



The Billericay & Little Burstead Team Ministry

TRUSTEES REPORT

31 DECEMBER 2023

Charity Number : 1131650

BILLERICAY AND LITTLE BURSTEAD TEAM MINISTRY
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

CONTENTS	PAGE
Trustees' annual report	1
Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees	10
Statement of financial activities	11

The Balance Sheets will be provided when the accounts are finalized.

BILLERICAY AND LITTLE BURSTEAD TEAM MINISTRY - 2023 TRUSTEES' REPORT

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Legal and Administrative Information

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956 and Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity currently registered with the Charity Commission Registered Charity Number 1131650.

Parish Name	The Billericay and Little Burstead Team Ministry
Diocese & Diocesan Parish Code	Chelmsford 10.03
Deanery	Basildon
Archdeanery	Southend
Episcopal Area	Bradwell
Address	c/o Emmanuel, Laindon Road, Billericay, Essex. CM12 9LD
Website	www.billericaychurches.org
Independent Examiner	Edmund Carr LLP, 146 New London Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 0AW

Aims of the Organisation

The Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956, section 2, directs that a Parochial Church Council (i.e., The Billericay & Little Burstead Team Ministry), has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector, alongside the Team Vicars, in promoting within the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church:

- Pastoral: to look after, and care for, the needs of individual people;
- Evangelistic: to share the Good News of salvation in Jesus;
- Social: to be involved in the local community with those who are suffering.
- Ecumenical: to encourage good relationships with other Christian denominations.

The PCC also has the responsibility to maintain all church buildings and grounds. Thus, the prime purpose of the church is to maintain and develop the community of Christian believers and to use the strength of that community to promote the beliefs of and in Christ through outreach, care for those in need, and by contributing in practical and Christian ways to the community. Naturally, this will involve our engagement in such issues as Mission, Teaching, Nurture and Christian Stewardship - such as the giving of our Time, Talents and Financial Resources. All of this should be seen as part of our common Christian discipleship and not just for those who are particularly keen, willing, and able. In addition, our support of missionary activities (both at home and overseas) should fulfil a clear and integral part of our communal life as the family of God here in The Billericay and Little Burstead Team Ministry.

The principal way in which the PCC fulfils this responsibility is in acting in collaboration with the clergy team and the District Church Councils in coordinating ministry within the parish, based in and around the five churches of the parish, and in providing oversight as needed. In practice, as much as possible is delegated to the District Church Councils, however, the PCC retains the legal responsibility for overseeing the parish and furthering its aims and has the final say on expenditure over £2,000 and faculty applications.

Public Benefit

When planning the activities for the year, the Team Rector, Ministry Team and PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefits, and in particular, the specific guidance for charities for the advancement of religion. We try to enable people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and Prayer; regular public worship that is open to all, and the provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation.
- Enabling people to learn about the Gospel and develop their knowledge of, and trust in, God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit through sermons, courses and small groups.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish and for members of the congregations, including offering the sacraments of baptism and confirmation, conducting weddings and funerals and visiting the sick, housebound and bereaved.

BILLERICAY AND LITTLE BURSTEAD TEAM MINISTRY – 2023 TRUSTEES’ REPORT

(Continued)

- Mission and outreach work.
- Taking of religious assemblies in schools.
- Evangelistic activities, through the staging of events and meetings and the distribution of literature.
- Promoting the whole mission of the Church through our involvement in the wider community of Billericay.

COVID-19

The challenges of life after COVID 19 continued to affect church life and continues to have an impact on attendance at church events, especially for those who live on their own, those who continue to shield and those who don't have internet access. COVID 19 Risk Assessments were reviewed across the parish and PCC as and when necessary. Due to the continued generosity of members across the churches regular giving has continued. However, this is significantly lower because loose plate giving on Sundays has reduced significantly along with church attendance.

The Billericay & Little Burstead Team Ministry

The Billericay & Little Burstead Team Ministry consists of five churches spread across our town and, whilst offering different styles of worship, within an evangelical tradition, we are united in our vision to serve God and the wider community in which we live and love. Online, livestreaming and pre-recorded services have continued in some of our churches as the 'new normal'.

Zoom and other online mid-week prayer gatherings continue. A Team Ash Wednesday took place at Saint John the Divine, and the Team Churches took it in turns to host a joint Lent course; different members of the clergy and Lay leaders led each session. The Maundy Thursday service was held at Christ Church. We enjoyed Four Team Communion services on the fifth Sundays, shared between Christ Church and Emmanuel. Midweek Communion at Saint Mary's took place every Wednesday when Preaching and Presiding was shared amongst the clergy. Paul, Margaret, and Rupert continued to meet for a staff meeting afterwards. Christine Williams also now attends.

The Annual Service of Memorial took place at Emmanuel in November. The Remembrance Sunday Parade Service in the High Street saw record numbers attend. Revd Paul Carr last service at Emmanuel was on 26th November 2023. He has now moved on to a new role as Anglican Vicar of Paphos, Cyprus. Christine Williams had her Permission to Officiate extended as did Pauline Woolnough, and Pauline Randall was commissioned Chaplain at St Mary Magdalen, the church in the High Street.

A brief report from individual churches can be read below and the full ADCM reports are available on Emmanuel's website.

Christine Coe PCC Vice Chair

Christ Church

The number of activities and people attending Services and activities after Covid has gradually increased. We are back to normal with our regular services and have a pre-recorded service every Sunday morning. Our live-streaming equipment will be available very soon. We are grateful for the commitment by those who continue to record and put out these online services which are appreciated by those who are unable to attend Church.

BILLERICAY AND LITTLE BURSTEAD TEAM MINISTRY – 2023 TRUSTEES’ REPORT Continued

There have been no weddings or funerals in Christ Church this year. We have had several infant baptisms and two adult baptisms. One of the adult baptisms was by immersion on Easter Day 2022. We need more support from Church members to help with Baptism preparation.

Messy Church is held once a month on a Sunday morning in the hall. The numbers attending are up to pre-Covid levels. We need to consider Sunday School once a month for children who are too old for Messy Church. Our Youth Group closed at the start of Covid and has not re-opened. We have funding for a two or three day a week Youth Worker, so are praying through how best to use these funds for the benefit of children and young people.

We reinstated the Common Cup for Communion at the end of January 2022, and regularly reassess our Covid precautions. Home Communion is now fully reinstated.

We celebrated the Queen’s 70th Jubilee in June during our Morning Service and hosted a community event in the afternoon to which over 200 people came. The Jubilee inspired our Summer Series when we looked at what “Jubilee” meant in the Old Testament and linked it to the Queen’s Christian life and prayers in the book “Our Faithful Queen”. After her death, we remembered Her Majesty’s life with special prayers and music in our Service on 15 September.

Christmas 2022 was busy with seven schools’ Carol Services. We also held three Christingle Services, a Midnight Service, and a Christmas Day Family Communion. Over 3,000 people came into Christ Church during Advent.

A new project for older adults, under the umbrella of ‘Anna Chaplaincy’, is now open every Tuesday at 10 a.m. with refreshments, crafts, games, and hot lunch. Four of our helpers are doing Anna Chaplaincy training, and we are waiting to sign the Head Licence Agreement with them. This links very well with our Pensioners’ Praise services held every month.

In October 2022 two people visited our link primary school and church in Ciamanda, Embu, Kenya. Visits were made to 10 borewells which Billericay Rotary Club built through international fund-raising in partnership with the Rotary Club of Embu. Christ Church continue to support the Ciamanda Education Fund enabling poor but bright children to attend senior school and go to university. This education sponsorship has changed lives and is something we are very proud of.

After several years of water ingress, fund-raising and applications for grants, the Church is now dry, and we will look at updating the inside of the Church. The old Scout Hut was demolished in October 2022. However, the ground has not been cleared, and we are still working with the Scouts to make the area safe and return the area to grass in accordance with the Lease, Local Authority Planning Permission, and the Faculty.

On 25 June last year Catherine Benbough was licensed as a Lay Minister, and on 11 September Sue Goldsmith was ordained to the Diaconate. Paul Hunt is in his second year of the Diocesan online Course in Christian Studies, and Catherine Sullivan is in her first year.

The Church office and coffee shop run well thanks to volunteers. We are grateful to our Wardens, DCC, and all those who work hard to enable Christ Church to run smoothly.

Revd Margaret Fowler, Associate Vicar

BILLERICAY AND LITTLE BURSTEAD TEAM MINISTRY – 2023 TRUSTEES’ ANNUAL REPORT

Continued

Emmanuel

Church attendance is still below pre-pandemic levels, reflecting that people’s routines have changed. We continue with some of the hygiene measures introduced as churches reopened after Covid, but some have been relaxed as time moved on.

We no longer livestream our services but recordings of all services with Home Group sermons, Mission Focus Sundays and other significant occasions continue to be posted to our YouTube channel. The pandemic gave rise to a number of technological developments which have enabled and enhanced what we do. We now have a main WhatsApp group for prayer requests and immediate communication and a number of church groups have their own chats too. These have proved to be an effective method of keeping in touch and passing on urgent messages.

Zoom prayer meetings take place on Wednesday evenings at 6pm. And Sunday evening corporate prayer has been reinvigorated. Prayers for Renewal and Revival now take place in church twice a month at 7pm and numbers attending have been increasing encouragingly.

Our established pattern of Sunday services continued with some minor changes, for example Remembrance Sunday and Christmas Eve, which was a Sunday this year. More changes to this pattern are likely as we move forward into Interregnum and will be more dependent on the availability of our own retired Revd Christine Williams, our Licensed Lay Ministers, and Authorised Lay Preachers, and visiting clergy.

During 2023, our Home Groups studied sermons on Mountain Top Experiences, Sharing our Faith like Jesus and Amazing Grace.

In support of the traditional views of Paul and the other Team clergy, Emmanuel DCC voted not to allow prayers of blessing for same-sex relationships in our church. The PCC extended this policy to the whole parish in July.

Attendance at Church Parades increased over the year and the members of the Uniformed Groups, their leaders and parents seem to engage enthusiastically in the services. Their support of the Toy service in December, where toys are collected for the children supported by Changing Pathways, was very keen as always.

Messy Church has seen a number of changes, particularly the loss of Kathryn Booth who was key to creating and resourcing the craft activities and Revd Paul Carr who actively led the preaching while encouraging Anna and John in that role too. The team leading Messy Church is being rebuilt, with additional volunteers coming forward to plan, lead and provide breakfast.

In addition to our own Sunday services, our clergy and lay ministers led and took part in Team services for Ash Wednesday, at St John the Divine, and Maundy Thursday, at Christ Church. Emmanuel shared with Christ Church hosting the 5th Sunday Team Communion Services. The annual Memorial Service took place at Christ Church.

In October, Quilters Infant and Junior Schools held Harvest Celebrations at Emmanuel and in December, we were pleased to host Christmas Services for children from both schools, along with their parents.

There was no Carol service at Emmanuel but the Lunchtime Community Carol service at St Mary Magdalen proved so popular that it was ‘standing room only’. The Longest Night service, designed particularly for the bereaved and others for whom the jollity of Christmas can be too much, was well-received by those who attended, and many stayed on to talk over a mince pie and a glass of sherry. The two Christingles on Christmas Eve attracted 450 worshippers and 46 people attended the First Communion of Christmas. There was a smaller number at the Family Communion service on Christmas Day. Two infant Baptisms were held at Emmanuel in 2023, and four Funerals. There were no weddings.

Christine Coe, Churchwarden Emmanuel

BILLERICAY AND LITTLE BURSTEAD TEAM MINISTRY – 2023 TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

Continued

St John the Divine

It seems we often start reports such as this with 'It's been a challenging year'. This year is no exception. Though there have also been rewards aplenty.

We strive to expand our family and to bring the Lord to our friends in Outwood Common and beyond, to both young and old. However, we have had to manage this without the leadership, service, vision and pastoral care of a team Vicar, with heavy burdens placed on our Lay Minister, Wardens and DCC. We ask the Lord to help and guide us and to give us the Grace to accept the path he would have us take.

Joyously, our Sunday Worship family has been maintained, with a few welcome new faces among us, and the year has seen some memorable and special services.

We had wonderful Easter celebrations, a July wedding, thoughtful times around Remembrance Day, plus glorious Christmas services, including a Christingle service in which we had the welcome issue of standing room only!

Services continued once a month at Anisha Grange, the care home 'next door', and though we find great joy as some of the residents and staff join us weekly, it is a huge privilege to visit and give the opportunity for more residents, family and carers to attend 'on home ground'. A member of the Team Ministry leads the service (for which we are extremely grateful), following the Churches calendar, whilst people from St. John's join for support. Tea and biscuits follow, with the time spent chatting, all with a great sense of community and fellowship.

Midweek Break has continued, as it has done for more than 20 years, giving a twice monthly opportunity for over 60's friendship and fun, though sadly without more willing volunteers to organise and lead, its future is now uncertain.

Small Wonders has gone from strength to strength, with mums, dads, carers and grandparents forming friendships, along with their little ones, with no barriers and with God's grace. It is such a joy to see.

Café on the Common is approaching its 10th year, with weekly numbers of 35 to 40, plus takeaways. The café is run entirely by volunteers, with menus ranging from Cottage Pie to Jacket Potatoes, and desserts ranging from Fruit Trifle to Rice Pudding – all at a very affordable cost for the Community. A highlight of the year was a visit from Bishop Adam and the Area Dean in November as he toured the Deanery.

The Foodbank has moved premises; however, we continue to receive donations plus offer our regular and faithful prayers.

From another perspective we find it challenging to manage nearly every service without a Vicar, though our gratitude to Linda our Lay Minister is immeasurable, and to Amanda our Administrator for striving to find cover for a monthly Eucharist and occasional services. We are so grateful to those that have found the time to lead and speak to us in these difficult times.

Finances can be summed up as 'satisfactory'. We are nearly holding our own, essentially by the faithfulness and generosity of our Church family along with various fund raising and hall hire activities. However, if we didn't have some savings we would be running at a deficit, with the Parish Share taking the biggest slice, whilst we are faced with the task of raising funds for significant roof repairs. That being said, we continue to support a wide circle of charity organisations, including Ukraine, Toybox, the Bible Society and Lukas's children in Zimbabwe for school fees, clothing and footwear. To end on a positive note, 'the future is not something we can know, except that we are held in our wonderful Father's arms and therefore shall we fear nothing!'

Paul Furneaux & Linda Russ, Wardens, St. John the Divine, Outwood Common.

St Mary the Virgin

We have had our share of sadness with the loss of several members of our church family - Ken Flack, Ken Bearman, Alan Soane, and more recently Ernie Sprunt and Maria Hankey. All were precious friends who will be sadly missed by us all. Rupert is currently on compassionate leave.

The Archdeacon has advised Rupert to focus his ministry on our church instead of both St John the Divine and St Mary The Virgin.

On a lighter note, we had a wedding at our church this year, and the bride coincidentally was the sister of our younger son's school friend, so Christine and I had a great time catching up with past and present news. As well as his keen support and liaising with the Little Burstead committee, Rupert has run two Alpha courses, and two Freedom in Christ courses, one of which Derek and Brenda agreed to run, and did so very successfully. I entertained a group of the University of The Third Age who visited our church and gave them a talk on our history which I had researched prior to their arrival. It revealed St Mary the Virgin's links with some very significant historical figures and events. They were keen

BILLERICAY AND LITTLE BURSTEAD TEAM MINISTRY – 2023 TRUSTEES’ ANNUAL REPORT

Continued

on visiting again and will arrive on 22nd May this year.

Our Quinquennial Inspection in October 2022 revealed many things needed to be done to our church, and although it was disappointing news, it wasn't surprising since we knew there were already many outstanding tasks from previous Quinquennial Inspections so there must be more to add to the list. Fortunately, they are mostly not urgent and will be done in time. We had a new lightening conductor installed, which wasn't a replacement for the existing one, but was needed in addition. It surprised me that two were needed for such a relatively small building but I'm not an engineer. It was quite a major job with a massive cherry picker rolling up the drive. The church heating is not working properly, and a handrail is needed to support our elderly members' safety. Both these tasks are in hand. The most satisfying task for me this year was when Essex County Council finally agreed to completely resurface our car park. It was in an awful condition with holes so large that a hearse was nearly 'bottomed' at one time. I spent two years meeting, emailing, phoning, and generally badgering councilors (Essex County, Basildon, Parish, John Baron MP) to recover it and I'm convinced the eventual success was because they simply wanted me to get off their backs. Persistence sometimes succeeds. As taxing and time-consuming as this job is, it has its rewards. I've made many friends through meetings I attend, when we organize matters, exchange information, and generally increase our knowledge - but if there's one thing, I've learnt is that a Churchwarden's work is never done! I am now stepping down as Church Warden and will not continue for 2024.

Jim Henshaw Churchwarden

St Mary Magdalen

St Mary Magdalen continues to serve the parish as the church in the High Street for regular Wednesday Communion Services, and occasional services such as the Ash Wednesday Service, Patronal Festival service, Christmas lunchtime Carol service the St Luke's Light up a Life service and the annual Remembrance Day service. It is also used occasionally by CTB and is the home of the men's group Forging Men.

St Mary's also continues to host community clubs and events including the Mayflower Morrismen during the winter, the scrabble club and a children's pre-school music group Jungle Jive. The presence of Jungle Jive means that our running costs can mostly be met from their Hire fees and other income can cover the maintenance and repair work that continues. The major work to complete the pointing of the castellations / walls surrounding the 2 flat roofs is still outstanding due to difficulties arranging scaffolding acceptable to the Essex Highways. Their concern is for the safety of the structure due to its proximity to the road. Hopefully this work will be started very soon along with some further pointing work to the rear of the building. There have been no other major works in 2023.

The Indoor market continues to go from strength to strength running about 9 times a year. It gives an outlet for many local crafts people and a place for community to meet for coffee or light lunch and is a good point of outreach into the local community. It also raises a good deal of funds for St Mary's. Our thanks go to Pauline Randall and her helpers who keep this running.

There is a small working party meeting to develop the focus of mission and ministry for St Mary's and they have met 3 times in 2023. One of the successes of this, again with thanks to Pauline Randall is the Chaplaincy role that Pauline has begun toward the end of the year. The Monday coffee morning still meets providing a listening ear for a number of local people and some visitors from further away.

Our continued prayer is that St Mary Magdalen will remain a place for worship and a sanctuary of peace in times of 'life's crisis'. We continue to get feedback of how valued it is that there is a church that is regularly opened during the week that is at the heart of the High Street. My thanks go to all those who help to keep the church open, clean and welcoming for our regular users and visitors alike.

There is no church Warden covering St Mary's at the moment and Sue Oakley, the treasurer at Saint Mary's continues to 'hold things together' for the time being, though this isn't sustainable in the longer term.

Sue Oakley, Treasurer, St Mary Magdalen

BILLERICAY AND LITTLE BURSTEAD TEAM MINISTRY

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Financial Position

To be advised once accounts have been completed.

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds (if possible) that equates to at least three months' unrestricted payments to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. In the Billericay and Little Burstead Team Ministry the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent, team clergy, team churchwardens, Readers / Lay Ministers and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and to stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1131650

Principal address

40
Laindon Road
Billericay
Essex
CM12
9LD

Trustees

The trustees of the Charity are the PCC Members.

'Who's Who' in the Billericay & Little Burstead Team

Ministry/ Clergy

Team Rector	Revd Paul A Carr
Team Vicar	Revd Rupert Hankey

BILLERICAY AND LITTLE BURSTEAD TEAM MINISTRY TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
(continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Associate Priest Revd Margaret Fowler (LD SSM)
Retired (PTO) Revd Christine Williams

Churchwardens

Christ Church Jennifer Anderson
 Chris Daves
Emmanuel Christine Coe
 Vacancy
St John the Divine Paul Furneaux
 Linda Russ to April 23
Saint Mary the Virgin Jim Henshaw April
 2023 – May 2024)
 Sandra Healy (to April 2023)
 Vacancy

Lay Ministers

Christ Church Christine
 Benbough Peter
 Fisher
Emmanuel Sue Oakley
 Pauline
 Randall (PTO)
 Pauline Woolnough (PTO)
Saint John the Divine Linda Russ (PTO)

Authorised Local Preachers

Christ Church Paul Hunt
Emmanuel Stephen
 Greenfield John
 Humphreys
 Rachel Orford
 James Van Cleef
Reader Emeritus Ken Bearman (until deceased)

Pastoral Assistant

Saint Mary The Virgin Sandra Healy

PCC Secretary Alan Morgan

PCC Treasurer L Sheppard
 R.Lewis

St Mary's Treasurer Sue Oakley

Electoral Roll Officer Amanda Furneaux

During 2023, the following individuals have served as members of the Parochial Church

Council: Ex Officio Members

Revd Paul Carr (Chairman: Team Rector)
Revd Rupert Hankey (Team Vicar)
Revd Margaret Fowler (SSM Associate
Priest) Revd Christine Williams (PTO)

Peter Fisher (Lay Minister, Christ Church)

BILLERICAY AND LITTLE BURSTEAD TEAM MINISTRY TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
(continued)

Sue Oakley	(Lay Minister, Emmanuel)
Pauline Randall	(Lay Minister, Emmanuel)
Pauline Woolnough	(Lay Minister, Emmanuel)
Linda Russ	(Lay Minister/PTO, Saint John the Divine)
Ken Bearman	(Reader Emeritus)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Church Warden	Christ Church	Jennifer Anderson
		Chris Davis
	Emmanuel	Christine Coe
	St John the Divine	Paul Furneaux
		Linda Russ (From April 2023)
	St Mary the Virgin	Jim Henshaw
Deanery Representatives	Christ Church	Jennifer Anderson
		Catherine Benbough
	Emmanuel	Christine Coe
		Merrill Knight
		Sue Stevens (to April 2023)
		Maureen Baker from April 2023)
	St John the Divine	Jim Rose
	St Mary the Virgin	Vacancy
Representatives	Christ Church	Chris Davis (to April 2023)
		Paul Hunt
		Les Sheppard
		Val Sheppard (from April 2023)
	Emmanuel	Phil Alcock
		Ben Carr (to Nov 2023)
		Alan Morgan {from Nov 2023)
		Maureen Baker (to April 2023
		Sue Stevens (from April 2023)
	St John the Divine	Anne Howell (until April 2023)
		Robert Masters (Until April 2023)
	St Mary the Virgin	Sarah Hirst
		Vacancy

BILLERICAY AND LITTLE BURSTEAD TEAM MINISTRY TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
(continued)

Independent Examiner

Edmund Carr
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0AW

Approved by order of the board of trustees on and signed on its behalf by:

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PCC Vice Chair

Trustee

BILLERICAY AND LITTLE BURSTEAD TEAM MINISTRY
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Reserved for Examiner's report once 2023 Accounts have been received.
