



**The Billericay & Little Burstead Team Ministry**

Registered Charity Number: 1131650

# **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Meeting at Emmanuel

On 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 commencing at 7.30 pm

## **Agenda & Subsidiary Reports**

To be read alongside the Annual  
Report of the Trustees

# The Billericay & Little Burstead Team Ministry

*Christ Church, Emmanuel, Saint John the Divine, Saint Mary Magdalen, Billericay  
Saint Mary the Virgin, Little Burstead*

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting commencing at 7.30pm at Emmanuel on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

### **Agenda**

1. Statement that due notice for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting has been given
2. Opening Prayers
3. Appointment of a clerk to the meeting
4. Receive any apologies for absence
5. The PCC Chair

### **Looking Back: *Reports on the Past Year***

6. Receive for approval the minutes of the preceding 2023 APCM and 2023 Reconvened APCM
  7. Consider any matters arising from those minutes
  8. Presentation of the Annual Report of Trustees for the Parish
  9. Presentation of the Combined Accounts for the Parish (included in the Annual Report of Trustees)
  10. Receive reports from the Billericay and Little Burstead Team Churches
  11. Receive a report on the proceedings of the Basildon Deanery Synod
  12. Receive reports on the various activities of the Billericay and Little Burstead Team Ministry
  13. Receive a report of the Churches Together in Billericay
  14. Receive a report on the Electoral Roll for the Parish
- NB. Questions may be asked about any of the above reports.***

### **Looking Ahead: *Elections for the Year to Come***

***The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is adjourned, and the Meeting of Parishioners convened:***

15. Election of Churchwardens to the Parish.

***The Annual Meeting of Parishioners is closed, and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting is reconvened:***

16. Announcement of those elected at the Annual District Church Meetings  
As representatives to Deanery Synod (3 years which took place in 2023)  
Therefore no need to discuss.
17. Announcement of those elected at the Annual District Church Meetings  
as representatives to PCC and DCC
18. Announcement of those elected at the Annual District Church Meetings as  
Electoral Roll Officers
19. Announcement of those elected at the Annual District Church Meetings  
as Planned Giving Officers, Safeguarding Representatives, Lead Recruiters, and  
Stewards
20. Announcement of those elected at the Annual District Church Meetings as  
representatives to Churches Together in Billericay
21. Appointment of a Team Deputy Churchwarden with responsibility for SMM

- 22 Appointment of a Treasurer with responsibility for Saint Mary Magdalen.
- 23 Appointment of Parish Electoral Roll Officer
24. Appointment of a Treasurer to the PCC
25. Appointment of a Wedding & Funeral Fees Coordinator
26. Appointment of a chair and Vice Chair to the PCC for 2024/2025
27. Appointment of Independent Examiner
28. Questions and Comments: This is an opportunity to raise issues or comments
29. Churchwarden's Statement.
30. Closing Prayers.

## **Minutes of the Billericay and Little Burstead Annual Parochial Church Meeting held at Emmanuel on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2023 commencing at 12:30pm**

This meeting was Chaired and Clerked by Paul Furneaux. 27 people were present and there were 10 apologies.

Paul confirmed that due notice for the APCM had been given and thanked everyone for attending. Linda Russ then opened the meeting with a prayer. The contents of the meeting were,

- The receipt of Subsidiary Reports was deferred to a later date TBC.
- The Meeting of Parishioners was deferred to a later date TBC.
- No appointments were made. Deferred to a later date TBC.
- No questions or comments were raised.

Catherine Benbough closed the meeting with prayer. Paul Furneaux adjourned the meeting to a later date TBC to receive reports and accounts. He thanked everyone for attending.

## **Minutes of the B&LB Annual Parochial Church Meeting Reconvened on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at Emmanuel commencing at 12.30pm**

<b>Present</b>			
Paul Carr	Paul Furneaux	Amanda Furneaux	Jennifer Anderson
Val Sheppard	Chris Davis	Jim Henshaw	Pauline Woolnough
Sarah Hirst	Maureen Bowles	Pauline Randall	David Bowles
Den Whitehouse	Gill Whitehouse	Linda Wallace	Tony Wallace
Jonathan Morley	Christine Morley	Juliet Shipton	Christine Coe
Merrill Knight	Robert Lewis	Les Sheppard	Sue Stevens
<b>Apologies Received</b>			
Sue Oakley	Linda Russ	Paul Hunt	Rupert Hankey
Pete Fisher	Robert Masters	Janet Masters	Catherine Benbough
Jim Rose	Maureen Baker	Christine Williams	Margaret Fowler (on sabbatical)

1. **Welcome:** Paul Carr welcomed everyone and advised that due notice for the APCM had been given.

2. **Prayers:** Paul opened the meeting with the prayer for the APCM.

3. **Clerk:** Paul Furneaux proposed that Alan Morgan be appointed Clerk to the Meeting, seconded by Chris Davis, Carried unanimously.

4. **Apologies:** – refer above table

5. **Annual report from the Rector.** He advised he would make comments as the meeting progressed at relevant times.

### **Looking Back: Reports on the last year.**

6. **Receive Minutes from 2022 APCM:** The minutes of the APCM meeting held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were proposed by Maureen Bowles, seconded by Christine Coe, 9 Abstentions and motion Carried

7. **Matters arising:** – There were no matters arising from the minutes.

7a **The minutes from the APCM Reconvened on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2022** were also received. The motion to receive them was raised by Val Sheppard and Seconded by Merrill Knight. The motion was carried. There were no matters arising from them.

8 and 9. **Trustees Report and Annual Accounts:** Deferred until the reconvened APCM, when the accounts have been received back from Edmund Carr. Chris Davis raised the point that the accounts were never available for the APCM in May and was there anything we could do to rectify this. The simple answer was No as the accounts first had to be received from each church and then consolidated. Any delays in any church had a knock-on effect. The APCM had to take place prior to the Visitation service and in line with church timelines. Les Sheppard advised that the 2022 accounts were being worked on by Edmund Carr and were expected back by mid-August. The PCC Treasurers were awaiting their questions and queries.

10. **Receive a Report from the Billericay and Little Burstead Team Churches.** All team reports were available online. Proposed by Juliet Shipton seconded by Jonathan Morley, carried unanimously.

11. **Receive a report on the proceedings of the Basildon Deanery Synod.** Report received. Proposed by Christine Coe, seconded by Pauline Randall, the motion was carried.

12. **Receive reports on the various activities of the Billericay and Little Burstead Team Ministry** Reports received. Proposed by Pauline Randall, seconded by Val Sheppard, motion carried unanimously.

13. **Receive a report of Churches Together in Billericay:** Report received. Proposed by Pauline Randall, seconded by Gill Whitehouse, motion carried unanimously.

14. **Receive a report on the Electoral Roll for the Parish:** For church numbers refer APCM booklet. Overall, there had been a decrease of 21 members on the parish electoral roll. This was proposed by Amanda Furneaux and seconded by Jennifer Anderson. The motion was carried unanimously.

### **Looking Ahead: Elections for the year to come.**

*The APCM was adjourned, and a meeting of Parishioners convened.*

15. **Election of churchwardens to the parish** as follows:

Two Church Wardens can be nominated from each church. Nominations received were,

Christ Church	Chris Davis	Jennifer Anderson
Emmanuel	Christine Coe	Vacancy
St John the Divine	Paul Furneaux	Linda Russ
St Mary the Virgin	Jim Henshaw	Vacancy

Motion to confirm nominations was Proposed by Bob Lewis, seconded by Les Shepherd, Carried unanimously.

Paul thanked Sandra Healy for her service as churchwarden at SMV as she had stepped down from the post.

*The meeting of Parishioners was closed and the APCM was reconvened.*

**16. Remind everyone of those elected at the Annual District Church Meetings as representatives to Deanery Synod in 2023 for a three year term.**

**17. Announcement of those elected at the Annual District Church Meetings as representatives to PCC and DCC.**

Refer 2022 Election Results attached. Paul Carr advised that there was now a vacancy at SMV due to the sad and recent death of Ken Flack.

**18. Announcement of those elected at the Annual District Church Meetings as Electoral Roll Officers.** Refer 2022 Election Results in annual report.

**19. Announcement of those appointed at the Annual District Church Meetings as Planned Giving Officers, Safeguarding Representatives and Lead Recruiters, and Stewards.** Refer 2022 Election Results in annual report.

**20. Announcement of those elected at the Annual District Church Meetings as representatives to Churches Together in Billericay.** Refer 2022 Election Results

**21. Appointment of Team Deputy Church Warden with responsibility for St Mary Magdalen:**

No one has volunteered to stand for election – position Vacant.

Paul Carr advised that in the absence of a warden that a committee had been formed to try and tackle some of the tasks that required doing and we would see what progress they made.

**22) Appointment of a Treasurer with responsibility for St Mary Magdalen.**

Sue Oakley was happy to continue as Treasurer and was thanked by Paul Carr for all that she had done.

She was Proposed Maureen Bowles, seconded by Jonathan Morley, Carried unanimously

**23. Appointment of Parish Electoral Roll Officer**

Amanda Furneaux had agreed to again take it on for a further year.

Proposed Christine Coe, seconded by Sue Stevens, Carried unanimously.

**24. Appointment of a PCC Treasurer:**

Les Shepherd and Robert Lewis both agreed to continue jointly in this role.

Proposed by Tony Wallace, seconded by Jennifer Anderson, carried unanimously.

**25. Appointment of a Wedding and Funeral Fees coordinator:**

Paul Carr advised that Maria Foyster was prepared to continue in this role for a further year. She was proposed by Chris Davis and Seconded by Les Sheppard. Proposal carried unanimously.

**26. Appointment of a Vice-Chair to the PCC for 2023/2024**

It was the turn of Emmanuel to fill this role and Christine Coe was willing to stand. The motion was Proposed by Paul Furneaux and Seconded by Bob Lewis. It was carried unanimously.

## 27. Appointment of Independent Examiner

It was proposed that after last years' service performance we would continue with Edmund Carr. The Treasurers are happy with their performance. The motion to retain them was Proposed by Den Whitehouse and Seconded by Jim Henshaw. It was carried unanimously.

## 28. Questions and Comments:

No comments or questions were directed to the Rector.

## 29. Churchwarden's Statement:

On behalf of the churchwardens, Christine Coe thanked Paul Carr for guiding us through a difficult period.

## 30. The meeting closed in prayer.

Paul Carr invited all present to share the Grace.

Paul thanked Alan for minuting the meeting.

The APCM was again adjourned and deferred to a later date, to receive the Accounts and Trustees Report.

Paul thanked everyone for attending the meeting and closed it.



## The Billericay & Little Burstead Team Ministry

### Approval of 2022 Parish Accounts and APCM

#### Approval of Accounts

The accounts were available for review in early October, and it was decided to request approval of them via e mail. On 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023 a copy of the accounts was distributed to all PCC members along with the following e mail

*Please see the attached 2022 scrutinized accounts for the parish.*

*As a member of the PCC please can you respond to the following questions*

- 1) *I am happy to submit my vote on my position regarding the 2022 accounts via e mail.*
- 2) *I vote in favour/reject/abstain to approving the accounts.*

*Please can you respond to this e mail by 6pm on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023.*

*Assuming that the accounts are approved there will be a reconvened APCM to receive the accounts after the team service on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at Emmanuel. The meeting will commence at 12:30.*

The results were as follows,

- 22 responses from PCC members prior to the closing deadline.
- All voted in favour of allowing the vote to take place via e mail and all members voted to approve the accounts.

Therefore, the motion was carried, and the 2022 accounts were approved.

**Formal Receipt of the 2022 Parish Accounts via a Reconvened APCM on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at Emmanuel commencing at 12:30**

<b>Present at the Meeting</b>			
Paul Carr	Alan Morgan	Christine Coe	Maureen Baker
Pauline Randall	Linda Wallace	Tony Wallace	Sue Oakley
Alan Woolnough	Joy Eayes	Jennifer Anderson	David Bowles
Rupert Hankey	Mari Flack	Jim Henshaw	Robert Masters
Christine Williams	Gill Whitehouse	Dennis Whitehouse	Funso Banjo
Chris Davis	Anita Morgan	Merrill Knight	
<b>Apologies</b>			
Margaret Fowler	Trish Wicker	Paul Furneaux	Amanda Furneaux

- 1. Welcome:** Paul Carr welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Paul asked for confirmation that the appropriate due notice had been given to each church of the APCM. Everyone concurred that it had, and it was formally proposed by Maureen Baker and seconded by Chris Davis.
- Paul summarised by advising that the Annual Church Meeting had taken place in May without the accounts to comply with church law deadlines for holding an APCM. It was then reconvened in June to receive the reports and re-reconvened again on 29<sup>th</sup> October to receive the 2022 approved accounts. The reason for the delays has been mainly due to the external examiners taking a long time to complete their scrutiny. However, it is difficult to find Accountants who specialise in church team accounts and overall, the PCC Treasurers were pleased with Edmund Carr's performance.
- Paul asked whether there were any questions relating to the accounts but there were none.
- Paul asked whether there were any matters arising from the financial accounts. None were raised.
- Robert Masters requested a vote of thanks be made to the PCC Treasurers and the individual church treasurers.
- The motion was raised to formally receive the approved 2022 parish accounts. It was proposed by Sue Oakley and seconded by Robert Masters. It was passed unanimously.
- The meeting closed.

<b>2024 ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING ELECTIONS</b>			
<b>CHRIST CHURCH</b>	<b>EMMANUEL</b>	<b>SAINT JOHN THE DIVINE</b>	<b>SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN</b>
<b>DEANERY SYNOD 2023-2026</b>	<b>DEANERY SYNOD 2023-2026</b>	<b>DEANERY SYNOD 2023-2026</b>	<b>DEANERY SYNOD 2023-2026</b>
Jennifer Anderson Catherine Benbough	Marueen Baker Christine Coe Merrill Knight	Jim Rose	Sarah Hirst
<b>CHURCH WARDENS (year started)</b>	<b>CHURCH WARDENS (year started)</b>	<b>CHURCH WARDENS (year started)</b>	<b>CHURCH WARDENS (year started)</b>
Chris Davis Jennifer Anderson	Christine Coe 2021 Vacancy	Paul Furneaux 2018 Linda Russ 2024	Sandra Healy 2004
<b>TREASURER</b>	<b>TREASURER</b>	<b>TREASURER</b>	<b>TREASURER</b>
Les Sheppard	Robert Lewis	Bernie Brooks	Jackie Bouette (Temp)
<b>PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (until)</b>	<b>PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (until)</b>	<b>PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (until)</b>	<b>PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (until)</b>
Les Sheppard (2026) Val Sheppard (2025) Paul Hunt (2025)	Phil Alcock (2027) Sue Stevens (2026) Alan Morgan (2025)	Robert Masters (2026) Vacancy	Sarah Hirst (2025) Sandra Healy
<b>DISTRICT CHURCH COUNCIL</b>	<b>DISTRICT CHURCH COUNCIL</b>	<b>DISTRICT CHURCH COUNCIL</b>	<b>DISTRICT CHURCH COUNCIL</b>
Pete Fisher Catherine Benbough Angela Wood Fran Davis Mandy Campbell	Funso Banjo Vince Fabbri Ike Nwobodo Juliet Shipton James Van Cleef Den Den Whitehouse	Bernie Brooks Anne Howell Janet Masters Robert Scott Julie Toddman Brian Russ	Christine Henshaw Maureen Bowles Derek Hill Brenda Hill Mari Flack David Bowles John Hampton

<b>2024 ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING ELECTIONS CONTINUED</b>			
<b>CHRIST CHURCH</b>	<b>EMMANUEL</b>	<b>ST JOHN THE DIVINE</b>	<b>ST MARY THE VIRGIN</b>
<b>STEWARDS</b>	<b>STEWARDS</b>	<b>STEWARDS</b>	<b>STEWARDS</b>
Catherine Benbough Joan Bradshaw Anne Deal Angela Gambling Stuart Gibbs Ian Grant Carol Heath Paul Hunt Trevor Jones Joyce Leach Val Sheppard	Brad Martin Donna Martin Alan Morgan Steve Smith Christine Morley Sue Pitman Margaret Coulson Chioma Nwoboda	Amanda Furneaux Paul Furneaux Janet Masters Robert Masters Jim Rose Beryl Scott Robert Scott	David Bowles Sandra Healy David Jones
<b>DCC SECRETARY</b>	<b>DCC SECRETARY</b>	<b>DCC SECRETARY</b>	<b>DCC SECRETARY</b>
Joy Eayres	Maureen Baker	Amanda Furneaux	Trish Wicker
<b>DEPUTY CHURCH WARDENS</b>	<b>DEPUTY CHURCH WARDENS</b>	<b>DEPUTY CHURCH WARDENS</b>	<b>DEPUTY CHURCH WARDENS</b>
Trever Jones Val Sheppard	Jonathan Morley	Vacancy	Vacancy
<b>CHURCHES TOGETHER BILLERICAY</b>	<b>CHURCHES TOGETHER BILLERICAY</b>	<b>CHURCHES TOGETHER BILLERICAY</b>	<b>CHURCHES TOGETHER BILLERICAY</b>
Jennifer Anderson	Jonathan Morley Christine Morley Pauline Randall	Vacancy	Vacancy
<b>PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPS/LEAD RECRUITERS</b>	<b>PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPS/LEAD RECRUITERS</b>	<b>PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPS/LEAD RECRUITERS</b>	<b>PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPS/LEAD RECRUITERS</b>
Faith Benbough	Penny Van Cleef Rita Fabbri	Amanda Furneaux	Maureen Bowles
<b>ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER</b>	<b>ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER</b>	<b>ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER</b>	<b>ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER</b>
	Sue Stevens	Amanda Furneaux	David Bowles
<b>PLANNED GIVING OFFICER</b>	<b>PLANNED GIVING OFFICER</b>	<b>PLANNED GIVING OFFICER</b>	<b>PLANNED GIVING OFFICER</b>
Julia Morton	Brad Martin	Janet Masters	Jackie Bouette/Michael Ginn
<b>PCC STANDING COMMITTEE REPS</b>	<b>PCC STANDING COMMITTEE REPS</b>	<b>PCC STANDING COMMITTEE REPS</b>	<b>PCC STANDING COMMITTEE REPS</b>
Election deferred to next DCC	Alan Morgan Christine Coe	Paul Furneaux Linda Russ	Information not provided

### **PCC Secretary's Report**

The Billericay and Little Burstead Parochial Church Council met five times during 2023/4 calendar year and the Standing Committee was activated 3 times. A similar cadence will be adopted for the year 2024/25. Prominent issues for discussion have been "Living in Love and Faith" and the departure and replacement of our Rector. Other issues discussed included, Faculty Applications, Deanery Synod / Churches Together in Billericay, Receive minutes of District Church Councils, review, and update Parish Policies: and of course, Good News from around the parish.

**Alan Morgan, PCC Secretary**

### **Parish Electoral Roll Report**

In accordance with the Church Representation Rule, a new Electoral Roll has been prepared for this year. The 2024 Electoral Roll is summarised as follows:

Christ Church	105	increase of 5
Emmanuel	121	decrease of 20
St John the Divine	32	stayed the same.
St Mary the Virgin	40	decrease of 8
<b>Team</b>	<b>298</b>	this is a decrease of 23 on 2023.

**Amanda Furneaux, Electoral Roll Officer**

### **BillericayChurches.org Website [www.billericaychurches.org](http://www.billericaychurches.org)**

The BillericayChurches.org website is very important for our team churches. It is a central point for information, news, and resources such as The Pilgrim Magazine, not only for church members, but also the wider public who may be seeking information about church service times, activities and enquiries. We know from the website statistics that our information and resources are seen by people in the UK and around the world. Importantly the site is designed to work on mobile devices as well as computers as most people use their phones these days to access the internet. The majority of my work focuses on the Emmanuel site and content but I occasionally make changes on behalf of St Johns and St Mary The Virgin Churches. I will always add more content if requested.

**Richard Shipton**

### **Billericay Foodbank**

"Billericay Foodbank is an inclusive project, welcoming people from all backgrounds to become part of its mission to serve the most vulnerable individuals and families in our local community."

It has been another busy year for the Billericay Foodbank (BFB).

The single most important development has been moving premises and beginning work with our partners at Hamelin Trust to provide opportunities for their 'Guests' to gain some work experience, build their confidence and possibly for some to think about entry to the labour market.

We have regularly and consistently delivered to over 100 households every week, encouraging people to come to the Foodbank rather than relying on deliveries, and now have 50% of our households collecting direct. This takes us back to our original practice which we had to suspend during lock-down.

We have continued to receive donations from a wide range of sources, including churches, schools, youth uniform organisations, supermarkets, local companies, community

organisations, sports clubs and numerous individuals and families who regularly drop off food and the other items we need at the donation points situated across the town.

We have organised our own fund-raising events and been the beneficiary of activities arranged by other groups.

New volunteers have joined us throughout the year, with others, who have supported us so faithfully, changing role or moving on to new things.

So, while we expect things to change, there are some things that must always remain the same, i.e. those which reflect the heart of what we do, our values of being non-judgemental, non-bureaucratic, easy to access and offering a friendly welcome to those seeking help. Within that approach, we try to recognise and respond in the best way we can to the presenting requirements of families and individuals. Of course, our primary task is to ensure that we can help with the basic human need for food, but we know that so many of those we assist have other, often complex, needs.

### **Conclusion**

The last year has been hectic at times, but always worthwhile. We look forward in faith to the coming year, knowing we serve a faithful God who provides abundantly for all our needs and who has a heart for the poor. We remain thankful to all those who provide places for us to receive donations, and especially for the prayers of the Team Ministry Churches across the town, providing vital support for this ministry.

**Jim Rose**

### **Churches Together in Billericay**

The CTB Church Leaders continue to meet together monthly to share, plan and pray together. Some of the community events which CTB have been able to support were:

**St. Mary Magdalen, the Church in the High Street**, was a welcome place for everyone during the Mayflower Rotary Christmas Market on 3rd December 2023 from 11-5pm.

The church was set out 'café style', with small tables and chairs. We served around 700+ hot drinks with mince pies. Gary Bott, Community Pastor from the Baptist Church, hosted throughout the day and choirs from the Anglican Churches, URC, Baptist and The Most Holy Redeemer Church each sang Carols and Christmas songs. The prayer area was appreciated by many and candles could be lit, and prayers written. We had a steady stream of local people and visitors. Bishop Adam, the new Bishop of Bradwell came and we were delighted to have him pick up the teapot, serve and chat for 90 minutes. Donations of £670 were shared between St. Mary Magdalen and St. Luke's Hospice.

**The Christmas Day Lunch 2023** at Western Road Methodist Church was a great success with lots of positive feedback. 75 Meals were served and two were delivered, drivers collected the guests and took them home after watching the King's speech. The guests went home with food and gifts. The event brought a lot of joy to the guests. It brings the volunteers a great sense of fun and satisfaction to have reached out to the Billericay community.

**The Good Friday Pilgrimage** started at Emmanuel Church and then to the Billericay Community Garden, Sun Corner, The Most Holy Redeemer Grotto and finished with refreshments in the Pastoral Centre. There were Bible Readings and worship 45+people from across the churches were there.

**Soapbox Derby.** CTB had two marquees. Tables were set-up with different crafts, face-painting, a prayer area, plus many outdoor games and activities. It was a very busy time for those that were able to support the event and much appreciated by the community. All the activities were free and there were still queues for them long after the main events had finished.

There is a great need for much more support to organise these events. Next year it would be great to have commitments of help earlier and also more volunteers from the churches to mingle and chat.

We do have fun and it is always a joy to be together and meet people that come along.

*Pauline Randall CTB Representative*

### **Forging Men**

**No Report Received**

### **Schools Ministry Billericay**

Schools Ministry Billericay provides a Christian presence and support to the local schools when wanted, needed and appropriate. Part of our vision as a charity is to make beneficial contributions to the wholeness of the school communities, both individually and collectively.

Over the last year, SMB continued to work across all school years with Bible storytelling and teaching, lunchtime clubs, supporting school staff pastorally and with resourcing, creating opportunities for reflection, awe and wonder, providing safe spaces and trusted people, offering prayer and providing a crisis response when needed.

SMB offered a variety of events for primary pupils over the year: Prayer Spaces, Well-being Spaces as well as Amazing Christmas.

Three of our four members of staff are also part of a larger Schools Pastors Team, which provides pastoral contact and support in both secondary schools during the lunch periods.

**Ruth Strickland**

### **The Indoor Market:**

The Indoor Markets held at St Mary Magdalen continue to grow and are an excellent example of church outreach to the town. A real community spirit is developing and the atmosphere at recent markets has been buzzing! More and more enquiries from potential stall holders are being received. At the February 2024 event a footfall of over 300 people was recorded. Lunches were introduced this year and have been very successful with 28 lunches being served at the November 2023 market and a similar number at subsequent events. The markets are now contributing £350 -£550 per event to SMM funds.

The one issue that needs to properly be addressed is Parking on the Triangle. This has been raised at several meetings but continues to be a problem. We are finding that cars are parked on the Triangle where we need to park to unload supplies for the market. You cannot just stop outside the main doors! Although we continually ask people not to park there, our requests go unheeded. I am concerned that there will come a time when we will be unable to properly setup for the market due to access unavailability.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who help with the markets.

**Pauline Randall**

### **Mothers Union**

2023 has been another busy year for MU. We have had a variety of interesting speakers including our Diocesan President, Maxine Paul. One meeting was held at St John's Church as there was a Diocesan Meeting at Emmanuel. This made a pleasant change so "Thank you St John's for being available and allowing us to use your facilities".

In January we held a Traditional Afternoon Tea in the Archer Hall as a "Thank you" to all those who have supported MU, with a special "Thank you" to the Young Mums who organised the Shopping Event, to raise money for our Diocesan Projects. Tea was served in the best crockery, begged and borrowed, to make the afternoon really special.

We held a short Service of Reflection in November at St Mary Magdalen in the High Street remembering the 1 in 3 who are affected by Gender Based Violence. Mothers' Union members are working with Churches and Specialist Organisations to raise awareness of the stark statistic.

The highlight of our year was the live concert at Emmanuel "2 Lads and a Laptop" raising an amazing £1,000 for EfW (English for Women), our Diocesan project delivered by a team of volunteers who help learners improve their English and gain the confidence needed to navigate everyday life. "Thank you everyone who kindly supported us."

Merrill Knight

### **The Next Chapter Bereavement Group**

This group opened January 2020 as I went to a group that closed and there is such a need for it. St Mary's the Virgin took it up and we opened in Emmanuel Archer Hall. It was our 4<sup>th</sup> birthday this January and we had a balloons and cakes kindly donated by Asda who supply some of our catering free of charge. We had to close while the pandemic was on but reopened in August 2021 and we now regularly have between 65-70 people (men and women) on our Saturday morning coffee morning, new members join every month. We have 110 members now on our books. We do a social event each month, such as a coach trips, theatre trips and of course pub lunches etc. We have a team to help run the group, all who bereaved themselves, so they understand how the members feel.

**Sandra Healy**

### **The Pilgrim**

I have continued to produce and distribute the Pilgrim, our parish magazine, this year. I am grateful to Rev Margaret Fowler for bringing Pilgrim to the attention of the PCC. There is so much content that I'm not sure the members all realised. They agreed to encourage their individual churches to support the magazine and submit items of interest and photographs to accompany them.

Of course, I could not manage all this without Ian Eayres with his skills, to Acors who do a magnificent job in printing, the people who distribute copies in their churches and to my husband Jim for help in getting copies around the parish.

**Sue Shrubbs**

### **Safeguarding**

We do not have a Parish Safeguarding Officer. Please refer individual churches, ADCM reports as each church has their own Safeguarding officer.

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Three of our four members of staff are also part of a larger Schools Pastors Team, which provides pastoral contact and support in both secondary schools during the lunch periods.

Ruth Strickland

### **Billericay and Basildon Street/Rail/School Pastor - Annual Report**

The period from January 2023 to January 2024 has been an eventful one for the Pastors group, with major changes in venue. Together with re-establishing a previous good working relationship with *Greater Anglia*. Existing relationships have continued with Hope 3:16, Essex Police, Essex PFCC, Basildon Borough Council, Local Churches, Schools, and voluntary organisations such as CAB and Mind. Also, the Trustees have applied for the Kings Award for voluntary service on behalf of the Street/Rail/School Pastors and we have been short listed.

#### **The Hub.**

On 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023 the official hand over from FoodBank to Street Pastors took place. The FoodBank had previously occupied the greater part of units 8-10 High Street Billericay and had moved out to part of *Hamlin House*, Radford Way Billericay. Following some discussions with *Revival Church* Billericay and Hope 3:16 the decision was made that *Revival Church* would occupy Unit NO 10, Hope 3:16 the basement and Street Pastors would occupy Unit No 8. Since that time some major refurbishments have been made and continue to be ongoing.

#### **Rail Pastors.**

Rail Pastors recommenced patrols in April 2023 following a break during Covid19. They patrol along the *Greater Anglia* (GA) lines from Shenfield to Southend/Colchester and Harlow to Cambridge. The return of the Rail Pastors has been well received, both by travellers and *Greater Anglia* staff. Patrol reports are forwarded to GA management who express an appreciation for all the positive impact the Rail Pastors have had with both staff and travellers.

#### **School Pastors.**

School Pastors continue to have a presence in both *Mayflower* and *Billericay* Schools, and also *Pioneer School* Basildon. Their presence proved particularly valuable in the days following the tragic accident in Stock when two young boys were involved in a road traffic accident; one boy unfortunately died as a result of his injuries, and the other was hospitalised for some time. The School Pastors provided support to both pupils and school staff.

### **Street Pastors.**

Patrols continue on a Friday night, unfortunately there are as yet insufficient numbers of Street Pastors to facilitate patrols on a Saturday night. Street Pastors continue to be well received and have made a positive impact in the towns of Billericay and Basildon.

### **Prayer Pastors.**

Denise Goodyear and Bruce Bott have been instrumental in developing this valuable group. They have initiated the attendance of Prayer Pastors at the hub prior to patrols going out and facilitated the ongoing channels for Street Pastors to send prayer requests whilst out on patrol. They have also initiated regular monthly prayer time with communion.

### **Marketing and Communications.**

We have been very fortunate to have the services of Pete White who has initiated the info-graphs which give an excellent depiction of activities on our streets and across the rail network. In addition, he produces the quarterly **Street News/Rail News**.

### **Training.**

A comprehensive **Training Programme** was completed by a number of Street/Rail/School Pastors between February and October 2023, with a number of already commissioned Pastors taking the opportunity to refresh their knowledge and appreciation of the various areas covered in the programme.

### **Future Direction.**

For some time over the past year the Trustees have been debating the future operation of the Pastor Group. The trustees made the decision to look at alternative ways of operating and presented these proposals to the whole group of Street/Rail/School Pastors which were positively received. Going forward we will be known as Community Pastors with an official launch in June of 2024.

Since writing this report we have experienced a major fire, due to an arson attack, at our premises on the High Street and we are now engaged in refurbishment activities. There have been many offers of practical and financial support from the Billericay community.

We now look forward with anticipation to 2024 with all the new potential opportunities we have to bring the love of **Jesus** to as many people as we can in our town.

**Val Rook 02/04/24**