



“Making our Lord known and revealing His love in our community and His world”

**Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Church Meeting  
Sunday 26th April 2026, 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.

1. Open Annual Meeting for Parishioners with Welcome and Prayers
2. Election of Churchwardens\*
3. Close Annual Meeting for Parishioners
4. Open Annual Parochial Church Meeting
5. Apologies for absence
6. Approval of the minutes of the APCM held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and Matters Arising
7. Receive annual report and PCC accounts
8. Election/re-election of members of the Parochial Church Council\*\*
9. Churchwardens address
10. Closing prayer

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PARISHIONERS AND ANNUAL PARISH CHURCH MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 27th APRIL 2025 IN THE CHURCH**

**Attendance: 28**

**Welcome and Prayers:** Paul Quinn welcomed all attendees and opened the Meeting for Parishioners at 11:55 pm. Rev Liz Quinn led everyone with a prayer.

The secretary advised that one nomination form for Church Wardens had been received, duly signed, from Paul Quinn, who is nominated as Church Warden for the fourth year. This was agreed by all present. The Annual Meeting of Parishioners was then declared to be closed and the APCM was opened.

**Apologies for Absence:** Apologies had been received from Stuart Mackie, Neil Mason, Graham Roberts and Jackie Foster.

**Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 21st April 2024:** The minutes of the last meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting and were agreed as a true record. It was agreed by all to approve and the minutes were signed by the Church Warden.

**Matters Arising:**

- **Copier:** The Churchwarden advised that the Soberton copier has been returned. A black and white printer/scanner/copier has been purchased by the PCC and is situated in the Upper Vestry Room. Training can be provided to anyone wishing to use it.
- **Newsletter:** Paper copies are left in church for reading during the service. Kate has taken over the compilation of the newsletter for the benefice.

### **To Receive the Annual Report and Accounts:**

The accounts had been circulated prior to the meeting and a copy had been placed at the back of the church. Stuart Mackie was thanked for preparing the accounts.

James King, the Independent Examiner, was thanked by the Churchwarden for auditing the accounts. He noted that approx £9,000 of gift aid had been claimed but not yet received.

The Churchwarden noted that a reduction in the Parish Share to be paid has been negotiated. A parishioner requested that someone from the Diocese visits to explain how the Parish Share is spent. PQ to contact Paul Emson and arrange a visit. It was noted that this information is on the Diocese website and that it covers the cost of Stipendiary clergy and Diocesan staff.

It was agreed by all to accept the accounts and they were duly signed.

**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 MacKenzie was duly re-elected and this was agreed by all.

### **Reports:**

Reports were reviewed and the following issues discussed:

**Ringers:** The Churchwarden advised that there had been some new joiners and a focus on working with other towers.

**Choir:** New choir members are sought. AM & TF thanked for arranging the organ repairs.

**Coffee & Cake:** Volunteers urgently sought to keep this valuable outreach going.

**Flower Arranging:** Julie Kay was thanked for taking on the coordinator role.

**Soup Lunches:** A new hot plate has been purchased and another is to follow.

**Deanery Synod:** Retirement service for Rev Canon David Isaac has been held and Rev James Hunt has been announced as the new Area Dean. Main focus has been on the Meon Valley Parishes and on youth and young person support.

**Electoral Role:** Tim Paul was thanked for arranging the electoral role registration. It was noted that the number on role has reduced by 48 over the last six years.

**Home Group:** Betty Spiller was thanked for arranging.

**Churchyard:** Alasdair MacKenzie and the churchyard team were thanked for managing the churchyard. Alasdair has been researching and mapping the location of graves in the churchyard and compiling a searchable database. It is hoped that a section of the vicarage garden might be integrated into the churchyard to provide further burial space in the future. A parishioner asked about the repair of potholes in the church car park. Materials have been sourced and the repairs will be carried out soon. A parishioner asked about the lantern at the entrance to the churchyard. This is awaiting installation.

### **Licensed Lay Readers**

Rachel Houlberg is to commence training.

### **Church Cleaning**

The church cleaning team was thanked, including Debbie Moray for continuing to clean the toilet. Volunteers are urgently required to join the team.

**Children and Young People:** Janet Harrison was thanked along with the Short Family Service team. Rev Liz Quinn noted that 'Green Shoots' has been started, for Primary School children and their carers. Visits to the school have continued and the school use the church for services.

**Fabric:** Toby and the Fabric Team were thanked. Plans have been drawn up for internal alterations including a toilet.

Rev Liz Quinn noted that she was moved by the reports and thanked everyone for their contribution to our parish and wider community.

**The meeting closed** with The Grace at 12:50 pm.

## **Reports for APCM meeting 26th April 2026**

### **Choir**

The choir has continued to rehearse weekly and to sing an anthem on most Sundays. Over the past year we have learned a significant body of new music, some of which is quite challenging. The Advent Service of Light, the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols and the Passion Sunday Journey through Lent all featured extensive choral music, with some works that the choir had not sung before. A special "thank you" must be given to Lily, who opened the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols with her beautiful solo singing of the first verse of "Once in Royal David's City". Lily is now working towards the award of the light blue ribbon in the Royal School of Church Music "Voice for Life" scheme.

For the choir's regular anthems, soprano Alice Farrow has often conducted the choir while singing. This has proved invaluable in giving the choir clear direction.

On 25<sup>th</sup> February this year it was wonderful to be able to join other singers from our group of Meon Valley churches in forming a sizeable choir to welcome the Rev Sandra Matthews as interim Priest-in-Charge. It is hoped that there will be further opportunities for our choirs to join forces in the near future.

As was stated in last year's report, there is an urgent need to recruit singers of all voices: soprano, alto, tenor and bass. At present we rely very heavily on a small number of people, and the occasional unavoidable absence can leave us unable to offer an anthem or provide strong musical leadership and support in the hymns and communion setting.

The plea from last year is therefore repeated: If you know anyone who might be interested in joining the choir (aged 8 years and above, with no upper limit), please let Mrs Caroline Allen, the Choir Secretary, know (telephone 02392 632545). People are very welcome to try the choir to see whether they like it and find it rewarding. Two additional points should be made: firstly, music reading skills are not necessary to join, and secondly, it is completely understood that people will probably not be able to attend every practice and every service.

The organ has continued to serve us very well, with mainly minor issues needing to be rectified. However, some work is currently needed on the trumpet stop, which cannot stay in tune. The organ tuner has been asked to provide a quotation for this work.

We are very grateful for the support we receive from the Rev Liz Quinn, the other clergy and all who lead our services. Special mention must be made of the clergy from other parishes. Regardless of their own liturgical traditions, which can be very different from those at Hambledon, without exception they willingly accommodate the choral input in our services.

The choir members deserve gratitude for their enormous commitment and enthusiasm. Caroline Allen has, as ever, provided the choir with fantastic administrative support and a huge amount of other help. There have been some wonderful solos from different choir members and beautiful choral singing in a wide range of styles, covering music from the Middle Ages to the present day, all selected with the intention of enhancing our worship of God.

***Liz Le Grove***

## **Flower Arranging**

This year, we have managed to increase our team members to 15 who, throughout the year, have provided creative and inspiring arrangements. The team operate on a fortnightly basis with two members responsible for two arrangements; one at the altar and one on the chest. For festivals - Easter, Patronal, Harvest and Christmas - we all come together to decorate the church with seasonal flowers and for Mothering Sunday, over 100 posies of spring flowers were provided for distribution. On other celebratory occasions such as Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms, we ensure there are flowers in the church, if people so wish. With the movement towards sustainability in mind we are continuing to produce arrangements without floral foam. We also try to use home grown foliage and very much appreciate those Hambledonians who allow us to enter their gardens, secateurs in hand, to cut foliage for our arrangements. We held a fund raising tea in the summer to raise money to cover the cost of two urns with pedestals, the refurbishment of existing pedestals and the purchase of a step ladder to enable us to reach the high window ledges in the nave - the latter item we are still in the process of trying to find a ladder that will fit between the pews.

If you feel able to help, either with flower arranging or opening your garden to us, please get in touch with Julie Kay 07368 448727. Finally a huge thank you to each team member for their time, skill, financial contribution and dedication to making this church a beautiful reminder of God's creation.

***Julie Kay***

## **Soup Lunches**

On the third Thursday of each month (excluding July and August) soup is served at lunch time in church with donations taken in alternate months to support either the Rowans Hospice or the Roberts Centre in Portsmouth.

All are welcome and with about 16/20 attending the conversation is quite lively and their donations most gratefully received.

In order to offer a choice of soup there is always a call for more soup-makers to swell the very small group who regularly make soup or help on the day and so contribute so much to the success of these lunches.

***Janet Thomas***

## **Bell Ringers Report**

Positions Held:

Captain: Kevin Lee

Treasurer: Jim Twiney

Steeple Keeper: Paul Cluett

Secretary: Debbie Morey

Active band Members: Gill Hales, Fred Hales, Paul Cluett, Lousie Cluett, Kevin Lee, Debbie Morey, Jim Twiney, Gabriela Cassidy, Liz Clements, Annabel Clements, Brian Davey

Learners: Sue Robertson (shared Droxford ringer)

Practice night remains on Thursday evenings: 7.30 – 9.00pm

Sunday morning call to prayer: 10.30 am – 11 am/ 10.00 am – 10.30 am Short Family Service

Ringling Events Through The Year:

March – Saturday 1st March Hambledon hosted a striking competition

May – 8th May VE Day Ring for peace; Scouts' visits

August – 15th August VJ Day

September – Heritage Open evening event 4 x visitors. Visiting ringers, Ladies Guild

December – Ringing for the Service of Light. Ringers Dinner, White Lion. New years Eve

Weddings – x2 (would have been x 3. Clerical error, did not ring .1st Nov)

Funerals – x 5

**Debbie Morey**

## Deanery Synod Report

This has been a busy and formative year for the Bishop’s Waltham Deanery Synod. Key issues and events:

- Saying goodbye and thank you to Canon David Isaac as our Area Dean at a most moving service at Sheffield.
- The appointment of Rev James Hunt (Bishops Waltham) as Area Dean.
- The appointment of Rev Fiona Grove (Wickham and Sheffield) as Assistant Area Dean.
- I continued as Lay Chair. AD/AAD and I meet as a ‘Trio’ about monthly
- We have had 3 synods and re-established the Synod Standing Committee. The main business of the synods has been:
  - Developing and building the Deanery Strategic plan. This has involved a managed strategy day, and various consultations with PCC and discussion at Synod.
  - The Synod will adopt the Deanery Plan at next synod.
  - Various presentations from the Mission and Discipleship team, Children’s Society and the Archdeacon on Living in Love and Faith.
- Training and commissioning of 11 Lay Worship Leaders.
- Rev Jill Phipps to be appointed as Deanery advisor for young people’s worship and Anna Chaplaincy.
- The Chapter has re-established (a meeting of Deanery clergy).
- Ascension Day service at Bishops Waltham and planning for Swanmore this year.
- Rebuilding the Deanery contact and email list.

### Deanery Strategic Plan

The plan has been presented to the Bishop and his key staff who approved its tenor and direction. The 3 key priorities are:

1. Rebuild the Meon Valley Parishes and move to sustainable model of rural ministry and mission.
2. Establish paid Family Children and Young Peoples workers to develop mission for these vital groups.
3. Investigate the establishing of church in Boorley Green.

The Triennial elections to the Synod are due this APCM and Hambledon is entitled to 2 representatives. Rachel Houlberg has stood down to concentrate on her LLM studies.

**Paul Quinn OBE**

**Deanery Synod Rep and Lay Chair**

## Diocesan Synod

APCM 2026 - Diocese Synod report

The key issues from the Diocese Synod have been:

- Rachel Houlberg stood down to pursue her LLM studies.

- Paul Quinn is Hambleton rep.
- The key business this year has been:
  - Setting a deficit budget and the level of parish share sought and achieved.
  - Annual accounts and audit and approval of them
  - The major safeguarding audit of the Diocese and Cathedral which gave a clean bill of health on this important issue.
  - Issues surrounding Living in Love and Faith.
  - The diocese Rejuvenate programme and work of the Mission and Discipleship team.
  - 2026 bids for the SMMI funding.
  - Lay Ministry
  - Net Carbon Zero
  - Feedback from General Synod

Each synod starts with a Holy Communion and Presidential address by the Bishop.

Delighted to explain more as required.

**Paul Quinn**

**Diocese Synod rep**

### **Electoral Roll Officer**

This is the report submitted in accordance with the Clerk to the PCC's e-mail of 18 February 2026 concerning submission of reports. This report covers the Church Electoral Roll in the year 2025/2026.

There has been one new enrolment, Peter Ambrose, who died shortly after enrolment. Numbers on the Roll have therefore remained constant.

Deaths of electors since 2025 APCM                      1    As above

#### On the Roll

Non Residents	11
Residents	104
TOTAL	115

**Tim Paul**

**Electoral Roll Officer**

### **Home Group**

St Peter and St Paul's Church has been running two Home Groups over the last year

One Group, Open House, meets weekly for three sessions a year, each of about 6 - 8 weeks. It is usually led by Betty Spiller, at her home, but occasionally we meet in other members' homes. It is open to anyone who wants to grow in faith or discover afresh, or for the first time, Christianity, and what it means, - with Bible Readings as the main source of discussion..

The study this year has been focused on the book of Mark followed by Jonah.

We have a break in Advent and Lent, and during the latter, various people, met to follow the Lent Course at Swanmore, and or the Course in Hambledon "Draw Near".

Home Group met in members' homes on Tuesday mornings twice each month during the academic year apart from Advent, and Lent when we joined a larger group. We followed a Life Builder study focusing on the importance in our Christian lives of hospitality in its many different forms. The group is led by Jenny Bellinger and Robert Solomon. Our conversation is based on everyone contributing as much as they feel able, encouraging each other by prayer, example and sharing.

Both Home Groups are ecumenical

Meeting in small groups helps us to grow in the Christian life, and newcomers, whether occasionally or always, will be very welcome.

**Betty Spiller**

## **Churchyard Report**

I'd like to thank all those who assist at our bi-annual churchyard clean-ups. These events make a big difference to certain areas; eg cleaning ivy from walls, cleaning out the moat.

Thank you also to:

- Our lawnmower drivers Steve, David, and Graeme.
- John for his work in the top graveyard
- Our D of E volunteer Amelia
- Dave, who is always willing to help when we need extra muscle
- Rachel, for maintaining the cremation stones area
- And a big thank you to the regular workers; Graeme, Carolyn, and Christine.

We are also fortunate to have had the assistance of Chris Curran, the grave digger, who has given time and his equipment free of charge, especially when we repaired the entrance to the car park.

In 2025 we lowered the hedges around the northern section of the graveyard, which we hope will make the annual cutting easier in future years.

We also lowered mounds on graves, which allows us easier access when cutting the grass.

We continue to see an increase in the numbers of orchids and have increased the areas sown with wild flower seed (mixed success with these)

If you would like to volunteer please contact me.

**Alasdair MacKenzie**

## **The Hambledonian**

The Hambledonian continues to cover its costs. We have 75 advertisers. Readers seem to like the layout with copy followed by ads.

Thanks to Sarah Galgey for managing the advertising. To Ron Crank who runs distribution and subscriptions. And to all those who deliver. Ron will be slowly moving away from this role and is actively seeking a replacement who he will gradually hand over to with an aim to stopping in 2027.

Thanks too to Juliet Dettmer, Nancy Maitland, Eileen Richardson and Marlie Jay on the editorial team. And of course, to all the contributors, without whom there would be no magazine at all.

**Tabitha Jay**

## **Licensed Lay Ministers**

Shortly after last year's APCM, it was a great joy to hear that Rachel Houlberg had been accepted to train as a Reader - now recognised as Licensed Lay Minister. We wish her God's guidance in the coming months.

As always, I have been able to take non-eucharistic services, and preach at various services. These are Morning Praise, Morning Worship, Service of the Word, Family Services, Taize Services, and Evensongs.

I take the midweek Morning Praise service, when a Priest is not available.

Open House Home Group met during the year led by me, either at my home or that of Alison Hubbard

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

As I conclude the report, at the end of March Graham Parr received his license to resume his Church life as a Reader, LLM.

While, I am able, serving as a Lay Minister is a great joy and privilege, and I look forward to sharing with Graham again and also Rachel

**Betty Spiller**

### **Safeguarding Report**

A volunteer to take on this role is urgently required.

### **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.

Lay members of the church support the Clergy and Ministry team by leading **Family Services**. From Harvest to Christingle, the Goodnight service to Epiphany, 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, have been led by the SFS team comprising: Alice 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.

Liz le Grove, Caroline Allen and choir members continue to give their support to this service. This year Robert Haines joined our Technical team who help us set up. Thank you Robert, Graham Parr, Toby Finch, Alfie and duty church wardens. Thanks also to the refreshments team, especially Natasha Beckley for the wonderful cakes!

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**

### **Church Cleaning Report**

I start my report as always saying thank you to our Wonderful Church Cleaning Teams. They are all amazing.

Sadly the teams that clean our church are all needing more volunteers. Each of the teams should have five members who each have a designated area of the church to clean and between them the whole church is then covered on a fortnightly basis.

Well that sadly is not the case as we are low in numbers. Everyone is doing their best but we realise it could be

better.

Our Church is celebrating a special Jubilee Year this year. Hopefully people will feel how lucky we are to have such a beautiful building in the centre of our village and would like to volunteer to help keep it spick and span.

In the mean time we will continue to sweep, dust, mop, and Hoover!

**Jane Wilkins**

## **Fabric Report**

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) Tower improvements.
- 2) Church improvements
- 3) Centre raised platform.
- 4) Porch gutter repair
- 5) Lamppost Head
- 6) General annual maintenance.

### **Tower improvements**

The Tower improvements project has been split into a number of phases which have been on going over the last number of years listed below:

This year we have been focusing on the following.

- a) The LED lighting including emergency lighting to the ringing room, staircase, clockroom and bell room has been completed.

Still to be completed

- a) Improve ladder from belfry to tower roof.
- b) Counterweight system to hatches to enable safer use at the top of ladder to the roof.

A big thank you to the two Paul's for the work in the tower.

### **Church improvements**

The project for the upgrade to the church giving us.

- a. Inside toilets.
- 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 plan has moved into the design phase with our architect, Simon. The sub team are currently reviewing the proposed design and when ready, will show the more detailed plans to the wider church. The current focus is not including west door plans which will follow in due course.

### **Central raised platform**

The central raised platform has now been completed following discussions with the DAC to finalize all the small details of the platform and pulpit for the faculty, to make this an agreed permanent feature to our church. We are now waiting for full approval.

### **Porch Gutter repair**

The Porch gutter repair is still on going. The fascia is repaired, new section of cast iron gutter has been purchased, leaving the cast iron gutter section fitting to be completed.

### **Lamppost head**

The lamppost light by the gate has been repaired. Thank you to Dave for sourcing a new top and Graeme for fitting it.

### **General annual maintenance**

This year has been another great team effort. There have been two action days in the past 12 months, both great success with over many villagers on both days. The BBQ at the end of the session was most welcome as all had built up a healthy appetite. We look forward to scheduling more in 2026 and into 2027.

Inside the church there is always work to be done, keeping the heating system and sound system going. Getting the fire extinguishers tested and electrical appliances PAT tested. Outside, thanks to Alasdair, Graeme Carolyn and Christine and the graveyard team for their efforts and care to keep the graveyard.

*Toby Finch*

## **Church Wardens Report**

Paul Quinn has continued throughout the year as the sole Church Wardens in a busy, rewarding and successful year. I am most grateful for a most supportive and engaged PCC throughout the year. Highlights have been:

- **The development of the Meon Valley Parishes.**

The 2025 report indicated that Rev Andy Davis remained on Sick leave. Eventually it was decided that he was to retire on an invaliding pension and the MVP went, again, into vacancy. The process of recruiting an interim Priest in Charge then started with 3 nominated leads for the appointment - Dave Lee for Swanmore, Richard Pepys for the Bridge and Paul Quinn for HAM/Sob/New. A job description and person spec were agreed and the Diocese completed the application pack and was advertised in the Church Times. A shortlisting meeting was held with 2 interviewable candidates. Instead of a 'Death by quiche' arrangement a pub lunch with reps from each parish met both candidates. The interviews went well with Rev Sandra Matthews offered and accepted the position by Bishop Jonathan.

Rev Sandra has moved from the Isle of Wight and was Licensed on 25 February at a Service in Swanmore, St Barnabas with a strong showing from the Hambledon choir, led by Dr Liz Le Grove.

Rev Liz had been serving in Hambledon as curate and was Licensed on 16 June with Rev Jill Kingston for the Bridge and Rev Emma Andersen for the church plant at Barn Church, all as Associate Priests. Rev Liz had been working hard as the only non PTO priest in the MVP, providing support to services in the Bridge Benefice as well as her 'home turf' of Ham/Sob/New. The lack of a church warden and key officers at Soberton has provided a significant loading too. I have supported Soberton for baptisms funerals and weddings as vergers with Rev Liz usually leading. I have also supported a new CW volunteer at Soberton and a trainee CW at Droxford, which required much hands-on support in a challenging situation.

The MVP Pilot Cairn has been developing the concept for the MVP and is about to make an application for £50,000 for admin support to de-load Rev Liz and Rev Jill so they can do much more missional work and not routine admin.

There has been encouraging cross MVP development with an excellent Alpha course run by Rev Emma from Barn Church. A spiritual leaders Lent course at Swanmore as well as the licensing services for the Associate priests and Rev Sandra. Hambledon supported the Droxford Remembrance Day service led by TRBL.

The Deanery Ascension Day service will be held at Swanmore. Rev Sandra has made a very strong and encouraging start, being seen around the MVP and will Chair all the MVP APCMs.

- **Services.** A full and vibrant schedule of Services has been held throughout the year, with wonderful support from Rev Liz, Betty as our PTO LLM, Janet as a licensed lay worship leader and PTO Clergy. Rachel Houlberg is training as an LLM and his leading key services. Five Lay Worship leaders from Hambledon were trained and commissioned during the year and are now active in the parish. They are: Liz Parr, Richard Hull, Helen Finch, Louise Millard and Paul Quiinn. There have been regular:
  - Short Family Services, which have shown great imagination and fun.
  - Taize. A termly service in the Taize music tradition, led by Louise Millard.
  - Baptisms, normally in the main HC or Service of the Word. But a separate private Baptism also, which Archdeacon Kathryn presided.
  - 3 weddings
  - Sadly, 10 funerals and committal of 3 ashes.
  - Creationtide. A wonderful series of 4 services celebrating God's natural Kingdom. Highlight was the superb Harvest Tea.
  - Patronal Festival
  - Remembrance, a most moving service led by Scouts and other young people's groups.
  - Main Festival Services at Christmas, Easter, including a packed Goodnight service.

These services would not have been possible without our Clergy, and a wonderful band of Lay worship leaders. The PCC and Rev Liz are very keen that we have many lay-led services to provide variety of worship. Rev Liz took some compassionate leave after Christmas and I am very grateful to Rev Ruth and our PTO friends (Revs David Lindsay and David Power) who have taken services at short notice.

- **Services support.** We are lucky to have great support for our services from:
  - Sexton. Alasdair does a marvellous job in managing funerals, committal of ashes and managing memorials/memorial tablets in the churchyard.
  - Choir and organist. For a small rural church Hambledon has a really good church choir who aim to sing an anthem most weeks and stage three services of music at Christmas, Advent and Passion-tide. .
  - Knits. The knitting group have provided a kaleidoscope of knitted objects for our main festivals at Christmas, Remembrance and Easter. The Knitvity has been an ambitious project of large knitted figures of Mary Joseph, Shepherds, 3 Kings, sheep and even a camel. The group attracted a lot of praise and people specially visited the church to view the figures. We were pleased to follow Church tradition and keep the figures in place until Candlemas .
  - Flowers. The church has been beautifully decorated with fresh flowers and foliage throughout the year.
  - Church Cleaners, led by Jane Wilkins ,who keep the church looking lovely.
  - Technical. A small team of technical wizards have managed streaming for important services and not the least keeping the credit card machine working and installing a second reader.
  - Bell Ringing. A dedicated band of ringers, cover all main services and weddings and funerals where the bells are requested. District practices have been held here. A successful striking competition has been held with Hambledon competing. The tower was open for the Heritage Open Day again.
  - Churchyard. The setting of the Church has been managed by a team of volunteers to keep the Churchyard in good condition. The programme of eco-management throughout the year has seen some areas re-natured and an increase in insect and bird life.

- Sacristy. Preparation of sacred vessels, laundry of altar linen, thank you Jenny Bellinger.
- Coffee and refreshments through the year for events and key services, Sunday coffee too. Has been well supported and makes a big difference to us as a community.
- Sidesmen/Welcomers. A big thank you for this important ministry.
- Catering volunteers. Who provide a wonderful service, thanks to Janet, Ginnie, Natasha and many others for their sterling support.
- Natasha our tireless PCC secretary who calmly runs a very tight ship.
- Alasdair who his managing our website on the 'A church near you' site.
- Stuart as our volunteer treasurer.

**Events.** We have had some wonderful events with:

- A number of Repair Cafe, which proved very popular.
- Many events with the school using the Church, feeling the benefit of the new platform.
- Excellent Patronal Festival with an excellent turnout from Holy Trinity Paulsgrove.
- Choir supported Fr Hugo in Paulsgrove for their Patronal
- A very buzzy Christingle.
- Quiz night for the Church in memory of Daniel Finch.
- A programme of soup lunches which provides lovely support, friendship and great soup - as well as raising money for various charities.
- Working with the village history group for a series of events in 2026 to commemorate the massive restoration of the church in 1876. The aim of the Festival to remind the village of the important work of the church as it spiritual centre.

### **Fabric**

- The new carpeted platform has proved to be a great benefit, not only for Sunday worship, but for weddings, funerals and School events. The minor issues raised by the DAC have been resolved and it is hoped the faculty will be cleared soon.
- The pulpit is now fully repaired and final restoration complete. A big thanks to those who donated to its (highly cost-effective) repair.
- Installation of cameras to allow the bell ringers to see the church - and hence when to ring. Also allows the congregation to see the ringers in action.
- Completion of the tower lighting programme
- The plans for the indoor toilet(s) await structural calculations before the big decision is made on going ahead with the project.

### **Administration**

It has been another challenging year as Church warden, serving without a second CW. But a big thank you to those who took on additional duties which really helped and will allow me to seek election as your CW for a fifth year. Other admin stuff has been:

- Bi-monthly PCC meetings and bi-monthly meetings with the benefice Church wardens
- Production of the Benefice Services plan and finding of clergy, leaders for Hambledon.
- Running of various rotas, production of a combined rota.
- Safeguarding training for the CW and PCC members.
- Paul Quinn on the Cathedral Chapter nominations committee, Diocesan Synod, Patronal Board and Deanery Lay Chair
- Completion of annual returns (Statistics for mission, Net Zero Carbon, Energy (thanks Paul F))
- Bi-monthly articles for the Hambledonian.

However we do not have a Parish Safeguarding Officer and this is a critical gap.

***Paul Quinn OBE, Churchwarden***