and I also got married and we praise God for bringing us together and enabling our families to be able to witness this great celebration! It was such a beautiful day of being able to commit our marriage to God before family and friends and celebrate bringing in a mixture of Zulu and British culture.

However, the run up to the wedding day was wrought with many tensions and heartache. The vast majority of weddings have their own dramas, particularly in the run up to proceedings. However, it really felt that we were under enormous pressure. In the run up to the wedding day, Nomfundo shared with her family about her strong desires not to participate in acts of ancestral worship, which her family wanted her to be part of. This was in order to send her off and honour their ancestors. It was an incredibly hard time for her and some family members were saying some really hard things to manipulate her into doing it. By God's grace and with the help of church family she managed to stand her ground. We praise God that many of her family still came to the wedding. We're praying on that we'll both continue to reach out in love and service to many of her family, despite the hurt that many still feel.

We're grateful that encouraging conversations have since been had with family members and we praise God for how he has sustained us both and given us words and wisdom to engage in love and also seek to shine Christ's light.

Both Nomfundo and I are currently studying theology at a college in Cape Town, called George Whitefield College. We moved to Cape Town, at the end of January 2022 and plan to study our degree for 3 years. In completion of our studies, our current aspiration is to pursue families ministry and counselling ministry, longer term.

Adam Tomalin

Cori Bromfield - St John's, Walthamstow, NE London

Dear friends, Hello from Walthamstow, NE London, home of East 17!

I've been the women and families' worker at St John's Church for nearly seven months now. An intense few months, but I'm very thankful to God for bringing me here. In many ways it feels like there was a Cori-shaped hole for me, and I know I'm definitely where God wants me to be. Our church family is about half the size of HPC, and our staff team is much smaller: just me and Kieran the vicar!

My week is very varied, but here's a typical one:

Mondays – organising Sunday school rotas and teaching material. Bible study group, we're thinking about what it means to be a Christian in the whole of life.

Tuesdays – prep work and meeting women one-to-one.

Wednesdays – planning and prayer for our Passion for Life mission in March. St John's is teaming up with four other small churches in the area.

Thursdays – prayer meeting with ministers and women's workers from a couple of other local churches. Women's Fellowship (a bit like Meeting Point), After School Club (like Pulse) and evening Bible study.

Fridays – We're just about to launch a toddler group on Friday mornings.

Saturdays – my day off! Living in London is great; when the weather's good I go for long walks (I'm half way round the 150 mile London Loop – a bit like the M25 for walkers). When it's too wet or muddy I visit a new museum.

Sundays – we have one service on Sundays. I teach Sunday School roughly every other week. At the moment we're learning about how the prophets point to the hope of Jesus. Once a month we have a church lunch after the service. Other weeks I lead a small youth group Bible study.

Somewhere in there I'll probably have a family over for dinner or go to visit someone else. It takes time to get to know a new church family, but I'm really thankful that I'm starting to make some good friends here. We occasionally make the most of the cheap theatre tickets you can get at short notice here in London. My cultural horizons have expanded with Joseph (the musical), the Royal Opera House, a geeky day at ComicCon, and even a trip to the Masters Snooker (definitely my highlight of the year!). London living definitely suits me... I still miss you in Hailsham though!



I remain incredibly thankful for my time at HPC. Through your ministry I met Jesus, I discovered what it means to follow him, I made wonderful friends for life, and I learned loads about life and ministry. I still pray regularly for you, and love to hear your news.

I would hugely appreciate your prayers:

- I will be going to Uganda in June to visit the Howles family and UMS. Please pray for God to provide all that we need for the trip to go ahead.
- I had COVID at the end of January. I wasn't ill at the time, but I've been hit pretty hard by post-viral exhaustion. Wisdom about what I can and can't do at the moment.
- Please pray for me as I continue to get to know people and make deeper friendships here.
- Kieran is on sabbatical from May-August this year. Please pray for all the things that we need to get in place before he leaves.
- Please pray for me *"that my love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that I may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ - to the glory and praise of God."*

(Philippians 1:9-11)

Cori Bromfield

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.

Sangster and Asha – Bangalore, India

Tear Fund - working to bring the comfort of the gospel and the relief of need across the world

Youth Testimonies

Hannah Dadswell



I have grown up in a Christian family, going to church every Sunday, my parents guiding me and encouraging me along the way to come to know the amazing love of Jesus, and the incredible sacrifice he made for me. I have grown up here at Hailsham Parish Church going out to Sunday school for as long as I can remember, being taught all the big stories of the Bible, knowing that Jesus came and died for my sins but not really taking much notice of what it really meant for me. I didn't grasp onto the amazing truth of God's great love and incredible promise of eternal life when we turn and trust in him. I think the Lord has been working mainly in my life over the last few years, starting in the summer of 2017.

In 2017 I was invited to go and camp at forest fold Baptist church for the first time. I went and loved making new friends and had amazing fun on the off-site activities. I

listened to the talks, but over the next year I in no way acted on what I had heard. I thought being a Christian just meant following a load of rules and I didn't want that. I didn't enjoy going to church and was annoyed that I was missing out on things my non-Christian friends were doing on a Sunday. I went on camp again in summer 2018, once on camp the talks really stood out from all the fun we were having. I loved having so many Christians my own age to talk to and encourage one another. I felt ready to commit my life to being a Christian, praying and reading my Bible more. But soon after I drifted further and further from that and threw God to one side thinking it didn't matter. None of my friends at school were Christian and I was so afraid of the rejection I would face if I showed my faith at school. At camp in 2019 there was an amazing talk series about who Jesus really is, his amazing message and why it is so important to us. One thing that really stood out to me was that Jesus loves ME, knew ME by name, and died for ME on the cross. It felt so special knowing that Jesus died for ME, obviously I'd heard it many times before but the way it was made so personal really hit me. I prayed and asked God to open my heart and eyes to him. My prayers were certainly answered, and I began to realise how great God is, how powerful his love is and how I couldn't carry on living the way I was, without Jesus as my rock.

After leaving camp, since then I have continued living for God, praying regularly and doing daily devotions. In September of 2019, I started going to Salt (our church Youth Group), the more I learn about God the more my love for him grows. I love learning with other Christian teenagers about things that are fitting to our lives as young people. I love answering questions my non-Christian friends have and inviting them to events at church. During lockdown I found it very difficult to see that God was in control when everything going on in the world seemed so out of control, plans including my baptism in June 2020 were cancelled. Since October last year I have been dealing with chronic abdominal pain. I found myself wondering why God was allowing me to suffer, why he had allowed my future to become so unknown. I honestly thank God for these struggles I have faced as it has helped me grow even stronger in my faith. It has shown me that God's plan can be completely different to what we expected, but no matter what he is still in control and his plan is ultimately best even if we can't comprehend how.

Being a Christian doesn't make me perfect, not at all, I will always sin, but I know that I am saved, a secure hope that will be with me until the day I die, that I can trust in every day. I know that the Holy Spirit is with me always and the Lord is watching over me. Even when times get tough, he will never leave me or forsake me. Jeremiah 29 v 11 says *'for I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future'*. This verse reminds me that there is a definite hope for all who turn to Him. Even in the hardest times, earthly suffering is only temporary compared to the promise of eternal life which will never end.

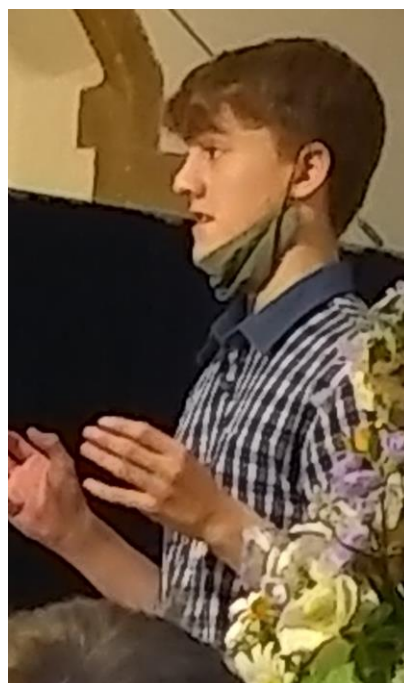
Ollie Robson

My name's Ollie, I'm currently in year 11, studying for my GCSEs.

I have been at this church for my entire life. so I have known about Jesus. and I've also been raised in a very Christian related family. but for the past decade of my life I haven't really completely grasped and received and acknowledged God. I think the reason that I have come to God happened in the last six months.

After lockdown was lifted, we were at home and church wasn't really working, we came here and I started to listen again, and then my ears truly opened. I began to understand what was being taught and I began to take it further into my own, in the services, in the youth group, in my own spare time. and it took a few weeks, but then I developed my understanding, love and respect for Jesus.

I fully feel ready to commit to Christianity and pledge my life for Jesus. and I ask that you would pray for me in this next step of my life.



Overview – Looking Back - Looking Forward

At a recent PCC meeting I commented that each Sunday feels, to varying degrees, disappointing and exciting, frustrating and joyful – all in one morning!

Back in April 2021 I wrote of how the HPC family had changed significantly through the months of Covid and how there was still real uncertainty about what we might look like as a church. Since then, I have at various points said, *'well, we should all be back together, normal again, with the HPC family settled, by September, Christmas, Easter and now, well maybe September 2022!'* It all still feels very uncertain. One week it can feel as if we are firing again on all cylinders and the next as if the engine is struggling to start! It feels disappointing because the impact of Covid has not gone away, in fact more of the congregation have succumbed to Covid in February/March 2022 than at any time in the past two years and that has really hit our numbers coming back together. It has felt frustrating, a bit stop-start. However, at the same time seeing the HPC family come back together has been a real joy. A joy to be together, to sing together, even to recognise who's who without our masks! Exciting too. I can rarely remember a period, from November, when we have been able to welcome so many new people. The new entrance and especially the glass doors have made it so much easier for people to look in and to decide to come in, what a blessing that has been. Once again HPC is changing and growing.



There have been some real highlights to the year. It was a real joy to welcome so many across the summer to events large and small in the Vicarage Garden. Once the new marquee had arrived on a slow boat from China, we were even secure against the weather. So, from picnics with our mission partners, the Howells, to a welcome return of Pimms and Pudding and of course the marquee a summer home for our Sunday groups for young people.

That was matched by a wonderful Sunday in October which saw the official opening of the new west end together with two immersion Baptisms and seven Confirmations as we were joined by Bishop Will, Bishop of Lewes and Lee Gatiss, Director of Church Society. The autumn also saw a survey of how we serve one another with many new people signing up and getting involved in so many different ways. Above all it was a great joy once again to be listening to God's Word together, in person, on Sundays and in Growth Groups. And to be preaching 'live' instead of to a camera! It was so exciting to hear again the Exodus story as God rescued his people and led them safely home through their wilderness journey. What a great and gracious God, and He's the same yesterday, today and forever!



We love to welcome new people to HPC but sometimes it is time to send them on and so we said farewell to Cori and to Maggie. They both began their Christian journeys at HPC, we have watched them grow and walked with them on their journey. For Cori that journey took her to Oak Hill college and now on to a role as Youth and Children's minister at St John's, Walthamstow, E17. For Maggie it was relocating to the west of Scotland.

The year also saw a return of some of our regular outreach opportunities, opportunities for welcome and to speak of Jesus to those who may not yet know Him. We have mentioned already Pimms and Pudding which was followed by the return of our summer holiday club culminating in a great fish and chip lunch in the garden! There were ongoing opportunities to make Jesus known through services for those recently bereaved, civic events, remembering the life of HRH



Prince Philip or praying for Ukraine and of course Christmas. No, it wasn't quite the Christmas we had planned, Covid was still around to influence what we were able to do, but it was great to be singing again such marvellous music celebrating the coming of Jesus. A regular men's breakfast was re-established with



the encouragement to bring a friend. Open Church took on a new significance. It is amazing what a difference the new entrance has made, glass doors to allow people to look in, a picture that draws the eye and welcomes you through the doors. (We are very thankful to our architect, Peter Pritchett, who translated our vision, first discussed more than 15 years ago, into the reality of what we enjoy today.)

Many of these things then came together for *Connect for Life*, a mini mission week, with our regular groups providing a specific invitation and an opportunity to hear about Jesus. It was sadly impacted at different points by Covid but still a number took up the challenge to invite friends along. In the wake of *Connect* we have been able to offer new course, Hope Explored, examining what Jesus offers to a world that sees little hope for the future. In turn our engagement with schools and care homes continued as we moved back from pre-recorded assemblies and services to in person contact. We currently have opportunity to speak in 6 of our local schools, regular contacts that culminated in this year's Easter Experience with children from 4 schools coming to find out 'who killed Jesus?' Developed as a murder mystery it helped children to understand the Easter story. Alongside schools we now engage with 8 care homes with regular services in each, 4 times a year, and with two homes linking into our livestream each Sunday.



This also gives me the opportunity to commend the work of so many people over the last two years. It has been a very challenging time for HPC and for churches across the country. It has been hard work, at times very challenging and at times, as I have noted, quite discouraging, there have been losses. Across the country Covid has perhaps had the biggest negative impact on families and children where patterns of life and Sundays have been broken and not recovered. Equally it has been a time of great gain for many, learning to trust the LORD in the uncertain and unknown, and for others prompted by Covid to investigate Jesus for the first time. However, through it all let me pay tribute to the tireless work of the staff team, the office team, the tech team and so many others. Well done for keeping going, thank you and all thanks to our ever-faithful Lord Jesus!



So, what next? Last year I had 4 'R's' for you. Well, here they are again with the odd tweak here and there.

RETURN to the LORD!

That is always and ever the challenge for us. Our wayward hearts are forever prone to wander. Not surprising then we often hear these words on a Sunday, *'Return to the Lord your God'* and, here's the good news, who is *'gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love'*. Whatever else we do, wherever God leads us in this next phase of our Christian journey and HPC's journey, let it be marked by a continual - returning to the LORD.

RE-CONNECT and WELCOME

There is still a job to be done in returning and reconnecting with one another. We'd love over these coming summer months to see everyone return in person and with joy, returning on Sundays, to Growth Groups, to the Prayer Meeting. Nothing beats being together to love and serve one another. Indeed, that's what we commanded to do, to meet together so we can encourage one another. (Hebrews 10:25) It is amazing what an encouragement we can be to others simply by being there.

However, as we have noted there are lots of people who are relatively new to HPC. Now people say HPC is a very welcoming church, let's make sure that really is the case. It means much more than saying 'hello' on a Sunday to someone we think may be new but introducing ourselves, perhaps finding out about them, if they are new to Hailsham, what's brought them along to HPC, explaining what goes on and of course making sure to get them a coffee! Imagine that new person is a guest in your home for the first time and



how you would want them to feel, at home! Of course, it doesn't stop on Sunday, maybe you can invite them to whatever group you belong to, maybe if you think they may be a little too old for ABC's then introduce them to someone who could invite them to Meeting Point, maybe arrange to meet them at Costa for coffee or even round to yours for Sunday lunch. Remember just because you may have seen someone once or twice it doesn't mean they are yet feeling at home, so keep up the hospitality and pass on a model of welcome so they in turn will be encouraged to welcome the next new person.

REBUILD our life together

Yes, there is some rebuilding to do to get HPC firing again on all cylinders and our weekend away (20th - 22nd May) will be a great chance to do that. To be together, pray together, learn together, sing together and with enough fresh air not to worry about Covid! It will also be an opportunity for newer people to integrate, to become involved, to begin to serve. So, let's step up and renew our life together as we look to Jesus.

REFOCUS on mission

Our mission to Hailsham. The Jubilee celebrations will, as 10 years ago, provide a real chance to speak of Jesus to our town. It isn't hard when the Queen whose service we honour is someone who unashamedly wants first and foremost to honour Jesus. There will be a special civic service of thanksgiving on the Thursday and on Sunday we will be looking at Esther, the queen who risked her life to save her people. Equally this will be the first full summer with the new entrance and there will be a busy programme for Open Church and on to a summer holiday club with a special HPC family party on the Bank Holiday Sunday, 28 August. So, let's be ready to step out and tell of Jesus.



However, come the summer it will no longer be a time to look back on Covid and its impact, save to give thanks to our ever-faithful God who led us through, it will be time to look forward, to be asking what next, what should we do differently, how do we need to grow, how can we know Jesus more and make Jesus known even as our town and our culture continue to change. A time then to return, to reconnect and rebuild and to refocus, looking out, that we might speak of Jesus.

Yes, that may seem a daunting prospect, but two things give me great confidence. The first is this. The battle has been won. The victory is already ours. I wonder if you noticed the words of the marvellous new City Alight song which opened this profile. Its repeated line, *'it was finished upon that cross'*. Those are, of course, the words of Jesus, words of victory from the cross, *'it is finished'*! Victory declared, mission accomplished, the price paid. Yet here is the wonder, the battle we did not fight, the victory we did not win is ours through Jesus' death on the cross. As the song puts it,

*Now the curse it has been broken
Jesus paid the price for me
Full, the pardon He has offered
Great, the welcome that I receive*

*Death was once my great opponent
Fear once had a hold on me
But the Son who died to save us
Rose that we would be free indeed.*

*Death is dead and Christ is risen!
It was finished upon that cross.*

Because of Jesus the battle is won. Our greatest enemies, sin and Satan, death and hell have been overcome by the One who died in our place, on that cross, to give us eternal life, set free forever and on to glory. What follows? Well, my second cause for confidence. In the light of that victory, as the apostle Paul reminded Timothy

'God did not give us a spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control' 2 Timothy 1:7 ESV

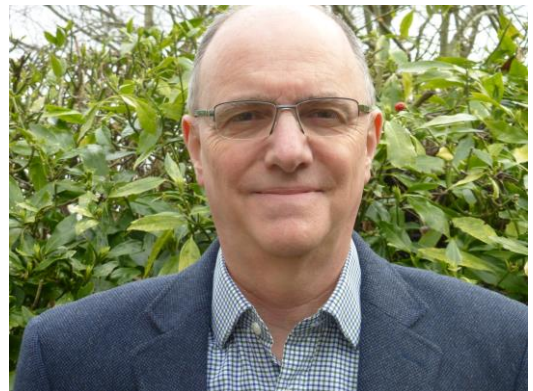
The victory is won, our Lord Jesus has conquered, therefore we need not be afraid. We can go forward in faith thanking Him for all that is past, trusting Him for all that's to come, enabled by his power and love and self-control.

With much joy and thanksgiving to our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ.



David Bourne

31.03.2022



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