

**Bredhurst Annual Meeting of the Parish**  
**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish held on**  
**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2026, 6.00pm at Blacksmith Barn.**

Present:

Cllr Vanessa Jones (Chair)  
Cllr Greg Davis (Vice Chair)  
Cllr Ian Hopson

Cllr Richard Collins  
Cllr Jasmine Chandler  
Cllr Claire Sharp

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**1. Welcome and Introduction**

Cllr Vanessa Jones opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present.

**Chair's Report**

Cllr Jones gave her report, highlighting the achievements the Parish Council had made during the year. See Appendix 1.

**Parish Council Financial Report**

A summary of income and expenditure for the Parish Council for the year ending 31/03/2026 was **received** and **noted**. See Appendix 2.

**2. Reports from Representatives of Village Clubs and Groups**

The following reports were **received** and **noted**. See Appendix 3.

- Bredhurst Village Hall Committee
- Bredhurst Woodland Action Group
- Bredhurst CE Primary School
- St Peter's Church
- Church Charity Shop

**3. Public Session**

To receive questions from the public.

There were none.

Cllr Jones thanked everyone who attended the meeting.

**The meeting closed at 6.25pm**

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

**Bredhurst Parish Council – Annual Report**  
**1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026**

Bredhurst Parish Council has had another busy year. Taking over responsibility for Bredhurst Village Hall in August 25 has significantly increased the workload, particularly for the Clerk.

Blacksmith Barn continues to be well used, and income generated from hire charges continues to cover all expenditure.

In May 25 we welcomed Cllr Ian Hopson to the Council. Since joining he has made a great contribution leading on both the Speedwatch and Litter Pick initiatives. In December we were sad to lose Cllr Toby Rowe who resigned from the Council, and we thank him for all his help.

Since Speedwatch was launched in October 2025, Cllrs and volunteers have held 14 hour-long sessions. All data is automatically shared with Kent Police. This has resulted in 204 notices issued by Kent Police. There were 42 vehicles recorded travelling at more than twice the speed limit with a maximum recorded speed of 47mph. There were 9 vehicles with no MOT, 4 with no tax and 1 SORN vehicle. Huge thanks to Cllrs and residents who have assisted with this initiative.

In July a professional traffic survey was conducted over an extended period. Results showed that The Street carries almost double the traffic of Dunn Street (46,796 vs. 26,257 movements). The busiest day for both sites peak on Thursdays, showing strong commuter/through-traffic patterns. Only 32% of vehicles were recorded under 20mph. In this traffic survey, some very high speeds were recorded with extreme cases at 80-85mph. The data supported our requests for more speed traps, which have since been held by the Police. They have also held two Police Surgeries this year which were well supported.

Also in July, BPC instigated a meeting with representatives of Bredhurst School, residents and those affected by parking issues in the vicinity of the school. All were grateful to The Bell for allowing the continued use of their car park which Bredhurst School confirmed they would promote.

BPC continue to work closely with KCC Highways, and we are hopeful that further speed restrictions and safety measures will be implemented shortly.

We welcomed the Hazlitt Touring Company to the Bredhurst Community field in August for an open-air performance of The Wind in the Willows. The performance was extremely popular with nearly 260 tickets sold.

BPC continues to care for our environment and laid new turf to the grassed area outside Green Court, planted over 2000 spring bulbs around the village and supported the No Mow May initiative.

Thanks to all Cllrs the Clerk and Caretaker for all their hard work over the year.

## Bredhurst Parish Council

### FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT AS AT 31/03/2026

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT AS AT 31/03/2026			
Total in bank account at date of last statement 31/03/2026			
PC			31,090
Blacksmith Barn			10,691
			41,781
<b>Balance remaining at 31/3/2026</b>			<b>41,871</b>
Reserves to be held as agreed by Full Council meeting 14/1/2026			
General Reserves			
Emergency reserve to cover 6 months Precept (Charles Arnold Barker recommends 1 full year)	15,359		
	-		
		15,359	
Earmarked Reserves:			
Assets replacement	5,000		
Village Maintenance Projects	2,500		
Clerk's Training Hours	4,231		
Blacksmith Barn	10,691		
Legal Fees	4,000		
CIL Reserve	-		
		26,422	
<b>Total reserved funds</b>			<b>41,781</b>
<b>Unreserved balance remaining at 31/3/2026</b>			<b>90</b>

**Bredhurst Village Hall – Annual Report**  
**1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026**

Bredhurst Parish Council (BPC) took over the management of the Hall in August 25 when the previous charity ceased to exist. BPC set up a new registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with BPC as the Sole Corporate Trustee. The new Bredhurst Village Hall charity has its own management committee which reports to BPC. The new committee comprises of 4 Cllrs, 2 hall hirers and 1 resident.

All aspects of the hall including financial controls, bookings and management of contractors are now carried out by the Clerk to BPC. She is also supported by a part-time caretaker who has carried out many minor repairs. Appreciation to both for their hard work through some difficult months.

New bank accounts have been set up and many contracts with suppliers have been re-negotiated which saved nearly £700pa on the PPL/PRS licence and £430pa on the internet contract. Other unnecessary contracts have been terminated.

Hall bookings continue to be high and hire charges were increased slightly. Particularly popular is the fixed fee weekend charge for children's parties.

The Police investigation, which started in March 25, into the misuse of charity funds by an ex-trustee is still ongoing. BPC has met with the detective in charge of the case, and he provides regular progress reports.

Lease negotiations are ongoing with the Diocese of Rochester. In November 2025, Bredhurst Village Hall Committee submitted a funding bid for nearly £900,000 to fully refurbish the hall. The bid was supported by 120 residents and hirers which was much appreciated. Applicants are due to be notified of the outcome in May/June 2026. If funding is received the hall, which has had little investment over the years, will be fully modernised. If the bid is unsuccessful, BPC and the BVH Committee will have to look at the long-term viability of the hall.

**Bredhurst Woodland Action Group (BWAG) – Annual Report**  
**1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026**

Thanks to Kent Wildlife Trust for leading the monthly task days, held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday every month. Every autumn work is focused on Primrose Bank to clear the encroaching scrub to allow the spring flowers to flourish. This year was no exception with primroses carpeting the whole area which looked stunning. Throughout the year, volunteers also attend to the continuation of coppicing, strimming, general repairs and litter picking. Unfortunately, Task Day volunteer numbers have dropped, which is very disappointing. Pre-covid regularly saw 20-30 volunteers attend per month but now they are just into double figures.

Club Nights continue to attract around 40 people per month with speakers presenting a wide range of topics covering all aspects of nature, wildlife and woodland management.

BWAG held its annual Bluebell and Cream Tea weekend in April and its second quiz night in November. Another quiz night is planned for later this year. In December BWAG were pleased to welcome the Cantium Singers back to Bredhurst for a sell-out Carol Concert held at Bredhurst Village Hall.

The dormouse population continues to be monitored between March to October by a licenced handler who travels to Bredhurst from Rye each month. There are also 160 bird boxes in and around Bredhurst Woods which are monitored several times a week by two very dedicated volunteers.

The area is very heavily used by walkers, horse riders and cyclists who love the area but, sadly, very few are BWAG members, attend events or donate to BWAG. People assume that the woods are a free amenity that maintains itself, but it doesn't! Without BWAG, the woods would soon deteriorate.

Managing woodland is very expensive and BWAG needs to find a way to increase support and interest in the charity. Challenges include the serious decline in volunteers and to persuade 1000s of people who use the woods each year to support BWAG, either by becoming a BWAG Members (from as little as £5 a year), helping on task days or attending events.

Finally, it is with sadness we report that Jim Chalmers, Vice Chair of BWAG since the organisation was founded in 2005, passed away in March 26. He will be greatly missed.

## Bredhurst C of E Primary School

### Report for Bredhurst Parish Council

May 2026

Thank you for the opportunity to write a report for the Annual Meeting of the Parish.

Bredhurst C of E Primary School has grown in size over the past few years with a PAN of 20 pupils per year. This was previously a PAN of 15 pupils per year group, which has increased our overall pupil number by 35, giving our school a capacity of 140 children.

We continue to operate as mixed age classes due to the pupil entry number. To operate as single classes, we would need a pupil entry number of 30, which would mean 7 single form entry classes as opposed to 5 mixed age classes.

Our class structure: Fir Tree: Years R and 1, Forge: Years 1 and 2, Hurstwood: Years 3 and 4, Kemsley: Years 4 and 5 and Oakwood: year 6.

We have a highly committed, experienced staff team. Staff are dedicated to this school and we have very little movement of staff. The last staff member to leave left to relocate. Our teachers have all been in post at this school for a minimum of 5 years and all have a wealth of experience, knowledge and expertise. Teaching in mixed age classes is complex which is why our staff are experienced.

The children from Bredhurst come from the local area with the last place offered this year being 1.1 miles from the school. We have 27 children who reside in Bredhurst attending the school (19%) and a further 3 who live in Lidsing.

All our children are from the parish of South Gillingham.

Bredhurst School was inspected by Ofsted in January 2024, the overall grading was judged as good, with "Outstanding" in two categories: Behaviour and attitudes and Personal Development.

*"Bredhurst Church of England Primary is a good school. Pupils attitudes to school are exceptionally positive. They thrive in the care and belief the school shows them. Pupils' attitudes to learning are exemplary, and they love coming to school. Pupils' impressive attendance and punctuality reflect the school's highly consistent systems and expectations. Behaviour around the school is calm and orderly, and pupils are extremely supportive of each other. Relationships between staff and pupils are very respectful and warm."*

We had a successful SIAMS report in February 2025 with the following within the report.

*'Bredhurst is a caring, inclusive school, serving its community well. Rooted in a sense of love for the adults and pupils at Bredhurst, personal growth for all is a priority for leaders. Pupils are thriving at this school. They are celebrated for their uniqueness and are highly valued members of this supportive community. There is a determination that all should learn and grow within this loving school community. Parents correctly recognise that staff go 'above and beyond' to provide support. Pupils play harmoniously together at playtimes, with older ones relishing playing with and supporting the younger. Staff value the wellbeing support from each other and leaders. They recognise and appreciate that the vision of love and growth applies to them as well as pupils. As a result, flourishing of pupils and adults is at the heart of daily life at Bredhurst.'*

At Bredhurst School, our pupils have a wide and varied curriculum, including school trips and educational visits. Every year we spend time on a whole school field work project to enable the children to learn about the local area.

We have developed strong links with both St. Peters and St. Matthews church, with members of the clergy actively seeking pupil participation. This week one of our classes have attended St. Peters church to improve and develop their understanding of Pentecost. We have taken part in several activities supported by the team from St. Peters church, including our children helping to decorate the church for Mother's Day. We really appreciate this support from the church. This link really helps our children understand Bredhurst as a community.

We continue to hold community events such as May Day, which local residents and the local community attend. We also hold an annual Pumpkin Moring fete for the children and local community to attend. These are both great fundraisers for our school and are always incredibly well attended by past pupils who continue to hold the school dear.

We now encompass both a Breakfast Club and an After School Club. The Breakfast Club operates as part of the school, giving children a positive start to the school day and enabling parents to access work. However, the After School Club is run as a separate business which now operates from our school. This club is run for children who attend Bredhurst Primary School only and is a much needed facility for parents for the after school and wrap around care that is necessary in today's society.

We are very aware of the issues around parking in the local area and support the local residents and the village hall in reminding parents about how and where to park. The assistant head and senior teacher attended a meeting in an attempt to help to resolve this issue. The head has agreed to attend a meeting with the Parish and local councillors to try to reach a resolution regarding the parking. The Bell Public House has offered their car park to our parents whilst dropping off and collecting their children, this has been advertised to parents and several parents do use this facility. During our May day celebration we liaised with The Bell Public House and they allowed our parents to use their car park in return for donations towards Macmillan Cancer Support. We are very grateful to their ongoing support. Unfortunately, with higher pupil numbers and more working parents parking is going to be an ongoing issue at the pinch points of the school day.

We look forward to working together with the Parish and we would be interested in any ways the Parish council feel the school could contribute to the community.

# ST PETER'S CHURCHWARDEN ANNUAL REPORT 2025

## 1. Services:

The pattern of services remained unchanged. Each month there is one 8.30 am BCP service, and at 10,30am a communion service, one All Age Worship and two Morning Worship services. There is also one Evening Quiet Service offered by Reader Colin Brown on the fourth Sunday of each month. Parish services or a "adapted" MW service may be held on the fifth Sunday of the month. All the usual Lent, Easter, Mothering Sunday, Harvest and Christmas services took place. St Peter's has three Licensed Lay Ministers and six others qualified to lead services and/or preach that contribute to the Parish rota.

This pattern was interrupted for three weeks in October due to two wasp nests in the bellcote, and again in November when the nave ceiling plaster above the organ was repaired. We were privileged to hold the Parish Christmas Day service at St Peter's with the Bishop of Tonbridge, the Rt Rev Simon Burton-Jones presiding. Fifty-seven people attended. During 2025 there have been three funerals and seven interments of ashes. Four couples have been married in the church and two baptisms were held.

St Peter's has two Home Groups: a Zoom meeting on a Monday evening and an afternoon session on Tuesday.

In July the Parish said goodbye to our Team Vicar, Rev'd Pat Dickin who was taking up a new position in Birmingham. Her commitment to maintaining the viability of the parish during the interregnum was incredible and, following the start of the interregnum, her increased presence at St Peter's for regular services was very much appreciated by the congregation.

The upkeep of services is maintained on a weekly basis. The church was cleaned monthly with at least three 'Big Cleans' included. Thank you to all those who set time aside to help with this. Despite the official farewell to our wonderful florist team who stood down at the end of 2024 Hazel Scott has continued to ensure St Peter's look beautiful throughout the year.

## 2. Mission and Outreach:

There have been a number of fund-raising events through the year. A successful Lent Breakfast was held in Bredhurst Village Hall and £250 donated for Christian Aid. Perhaps the most novel was filling Smartie Tubes with 20p coins (£600), whereas the quiz night (£745) and music night (£870) hosted by St Paul's were more fun and engaging. In September the church was open to welcome participants of Ride and Stride for Friends of Kent Churches. £590 was raised for FKC, with £295 coming back to St Peter's. Bredhurst Hub held a Harvest Lunch and raised £215 for the Diocesan Poverty & Hope Appeal. The Remembrance Day service raised £97 for away giving to the Royal British Legion.

St. Peter's Church have continued to support the school throughout the year, with more involvement between the school and the church community. Meetings have taken place between Lesley, Miriam, Alan and the School Head and Deputy Head to discuss how to best involve the school into church events and how to support the school. The relationship feels much more cohesive and it has helped to build and strengthen links between the school and

church. The children have once again taken part in events in school as well as at both St. Peters and St. Mathew's church: year 6 children participated in the Experience Easter and Christmas events at St. Matthew's church. These are events the children all thoroughly enjoy and get so much from them.

The children created pew decorations for Mothering Sunday, Harvest and Christmas. In return they were delighted with the message the congregation wrote on them.

The school community gathered at St Peter's before the end of the Christmas Term to sing carols and allow the children the time and opportunity to reflect. Mim's support (the children particularly enjoyed Rudolph) was very much appreciated.

The children benefited from attending the Bredhurst Hub and the interaction with the local community, visiting the village hall, reading with and chatting to residents. Unfortunately, Bredhurst Hub had its last meeting in November after seven years of monthly meetings. This was predominately due to rising costs and lack of involvement from the local community such that it was felt to have run its course. We will look to other ways to re-establish this link with the school.

Mrs Carey has continued to regularly play the organ at St. Peter's Church when needed, and members of the church have continued to be grateful to her for giving up her time in this way, supporting the local community.

### **3. Legacy Projects:**

Development of the remaining two legacy projects has continued throughout the year with plans being agreed and put out for tender. Reordering of the back of the church with removal of some pews and installation of a tea station was completed in May 2026.

### **4. Churchyard Maintenance Team of Volunteers:**

The tree survey has identified some essential tree maintenance to remove dead branches to those too close to the church. Two trees needed to be cut down as unsafe. This will incur around £4k expenditure.

Throughout the year, the Wednesday Maintenance Team, who are predominately not members of the church, turn up weekly to help to share time together as they help with chores that contribute to the care and maintenance of the church and surrounding area. Extensive general maintenance tasks, too numerous to mention, reduce the impact on our declining budget. Fifteen members of the team enjoyed a very sociable Christmas dinner at The Harrow, Lidsing.

Thank you to all church members and community volunteers. Much of the work takes place unseen and covers a wide range of jobs that require a high degree of thought and commitment to properly maintain the church building, content and grounds.

**Alan Wainwright**

**Churchwarden**

**St Peter's, Bredhurst**

## **Bredhurst Church Charity Shop**

The shop has had another happy and successful year in 2025, raising a record amount of £10,660. The Charities voted for to receive our excess funds were:

1. Alzheimer's Society
2. Bradfield's Academy for Special Needs – Theatrical Budget
3. Water Aid
4. Medway Hygiene Bank
5. Hi-Kent for the Deaf

We also supported with monetary donations:

- MacMillan Cancer
- SSAFA – Armed Forces
- RBL Poppy Appeal

Plus a further 19 charities with goods. Most of which are local with some further afield, even as far as Brazil!

Customer numbers and donations made, continue to rise and any excess is moved on to other charities, so nothing is wasted.

We continue to be most grateful to Bredhurst Village Hall for our electricity supply and toilet facilities for staff.

2026 is looking very promising, due to an influencer publishing our details online, so I am hoping to report an equally successful year in next year's report.

June Cox - Shop Manager