

2023

Annual Profile



Hailsham
Parish Church

*Knowing Jesus,
Making Jesus known*

Welcome to Hailsham Parish Church

Annual Profile 2023

Jesus! the name high over all,
In hell, or earth, or sky;
Angels and men before it fall,
And devils fear and fly,
And devils fear and fly.

Jesus! the name to sinners dear,
The name to sinners given;
It scatters all their guilty fear,
It turns their hell to heaven,
It turns their hell to heaven.

Jesus! the prisoner's fetters breaks,
And bruises Satan's head;
Power into strengthless souls it speaks,
And life into the dead.
And life into the dead.

O that the world might taste and see
The riches of His grace!
The arms of love that welcome me
Would all mankind embrace.
Would all mankind embrace.

His righteousness alone I show,
His saving truth proclaim;
This is my work on earth below
To cry: "Behold the Lamb!"
To cry: "Behold the Lamb!"

Happy if with my final breath
I may but gasp His name;
Preach Him to all, and cry in death:
"Behold, behold the Lamb!"
"Behold, behold the Lamb!"

Wesley, Charles Public Domain CCL 932

Electoral Roll

It is always a real joy to welcome new people into the church family and this continued to happen over the past year.

During the year we note with particular sadness and yet resurrection hope the deaths of Roy Bland, Wendy Bysouth, Margaret Cartledge, Sid Hayden, Pat Pettit, Kathy Stuart and Tom Walter

We said farewell to Kim Bourne who moved to Eastbourne following David's retirement as Vicar. Thank you so much for your fellowship in the gospel over many years.

The Electoral Roll stands at 206 (at time of going to print) with 11 having joined the electoral roll since the AGM in 2022.

The Churchwardens' Report

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Colossians 1:15-17

As we look back over the past year at HPC, it is with praise and thanksgiving to our gracious God for his love and provision. We are blessed to have a church building in the centre of our town of Hailsham which is brought to life by the church family working together, getting to know Jesus more and to make Jesus known in this community and beyond.

There are many activities that take place in the church building each week, for all ages, taking much planning, preparation and organisation and we give thanks for the loyal and faithful service of those involved.

It has been eventful year at HPC. We've been able to welcome many to Open Church and for special events such as the Hailsham Bonfire celebration and the Christmas Light Switch On when our hot chocolate was in high demand. We are thankful for these opportunities to share Jesus with all who come to HPC.

Ministry in local schools and care homes is also a wonderful opportunity to reach out with the gospel to young and old alike.



The Vicarage Garden is a beautiful space to be able to gather as a Church family during the summer months, for the customary coffee mornings, weather permitting, and the church marquee used as a meeting place for Sunday School groups. We enjoyed the visit from the Milson family (our mission partners from Spain) sharing in a church picnic in the garden in July.



On a very special weekend in August, it was time to say 'goodbye' to our Vicar David and his wife Kim on their retirement. It was a time of mixed emotions, of praising and thanking God for David & Kim's ministry and the realisation that they were leaving us. We pray they are settling well in Eastbourne and wish them a very long and happy retirement.

Also, at that time Denise retired from the admin team and took on a new role as Minster for Women. We thank her for her years of service in the office and wish her well for the future. We were able to welcome Julie Harden, from our Church Family, to fill the post in the admin team.

2022 was the year of Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee and we joined in the national celebrations in June and a lasting memory of the church lit up in red, white, and blue.

In September we mourned her death, and we gave thanks for such a remarkable lady, who shared her Christian faith on many occasions in her Christmas messages and by her example of living life as a Christian, who knew and loved Jesus.

Christmas is always a busy time and last year was no exception. A full programme took place with school carol concerts, a carol service, Wealden Brass concert, 3 Christingle services and Christmas Cracker, on an afternoon when who could forget the snow that fell so quickly resulting in snowball fights in the churchyard! It was a joy and a privilege to welcome so many into the church building over the Christmas period.

We were excited and thrilled to announce our Associate Vicar Rory Graham as the new Vicar of HPC in February 2023. We pray for God's blessing on Rory as he takes on this different role and for Susie, Jos, Miri, and Keziah. We continue to pray for the other members of our staff team, David Griffin, Lyn, and Chris and thank God for their faithful ministry and teaching.



Our thanks to all who contribute to the life of HPC week by week, music makers so ably led by Chris, welcomers, furniture movers, refreshment servers, flower arrangers and not forgetting the admin team Sara & Julie and premises manager Ken Thomas.

A special thank you to the other members of the Warden team, Margaret Surrey, David Sinden & Roger Booth, members of our PCC and Finance and Buildings Committees.

We would also like to thank all those involved during the interregnum as we went through the process of finding a replacement for David Bourne. Special thanks to Dick Farr from our patrons the Church Society and to Archdeacon Edward Dowler who supported and guided us through the process. Thanks to the PCC who supported us as Parish Representatives and to the entire church family who were united during this period. We were blessed to be able to continue to be lead in God's word by Rory and David Griffin and Chris Taylor and Tony Cannon also stepping in for some evening services. We thank the Lord that he is sovereign and that we have not had to go through a long interregnum.

We look forward with anticipation to the coming months and years as a new chapter begins at the church in Hailsham. We pray that we will be united as the body of Jesus Christ and with the help of the Holy Spirit be ready to welcome all who come through our doors at HPC in his name.

You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine. Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance. Titus 2:1-2

Margery Luffingham and David Gooding (Church Wardens)

P.C.C. Secretary's Report

The job of the PCC is to have oversight of the mission and ministry of HPC. To ensure that we are knowing Jesus and making him known as a church family, and to pray that the Lord would bless our endeavours. The APCM (Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting) and AGM took place in April 2022 and the PCC met in person for 6 'normal business' PCC meetings in May, July, September, November, February and in March 2023.

This past year has seen a significant change in the life of HPC as David Bourne announced, at the AGM in April 2022, his retirement as Vicar after serving so faithfully for the past 17 years. This led to a period of interregnum from 31st August 2022 and a series of additional special meetings with the PCC in preparation for the Application process for the appointment of a new Vicar. A Church Society representative (Church Society is HPC Patron) and a representative from the Diocese attended one of these meetings which was extremely helpful in preparing the PCC for the Application process including preparation of a Church Profile and the unanimous appointment of two HPC representatives, lead wardens David Gooding and Margery Luffingham, who would then be involved directly in the application process with our Patron, Church Society, and the Diocese.



Members of the current PCC with David and Kim Bourne.
Not in photo: Roger Tipping (away)

At the normal business PCC meetings there have been buildings and finance reports, safeguarding as well as wider reporting on a number of matters. There has again been a lot of activity regarding Premises and improvements particularly in connection with painting the interior walls of the main church, flooring and sound in the nave as well as works within the bellringing tower.

Thanks are recorded for the hard work of the Buildings and Finance Committees as well as the Safeguarding team which help to inform the PCC as they meet.

An important and significant area of reporting to the PCC in the past year has been on Church of England issues regarding Living in Love and Faith and now the decision at the recent General Synod meeting in February to welcome the House of Bishops' proposals contained in 'Prayers of Love and Faith' and there was an information morning on 25th February for HPC family. Please do pray for the church leaders and PCC as they prayerfully consider their response as they seek to remain faithful to Christ and biblical teaching and doctrine of the church.

As a PCC we give thanks for the Lord's kindness in the past year, particularly during the uncertain times in the Interregnum. We acknowledge our dependence on Him, and holding fast to biblical truths, we commit all that lies ahead to our sovereign, faithful, unchanging God.

Denise Sinden (PCC Secretary)

Safeguarding

At Hailsham Parish Church, we strive to create an exciting, caring and safe environment in which to teach and demonstrate the love of Jesus to children, young people and adults. With this in mind, we aim to safeguard all those in our church family meeting on a Sunday morning and those we meet throughout the week at ABCs, Salt, Bridge Racing, YouthZone, 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. All clergy, church wardens, PCC members, bell ringing tower captain/trainers and those who lead or help in these groups are required to have current Disclosure & Barring checks (DBS) and participate in regular safeguarding training. We continue to ensure that these are kept up to date, as both DBS checks and training must be renewed every 3 years (at a cost to HPC not the individual).



Whilst we are the safeguarding team, safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If you have any concerns about conversations, behaviour or situations that may affect the safety or wellbeing of any child, young person or adult, please speak to the group leader then to Lyn Gooding.

Please pray that, as we seek to make Jesus known in our church family and in our town, we at HPC would continue to be wise and committed to the safeguarding of those in our care.

Lyn Gooding (Parish Safeguarding Officer) & Julie Harden (Deputy Safeguarding Officer)

Open Church

It is such a privilege and a gospel opportunity with the church building being located in the centre of our town, a town with lots of people who we long for them to hear the good news of Jesus. It's good to be able to open the church building (hence the name Open Church) to offer a warm welcome, chat with visitors and have opportunity to point people to Jesus.



The west end entrance and lobby area with its enhanced visibility as well as the accessible footpath continues to make such a difference which we have seen in the increased number of visitors as well as the really positive comments of how welcoming it is when coming into the church building. A warm welcome is so important.

Open Church has run in a number of ways in the past year and thanks to all the team involved in this:

- Being open to coincide with larger community events in the town such as Bonfire Night (October), Christmas Light Switch on (November) and hosting and having an HPC stand at the 'What can I join in Hailsham? Event in January 2023 which had lots of community groups and visitors.
- Being open on Wednesday lunchtimes during more of the past year to welcome visitors as well as during more lunchtimes in the summer months.
- Additionally, the church building is open in a different way as it hosts external groups, concerts and events such as Hailsham Festival in September. On Remembrance Sunday an invitation goes out to all at the War Memorial to come back into the church building for coffee which is warmly appreciated by the large number of those that regularly do this.



A unique opportunity in 2022 was the Platinum Jubilee Celebration from 2 – 5 June 2022. This was a time of great celebration and coming together for our nation and communities across the country. There was lots going on in Hailsham too and many metres of bunting were decorated inside and outside the church building and the church building was lit up in red, white and blue as the special beacon in the town was lit.

A special civic service of Thanksgiving was held to pay tribute to and celebrate the Queen's historic reign marking 70 years of service to which the Mayor and community representatives were in attendance. The church building was open over the weekend with special refreshments and a Jubilee themed quiz and it was great to welcome so many from the community and to give out a special book about the Queen's faith in Jesus.

From celebration to sorrow as the country mourned the death of the Queen in September. The church building was open immediately in response and all the following week for people to come in and sign a book of condolence, to pray, and express their sadness and so many came in. It was such a privilege to serve our community in this way. There was a special service of Thanksgiving held at HPC for the life of Queen Elizabeth II giving thanks for her faithful service and



for her example of unswerving Christian faith and the church building was open to show the livestream of the State Funeral service from London for the community to come in and watch together.

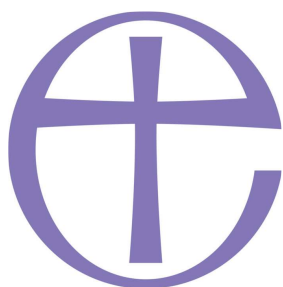
We look back with gratitude to the Lord for His kindness and look forward in anticipation praying for the Lord to be at work in softening hearts to the gospel in our community so that those who come in may respond to what Jesus says: *"Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest" Matthew 11: 28* (written on the glass entrance door) and that they may respond to Jesus's words of invitation and promise of new life in Him

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



Denise Sinden

Deanery Synod Report



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

The Deanery Synod has met twice since the April 2022 church profile. In June we met at St Philips, Burwash Weald when Rob Dillington, Deputy Director for Apostolic Life gave a presentation updating the Deanery on the Diocesan Strategy and Deanery Mission Action Planning. It was emphasised that Deaneries are free to work out their own priorities, and churches choose to utilise them or not. It was noted that there had been much change in congregations as a result of Covid.

November saw us convening at St George's Broad Oak when Martin Autor-Lloyd and Rebecca Hale spoke about the work of the Diocesan Association for Family Support Work. Many parishes have representatives involved, and it was emphasised that there is always a need for more members to work alongside practitioners in various roles. It was noted that referrals are rising, especially in the current climate, and at the time of this meeting 450 families were being helped in various ways, and through different "crisis" situations.

There is usually a parish report at each Synod meeting and this year we have heard about the work at Burwash, Burwash Weald and Etchingham, where a new vicar was settling in; and Horam where they were feeling encouraged by a slow return after Covid. The Synod also received written reports on the General Synod meetings from July 2022 and the Diocesan Synod meeting in November 2022, where a gift was given to Bishop Martin to mark 10 years since his enthronement.

Finance Report

Accounts (1)

Statement of Financial Activities - For the Year ended 31 DECEMBER 2022

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:		
2021		2022
£		£
2,679	Collections	3,674
72,805	'Giving' Direct to Bank	77,134
13,347	Weekly Envelopes	9,903
430	Pledge Sunday' Donations	0
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89,261	Collections & Committed giving:	90,711
21,932	Tax recovered Gift Aid and VAT on Listed Places of Worship	22,815
10,398	Hire of Emmanuel Hall	11,501
49,953	Donations / Gifts	8,372
11,326	Rental Income : Lynton	0
17,841	Interest Income	18,765
5,481	Fees / Grants / Magazine Income	5,542
382	Youth Groups	1,371
1,785	Sundry Income	5,462
0	Insurance claim - Bells	1,226
0	Legacies	13,083
<hr/>		
208,358	Total Unrestricted Income	178,847
63,372	MEMO Restricted Grants, Donations & Gifts (see page 3)	68,827
<hr/>		
271,730		247,674
<hr/>		

Accounts (2)

Unrestricted Expenditure:		
2021		2022
£		£
108,000	Parish Contribution	115,579
61,584	Staff costs and Clergy Expenses	61,783
23,120	Staff Housing	22,410
46,459	Curate Cost and Clergy Expenses	49,856
1,445	Service costs / Flowers	2,721
7,502	Lighting / Heating / Water rates	11,303
3,363	Insurance	3,434
1,393	Training fees and study materials	625
1,630	Church Music and Organist Honorarium	2,143
25,075	Repairs - including roof repairs	46,687
77,684	Further Works in year on West End	0
2,866	Caretaking and Cleaning	3,345
1,312	Youth work and Music	1,603
6,574	Print/Post, Photocopier, Stationery, Hire of Equipment/premises	7,711
0	Advertising	2,341
1,574	Telephone / Internet and Fax	1,004
2,359	Churchyard upkeep	2,676
3,848	Lynton Management Fees & Repairs/Refurbishment	456
13,479	Mission giving / restricted funds (see page 5)	12,247
9,070	Legal and Professional fees including Lynton Project fees	13,634
2,460	Accountancy Independent Governance costs	2,220
7,119	Investment Management Costs	6,236
528	Church and Group Events	5,539
3,792	Sundries - Including Church and Group Events	3,779
21,469	Depreciation Assets : kitchen/sound system/chairs	22,282
274	Loan Interest and Bank Charges	288
<hr/> 433,977		<hr/> 401,901
208,358	Income (see Accounts page 1)	178,847
<hr/> (225,619)	General / Unrestricted Fund: (Deficit 2021) : (Deficit 2022):	<hr/> (223,054)
	MEMO	
	Extraordinary Items: Income (Expenses)	
(142,500)	Gain / (Loss) on Revaluation Investment Property	0
27,834	Investment Revaluation / Amortisation : (Decrease 2022) : Increase 2021	(40,639)
7,512	(Losses) / Gains On Sales of Investments (Loss 2022) : Gain 2021	(4,294)
<hr/> (107,154)		<hr/> (44,933)
	Restricted Outgoings	
62,903	Restricted funds expenditure (see page 3)	67,955
	Incl restricted Mission giving	
<hr/> 62,903		<hr/> 67,955

Accounts (3)

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

2021 £	Restricted Income:	2022 £
0	Foodbank Donations	0
20	Other donations re Asha & Sangster	0
0	Caring and Sharing	29
0	Discretionary Donations	10
16,785	Children and Family Worker Fund	17,404
267	Women to Women	383
0	Men at HPC	500
0	Youth Zone	0
0	Older people support donations	1,000
46,000	Curate Support Fund	49,401
300	Friends of St. Mary's Donations	100
<hr/>		
63,372	Total Restricted Receipts/ Transfers:	68,827
	Restricted / Other Expenditure:	
	Spending in Year:	
0	- Discretionary fund outgoings	74
20	- restricted outward giving	0
16,978	- Children and Family Worker outgoings	17,404
403	- Women to Women payments	549
125	- Men at HPC	222
0	- Youth Zone payments	132
0	- Foodbank	0
45,377	- Curate Support fund	49,574
0	- trf Contribution to Training and studies	0
<hr/>		<hr/>
62,903		67,955
0	- Funds / transfers closures	0
<hr/>		<hr/>
62,903		67,955
<hr/>		
469	Movement in Restricted funds: Surplus 2022 and Surplus 2021	872

And

N.B. - The bungalow known as Lynton, which was owned by Hailsham PCC at the beginning of the year and the adjoining land surrounding the property, was sold during the year ended 31 December 2022..
There was no rental income during this final period as the property was empty from December 2021.

The majority of the proceeds on the sale after deducting costs has been invested in the CCLA Deposit account and Klienwort Investment, both are reflected in the balance sheet on page 4 to these accounts. The remaining proceeds had been left in the HPC current account and is being used to cover the continuing shortfall, the deficit in the Expenditure over income as shown on page 2.

Extraordinary Items are made up of: Net (Losses for 2022 of £44,933 / losses 2021 (£107,154): These losses arise from sales and purchases of investment assets and loss on sale on the revaluation of Lynton property during the year to 31 December 2022.

I am sure you will appreciate this last year we have all been adversely effected by extreme external factors, the war in Ukraine, fuel prices and inflation. All putting pressures on the economy. These have also effected businesses which HPC deals with for the day to day running of the Church and has greatly affected the fluctuations within the Investment Fund.

Accounts (4)

Following the Unrestricted & Restricted Income & Expenses, detailed overleaf we show below our Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022:

(extracted from Balance Sheet in Accounts)

Balance as at 31.12.21 £				Balance as at 31.12.22 £
	Fixed Assets			
28,019	Tangible assets-Kitchen & Toilet/Organ/Office Screen/Chairs/West End work			8,389
520,000	Investment Property			0
538,138	Investments			553,076
<u>1,086,157</u>				<u>561,465</u>
	Current Assets:			
88,369	Cash at Bank		393,691	
14,635	Debtors		<u>14,126</u>	
<u>103,004</u>			<u>407,817</u>	
	Less : Current Liabilities			
	Creditors (due within 1 year)			
31,995	Trade creditors and accruals	11,276		
<u>-</u>	Loan due within one year	<u>-</u>		
31,995			<u>11,276</u>	
71,009				396,541
<u>1,157,166</u>				<u>958,006</u>
	Less:			
0	Loan (repayable within 10 yrs)			0
<u>1,157,166</u>				<u>958,006</u>
	Restricted Funds:			
345	Discretionary Fund			310
-	Children & Family Worker Fund			-
238	Women to Women fund			72
2,729	Friends of St. Mary's			229
239	Youth Zone			107
-	Supporting Older People			1,000
623	Employment of Curate			451
33	Men at HPC			310
1,114,011	Designated funds			597,964
38,948	Unrestricted Fund:			357,563
<u>1,157,166</u>	Net Assets:			<u>958,006</u>

Accounts (5)

Mission & Outward Gifts – Year 2022:

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

2021 £		2022 £
2,100	BCMS-Crosslinks - Howles plus General donation £100	2,200
2,000	Crosslinks - Milsons	2,350
1,899	Sangster & Asha	(93)
600	Tear Fund - Philippines appeal	760
1,400	Sussex Gospel Partnership	1,500
150	Faith in Kids	150
1,925	Food Bank	2,000
400	Bible By The Beach	500
750	Chichester Diocese - Family Social Work	750
600	Childrens Society	600
600	Release International	600
655	Church Society	600
400	Other Donations	85
0	Cold Harbour Meadow Donation	200
13,479		12,202
	Add:	
0	Restricted Gifts for Food bank	0
20	Restricted Gifts for Asha & Sangster	
0	Discretionary Fund	45
£13,499	TOTAL:	12,247

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 continued to be a challenge. The accounts for the year to 31 December 2022 is beginning to highlight some of the price increases, and the effect on the running of HPC. Main example here being with Lighting and heating. Which includes the price increases during the final quarter of the year. These are rolling forward into our accounts for 2023.

Financially collections have been reasonably stable compared to prior year. We are however, not yet back up to pre Covid levels. When we consider inflationary affect collections have fallen.

We give thanks to our Clergy ,IT staff, volunteers, our musicians & office workers who have and continue to sacrifice much of their time both behind the scenes and actively in front to provide and support our church services, growth and youth groups, holiday clubs and much more to keep us uplifted & connected. Ours thanks and praise to God for providing the skills and equipment required.

As highlighted last year The West End project within the Church building and the exterior works on the paths are now complete. This has proven to have been a true blessing and vision resulting in the bright and welcoming entrance we all now experience and for visitors to Hailsham and locals. Continuing, I understand to encourage people to pop in when passing.

We give thanks to Ken for his continued hardwork with the maintenance of the Church buildings and management of all repair works both for HPC and Emmanuel buildings. This support and advice continues to save substantial funds.

Sundry Income includes contributions towards Church events during the year. Our main event this year of course being the farewell and thank you to David and Kim on retirement. I am sure all who were able to attend would agree the Hog Roast afternoon was a pleasure and a fitting send off.

HPC accounts are now prepared formally by Caladine, Chartered Certified Accountants from Eastbourne. From which the above extracts have been prepared.

I give my thanks & appreciation to the Finance Team for help in the gathering of the information necessary to prepare management accounts, their guidance and assistance in decisions for the processing of the day to day figures. In particular to Roger for all the work, pressure and stress he has absorbed in bringing Lynton to its final and full crystallisation. Here too I thank Margaret, who I know has also made many sacrifices during this time. Thank you.

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

General Overview

The main issues to this years finances has been :-

- A} No new major works have been started this year. Though there are some smaller tasks that are continuing after the completion of the West End project for example electrical, cupboards, floor repairs and decorating. These items are disclosed within Repair costs on Page 2 in the Accounts.

As previously reported on page 3 to the Accounts, the Investment has been increased by the proceeds from the sale of Lynton stage two. Any income currently gained is being reinvested to generate income to help to maintain future staffing of HPC.

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 continuing with the previously agreed plan to maintain the Capital element as tangible fixed asset and is shown in the accounts. Some proceeds from the sale of Lynton Stage two has been held back from Investment to cover day to day running costs of HPC.

B} Cash Flow: As last year 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 and 2) which had deficits both last year of £225,619 and current year a deficit of £223,054.

Our regular and planned giving has increased by around £1,400 pa in 2022 which is approximately £116 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 and the Bungalow from Lynton legacy.

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

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

Unrestricted Income: (Page - Accounts 1)

As reported above regular collections & 'Committed giving' Income has increased but is still below budget target of £92,000 per annum. (7,670 per month) by around £1300 per annum ie £108 per month.

This 'giving' has been boosted by £22,815 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 £178,847 in the year.

Restricted income surplus received in the year totalled £872.

Unrestricted Expenses: (Page – Accounts 2)

The combined Parish Contribution (pays for cost of clergy, housing etc.) was £115,579 in 2022.

Our Total Expenses were £401,901, leaving a deficit of £223,054 for the year on the unrestricted figures.

This deficit includes costs repair costs of £46,687. The higher valued repairs in the year includes roof & velux repairs around £16K at HPC and £6K at Emmanuel. Other repair cost were for the New cupboards for south porch £3K Heating repairs £2K and the start of Quinquennial repairs £1,250.

Restricted fund income amounted to £68,827 so after deducting costs of £67,955 the surplus is £872.

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 £872 mentioned above (surplus 2021 £469).

Balance Sheet: (Page – Accounts 4)

On this page you will see a list of our Assets & Liabilities as at 31 December 2022.

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



All churches rely upon the support of generous Christians. Our giving is vitally important and helps sustain mission in this country, and overseas. Beyond our regular lifetime giving a gift in your will can be a final and powerful expression of your gratitude and thanksgiving towards God and can help transform your church's future.

The policy of the PCC is to use gifts in wills to help fund significant development projects in the parish whether it be buildings, equipment, or staff. Since needs change over the years, we do encourage people to leave a gift in their wills for the general purposes of the parish rather than a restricted purpose. Many people give regularly to the mission and ministry of the parish. But 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 invigorate the life of Hailsham Parish Church and help to transform its future.

Legacies come in many forms and sizes and as I write this, we have just been informed of a legacy to come from Margaret Cartledge's estate. In the last financial year, we received a very generous legacy from Les Winchester. Two examples of longstanding members of Hailsham Parish Church whose wish, after their passing is that the Gospel continues to be faithfully preached in Hailsham.

I always like to see statistics on various subjects so here are some I have come across on Legacies. From the results of the Anglican giving survey 2021, Anglicans are three times as likely to leave a gift to a Charity other than their church. It is reported that many Charities receive 50% to 60% of their income from Legacies. Although there does not appear to be recent figures for the Church of England it did quite recently show as low as 5%. So, it's no wonder that the central church is about to embark on a campaign. Bequests over the last 10 years have almost halved against a backdrop of increased deaths. One of the reasons for this low figure is thought to be that other charities are much better at promoting legacies and Christian Aid found that people were 18 times more likely to leave a gift in their will just by being asked. Legacies, both large and small are vital to financially assist Hailsham Parish Church in the ongoing work of spreading the Gospel of Jesus.

Just a reminder of some of the projects completed over the years due largely to members of the congregation thinking about the future and the ongoing work for God's Glory and continuing to make Jesus known in Hailsham after their death.

The Lounge with the original kitchen and toilets, the reordering of Emmanuel church, the work on the Chancel area. Then there was the updating of the kitchen and toilets and moving the office into the South Isle. The roof has been extensively repaired, the new organ and the pews replaced with chairs to give the flexibility to use the church building for more events. Finally opening the West End to use as the main

entrance to the church and making HPC even more welcoming to the community. However, of even greater importance it has enabled us to maintain staffing at the present levels now and, hopefully, for the future. We thank God for these forward thinking members of the Hailsham Parish Church congregation.

Apparently, research shows that people who make a will, will live longer than those who die intestate and further, that people who leave a gift to charity could live an extra two years. Not sure how true it is but must be worth thinking about. Perhaps the act of giving provides a liberating and rewarding experience that makes such individuals happier and healthier. As Jesus said, *“Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”* (Luke 6.38)

Roger Booth

Evangelistic courses



*So is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.
Isaiah 55:11*

People come to know Jesus through God's word. But there are many ways people encounter God's word. Recently in this country, *evangelistic courses* have been especially used by God. Hundreds of people have done these courses over the years at HPC, and worldwide millions have come to faith through them.

These courses make no assumptions, other than a desire to know more of Jesus. There is a warm atmosphere for discussion as well as a chance for people to listen.

Last year, we mentioned we would run the three week Hope Explored course, we have now run two of those courses with a third planned for April.

We had great discussions, with laughter, and were challenged on the big questions of life. A highlight for me was eating together beforehand.

Please pray for your friends and invite them along. Our courses are aimed for those investigating Jesus, or simply if we want to brush up on the basics. We would love you to join us.

David Griffin

Music

The **aim** of the music team at HPC is twofold:

- we seek, 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, such as teaching and reflecting on Biblical truth, encouraging one another in the faith and praying to and praising God; and
- we seek 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 Rory Graham and me, often with input from others, including staff and musicians. Over the past year, ten new songs have been introduced, including five children's songs.

Our **team** – including audio and visual technicians and 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** and seventeen as **instrumentalists**. Steve Somerville and I lead rehearsals; Roger Tipping, our organist, plays for Sunday evening services as well as playing as part of the morning service rota; and Colin Dadswell co-ordinates the audio-visual team (see the AV Team report for more information). From time to time, an informal group is brought together to lead music on Sunday evenings. A small **music administration** team is just being formed to support with administrative tasks ranging from filing sheet music to developing a spreadsheet resource to aid the process of choosing songs for services.

As well as serving the regular Sunday congregations, musicians lead singing at **special services** at church and in the community (for example, at the care homes in the parish), and at **events** such as the church weekend away and the Easter and summer holiday clubs.



Special music in 2022 included a musical item on **Easter Sunday** morning, *Welcome, happy morning*, presented using two contrasting arrangements of the traditional French melody *Noel Nouvelet*. Later, at the end of August, twenty musicians came together for the **Service of Celebration** marking David and Kim Bourne's retirement – quite a musical feast to precede the edible one enjoyed by so many in the vicarage garden! It was a delight, at the start of October, to welcome *Sussex Harmony* back to HPC as they led

around ten of our own musicians along with guests from elsewhere in a west gallery music workshop, which culminated in an evening **harvest thanksgiving** service with liturgy from the Book of Common Prayer. At **Christmas**, our Carols by Candlelight service involved a choir of seventeen plus seven instrumentalists – a wonderful array of sonorities from organ to trumpet to cajon to chime bars complemented the voices of the choir and congregation.

Many of our home-grown song **recordings** made during the period of Covid-related restrictions have, over the past months, been uploaded to the HPC Songs playlist on our church's YouTube channel. These include twenty-five Advent and Christmas recordings made in 2020 shared as a musical Advent calendar two years on. We hope our lockdown recordings may be a source of repeated encouragement to you.

Four **whole-team events** have taken place during the past year. In June, for the first time since 2019, we held a **prayer, review and planning meeting**. This helped shape plans for our **group Bible study** in November, our **meal out** at Callenders in January and our **songs workshop** in March. Looking ahead, a special training opportunity for our sound technicians, supported by some of our musicians, is planned for May.



Youth Band, supported by Michelle Lashley and John Kimble, continues to meet on Tuesday evenings during term time, usually fortnightly. We have tended to welcome six young people (aged 11+) to sessions that start with a brief time of Bible study and prayer and move on with practising one or more songs. Recently, we enjoyed harmonising and arranging a paraphrase setting of Zechariah's Song (Luke 1) written by one of our members, Samuel Canning. Listen out – you may hear it sometime!



Thanks are due to Susie Graham for all her help over several years with **Junior Band**, which provides a chance for children aged 7-11 to make music together on occasional Saturday afternoons. Gill Heasman is kindly joining with me and John Kimble, meaning that this opportunity can continue to be offered.

Margaret Booth, Alex Dixon and Steve Somerville support the weekly after-school **Music Club** at **Phoenix Academy**. Pupils enjoyed Brazilian samba in the summer, Indonesian Gamelan in the autumn and creative composing in the spring! 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.

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

Please pray for the music team, especially that we would have an increased desire to make music to the glory of God.

'Not to us, O LORD, not to us but to your name be the glory...' (Psalm 115:1)

Chris Taylor

Work in Schools

Here at HPC we love Jesus and seek to make him known. That's not just on a Sunday morning in the building but during the week and out in our local community. We see it as a great privilege to be invited and welcomed into our local schools to regularly lead assemblies, the Christian Union, an after-school music club and an occasional R.E lesson. Our aim is always to be engaging and clear as we teach the children what the Bible says and what Christians believe. Assemblies often involve costumes and props such as inflatable trees/boats or water!



HPC currently has good links with Burfield, Grovelands, Hawkes Farm, Phoenix and Whitehouse Primary schools and Hailsham Community College. It has been great to strengthen these relationships by inviting the 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.

Last Easter, we were joined by 4 schools for our 'Easter Experience – a murder/mystery style investigation to find out who killed Jesus Christ and in December, three classes from Grovelands joined us for our 'Meet the Characters of Christmas' – an interactive retelling of the Christmas story. Phoenix and Whitehouse Academies also came to HPC for their carol services.

We are fully booked for this year's 'Easter Experience' with 6 classes from 4 schools booked in. These opportunities are often the first time that many children (and adults!) have come into this church building, or indeed any church. It's such a joy to open the Bible in a way that allows them to engage, ask questions and grow in their understanding of who Jesus is and why he came.

Please pray -

- that God would graciously keep these school doors open to us.
- that children and adults would come to know and trust Jesus.

Lyn Gooding

Men @ HPC

During 2022 and the start of 2023 we have continued with the bi-monthly “Man-Up” breakfasts at B12 on the High Street in Hailsham. We have been blessed with a varied number of speakers. In January Jonathan Longstaff who worked in finance and investment management in the city of London told his story of working in one of the top banks in the city and how his passion is seeing the way the word of God changes lives all over the world. In March Nate Morgan Locke from Speak Life came and talked of how he uses video in evangelism and about the difference being a Christian makes in our lives. In May we heard from Bernard Firkins, who had been a PGA professional golfer for the past 60 years and spoke of the impact meeting Jesus had on his life and career.



We have a break in the summer and made the most of the light evenings to have a walk at Abbotts Wood followed by a drink at a local pub. In September we met with Jeremy Marshall who gave a powerful testimony about life after the “Big C” and how following Jesus gave so much strength during his ongoing battle with cancer. In November Colin Cross told us about his powerful encounter with Jesus and how it shaped his life and in January Brigadier Ian Dobie, OBE a former Royal Engineer and army instructor spoke about his life in army service and the difference Jesus has made.

We thank all the speakers for being so honest and sharing their testimonies, they have all lead very interesting lives but have one thing in common – the love of Jesus. They have all made an impact in different ways and pray that the men at HPC and their guests will continue to grow in their love for Jesus. We also thank B12 for the wonderful food and venue.

We welcome all men and encourage you to invite friends along.

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

Women2Women

Building Christian women up and encouraging Christian women to share their faith in Jesus



It was so good to be able to meet together without any restrictions on numbers for our two main women's evangelistic events over the past year. The Pimms and Pudding evening in the Vicarage Garden in the summer is always popular and a great way of inviting our not yet Christian friends along to a relaxed evening over a glass of Pimms and enjoying many different delicious puddings

together. It was great to be able to hear an interview with Lyn Gooding and Laura Dean and hear a little bit of Laura's journey of coming back to the Lord and how she knows joy in Jesus and she shared her favourite bible verse John 3: 16 'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life'.

As a group of ladies we were able to express our gratitude for Kim Bourne and her ministry over the years especially amongst Women2Women and present her with a bouquet of flowers and say our fond farewells.



And so from Summer to Christmas! Christmas gave us another opportunity to invite friends to hear the good news of Jesus. It was great to be able to have a Christmas Gingerbread House (building!) evening again. It is such a popular evening and there were 60 eager ladies, many of whom were guests all enjoying together the journey of constructing and decorating gingerbread houses and a glass of mulled wine and nibbles.



Our speaker, Nicole Ashton from Crowborough, shared something of her life and knowing joy in Jesus from Luke 2: 8 – 12 and verse 10 and 11 in particular which says '*But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."*

In June some ladies from HPC were able to go to the Southern Women's Convention in Crowborough and enjoy a day of bible teaching by Lizzy Smallwood in the bible book of James and fellowship together with ladies from many other churches in the South East.

A programme of Women's Breakfasts resumed in February 2023 after a 3 year break.... what a lot has happened since February 2020! There have been so many changes globally, nationally, within Hailsham, HPC, as well in our own lives too. We were reminded that we have an **unchanging** God – who is the same, yesterday, today and forever – our faithful, unchanging, promise keeping God.

Over 45 ladies gathered in the main church building to enjoy a light (ish!) continental breakfast together. It was a joy to welcome newer ladies too and was a great opportunity to all get to know one another as we

moved around the buffet table. During the morning Mary Dalton shared her story and testimony of the transforming work of Jesus in her life and the promises of knowing Jesus as Lord and Saviour and we looked at some bible verses together round the tables. 2 Corinthians 5 verse 17 *‘Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!’*



In March we are looking forward to enjoying a cooked (or continental) breakfast at the lovely and relaxed B12 venue in the High Street. This will be a first for us ladies! It is designed for us to be able to invite our non Christian friends and we are looking forward to hearing from Lyn Gooding, our Children and Families Worker as she points us, in an engaging and slightly different way (!), to Jesus.

Grateful thanks to all those involved in making these events happen and serving one another in this way and for enjoying encouraging times of meeting together as a group of ladies at HPC. Most of all we are thankful to God for the opportunity to introduce those we know to our Lord and Saviour. Please be praying for softened hearts and ongoing fruit from these opportunities.

Denise Sinden

Pastoral Care Team

*Jesus said “A new command I give you: Love one another.
As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”*

We have much to praise and thank God for, but it has been a challenging year for many at HPC because of illness, advancing years, bereavement, loneliness and financial pressures.

Being part of a loving and caring church family can help so much through these times of difficulty when life is a struggle.

The love and support of Christian friends through prayers and actions are such a blessing.

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

A team of around thirty people leads services in nine local care homes and other similar settings around harvest, Christmas, Easter and during the summer. At the time of writing, Easter-themed services are soon due to take place at Marshview, Quinnell House, Bowes House, Woodside Hall, Esham House, Caroline House, Filsham Lodge and Bentley Grange. Also, in November, several of us led the Sunday afternoon service in the chapel at the Eastbourne District General Hospital, broadcast on the hospital radio for the benefit of those unable to attend in person. A core team of four plan the services and do much of the leading and speaking.

As this ministry has been re-established and indeed grown since the pandemic, thanks are due to everyone who's been involved, whether in up-front ways or in the important ways of giving a boost to the hymn-singing and smiling at and speaking with residents.

Please pray for the residents, residents' guests, and staff members with whom we have contact – that Christians would be encouraged as they hear and sing of Jesus, and that others, on hearing the gospel message, may respond in trust for the first time, even in the final stages of their lives.

Chris Taylor

Audio-Visuals Team

The AV team provides sound reinforcement during services, visuals for the screens and livestreaming to the Church's website. Recordings of the services are then made available online.

We have a great servant-hearted team of volunteers working behind the scenes to keep software up-to-date and prepare the words and songs for the screen, and two each Sunday operating the sound desk and visuals/stream.

We regularly face technical and practical challenges which can sometimes be resolved using the time-honoured method of 'turning it off and back on again' but other issues take some more technical expertise and time. Thanks goes to all those involved, with special thanks to Ken who has spent many hours working to upgrade, improve and fix issues with the system. Further improvements and upgrades are planned for 2023

The team requests your understanding when things don't go as planned, and your prayers for a smooth transition to new equipment during 2023.

Colin Dadswell



Reports from our Sunday & Midweek Groups

ABC Playgroup

ABCs is our midweek group for **A**dults, **B**abies and **C**hildren which meets during term time. Each Thursday the main church and lounge are full of parents, grandparents, little ones, noise and toys! It continues to be a very popular group and we currently have a core of around 50 families who come regularly and a very long waiting list of people wanting to join the group.

We need to limit numbers due to safety and our aim is to build relationships with local families. We want to be able to welcome, meet and get to know the mums, dads and grandparents who come and that's impossible to do if the building is too full!

I am very thankful for the servant hearted team of ladies (and for the team of gents who help us set up!). We pray together before each session, asking God to give us the opportunity and boldness to share Jesus with them. It's amazing the conversations you might have as you chat over a cuppa with weary parents who are worried about their child/family/job or the cost of living crisis. The team are great, too at inviting families to services or other activities and God has been very kind.

It has been such an encouragement to welcome some of the ladies to the Pimm's & Pudding and Gingerbread evenings and families to holiday clubs, Christmas Cracker and Christingle services and what a joy to do Christianity Explored with one young mum!

At ABCs we also want to teach the little ones about Jesus, and this happens in the craft and story time each week. This term our theme is Jesus is my friend. We also use our parties at Christmas, Easter and summer as a further opportunity to give Christian books or Bibles to the children to take home to share with their families.



Please 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.
- For wisdom as we juggle an ever-increasing waiting list.

Lyn Gooding & the ABCs Team

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 and prayer. In recent months, we've tended to have between one and five children in the group.

At the moment our team is made up of seven 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.

The Little Diggers Team

Seekers & Discoverers

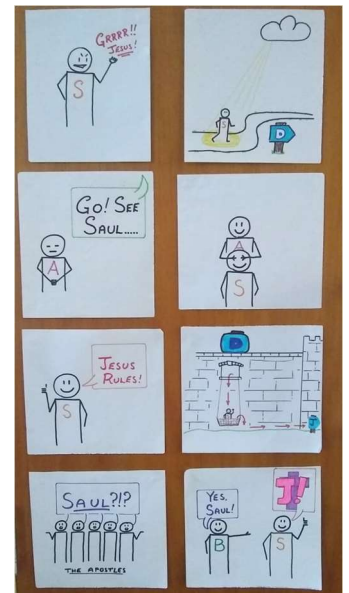
The team of leaders include: Sara, Tim, Susie, Charlotte, Julie, Margaret B, Margaret C, Elaine, & joining us in January, Dawn (as Susie left us for the uncharted waters of Quest!)

We have been trying to find our feet after the roller-coaster ride of Covid 19 and we are in the situation where two classes had become one and are engaging with both KS1 & KS2 children together (Which can be fun!).

I am very pleased to report that our weekly constant numbers are on the up and in answer to (much) prayer, we are into double figures in some of the classes this year (Yay!)

We have been guiding and encouraging our children, looking at; Jesus' miracles through the eyes of John; Queen Esther saving the Israelite Nation, Gods plan - the right person, being in the right place at the right time; Gods Mission and His Promise to All Nations; The Judges! An lcky and surprising look at the Not Hero, Heroes! Then.... A Count-down to Christmas (of course!).

The New Year gave us Ruth and God finding a way and we're closing out the year with a new program from 'Faith in Kids tackling some of the BIG Questions facing our young people in the current climate, Who Am I? What does God say we should; Think, Feel, Do and Say in this day and age? All anchored in Holy Scripture.



Thank you for your prayers & support through the last 12 months, and with faith.... Bring on the next 12!



*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 Team

Quest

Quest is the children's church teaching group for school years 7-9. We aim to guide the children to look at the bible in a deeper way and use a variety of teaching methods, including videos, dramatized readings and through questions and discussions.



Since Christmas we have been delighted to welcome Susie Graham and Kim Stoney-Gardiner to the leader and helper team respectively; and Julie Harden has stepped up to take the place of Helen Robson who is taking a break after several years of helping with the children's groups. Our heartfelt thanks go to Helen, and indeed, to all our helpers.

Over the past year the teaching has bounced between Old and New Testament, from John to Esther, then Ephesians to Psalms and before Christmas looking Beyond the Manger to Jesus as our God, peacemaker, example, and priest.

This term, after two sessions of looking at the beautiful redemptive story of Ruth we embarked on a new series called "Who am I?"; something slightly different and more personally challenging for the group as we explored what the bible has to say about our identity.



The current culture has a lot to say about who we are and what we can be, but the bible says, first and foremost, that we are created by God, in His image; God has made us as he wants us to be. We belong to Him; He loves us and wants us to be in relationship with Him. This affects how we relate to others, how we feel about ourselves, and how we can turn to Jesus when we are hurting.

Our hope is that these studies will give the children a sense of identity rooted in the knowledge that they are created and loved by God and to have a secure sense of value from that, despite what they see and hear around them.

Please join with us and pray for our young people as they face opposition for their beliefs; they are walking against the tide of our modern culture more so than we might be as adults. Pray that Jesus would protect and keep them strong and secure in his love.

Leaders: Colin, Susie and Sylvia Helpers: Ruth, Kim and Julie

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.

Within the past year, we've enjoyed a variety of activities, including model painting, a scavenger hunt, outdoor games at Longleys Farm, a boat trip, a beach barbecue, indoor games at Emmanuel, bell ringing, ten-pin bowling at Freedom Leisure and a muddy night walk from Magham Down to Hailsham!

Most sessions include a short and informal Bible discussion/activity/talk, often around the same time as drinks and snacks. There are 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 twenty youngsters have come along to Youth Zone over the past year, with an average of ten attending each session.



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

Chris Taylor

SALT – 14+ Youth Group

SALT is our age 14-18 youth group at HPC. We meet weekly to chat, play games, pray, and get to know Jesus better through the Bible.



This year we have been looking at a "Bible Overview". We see that God promises the world we all want, a wonderful new creation, but we have spoiled God's world through our rebellion against God. We've been seeing how the Old Testament looks forward to the coming of Jesus to make the world right by dying for us and rising. Please pray that we would be amazed by God's plans and live in light of them.



Recently, we've got our teeth into some touch topics like doubt, feminism, and why church matters. We've done assault courses, and mini golf with the Christ Church youth group. A big highlight has been the recent youth weekend away in February, where we went to West Watch and looked at: Who is the Holy Spirit?

A big joy has been serving in a likeminded team, it is a privilege to be *"striving together as one for the faith of the gospel"* (Phil 1:27).

David and Esther Griffin, Andrew and Anthea Risbridger.

Bridge Racing

For a number of years now Bridge Racing has been providing great fun and competition to young people and their parents and guardians every second Saturday of the month at what used to be the Emmanuel Church building in the Amberstone end of Hailsham. We have a great team of helpers to make it a successful time for families who attend, Tony Roberts, Tim Robson, Phil Luffingham, Roger Booth, Robin Smith, Owain Roberts, Isaac Smith and yours truly John Kimble and others who help from time-to-time, we all have our roles to play, Tony sets the race track different every time! We recently spent a Saturday servicing the cars and track, cleaning, lubricating and looking after the equipment we use, to help it all to keep going!

We all help with setting up before everyone arrives, ensuring it all works okay, the track is linked to a computer for timing and laps to show who wins, very technical, also run by tony. The rest of us are track marshals, for when cars fly off the track to ensure a great race. Tim keeps everyone fed and watered with tea coffee, squash and various delicious biscuits, very welcome after so much energy being burnt racing!



We really need some new children and their parents, and guardians to come along to join in, as we feel this is an initial contact for outreach within HPC, and where we can invite those who do not go to church to come along to special events. It is really good to get to know them month after month, and they feel like part of the Bridge Racing family. It can get very competitive, especially among the oldies (the adults), and I have a favourite car I like to use too!

It is a good two-and-a-half hours well spent, and the children really enjoy mixing with each other, as they race and form teams. The adults too, have a great time playing along side their children, it really brings the youngsters out of themselves, to have a really good evening.

At the close, everyone chips in, to clear away the track and furniture, to ensure a clean building for the next users! Bridge Racing – do you know any good racers who could benefit from what HPC enables the team to put on once a month? All in all, we feel that this is a good outreach tool for The Lord, over the long term. We would value your prayers for this ministry, so that it can be more effective, as time goes on. Thank you.

John Kimble

Oasis

We are a group of ladies who meet weekly, on Tuesday mornings in term time. We love to study the Bible together, knowing that this is how we can best know what God is like and how to live well in His world. We also value being able to share our joys and needs by praying with and for one another, and have been greatly helped in this by setting up a group WhatsApp.

We are faithfully served by our lovely crèche ladies, Gill and Brenda, who look after the babies and pre-schoolers, enabling mums to join us with fewer distractions!

We often study whole books of the Bible, and this year we have looked at the book of Hebrews and are now going through the latter part of Luke's gospel. We have been challenged to think about how we can grow as Christians by doing the Real Change course, and how we can share the Bible with non-Christian family and friends using the Word One to One books.

We have also really enjoyed hearing some testimonies of group members and recently loved having Meg Northcote come and share some of her stories of serving God overseas.

Last year we said that we would love to see the group grow further, for there to be more ladies of all ages and stages; God has kindly answered that prayer by bringing new members to the group.



We continue to pray for Oasis 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.

"being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philipians 1:6

Susie Graham

Growth Groups

Growth Groups are such an important part of our life together here at HPC. Just over half of the members of our church meet together, to strengthen and encourage one another from God's word. Groups consist of ten or so people, who get together at a time which works for them, to help each other know Jesus more deeply. One of the joys of a small group like this, is the chance to get to know others in our church family a little better. It is a joy to be able to pray for each other and to celebrate together as the Lord answers those prayers.



We have been looking together at Genesis 1-11 and seeing just how important it is to our understanding of the whole bible and just how relevant it is to our lives now. It has answered some of the big questions which confront us; Why are we here? Why does it hurt so much? What is God like? Who am I?

After Easter we will be taking a whistle stop tour of the whole bible, a bird's eye view of the good news. If you'd like to grow in your faith then come along.

Meeting Point

The past year has been an encouraging one for Meeting Point. The changes introduced after the long Covid break have continued to be very well received by members. A number of new folk have joined us with good numbers attending the meetings. Meeting in church gives a much better space and facilities and there is no doubt that the opportunity for folk to chat over a cuppa during the break is a popular feature.

The programme followed its usual pattern with an interesting mixture of speakers. A visit from a representative of the Air Ambulance in November inspired us to choose them as the charity to support this year.

In August we revived the Holiday@Home that has been organised in previous years. It was a two day event entitled 'A Royal Celebration Party' in honour of the Jubilee.

We thank God for the opportunities we have to share fellowship together and to welcome a number of folk who are not regular members of HPC.

Pam Brooks and Margaret Surrey



Creative Craft Group



Coming up with new crafting ideas is indeed challenging but with God's help we manage to fill each term week.

We had several "away days" last year. One day in particular was pottery painting at Holmes Hill which proved very entertaining and enjoyable! In November we held a coffee/sale-of-work morning which was very successful as we were able to showcase our many talents. This will be repeated this year – again in November. In December the group also enjoyed a lovely Christmas lunch at The Link.

Currently there are 10 people who regularly come and enjoy doing whatever the crafting topic is.

It is wonderful to see the friendships and camaraderie amongst everyone and how God works in all of us. Why not come and try *your* hand at a new hobby – you might be surprised at what you can do.

We are also delighted to be included in the Women2Women programme of events.



Bellringing

Bell ringing continues regularly. Numbers have increased a little and we now have a core of regular ringers for Sunday morning service ringing. Sunday evening quarter peals have continued for virtually every evening service with the help of other local ringers who are pleased to come and ring with us. Over Christmas we managed to get enough ringers to ring for four of the six services, ringing between two of the Christingle services and only missing the 7.30 a.m. service on Christmas morning.

It is expected that the bells will be rung for Sunday morning and evening services to call people to worship as they have done for hundreds of years. At the morning service we get as many of our ringers as possible to attend. For the evening service we get six or eight ringers and ring a "quarter peal" – this, in layman's terms, is ringing in a set pattern(s) (called a method) and lasts for about 40 minutes, non-stop. "Peals" are also rung at other times, to celebrate special events, and these last for around 3 hours non-stop although none have been rung at Hailsham for some time.

We practice on Monday evenings here at St Mary's. The few experienced ringers who came to help us prior to Covid have not returned but we have gained a few ringers from other local towers who come to us to improve their ringing. Again, this year we had an evening outing just before Christmas, ringing the bells at Chiddingfold and having a meal together afterwards, which everyone very much enjoyed.

We were able to ring for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee early last year and then again when she was called home to be with her Lord. The bells were rung completely muffled (except for the tenor bell which was only

half muffled) on the announcement of her death and then completely open on the accession of Prince Charles to King, and again muffled until her funeral day. We did a lot of ringing!

There is a lot of publicity at the present time to get new ringers to learn in time for ringing for the coronation of King Charles II.

We have recently been lucky enough to get a couple of new ringers and we are always open to receive interest from other people who would like to learn or any lapsed ringers who like to come back.

Elizabeth Munday

Hailsham Foodbank

The biggest change for the foodbank in the past year is that we have now become a charity in our own right rather than a project of the Crosslink Trust. We are still very much a church led charity with the trustees remaining as leaders/elders of local churches.

The foodbank has seen its biggest increase in use since we began with the Cost of Living Crisis impacting most households. We particularly saw a significant rise around September. This has created many challenges for us both with ensuring we have adequate food and adequate funding. As always, we have seen some amazing provision when it's been most needed. We are working very hard with the agencies who refer to us to ensure that people are getting the best help they can. Our advisors from Citizens Advice and Community Money Advice have been very busy helping foodbank users with income maximisation and debt.



We were able to secure new warehouse space within Wealden District Council which came just at the right time and has helped to hold extra stocks with the purchase of additional racking.

We have been sourcing food regularly from other local foodbanks and also having to purchase food. If you are wishing to donate items please check our website, or download the BanktheFood app, so that you know what we need the most (to hopefully avoid us having to buy them). It also helps with our future

planning to have regular income so if you would like to set up a monthly donation towards our work see details on our website or pop in to 4 Market Square.

Thank you so much for all the prayers and support. We pray that God continues to sustain us and is very much with us in each interaction with have with the local community.

Julie Coates

Reports from our Mission Partners

Julian and Nicky Milson - Valencia, Spain

Julian & Nicky Milson are missionaries in Valencia, Spain, along with Jemima (17) and Theo (15) their children. They have now been in Valencia for five 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.



Jim and Tanja French, Australian CMS Missionaries who run a theological training course called MOCLAM are part of the church family (and their two children) and they support the us very much as a family. Julian shares an office space with them and a local Spanish Christian journalist. In July, Chris and Rosy Redfearn and their daughter Lydia, a new Missionary family with Crosslinks, joined us. Chris is acting in the role of an informal Curate. Rosy now runs the Sunday School and closely supports individuals within the church.

The past year has been a good one for us as a church and we saw growth at both the beginning and end of the year after the decline in attendance as a result of the pandemic. At times we have been very close to capacity, which has been an enormous encouragement to us all. Weekly attendance does tend to fluctuate but the trajectory appears to be upwards.

Our Sunday School group consists of around 6 children. Most Sundays after the service there is an open invitation to join together to eat at a local (cheap!) pizzeria which helps us to continue fellowship late into the afternoon.

When people ask what our church is like, we usually describe it as a little taste of heaven. One of the reasons we say that is that there is a real sense of love and care for each other in our church family here. It is a true blessing from God and in the midst of lives full of various struggles; meeting on Sundays is a foretaste of the joy that awaits us in eternity. But another reason why our church is a glimpse of heaven is because we are so diverse. Old and young, men and women from at least 12 different countries come together to worship God and sing his praises.

In last year's report we mentioned how we had recently started a Youth Group and asked you pray for it. Thank you for praying! The group has worked really well with 8-12 young people attending. Recently we have moved to weekly meetings instead of fortnightly, one of the many things having the Redfearns here has given us the capacity to do.

In the Autumn term we tried a new evangelistic initiative to try to connect with people in the neighborhood. We opened the church on Monday mornings, with a sign outside, to see if people would come in for coffee and a chat. Only one person came who was not already a member of our church family. So we changed the time and day to try to connect with the people who were using the playground after school. Nobody came to the park! We decided to wait until the weather improves and there is more light in the afternoons. We plan to try again after Easter.

In December we had Christmas Carol services by candlelight. There were two services – one in English and one in Spanish. We had a Good number of visitors to both services and there was little space for more people. It's always a very good opportunity to invite people and for the first time this year our next-door neighbours came!

Nicky main role is to care for and support Jemima full time, and she is also continuing to learn Spanish when she has the time. She leads the music each week at church and plays the piano, is involved in planning All-Age services, leading the Youth Group, and hosting our mid-week bible study group.

Theo is studying hard at GCSEs (he is in Y10) and Spanish Studies at the British School and both children seem to be very settled. Jemima is learning 'life skills' and she spends a couple of hours per week with Rosy Redfearn.

Please pray:

- For plans to visit the UK this July, 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 the Sunday School will grow.
- That our Gospel witness would produce fruit.
- That people would make meeting together a priority whether it be Sundays or mid-week.
- 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.

Julian and Nicky Milson

Chris & Ros Howles - UMS Namugongo, Kampala.

If there's one word to sum up what's happening at Uganda Martyrs Seminary Namugongo (UMSN) right now, it's this: growth!

UMSN is a bible college on the outskirts of Kampala training people for church leadership across Uganda and East Africa. We (Chris and Ros Howles, with our 3 kids Josh aged 13, Danny aged 11, and Chloe aged 9) have been living and working here since 2011 joining together with our Ugandan colleagues to help train and equip men and women for gospel ministry and church leadership. Students are with us for 2-3 years, and our ambition as a college is to help them know, trust, and obey Christ such that they'll be sent out and help others to do the same.

For the past 40 years the college has had between 25 and 95 students in training at any given time. Right now, that number is almost 300, making UMSN the largest Bible training college in Uganda to our knowledge! It is, of course, God who gives the growth, and we're profoundly thankful for the remarkable opportunities we now have to equip so many people to preach, pray, pastor and lead churches with Christ at the heart. In fact, our current students alone will be preaching and pastoring to probably over 2million people in the coming years of their ministries. Please pray that the Lord would use as a college to lay a strong, word-centred, gospel-driven, Spirit-motivated and Christ-focussed foundation. Pray that we and the other staff here would not only teach, but also live out as models, what the Lord wants to see in this next generation of Uganda church leaders.

Of course, such rapid and unfathomable growth does create challenges, humanly-speaking! It's fair to say that this is a tiring season! But we're grateful to God for strengthening and sustaining us all. Please continue to pray that our marriage, family life, personal devotional times and ministries would be healthy, relational, and full of loving kindness. Please continue to pray for Ros as she home schools the kids, as well as leading Bible studies for female students, helping with students' health issues, hosting plenty of visitors, and many other tasks, and for the kids, that they would know Christ as their King and friend and Lord as they continue growing up here in Uganda.

Chris & Ros Howles



We continue to support in prayer and giving:

Release International works with persecuted Christians across the world.

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

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

Past HPC Members in Mission

Adam Tomalin - Johannesburg, S. Africa



Yet again we are keen to begin by expressing just how incredibly grateful we are for God's grace and provision to us to get us through to 2023, and the ways in which he has been continuing to provide. There is much which we could not have anticipated. Yet, God knew, and it was for the best and for his great and glorious purposes. As we reflect on the previous year, it wasn't just an opportunity to receive great teaching, in a college setting, but it was the surrounding circumstances, as well, which drew us far closer to the Lord and to each other.

Both of us are staying on college Campus, at George Whitefield College. Adam is continuing his theological studies as the college and is currently in his second year. He is really enjoying the current semester. He has been blessed to have had more time, whilst at college, to put more time than ever before for lots of reading, processing and engaging with God's Word. As part of this, it's been invaluable for us both to think carefully about how God's Word can be most helpfully applied, for all that's worth, in the South African context.

In light of God's provision to us, it's a huge encouragement to now share about how the Lord has been directing Nomfundo, as the last few months have progressed. One of the exciting developments over the past year is to witness Nomfundo's passion and desire to grow in the field of Biblical counselling.

She has just embarked on studies for more biblical counselling modules with an organisation called CCEF. Furthermore, she will be bridging into an honours programme with an online institution called SATS (South African Theological Seminary) to embark on the theology and counselling stream. We praise God for paving the way to make this happen. Praise God for how he provides through his people in many ways. We also praise God for how Nomfundo is finding the courses such an encouragement.

Finally, we've both got stuck back in with the Message Church which has recently moved to a new temporary location. We're still close to the main University of Cape Town Campuses but, nonetheless, a change can always be unsettling. Please do be praying for people to be getting used to the new space as we wait for a more permanent space to meet in. As well as this, please pray for our relationships at church, in the college community and Muizenberg community to be strengthened, particularly for Nomfundo, who isn't studying at the college anymore.

Once again, Nomfundo and I are both incredibly grateful for all of your support and we look forward to the rest of the year and what the next period will bring.

Adam and Nomfundo Tomalin

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

Dear friends, I've been the Women and Families' Worker at St John's Church Walthamstow for 18 months, though it's been a little longer since I left Hailsham. I'm so thankful for your continuing prayers and support, and please know that I pray for you.

It's been a busy 12 months, particularly with my vicar, Kieran, away on sabbatical last summer. My job is tough, and tiring, but I love it. I'm so thankful for the opportunities God has given me here. Some particular highlights of the year include:

Visiting the Howles in Uganda. In June I had the opportunity to join an Oak Hill College trip to Uganda Martyrs Seminary. We had a fantastic week, learning alongside the Ugandan students and training them in Bible handling and application skills. I was particularly happy to see the Howles family, and to visit a place I had heard so much about over the years. The photo shows the visiting team, with the Howles and college Principle Revd. Bbosa. I'm in the back row.



New ministries starting. In the last year we have relaunched our stay-and-play preschool group, called Little Fishes. We have also revamped our primary age after-school club, The Ark. I've been very thankful for experiences in Hailsham at ABCs and Pulse, which have really helped as we've considered why and how to run these groups. I am very encouraged by a small group of women who are asking big questions about Jesus.

Cultivate training. In January I started a two-year training course called Cultivate. This is aimed at training Christians to write on cultural issues of special interest to them. We're a small group, with diverse areas of expertise, including poetry, the theology of sound and artificial intelligence. So far I've loved the opportunity to stretch my mental muscles!

I'm so thankful for your ongoing prayers. Over the coming months, some particular things for prayer include:

Responding to the Church of England. I'm involved with a local network of evangelicals considering how to respond to the recent developments in the Church of England. This is a painful and difficult issue. Please pray for wisdom as we make decisions, and for joy in the Lord Jesus throughout.

Sunday services. In the next few months our music co-ordinator and lead AV technician will be moving away. Please pray that God will provide for us. And please pray that I will serve sacrificially and wisely, knowing what to prioritise each week.

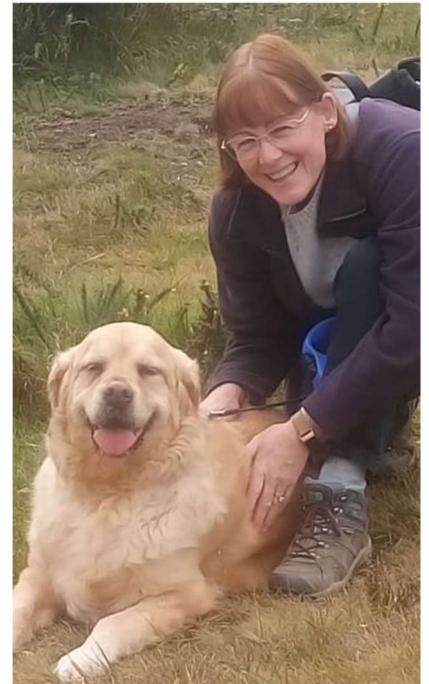
Philippians 1:9-11. *Please pray that my "love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that I may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the righteousness that comes through Christ Jesus – to the glory and praise of God." I certainly pray this for you.*

With love in Christ, Cori

Meet Dawn and Terry Tozer

We both met whilst working for the Environment Agency and married in 2005. Terry was later made redundant but was able to draw his pension and spend more time teaching Karate. Dawn was able to take early retirement in 2018, so we decided it would be a good time to move closer to Dawn's family.

At the end of 2019, just before the covid pandemic, we moved with our elderly dog Marley to Hailsham. Having decided to start attending church regularly, we settled on Hailsham Parish Church. Terry had been confirmed into the C of E during his 12yrs in the Army. Dawn was previously a Jehovah Witness. The Lord seemed to be confirming and reiterating our choice of Church because in the week leading up to our first Sunday meeting, we kept bumping into and chatting to people who already attended HPC!



When we went along that first Sunday, we were overwhelmed by the wonderfully warm and friendly welcome we received and could not wait to go again. We both attended the Christianity Explored course and God's truth firmly took hold. Dawn was confirmed, along with others at HPC, on 10th October 2021. It could have been a very different story through the lockdowns and not being able to attend church, but our gracious God always provides, and it was wonderful to have the Church services live streamed and zoom meetings ensured we received *"food at the proper time"* (Ps145:15) ensuring continued growth in the Lord. God has greatly blessed us here at HPC and we love to serve alongside the church family in a variety of different roles.



A year ago, Terry also took on the role of Hailsham Town Crier...you have probably heard his "Oyez, Oyez, Oyez" at a variety of town events! Dawn is one of the Sunday School Leaders and attends the Saturday morning Sussex Gospel Partnership bible training course. Life has been difficult over the years, but now, walking with Jesus these words of his take on true meaning *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light"* (Matt11:28-30).

We are so grateful that the Lord brought us here to Hailsham Parish Church and has blessed us with such a wonderful bible teaching church and a wonderful church family.

Dawn and Terry Tozer

Interview with Jo Brown

Jo, tell us a bit about yourself and your family.

I grew up in Surrey and my husband Stuart grew up in Essex and The Hague in Holland. Both of us come from Christian families who were active in their local church communities. We met as teachers in London, have lived and worked overseas and moved to East Sussex last September with our 3 children and dog Bella. Stuart is now teaching in a local school



So you moved to the area last summer, having spent a number of years abroad - can you tell us about that?

We lived on beautiful Jeju Island, South Korea for the last 9 years. We taught in a British international school, enjoyed exploring, travelling and meeting and making friends with lots of interesting people from lots of different cultures. With the travel restrictions during Covid and being unable to see family for so long we decided it was time to return home.

Your life must be very different to a year ago. How have you found it? What about church?

It's great to be back in the UK! I miss the Jeju climate and our friends but are happy to be closer to family. The first few months were challenging settling in, especially for the children who had spent the majority or all of their life in Korea, for them Jeju was very much home. We feel very grateful to the welcome we have had at HPC, inviting the children to join in the Sunday morning groups. Everyone has been so friendly and supportive.

It must have been hard with so many changes. How has your faith helped you?

They say moving house and moving jobs are two of the most stressful things to do, and on top of those we have moved country as well. I always believe that with our faith we can get through any challenge, however it's often only afterwards when we look back we realise the significance it has had in supporting us

Thank you HPC for the welcome you have given us and the help it has provided in settling back into life in the UK.

Jo Brown

Overview – Looking Back - Looking Forward

‘It is all about Jesus’. I think that that is how to best sum up our annual profile.

Every prayer prayed, every encouragement uttered, every bible opened has been done for him and in his strength. I hope you get that sense and you read through these accounts of the Lord’s work through our church family.

The truth is that this profile could easily be double the length. The work of knowing Jesus and making Jesus known is not only done through all the groups that meet in his name in our town. It is done as a Christian encourages a fellow believer with a phone call, a card, with a text message or a visit. It is expressed in a thousand kindnesses; meals cooked, lifts offered, homes opened, coffees drunk. It is done through the faithful prayers of a Grandma for her grandchildren; through the giving of an invitation to a women’s breakfast; through speaking about Jesus on sports fields, in supermarkets and on the bus.



What we do when we come together equips us as individuals to serve Jesus throughout the week. Sunday services, growth groups and SALT are all vital but they are a means to an end, not the end in themselves. The end we have in mind is for men and women and children to meet Jesus Christ in his word and to respond to him in repentance and faith. Everyone is involved in that ministry.

It has been a year in which we must be very thankful to God. I do not intend to repeat all that the churchwardens have said in their report but I would like to mention two couples, both of whom would rather avoid the limelight.

We must be very thankful to our Lord Jesus for David and Kim’s ministry. With patient faith and confidence in the Lord’s goodness they have led us towards Jesus. We owe them much. Please do continue to pray for them as they settle into life in Eastbourne and their local church there.

As a town we need also to thank God for the life and ministry of Ron and Kay Timms. The Link has been a refuge for some of the most vulnerable people in our town. Ron and Kay have demonstrated the love of Jesus and Hailsham shall be worse off without the Link. We pray that the Lord will encourage and refresh them as they step back from that ministry.



Here are three thoughts that have occurred to me as I have read this profile.

We must Praise God.

Thousands of people have heard the gospel in our town and beyond, through the ministry of this church family. With the opportunities we have; with the resources we have and with the Spirit's help, we have sought to cry 'Behold the Lamb'. All Glory to Jesus.

We Must Pray.

The opportunities for gospel advance and the hurdles facing it are great. The church council have agreed to appoint another associate vicar. We need God to call a man to serve us and we need God's wisdom to discern who that man might be. Will you pray?

The Church of England is in a sorry state, lacking confidence in the word of God and in the goodness of Jesus. We must not despair. The Lord is an expert at bringing victory from what looks like bitter defeat. We must pray, especially for those people in positions of authority that they will use their power to honour Jesus. Will you join me?

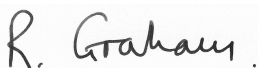
When I am feeling a bit Eeyore-ish it is good to remember that what we are facing is not unusual. The New Testament reminds us of great works of God in the midst of set backs and false teaching. The Lord reigns, even over synods!

We Must Proclaim

Our town is growing. The Lord is bringing more and more people into Hailsham, some from the other side of the world. All of them, whoever they are and whatever stage of life they are at, need to hear about Jesus. It is only from the lips of people whose hearts love Jesus will they hear the news that could transform their eternities. There is an urgency to this task, and of all the things that we could do, this is the one that we must do. Everyone is involved. Please recommit yourself to the Lord in this mighty endeavour.

Let me finish by thanking you all for your encouragement and your prayers for me and the family as we look forward to the change of role here at HPC. It is an incredible privilege to be part of a church family like ours,

With many thanks for our partnership in the gospel,



Rory Graham

31.03.2023



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