

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, BOYNE HILL, MAIDENHEAD

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

**To encounter Christ in Word and Sacrament**

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## Overview of the Year

Bishop Steven has challenged the Diocese of Oxford to be a 'Christ-Like Church', to be a church that is 'Contemplative', 'Compassionate' and 'Courageous'. In John's Gospel chapter 2 we find Jesus in the Temple seemingly acting in a rather different way. He is angry and upset with the people in the temple. I was given a book when I was ordained deacon nearly 25 years ago and I still find it helpful to this day. It's called 'Water into Wine' by Stephen Verney. It is a book that looks at the meaning of John's Gospel. If I understand Verney correctly he suggests that Jesus is angry with the people in the temple not because of the business that is going on but rather that they fail to see who He is. Jesus says 'Destroy this temple and in 3 days I will raise it up. He is pointing to His death and resurrection. Verney says that the people see Jesus but using the Greek word 'Theorein' they see Him only as spectators. They saw as it were from the floor of theatre and not as actors on the stage. They watched the Body of Christ but did not partake and become the Body of Christ.

St Catherine of Sienna was someone who was a contemplative but equally someone who to use Verney's idea, got up from the theatre floor to play her part in the play. She partook of the Body of Christ to become the Body of Christ in the World. Frequently following communion, she would have dialogue with God. To be a contemplative church is, writes Bishop Steven 'To be deeply rooted in Christ as a branch in the vine, through prayer, worship, word and sacrament.' This helps us as individuals and communities to discern God's will. St Catherine did this and formed a passionate relationship with God. In her dialogue with God she discovered that she couldn't love God as he loves her, but she could try to love her neighbour with that same intensity. This led her to visit prisons and those condemned to death, to support people struck down by the plague of the 14<sup>th</sup> Century and convince Pope Gregory XI to return to Rome from France. She was then compassionate and courageous as well as contemplative.

That is the challenge we have at All Saints 'To Encounter Christ in Word and Sacrament' to experience as the disciples on the Road to Emmaus did the Risen Lord in the Word (the Bible) and Sacrament (the breaking of the bread).

The good news is that we are at All Saints responding to the challenge to partake to become the Body of Christ in the World. In this annual report we will read about growing numbers of people taking the stories of scripture to our schools through Open the Book, increasing numbers of people sharing the ministry of Street Angels and pastoral care in the nursing homes. You will read about mission in Larchfield, our support of training of clergy in Kenya and reaching out to young families at tiny Saints.

In one way or another there are nearly 100 people at All Saints who are involved actively within the Body of Christ which is a remarkable figure.

Through our Partnership in Missional Church and our vision statement as well as the challenge to form our Mission Action Plan this year we are I think moving in the right direction. We will look within our Mission Action Plan to explore through courses the areas of 1. Welcome, 2. Vibrant worship, 3. Schools ministry.

In the coming year we will join with Cox Green and St Luke's in reaching out to our schools through Riding Lights and of course continue with Open the Book, we will be challenged by the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity to live the Christian life 24/7 and be encouraged to pray the scriptures with Dr John Bell who will visit All Saints in December 2018.

There are so many people to be thankful to:

The Ministry team and Churchwardens

The Office Staff

Baptism and Preparation teams

Director of Music and musicians

Choir and serving teams

Hospitality and cleaning teams

Sacristan

Those who help with rotas, pewsheets and service booklets, preparing flowers and the bell ringers

Sides-people and school governors

Those who maintain the fabric of the church and the other properties that we look after.

Our pastoral care team at nursing homes

Mothers' Union, Tuesday Club and Men of Boyne Hill leaders.

I would like to thank all those people at All Saints who are not spectators but who play their part as members of the Body of Christ helping us to become a compassionate, contemplative and courageous church. Thank you too to those who have been funding themselves to go on Diocesan courses to grow their skills to help our church and to Rachel Juden who is giving so wonderfully well to our community along with studying for her Mission course at Oxford.

Finally, I thank you all for the way that you continue to support both myself and Monika in our life at All Saints.

With my love and prayers,

*Fr Jeremy*

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

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is made up of church members currently on the church electoral roll. Members are voted onto the PCC each year as part of the Annual General Meeting which is open to all church members on the church's electoral roll and this gives them the right to vote at that meeting on matters on the agenda and how the PCC is constituted.

During 2017 the PCC met on nine occasions, the first of these is immediately after the annual meeting to appoint the treasurer Hannah Wilson assisted by Sue Stannett (Financial Administrator) PCC Secretary Jan Moss with David Morgan retaining his role of PCC minutes Secretary.

The standing committee comprised Fr Jeremy (Vicar), Hannah Wilson (Treasurer), Sue Stannett (Financial Administrator co-opted member), Jan Moss (PCC Secretary), Rod Broad, Derek Smith (Churchwardens) supported by Stella Harding and Ann Rawlings (Deputy Churchwardens). This committee usually meets between PCC meetings to deal with day to day matters arising and to plan future PCC meetings and mission requirements.

The Sides Persons team provides a very important role and support to welcoming people to our services as well as many other roles around the church and in helping with the smooth running of All Saints. Stella Harding has carried on the role during 2017 of supervising/training existing and any new volunteers in understanding their roles and responsibilities as Sides People.

Report on the fabric and maintenance of the church are recorded separately in this annual report. The finances of the church are also covered in a separate report in this document.

The PCC has a very important role in ensuring that our church and vicar are properly supported in ensuring that sacred worship is provided for all who attend as well as covering the practical day to day needs of maintaining our historic buildings. PCC Meetings are not just about day to day practical matters but about the spiritual mission of our church.

The church is very fortunate to have many members who volunteer and support services and other practical needs without which we would not function as a church. As with all churches we can always welcome more volunteers in various roles to help and improve what we do.

We take this opportunity to say thank you to all the volunteers and others who help make our mission possible, to many to name but nonetheless very much valued.

*Roderick Broad and Derek Smith Churchwardens.*

## **Churchwardens' Annual Fabric Report**

During this past year there have been various minor works completed with no major works being undertaken during 2017. It remains challenging to carry out maintenance repairs with very limited funds. There are works that need to be carried out as general maintenance and repair as well as items such as general decoration that need improvement whilst, at the same time, maintaining an eye on funds.

### **Church Buildings:**

#### **Alarm**

The alarm setting keypad in the Sacristy was causing concern as it was becoming increasingly more difficult to punch in the setting code. Due to its age a repair was not viable. After investigations and a couple of quotes it was decided to upgrade our very old system to a modern digital Fob operation. A local company now has our contract which has saved the church money in upgrade and operating costs. All is now working well!

#### **Floor**

The Church Floor remains in a poor condition with some cracked and missing tiles also the lino covering parts of the tiled floor is well past its serviceable life. Some of the broken tiles were re-affixed by our resources team in the past, however this work proved too extensive, and impractical, to continue. It was intended during 2017 to arrange a joint visit by the architect and a floor specialist to make a formal assessment and consider all the possible options. Due to the architect's ill health in the first part of the year this did not happen. It is scheduled to take place in early 2018. At the time of writing this initial meeting has happened further investigations are needed but the prognosis is not good cost wise.

#### **Heating**

There have been a few minor issues with the heating system. We have had a couple of occasions when minor power cuts have affected the programming of the boiler one necessitating calling out Austin's (Heating Engineers) to resolve. During July as part of the annual service call a radiator on the north Aisle wall was removed to allow for a wall repair.

We have asked Austin's to quote for installing a remote boiler control in the Sacristy to avoid, during inclement weather, having to visit the boiler room to adjust or vary the programme allowing for varying service times. Unfortunately to date this has not happened. We also took the decision late in the year to have all the programming on the boiler panel (as designed) and not partly

controlled within the church as the current system is not designed for that method of control (via the old time-clock), which could lead to undue stress on the boiler.

### **Stained Glass Windows**

We have various windows around the church that need attention particularly some high-level windows in the nave area of the church. Status pending.

### **Wall Repair North Aisle**

A local builder we have used for many years is emigrating, so we took the opportunity to use his good services one last time to carry out a long-standing repair. A list B application to the Archdeacon was granted but restricted us to repainting the repair only where in truth the whole wall around the church below the stone Dado Rail is in sore need of repainting, at present it is very patchy. Although we requested to be able to do this as part of this work we were informed it needs a full Faculty permission application.

The current position at time of writing is that the repair is completed, and a shade of paint has been approved by the church architect with a faculty to be applied for. We are hoping to complete painting and reinstatement of the removed radiator during 2018.

### **Roof, Gutters**

Some missing or damaged roof tiles were replaced on the lower roofs of the church. Those identified on the upper roofs (very few in number) were left as it would require scaffolding at considerable cost for the odd missing or cracked tile. The roof is lined so the odd missing or broken tile should not prove to be an issue. The gutters and gullies were checked for any blockages.

### **Other Minor Works**

Some remedial brickwork was carried out around the church replacing bricks where the faces had blown or were missing altogether.

A manhole cover and frame were completely replaced in the quadrangle as this had become dangerous.

### **War Memorial Boards**

The original world war one board has now been restored and cleaned and returned to its original site in the north porch. A new smaller memorial board has been added to accommodate missing names from WW1. The new board has a new section for subsequent actions post WW2 and has one name added. The WW2 roll has been reframed in an oak properly fitting frame and an interpretation panel added. All are now sited on the west wall of the north porch with the addition of a free standing previously redundant confessional stall containing the records of all the fallen from the parish.

### **Small Items**

As the applied Smart Water is now at the end of its life new Smart Water has been purchased for application to our precious metals. This process is pending.

### **Quinquennial Inspection**

The last inspection was carried out during 2015. This highlighted various ongoing maintenance and repair issues that will need to be tackled in the near future.

## **Tower**

After welcoming a visiting group of ringers to the tower it was later discovered one of the wooden Bell Stays was cracked and this had to be replaced promptly (safety issue) as there was a wedding booked requesting the bells the following Saturday. The bell hangers, Whites of Appleton, were engaged to carry out the required removal of the old and fixing of the new stay. This would usually be sorted by the local ringers however due to time constraints and lack of local skills in this instance expert help was required.

A door strip has been fitted to the inside base of the tower door this will prevent fallen leaves from blowing under the door, always a problem in the autumn and a possible fire risk.

## **Lightning conductor**

This underwent a test for resistance levels and failed partly because only one of the two points could be accessed for testing as one point was completely overgrown with bushes and shrubbery in the Calvary Garden. At the time of writing this has now been resolved and the test passed (just) however more maintenance and remedial work needed to improve the Level of resistance which is currently very high.

## **Churchyard**

As the churchyard is closed the maintenance falls to the local authority however the actual work carried out by contractors for the council is very limited.

From July onwards in consultation with the cemeteries officer a number of Saturday morning working parties have taken place and the immediate area inside the church gate on the north side have extensively been cleared of self-seeded saplings and bushes with some lower boughs of overhanging trees being removed to facilitate unhindered access. The work carried out by church volunteers has made a very significant difference to this area.

There are outstanding issues of fence repairs which have been brought to the attention of the local authority awaiting action.

Due to difficult Commuter parking issues in Boyne Hill Road an access protection white line was applied for to maintain open access through the church gate this has been in place now for some months and is usually observed. Finally a leaking tap near the main gate in the churchyard was replaced.

## **Other Church Buildings**

### **Birinus Room**

The storage heaters have been replaced as the old ones had faulty controls and expensive to run. The new blow heaters operate on “an as and when” basis and are not permanently on, only being switched on when required. The exterior window frames and door were all repainted.

## **Birinus Garden**

In February a large branch fell from the cedar tree in Bishop Court. Damaging the garden fence narrowly missing the new shed. The residents cut up and cleared the debris whilst the Church (being responsible) needed to repair the damaged fences. Two other rotting fence sections were also replaced while the fencing contractor was on site.

The stone chimney on the top of the original stack from the boiler house near the gateway to the garden continues to be monitored, it has been losing small particles of stone for the past 18 months. It will need to be closely inspected at some point and some remedial work carried out.

The garden continues to be maintained and used on various occasions.

## **Parish Office**

A new office computer is required as the current one is quite dated, It is planned to replace this during 2018.

The parish office windows had some cracked panes these were replaced where possible. The whole of the window frame was later repainted at the same time as flat one and Birinus room windows.

The storage heater in the parish office was replaced at the same time as heaters in the Birinus room. The new heater is a programmable storage heater replacing the old faulty one, the thermostat had failed and was permanently on at high temperature.

## **Parish Centre**

The parish centre wooden window frames, rear fire escape passage and exterior toilet window frames were repainted.

The entrance hall carpet tiles were cleaned and this did improve the appearance for a short while but these carpet tiles are very worn; they will need to be replaced fairly soon.

A new door strip was fitted to the base of the smaller door entrance to help prevent rodent access.

## **Rented Properties**

### **No 1**

Had problems with the hot water supply to the shower and mould in the shower cubicle in the bathroom. A new shower head, pipe, and controls were installed and the mould issue resolved at the same time. The fridge Freezer is giving problems where the door seal has failed, to be resolved a new fridge freezer may be required. The external windows were repainted at the same time as the painting work was done on the Parish Office and Birinus room.

### **No 3**

Started the year with a boiler failure requiring a new heat exchanger to be fitted also the whole system had to be treated and flushed through as it has been operated without any

lime scale inhibitor in the system. Also a bathroom basin had to be replaced as it was cracked.

#### No 4

A Bay tree and stump was removed from immediately in front of the house wall early in the year. There is a crack in the bath and this is scheduled to be replaced fairly soon.

All three church properties now come under management of the Letting agents Watermans the last property (No 4) being transferred to their control in October.

#### Thanks

Thanks again must go to our small resources team who still undertake much of the minor property works themselves, saving the parish significant amounts of money helping to maximise our rental income.

#### *Rod Broad & Derek Smith Churchwardens*

#### **Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery**

The Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery comprises 14 parishes and benefices in a geographical area more or less corresponding to the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. There are 23 churches serving a population of 110,400 (2011 Census), mainly in the two urban areas of Maidenhead and Windsor respectively, but with a strong presence in the more rural areas and villages surrounding the towns. Two parishes, All Saints Boyne Hill and St Luke's Maidenhead, are designated as P&E (Presence and Engagement), having a significant proportion of non-Christian population. The combined Electoral Roll of the Deanery in 2017 was 2279 (2016:2333).

The Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery Synod comprises all the clergy in the deanery and Lay Representatives elected by their respective parishes in the deanery for a period of three years. Elections were held in 2017. There are 27 Clergy Members, 45 Lay Members and 9 lay vacancies.

The Deanery Synod elects a Standing Committee to oversee and steer the activities of the Deanery. This consists of five clergy members and six lay members. The Synod also appoints a Lay Co-chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The Area Dean and Assistant Area Dean are appointed by the Bishop.

The Deanery Synod also elects representatives (who need not necessarily be members of the Deanery Synod itself) to Diocesan Synod. There are three Clergy Representatives and four Lay Representatives. The next election will be in 2018.

The Deanery Synod members also elect representatives to the General Synod.

The Area Dean and Lay Chair are members of the Archdeacon's Standing and Pastoral Committee, which also includes the Bishop of Reading.

The Deanery has a Mission Action Plan which outlines its objectives and activities approved by the Archdeacon's Pastoral Committee in June 2015. It is used by the Deanery Standing Committee as an operational framework for the Deanery. It is reviewed, developed and updated at each Standing Committee meeting.

Under the plan, the Standing Committee is, amongst other things, responsible for organizing and facilitating synod meetings. A pattern to Synod Meetings has emerged that puts a mission topic at the head of the agenda, for which there is a presentation either from within the deanery or by an external speaker. The formal "business" is then dealt with after the main topic.

The Deanery Synod met three times in 2017. The main topics at the meetings were as follows: -

**Wednesday 22 March at St Stephen and St Agnes, Windsor**

Presentation by Julie Dzeigel, General Synod member, on the work of the General Synod and the Renewal and Reform programme.

Presentation and approval of the 2016 accounts

**Wednesday 24th May at St Peter's, Furze Platt, Maidenhead**

First meeting of the newly elected Synod. Deanery officers and Standing Committee elected.

There was a presentation on the Deanery Plan and its progress to date. Members held a number of discussions on what they would like to see at synod meetings over the next 3 years.

**Thursday 17th October at St Mary's, Maidenhead**

Presentation by Shula Tajima, coordinator of Windsor and Maidenhead Youth

and Children's Counselling Service, on mental health issue for young people. Simon Eves, Youth Worker at St Mary's also spoke of his experiences in this area.

There was an update from General Synod and on the Church Commissioner's rejection of the scheme for St Mary's and the Walthams.

**Bishop Steven's Visit – 6th June**

Bishop Steven visited the deanery as part of his tour of the diocese. He met the Chapter for a eucharist followed by a working lunch at Cookham Dean, then visited St Luke CE School in Maidenhead. In Windsor he met some of the people involved in the mission to the homeless. He then had a discussion over supper with invited representatives from each parish, following which he outlined his thinking on his emerging vision for the diocese at an open meeting at St Stephen and St Agnes, Windsor.

**Payment of Share**

The Deanery continued its approach to paying its allocation of share from the diocese by a collaborative and collective arrangement, which has resulted in the share for 2017 being paid in full and on time yet again.

Parish Share for 2018 is due to increase by 1.75% for the diocese as a whole, against a background of 2% increase in clergy stipends and staff salaries. However, individual deanery shares are reduced by the fees collected by the Deanery in the last complete year (in 2016 for the 2018 share). As our Deanery collects a relatively high fee amount, we are vulnerable to fluctuations of fee levels, and 2016 fee income was significantly lower than 2015. Therefore, our Deanery has ended up with an overall 3.65% increase in share for 2018 to £ 976,036. We expect a more favourable settlement in 2019. However, due to healthy reserves, the Deanery Standing Committee approved the suggestion that a 2.5% increase be requested from parishes in 2018, with the remainder carrying over into the 2019 calculation.

Our thanks go to the PCCs and the congregations of the Deanery in meeting the challenges associated with the payment of our share.

**Pastoral Developments**

In 2017, the Deanery considered and participated in: -

The proposed amalgamation of St Mary's and St Andrew's, Maidenhead with St Mary's, White Waltham, and the proposed separation of Shottesbrooke from White Waltham and its amalgamation with Waltham St Lawrence. The Deanery, along with others, gave evidence to the Church Commissioners on the scheme, but the Commissioners rejected it, and an alternative has had to be formulated.

The interregnum at St Michael's, Bray.

Supporting parishes where there is little or no clergy resource over and above a single stipendiary post.

### **Parish Inspections**

2 Parish Inspections were due to be carried out on behalf of the Archdeacon in the year in order to maintain its 3-yearly cycle of inspections. These have been deferred until 2018.

### **Deanery Officers and Standing Committee Members**

(with their respective parishes)

Area Dean                    Rev'd Margaret Bird (New Windsor Team Ministry) – until December 2017

Associate Area Dean Rev'd Richard Cowles (Bray) - until June 2017

Lay Chair                    John Sykes (Cookham Dean)

Secretary                    Thomas Walton (St Mary's and St Andrew's, Maidenhead)

Treasurer                    Jim Tucker (Bray)

Members                    Rev'd Ainsley Swift (New Windsor Team Ministry)

                                  Rev'd Sally Lynch (St Luke's Maidenhead)

                                  Rev'd Sam Allberry (St Mary's and St Andrew's, Maidenhead)

                                  Tony Boyd (Waltham St Lawrence) – until June 2017

                                  Jane Burr (Clewer St Stephen and St Agnes)

                                  Martin Chandler (Clewer)

Note that from 1 January 2018, Rev'd Ainsley Swift (New Windsor Team Ministry) has been appointed Area Dean, and Rev'd Sally Lynch (St Luke's Maidenhead) has been appointed Associate Area Dean. The Deanery wishes to express its thanks to Rev'd Margaret Bird and Rev'd Richard Cowles for their unstinting service in the respective roles and wishes them each a long and happy retirement.

### **Diocesan Synod Members**

                                  Rev'd Ainsley Swift (New Windsor Team Ministry)

                                  Rev'd Sally Lynch (St Luke's Maidenhead)

                                  Rev'd Nick Plant (The Cookhams)

                                  Rev'd Sam Allberry (St Mary's and St Andrew's, Maidenhead)

                                  John Sykes (Cookham Dean)

                                  Martin Chandler (Clewer)

Jim Tucker (Bray)

Ralph Hinchcliffe (St Luke's Maidenhead)

General Synod Member

Rev'd Sam Allberry (St Mary's and St Andrew's, Maidenhead)

*David Morgan Deanery Lay Representative for All Saints Boyne Hill*

### **Web Site and Social Media**

All Saints Church website has been active for over three years now and is increasingly proving to be a good vehicle for communications and information for both our congregation and potential new members and visitors to All Saints Church. Several new members and visitors have commented that the website was a useful source of information before they came to/visited All Saints.

The site was kindly constructed by Martin Whitehurst, who has now moved, and is based upon a Content Management System (CMS), and uses a purchased template from "PresenceChurch", which is designed for Church Use.

There is an explanatory video on YouTube for new and potential users of the website. 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 the technical aspects of the website along with organising and managing hosting and back-ups. Maintenance of the content and calendars is the responsibility of the relevant "page-owners"/"event owners".

The website is regularly attracting between 25 and 40 unique visitors per day; these visitors average over 250 page views per day – a page view includes, for example, looking at a calendar event, a pew sheet, an image and a news item. The high number of "hits" includes viewing every component on a page (images, text, content blocks, calendar entries etc.) and as such mainly impact upon the use of bandwidth (the amount of web traffic between the sites host and the user/viewer).

As the site is becoming more used the number of unique visits in 2017 increased by 21% to 10,322 compared to 8,496 in 2016.

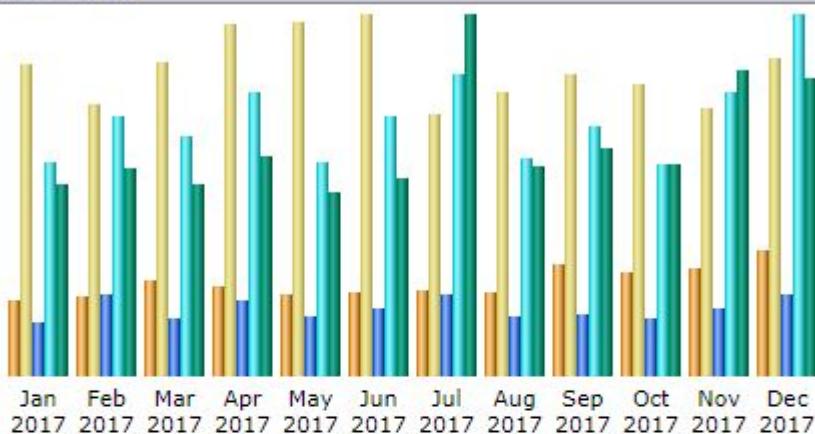
As we have used some "facebook promotions" in 2017 the number of direct visits from facebook increased to 377 compared to 64 in 2016 – this assisted with promoting events such as the Church Fete and the Heritage Open Days.

Due to the increased usage of the web-site Simon upgraded the web hosting package during 2016 which has ensured that the site remains responsive.

Access on mobile devices has increased to around one third of the visits in 2017, compared to around one fifth in 2016. It is likely that we will need to consider upgrading the site to a more mobile friendly "slider" site in the future; however this will entail extensive work in both site design and porting of content.

The table below gives an indication of the use being made of the site:-

### Monthly history



Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2017	695	2,878	6,336	25,724	1.48 GB
Feb 2017	727	2,505	9,776	31,318	1.60 GB
Mar 2017	881	2,894	6,770	28,746	1.47 GB
Apr 2017	820	3,241	8,966	34,191	1.70 GB
May 2017	741	3,259	7,017	25,708	1.42 GB
Jun 2017	769	3,327	8,086	31,335	1.52 GB
Jul 2017	791	2,403	9,686	36,255	2.79 GB
Aug 2017	775	2,610	7,056	26,238	1.62 GB
Sep 2017	1,027	2,776	7,330	30,120	1.77 GB
Oct 2017	948	2,694	6,941	25,324	1.63 GB
Nov 2017	988	2,468	7,974	34,193	2.37 GB
Dec 2017	1,160	2,927	9,764	43,399	2.30 GB
Total	10,322	33,982	95,702	372,551	21.66 GB

As the site develops and matures it is holding significant amounts of information. As well as details on the Church, Church groups and organisations, calendar events etc., there is also a store of past pewsheets, annual reports, accounts and documents such as the excellent research into the fallen of All Saints (which continues to head the downloaded files list).

In order to ensure that the site remains current and informative with accurate calendars it has been designed for the leaders/page owners/calendar owners to directly maintain their own pages/calendars.

However the content delegation is still largely unconstructed, with few people stepping forward to take responsibility for their areas of ownership. For the site to continue to be current and useful requires the page owners to both take ownership, be trained and to maintain their pages/areas/calendars. This remains pending completion and a further review of ownership with the PCC/page owners is due to be undertaken. In the interim the site content is being maintained at a relatively low level by one of the Church Wardens whilst we seek both an Editor/Co-ordinator to pull together all the content/page owners and also to ensure that the page owners are able to, and do, maintain their individual areas.

The 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, along with rota and other information, would help reduce administration time whilst also improving communication for our congregation along with and 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. This is only being used sporadically at the moment and if anyone wishes to be registered as an “admin” to enable posting and updating please do let the office know. The more vibrant this page can be maintained will mean that the All Saints Church will be more informative and attractive to users.

As noted above several paid for post “boosts” have been used during the year which has led to more visits to the website and assisted with attendance at the Fete and the Heritage Open Days.

## **Twitter**

We also have a very active Twitter feed at:- <https://twitter.com/AllSaintsBHIll> This is kindly being maintained by Julia Wakeling and has attracted 113 “followers”. Please do visit if you have not already done so.

## **Future**

Overall the website and social media activity, as well as acting as a vehicle for communication, give 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*

### **Tiny Saints**

One of the most exciting areas of ministry at All Saints is the Tiny Saints Group that meets in the parish centre every Friday morning. The group that was started 7 years ago through Sirpa and Elizabeth has further developed through Tanya and Rachel. This group is ably supported by the Mothers’ Union members and others who enjoy making teas and coffees, providing healthy food for children and not so healthy food for the adults.

Each week craft activities are prepared by Tanya that bring out the theme of the Biblical story and there are also toys and games for younger children to enjoy. The session concludes with a service that includes children’s nursery rhymes, Christian songs, a bible story, and an interactive Tiny Saints prayer. In 2017 numbers have continued to grow so that on some occasions we can have as many as 50 people in the parish centre.

People tell us that they enjoy the opportunity to make friends, see their children socialise with other young children, enjoy the hospitality and be welcomed by people from All Saints. Young families have formed good relationships with each other and support each other in many ways.

Rachel Juden has been marvellous in supporting the families and she has helped further develop the good relationships we have with the parents.

Sue Stannett from our baptism team helps make the connection between families getting their children baptised at All Saints and the opportunity to help their children grow in a Christian community by sharing with people the idea behind Tiny Saints. This means we have people coming from our Baptisms to Tiny Saints and equally Tiny Saints families having their children baptised at the church.

Our Missional Innovation Team have focussed on Tiny Saints as a place to support families. We have recently had a cheese and wine evening at the vicarage when over 25 ladies shared a wonderful evening further building our links with young families. We hope that these relationships will help us to meet our Missional Adaptive challenge to be a welcoming church to families.

Finally, the families themselves have enjoyed Tiny Saints so much that last summer during the holiday (A time when we would normally close Tiny Saints) parents continued to run the group themselves. Thank you to everyone who supports this wonderful ministry.

*Fr Jeremy*

### **Men of Boyne Hill**

Following a period of time when we did not meet, an exciting development took place in the latter part of the year. During a Mission Innovation Team meeting which is the group of people from All Saints appointed to challenge us to think about our Missional Adaptive Challenge 'To develop, change and grow our heart and relationship with young families to welcome and nurture them' one person came up with a suggestion. 'My husband lives a busy life running his business and helping to bring up our young family but occasionally he has a free evening when he would love to join others for a drink and a chat at a pub.' Following this comment and using the PMC style to listen to needs we decided to meet once a month at the Windsor Castle Pub. The first occasion we met 8 people came, some who have been linked to All Saints for years and others who we were meeting for the first time. These are largely made up of men who are the husbands of Tiny Saints mothers. At the last meeting 16 men met and excellent conversations took place over a pint of beer or two. We hope to further develop this group having discussions and meeting to watch the occasional rugby match together.

*Fr Jeremy*

### **The Larchfield Mission**

This is an ecumenical group that has been involved with planning mission in Larchfield for 10 years. The ministry of the group involves the Summer Holiday Club and Christmas Club, Open the Book, the Larchfield Care Home and Larchfield Open Table. In recent years River Church has also offered Messy Church and are now offering CAP (Christians against poverty). As a community they are hoping that members of other churches will help to offer personal service to individuals struggling with debt. The URC contribute wonderful support through their youth worker Alice and their minister David Downing who is trying to find ways to support Refugees in Calais. I travelled with David to Calais last summer to visit the site of the former refugee camp and he along with members of other faith communities are trying to make sure that vulnerable young people are re-united with family living in this country.

One of the highlights of this group is the holiday club which takes place each summer in Desborough Park over 4 days. Young people are invited to share fun activities, singing, worship, sports and hospitality in a welcoming environment.

The planning group is made up of Rev'd David Downing and Alice Gilbert of the URC, Revd Joan Hicks and Roger Baldery from the Church of the Good Shepherd, Linda Crew and Ceri Davies from River Church and Jeanette Lock from All Saints.

Thank you to everyone from All Saints who contributes to various ministries within the Larchfield community.

*Fr Jeremy*

### **Open the Book at All Saints School**

With support from other churches we have been taking OTB into All Saints School for 8 or 9 years. There are two important dynamics: the willingness of the cast to become characters and the amazing response from the children. There are no words to learn, we read our lines but give some thought in advance to how the character is described and contributes to the bible story. We rotate parts in hopefully a democratic way so that a bigger part one week might be balanced by a smaller role the next.

We assemble at 9.45am on a Thursday for a gathering prayer and rehearsal. Each week there is a designated Producer who has thought about the setting of the story. The cast freely improve the Producers initial ideas during the rehearsal!

As children begin to fill the hall, worship songs are organised by the school staff. We generally enjoy joining in! Whenever the story allows children are recruited as they arrive for assembly to play, generally non-speaking parts. All Saints Church has a wonderful collection of costumes and props. A simple tabard transforms children into almost any character you can think of. If the story needs a well, a wall, kingly robes, angel attire or rough shepherd clothing, we have it.

Participation by the audience is often in response to cue cards held high at the appropriate points in the story. It is rewarding what can be achieved in a 30 second rehearsal to add sound effects and crowd responses to the story. At 10.30am we depart.

Since September 2016 there has been an injection of new people from All Saints. We are also currently supported by cast from United Reformed Church and the Good Shepherd, Cox Green.

Some folk from All Saints are cast members at Larchfield School, others at Manor Green Special School.

If you are curious and would like to observe OTB in action, we can normally accommodate one observer each week at All Saints School. Just let me know in advance.

We also take OTB into Larchfield School; Wednesday at 8.30am; Manor Green Monday at 9.20am.

*Jan & Mike Moss*

### **Larchfield Open Table (LOT)**

The LOT project is organised by an informal grouping of churches to provide a family meal, child activities and a biblical theme on the first Tuesday of each month. We have been involved as a parish since formation nearly 5 years ago. We meet at the Larchfield Community Centre in Desborough Park.

Several times a year we provide a cooked meal for 50 people. As the actual number attending is not known in advance, any excess food is packaged for the guests to take home.

When we are not cooking our volunteers become involved as hosts, setting furniture up, putting furniture away and washing up!

We arrive around 4.30pm and generally leave before 7.30pm.

Over the years we get to know regular guests. Children who have been involved since the early days as they get older have helped to resource the Summer Holiday Club. This has been a great way of engaging young people in events for the benefit of their own community.

As you can see the work is for the benefit of the guests who happen to live on our doorstep. The objective is not to 'recruit' new church members but to make connections, build relationships and share God's love. Some of the guests have, however, become members of local churches.

Mission in the local community takes many forms and the offer of simple hospitably is an activity open to all.

### *Mike and Jan Moss*

#### **OAK Project**

OAK stands for Ordinands Appeal Kenya and was founded in 2003 following a visit to Kenya by Fr Robert who was our curate at the time. Our focus has been to fund ordinands in training. Eunice, Margaret, Patrick and Jemimah have been ordained. We are currently supporting Richard and Stephen. Since 2003 there has been a dramatic increase in clergy in Kenya including the people that we have helped to sponsor their training. Once ordained it is quite common to be sent out to form a new church community. Imagine if that was the normal practice in our country! The return on our financial support is immeasurable in terms of growing the church in Kenya.

Fr Jeremy visited Kenya as part of his sabbatical in 2013. Many of you will have seen his presentation and heard of his inspiring time in the Diocese that we are supporting.

Historically a small number of people have made regular contributions towards this work with the balance being paid from church funds. At present we are sending £1800 per annum to Kenya. We have an offer of £1500 per annum for 3 years from church members. (2017-19) To sustain funding we need to initiate an annual fund-raising activity capable of raising £500 or more towards this well-established mission outreach.

In 2017 a fund-raising supper was held with Fr Robert and Fr Jeremy reflecting on their memories of Kenya. The event raised £1200; a combination of direct proceeds from the supper and significant donations. In Autumn 2018 a further fund-raising event will be organised. All money donated to OAK is held in a restricted account. On a personal basis we consider OAK to be one of our charities rather than part of our parish giving. You might wish to consider doing something similar.

### *Jan and Mike Moss*

#### **Maidenhead Care**

Maidenhead Care was established in 1985. Originally all the volunteers came from churches. The scheme provides a service to match the needs of people in the community in areas such as travel to NHS services, shopping, visiting the lonely and sometimes providing relief for a Carer. (Clients) Volunteers offer a fixed time, generally weekly, when they are available to be approached to meet a Client need. The matching of Client request to available Volunteers is undertaken by the Duty Officer. This pivotal role is undertaken by specially trained Volunteers who are on duty, ideally, one day a month.

The need for volunteers across the voluntary sector exceeds the demand within the local community. All Saints has a core of long standing Volunteers whose contribution is invaluable.

Maidenhead Care currently need more London Drivers. It is revealing how many people need transport to London for hospital appointments. During 2017 one of our most willing London Drivers

moved to East Anglia. Basically, more people need transport than we have. Volunteers able to assist.

Maidenhead Care needs more drivers generally. Volunteers can elect the local areas that they are prepared to drive to.

Travel expenses, when claimed, are fully reimbursed.

Maidenhead Care needs more Duty Officers. Most months some people undertake additional shifts to help keep the scheme viable. Each year we must replace experienced people who move away from the area. Excellent training is provided and a computer and mobile phone moves from home to home.

Do you have a day, or morning, or afternoon that you can offer, ideally each week, to help someone in our community? Do speak to Jan Moss for an insight into the role of the Duty Officer.

*Mike Moss, Maidenhead Care Trustee*

### **Street Angels**

In the past two years the support for Street Angels from All Saints has grown significantly. Did you know that whenever you see Jeanette Lock wearing her hi-vis jacket on a Sunday morning she will have been on duty the night before?

Fr Jeremy is Chaplain to the Angels and periodically prays with them as they gather at 10.30pm on a Saturday evening before becoming visible on the streets.

The Angels carry a radio linked to the town cameras and central monitoring scheme. This system enables businesses operating in the night time economy to speak to each other if potential problems arise. The cameras can follow people around the town. The police from time to time will ask the Angels to move to a particular area as a calming influence. It is amazing how the offer of lolly pops to provide a sugar rush and water to help hydrate revellers can contribute to calming situations. On occasion the provision of flip flops is welcomed, generally by women whose footwear has become inappropriate or, indeed, lost.

Regulars who enjoy the night time economy in Maidenhead have a real respect for the Angels giving of their time so that others can enjoy themselves.

In amongst this activity situations arise where the Angels will pray with people they meet. It is not unusual later for someone to approach the Angels and say that the time spent in prayer with them has made a difference in their lives.

Do please ask Jeanette if you would like to experience a taster evening with the Angels.

*Mike Moss, Street Angels Trustee*

### **Mothers' Union**

It is hard to believe a year has passed since our last report, so much seems to have affected the Group in many ways.

First, as anticipated, at our Annual General Meeting in 2017 there was much discussion and comment on the further rise in the annual membership subscription per person made to the Diocese of Oxford. Although it seemed a small amount, the fees have been regularly and slowly increasing each year. We invited a member of the Treasurer's Department at Mary Sumner House to come and explain the financial situation in which he was involved, and how it was managed. However, much of the information covered events and strategies too far distant for

most of our members to become involved with, hence the queries raised. The remaining members of our Mothers' Union continue to support the huge global outreach of the movement in their prayers, while feeling that the time has come to cut our financial ties with Oxford.

An important offshoot of this thinking is that we shall no longer be able to call ourselves the "Mothers' Union". So further discussion is imminent on replacing the name by which we – and the rest of All Saints parishioners – will be recognised and acknowledged. The overall intention is that the nucleus of the Group will continue to meet every month as now, but without the overhead financial ties with Oxford.

Margaret Hill continues to lead the Group with cheerfulness, despite difficult situations, and holds us all together with regular prayers and a strong feeling of friendship.

Secondly, in April 2017, the Group sadly lost their ex-Leader of 17 years, Ena Jones, after a long fought battle with ill health. There was a wonderful farewell service (which Ena herself had covered with copious instruction) and which instructions were honoured by Father Jeremy. It was a beautiful service, attended by past and present MU members and also a representative from the Oxford HQ – Jean Vaughan, our Area Vice President – who all subsequently attended the wake in the Parish Centre.

The rest of our yearly programme was wonderfully filled by many of our own parishioners, including Mike Ansell, and also by certain members of the Maidenhead Civic Society. Mike Ansell was in fact so popular that he made a second visit recounting his visit to the Holy Land. Jeanette Lock has been a stalwart support at many of our meetings, and her presence has been warmly and sincerely welcomed in searching for an acceptable way forward.

Thirdly, in the Autumn months, the Group lost three more members, one of whom was my husband, our Treasurer. He had been enrolled as a member of our MU when he undertook this task in 2015. He has been a tremendous boost to our financial standing when dealing with events and expenses, and he became a regular member who also gave car lifts as and when required. We continue to be grateful to Barbara Bannister, now recovered from a nasty fall, who continues to audit our finance each year.

Jeanette Lock conducted our Quiet Afternoon in August. Her theme was "A Firm Foundation" interestingly based on "Memories of my Grandparents", depicting the strength of a good family home in which God would also be welcome.

With membership dwindling, and Speakers not always easy to accommodate, the Group continues to enjoy some home spun Quizzes and discussion on local affairs. Once again, Fr. Jeremy invited us all for prayers and afternoon tea last November, ably assisted by Jeanette Lock. As always, after a very warm welcome, the relaxed atmosphere gave rise to much social conversation and discourse. Then in early December a small Christmas party was held a little earlier than usual to avoid clashes with other outside attractions. Unfortunately, there were no guests this year, and the thinking is that other Groups are also suffering from dwindling membership and health issues. However, the companionship which exists with the current Mothers' Union is very real, and provides much support when sharing prayers and faith.

Throughout what has been a difficult year, we have been blessed with the constant support and friendship of our Vicar, Father Jeremy. He has been kept informed with our progress, ideas and discussions, which undoubtedly has given much strength to the Group as a whole. We also owe appreciation and grateful thanks to Jeanette Lock, who always seems to be there when needed! We look to Jeanette as a valued honorary member, who always smiles!

To quote from a past newsletter from our one-time Leader, Ena Jones, she observed that we live in a world driven largely by money and pleasure. When the world expects us to choose between

its principles and the worship and values of God, then we must stand up for our beliefs and be counted.

*Wendy Channon, Secretary*

### **ALLsorts**

We are very grateful to All Saints for its hospitality and help for this Christian group for adults with learning disabilities, which is currently meeting once a month in the Parish Centre. We had been meeting at St Mary's until the commencement of its building project, but have always considered ourselves an ecumenical group.

Father Jeremy, Jeanette and Rachel are now valued members of the team in our work of helping our members to understand the Christian message in ways suitable for their understanding, through story, drama, music and craft. In our friendships we share God's love in these lively fun-filled evenings, and welcome all visitors. As we eat our liquorice allsorts we remember that He loves ALL sorts of people.

*Sue Nordberg*

### **Servers**

During the year we have managed mostly to have a full serving team at all services. Unfortunately during the course of the last year, we have lost several members of the serving team in one way or another and we are now struggling to cover services. Fortunately Ken Smith has returned as a Reader, Chalice Assistant and Sub Deacon so that is a piece of good news. The team we have at the moment are very helpful and can be relied on to cover when we are short and at short notice. Most of the other rotas such as Intercessions, Chalice Assistants, Readers, Gifts and Refreshments are doing well and all services are being covered.

It would be good if we could have a few more volunteers for serving but having looked around the congregation there doesn't seem to be a lot of people who are coming forward.

*Nick Kirk & Sally Deal*

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

Rainbows are the youngest section of Girlguiding UK, from 5 – 7 yrs old. Our unit has typically 20-24 girls and meets for an hour each Friday during term time at the Parish Centre. We have recently increased the number of places we offer from 18 to 24 to give more girls the opportunity to attend. The leaders are Nina Heavyside (Fox) and Heather Noyce (Hedgehog), Abigail Dennis (Butterfly), supported by Nina's guide age daughter. The unit is thriving with a good leadership team, lots of Rainbows and supportive parents. Nina has over 12 years of experience as a leader and commissioner in guiding and also runs a guide unit in Taplow.

We run a hugely varied programme each term, focused on the Rainbow moto 'Look, Learn, Laugh, Love', encouraging the girls to try new activities, work as a team and learn about themselves and the world around them whilst having fun. Over the next three years, Girlguiding is going on a journey and revamping their programme for the girls from Rainbow to Rangers. This will be an exciting change with lots of new activities, badges and challenges.

Over the last year we have played games, modelled with junk, raised money for Children in Need with our wonderful dens. Celebrated Mother's Day and Chinese New Year and earned our World Roundabout, Owl-tastic, and Road Safety badges, topped off with from Furze Platt school's crossing lollipop lady.

We have also been out and about. We have visited the trampling centre in Slough 'Jump In' and the Heritage Centre in Maidenhead where we had fun doing quizzes, modelling Brunel's bridge and making tinfoil axe heads. Meet cuddly creatures at Pets at Home, the not so friendly birds of prey from 'Features and Fur' and dipped for pond life at Braywick. We thoroughly enjoyed the Maidenhead Drama Guild pantomime 'Cinderella' at the town hall just before Christmas. We have walked to the 'chip shop' and enjoyed a meal out as a unit at Pizza Hut.

As well as activities during our unit meetings, we have had the opportunity to join up with other Rainbows, Brownies and Guides in the rest of Maidenhead Division and the wider County to celebrate Thinking Day, Rainbow's 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations and enjoy activities at Rainbow Riots. The Rainbows had a chance to experience camp life and joined the older Brownies and Guides for a day at Maidenhead Division's camp at Paccar, Chalfont St Peters.

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. Most Rainbow Units in the area have very long waiting lists so if the child is already 5, it is advisable to register them on a Brownie waiting list.



We have permission from parents to circulate these images) – Paccar camp visit, Den day

## Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care offers ways of nurturing people in faith by sharing God's love and enabling people 'to encounter Christ in Word and Sacrament'.

Throughout 2017 this has been led by Father Jeremy with support from myself as Lay Pastoral Worker plus many others from within the congregation at All Saints Church. Examples include home and hospital visiting, taking extended communion to those unable to come to church, telephone calls to check people are ok and have everything they need, and giving lifts to and from church for those unable to drive or without transport.

Below is a list of ways in which Pastoral Care has been offered:

- Baptism home visits and Baptism Preparation
- Tiny Saints Babies
- Young Saints
- Open the Book
- Schools, Rainbows and Brownies Visits to Church
- Christian Union at Altwood School
- Some School R.E. lessons
- Larchfield Holiday Club in the Summer and a Christmas Club
- Bible Study groups
- Marriage Preparation
- Wedding Anniversary cards given to people married at All Saints
- Home Communion for people from Church at home, in Nursing Homes and Hospitals
- Extended Communion taken to Normanhurst and Clara Court every month
- Funeral visits and post-Funeral visits
- Requiem Eucharist at All Souls – invitations given after recent Funerals
- Larchfield Nursing Home Service and individual prayers once a month
- Boyn Grove Day Centre and Normanhurst Care Home Service once a month
- Street Angels
- Food Share Project – giving food to needy people in Maidenhead
- Caring for members of the Church groups: in the Mothers' Union, Tuesday Club, the Choir, the Servers and the Men of Boyne Hill group.
- Almshouses – care for people living in these homes
- Royal British Legion – Chaplaincy, support, visiting people at home and in Nursing Homes
- Healing Services
- Praying for the sick and those in other need

- Guild of St Raphael – praying for the sick
- Pilgrimage to Walsingham
- Quiet Mornings at Burnham Abbey
- Praying with the dying, the recently died and their families

*Jeanette Lock, Lay Pastoral Worker*

### **Care Home Ministry**

Over the last 18 months, I have developed monthly services of worship to three care home environments: Larchfield Care Home, Boyn Grove Day Centre and Normanhurst Care Home. The clients/patients in these care environments all have varying degrees of dementia.

The most severe patients are at Larchfield Care Home where many of the residents of this Home are dealing with Dementia in their lives and have reached the stage of their illness where they also need nursing care to support their care needs. I have been offering a monthly service of worship which involves singing well known hymns (What a friend we have in Jesus, Loves Divine as examples), listening to familiar Bible readings or Psalms, and joining in favourite prayers such as The Lord's Prayer and The Grace.

It is amazing to see the residents join in with familiar hymns, choruses, readings and prayers. Some sing, others join in by waving their arms to the music while others just smile or even cry, as their memories from the past are stimulated.

The clients at Boyn Grove Day Centre have a milder form of Dementia and many can actively join in the services by helping with Bible readings. I try to have a different theme each month at these services, for example Love in February (Valentine's Day), Mothers and those who care in March (Mothering Sunday), Lent and Easter in March and April etc. The service here includes a short homily/reflection often using visual aids such as photos, pictures or music.

Normanhurst Care Home is a Residential Home and the patients here suffer from mild to moderate dementia but with less nursing needs than those at Larchfield. They particularly enjoy accompanying the hymns and choruses with percussion instruments and some are also able to offer to do short Bible readings.

These Care Home Services are a truly wonderful Ministry which gives an enormous amount of pleasure to the residents, their relatives and the care staff who often join our services. Several others from All Saints have now joined my team and support these monthly services.

*Jeanette Lock, Lay Pastoral Worker*

### **Partnership for Missional Church (PMC)**

In 2016 we accepted the invitation from Bishop Andrew (Bishop of Reading) to join the pilot scheme for Partnership for Missional Church (PMC).

PMC is a 3+ year journey of Spiritual Discernment where we are given the opportunity to try to discover what is God's preferred and promised future for us at All Saints Church.

The first year of PMC (Phase 1=Discovering) was all about "listening" to our congregation. We did this by carrying out a Listening Survey which involved one to one questionnaires with members of our congregation. We also completed a Congregational Timeline, looking at the good, the bad and

the hoped for, over the years at All Saints Church. We joined together as a church family to share a Spiritual Discernment morning and later in the year, a PMC Away Day where our Missional Adaptive Challenge was devised.

‘All Saints Church recognises the need to develop/change/grow our heart and relationship with young families to welcome and nurture them. We seek to discover what is needed for Spirit-filled encounters with God, as we share the journey together to enrich all our lives at All Saints Church.’

Alongside all of this, six Spiritual Practices have been introduced to the Congregation. Dwelling in the Word (which has become a regular event at all church and PCC meetings), Dwelling in the World, Hospitality, Spiritual Discernment, Announcing the Kingdom and Focus for Missional Action.

In Year 2 (Phase 2=Experimenting) we set up a new team, the Mission Innovation Team (MIT) who have since been working with the Mission Adaptive Challenge to look at ways of welcoming young families to All Saints Church. They started out by questioning our “Partners in Peace”; those people who fall outside our church congregation but who are important members of our wider community

We are now into Year 3 of PMC (Phase 3=Vision for Embodiment) where we are focusing on our Mission and Vision and asking the question “What is God calling our congregation to be and do?

One of the lines of the PMC prayer reads like this-

“Though our attention is inclined to wander, may we hear the things you are saying”

Focus for Missional Action is the final Spiritual Practice, and comes into place more in Year 3, when the MIT team are starting to experiment with their idea.

The MIT team are going to focus and linger on the issue that has drawn their attention, the one that they feel compelled to put their energy into. Rather than trying lots of different ideas Focus for Missional Action is about sticking with one idea, trying it out and then reflecting on how it went.

The MIT team have used the information given to them in the Missional Adaptive Challenge (MAC) together with conversations they have had with people outside of our church community (Partners in Peace) to consider where God is leading us here at All Saints. From this they have come up with an idea with which to experiment.

The common theme was the idea of FAMILY TIME-

**USING THE CHURCH TO FACILITATE FAMILY TIME WHICH CAN APPEAL TO A WIDER AUDIENCE.**

The MIT team have already held a very successful wine and cheese evening where Mum's from Tiny Saints joined with others from the All Saints congregation. There are also plans to arrange a Community style event, perhaps similar to the lines of MESSY CHURCH with the emphasis on family time/family experience.

The MIT team have SEEN WHERE GOD IS WORKING, AND JOINED IN.

The final challenge in Year 3 of PMC involves reaffirming our identity by developing Missional Vocational Statement and a Long-Range Plan as we move towards Year 4 of PMC (Phase 4=Learning and Growing). This will enable us to not only continue to notice where God is at work at All Saints Church, but also in our wider community. By being aware of our “Partners in Peace” we can continue to form Christian communities with those around us.

*Jeanette Lock*

## **Choir**

The choir continues to grow in skill and confidence which is a testament to their perseverance and commitment. I am very grateful, as we all should be, to the time and effort that the choir put into practice once a week and regular attendance at not only the Sunday services but also the various festival services.

We have benefitted from the collaboration with the choir at Reading Minister, directed by Andrew Stafford. In particular, from joining forces for the Nine Lessons and Carols Service which was particular highlight during the Christmas season.

As always, I am also very grateful for the contribution of our other organists, Dr Relf Clark and Simon Fullarton. Relf is the regular evening service organist and has provided occasional help at morning services. Simon has accompanied the anthems at morning services on a regular basis. This additional help enhances the singing of the choir and provides a variety of playing style. We are very fortunate to have the services of such talented and generous musicians.

As a complement to the activities of the PMC group, I have written an essay outlining a strategy for developing worship and music. If any member of the congregation is interested to read it please let me know and I will happily provide a copy.

*Brian Graves, Director of Music*

## **Altwood Church of England School**

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 21<sup>st</sup> 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. Fr. Jeremy regularly undertakes School Assemblies and leads the Christian Union in the School, which utilises the School Chapel. Altwood students lead the school's Christmas Carol Service at All Saints Parish Church. 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.

In October 2017 Altwood were judged "Good" by Ofsted in all categories:

Effectiveness of leadership and management

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment

Personal development, behaviour and welfare

Outcomes for pupils

16 to 19 study programmes

The overall judgement of Good reflected the hard work and commitment of all the staff and students.

Altwood continues to build on the outcome of its "Outstanding" Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS).

The full Ofsted and SIAMS reports can be found on the Altwood Church of England School website at [www.altwoodschool.co.uk](http://www.altwoodschool.co.uk)

Parental involvement is encouraged through the bi-weekly school bulletin updates on student achievement, Parent Power evenings and regular meetings of Parents' Forum. Strong working links have also been developed in the last year with numerous local businesses to support and enhance the learning of Altwood Students.

*Janice McLucas*

### **Boyne Hill Infant & Nursery School**

Boyne Hill Infant and Nursery School recognises its historic foundation and preserves and develops its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England. It aims to serve the local community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experiences offered to all pupils. Father Jeremy regularly visits the school, and displays around school embed the Christian philosophy and areas are set aside in the playground and classrooms for quiet reflection and prayer.

In the autumn the school had an ethos and vision day, when the whole school community of staff, parents, children, church & diocesan members and governors came together to reflect on the history of the school from its foundation to the present, and on the direction of the school moving forwards. All the ideas and thoughts were gathered and collated to formulate the new vision statement:

*To be a welcoming sanctuary of education where all pupils will thrive and develop a life-long love of learning to set them on the road to a happy, healthy, successful and fulfilling life. Our nurturing environment of happiness, peace, calm, love and security, combined with high quality teaching and learning, will support, challenge and inspire all pupils to develop into citizens of our multi-cultural society who all want to work towards a peaceful world. We will promote diversity as we strive for harmony and acceptance of different cultures, religions and beliefs.*

The school holds morning Assemblies linked to its values, religious festivals or in celebration of pupil achievements. Parents are welcome to attend, especially when their own child is taking part. Father Jeremy also leads some assemblies and the children are all very familiar with who he is, thus strengthening the link of the school with the church and setting both at the heart of the local community. The governors are made very welcome in school, and frequent visits by both parent governors and non-parent governors enable the governing body to see this in action. The pupils from the school also visit All Saints Church regularly, so it is familiar to them and the links with the church are easily visible on the school website.

The children learn the school prayer: ‘ Dear God, Thank you for the sun that is bright and warm, and the seeds you have helped us to sow. Thank you for our school and for giving us friends, and our teachers so we learn and grow. Help us to be good at school and home and to be with us in our hearts each day. Thank you for our families and those we love as we work, rest and play. Amen’

The school is led by Headmistress Mrs Jane Davies, has 256 pupils from ages 3-7 years and has a high staff pupil ratio with 13 Teachers and a further 32 assistants and support staff, providing the children with a lot of one-to-one support and attention. They achieve high standards in their learning and social and personal development (see the OFSTED & SIAMS reports on the website [www.boynehillschool.org](http://www.boynehillschool.org) for more details).

The school has an active PTA that has raised funds for various ‘extras’ through regular social events that have taken place in school. Recently they have purchased 3 new play tables and a bench for the playground, all made from recycled materials, and are now raising funds for a class set of ipads and charging box.

The school is commitment to caring for the environment and has an Eco School Green Flag (Eco schools [www.eco-schools.org.uk](http://www.eco-schools.org.uk)) The school has also supported others in need through various charitable and fund-raising events throughout the year.

In summary, Boyne Hill Infant school continues to give the children of the parish an excellent start in life, both educationally and morally and we invite you all to keep up with what is happening through their website where you will find further details in the weekly newsletters.

*Anne Sweeney, Foundation Governor*

## **Sides People Report**

The role of the Sides Person is laid down by Church law - Canon E2:

“It shall be the duty of the Sides People to promote the cause of true religion in the Parish and to assist the Churchwardens in the discharge of their duties in maintaining order and decency in the Church and churchyard especially during the time of divine service.”

At All Saints a Sides Person's practical responsibilities include helping prepare the Church for the service by putting out hymn books and service sheets, guiding people to the altar to take Communion, taking and counting the collection and tidying up at the end of the service.

Their most important contribution, however, is the warm welcome they provide to the congregation as they arrive for a Church service; they attend particularly to newcomers, children, people with mobility or frailty issues, or sight or hearing difficulty; they introduce new people to someone who may be able to assist them if needed; if newcomers have children they explain about the Creche and Young Saints, and when and where to go to find these various groups; they show people – especially visitors or newcomers - to their seats if necessary.

All Saints is blessed with a small team of dedicated people who fulfill these duties at all of our regular acts of worship each Sunday, and who volunteer readily for the additional, special services at Christmas and Easter. They are a welcoming face and an encouraging voice for anyone new to our Church as well as for the regular members of the congregation.

We meet as a group to review, and update if necessary, the "Sides Person's Guidelines" and health and safety arrangements. This is a lovely opportunity for the whole team to get together – the 8 o'clockers and the 10 o'clockers, to share each other's company; and we generally adjourn for a welcome group lunch afterwards.

We are very grateful and thank all those who carry out this valuable and important role. As with most teams we are always keen to welcome new members and to share the opportunity to provide this wonderful service for All Saints Church.

*Stella Harding*

## **Parish Centre**

The Parish Centre is a much-valued resource for All Saints Church; it is "home" to several key Church and community groups which, together offer local people the opportunity to enjoy a range of activities and events.

Church groups regularly meeting in the Parish Centre include: "Tiny Saints", Young Saints, Mothers Union and the Tuesday Club. It also provides a valuable meeting place for a number of local community groups including: The Mother & Toddler Group, Brownies, Rainbows, Boyne Hill Close Management Committee, and Helen Styles, a violin teacher. In 2017 it also provided a temporary home for the "Allsorts Group" while their regular accommodation at St Mary's in Maidenhead High Street was being refurbished.

The Church also holds celebratory events in the Parish Centre and has provided a warm welcome and hospitality for many visitors including clergy and key speakers. It is also used on occasions for larger Church meetings including the PCC, PMC / MIT and Extended PCC Meetings.

The Parish Centre is used regularly by the local community as the venue for events such as Pilates, children's parties, baptism parties, "celebration of life" gatherings, pre-wedding receptions, drama group rehearsals, Social Services for "Family Conferences" and as a polling station.

The Parish Centre Hire Agreement is reviewed regularly and updated as necessary; the PCC also review and update the hiring fees in light of information gathered from time to time from other local Church halls.

Janet Emerson, the Booking Clerk, provides a valuable point of contact for both our regular user groups as well as those wishing to make a single booking of the hall. The Parish Centre's financial arrangements are managed extremely ably by the Church's Finance Officer, Hannah Wilson and Finance Administrator, Sue Stannett.

Sylvia Denison continues to manage the day to day care & cleaning of the Parish Centre ably assisted by husband Reg, Artist-in-Residence, who is on hand to keep a watchful eye and to help with small DIY projects and offers of assistance for the user groups.

Any queries or problems experienced by users, regular or otherwise, are brought to the attention of the Parish Office and dealt with as quickly as possible. The Parish Centre Users' Committee also provides a useful forum for discussing the use of the Parish Centre and ways for improving and enhancing this valuable facility.

### *Stella Harding*

#### **Flower Arrangers**

It is good to be able to report on another successful year in which the church has had a good display of flowers throughout the year. However, this could not be achieved without the members of the congregation who kindly sponsor the flowers each week. Our grateful thanks go out to them all, for their generous sponsorship, the special gift of lilies at Eastertide, and for their continued support. This generosity means that no church funds are used to decorate the church.

Thanks are due to fellow team mates, Marian Duncombe, Jean Balchin, Carole Deverill, Valerie Duncombe, Ann Rawlings, Linda Wallbank, Helen Boulter and our newest recruit, Alison Leigh, their hard work and dedication throughout the year is very much appreciated. Thanks also go to Alan Ketley and Pauline Hole for setting up the Easter Garden last year (and hopefully this) and for decorating our lovely Christmas tree. Special thanks also go to all those who have helped at festivals and other busy times, particularly Brenda Ilott, Pat Church and Wendy Channon, to name but a few. 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.

In addition to the weekly arrangements, the Flower Team together with other volunteers produce the small posies which are blessed and handed out to members of the congregation on Mothering Sunday, a tradition which I am sure all recipients appreciate.

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 obtained from the Parish Office. Help will always be given to new members of the team; to start with you would work with one of the existing members 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! You could even come along and watch us at work any time without making any sort of commitment!

### *Jo Towers & Barbara Bannister*

#### **Tuesday Club**

The Club members and visitors enjoyed another excellent programme of speakers arranged by our hard-working Secretary, and very good friend, Linda van den Berghen.

We heard about a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from Mike Ansell, learnt about Apples and Pears, and the Kingdom of the Bear. Eileen Gershon gave a fascinating talk about her book about her days as a student nurse in Cambridge. We enjoyed a social evening whilst making floral

Christmas decorations with Jo Towers and her helpers and started off 2017 with our very popular quiz organised by Doug & Stella Horne. Christine Pocock told us about life behind the scenes at All Saints. We had a fascinating talk about Thames Crossings of particular interest to those who'd walked the Thames Path. Another of our members, Rhona Latham, gave an interesting talk about her daughter's Chinese wedding. We enjoyed an armchair walk around Oxford, one of our church members, Ken Smith, told us about a young man from South Africa who'd spent time at All Saints before dying in the Battle of the Somme. We heard more about the Great Train Robbery and had another fascinating evening with John Harrison. It was our turn to host the Deanery Festival; Fr Jeremy took the service and we welcomed guests from St Peter's, Holy Trinity, Cookham and St Luke's. I must thank the Committee and all our members for their help and the delicious refreshments.

Our ramble took place on a warm June evening and ended with hospitality in the Mosses garden.

I must end by stating that Linda, our Secretary, and I would like to stand down this year but would be very happy to work with anyone who would like to learn the ropes. If no-one comes forward the group's future could be uncertain.

*Brenda Ilott*

### **Bellringers**

We have six ringers at All Saints plus Marcia Dieppe, who is a Cookham ringer, but rings with us most Sundays before she goes to Cookham – a great help.

We try to ring most Sundays, but sometimes someone has a day off. With help from our friends in neighbouring towers we managed to ring for seven weddings last year.

We welcomed two teams of ringers on their annual outings.

Whites of Appleton helped us when two stays broke.

*Doreen Young*