

Trustees' Annual Report

All Saints Danehill with Chelwood Gate

2026



*All
Saints*

DANEHILL

WITH CHELWOOD GATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FROM THE VICAR AND CHURCHWARDENS

Our mission as a church family is:

To know and share the love of Christ.

This is our response to the wonderful and active love of God.

We do this in response to his abundant love for us, as our crucified and risen King.

Jesus asked Peter three times, 'Do you love me' and commanded him to show this love in action, by taking care of his sheep, his people. Likewise, we seek to show our faith 'not only with our lips but in our lives.'

Our mission is expressed in the words of our vision.

We are growing so that we overflow with people and commitment to Christ; radiating God's love to all in what we say and do, and transforming our villages as we share His compassion.



Services: We provide a variety of services which help us to draw close to God and to one another. These have a range of styles, teaching and music to meet different needs and age groups. We are grateful to God for often overflowing Christmas, Easter, Harvest and Remembrance Sunday events.

There have been a faithful team of people who helped with leading services, preaching, music and the variety of practical backstage tasks to make this possible.

Attendances: have been stable. There were an average of 25 adults at the nine thirty (25 last year) with 32 adults and 10 children at the eleven o'clock (35 and 13 in the previous year). We hosted 5 christenings in church (5 last year), 5 weddings (6 last year) and 5 funerals (6 last year). Whilst the monthly 8am services have ended at Chelwood Gate Church, the building has been a home for seasonal services, some Prayer & Praise events and a range of midweek activities.

Families and youth: Kate Dillingham led the families and children's work until the summer and in November we welcomed back Josh Watson in the combined role of Families, Children and Youth Worker. They have both brought energy and joy to the work, helping to develop and equip the teams of volunteers. A variety of prayer activities have helped us to draw close to God and to draw on his power for the work.

Small groups: Those who attend home groups and small groups find that these are such an encouragement to their spiritual life. Our longing is for as many people in the church family as possible to be a part of home groups.

We are thankful to the fabric group who have worked hard to maintain the church buildings and property, maintaining the venues which help us to reach out together.

Please pray that though seasons of pruning and growth, we will have strong roots so that we bear fruit to the praise of God.

Radiating



Our vision is also to be ‘radiating God’s love to all in what we say and do.’

For the young: this has happened through a whole range of ways such as fantastic holiday clubs, school assemblies and groups in church.

For adults: Food For Thought has been enjoyed, helping us to serve older members of the community and others. We continue to have a lively bellringers’ team and flower team who delight our eyes and ears each Sunday. Events such as the Cameo group, craft night, men’s and ladies’ breakfasts, TNT and village summer BBQ also help to bring people together and show God’s love to those around us. We thank God for pastoral care, both informally and through the pastoral team. Our safeguarding procedures have been strengthened for all ages.



Our goal is that all people including those who may not have a faith will see that the church is working for the common good.

Serving the community - Examples of these are the 'Love Your Neighbour' events such collecting clothes and food for those in need. They have included Noah's Ark parent and toddler group, summer socials and the much-loved Ashdown Café.

We have served the school through a lunch club, and weekly assemblies. The Parish Magazine and church website enable us to inform the church and community with what is happening locally.

Just as a car cannot run without fuel, so the church's work cannot go forward without the fuel of prayer, service and giving.

We are conscious of the need to improve our financial position and planned giving, noting a significant drop in giving over the last year. Legacies have helped to tide us over but cannot be relied upon indefinitely. We are grateful to those who give generously and sacrificially to the work of the church.

And so we praise God for all that He has done in us and through us over the last year! May we continue to know and share the love of Christ, allowing the Good Shepherd to use us to be a blessing to the people for whom he gave his life.

Finance Report

Income: received under the Planned Giving Scheme dropped sharply in early 2025. In January 2024 we received £2,967; in January 2025 we received £2,929, but in February 2025 receipts dropped to £1,231 compared with £2,712 the previous year. Monthly receipts have continued at a lower level throughout the year. The figure for the whole of 2025 comes to £21,038 compared with £36,552 in 2024. Donations by standing order have also fallen by about a third from £21,607 to £14,476.

On the other hand, cash collections have increased sharply: £8,008 versus £4,417 as have Gift Aid receipts. Nevertheless, the overall picture shows a substantial reduction in income from £100,260 to £79,367.

Costs: associated with Youth work are lower, reflecting changes in staffing. Other running costs - utilities, insurance are higher in line with inflation.

Capital spending was lower in 2025 than 2024 £42,264 versus £73,293. Though significant bills have already been paid for architectural work in 2026.

Overall position: Adjusting for late receipt of the grant for youth work and late payment of part of the parish share, the annual deficit has widened again to £76,250 from £52,145 with the decline in giving being a major factor.

VAT: In January 2026 the government confirmed that the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme would come to an end in March 2026. In its place the government announced a Places of Worship Renewal Fund totalling £92m to cover the next four years.

Our Response: Whilst legacies have helped to bridge the gap, there is a great need for increased regular giving. We are very grateful to God for those who give generously and would ask all church members to review their giving as a priority, also that new people would consider supporting the vital work of the church.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is a priority for our parish, and I am pleased to report that we have made significant progress over the last year. As a church, we have worked to strengthen our safeguarding culture, policies and practices, ensuring that the safety and wellbeing of all who engage with us is upheld.

I am especially grateful to the many volunteers who have contributed their time and commitment to this work. Their willingness to complete DBS checks and undertake safeguarding training – whether online or face to face- has been invaluable. We are now at a point where everyone who needs a DBS has the correct one and we are making strong progress towards ensuring that everyone is appropriately trained.

This collective effort reflects a shared commitment across the parish to safeguarding as a fundamental responsibility, and we will continue to build on this momentum in the year ahead.

Our safeguarding documents are reviewed and agreed by the PCC and can be found on our website

[www.allsaintsdanehill.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding.](http://www.allsaintsdanehill.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding)

We give thanks to God for those who continue to help in the Church.

Kirsti Watson, Parish Safeguarding Officer

Families, Children & Youth Work

Over the last year we've seen a bit of a change to the Families, Children and Youth work in our church. Having led the children's work well for the last couple of years, Kate made the decision to move on to a new role in Cornwall, and Meg and Steve handed over the running of the youth work. We then chose to look for a combined Families, Children and Youth worker to oversee the running of our 0-18's ministry, and Josh Watson rejoined us in this post as of November 2025. Here are some key updates from the Families, Children and Youth ministry.

Sunday Mornings: On most Sundays we have a Creche, Sunday club (ages 5-9) and Pathfinders (ages 10-16) for any children and young people in our 11am service.

I have recently updated the teaching programme to help improve the way we disciple the children and young people, and we now follow one teaching programme across all of the groups. We have just finished looking at the parables of Jesus and will be moving on to look at the characteristics of God. We regularly have 4 at Sunday club and 5 at Pathfinders

I have also been changing the way we do our All Age services, which run on the first Sunday of each month. Recently we have been keeping all ages in the main church service, running it in a way that means people of all ages will have something to take away from the morning. It has been amazing to see some of the Pathfinders getting involved by writing the prayers, serving in the worship team and delivering the readings, and the new format of sermon allows the message of the talk to be meaningful to children and adults alike! We have had good feedback from some families that prefer this service

Noah's Ark: is a baby and toddler group that meets on Monday mornings from 9-11.30 in All Saints Church. Each week we see on average about 20 families and 31 children. We have snack time, a craft, bible story and singing. Our main focus is on building relationships with the parents/carers, showing God's love through providing a safe, welcoming space for them to bring their children. After Kate left, Sue and Jennie did an incredible job at taking the reins of Noah's Ark, and it's my privilege to be able to support them in this ministry.

School Involvement: Paddy and I run a weekly assembly each Tuesday in Danehill Primary school, following the same teaching programme as the Sunday morning teaching for the children and young people. This has been an amazing opportunity to share the gospel with the entire school on a weekly basis, building up a good relationship with both the pupils and staff. We also have an opportunity each term to welcome the children and their parents into the church for a special service for each Christmas, Easter and Summer Leavers assembly.

We also support the teachers through offering breacktime supervision after assemblies, and I have started up a weekly Lego and chess club each Thursday lunchtime.

This has been a great chance to look out for some of the quieter children at the school, and we have spent some time exploring scripture by building scenes from bible stories out of Lego! My favourite so far was the Lego recreation of the Easter Story.

Adventure Zone: This year we ran Adventure Zone in Holy Week on the 31st March-1st of April. We had 28 young people from school years Reception to Year 6, as well as 2 young people in year 7 that came back as young volunteers! By inviting year 7+ back as volunteers, the holiday club is now able to have a positive impact on

young people as well as children, allowing the older ones to step up as role models and give the younger ones someone to look up to. The theme this year was 'Shipwrecked', looking at the story of Jonah.

We had loads of fun, played plenty of games and had lots of ocean/whale themed crafts, and for the first year we had a live band for our worship sessions! We finished the theme of the holiday club on Easter Sunday morning in our activity slot, looking at how the story of Jonah points us towards Jesus.

Light Party: went ahead again this year at All Saints, Danehill, run by Kirsti Watson and Heather Kauffman. They did an amazing job, and had more than 100 children come from both Danehill and St Giles primary schools - that's 3x the number from previous years! It was a great celebration of light for people that don't like the scares of Halloween, with lots of glow sticks, light themed games and hot dogs to go around.

Pancake Day: We served Pancakes at Chelwood Gate church on Pancake Day again this year, serving over 100 pancakes! It was so good to see so many faces of all ages, some of whom were a part of our church family but many from Noah's Ark, were new to the village or who hadn't come to church before.

TNT: is continuing to run on a once a month basis, with an extra social each term. This is a great space for the young people of our village to come to relax and be themselves, giving us an opportunity to get to know them and the parents that drop them off. On average we have 20 young people attend each time we run. The extra socials so far have been a movie night at west watch and a night hike through Chelwood Vachery. Our next social is being planned, organised and run by our two Duke of Edinburgh volunteers (with our support!) as the final part of their time with us.

Christmas: Over Christmas we had two key services focused on children and young people; these were our Nativity and Christingle services. Our Nativity was aimed at the Noah's Ark Age group, with simple children's songs and a visit from Twinkle the Shetland pony playing the part of the donkey! Our Christingle service ran on Christmas Eve, and we saw record numbers (125ish) of children and families at this service. If it gets any bigger then we may need to rethink how we run it, but that's a good problem for us to have.

Volunteers: A massive thank you to all of the volunteers that allow us to run this expansive Families, Children and Young people ministry. There are a number of different teams and events that I ask you to serve on, and I am so thankful for everything you give that enables us to run these events. Without the willingness and dedication of our teams, none of this would be able to happen!

Special Thanks: must also go to both the PCC and Parish Council for continuing to fund the Youth & Families Work as part of the Community Outreach Programme for Young People.

Looking Ahead: As we look ahead to the possibilities of the new year, there are some exciting opportunities for growth and some key areas for prayer. The first is the continued development of our regular 11am services and our all age services, as we strive to make them accessible for all to come and hear the gospel. Please also pray for our key events and invite services such as Adventure Zone, Light Party, Nativity and Christingle, that they would continue to grow, blessing others, spreading the gospel and building God's kingdom.

Finally, if you feel that you would be able to support this ministry by volunteering your time at any of these events, please do come and find me. We're currently limited in some areas by the number of volunteers in our teams, particularly on Sunday Mornings and at TNT, so any extra help would be much appreciated.

Josh Watson - Family, Children and Youth Worker

Electoral Roll

Everybody already on the roll from the full update year (2025) will stay on the roll for another 5 years now, until the next full revision year. So there was no need for anyone on it already, to rejoin this year !

In 2025 we had 189 people rejoining the Church electoral roll which was fantastic – especially in a full revision year. Since then, we have lost 5 people who have sadly passed away, 3 have moved churches, and 1 has asked to be voluntarily removed.

The new 2026 electoral roll includes 4 people who joined for the first time, and 1 who will be eligible to be added to the roll later this year, on their 16th birthday. Therefore, the total on the roll now stands at 185, and will be rising to 186 mid-July.

Thank you: A big thank you to everyone that has previously joined the roll and has shown their support of the Church in this way - to our diocese. It doesn't take long to join or require extra commitments, but is important.

We may not be the biggest church in the area but we all collectively do a huge amount for the Church, and surrounding community, and you only have to look at this booklet to see how much we collectively achieve - in both churches.

Alice Marsh - Electoral roll officer

Fabric Report

This year has seen some really positive progress in caring for the building and fabric of All Saints Danehill, with a number of key projects completed and others moving forward well—albeit not without some challenges along the way.

Most notably, the major roof project has now been completed, with generous funding from the Friends of All Saints Church and other grant-giving charities. This is a significant milestone for the life of the building. Like many large projects, it has taken time, coordination, and patience, with some delays along the way, but it is good to see it now finished. Alongside this, a new flagpole has been installed, replacing the previous one which had become unsafe. We are also very grateful for a generous anonymous donation which has enabled the installation of a new auto-winder for the church clock—an important improvement.

Looking ahead, work from the Quinquennial Inspection continues to shape our plans, particularly around rainwater goods which will be completed in 2026, with further projects expected in the coming years. These larger pieces of work inevitably take time to plan, fund, and deliver, but steady progress is being made. We are also currently working towards fundraising for a full overhaul of the organ, which will be an important investment in the church's musical life and worship.

The heating system and our response to the net-zero 2030 target remain on the agenda. We've continued to run and manage our current oil system as efficiently as possible, while offsetting our carbon emissions through Climate Stewards, and exploring future options as they become more viable.

Alongside these larger projects, regular maintenance of the building and grounds has continued throughout the year, including a focus on key health and safety aspects such as improvements to the castors on the pews. Work has also continued at Chelwood Gate church and at 41 Oak Tree Cottage, with routine inspections, maintenance, and repairs ensuring both properties are well cared for and fit for purpose.

With many thanks to the Fabric Committee: Ash Kauffman, David Fry, Charles Critchley, Tom Wade, Robert Hughson and Gerald Alexander. Overall, it's been a year of real progress, with important work completed and good foundations laid for what comes next.

Ashdown Cafe

Now in its eleventh year, Ashdown café has continued to be very successful. On the second Friday of the month, between 30 & 60 members of the community meet for coffee, tea, cakes, biscuits and a chat in Danehill Memorial Hall. Danehill Primary school have entertained us and our M.P. Mims Davies has visited the café twice. After the water crisis in January the BBC came and interviewed some village members who had been affected by the crisis.

We are very grateful to all the groups and individuals who provide the excellent cakes and biscuits and to the willing helpers who put up and take down the tables.

The café would not function without a wonderful team of ladies who work hard to serve coffee & cakes and do the washing up. The café does not run to make a profit but due to people's generosity we have been able to make donations to local organisations.

Danehill Bellringers

We have been fortunate to have a new recruit to our bellringing group. He is very enthusiastic and is “learning the ropes” quickly so is a real asset to us. We also have a returning ringer and so now have a total of 10 regular ringers. This means we have been able to ring every Sunday and for special occasions. We are also well supported on our practice night with ringers from other local towers. However, it would be good to get some younger people interested in learning so that bellringing in Danehill can continue into the future.

Bellringing is a very sociable activity. We have an annual dinner and also an outing every year where we experience ringing different bells which are usually nowhere near as easy to ring as ours! It also involves a good pub for lunch!

Our handbells were, as usual, popular at Christmas when we rang at 9 different engagements including local nursing homes, the Ashdown Café, Chelwood Gate tree lighting and the church carol service.

Susan Hollyman

Cameo

Cameo (come and meet each other) is continuing to be a fun social morning with chat and refreshments. We usually average seven folk at a gathering and new friendships have been formed.

Everyone is very welcome on the 4th Wednesday in the month at 38 Oak Tree Cottages, Danehill.

Chelwood Gate Church

We are grateful to everyone who helps to care for and to use Chelwood Gate Church building. This includes Emma our cleaner, and Catherine Older, Jane Leuchars and Frances Parrish for their help and input on various practical matters. It has been encouraging to see the church building used for a range of activities such as Food For Thought, Contemplative Prayer, PCC meetings, events run by outside groups, worship services and special days such as pancake day and Maundy Thursday.

Chelwood Gate Church Flowers

A wonderful band of helpers has been responsible for providing flowers and looking after the brass in Chelwood Gate Church each week, over a period many years. Special thanks are due to Jane Leuchars who, along with many others, has helped to make the small church a lovely place of worship.

As there are no longer regular services at Chelwood Gate, it has been decided to discontinue the regular provision of flowers, and focus just on the festivals of Christmas and Easter. We will still rely on volunteers to provide these and offers of help would be appreciated – please contact Paddy if you are able to contribute in this way. Following the careful ‘refreshing’ of the church, we hope that the PCC will find a way of ensuring that it is cared for and appreciated well into the future. We offer our grateful thanks to Jane, Frances Parrish and the group of ladies (and one gentleman!) who have made up the team over the years.

Catherine Older (on behalf of the Chelwood Gate Church helpers)

Coffee Plus

Our group has had another positive year of Bible study, prayer and close supportive fellowship. We have used a wide variety of study materials over the course of the last year and have found the website www.faithandworship.com to be an extremely valuable resource. We used a number of resources for Advent and Lent studies, including a book of essays written by various bishops on following the rhythm of the church's year. We spent valuable time studying a book by Rowan Williams, "God with us: The meaning of the cross and resurrection then and now" which we found particularly inspiring. We are now about to embark on a series of studies on Hebrews by N.T. Wright, whose study guides have always proved thought-provoking and well suited to our group.

Our members continue to be drawn from a wide variety of church backgrounds and neighbouring parishes and we value the richness that this diversity brings to our discussions. As well as meeting for study and prayer we also have regular get-togethers for coffee and chat, and worship. On Palm Sunday we went as a group to the Eucharist at Southwark Cathedral, which was an uplifting experience. We all value the close bonds of fellowship that we have built up over the years. This year we were greatly saddened to lose one of our number, the lovely Frances Mills, who was a greatly valued member of Coffee Plus for several years.

As a group, Coffee Plus has continued to make regular donations to charity. Our members donate approximately £1 a week, and from March 2025 to March 2026 we were able to give an inspiring £710, which includes £100 in Gift Aid. Charities supported this year include:

*Open Door (in memory of Hazel Cornwell) £50

*Sussex MS Centre £200

*Water Aid £200

*Toilet Twinning for Chelwood Gate Church £60

*Local Hospice (in memory of Frances Mills) £200

We started our charitable giving in 2010, and over the past sixteen years we have managed to give just over £10,500 to charity.

We look forward to another year of study, prayer and fellowship, repeatedly turning back to God our loving Father by following the example of His beloved Son Jesus Christ, and enabled to do so by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Elizabeth Graham-Dixon

Contemplative Prayer

The Contemplative Prayer group continues to meet regularly at Chelwood Gate church at 10am on the third Wednesday of each month. We follow the method of the Fellowship of Contemplative Prayer, an organisation founded after the second World War in part to pray for peace – prayers which are needed more than ever in our own day.

Our regular attenders number around 10-12, with many of the group coming from parishes around the area. Two short reflections precede periods of contemplative silence, with the focus on a Biblical text taken from words recorded as spoken by Jesus, or God in the Old Testament. An important third part of our prayer time is devoted to looking outwards in intercession for others, both for individuals and for concerns in the wider world.

The opportunity to pray quietly together in this way is greatly valued and we appreciate the close fellowship that our times together create. We hold an annual Quiet Day in Chelwood Gate and some of us attend an annual retreat in Godstone. Anyone is welcome to come, as a 'one-off ' or on a regular basis.

Catherine Older

Flower Rota

As the head of the Church's flower team my job is to prepare a rota for the year covering all the weeks when flowers are required. My team are divided into pairs and each one will cover between 4 and 6 weeks. Each week they will arrange two pedestals: one at the altar and the other by the pulpit. At Festivals and weddings, I will call upon several of them to help with all the extra arrangements required! We are a very happy team and work together very well and I think and hope they enjoy it as much as I do. We are always on the lookout for more volunteers!!

Diana Freeland

Food For Thought

"Let each of you look not only to his own interests but also to the interests of others." — Philippians 2:4

We are thankful for the smooth running of yet another year, for cheerful and servant-hearted helpers who are gifted and flexible too. The attendance numbers have been a regular 18-24 most months, including helpers. We enjoyed many delicious soups and tasty offerings of our choice from Cook in Haywards Heath. We all feel it is a worthwhile ministry, feeding the spirit through a hearty thought. Last time Paddy and Lesley Boase delighted us with a short poem from Chaucer and Tyndale's story, showing their importance of making English an accessible language to its people, especially to their access to Scripture. It feeds the soul as we are all happy to see each other. For some is one of the few monthly outings they will have and means a great deal to them. And what better way than doing all the above while sharing some healthy food.

So many thanks for this go to Kathy W, James E, Gloria H, Sara L, Sue H, Elizabeth G-D, Jenny V, Christine C, Gabriela and Paddy M. If you have a willing heart, there is always room for you to help, even simply attending and bringing a smile with you. We have been abiding by the hygiene and health rules. Thank you, Ash K, for being a great help with this. Sheffield Park representatives visited us in order to understand more about activities in the area, and we are also expecting a visit from Cook community liaison lead in either June or July.

We're grateful to God and look forward expectantly to His blessing on this activity in the future.

Gabriela MacBain

Home Groups

Our home groups continue to be appreciated for their fellowship and for growth in understanding of the Bible. One group meets over Zoom, while the other three gather in homes, creating warm and welcoming spaces filled with light refreshments, meaningful conversation, and good company.

These gatherings are more than just a weekly meeting—they are a vital part of our church life. Each session offers time to share life together, followed by a Bible study or reflection on a Christian theme. This rhythm of friendship and faith builds a strong sense of belonging and encourages deeper commitment to Christ.

It's been inspiring to see how these groups are not only deepening individuals' faith but also knitting us together as a church family.

There is always space for more—new members are warmly welcomed, and there's also room to start additional groups. Our hope and prayer is that every member of our church community becomes part of a small group. It's in these smaller gatherings that we give and receive encouragement, grow in faith, and spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 19

Leading Services

It has been good to have a variety of people leading and preaching at services, as part of our vision for growth. As well as the Vicar, those involved in 2025 have included Rev. Peter Francis, Rev. David Tidswell, Ash and Heather Kauffman, Andrew Hicks, Meg and Steve Coppin, Cedric Parrish, Fergus Llewellyn, Josh and Kirsti Watson, Kevin Cherry, and others.

Music & Worship

We have been grateful at the 9.30am service for the commitment and skill of Katren, Simon, David and Carol on the organ. Also for Jenny, Barbara and Katren who have been involved in choosing hymns.

We give thanks for the 11am singers and musicians with the eleven o'clock worship team, which includes Kevin, Tamsyn, Simon, Heather, Elizabeth, Josh L, Kerrie, Ash, Anna, Josie, Myah, Eden, Josh W and others. If this is something you'd like to be a part of, please get in touch with Kevin Cherry or Heather Kauffman.

The magazine has had a good year.

Magazine Advertising: Carol Williamson took over the job of co-ordinating the advertising copy for the magazine in May 2025. This is quite a tricky job; the advertisements have to fit into the available space. New ads can arrive at any time and have to be accommodated and advertisers may also drop out at short notice leaving an awkward gap. Furthermore while most advertisers pay their dues smoothly there are always a few where robust measures may be required. Carol has risen admirably to the challenge and I should like to thank her for all her efforts over the year. Well done! Lastly please remember to mention where you saw the ad when contacting advertisers.

Editor

I also wish to acknowledge the work that Wren Martin does in assisting me in editing the magazine. Wren is a very busy person with a family, job, Social Club responsibilities and a member of the parish council. Despite this load every month Wren finds time to put together about a third of the magazine and produces the Astronomy article as well.

As with Carol, I want to thank Wren for all this community work, especially the magazine effort, which has been carried out over several years.

Distribution: Finally thanks to the army of distributors and their co-ordinators, Margaret Weller and Ian Barras-Hill for their vital part in the process.

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral care team has met regularly with the Vicar to discuss where care is needed and what people require. The Welcome Bag initiative has been appreciated by newcomers to the village. We have continued to visit housebound villagers, those in care and nursing homes. The Vicar has taken Communion to parishioners who cannot get to church.

We continue to give support to recently bereaved people and have considered forming a bereavement group but have found that it is more beneficial to do this informally .

Ashdown café, Food for Thought, Noah's Ark, Youth activities, Craft Nights all help to make us aware of anyone in need of care and support. Home groups provide a focus for a time of prayer for anyone in the church family who needs it.

We have lost two of our team during the year but have welcomed two new members.

Prayer And A Plate

We meet once a month at the Llewellyns' home to pray and enjoy food together. We meet on Monday evenings at 6pm and share a light supper, followed by a time of prayer together around the kitchen table. All ages are welcome.

It has been a great encouragement to pray and to also thank God for answers to prayers.

Schools

Paddy, Kate and later Josh have had opportunities to take school assemblies and to assist with breaktime supervision. Josh also helps with a Lego and chess lunchtime club on Thursdays and Paddy has served as a governor. The school appreciates its termly services at the church and values the link with us. Danehill School's aim is to 'nurture, engage and inspire our community through our innovative, enlivened curriculum. Our strong Christian values enable all to flourish. We are all learning together, learning for life in all its fullness' (John 10:10).

The school seeks to include its Christian values of curiosity, imagination, discipline, collaboration and persistence into all aspects of learning. The church also enjoys good links with Cumnor House School.

Support Ministries

We are thankful for the many people who take part in 'behind the scenes' roles to enable church services function smoothly as we share the love of Christ.

These include our Verger and Sacristan, Jennie Marten, who is a constant support for weddings, baptisms, funerals, in preparing Communion and in many other ways; the readers and pray-ers; Cedric Parrish for assisting with the news sheet; the Virtues and the Burwoods for hosting the men's breakfasts and Gabriela the ladies' breakfast; for those who prepare rotas; the Lay Ministers of Communion and the sound and laptop operators.

We are thankful to those who have locked and unlocked church; the sidespeople and welcomers and those who have served hot drinks. To Meg and Steve Coppin who worked so tirelessly in different aspects of church life, and who left in the summer. To Alice Marsh for her hard work on the electoral roll. To the fabric group in working steadfastly in many practical ways for the church. To Heather Kauffman for support on publicity and social media. To the brass polishers. To Diana and the flower team. To Emma our cleaner. We record our thanks to Shelagh Gilliam and all those who have helped with formal and informal pastoral care and supporting the bereaved. We are grateful to the Friends; the Parish Magazine distributors, Ian Barras-Hill and Margaret Weller: and to many others.

Parochial Church Council

The PCC is responsible for co-operating with the Vicar in promoting to the parish at large the whole mission and vision of the church. It is responsible for maintaining both church buildings, in Danehill and Chelwood Gate. The PCC has shown regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, seeking to represent the churches in sharing Christ's love in word and action. Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the APCM in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The PCC members since the last annual meeting have been:

Vicar and Chair: Revd. Paddy MacBain*,

Warden and Vice-Chair: Ashley Kauffman

Assistant Warden: Shelagh Gilliam

Treasurer: John Birdwood

Safeguarding Officer and PCC secretary; Kirsty Watson

Sally Alexander

Andrew Archer (from October),

Ian Barras-Hill

Barbara Beedle

Christine Colbourne

Fergus Llewellyn

Tim Pope.

Other roles:

Electoral Roll Officer; Alice Marsh.

Authorised Lay Minister (Pastoral Care and Rural Ministry); Shelagh Gilliam.

Deanery Synod reps; Paddy, Will Loveridge and Lesley Boase.