



"Making our Lord known and revealing His love in our community and His world"

**Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Church Meeting
Sunday 23rd April 2023, at 11:45am approximately, following the 11am service
in the Church.**

AGENDA

Note: * Anyone resident in the parish can vote for the election of Churchwardens but **only those whose names are entered upon the Church Electoral Roll of the parish are entitled to vote at the election of the members of the laity to the PCC & Deanery Synod. Those who stand for the PCC must be on the Electoral roll and be over the age of 16.

- Welcome and prayers
- Election of Churchwardens*
- Apologies for absence
- Approval of the minutes of the APCM held on 24th April 2022 and Matters Arising
- Receive annual report and PCC accounts
- Election/re-election of members of the Parochial Church Council**
- Election of Deanery Synod Representatives (2)
- Churchwardens address
- Closing prayer

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PARISHIONERS AND ANNUAL PARISH CHURCH MEETING HELD ON
SUNDAY 24th APRIL 2022 IN THE CHURCH**

Attendance: In Church **32**

Welcome and Prayers : Rev Canon David Isaac welcomed all attendees and opened the meeting at 10:50 am with prayer.

Rev David explained that the first meeting would be an Annual Meeting of Parishioners, to elect the Church Wardens. He described the functions of the role, both past and present and thanked Rachel Houlberg, who is stepping down, for the commitment that she had given the role.

Two nomination forms have been received, duly signed, from Helen Finch and Paul Quinn. Helen Finch is nominated as Church Warden for the third year. Paul commented that he will continue to be a member of both the choir and bell ringing team and requested support to enable him to fulfil his Church Warden role. There being no other nominations, both were declared elected.

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners was then declared to be closed and the APCM was opened.

Apologies for Absence: Apologies have been received from Tim Paul (Electoral Roll Officer), Mavis Humphrey, Liz Parr, Liz Quinn, Nancy Maitland, Peter Maitland.

Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 18th April 2021: The minutes of the last meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting and were agreed as a true record. All attendees voted to approve the Minutes unanimously and Rev David signed them.

Matters Arising: There were none.

To Receive the annual report and Accounts: The accounts had been circulated prior to the meeting and no queries had been received. Rev David commented that it was good to see so many activities starting up again after lockdown which reflects a parish that is active and lively. All attendees voted to approve the Statement of Accounts.

The Treasurer thanked James King, the Independent Examiner, for auditing the accounts. The treasurer noted that the accounts were a snapshot of the financial position as at 31st December 2021.

A parishioner commented that the parish share was £48,334 which equated to approximately £281 for every person on the electoral role and was a drain on resources. The parishioner viewed this as unsustainable and that appropriate use should be ensured.

All attendees voted to approve the Statement of Income and Outgoings.

The Election of new members of the Parochial Church Council: Valid nomination forms had been received from one member of the PCC who had served their three- year term and were standing for re-election. Alasdair McKenzie was re-elected. There were no other nominations.

Church Wardens address: Helen Finch thanked Rachel Houlberg for her time as Church Warden and for the considerable support that she has given her. The parishioners were thanked for offering support to the Church Wardens during the Interregnum. Clergy cover has been sourced for Eucharists up to July and most other services have been covered. A meeting has been arranged regarding music.

A parishioner commented that the Interregnum provides an opportunity for the congregation to reflect on how they should worship, particularly regarding the pattern of service, outreach and pastoral care.

A parishioner thanked the Church Wardens for arranging Eucharist cover but requested that the timings of the main service were reviewed. The Church Wardens advised that service patterns will continue to be reviewed by the PCC but that services must work for the Benefice as a whole.

A parishioner asked whether regular meetings with the other Churches in the Benefice would resume. The Church Wardens advised that meetings are held regularly to ensure that all in the Benefice are working together.

Thanks were offered to Kate Solomon for her work on safeguarding and for her Safeguarding Report. Thanks were offered to the Hambledonian magazine team. Thanks were offered to Graham Roberts for his work on Health and Safety.

Rev David commented that the Church Wardens will be meeting with the Archdeacon to discuss filling the vacancy as soon as possible and that a PCC meeting will be held with the Archdeacon to discuss any concerns. Rev David added that it was important to recognise the strength of church life that the parish has, which is a great testimony to the leadership and energy of the parish.

A Churchwarden requested that the Archdeacon is made aware of the significant disruption to the worship pattern over the last 5 years.

Rev David was thanked for chairing the meeting and for his support.

The meeting closed with a prayer at 12:20 pm

Reports for APCM meeting 23rd April 2023

Bellringers

Over the past year we have welcomed two new ringers, Fred Crone and Nicola Ross. Fred started in September and has made excellent progress and is now a regular Sunday ringer. Nicola started in October and joins practice as much as work commitments allow her, also doing well.

We have managed to ring on Sundays with 6-8 ringers most weeks, with regular help from Andrew Ramsey from Catherington. A few practices had to be cancelled due to lack of attendance, but Penny and Noel from Soberton have been a great help in bumping up the numbers. With illness and holidays, it has been difficult and we have not seemed to get back to the standard we were prior to Covid. As Paul Quinn has taken over the role of church warden he is limited to ringing because of this commitment.

A District Practice was held at St Peters and Pauls in April where 7 members of the band welcomed 6 members of the guild for the evening. We also welcomed some visitors including a family from Ukraine who enjoyed an attempt at ringing the treble bell with assistance.

We enjoyed celebrating Christmas with a dinner including all of the Band at the Horse and Jockey, welcoming Doug and Marie Boniface as our guests. Captain Gill Hales was presented with a well-deserved bouquet of flowers.

There have been 4 weddings, 2 funerals and a memorial service for which we rang, we also rang for the Queens Funeral in September. We will ring for the Kings coronation Sunday 7th May before the service and after as people proceed to the celebratory picnic.

The AGM was held in January where we had an election of officers.

Paul Cluett remains the Steeple Keeper

Kevin Lee remains Vice-captain

Fred Hales is retiring as Treasurer and handing the role over to **Jim Twiney**

Gill Hales, after 34 years of Captaincy, is handing over the role to **Jim Twiney**

Gill Hales, after 36 years is handing the secretary's role over to **Debbie**

Morey

Hambleden ringers at this time.

Jim Twiney, Gill Hales, Fred Hales, Paul Cluett, Paul Quinn, Kevin Lee, William Vincent, Mark Langtry, Joe Hulburgh, Debbie Morey,

Learners Fred crone, Nicola Ross.

Debbie Morey

Church Outward Giving

Over the past two years, the church has reviewed the number of charities supported, as during Covid lockdowns donations dwindled.

As many families in the diocese are struggling to pay food and fuel bills, it was agreed that our charitable donations should centre on the following key areas;

1. Improving the lives of children and families
2. Tackling homelessness
3. Tackling food poverty

Using the above criteria, the following charities have been helped, The Roberts Centre and the Meon Valley Food Bank

The Meon Valley Foodbank is supported through provision of food by generous Hambledonians. A big thank you to Michele and David Griffiths plus other helpers for organising this.

We continued to support the British Legion and Combat Stress as our community has a strong military and naval heritage and because of our proximity with Portsmouth.

Additionally, we gave money to the Bishop's Lent Appeal and to other charities at designated services such as, The Children's Society at the "Goodnight" Service.

The soup lunches continue to be popular, not only as a fundraiser but in performing a social and fellowship function. A sincere thank you to Mandy and her team.

The amounts raised for the above charities will be shown in the financial report.

Carolyn Roberts & Ginnie Palmer

Choir

The choir has had a busy year. We led the singing for all, or almost all, of the Sunday services as well as singing for Weddings and Funerals. We have also enjoyed taking part in some special services.

In October we sang for a Choral Evensong. In November we sang for the Advent Service of Light and then the Carol Service at Christmas. We have enjoyed learning new pieces of music and having Liz's expert tuition and guidance to enable us to sing an anthem at many of the regular Sunday services. We have also benefited from having Nick Glead to accompany us while Liz has conducted.

We have continued to practise at the back of church with good spacing between us but, after several years of escaping covid, many of us finally succumbed recently with the result that we had no choir at all for this year's Palm Sunday service. I don't think this has ever happened before.

In addition to the singing, we all enjoyed several social occasions; celebrating each other's birthdays and, of course, holding our lovely summer Choir Party which was hosted this year by Helen and Toby.

On the whole, our numbers have been good. When at full strength, we can muster a choir of twenty. As ever, though, we could do with more singers, especially basses and tenors. This would make it less onerous for those who come regularly. Whatever your voice part, if you would like to join us please give me a ring - 02392632545 or come along to one of our Tuesday choir practice nights at 7:00pm in the Church. There is no audition and you will be very welcome.

Caroline Allen

Flower Arranging

In another year of worship the church Flower Arrangers have proved to be a loyal and skilled team providing beautiful and interesting arrangements in church from April 2022 to March 2023 notwithstanding the seasons of Lent and Advent.

We celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of our late Queen Elizabeth II by decorating the chancel in a red, white, blue and silver theme. We are looking forward to celebrating the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla!

We observed the special times of the funeral of our late Queen Elizabeth II, Remembrance Sunday, and Christmas. The Hambledon Knitters produced a plethora of stunning poppies which literally flowed through the church and wonderful knitted tree decorations.

Christmas flowers were supported by beautifully dressed trees donated by various societies and groups from the Hambledon community.

During this year, dear Helen Kille has stepped back from regular flower arranging duties. Thank you Heather; we will miss your enthusiasm, helpful advice and brilliant flower displays. Sadly, we have said goodbye to our dear friend, talented and innovative flower arranger, Stella Moon. Stella's funeral gave us the opportunity to provide her with appropriate floral tributes in the church.

In January, Vanessa Silcock offered to return as our coordinator. We are delighted to welcome her return to this role, knowing her amazing organisational skills. It is a tricky post, balancing our desire to provide beautiful and inspirational flowers for our worship with the ever increasing cost of flowers.

Julie Kay has agreed to coordinate flowers for weddings. Couples are invited to consult her and she will advise them as to the appropriate arrangements.

As I step down as coordinator, I would like to thank everyone for their kindness and great teamwork. I intend to continue to take my part in creating flower arrangements for our beautiful church.

Liz Parr

Coffee and Cake

Coffee and cake re-convened last June and until the end of that Term, it was run on the basis of determining which day worked best for those attending. By the end of Term it was decided to move forward with it being run regularly on a Friday.

We are a Team of 6 and I cannot thank enough the other 5 members for their amazing commitment. What with holidays and sickness amongst us, we have somehow managed to run it every week even if single-handedly. The other 5 members are: Jane and Steve Wilkins, Alison Hubbard, Penny Mahone and Joan Kilsby. Betty Spiller continues to support us as and when she can.

Those attending our Group are only too happy to assist us and their enthusiasm for the Group is extremely encouraging. We have several Mums who have attended for some years and they spread the word at the school gate. We average 8-12 attendees per session, with at least one toddler/baby and a few well behaved dogs. It continues to be an invaluable asset for our church.

Ginnie Palmer

Deanery Synod Report

Deanery Synod has continued to be taken up with the parish reorganisation which now seems to be coming into shape. The Bishops change of direction with the road map initiative brought reorganisation back into focus, but the plan remains very similar to that agreed previously. The main change in this deanery will be the cluster of churches we are part of - Swanmore, the Bridge benefice, Newtown Soberton and Hambledon. The plan is to have 1 stipendiary clergy and 3 Self supporting possibly as House for Duty within the cluster of parishes. This plan has general support from all the parishes involved and it is hoped the stipendiary post will be advertised before the summer and then with that person in place the Self supporting posts advertised with priests in place before the end of the year.

Rchel Houlberg

Diocesan Synod

Bishop Jonathan was installed as bishop last March. He undertook to check the 'health' of the deaneries and parishes and found there was some discontent following the pandemic and subsequent attempt at parish reorganisation. As a result of this, the Bishop led a new consultation called the 'Road Map' of all the deaneries and asked them to contribute their vision of parish reorganisation, taking into account the financial constraints the diocese is under. This was duly completed and presented to Diocesan Synod in its November meeting. It was roundly well received, together with a fresh and more nuanced set of diocesan accounts. It was generally noted to be the most positive Diocesan Synod ever.

Rachel Houlberg

Report by the Electoral Roll Officer

This is the report submitted in accordance with the Clerk to the PCC's e-mail of 16 February 2023 concerning submission of reports. This report covers the Roll in the year 2022/23

There have been no new enrolments. Numbers on the Roll have decreased due to reported deaths and are as follows:

Deaths of electors since 2022 APCM 8

On the Roll

Non Residents (re-appraised since 2022) 40

Residents 124

TOTAL 164

As per my e-mail of I would like to draw the attention of PCC to the requirement for a total re registration of electors, to be completed between 15 and 28 days before the 2025 EPCM. I will produce the timetable and paperwork but this is a PCC led activity that affects the whole parish.

Tim Paul

Electoral Roll Officer

Home Group

It has been a great joy to have Home Groups meeting in houses in the village without any covid restrictions.

One Group, Open House, meets weekly for three sessions a year of about 6- 8 weeks. For two sessions, May- July and September - early December, we studied the character and letters of Peter. After Christmas we have been looking at some of the lesser known characters of the New Testament.

Home Group has also been meeting from mid-year when we resumed our studies of The Kingdom. We have been delighted to meet up again as a group, to put the difficulties of the past two years behind us, and resume our lovely prayer and study life together.

As I write this, instead of Open House, we are joining with one of the two Lent Groups, one led by Rachel Houlberg and one led by Betty Spiller. The subject is "Failure" "Dust and Glory" based on the book Bishop Emma Imeson.

Meeting in small groups helps us to grow in the Christian life, and anyone will be welcome to join a group.

Betty Spiller

Churchyard Report

As usual, this report starts with a big thank-you to all those who help in the churchyard. I'd like to especially thank Paul Skilton, who has decided to retire after many years of driving the lawnmowers and servicing all our equipment.

We are lucky that Graeme Roberts, following his retirement, has put his engineering skills at our service. Thank you also to the Parish Council for their annual grant.

We again had two action days, with a good turnout. Many graves were cleared of ivy and brambles, and we have seen a big increase in the number of snowdrops this spring.

The meadow area on the east side of the churchyard was cut very short, and moss removed, followed by the sowing of wildflower seeds. These seem to have survived the winter, and should look good over the coming summer, along with many other native wildflower plugs that have been planted. We have also sown orchid seeds, though it may take two years for these to be established.

The northern section (closest to the vicarage) will again be allowed to grow long, with paths cut to the graves that are visited regularly. This has resulted in orchids growing and birds of prey hunting.

All the hedges were cut (some had not been touched for over six years) and are now at a more manageable height. Thank you to Robert Solomon for the loan of his shredder so that we could chip the huge quantity of cuttings.

We continue to manage the churchyard following the EcoChurch principles, where practical.

We're always happy to welcome more volunteers who are willing to offer any amount of time; keeping the graveyard tidy is on a par with painting the Forth Bridge!

Alasdair MacKenzie

The Hambledonian

The magazine continues to be popular in the village – we have a large number of regular and ad hoc contributors, and we receive much feedback suggesting the magazine is well-read and enjoyed, with many using the advertisements to source local services. The overhauled advertising covers all our costs.

Thank you to the amazing team – Ron Crank for his organisation, distribution and support, Sarah Galgey for recruiting and upgrading the advertising and to our proof-readers Nancy Maitland, Eileen Richardson and Juliet Dettmer.

With print and paper costs increasing, I have spent a great deal of time looking for cheaper options. These were:

1. Going full colour (cheaper than manually feeding different types of paper into the machine for each copy)
2. Changing printers from PDC to Solent Designs – production less expensive, lead time halved and quality much improved (first Solent Design issue April/May 2023)

Tabitha Jay

Readers' (Now Licensed Lay Ministers') Report

As always, we have been able to take non-eucharistic services. These are Morning Praise, Morning Worship, Family Services, Taize Services, Matins and Evensongs. We take the midweek Morning Praise service, when a Priest is not possible.

Open House Home Group and the Lent Group met during the year led by Betty, either at her home or that of Alison Hubbard.

We have also been involved in Funeral Services, taking Home Communion and visiting any who are sick, lonely or elderly in their homes or Care Homes.

July saw the ordination of Liz Quinn as a Deacon. We all miss her in the church as a Lay Minister, but know she is

fulfilling her work for God in Waterlooville.

It would be a great help and answer to prayer if we had another Licensed Lay Minister, as both Norman Chapman, of Soberton, who sometimes helps us, and I are both PTOs (permission to officiate)

Meanwhile, while I am able, serving as a lay Minister is a great joy and privilege.

Betty Spiller

Safeguarding Report

Following from the good foundation set by Kate, I have enjoyed stepping onto this role. I have set up a safeguarding dashboard for the parish which indicates, on a traffic light system, the current state of the parish safeguarding health. I am pleased to report that, although there is still work to do, there are no red flags! I will be ensuring that relevant DBS checks are undertaken and safeguarding training arranged as relevant and appropriate. I know that Bishop Jonathan sees good safeguarding practice as being at the centre of a healthy church, and it will continue to be so in this Parish. Please do speak to me if you think your DBS needs renewing or there is safeguarding training you need to undertake/update.

I was elected Safeguarding officer for all three parishes across the benefice, but as I have not been invited to PCC meetings in the other parishes I am stepping down as parish safeguarding officer for Soberton and Newtown with effect from their APCM's.

Rachel Houlberg

Children and young people's ministry

A warm welcome is given to families, babies, children and young people at St Peter & St Pauls. **The Soft Corner** is open at every church service for young children accompanied by an adult, play bags are available to be taken to the pews and older children encouraged to participate by reading, acting or leading prayer at services, especially the All-age Family services.

We are pleased to report that the **Youth Group** meets regularly in the Upper Room, this year following a Youth Alpha course. They also played an important part in the lovely Mothering Day Service, led by Helen, Rachel, Alice and Anouchka. All young people from School year 7 and upwards are most welcome to join.

Lay members of the church support the Clergy and Ministry team by leading **Family Services**. The first of these was the Service of Thanksgiving for the Platinum Jubilee of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth 11 November. A joyous occasion ending with the planting of trees in the Churchyard. From Harvest to Christingle, the Goodnight service to Epiphany and Mothering Sunday, these happy interactive services bring all generations together in Celebration.

The Short Family Service, a popular 30 min informal all-age service held in the back of the church most months, is led by the SFS team comprising: Alice & Chris Goodwin-Hudson, Liz Parr & Janet Harrison. Although there is a basic format, each member of the team brings their own style which is relaxed and accessible to the whole church family.

We are really delighted that Liz le Grove, Caroline Allen and choir members give their support to this service. Special thanks go to our Technical helpers, Graham Parr, Toby Finch and Alfie, as well as the duty church wardens who work hard to set up the church.

We look forward to welcoming everyone to our services in the coming year.

If you are interested in offering help or to join our team, please contact one of us, the ministry team or the church wardens. We'd love to hear from you.

Janet Harrison (02392632812)

Church Cleaning Report

Firstly and most importantly I would like to thank all the wonderful Ladies and Gentlemen who are part of the church cleaning teams and every 6 weeks come and clean their allocated area in the church.

I would also like to thank the many other people Including children who spent last Saturday morning, April 1st, spring cleaning our church and enjoying coffee and cake and a BBQ with the churchyard working group. They all helped make the morning a success. Our church is looking very beautiful.

It continues to be a problem to find new volunteers to join the church cleaning teams. We have a few gaps which need to be filled. If anyone has any suggestion on how to encourage volunteers I would love to hear it.

Finally, I would like to mention the tiled church floor. Over the years many different products have been used to clean the floor. Could we seek advice on the best product to use to care and preserve it? Maybe ask English Heritage or someone that knows. Also some cleaners have noticed that some of the tiles are loose and are a trip hazard.

Jane Wilkins

Fabric Committee report 2022-2023

This year has been a busy one for the fabric team and all those who have helped with the maintenance of the church and graveyard. The main subsections to be reported on are.

- 1) Bell tower.
- 2) Proposal to fit an inside toilet.
- 3) LED bulb upgrade.
- 4) Quinquennial
- 5) Clock weights
- 6) Centre raised platform.
- 7) Upgrade of our broadcasting capability and internal CCTV
- 8) General annual maintenance.

Safe tower access

The Safe tower access project has been split into a number of phases listed below..

- a) Staircase between ring room and clock room, completed 2021/2022.
- b) Form new hatchway and safety rail at the top of new stair.
 - a. This is now complete and a big thank you to Paul for his hard work.
- c) Forming new hatch and rail between the clock room to belfry.
 - a. This is now complete and a big thank you to Paul for his hard work.
- d) Improve ladder from belfry to tower roof.
 - a. In design phase
- e) Provide counterweight system to hatches to enable safer use.
 - a. Counterweight to hatch 1 at the top of stairs is complete
 - b. Counterweight on hatch to roof is in design phase.

Church improvements



Following the presentation to the APCM last year of the suggested upgrade to the church giving us

- a. Inside toilet.
- b. Permanent access to upper rooms.
- c. Vestry improvements.
- d. Secondary doors on south and west doors to create porch.
- e. Font new location.

The design has been shown to the DAC informally to get feedback. They found the idea good and gave us further ideas that need to be considered in the design. The Fabric team are now looking for an architect.

LED Light upgrade

- a) Chandeliers in the main body of the church.
 - 1) Completed with latest generation led filament bulbs. Thank you to Toby and James
- b) Ringing room upgrade.
 - a. Completed, two twin LED battens fitted with a Main failure safety light fitted. Big thank you to Paul F.
- c) LED spotlight upgrade.
 - a. Quire Spotlight
 - i. Completed and being used as a trial for the others. Thank you to Toby and James.
 - b. Nave Spotlights
 - i. Now the trial is complete the same LED spots will be scheduled.
 - c. High small uplighters in the roof of the church.
 - i. Fabric team has agreed a plan that needs to be scheduled. At the same time the last electrical certificate issue will be investigated.
- d) Upgrade of shed lighting to LED.
 - a. Completed

Quinquennial

The latest Quinquennial report has been received and you will all be pleased to hear that there are no red flags. The Amber and Green are being followed up by the fabric team. Many fall into our existing plans and general maintenance.

Clock Weights

A number of you may have noticed last summer the clock had stopped. This was following a fracture of a steel cable holding the weights. They all fell to the bottom of the tower. This started a lot of work to get the clock working again we would like to thank. Paul S for his expertise and time. Rob, Toby and Jo for their time and muscle and the man shed for all the painting.



Central raised platform

It has been agreed by the PCC that the area where the central Alter goes for some services will be raised to the same level as the pews. The front few pews will be moved, giving us a large flexible area to improve the accessibility of the church. The work is to be scheduled this year.

Broadcasting capability and internal CCTV

Funding is now in place to improve the broadcasting capability and internal CCTV within the church. The Fabric team is now working on the detailed plans.

General annual maintenance

This year has been another great team effort. There have been two action days in the past 12 months (08.10.22 & 01.04.23), both great success with over 20 villagers on both days, foliage, ivy and shrub clearing being the main focus. We look forward to scheduling more in 2023.

Inside the church there is always work to be done, keeping the heating system and sound system going and now our live streaming. Outside, thanks to Alasdair, Graham and Christine and the graveyard team for their efforts and care to keep the graveyard.

Churchwarden Parish report for APCM

The Parish has continued throughout the reporting period without an appointed clergy to either the parish or the benefice. As a result, much of the administration of the parish has fallen to the PCC and Church Wardens. Mrs Rachel Houlberg stood down as a CW after a wonderfully dedicated and successful term as CW, but has continued her support and proactive initiatives with her customary vigour. Paul Quinn took over as CW and has been learning under her tutoring as well as Helen Finch.

With Rev David Morgan standing down two weeks before Easter, the year has been dominated by the process of addressing the vacancy. Bishop Christopher placed the parish and benefice into suspension, meaning that our Patron was not to put forward a candidate. This was to allow the Diocese to evaluate the post-COVID financial situation and to allow the new Bishop to develop his own strategic vision since Bishop Christopher was retiring. Our Area Dean, Rev David Issac and the Acting Archdeacon Rev Will Hughes have guided us through this process. Debate, discussion and sessions have been held at Deanery level to work out what to do.

The PCC was asked for its view and came up with 3 options in order of preferment:

1. For a stipendiary clergy person to be appointed to the Benefice.
2. To investigate whether we might go into partnership with Denmead as our closest Cof E community.

3. To join the Meon Valley Parish group proposal put up by the Deanery consultation group: (Bridge benefice; Swanmore; and Hambledon/Newtown/Soberton).

Option 1 was quickly dismissed by the Diocese as unaffordable. Paul and Helen met with the Vicar and Church Wardens of Denmead, All Saints on two occasions over the late autumn, early New Year period to explore Option 2. A brief was prepared by the CW for Denmead as a mini Parish Profile, and shared with the PCC. Sadly the discussions made no progress; with Denmead unwilling to move until much later in the strategic review process, with very understandable concerns about the loading on an already busy vicar.

The Meon Valley Parishes (MVP) met to review the proposal from the Deanery Synod for the MVP to form with one stipendiary priest and 3 house for duty or self supporting clergy, who would live in the communities they would serve. We are currently in final PCC approval of this plan. If given the go ahead, the recruitment of the one stipendiary priest, to be based at Swanmore, would start immediately. Delay will reduce the chance of that happening.

It is hoped that if all goes ahead, that we would be appointing a HfD or SS priest before the end of the year. The vicarage is currently let commercially by the Diocese. The PCC is keen for the vicarage to remain in Diocesan ownership so that there is always the possibility for appointing a HFD minister to the Benefice/Parish.

During the course of the year, the CW have met on a Benefice-wide basis to continue to deconflict services and co-ordinate the best we can. It is important that the benefice does not change service times which would result in an impossible timetable for a benefice clergy person.

We are delighted to report that we have managed to deliver a full schedule of services, with Holy Communion most Sundays and always in at least one benefice church. We have been superbly supported by retired Clergy, not only for Communion Services but also weddings, funerals, baptisms and festival services.

It has been particularly pleasing to see many lay persons leading services and a significant variety of liturgical approaches.

Ministry and Mission

Despite the absence of an incumbent over a number of years the Parish continues its mission of community outreach with an emphasis on hospitality, to make God known in our village community. Examples of outreach are:

- **Pastoral visiting team** who visit vulnerable, lonely and bereaved people.
- Work with Hambledon **Primary School**, who hold regular services in the church building and hold several very successful nativity plays at Christmas. We have a regular Parish visitor to the School (Mrs Liz Parr). The School uses the Glebe land for sport and outdoor activity and the PCC allows parents to use the Church car park to drop and pick up early years children. We hope to further improve this outreach as part of the Bishops vision to give young people a positive experience of God.
- The **Hambledonian** is an award-winning magazine run and funded by the Parish for the village community. It goes to all 450 homes free of charge bi-monthly.
- The village tennis Court is on Glebe land, with opportunities on a Saturday morning to meet with young families.
- The Parish is **twinned** with Hackney and the Wiaso Diocese in Ghana, through IDWAL
- There is a weekly **coffee and cake** group just after school drop off for parents and carers. This has been a lovely route for some to God, including one Mum who was married in St Peter and St Pauls after going to the Coffee and Cake Group.
- Monthly **soup Lunches** run through the year, becoming bi-weekly during Lent. There is a good attendance of our older villagers, not all active church goers by any means.
- **Ukrainian families**. Parishioners have supported Ukrainian families and taken them in. Our Harvest celebration was a joint celebration for them and the harvest. The Church was used as a central packing and clearing station for donations to Ukraine.
- A **Youth Group** has recently started and the early signs are encouraging, they are looking at Youth Alpha.

- The **Choir** is a superb support to our liturgy led by the very talented Liz le Grove and Caroline Allen. Most services now feature an anthem and Choral Evensong from time to time as well as Advent and Passion Services of reading and music.
- The Hambleton **Arts Society Choir** rehearses in the Church and exhibits paintings during our Greening Festivals, which are a **joint EcoChurch and Greening Campaign** effort. Several hundred people attend.
- We have a bi-monthly **Repair Cafe** in conjunction with the Hambleton Greening Campaign and Denmead Parish.
- **Knit and Natter**, this year supported the Church with the production of many hundreds of knitted poppies for Remembrance Weekend. Knitting session held in the church.
- Bible study and Lent Groups meet through the year.
- Support of Remembrance Day events with a village parade and service with involvement from community groups especially Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies, Beavers and the School.
- Support of the Platinum Jubilee and Coronation of King Charles III.
- The Bellringers continue to support our services with encouraging interest by some younger trainee ringers. Good progress has been made in improving the safety and usability of the bell tower. The ringers will host a quarterly meeting of the Portsmouth and Winchester Guild in July.

This programme develops through the meeting of a perceived need in our community and is driven by enthusiastic parishioners. This is supported by charitable giving and support to the Roberts Centre of offerings at Epiphany and Harvest.

The Church Wardens would note that despite the challenges of long periods without Clerical leadership the Parish is **courageous** in trying new things, certainly would like to and does work **collaboratively** with others, especially in the Benefice, is **generous** in giving of time and treasure; has been very **resourceful** during the pandemic and recovery and with our ideas to respond to Live|Pray|Serve in our approach to the Deanery challenge with an innovative solution that we might also be considered as **pioneering**

Paul Quinn and Helen Finch