

## **Annual Report 2021 on the proceedings of the PCC and the activities of the parish**

### **1. Worship and attendance.**

During this year we continued to worship in church and on zoom. Our thanks to Ken who made this possible. Whereas in the previous year we had larger total attendances on zoom than previously in church, this year after lockdown our attendances (especially of children) dropped and have still not recovered.

The Choir now sings almost every Sunday, our thanks to them and to Douglas who directs.

Toddler church resumed in the autumn with larger than usual numbers and has now settled down again. Messy Church has happened occasionally with very variable attendances, but some good and memorable times of worship and celebration. Thanks to Anne, Rod, Tonia, Marie, Gwen, Ngaire, and Dennis.

The Rector, Church choir and Organist took part in the re-dedication of the newly restored Burham War Memorial, with the Methodist Minister and Mayor and a very large crowd.

Carol singing in the streets of Burham took place, also in Peters Village where a large number of people joined in.

Because of Covid we were only able to hold a small number of services in Winchester House in 2021 which was a cause of great sadness.

### **2. Occasional Offices.**

There were 5 Baptisms, one Thanksgiving for the birth of a child, and 4 Weddings this year, and 9 Funerals, of which 1 was held in church.

No confirmations this year

### **3. Christian Education/Nurture**

We engaged online in a study course on the psalms.

We shared with Snodland Parish in the Living in Love and Faith course on human sexuality.

**4. Other Activities.** The prescription delivery service continued to be busy this year, thank you to Rachael.

School governors Helen, Jennifer and Ngaire have been meeting online.

Church members Dennis, Gwen, Nicky and Helen helped with various activities at Medway Green School, including making bug houses in the churchyard, doing

nature study, Advent assembly, Christingle in church, tour of the church and RE in school.

Coffee mornings did not take place in 2021. Social events included an online quiz, 2 working parties in Wouldham Churchyard, a hugely successful Art Exhibition, a similarly successful Christmas Fair.

The Bell Ringing team under the able leadership of Tina Miles is going from strength to strength.

Mary Davis handed over the editor role of the Community Magazine, enormous thanks to her for all she has done over the years, and to Pamla Walker, the new editor of what is largely an online publication, though printed and delivered to those who request it.

Church cleaners, brass cleaners and flower arrangers continue to do a great job for which much thanks.

### **5. Clergy and Clergy Support.**

Our Curate Chris was ordained priest in the cathedral in June and has now been sharing in presiding at the Eucharist with Mike. Mike and Chris attend clergy chapter meetings and deanery synods. Mike is a school governor at Burham, Chris at Wouldham. They each receive spiritual accompaniment regularly. Chris continues with further training with the Diocese. Mike has a monthly clergy reflective practice group.

**6. Mission.** The Candle Time prayer group continues to receive requests. Thanks to Chris for work on the church Facebook page. Thanks to Jon for setting up a church website and maintaining it for years, and to Geoff who has now taken over this role. We continue to support Medway Food Bank and Maidstone Homeless Care, and during Christian Aid Week we set up a giving page.

**7. Safeguarding.** The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

**8. Looking ahead.** I would like to thank our hard-working church officers, Churchwardens, Treasurer, PCC secretary and members and everyone for being so supportive and for the good positive spirit which abounds in the church in spite of all the difficulties and I look forward to another year of sharing in the work of the gospel together. (this is what I said last year, and I'm glad it's still true!)

Mike Hayes (Rector of Burham and Wouldham)