

# **ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL MAIDENHEAD**

## **COMMUNITY ANNUAL REPORT 2022**



**PARISH OFFICE  
Church Close  
Maidenhead SL6 4HE**

[allsaintsboynehill@gmail.com](mailto:allsaintsboynehill@gmail.com)  
[www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk](http://www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk)

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## Contents

Introduction to the Community Annual Report.....	3
Overview of the Year .....	3
Report of the PCC of All Saints.....	4
Churchwardens' Annual Fabric Report .....	5
Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery Synod .....	9
Mission and Evangelism.....	11
Courses offered at All Saints in 2022 .....	11
Walsingham Pilgrimage.....	12
Safeguarding .....	13
Welcome Group Report.....	14
Belfry.....	15
Worship.....	16
Choir.....	17
Ministry to Children, Families and Schools.....	18
Sides People.....	19
All Saints Servers.....	20
Flower Arrangers' Report.....	21
Sustainability – Caring for God's Creation .....	22
Pastoral Care and Care Home Ministry.....	22
Maidenhead Street Angels Report.....	23
Boyne Hill Tuesday Club 2022.....	24
Maidenhead Care.....	25
ALLsorts.....	26
Stewardship Group .....	26
Senior Saints.....	26
8 <sup>th</sup> Maidenhead Rainbows and Brownies .....	27
Open the Book at All Saints and Larchfield Schools.....	28
Boyne Hill C of E Infant and Nursery School .....	28
All Saints Church of England Junior School .....	30
Altwood Church of England School.....	31
All Saints Website and Social Media 2022 .....	32

## Introduction to the Community Annual Report

All Saints Church Community Annual Report outlines the work carried out, during the past year, by our various church groups and organisations connected to All Saints Church. At the same time, it helps to shine a light on the role played by volunteers in the life of the church and in the local community.

## Overview of the Year

2022 was a remarkable year in so many ways. For the Nation we celebrated HM Queen Elizabeth II and her 70 years serving the Nation, the Commonwealth and as Supreme Governor of the Church of England. With amazing diligence, great grace, intelligence, humility and steadfastness she did indeed serve her people. The anniversary was celebrated in churches across the land as well as through many street parties.

On 18<sup>th</sup> September, only a few months later the Nation mourned the passing of the second Elizabethan era following 11 days of mourning, the funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth took place. On the preceding Sunday the people of All Saints had marked the death of our Queen with a Requiem Mass celebrated by Fr John.

In 1975 The Queen chose the story of The Good Samaritan and described how ‘the smallest pebble when dropped into water changes the pattern of the water. Our daily actions are like the ripples, each one making a difference. Each small act of kindness, sympathy, courteous behaviour, courage, and self-sacrifice can be an inspiration to others and are infectious.’ That text played a part in the new service booklets we assembled about 5 years ago and act as a challenge to us all to partake of the Body of Christ to become the Body of Christ to the World.

Easter Day in 2022 was also remarkable as it marked the beginning of a journey we have been sharing with Asylum Seekers from Iran. This journey has led to 17 of our friends sharing the eucharist with us, learning about Christian Baptism and Confirmation and embarking on a 9 month bible study course. They have shared BBQ’s at Sunday’s @4 and a number of them shared our Parish Outing to the South Downs. It feels as if their friendship has provided the congregation with a fresh dynamic and at the end of the year we shared an amazing confirmation service with 9 young children, alongside several adults who had studied on zoom as well as the 17 Iranian candidates being confirmed by Bishop Olivia.

Coming out of COVID at the beginning of 2022 marked also, the completion of the amazing floor restoration work at All Saints. This is the first time that we have seen Street’s church floor as it would have been when he designed it. The church is once again open for worship and mission as we continue to offer glory to God, celebrate the

sacraments, share schools ministry and provide pastoral care in different contexts. It has been good to witness new families coming to worship at the church and for a good number of people being involved in children's and schools ministry.

The end of the year marked our second Christ Child market and again many people from the church and wider community enjoyed a wonderful afternoon on the first Sunday of Advent within the Quadrangle. It was a good year too as we welcomed back to All Saints, Fr John Ainslie to serve with us as an Assistant Priest within the parish. I know that Fr John's ministry is well received and this is a great support to all of us as we seek to broaden our ministry within the Parish.

I commend to you the outstanding Annual Report written by our Treasurer Rod Broad to the Charities Commission on behalf of the PCC/Trustees of All Saints and indeed the parish to which we serve sharing how mission has taken place throughout the year. This is part of the Annual Report and Accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ending 31 December 2022, which was sent to the PCC separately.

Finally, I would like to thank the All Saints community for your wonderful support. It is fantastic that we have so many people willing to give their time, energy and talents to help make All Saints a place of worship, mission and welcome.

With my love and prayers,

*Fr Jeremy*

## **Report of the PCC of All Saints**

The PCC carries out its duties in assisting the priest in his role of promoting the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ and carrying out the mission of our church covering pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical matters. It is also responsible for practical matters regarding maintenance and repairs of the buildings to ensure mission can be carried out unhindered.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is made up of church members currently on the church electoral role. The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules. The Annual General Meeting which is open to all church members on the church's electoral roll, gives them the right to vote at that meeting on matters on the agenda and how the PCC is consulted.

During 2022, the PCC met on seven occasions (with the March meeting being via zoom). The first PCC meeting to elect key roles and the Standing Committee for the next year takes place immediately after the APCM (which took place on 25 April 2022) At the meeting following the APCM the following were appointed to key roles; Rod Broad as Treasurer, assisted by Sue Stannett as Assistant Treasurer and David Morgan as PCC Secretary.

The Standing Committee comprises Fr Jeremy (Vicar), John Bolodeoku and Ken Smith (Churchwardens), Rod Broad (Treasurer), Stella Harding (Deputy Church Warden), Sue Stannett (Assistant Treasurer), and David Morgan (PCC Secretary). Stella Harding is also the Joint Safeguarding Officer. This committee usually meets between PCC meetings to deal with day to day matters arising and to plan future PCC meetings and future mission requirements.

During the year, the PCC implemented an initiative to invigorate PCC Committees and indeed to develop the way the PCC operates which had been introduced in the previous year. The aim is to capture the interest of PCC members and encourage them to take a more active part in the PCC. As part of this process, Committees became Groups and each PCC member was encouraged to join at least one Group. Membership of Groups was not restricted to members of the PCC. The PCC reviewed and agreed Terms of Reference for each Group which reported to the PCC.

The work of the Groups can be seen in their contributions to this Annual Report.

*David Morgan PCC Secretary*

## Churchwardens' Annual Fabric Report

### A Introduction

The Churchwardens are responsible on behalf of the PCC for the maintenance and repair of the church buildings. Ann Rawlings and Ken Smith were the churchwardens until the APCM in April 2022 and Dr. John Bolodeoku and Ken Smith were the churchwardens for the remainder of the year. They were assisted by Mike Watts and Roger Towers, with Fr. Jeremy and Rod Broad. Our architect is consulted on most issues. We thank them for their support.

In many churches the group that looks after the buildings is known as the Fabric committee or Buildings committee. At All Saints we prefer to call it the Resources Mission Group because the bricks and mortar were designed and built to the glory of God and as a RESOURCE for the Mission of the Church.

Information about the church itself is recorded formally by Canon Law in the **Terrier** (a record of the land we occupy), the **Inventory** (a record of the contents of the church both fixed and movable) and the **Logbook** (a record of church maintenance and repairs). The last named is maintained by Sue Stannett to whom we give our thanks. These are available for inspection during the APCM.

This report describes the work done in the church, the parish centre and the properties in the quadrangle.

### B The Church and Parish Centre

#### B1 Architect

The most significant, and tragic, event during the year regarding the building was the sudden and unexpected death of our architect, Roderick MacLennan in July. Roderick had served us diligently and well for over sixteen years, including the repair of the tower and spire, installation of the heating system, the recent floor restoration, and many other works. Condolences were given to his wife and family and tributes were paid to him in church.

His loss brought a temporary halt to much work in progress and much of the second half of the year was spent in selecting a replacement. From a list of seventeen we selected four for interview and following the interviews we selected Peter Preston of Eynsham, near Oxford, eminently qualified and a technical member of the Diocesan Buildings Committee. His selection was too late in the year for him to do any work in 2022. In particular, we were unable to progress the crumbling boiler chimney. Repairs to the stained-glass windows and the insertion of glass windows in the south porch. These will be addressed in 2023.

## **B2 Quinquennial Inspection Report**

The report was received in May. It does not contain matters of which we were unaware and as always, it is divided into items for immediate action, those for action within eighteen months, and those to be addressed within five years.

Those for Immediate Action are:-

- a. Have a roofing contractor go over all the roofs and replace any slipped or cracked tiles and check the stability of the gable crosses and finials.  
(Ironically, later in the year most of the cross on the apex of the roof at the east end cracked and fell on to the paving in the Birinus garden. Fortunately no one was near it but it forced us to close the Birinus Garden until it is made safe)
- b. Repair the cracked or missing panes of glass
- c. Fix the loose window protection guard and check all the others.
- d. Repair the old boiler chimney.

There are a number of other items to be considered over the next eighteen months to five years but all items in the QI report will require detailed investigation, PCC approval (particularly for financial approval) and often a Faculty application. Work on at least some of the items would have started had it not been for the loss of our architect and are now being progressed in 2023.

## **B3 Floor Restoration Project**

The project had been completed by the end of 2021 to everyone's satisfaction – except for the final waxing, which was completed early in 2022. The retentions money, a percentage held back in case of snags surfacing during the twelve months following the completion, was paid at the end of 2022.

An article on the floor appeared in the Reading News section of the Diocesan website. The link is here - <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/restoring-floor-tiles-boyne-hill/> - which you can cut and paste.

St. Mary's, Wheatley, have a Street floor which needs conserving – actually only the aisles as the pews are on a suspended wooden floor. They visited us during the year to discuss our work.

Berkshire Churches Trust, who donated £10,000 towards the floor restoration, made our project the focus of the first issue of its new Newsletter. A very good article, and, as a bonus, one of our stained-glass windows appears in another article. The Newsletter was attached to issue no. 98 of Parish News.

#### **B4 Altar Platforms**

Further to the completion of the floor restoration and following approval by the PCC and the Diocese the platform was not returned for the nave altar to stand on, and the larger platform for the side altar has been permanently removed as well.

#### **B5 Streaming**

DM, the company who have provided our sound system, were invited to make a proposal for a simple streaming system with a single camera fixed to the west end wall. The proposal has been put informally to the DAC buildings officer who has replied to say that the proposal looks very complete and well-thought out. This is for information only and when a formal proposal is made it will of course be put before the PCC for agreement. In order for such a system to be implemented we shall need someone to step forward to take charge, as they have in other churches.

#### **B6 Commonwealth War Graves Commission plaque**

The expected plaque giving notice that there are war graves in the churchyard and which was referred to at the last APCM was fixed to the railings outside the North porch.

#### **B7 The Betjeman Award**

On the recommendation of the DAC we applied to be considered for the prestigious national Betjeman architectural award (which can be found on Google). Much effort went into its preparation but unfortunately we were not successful.

#### **B8 Matters for Regular Maintenance**

These are building items which must be re-checked regularly, but at different intervals. The following have been inspected and confirmed as OK:

- Font cover
- Fire extinguishers
- Boiler and heating
- Security Alarm
- Tower clock
- Lightning conductors
- Portable Appliances Testing
- Gutters and downpipes
- Church and parish centre wiring checks

### **B9 The Bells**

Bells can only ring by means of complicated engineering support, and this area is managed by a tower captain. We have a vacancy for that role at present but a number of new experienced ringers have joined the team and Doreen Young hopes that one will take on the role and thus be responsible for checking the bell hangings.

### **B10 Parish Inspection**

Every three years every parish receives a visit from the Area Dean and Deanery Lay Chair to examine many aspects of church life, including documentation, silverware, linen policies, and building aspects. This took place in 2022, requiring a lot of preparatory work and lasting about three hours, but it is pleasing to report that the comments we received back were very satisfactory.

### **B11 Other matters undertaken during the year**

- Bee infestation in Birinus garden. During the summer bees – numerous but not sufficient to be a swarm – have been inhabiting a ventilator grill in the exterior of the east end of the church. They have been impossible to remove by beekeepers and we have been advised that during the autumn and winter they are likely to disperse of their own accord. There is no sign of them now but it has caused difficulties for those wishing to use the Birinus garden, including children.
- Water heater in the sacristy. The heater is used for cleaning the sacred vessels after a Eucharist but no longer works. A quote is being sought to replace it with an instant hot water heater.
- Smoke alarms in the parish centre. There are none at the moment and they need to be installed.
- Hole in PC floor repaired by Roger Towers.
- Lock in tower door repaired by Roger Towers
- Goodgym helped to tidy the churchyard
- Andrew Stafford, assisted by our Iranian friends, weeded and tidied the quad and calvary garden
- A builder repaired the deteriorating tarmac around the centre of the quad

### **B12 Energy Audit**

An audit of the consumption of and the way we use electricity and gas in the church and parish centre was carried out by an expert sponsored by the Diocese on 21 November.



As of 31 December, the Report had not been received . (It arrived on 17 February and its recommendations are being studied)

## **C THE PROPERTIES**

### **Commercial Let**

Clear Physio continue with their five-year tenancy in what was previously The Parish Rooms. It continues to bring in much needed income for the church. The tenancy is for 5 years until December 2024 and hopefully will be renewed in the future.

### **Residential lettings**

These comprise Flat 1 above the church office and Nos 3 & 4 in the quadrangle .They have all been occupied throughout the year. All the properties have current Gas safety certificates and Electrical check certificates.

### **Replacement costs**

No.4 has had a new fridge freezer at a cost of £269. Next we need to consider a walk-in shower to replace the bath.

### **Parish Hall**

This year we have increased the bookings, for example with Baptismal and Wedding Parties, Rainbows, Brownies and the AA.

We have ceased our contract with Rentokil Initial to service the toilets from October so it is essential that all bookings are made aware that their bin rubbish is removed. Although we have a twice weekly cleaner Mondays and Fridays, there is no caretaker. Notices have been posted to remind them that supervising the disabled toilet is important too.

*John Bolodeoku and Ken Smith*

## **Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery Synod**

The Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery comprises 14 parishes and benefices. The Deanery Synod comprises all the clergy in the deanery and Lay Representatives elected by their respective parishes for a period of three years. The current triennium has been shortened due to Covid-19 and runs from January 2021 to June 2023. At the end of 2022 the Synod had 71 members. Attendance varied from 35 to 43 over the year. Elections for Deanery Synod lay representatives will take place during the first half of 2023 with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July.

All Saints Boyne Hill is represented on the Deanery Synod by Fr Jeremy and Fr John as Clergy Representatives and by Rod Broad and Kenneth Smith as Lay Representatives. Fr Jeremy and Rod Broad are also members of the Deanery Standing Committee. In addition, Fr Jeremy is a Clergy Representative on the Diocesan Synod. Fr John is a Deanery Lead for the Environment.

There were three meetings of the Synod during 2022:

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022 on Zoom:**

- Bishop Olivia, Bishop of Reading, addressed the Synod about the spiritual and practical Christian response to climate change, expressing the seriousness of this issue, why we should care as Christians, and how we can act personally, nationally and locally.
- Synod members had an opportunity to ask questions to Bishop Olivia and to share comments.
- The two General Synod members from our Deanery, Gracy Crane and Daniel Matovu, reported on the February 2022 session of General Synod which had recently concluded, including the debates about racial justice, challenging slavery and human trafficking, the persecuted church, and Anglican Communion representation in the appointment of any future Archbishop of Canterbury.

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at St Andrew's Church, Clewer:**

- Archdeacon Stephen Pullin reminded the Synod about what Common Vision is, speaking about each of the five Common Vision focus areas and available resources in those areas.
- Stephen asked for parishes to have a reality check and to give input as to how well these resources are wanted and being used.
- Synod members discussed and gave written and oral feedback to the Archdeacon.

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at St Mary's Church, Maidenhead:**

- John Sykes shared a brief overview of the Wycombe Deanery Discipleship Training Centre.
- The Synod spent time in small groups sharing encouragements, needs and struggles.
- Some encouragements and challenges were fed back to the whole Synod.
- The Synod spent time praying for some of the situations shared and for wider needs in the church and the world.
- Daniel Matovu, General Synod member, reported on the July 2022 General Synod sessions, including debates about climate change, affirmation and inclusion of disabled people in churches, assisted suicide, and safeguarding. Daniel also described the brief workshop which took place relating to Living in Love and Faith.
- Despite a very simple agenda, many members found this meeting very encouraging.

Thanks to parishes' hard work and generosity, despite the ongoing legacy of Covid-19, and the use of Deanery reserves, the Deanery paid 100% of its parish share for 2022, a total of £ 1,019,381. This was an increase from the £ 961,058 paid against an allocation of £ 1,020,191 in 2021. Richard Thorogood stepped down as Deanery Treasurer at the

end of 2022 and the Deanery would like to thank him for his work over a challenging few years.

*David Morgan, Deanery Synod Lay Rep (retired 2020)*

## Mission and Evangelism

Easter 2002 will be remembered by myself as one of the most memorable during my ministry. On Easter Day we had a remarkable service with different languages from around the world echoing around the church. One of the many languages spoken was Farsi as we met for the first time Asylum Seekers from Iran. We quickly discovered that many of them desired to learn more about the Christian faith.

We as a community arranged for English classes and this developed into baptism/confirmation classes. We were able to celebrate with Bishop Olivia a wonderful November confirmation when 32 candidates from the parish were confirmed. This number included 17 Iranians but also 9 children from our families at All Saints. There were 6 adults who had shared a mixture of zoom and live classes beginning in Lockdown at the end of 2020.

The mission has continued with regular bible classes and sharing of hospitality through coffee after services and BBQ's at our Sundays@4. Of course our mission at All Saints goes wider through Schools ministry, pastoral care and outreach through Street Angels, ALLsorts and other activities that you can read in the wider report.

*Fr Jeremy*

## Courses offered at All Saints in 2022

As a community we have attempted to offered a range of courses during the year.

1. Fr John has offered a regular Bible study on Wednesday evenings based upon the gospel of St Mark. There is a committed and thoughtful group meeting each Wednesday and comments on the course seem very encouraging.
2. In the Creation-Tide beginning in September the Sustainability group ran a week course on caring for creation. It was an enjoyable and thought- provoking course that was shared over breakfast each Saturday morning.
3. From July through to the end of 2022 we have been looking in detail with our Iranian friends Kenneth Bailey's outstanding book 'Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes' – Cultural Studies in The Gospels. The range of subject matter included the birth narratives, the Beatitudes, The Lord's Prayer, Jesus and Women and the Parables of Jesus.
4. There have been Baptism/Confirmation courses run on Wednesday mornings and Thursday evenings based on a book by Peter Jackson and Chris Wright called 'Faith Confirmed'.

5. A Sunday afternoon 8 week course for children based on James Jones book 'Following Jesus' led to nine children being confirmed. We also shared the 'Super Book' DVD's with young people looking at some of the great biblical adventures and stories.

*Fr Jeremy*

## Walsingham Pilgrimage

In September, a group of thirteen pilgrims from All Saints made their way to the Anglican Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham in North Norfolk for a 4-day pilgrimage led by Fr John. There was a Pilgrim Mass at All Saints before departure, and the pilgrims travelled by car-share stopping for lunch on the way. At Walsingham, we quickly settled into the calm, relaxed and beautiful environment of this small, special Norfolk village first made famous by a vision of Our Lady to Lady Richeldis in 1061.

At the centre of our pilgrimage were the big pilgrimage services – the Pilgrim Mass, a procession of Our Lady, and a service of healing with the laying on of hands, anointing and being washed with water from the Walsingham Well. We also had the opportunity to celebrate our own services at the Shrine including Mass in the Holy House, outdoor Stations of the Cross and a service of Compline with Taizé chants. Our talented lay people provided prayers and homilies during these times of worship. Just as important is the social side of a Walsingham Pilgrimage: there was plenty of opportunity to get to know one another better on walks and over a drink (or two) in the bar. As there are always pilgrims from elsewhere, mealtimes were a real opportunity to talk with Christians from other churches around the country about the challenges and rewards of parish life where they are. Our pilgrims returned safe and refreshed to bring the joy and the grace of their pilgrimage into the life of our church here at All Saints.

Places have been booked for September 2023, and I would be pleased to talk to anyone who may be interested in joining us. You would be warmly welcome.

*Fr John.*



## Safeguarding

All Saints Boyne Hill is committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of children, young people and vulnerable adults, and to providing and promoting a safe environment and culture for people of all ages in our Church community.

The All Saints' Safeguarding Policy "Promoting a Safer Church" was reviewed and the following (extract) agreed at the Parochial Church Council ("PCC") meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022. The full policy is available on the All Saints' website.

"In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others."

As the main decision maker of the parish, the PCC has a duty of care to ensure the protection of the vulnerable in the church community. Safeguarding is a standing agenda item at PCC meetings.

All Saints works in line with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy and Practice. In 2021 the House of Bishops published Guidance on "Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance" and "Safeguarding Learning Pathways"; these came into effect on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022, with a two-year period during which parishes will need to ensure full compliance with the Guidance. All Saints is working to ensure compliance as soon as possible within this timeline.

### **Safeguarding Roles**

Louise O'Dwyer Barnard, Parish Safeguarding Officer took maternity leave from May 2021 and Stella Harding was appointed PSO to cover her period of leave. Stella also took responsibility from Louise for DBS administration and verification. Following Louise's return in May 2022 the PCC approved the arrangement for the All Saints Boyne Hill Safeguarding role to be covered on a job-share basis by Louise and Stella.

### **Disclosure and Barring Service Checks ("DBS")**

Following the change in the House of Bishop's Guidance to the frequency of DBS checks to be every 3 years, considerable work was undertaken over the year to update a number of DBS checks which became due for renewal. Several new volunteers, whose roles required it, were also DBS checked.

### **Parish Dashboard**

All Saints signed up to the new Parish Dashboard in 2022; we achieved Level 1 and were progressing well to complete Level 2. The Dashboard provides a way for churches to assess their progress against a range of safeguarding practices.

### **Compliance**

During 2022 work continued to ensure that all members of the All Saints community who were undertaking active roles within the church, and whose roles required that they provide a current DBS Certificate and / or undertake safeguarding training in accordance with the “Safeguarding Learning Pathways”, were in compliance. The database of volunteers, their roles, DBS and training status was regularly updated to reflect the appointment of new volunteers.

In accordance with Safer Recruitment practices, all new volunteers were required to complete Application Forms and provide satisfactory references. Confidential Declaration Forms also needed to be completed where the role required an Enhanced DBS Certificate. Advice from the Diocese was that certain retrospective action was not practical, but we would need to continue to ensure DBS checks were carried out where the role required. All Group Leaders were asked to ensure the PSO was notified of any potential new volunteers / paid employees to ensure that Safer Recruitment practices could be adhered to, the database updated accordingly and safeguarding training carried out as appropriate

### **Concerns Raised**

There have been no safeguarding concerns raised with / brought to the attention of the PSO.

### **Focus for 2022**

Looking forward, the PCC will continue to work with the PSO to ensure that all those working with children, young people and vulnerable adults are safely recruited, all church officers are aware of the church’s safeguarding policy and are appropriately trained, and a procedure is in place for dealing promptly with safeguarding allegations or suspicions of abuse.

Annual reviews are carried out of all current All Saints’ recruitment, people management and training policies and practices to ensure they remain fully compliant with the House of Bishops’ Guidance.

*Stella Harding Parish Safeguarding Officer*

## **Welcome Group Report**

The Welcome Group met several times during 2022 and concentrated on two areas: making the Church building itself appear more welcoming, especially for first time or occasional visitors; and rebuilding after Covid, a programme of events to foster and build a sense of belonging and community amongst the congregation and others.



Three new A-boards were purchased and clearer, colourful signs printed for mounting on the A-Boards. These signs advertise the regular Sunday and Wednesday services, issue an invitation to coffee and refreshments after each of those services, and indicate that the church is open with a specific invitation to come into the building. These sign boards are now deployed outside the North and South entrances whenever the church is open for visitors, and many have come into the building as a result. The flexibility of the new A-boards was demonstrated during the period of mourning for the late Queen Elizabeth II when varied opening times and the Sunday evening Requiem were all suitably advertised outside the church.

In addition, a large 'Welcome' banner has been mounted onto the 'official' noticeboard in the North Porch, which is the first thing which most new visitors see as they enter the church.

Plans have also been developed for new planters and planting around the church, which will be put in place in Spring 2023.

A busy programme of events was implemented in 2022, including:

- A Summer Afternoon Cream Tea event in the Quadrangle for those who had joined the church community in the first half of the year.
- Parish Day trip to Berwick in Sussex.
- Celebratory Eucharist and Parish Lunch for the Feast of All Saints.
- A sustainability course held in the Autumn, and a Bible Study Group formed looking at the Gospel of Mark.
- The Walsingham Pilgrimage in September, which attracted 13 pilgrims.
- Harvest Festival lunch.

Other events which took place in 2022 included the Confirmation Service with Bishop Olivia and the Christ Child Market at the beginning of Advent. The Heritage Weekend and Ride and Stride activities were completed largely as planned, but their conjunction with the period of mourning for HM Queen Elizabeth II inevitably affected the tone of the two days, and the planned organ recital had to be cancelled.

*Fr John*

## Belfry

During the year we have been very fortunate to have four ringers move to Maidenhead and join us. This has not happened for many years. During May and June, we rang for three weddings. We were able to ring on Friday 3 June for the Platinum Jubilee and on Sunday 12 June, we rang a quarter peal in celebration (about 45 minutes).

On Thursday 8 September came the sad news of the death of HM The Queen. Friday morning 9 September saw the muffles being put on the bells, completely muffled for the Queen.

At 12 noon 96 whole pulls were rung

Sunday 11 September – Rang 8 bells

Sunday 18 September – Morning Service rang 6. For Special Evensong a quarter peal was rung. Monday 19 September– Funeral Day - Rang 6 at 10 am

Fr Jeremy was very pleased with our efforts. He invited the ringers to a reception at the back of the church to thank them. This gave Fr Jeremy, members of the PCC and the Planning Group an opportunity to meet the new bellringing team. We continue to ring most Sundays. Charley Smith has rung a quarter peal and Elisa has learnt to ring.

***Doreen Young Tower Secretary***

## **Worship**

The last year has seen a steady return of people to worship at All Saints where we continue to provide Eucharistic worship which we hope shares the rich celebration of the Christian cycle of celebrations within word and sacrament. Our worship has I think benefitted from the use of new hymn books which provide a good cross section of music alongside the new service booklets using a variety of resources from Common Worship.

The Sunday morning worship is complemented on two Sundays by Young Saints for children and on the second Sunday of the month we attempt to offer Worship for All with a talk that is interactive. On the fourth Sunday in the month, we have since the Pandemic, been making much more use of the quadrangle and sharing an assembly style service followed by a BBQ. During the Spring and Summer months this has brought people of all ages together to enjoy worship, hospitality, and activities for the children.

Some of the highlights of the year would be celebrating the Queen's 70 years in the role serving the people of the United Kingdom and the peoples of the Commonwealth. We had the joy of a wonderful Easter Day service with people worshipping from all around the world including people from Iran that have brought a vibrancy to our worship. Other highlights were the Patronal festival when we celebrated the completion of the floor restoration and the Associate Archdeacon Liz Jackson preached at the Eucharist. Following this in November we shared a remarkable confirmation with our Bishop Olivia when 32 people were confirmed. This number included members of the Iranian community as well as people who shared on-line zoom courses. Nine children also received confirmation with the bishop.

Our services also marked the death of Queen Elizabeth II whose life of service was marked by the example she saw in the life of Christ. 'Christ's example helps me see the value of doing small things with great love.'



Finally, I would like to highlight the influence of the sustainability group within our worship. Many of our services have sermons that reflect the need to sustain God's world and to work in partnership with creation. Some of our services like our Harvest Festival have sought to see the need to help people living in countries impacted by Climate change. We were able through our Harvest service to support clean toilets in South Sudan and clean water taps in Kenya.

Thank you to the choir, the servers, the flower arrangers, those who offer hospitality and our sides people who help to make All Saints a place of welcome.

*Fr Jeremy*

## Choir

In last year's report, I reflected on all the changes caused by the pandemic and floor project and expressed hope that the choir, in particular, would grow in size and confidence. I am pleased to report that not only has the choir has been going from strength to strength but also other music related activities in the church have developed significantly.

During 2022, we have welcomed several new members to the choir including Sarah from the Iranian community and Fr Jeremy who is an active member of the choir. All the choir members have worked hard during the course of the year and provide a strong lead for our Sunday worship.

I also note the departure of Jayne Chapman who, with her family, has moved to the Isle of Man. Jayne has been a mainstay of the choir for over 25 years. She has joined the choir at the Cathedral on the Isle of Man and is singing more than ever.

I want to highlight the contribution Dr Relf Clark makes to enhancing the worship at the Wednesday morning service. Relf now regularly plays the organ at these services which adds another dimension to the worship and is much appreciated by the congregation. I hope that the wider church community will be aware of this significant extension of the musical enrichment of worship at All Saints.

We also welcomed Renaissance Voices, a Maidenhead-based choral group to stage a couple of their concerts at the church last year. This is now becoming a regular feature of the musical activity at the church. The new floor provides a clear space at the front of the nave for visiting choirs and instrumental groups. As I have mentioned before, the removal of the carpets has improved the church's acoustics which adds to the attraction of staging concerts at the church. I hope we will see more groups use the church as an attractive venue for concert-giving.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to mention the help and support from Simon Fullarton who accompanies the choir on the organ for anthems on Sunday mornings and for Nine Lessons and Carols.

Music is an important facet of worship; it provides a means of praise and enables participation in the worship for the entire church community. We are fortunate to be able to maintain and grow this activity at All Saints and I look forward its continuing growth and development in the coming year and beyond.

*Brian Graves, Director of Music*

## **Ministry to Children, Families and Schools**

Over the last couple of years, the ministry to schools, children and families has developed. Following the Diocesan Common Vision Strategy, we are looking to support engagement between children, young people and families within the church, community and local schools.

### **Young People and Families**

1. Tiny Saints – From a very young age children are encouraged to share with their parents the Tiny Saints on Friday mornings at the Parish Centre. The morning typically begins with activities, followed by games and then refreshments for children and adults. We conclude with an action packed nursery rhyme service. This toddler group gives opportunity for children to socialise (A real positive following the Lockdowns) and for parents and grandparents to make friends. This activity is led by Tanya Fullarton, Carole Deverill and Ursula Hutchison.
2. Young Saints – On two Sunday's a month our team of leaders including Jo McMullen, Dianne Farmiloe, Sibó Veira, Pearl Boakye and Louise O'Dwyer Barnard provide biblically based activities and teaching during the 10am Sunday morning Eucharist.
3. The church attempts to provide a Worship for All service once a month with an All Age talk with interaction. We try to get family involvement through prayers and readings and use a varied source of hymns and songs.
4. Sundays @4 – This activity developed during the Lockdowns when we started making use of Quadrangle for School Assembly style worship and talks. Following the worship we share a BBQ with activities for the children. The service in the summer can attract a good number of people from across the ages. The themes will frequently link with the key values taught in our local schools.

Within the schools of the Parish of Boyne Hill the following ministry has taken place. Some of the activities such as Open the Book and assemblies have taken place over many years.

1. Open the Book – for 15 years teams of Christians from All Saints in partnership with Christians from other churches across the town have offered through acting and story telling the great stories of the Bible. Teachers as well as students look forward to hearing the stories told afresh using Bob Hartman's excellent re-telling of the Bible accounts. The two schools within our parish that enjoy this resource are Larchfield Primary and All Saints Junior Schools.

2. Assemblies – regular assemblies are shared at Boyne Hill Infants, All Saints Juniors and Altwood.
3. We welcome schools at Christmas to the church. Services are hosted for Boyne Hill, All Saints, Altwood, Claires Court, and this year for the first time Newlands. The church is very busy through the Advent period for rehearsals and services. We try to provide teams of All Saints people to offer welcome and on occasion hospitality.
4. All Saints Schools has services in church for the celebrations of All Saints Day, Christmas, Easter, SS Peter & Paul and Leavers services.
5. One of the most exciting areas of ministry can be found at Altwood Academy where the Revd Jo Ellington has provided a chaplaincy over the last two years. Jo has led the Christian Union including leading a week on different styles of prayer and leading excellent discussions over chocolate brownies! With the support of Charlie Kerr, the school has been introduced to ‘Space Makers’ using a contemplative style of prayer. I continue to support Jo’s ministry by providing regular assemblies throughout the academic year. From last summer Jo and I have introduced the school to the idea of an overseas charity. At the time of writing Duncan Dyason of Street Kids Direct which has worked for 30 years getting children off the streets of Guatemala and offering them hope of a better life. Duncan has spoken at All Saints Church and has alongside Danilo a former child of the streets led assemblies at Altwood.
6. All Saints Church provides governors at Boyne Hill, All Saints Juniors and Altwood Academy. All of our governors are highly thought of and provide excellent support and challenge within the schools to try to ensure the best education within calm, safe and supportive school environments.
7. One of the key areas of ministry that we would like to further develop within schools is partnership with the church within the subject of Sustainability.

All Saints was built with a school within the Quadrangle. The vision of George Street the architect and The Revd William Gresley the vicar was to encourage the education of the young. We pray that as well as meeting one of the five actions of the diocesan Vision we are indeed following the rich heritage of All Saints, Boyne Hill.

*Fr Jeremy*

## Sides People

Following the easing of the pandemic restrictions in 2022 we returned to a regular Side Rota arrangement, with the same team allocated to a specific Sunday each month. The teams established have remained largely unchanged through the year, allowing us to provide a consistent service to the congregation of All Saints, Boyne Hill, and to enhance wherever possible the welcome we provide to all our visitors.

Sides cover for the Wednesday morning service continued to be provided largely by one member of the Sides group, with additional cover provided by other members, as required.

Early in the year we took the opportunity to review the “Role of the Sides persons and to make a few changes, such as to the way the collection was taken, providing the priest with numbers for communion, and the use of mobile ‘phones (a 21<sup>st</sup> Century innovation!), rather than the old walky-talkies, to contact Young Saints Leaders in the Birinus Room. We also developed the welcome arrangements for people coming in to church, and the use of “A” frame “Welcome” noticeboards outside the church.

A “Sides person Checklist” and a tick-list were created to summarise the responsibilities of the role and are available on the Sides person’s table.

Social events were held in February with all the Sides people to share the updated role details and ensure everyone was comfortable with the changes being made. We will continue to keep the arrangements under review to meet any changing needs of the church and the congregation.

While we have enjoyed considerable stability with our Sides teams, we do need to recruit to a few gaps and to fill any vacancies that come up in the future. We are always keen to have new people join and to welcome the new ideas and experiences they bring; they also help ensure we have sufficient numbers to cover any unexpected absences, and the special services which the Sides teams are often asked to help with.

We are hugely grateful for the joy and commitment our Sides teams have shown in fulfilling their roles over the year and look forward to continuing to provide this valuable service to All Saints, Boyne Hill.

***Stella Harding***

## **All Saints Servers**

It has been a very strange year. Most of the year I have been unable to serve due to health problems. We have had 2 regular servers at the 10 am service, Jo Sheppard and Andrew Stafford who have done a great job between them.

Recently Tyler and Henderson Burgess have been a Father and Son team, still learning but are doing a great job .Our latest recruit in training is Cameron Sharkey, a fairly new member of the congregation but now learning the ropes. Christine Pocock still serves at Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. Jo also sets up for the Eucharistic services and looks after the Sacristy. Although we don’t often have a full serving team with Acolytes, Crucifer and Thurifer we are still able to put out a small team and occasionally a full team. Hopefully we will be able to recruit a few new members.

***Nick Kirk***

## Flower Arrangers' Report

With the major disruption of the dreaded Pandemic behind us and the completion of the floor restoration project meant we were able to return to our beautiful church in December 2021, and therefore the Flower Team were back on duty in church.

I am now pleased to be able to report that 2022 was a successful year in which the church had a good display of weekly flowers throughout the year. However, this could not have been achieved by the arrangers, without the members of the congregation who kindly sponsored the flowers each week, donating the special gift of lilies at Eastertide, and for their continued support, so our grateful thanks go out to them all, THANK YOU!

Throughout the year we celebrated various traditions and important festivals, the first being Mothering Sunday, when the Team together with volunteers gathered to produce the pretty posies which were handed out to members of the congregation at the Mothering Sunday service, a lovely gesture and much appreciated. Eastertide followed, and again with the support of generous sponsorship, and the special gift of lilies the church looked even more beautiful as we celebrated this important festival. Our Patronal Festival, All Saints Day, on Sunday 30 October, was made even more special as we welcomed our Associate Archdeacon, The Revd Liz Jackson, as our guest preacher, when we also gave thanks, together with guests involved in the project. for the marvellous floor restoration work that has taken place. The floral arrangements were amazing and much admired by our many visitors.

Special thanks go to our talented Flower Team, (Marian Duncombe, Jean Balchin, Carole Deverill, Valerie Duncombe, Ann Rawlings, Linda Wallbank, Alison Leigh, and Helen Graves) who throughout the year give their talent, hard work and dedication and who are always ready to go that "Extra Mile" their support is very much appreciated. Thanks also go to Alan Ketley and Pauline Hole for setting up the Easter Garden and the Nativity, and to Ann and Chris Rawlings for setting up and decorating the beautiful Christmas Tree. I would also like to extend our thanks to Nash & Sons who each year supply the beautiful Easter lilies which play such an important part in the Easter floral displays for this very important festival, their advice and support is very much appreciated.

As always, we would welcome more people to become involved with the flower arranging. The flowers are usually arranged by one or two members of the team on a Friday morning, but this is not set in stone! If Friday mornings are not convenient, they can be arranged at any time before the Sunday services providing the church is not being used, details of which can be found in the weekly Parish News. Help will always be given to new members of the team; to start with you would work with one of the existing team until you feel confident. Flower arranging is a lovely way to serve the church and to give pleasure to all, as well as giving glory to God. It can be a very relaxing and uplifting pastime, so why not give it a go? If you are interested and would like more information, please speak to one of the team who will be happy to give you details, no experience is necessary, we will help you!

*Jo Towers & Stella Harding*

## Sustainability – Caring for God’s Creation

Our recognition that the world is in a climate emergency and our commitment to practical action, prayer and advocacy is summarised in the PCC Climate Emergency Statement, which can be found on the Church website. The sustainability group aims to support our congregation in Caring for God’s Earth. We are delighted to have been awarded an EcoChurch Bronze award by A Rocha which was presented to us by Bishop Olivia in November.

EcoChurch gives us a framework and focus and here are some of the activities undertaken during the past year.

**Worship and Teaching:** in addition to regular service focus and prayer, we showed films with an environmental theme during Lent and Fr Jeremy ran a short course during Creationtide in September looking at what the Bible has to say about the environment alongside offering ways to help think about how we might respond to the climate crisis.

**Management of Church Buildings:** We have a renewable energy contract and use LED lights in the Church. Through the Diocese, we have had an energy audit and are awaiting the results which will give us ideas on how to improve energy efficiency in the Church and Parish Centre.

**Management of Church Land:** Part of the churchyard is given over to rewilding and we hope our birdboxes will attract nesting birds this spring.

**Community and Global Engagement:** Our Harvest collection enabled us to ‘twin’ our toilets and taps and provide new facilities in South Sudan and Kenya. We continue to engage with our Church schools and provide Fairtrade refreshments after services.

**Lifestyle:** We encourage everyone to think how they can live more sustainably. If we all make small changes, this can make a big impact. Our blister pack and battery recycling are popular and we provide tips in our newsletter (e.g. how to have a more sustainable Christmas). Occasional walks focusing on nature and creation have also been organised.

We thank all those who have contributed and are always open to ideas of how we can do even more to fight climate change and Care for God’s Earth.

*Jenny Wilks (on behalf of the Sustainability Group)*

## Pastoral Care and Care Home Ministry

The Pastoral Care at All Saints Church continues to be led by Fr Jeremy and Fr John, with support from myself and others from within the congregation.



We are able to visit members of our church family either in their own homes, care homes or hospital settings. It is a great blessing to be able to share the Sacrament with them and allow them to feel joined together with our church community.

We continue to offer a monthly service to our care homes, Normanhurst, Larchfield and more recently a resumption of services at Clara Court. At Normanhurst and Clara Court we offer a communion service which includes well known hymns and Bible readings. The residents at Larchfield are mostly living with dementia, so our service there is tailored more to the specific needs of the residents. Often Fr Jeremy or Fr John will be asked to pray with a resident and/or their family in their own room.

Both the pastoral care and care home ministries are extremely rewarding ministries, offering ways of nurturing people in faith by sharing God's love and enabling people, at whatever stage of life they find themselves, to 'encounter Christ in Word and Sacrament'.

***Jeanette Lock Lay Pastoral Worker***

## **Maidenhead Street Angels Report**

For those who do not know about Maidenhead Street Angels here's a quick summary.

We were set up in 2011 as an ecumenical team of volunteers from various Maidenhead churches to have a presence in the town centre on a Saturday night, usually between the hours of 10pm and 1am. Street Angels provide a listening ear to those in any sort of need; the homeless, those with mental health problems, those with addiction problems, the lonely etc etc. We also support those who are out in the town enjoying the nightlife. We carry water, flip-flops, space blankets and are famous for our lollies which we often use to initiate a conversation as well as providing a much-needed sugar boost to those who might have had too much alcohol to drink.

Following the resumption of our Street Angel patrols in September 2021 (post COVID) we have successfully recruited four new volunteer Angels which means that we hope to soon be able to put out a Street Angel team in the town every weekend.

There has been a lot of new development taking place in the town centre with several new clubs, bars and restaurants opening, in particular in the Maidenhead Waterside area. The town is starting to get busier again, giving opportunities for our teams to help those in any sort of need. Our strapline is "*Love the person in front of you*" and our aim is to continue to share God's love with those we meet.

If anyone wants to know more about Street Angels, or perhaps join us on a Taster night, please speak to either myself, Mike Moss, Dianne Farmiloe or Fr Jeremy.

***Jeanette Lock, Chair Maidenhead Street Angels***

## Boyne Hill Tuesday Club 2022

The year started with one of Janet, our Secretary's, famous quizzes. Always good to get the brain cells up and running after the Christmas and New Year festivities! Lovely too to be able to be together and not on Zoom. Although Zoom was a godsend during Covid, of course.

At our February meeting we welcomed back Steve Baskerville. Steve is a blue badge guide who has worked in Westminster and Oxford. This time his talk moved all over the country looking at the work of the George Gilbert Scott family who played a major part in the revival of the Gothic style of architecture.

In March Jennifer James from the National Trust gave another of her brilliant talks this time on the subject of Cliveden in the war years, with particular reference to the history of the Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital. This, of course, was of great interest to many members who had memories of giving birth there.

Our April meeting was scheduled to be in Church where Ken Smith was going to show us the restored floor and tell its story. Sadly Ken tested positive for Covid so instead we had a hastily arranged Beetle Drive which was great fun. It was augmented with a mini quiz, plus a couple of poems from Janet.

Jo Towers had suggested that Carolyn Foster could talk to us about designing the Birinus garden, and that May would be a good month. Well, she was right – it was a perfect day. After an interesting talk with slides, supplemented by details from the superb records Jo and Roger had made of the project, we were able to stroll around the garden.

And finally (almost) in June came Ken's talk about the church floor project which was being finished off on that very day. The last job of waxing the tiles was going on in the church even as we sat in the Parish Centre and heard and saw some details of this remarkable and essential project, which had seemed so daunting at first and yet by hard work, determination, enthusiasm and generosity, and the grace of God, came to a successful conclusion.

Since we missed the customary end of year ramble, on a hot day in August quite a few members and guests joined a stroll round the lake by the Thames Hospice, followed by tea there.

And with this well-attended event we completed another happy year for the club.

We said our 'Farewells' to Sadie Scotcher, as she moved to Wales to be nearer her family. Mike and Jan hosted our AGM at their home in September. It was agreed to continue with afternoon meetings; we certainly haven't lost any members as a result of the change. The cream tea was over-catered and most members went home with a goody bag.



In October we were all looking forward to the return of Jennifer James from the National Trust to tell us about the colourful life of Nancy Astor.

Unfortunately, Jennifer caught Covid and we had another afternoon of making our own fun playing Beetle and Bingo (a first for some members – or so they claimed!), and hearing some poetry beautifully read by our Secretary. One poem was still remembered word for word by one of our number.

November saw us gathered in the church for a tremendous treat. Dr Relf Clark, one of All Saints three very talented organists, told us the history of the All Saints organs, and gave us a recital on the current one. .

And in December our traditional Christmas Flower arranging meeting. Jo, Marian and Val encouraged and assisted, Christmas music played, we had mulled wine and festive refreshments and members departed with some beautiful door wreaths and table decorations.

Janet continues even now to keep members informed and entertained with her regular Chirrup; the majority of members enjoy these via email but three or four people still receive hand-delivered hard copies.

*Jan Moss, Group Leader*

## **Maidenhead Care**

Covid is now a distant memory for most people but the impact in the community lingers on. The most noticeable feature is the disruption to NHS services. Appointments are made. only to be cancelled at short notice. Care was founded on finding volunteers to meet client needs a week in advance. Whilst that would help our smooth running, we try with extraordinarily determination to respond to the reality of appointment at short notice, a proportion cancelled and then rearranged.

On a happier note, a donation of £3000 was made to Foodshare in time for Christmas. A proportion of our clients benefit from food banks. As an acknowledgement of rising costs, we will operate until the end of 2023 without expecting a donation towards the service we offer. Such is the generosity of people, some clients offer more in recognition of higher transport costs for our drivers, we continue to ensure that volunteers receive the maximum mileage payment allowed tax free.

The annual commissioning service was led by Fr Jeremy. Our guest speaker was Dr John Bolodeoku who spoke with great authority on Covid. The Christmas drop-in was held in the Parish Centre and over 35 volunteers came for seasonal bites and mulled wine.

*Mike Moss  
Trustee Maidenhead Care*

## ALLsorts

Do you like allsorts? Do you have a favourite?

We believe that God loves ALL sorts of people, and that there are no favourites.

So that's why we call this group ALLsorts. It's primarily for adults with learning disabilities and their carers, but everyone is welcome. We try to show God's love through friendship and fun and by telling Bible stories through drama, music, games and craft in a way designed for people who might find a normal church service difficult.

Our helpers are members of several churches, including All Saints, but we meet on the last Thursday of most months between 7 and 8.30pm at St Mary's Church. We have refreshments and these, together with all sessions, are free. In October we were delighted to begin our meetings again in person after our Zoom sessions during the pandemic. This year we're celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Please pray for this work to continue. Thank you,

*Sue Nordberg*

## Stewardship Group

The Group was formed from the old Finance and Stewardship Group recognising that finance matters were adequately handled by the Treasurer and expenditure by the Resources Group. New terms of reference were agreed in July 2022 to reflect this.

Given the huge expenditure on the floor, **cleaning** was a priority with new equipment purchased, rotas established and volunteers sought. We are still short of volunteers.

**Operational support** to enable smooth functioning of All Saints was defined and is being introduced with volunteer and paid administrative support.

**Online giving** has been a focus given the move to cashless transactions. The website now includes an easy way of doing this

*Jeremy Nordberg Chair Stewardship Group*

## Senior Saints

Incredibly, Senior Saints (once members of the well-known Mothers' Union organisation) have now been in existence since 1918. We are now a small group of approximately twelve members. It had become impractical to remain members of the world-wide MU, for several reasons. Not least was the lack of availability for travel to distant functions, and the cost involved.

Several members have remained loyal to All Saints for many years, some for over sixty years. On a personal level, my twin sons (one of whom is now a grandfather) were

acolytes to the Rev. Michael Ware when in their early teens, and also my daughter was then approaching her teens when she was confirmed. Senior Saints have continued to support All Saints on many occasions - fetes, supporting both the Flower Team and the Tiny Saints, serving teas, and giving a warm welcome to newcomers

We meet on the second Wednesday afternoon of each month at 2pm. Now that we are "Seniors", and lack many car-drivers, the winter months do not encourage much outdoor activity. So, we begin each year on the first Wednesday in April in time for Easter, and continue until our regular early Christmas lunch at the Toby in December.

Last December, we had the pleasure of being joined by both Fr. Jeremy and Fr. John for this occasion, when we enjoyed a "family-style" meal with good friends. We used to hold our meetings in the Parish Centre, until work began on the replacement of the Church floor. After much discussion within the group, and also with Fr. Jeremy's blessing, it was decided to "take turns" in hosting the monthly gatherings in our own homes for tea, cake and friendship, which has proved remarkably successful.

Fr. Jeremy offered to take his turn and we have enjoyed tea and scones in the Vicarage garden on at least two sunny occasions in the summer months. We should be delighted to welcome any newcomers to join us, whatever your interest. If you would like to come and say hello, check the Parish Newsletter, or contact me on my landline, 01628 6t25701. I can assure you of a warm welcome.

***Wendy Channon***

## **8<sup>th</sup> Maidenhead Rainbows and Brownies**

Rainbows are the youngest section of Girlguiding UK, from 4 – 7 yrs. old. 8<sup>th</sup> Maidenhead Rainbows normally have 20-24 girls, meeting for an hour each Friday during term time at the Parish Centre. The past year has been busy with a full unit of enthusiastic and often noisy girls. We have explored the world around us through music, craft and games. Learning skills like recycling and first aid along the way, although at the end of the session the bandaged girls and their teddies looked like they had experience a horrendous disaster. We got out and about with picnics and den building, pond dipping at Braywick Nature Reserve and enjoyed Maidenhead Drama Guild's pantomime Beauty and the Beast.

Brownies is for girls aged 7- 10 years old. Our unit meets on a Monday for about an hour and a half during term time. Over the past year 8th Maidenhead Brownies have been showing off their acting skills using different techniques to express their emotions, as well as portraying different ways they can stay active. The girls also went on Brownie Holiday where they cooked and even cleaned throughout the weekend, alongside lots of crafts and grass sledging. The girls all had a wonderful time and are counting down until the next holiday! The girls then ended the year with lots of smores (marshmallows toasted over an open fire, sandwiches between biscuits – delicious!), games and a much requested movie night to finish the term.

Girlguiding is always looking for adult volunteers to support our Rainbow, Brownie and Guide units – if anyone is interested please get in touch. Not all roles involve weekly meeting and we have website coordination, commissioner, advisor and treasurer roles available. If you know of anyone who would like their daughter to join Rainbows, they will need to go to [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk), click on the parent's tab and follow the route to register their daughter.

***Nina Heavyside, Leader 8<sup>th</sup> Maidenhead Rainbows  
Lauren Webb, Leader 8th Maidenhead Brownies***

## **Open the Book at All Saints and Larchfield Schools**

We continue to take weekly stories into Larchfield School and All Saints School.

We have a short period to rehearse and create props. Recent challenges have been to create a tunnel into Jerusalem and a cave for David to hide in. More physical props are selected in advance. Occasionally there are unrehearsed interventions. The character moves across the assembly front row looking for someone. Year 1 small voice pipes up 'he's over there'!

More seriously, the children recall detail with week to week accurately and often say thank you when they see us outside of school. We generally have fun presenting the stories so that young children can become familiar with the best stories in the bible. Finally, both schools welcome us which is a joy.

***Mike Moss***

## **Boyne Hill C of E Infant and Nursery School**

Boyne Hill is a two-form entry school with around 260 pupils aged 3-7 years and is a short walk from All Saints Church. The Headteacher is Mrs Jane Davies and the school is rated Outstanding by OFSTED. In November 2019 the school had a SIAMS inspection under the new regime by the National Society on behalf of Oxford Diocesan Board of Education. As a result of this, Boyne Hill Infants is deemed to be a good Church school and the full report is on the school website.

The school serves a diverse local population and lives out its vision to be rooted in the local community. The school vision states that 'together we are building a welcoming sanctuary where everyone is shown love, care and respect. Inspired by Jesus, the ethos of 'not to be served but to serve' (Matthew 20 v 28). This is evident in the behaviour of the children towards each other and in the thought and care given to all associated with the school, such as litter-picking around the school, providing for

FoodShare and providing a crèche so parents and carers can attend meeting about the school curriculum.

The school motto 'Feeding body, mind and soul' has a firm theological basis in the biblical story of the Feeding of the 5000. In this story, Matthew 14 v 13-21, Jesus performed a miracle to ensure that everyone's physical needs were met through rest and food; expanded their thinking and understanding through his teaching; and brought them closer to God through prayer and his loving compassion towards them.

The children benefit from a varied and creative curriculum, which does indeed provide the space and time for each child to develop their strengths to a high standard and be supported and encouraged to persevere in the areas they find hardest, no matter what their ability or individual needs are. Funding is set aside so pupils in need (Pupil Premium children) may attend outings and a lunchtime club free of charge. There is also provision to buy second-hand uniforms.

Pastoral care for the children, staff and parents is given a high priority at Boyne Hill Infant School, and it has been designated an official '52 Lives Kind School' in recognition of this. The school is also recognised as an 'Attachment Awareness' school that recognises the additional needs of pupils who are not living with their natural parents.

The children's spiritual needs are also prioritised through times of prayer and reflection, and opportunities for awe and wonder to feed their souls. The festivals and teachings of the major religions are given due recognition in class lessons and celebrations and the children visit All Saints Church as part of their education. They also hold services in Church, such as the Christingle in December. There is also a multi-faith prayer shed in the playground for use by the children, and places for quiet prayer and reflection in classrooms. The school holds regular assemblies and Fr Jeremy leads many of these, rooting the school in its historical association with the Church.

The children have always been involved in caring for others and the environment through support for charities, both national and international, such as Children in Need, Save the Children, Jeans for Genes, NSPCC, National Autistic Society, Red Nose Day and also through visits to Braywick to learn about how to look after our natural world. The parents of the pupils have continued to fund-raise through events organised by the Boyne Hill School Association, and many of these are open to the whole community. The school has also advertised Church community events, such as the Christchild Market.

As the school return to normal post-Covid we are again seeing the huge contribution that the staff and parents are making towards rooting the school in the local community and meeting the needs of every child.

Our thanks goes to Mrs Davies and her excellent team for another outstanding year.

***Anne Sweeney***

## All Saints Church of England Junior School

2022 was a year of significant change for the school. In February, it had an Ofsted inspection. The inspection team gave the school an Inadequate rating and RBWM put in place a Strategic Board to focus on quickly improving the education for the children. To support John McKrell, the recently appointed Acting Headteacher, Ms Navroop Mehat was seconded part-time from Wexham Court Primary School to take on the role of Executive Head.

Literacy was a focus area for improvement and a new phonics programme and reading scheme were put in place. More books were purchased to support this and to provide more variety of both fiction and non-fiction texts. A new approach to writing (Talk4Writing) was also introduced. Navroop and John oversaw the development of a new sequenced curriculum for all four year groups with additional resources purchased. Another focus area was for children with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) where specialists from RBWM provided training and best practice methodologies.

Thanks also to the PTA which has supported the school through its fundraising (e.g. providing new technology for the classrooms). It hasn't all been about academic work in the classrooms though. The pupils continue to take part in sports activities, charity fundraisers, World Book Day celebrations and other events. The School Council orchestrated a change for birthday celebrations. Instead of bringing in sweets to mark the day, the children don't have to wear uniform but can dress in their own clothes. This is very popular! The Year 6 trip to Rhos-y-Gwaliau is always a memorable occasion for those in their last year.

Fr Jeremy continues to support the school with assemblies and was involved in an assembly to bless the school as it joined ODST, and the Open the Book team's Bible story sessions are enjoyed by the children. Pupils come to the church several times a year (e.g. All Saints, Christmas, St Peter and St Paul). The school's vision for preparing the children for an ever-evolving future, by equipping them with life-long, transferable skills and knowledge within a strong Christian context is underpinned by 'loving all our neighbours' taken from Jesus' second commandment of **'love one another, like I have loved you' John 13.34**. The values of thankfulness, honesty, endurance, compassion, trust and respect are brought to life through assemblies and in class.

From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023, the school joined the Oxford Diocese Schools Trust (ODST). This organisation is a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) with over 8000 pupils and 43 church and community schools across Oxfordshire and Berkshire. This will enable the school to improve with expertise from across the ODST family. The Trust hopes to continue to build ever-stronger links with All Saints Church. 2022 has certainly been a challenging time, but significant improvements have taken place due to the hard work of all the staff and the Strategic Board, and the school looks forward to the future within ODST.

*Jenny Wilks Chair of Governors*

## Altwood Church of England School

***Jesus said, “I have come that they may have life and live it to the full.” John 10:10***

Altwood Church of England School is one of the family of schools which fall within the Parish of All Saints Boyne Hill in Windsor and Maidenhead. It is a well-respected, multi-faith school, 11-18 age range, with a broad range of ability, where those of all faiths and of no religious backgrounds are welcome and nurtured in the safe surroundings of a Christian community with Gospel values at its foundation. Altwood’s church ethos is central to all that it does as it aspires for every student to achieve their best and go from strength to strength in all areas of their lives as they continue to develop into valued members of society. This ethos is reflected in both the Vision and Mission statements as well as the statement of Gospel Values:

### **Vision**

To offer an outstanding education for our students and prepare them for successful, independent lives in the 21st century

### **Mission**

- To be a high achieving academic community
- To identify and develop the full potential of every member of our community and give them the skills and qualifications they need to achieve their ambition
- Do this within the context of the culture and values of the Christian faith emphasising the strong moral and spiritual values shared with other faiths

Our House system reflects the theme of Gospel values; the students chose the names of the three Houses as Faith, Hope and Joy. Other Gospel values are revisited regularly through themed weeks at school and through the “Theme for the Week”.

There are good links between the school and the church. Rev. Jo Ellington continues in her role of school chaplain, playing an active part in the Altwood Union and encouraging students to develop their reflective practice. Fr. Jeremy regularly undertakes School Assemblies and attends Altwood Union in the School, which utilises the School Chapel.

Altwood School maintains strong links with the Diocese of Oxford, a representative of which is a member of the Trust, and Foundation Governors ensure a sound representation on the Governing Body. Altwood has been proactive in developing strong links to share best practice with both Primary and Secondary Schools in the Diocese.

Altwood Church of England School has continued to perform well with students achieving some very impressive GCSE and A-Level results in the summer 2021. These results further reinforce the strong position the school has established in the local area and confirm its place as a high achieving learning community. These outcomes have allowed a significant number of our young people to successfully gain a place at their first choice University, apprenticeship or destination of choice.

***Jan McLucas - Chair of Governor***



## All Saints Website and Social Media 2022

<https://www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk/>

Whilst the All Saints website continues to be a well-used source of information and, when linked to Facebook and twitter posts, a good promotional channel, the Parish needs to consider the fact that the platform used is out of support, outdated, and potentially vulnerable to cyber-attacks.

For a few years now the Parish has been advised that the Church needs to migrate to a new, preferable managed platform, website

As a reminder. the site was kindly constructed by Martin Whitehurst, who has now moved, and is based upon a Concrete5 based Content Management System (CMS) and uses a purchased template from “Presence Church”, which is designed for Church Use. As such its overall structure and look and feel is fixed.

As web-site technology has moved, on Concrete5 has now become the much improved Concrete CMS – support for the All Saints version ceased a few years ago. This also means that plug-ins and the site will probably continue to degrade.

In addition, the Presence Church template is also now classified as EOL (and was only designed to work with the obsolete versions of Concrete5). Presence Church was last updated in Sept 2013.

Hence it is becoming important that, whilst in the immediate future the site can be maintained, All Saints put in place resource and plans to transition to a new website.

The options available would appear to be:

- To build a new site based upon Concrete CMS – which, assuming we can find a team to build and transition the site, along with a webmaster to take control of managing the site along with the responsible persons managing their content. This should give an improved site with similar controls to the existing site.
  - Without confirmation it is likely that the infrastructure, hosting, bandwidth and cpanel control could organised as per the existing site (Simon Fullarton kindly manages the site infrastructure/back-up etc).
- To build a new site based upon WordPress. WordPress is one of the most common web-site platforms and if a webmaster can be found with WordPress capability then this may be an alternative option to using a Concrete CMS platform. Again a team will be needed to build and migrate the site with the responsible persons managing their content



- A WordPress site would also require infrastructure management similar to the existing site, which would need to be confirmed if this option was followed.
- Set up a new site using a Managed Platform – such as Church Edit. This option would be more expensive and less flexible; however it would be more focussed upon church needs. It would also need work in design (e.g. look & feel and content index) and transition, which no doubt the Managed Platform provider would be able to quote for. Again a webmaster and the responsible persons would need to manage their content.

A benefit of using a managed platform services provider such as Church Edit is that, if used, these sites can link into Church Management Systems (such as iknowchurch/LED). Several local Churches use the Church Edit platform.

- Infrastructure would be provided by the Managed Platform provider and would not require any further involvement from All Saints for this.

Whichever option is chosen there will be a need for a group to agree the tree structure and the data transition to the new site, along with the functionality expected. It will also need to be clear where the responsibilities would be for both static and dynamic content management of the site.

Also, as a reminder, the front page was (inelegantly) modified to give, amongst others, access to Covid information, the Diocese and the Church of England on-line services page, along with a new YouTube Channel at:-

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnPQFuQQ-Yb0ffFuT1Mjv8A/videos>

with regular links to Church and Service recordings made by Fr. Jeremy (of which there are now some fifty plus recordings available on-line).

For interested persons there is an explanatory video, provided by Martin, on YouTube for new and potential users of the website. (Unfortunately, due to lack of interest, Martin did not continue with the explanatory videos as originally planned). This is very interesting and informative, and it is worth viewing at: -

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-5dG3MvOxoncjs3SuOmggg>

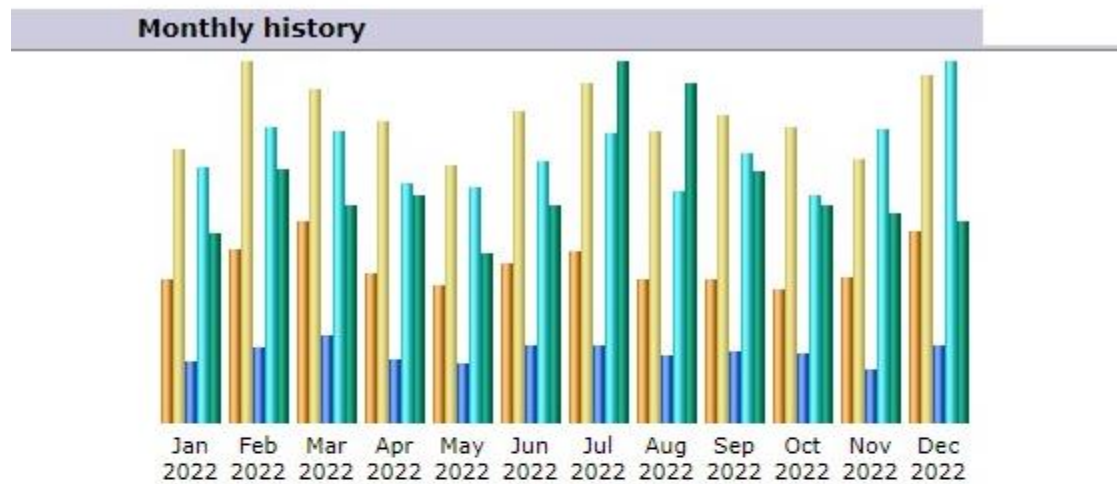
*(Please note that there are direct links to the YouTube video, along with the All Saints Facebook page and Twitter feed on the front page of the website.)*

Following Martin's move away, Simon Fullarton kindly took over maintaining the technical and infrastructure aspects of the website. This includes organising the server, secondary domain, bandwidth availability and back-ups.

Although, from the graphs below it can be seen that the site is still generating a good level of monthly traffic, with, on average, 1,000 unique visits per month, over 2,000 site visits and nearly 5,000 pages visited per month; this is a reduction on the usage last year of around 4%.

(This traffic excludes the pages visited per month by robots, worms and for indexing reasons).

Part of the reduction in traffic may be due to the excellent informative weekly Parish News which is now distributed to over 200 people. Although this is also hosted on the website, along with back issues of these (and prior pewsheets) the need to visit the website for this information will be less.



Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2022	951	1,820	4,147	17,390	684.11 MB
Feb 2022	1,162	2,406	5,132	20,080	914.44 MB
Mar 2022	1,348	2,224	5,904	19,850	784.97 MB
Apr 2022	1,000	2,007	4,242	16,329	819.52 MB
May 2022	918	1,715	4,074	15,981	614.11 MB
Jun 2022	1,063	2,085	5,179	17,705	788.82 MB
Jul 2022	1,146	2,270	5,198	19,659	1.27 GB
Aug 2022	960	1,940	4,617	15,795	1.20 GB
Sep 2022	957	2,048	4,829	18,384	905.51 MB
Oct 2022	895	1,974	4,655	15,452	784.22 MB
Nov 2022	972	1,752	3,621	20,000	754.37 MB
Dec 2022	1,282	2,325	5,228	24,513	730.31 MB
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,654</b>	<b>24,566</b>	<b>56,826</b>	<b>221,138</b>	<b>10.07 GB</b>

Interestingly, whilst the most downloaded items (pdf's) remain related to WW1 & WW2 information, during 2022 these were joined with the downloads of the Galilee project and the updated progress on the Floor Restoration, along with the Holy Week service booklet and the annual report and accounts.

The "A Church Near You" website is maintained, when able to, by the Parish Office. (Usage of the "A Church Near You" site is not included in the above usage table).

The parish website has tremendous potential for development which depends upon people having both the time and motivation to do this. With development the site can, amongst other uses, be used to proactively send out information when uploaded to people who have requested this. Using these features such as this, along with rota and other information, would help reduce Parish administration time whilst also improving communication for our congregation along with promoting All Saints to new visitors.

### **Facebook**

In conjunction with the website we also have an All Saints Church Facebook page which can be seen at: - <https://www.facebook.com/AllSaintsBoyneHill>

Please do visit. Many thanks to Jayne Chapman who kindly took on an admin role and helped to keep the site interesting with relevant posts. This certainly improved the content of this page. The number of Facebook followers has increased to 217.

If anyone feels they would like to help raise the profile of All Saints as an admin on the page please do speak to the writer.

We have also periodically used the Facebook page for (paid) promotions, most recently to promote the Christmas Market.

### **Twitter**

There is also an active Twitter feed at: - <https://twitter.com/AllSaintsBHill>

Please do visit. This has been maintained by Julia Wakeling and has 117 followers.

### **Streaming**

Whilst services were held in the Parish Centre Fr Jeremy managed to live stream some of these on Zoom via a mobile phone. This would not give adequate quality of sound and vision in the Church.

To live-stream in the future the suppliers of the (updated) sound system have proposed a fixed camera system that can also link into the sound system. This would be the simplest system to both set up and use.

Whilst this appears to be the best solution there is a question over the value and demand for streaming, along with whether the Parish would have operators for when

streaming may be used. This streaming system will not be installed until these points are clarified.

**Future**

Overall the website and social media activity, as well as acting as a vehicle for communication, gives All Saints a great opportunity to both spread the Word of God and to help make the Church attractive to people of all ages.

It is hoped that we can generate enthusiasm and support to both maintain, and develop, this important channel of communication in today's society.

***Rod Broad***