

## COMMUNITY REPORTS FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023

### **Bredhurst C of E Primary School**

Thank you for the email. I am sorry I have not had the time to write you a report – it has been SATS week followed by May Day which is a very busy time for us.

Can I thank you the parish for the support shown to the school; for lending us the lovely venue of Blacksmith Court for a couple of our meetings this year, it was a perfect place for us to hold out full governors meeting away from the school but close enough to be on hand!

I look forward to continuing to work with you next year.

Michelle Cox - Head Teacher

### **Bredhurst Church Charity Shop for year ending 31/12/22.**

Once again we had a very successful year raising a record sum of £9,050. On an annual basis we donate the takings as hereunder:

1. 50% to the Church, who own the shop of which 35% to St. Peters and 15% to the Parish of South Gillingham.
2. The shop sponsors the education and welfare of one child under the care of Dharma Jyothi Centre in Mangalore, India.
3. The shop also sponsors a nesting box for the Hawk & Owl Trust, together with a donation to their funds.
4. Bredhurst Village Hall also receive £500 as they provide electricity and toilet facilities.

The staff, of whom there are 16 volunteers, then propose and vote for four additional charities to receive the remainder of our takings. In 2022, these were, The Smile Train, The R.N.L.I., Kent Association for the Blind and Medway Puzzles (a local autism charity). In 2023 the four designated charities will be: Christian Aid, Red Cross Ukraine Appeal, Bredhurst Primary School and The Evergreens Club for the elderly. We also support other charities throughout the year with the donations of goods or cash. A list of these organisations is displayed in the shop.

I extend our grateful thanks to all those who support the shop either with their purchases or donations and we look forward to an equally successful year in 2023. June Cox, shop manager.

### **St Peter's Church, Bredhurst**

The churchyard and church buildings are maintained by a dedicated team of volunteers for which the church is extremely thankful. The churchyard and the building would look and feel a very different place without their commitment.

On a practical note extensive work was carried out on 5 trees within the churchyard last summer in order to make them safe. To prolong the life of the Garden of Remembrance an extension was completed last July. A smart new prayer walk sign was donated and fitted following diocesan approval. Grave spoil is managed more efficiently.

It may be of interest to note that an ancient Paten, known as The Bredhurst Paten, is on loan for display at The Victoria and Albert Museum.

Life within the church continues although there have been some notable changes.

Rev. Pam Alexander, a team vicar for the Parish of South Gillingham, but most often based at St Peter's retired in August 2022. Since that time services have been led by the Team Rector, Rev Canon Brian Senior, other team vicars, the curate or lay ministers.

Over the last year the church said a final goodbye to several well known village residents who were also church members. They are missed but remembered with love.

We also remember our late Queen Elizabeth II whose Platinum Jubilee we celebrated last summer. Then, just three months later we mourned her passing. Books of condolence were signed across the parish and a small group from St Peter's rang our bells in her honour.

Throughout the year, seven services took place each month. Two early morning and two mid morning communion services, Morning Worship, a service led by the Worship Team and the Evening Quiet Service. The fifth Sunday being either a parish service, an additional Holy Communion or a themed service. At the beginning of this year a change in this pattern took place. Services moved to 10.30 across the parish. We now hold one 8.30 Holy Communion per month and one 10.30 Holy Communion although Communion is available every week across the parish. On Sundays when there is no Holy Communion there is Morning Worship and All Age Worship. An Evening Quiet Service is also held monthly.

In 2022 we enjoyed a Lent bring and buy plus cake stall event to raise funds for Christian Aid and Hot Cross Buns on Good Friday. During Lent (2023) we held a Lent Breakfast as part of the Friday village hub meeting and of course Hot Cross Buns on Good Friday. The Friday Village Hub continues to meet monthly in the village hall. A core group of people regularly attend and during the latter part of the year signs of growth began.

A lively parish family fun session took place on Mothering Sunday (2022), a St Peter's Day lunch in The Bell and a Harvest Lunch within the church. Our harvest food was donated to the Medway Food Bank. Two services of Remembrance were held, one outside and one inside and a full range of Christmas services.

In September we supported Friends of Kent Churches Ride and Stride and in December a magnificent Christmas Fayre took place.

The church has some significant 13th century wall paintings and a small group has been working towards obtaining permission to have these paintings cleaned and preserved.

Church membership has decreased since Covid but is beginning to show, albeit slow, signs of growth. Although there were no weddings last year we have 9 booked for this year. Baptisms at St Peter's remain very popular and to date 8 are already booked.

We welcome all to St Peter's and should any members of the Parish Council wish to attend any of the services we be delighted to meet you.

Lesley Wainwright, Churchwarden

### **Bredhurst Village Hall**

My name is Ray Surridge, I am Secretary and Hall Manager as well as being a Trustee Committee member for the last 7yrs.

The hall as it is now, was built in the late 1960's with some of the village residents at that time placing a brick at the start of the build.

We try to cater for the needs of the residents of the village and some further afield, having clubs and associations using the hall throughout the year. So diverse that we have 'Baby Bumps' to 'Bredhurst Whist Club' to 'Indoor Bowls' and many in between.

We have had to be very wary since Covid, with regards to the volume of persons using the hall.

Hopefully now that things are a lot safer, we can get back to putting on live entertainment.

We have noticed a drop in weekend bookings since the epidemic but are finding more interest coming through at long last.

Like a lot of other halls, we are always looking for new committee members, so if you think you might have fresh ideas or would like to help the community, please send your details to the address at the bottom of this letter. This also applies if you would like further information about the other clubs that use the hall.

Contact: Ray Surridge by text on 07444142283 or e-mail [trsurr ridge@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:trsurr ridge@tiscali.co.uk)

*We are a Registered Charity, following guidelines as issued by the Charity Commission.*

### **BWAG**

BWAG is making a good recovery from the pandemic which had reduced our activities and income.

I am just completing the membership renewals and most have renewed, meaning we retain our popularity and sound financial basis.

Monthly volunteer task days are both popular and important for the health and safety of our woods and visitors.

I am pleased that we were able to hold our very successful Bluebell Walk again this year.

Our monthly Club Nights with guest speakers are very popular attracting a full house of around 40 people