



ST PETER'S CHURCH, BREDHURST ANNUAL REPORT TO BEDHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Bredhurst Church is one of four churches in the Parish of South Gillingham. Sixty-six people were on its electoral roll May 2024-April 2025, with around 30-35 people from across the parish attending Sunday services.

We have been in an interregnum since October last year, following the retirement of Rev'd Brian Senior as Team Rector. Rev'd Pat Dickin has been the single remaining team vicar and has been a tremendous support to the four churchwardens who currently have joint responsibility for the Parish. Sadly, Pat will be leaving in July as she has been called to serve as the new Anglican Tutor for Admissions and Context-based Training at The Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education in Birmingham.

As a Parish we offer a wide range of opportunities for prayer and praise, youth and community activities and pastoral support. At St Peter's we have managed to maintain the pattern of services. Each month there is one 8.30 am , and on all Sundays there is also either a 10.30am a communion service, an All-Age Worship, or a Morning Worship service. On the fourth Sunday there is an Evening Quiet Service at 6pm. When there is a fifth Sunday there is sometimes a parish service or Morning Worship, and we have had our own Songs of Praise. All the usual Lent, Easter, Mothering Sunday, Harvest and Christmas services took place. Our Remembrance Day service was supported by a number of readers from the community. The church was open for 1 hr on Christmas morning (before the Parish Service at St Paul's) for quiet reflection and visitors who wished to light a candle of remembrance.

We are the only church in the parish with a churchyard and we have many visitors throughout the year. During 2024, ten funerals and eight interments of ashes took place. St Peter's is an attractive venue for weddings (two) and four baptisms were held.

As a church family we look to support our wider community with outreach activities that involve many volunteers from the local community as well as the parish.

2024 has been another very successful year in the Bredhurst Church Charity Shop which has gained yet more customers, and continues to receive a huge amount of donations enabling generous donations to a range of beneficiaries.

The Bredhurst Village Hub runs for 10 months of the year omitting August and December from 09.30-11.30 normally the last Friday of the month in the Bredhurst Village Hall. Whilst not many village residents come in, it provides a warm welcoming space for people to come and share, with people from the church providing tea, coffee and the opportunity to chat or engage in a variety of activities.

St. Peter's Church have continued to support the school throughout the year and I am particularly keen to build and strengthen the links between the school and church in my role as Churchwarden. Events take place in the school or at both St. Peters and St. Mathew's church. The children have visited St. Peter's church and grounds as part of



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their Understanding Christianity unit of work. Staff and children gathered together as a school community before the end of the Christmas term to sing carols and allow the children the time and opportunity to reflect. It was a lovely end to their term

Maintaining an 11th Century church has many challenges, and restrictions in what we can and cannot do. Fundraising activities remain a priority if we are to meet these challenges and we are fortunate to have benefitted from legacy donations in the last couple of years. Two legacy projects have recently been completed: the preservation of wall painting in our chapel and the installation of a new sound system. Development of two remaining projects continues: an extension to the outside toilet and the changes to the rear of the church to accommodate a more accessible area for refreshments after the service.

On behalf of St Peter's I would like to complete my report by thanking everyone: church members and volunteers, non-church members and volunteers. Without you we would be a very different church. Much of the work takes place unseen, but that in no way lessens the impact of what is achieved, or what needs to be done to maintain the church building, content and grounds. The mission of the church can take many forms: preaching, volunteering, leading, providing guidance and pastoral care. It is how we use the gifts that God has given us and we are thankful to God for everything He provides.

Alan Wainwright
Churchwarden
St Peter's Church, Bredhurst

9 May 2025