

PARISH PROFILE



St Peter's Church

Bayhall Road
Tunbridge Wells
Kent
TN2 4UX

Learning together to love Jesus and to love one another



Contents

Message from the Archdeacon	3
About Us	4
Our Mission Statement	5
Our Vision and Priorities	6
Our Team	8
Finance	11
Church Life	12
Evangelism and Mission	14
Parish and Environment.....	16
Buildings	17
Partnerships and Affiliations.....	18

Message from the Archdeacon

St Peter's is a conservative evangelical church with an established identity rooted in biblical teaching, outreach, and pastoral care. It is a Resolution parish under the House of Bishops' Declaration and enjoys a warm relationship with the Bishop of Ebbsfleet, the Rt Revd Dr Rob Munro as well as being fully part of the life of the Diocese of Rochester.

The new incumbent will inherit much that is healthy: a committed lay team, including a licensed Associate Minister and church administrator, strong links with St Peter's CEP School, generous giving, and a parish with a strong financial base as it embarks on a significant refurbishment of its buildings. There are – of course – challenges and opportunities – especially in attracting and discipling the next generation of young adults, broadening the volunteer base, and continuing to reach a growing parish.

The parish sits on the eastern edge of Tunbridge Wells, a town with an active and warm relationship across churches, good schools, mainline trains to London, and the High Weald on the doorstep – a sought-after location within Tunbridge Wells and the South East.

The Diocese of Rochester, under its Called Together vision, is one in which parishes of every tradition are valued and encouraged to change, serve and grow

with compassion, courage and creativity – and St Peter's will find warm support within the Tunbridge Wells Deanery and the wider Tonbridge Archdeaconry.

If you are an ordained evangelical man who loves the Bible, is keen to disciple and grow lay leaders and above all wants to love and lead a congregation with a servant heart, I warmly encourage you to consider St Peter's.

Nick Cornell
Archdeacon of Tonbridge



About Us

St Peter's is a friendly and welcoming conservative evangelical church that attracts people from all backgrounds and stages of life. We care deeply about the church family and the wider community. We value biblical preaching and teaching with practical application, which we seek to live out in our daily lives.

We are:

A Christ-centred church: the very centre of our faith is Jesus Christ: his love, his forgiveness and his plans for our day-to-day lives. Jesus' sacrifice in taking away the sins of the world is essential to our faith. We encourage one another never to lose sight of Jesus.

A teaching church: there is so much to learn as we grow in our Christian faith. Many people come to our church especially for the clearly explained Bible-based teaching, which continues during the week in our Growth Groups.

A praying church: we know that we can do nothing without God's guidance and empowerment.

A welcoming church: we regularly have newcomers and visitors and we aim to make everyone feel at home, safe and valued.

An all-age church: we love the rich diversity of ages and backgrounds.

A caring church: we endeavour to listen well and support each other in the ups and downs of life.

A complementary church: we treat men and women equally and value the distinctive contributions that each bring to Christ's Church.

A mission-minded church: we actively support mission partners in this country and around the world by including them in our wider church family. We encourage and support them financially and in regular prayer.

In summary, St Peter's exists to love, praise and glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Spirit, as taught in the word of God, the Bible.

We are aware of the need to carefully define our theology, in a world that has attacked and questioned much of what we have come to take for granted.

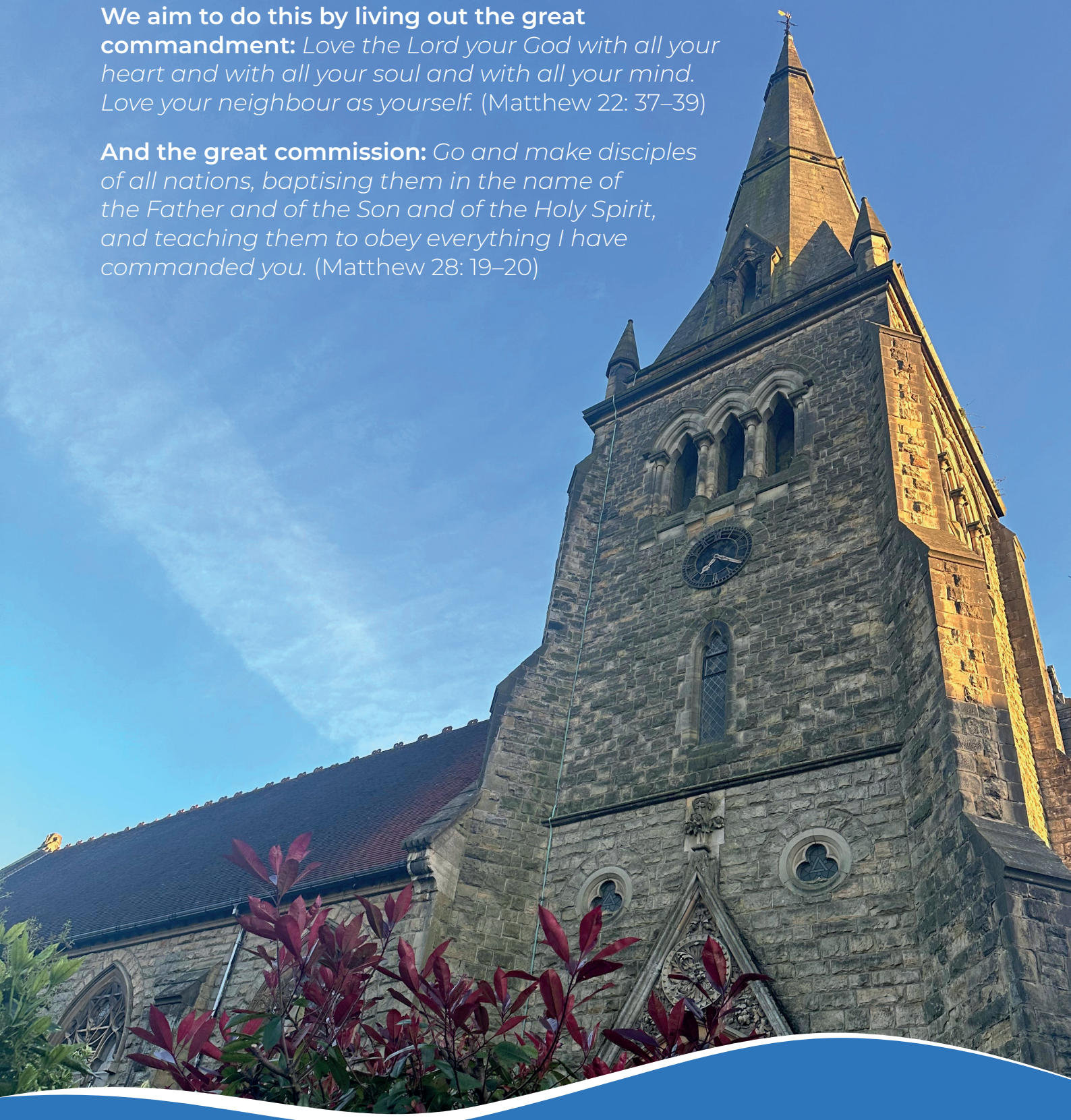
We hold orthodox Anglican beliefs and subscribe to the biblical doctrines formulated in the 39 Articles and the historic creeds. We affirm the [ReNew statement of faith](#).

Our Mission Statement

Learning together to love Jesus and to love one another

We aim to do this by living out the great commandment: *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. Love your neighbour as yourself. (Matthew 22: 37–39)*

And the great commission: *Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. (Matthew 28: 19–20)*



Our Vision and Priorities

We seek to bring glory to God by:

- ensuring that the good news of Jesus Christ is shared with everyone who comes to our weekly services;
- helping the church family to grow in their knowledge of and faith in the Lord Jesus;
- encouraging our children and young people to learn what it means to follow Jesus in a fun and relaxed environment;
- reaching out to our local community with the gospel and practical support, demonstrating our love for our neighbours.

Aspirations – the Person and the Role

We are looking for a vicar who:

- prioritises their daily walk with Jesus and seeks to live a blameless life worthy of the gospel;
- focuses on prayer and the ministry of the word;
- is committed to the expository preaching and teaching of God's word in a way that can be understood by everyone;
- will bring strategic leadership, discipling and developing lay leadership, equipping us to serve and grow together in maturity in Christ;
- will work collaboratively with the PCC, recognising and developing the skills and experience within the church;
- has the vision and enthusiasm to continue to strengthen key growth areas, such as the ministry to our children and youth;
- is eager to connect with people in the local community, including new residents and those who don't often attend church;
- will share in the work of proclaiming the gospel at St Peter's School by serving as a foundation governor and leading school services and assemblies from time to time.

What we can offer

- a committed and capable ministry team and a well organised and united PCC, willing to assist you in your work;
- a caring and supportive church family who are keen to grow in faith and engage in evangelism;
- a friendly and attractive parish in a well-appointed town;
- a spacious vicarage five minutes' walk from the church;
- well managed church finances.



Opportunities and Challenges

We recognise that despite many positives at St Peter's we cannot be complacent.

One area of need is our children's and youth ministry. We would love to foster growth in Climbers (our Sunday School). We also want to do more to keep our teenagers engaged so that they are ready to live and speak for Jesus in further education and work. Our teams would benefit from additional leaders and helpers.

A limited number of people regularly volunteer and our challenge is to encourage more church members to serve according to their gifts and abilities. Another ambition is to nurture more leaders, particularly men, and to help the whole church to grow in confidence in their daily discipleship.

There is a clear opportunity for growth within the young adult demographic. While some older teenagers move away for university, others stay or return and it would be great to help them become fully integrated into church life as adults. We also want to serve and equip young adults and families who move into the area.

Reportedly, we are very good at welcoming newcomers. Our challenge is to keep them coming back. There is great evangelistic opportunity within the community, and we are keen to re-start 'Mummy & Me' or a general play group in the church building. We have a good relationship with St Peter's School staff and children, which we would like to build upon to include the parents.

Our Team

Associate Minister: Phil Peddar:

Phil joined St Peter's in the summer of 2017. He is married to Lucy and they have three young children.



Church Wardens: Andy Colbran and Rachel Fromow:

Andy currently chairs our PCC meetings.



Parish Safeguarding Officer: Michele Burgess:

Michele's role as PSO is informed by previous work experience within children's services.



Church Manager and Deputy Safeguarding Officer: Sally Poland

Treasurer: Tony Burgess



Church Administrator: Lourdes Bragg





The Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The **PCC** plays a central role in ensuring the church operates effectively both spiritually and administratively. It reflects the diversity of the church family and works as a united team – it is rare for votes to lack full agreement.

In 2026, the PCC unanimously agreed to pass a resolution renewing its request, on grounds of theological conviction, that arrangements be continued in

accordance with the House of Bishops' Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests.

We enjoy a warm relationship with the Rt Revd Dr Rob Munro, Bishop of Ebbsfleet, who serves 150 Resolution parishes across the country, including our own. We also remain closely connected to the Diocese of Rochester, with a representative from St Peter's forming part of the Deanery Synod.



The Shared Leadership Team (SLT)

The **SLT** has delegated authority from, and is accountable to, the PCC. Its remit is the same as that of the PCC but may also include confidential pastoral or staff topics. It has authority to make decisions between PCC meetings.

The SLT comprises at least five members, including the Vicar and Churchwardens who are ex-officio. At present, the Associate Minister, Church Manager and Treasurer are also members.

Safeguarding

St Peter's Church is strongly committed to safeguarding children, young people, vulnerable adults, victims and perpetrators, including in situations of domestic abuse.

Having a safe, open and healthy culture and providing a safe place to those who need it is extremely important to us and something we regularly discuss and reflect on at PCC meetings.

The PCC has adopted the Church of England's policies and best practices

on Safeguarding, including how to manage ex-offenders, and the formal statement to adopt the House of Bishops' "Promoting a Safer Church: Safeguarding Policy Statement" has been agreed and signed by the PCC and Churchwardens.

St Peter's Church follows the Diocesan Safer Recruitment process and staff and volunteers undertake the necessary safeguarding training.

Finance

Following the sale of the former St Peter's School Playground in 2023 St Peter's is in the fortunate position of having a strong balance sheet. With £1,040,000 on deposit the PCC plans to use the monies in two ways:

We are well advanced in planning a major refurbishment of the church building which is expected to commence in 2026. These works will include an essential upgrade of electrical wiring and lighting, improvements to the heating system and the installation of accessible toilets.

Any residual funds left over will be used as a source of income to help fund future operational expenses and the development of St Peter's ministry in the Parish.

St Peter's receives income from three primary sources: voluntary giving (including Gift Aid), revenue from hiring

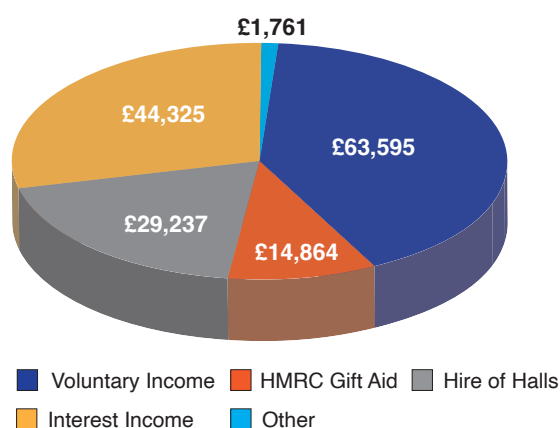
out the church halls – of which a local dance school accounts for around 90% – and interest earned on deposit accounts. The largest component, voluntary giving, represents just over 50% of our total income and mostly comes to us by regular standing orders. Interest income is expected to fall as our refurbishment programme progresses and so the PCC acknowledges the need to carefully review all outgoings in order to minimise any imbalance between expenditure and income.

Payments to Rochester Diocese and the cost of employing our team of lay staff represent the largest components of expenditure.

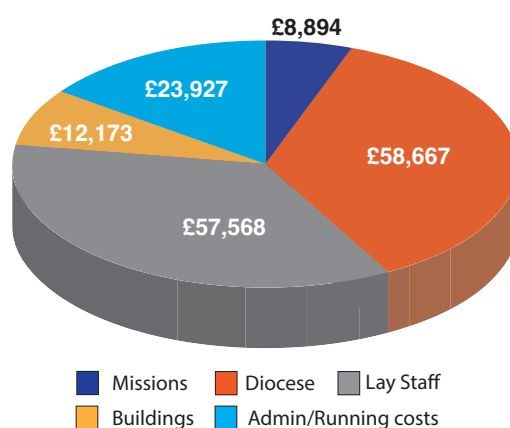
St Peter's contribution to the Diocesan Common Fund is channelled via The Ephesian Fund.

A copy of our latest financial report and accounts is available on request.

Income 2025 (£153,800)



Expenditure 2025 (£161,230)



shop survey! Many of our youngsters attend summer camps including those run by CPAS.

Three **Growth Groups** for adults meet fortnightly on weekday evenings in the homes of church members, with an additional Women's Growth Group meeting on Wednesday mornings in the church hall. We usually begin by looking at the Bible together, followed by a time of prayer. Listening to and praying for one another helps us build strong, meaningful friendships.

Prayer underpins our lives and worship, so new initiatives are tried or revisited to ensure there are opportunities and spaces to pray or learn to pray together. We hold a monthly early morning Zoom prayer meeting and prayer triplets are encouraged and supported.

Church Family Fellowship is very important to us. 'One-anothering' is foundational to our church life, as we support and encourage one another through the ups and downs of life, and we also regularly organise fellowship meals and other events, including post-service lunches, a summer BBQ, women's and men's evenings.

In the **Community**, a small team makes monthly visits to residents of Park House retirement flats and the Halliwell Care Home to sing, chat and have fellowship – about a dozen of the residents at Halliwell also 'attend' our Sunday services by Zoom, with large print orders of service delivered to them.





Evangelism and Mission

Sharing the good news of Jesus is a top priority at St Peter's and we run outreach events and courses as well encouraging our church family to share the good news of the gospel one to one.

Hope Explored is our group course of choice for those who sign up after events to find out more about the Christian faith, while the **Word: One to One** is used by some individuals to explore the Bible with their personal contacts and to help newer members of the congregation develop their Bible knowledge and understanding.

HOPE|EXPLORED

Daddy & Me is a monthly gathering for local dads and granddads with bacon rolls, drinks and plenty of toys for the kids (aged 0-5).

One-off outreach events – we regularly organise events with an evangelistic talk, to which we invite guests. In the past these have included a Butcher & Beer evening, Pie & Mash meal (for men),

Craft evening (for women) and a Spring Gardening demonstration and tea.

2025 was our **150th anniversary** and gave us an excellent opportunity to reach out to the local community.

The celebrations included a big 150th birthday party when we opened up the church to hundreds of visitors and a music evening (Hope and all that Jazz pictured above) which we organised in collaboration with musicians from St John's Church.



Door knocking – we have knocked on almost every door in Hollyfields, the new housing development in the parish, welcoming our new neighbours and inviting them to St Peter's.

Church services – we welcome new people on Sundays and make a concerted effort to invite local residents to our Christmas and Easter services.



St Peter's CEP School

We maintain strong links with our church school. In partnership with **Crossteach**, we present the message of Christ in an interactive and age-appropriate way at a weekly assembly. Crossteach's Christmas and Easter Experiences are a big hit every year. We host seasonal services in the church at Harvest, Christmas and Easter as well as services for individual classes.



Mission

St Peter's has a strong track record in mission, sending out numerous mission partners all over the world throughout its 150-year history.

At present, we support a married couple serving the central Asian church with **People International**, and Penny Bakewell, director of **Serving in Mission** (SIM) in Ghana. We also partner with John McLernon, mission director of **Crosslinks** and long-term friend of the church and we support **Release International** in their efforts to provide prayerful pastoral and practical support to persecuted Christians around the world.





Parish and Environment

The parish of St Peter's sits to the east of Tunbridge Wells town centre and enjoys a village feel, being adjacent to St Peter's Street and the former Windmill Fields area.

The parish boundaries encompass the residential area of Hawkenbury and border with the town's largest public park, Dunorlan Park, pictured above.

There are approximately 2,000 homes within the parish, including 250 new homes within the large Hollyfields estate and other new developments.

According to the 2021 census, a third of parish households are made up of families with dependent children and a large number of families within

the parish are served by St Peter's CEP School.

The town is relatively affluent and unemployment is low with many people working locally and in London. Nonetheless, within the parish there is greater social diversity.

Tunbridge Wells is well served by transport links, including accessing the mainline rail station to London and Hastings. The town has a lot of open spaces and is surrounded by beautiful countryside.

Both Tunbridge Wells and nearby Tonbridge have good schools, offering a mix of comprehensive and grammar schools.

Buildings

The Church

The church is well maintained and over the years there have been a number of improvements, including the addition of two extra halls and a youth room which are used for St Peter's youth groups, day time Growth Groups, events and meetings.

The main hall, where services are held, has an open plan configuration with moveable soft chairs and a typical seating capacity of 170. This provides a flexible space for holding church family meals, events and so on. A new AV system was installed in 2021. St Peter's has a good size, well equipped kitchen which was completely refurbished in 2016.

Other areas are in need of refurbishment and plans are in progress to refurbish the toilets and foyer in 2026.

Parking is available on the neighbouring streets.

The Vicarage

The spacious, 1980's-built vicarage is set back from Bayhall Road, with off-street parking for 4 plus cars.

The property has a large study, spacious living area, four bedrooms and a large well-established garden.

Just five minutes' walk from the church, and a further ten minutes to the town

centre, there is also a gate to the beautiful Dunorlan Park immediately across the road from the vicarage.

St Peter's Church of England School is a short distance away, and the other many excellent schools in the area are easily accessible from the vicarage.



Partnerships and Affiliations

We have good links with other evangelical churches in Tunbridge Wells, particularly **St John's Church**.

We partner with evangelical churches in the diocese through the **Rochester Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship** (RDEF), which is connected to the **Church of England Evangelical Council** (CEEC).

We are also a member of the Maidstone Group, which is part of the **ReNew** network.

We have positive relations with **Rochester Diocese** and work closely with our Archdeacon, a fellow evangelical and previous vicar of **Christ Church Southborough**.

We have a long-standing affiliation with the **Sussex Gospel Partnership** and more recently have enjoyed fellowship with churches in the **Kent Gospel Partnership**. Church members have benefitted from the Sussex Ministry Training course and we support **Oak Hill College** through prayer and financial giving.

