

To Encounter Christ in Word and Sacrament

ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL MAIDENHEAD

COMMUNITY ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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

allsaintsboynehill@gmail.com
www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk

Registered Charity No 1134396

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	8
Mission and Evangelism	9
Courses offered at All Saints in 2023	10
Walsingham Pilgrimage	10
Safeguarding Report	11
The Welcome Group	13
Bellringers	14
Sides People Report	15
Worship	15
Choir and Music	16
Flower Arrangers' Report	17
All Saints Servers and Sacristan	17
Stewardship Group	18
Sustainability – Caring for God's Creation	19
Pastoral Care and Care Home Ministry	19
Maidenhead Street Angels Report	20
Boyne Hill Tuesday Club	21
Senior Saints	22
The Lunch Club	23
Maidenhead Care	23
ALLsorts	24
Ministry to Children, Families and Schools	24
Open the Book	26
Boyne Hill C of E Infant and Nursery School	26
All Saints Church of England Junior School	28
Altwood Church of England School	29
8th Maidenhead Rainbows and Brownies	31
All Saints Website and Social Media	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 highlight the role played by volunteers in the life of the church and in the local community.

Overview of the Year

In 1984 The Anglican Consultative Council produced the five Mark's of Mission for the Church of England and the wider Anglican communion. They are;

1. Proclaim the Good News.
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers.
3. To respect human need by loving service.
4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation.
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

The Oxford Diocese has the following Mission Statement. We desire a 'More Christ-Like Church by being 'Contemplative, Compassionate and Courageous.'

The mission actions are;

1. Environmental action.
2. Christian formation and discipleship.
3. Growing new congregations.
4. Schools, children and young people.
5. Addressing poverty and inequality.

I could now look back over 2023 highlight where I believe the congregation of All Saints, Boyne Hill has attempted to meet the mission of the wider church. The communion model of the church that I have shared with you has the understanding that the church or the Body of Christ is both local, on a deanery level, Diocesan level, across the country and on a worldwide level. That is why it is important we look at our mission through those lenses.

I could at this point use my format for previous Annual reports and fill in the gaps by writing where we have tried to meet the challenges set. Some of these goals from 1984 were made before I was ordained and please note the need to 'safeguard the integrity of creation ...' In terms of the Diocesan challenges these have been set in more recent times but are equally of great importance. Rather than offer you the suggested answers to our missional goals I challenge the reader of the following reports to try to note where we might be 'Loving God with all our heart, and all our strength and all our mind and our neighbours as ourselves.' Where are we meeting the challenges set in 1984 and indeed more recently those set by the Diocese of Oxford. I do not think we can claim that we have succeeded in all areas (Growing new congregations is a challenge I suspect beyond

us at this time) but you may as you read the reports from our community find one or two areas we have tried to play our part in God's plan.

I commend to you Rod Broad's comprehensive Annual Report written on behalf of the PCC / Trustees to the Charities Commission. This is part of the Annual Report and Accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ending 31 December 2023.

I would like to thank Fr John Ainslie for his ministry with us as Assistant Priest and all of the Body of Christ that you represent who offer wonderful support. It is a privilege to serve in a parish where so many people are willing to give their time, energy, and talents to help make All Saints a place of sacramental worship, outward mission and welcome.

I pray we will all continue to feel inspired by God's Holy Spirit and each one of us discern where we can play a part within the community as baptised members of the Body of Christ. Recalling those promises we will go forth into 2024 seeking to channel God's love, by going into the world to walk in God's light, rejoicing in God's love and reflecting God's glory. Let us all ripple out more of God's love to the world.

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. During 2023, the PCC met on seven occasions. 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 24 April 2023. At the meeting following the APCM the following were appointed to key roles, Rod Broad as Treasurer, Stella Harding as Safeguarding Officer and David Morgan as PCC Secretary.

The Standing Committee consists of the Vicar, Fr Jeremy and Churchwardens, Ken Smith and John Bolodeoku as ex-officio members. A minimum of three more members are elected annually by the PCC. Current members are the Treasurer, Rod Broad Deputy Churchwardens, Stella Harding and Steve Foley and the PCC Secretary David Morgan.

They have the power to transact business of the PCC between PCC meetings, reporting to the full PCC as appropriate. During the year, the PCC further developed its initiative to invigorate PCC Committees and the way the PCC operates. The aim is to capture the interest of PCC members and encourage them to take a more active part in the PCC. Each PCC member is encouraged to join at least one Group. Membership of Groups are 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' Fabric Report for Year Ending 31 December 2023

A. INTRODUCTION

The Churchwardens are responsible on behalf of the PCC for the maintenance and repair of the church buildings. Dr. John Bolodeoku and Ken Smith were the churchwardens for the whole of the year, assisted by Mike Watts and Roger Towers, with Fr. Jeremy and Rod Broad. We thank them for their support, and also Tanya who fields many calls in the office. Our architect, Peter Preston, is consulted on most issues.

The church buildings are all listed, grade 1, grade 2*, or grade 2. Only 2.5% of all listed buildings are grade 1 – of exceptional interest; 5.8% are 2* - of more than special interest; 91.7% are grade 2 – of special interest.

All Saints church is grade 1, the parish centre, office and flat above are grade 2*, and nos. 3 and 4 Church close are grade 2. Any listed buildings are the subject of careful scrutiny when any work to them is proposed.

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).. These are available for inspection during the APCM.

Although there is always work outstanding due to the age and complexity of the buildings and the limitations of available finance the complex is managed carefully and in accordance with statutory requirements.

This report describes the work done in the church and the parish centre during 2023.

B. THE CHURCH

1. In view of the frequency and varied nature of work needed on the buildings, sometimes of an emergency nature, most planning work and decisions are confirmed via opportune

face to face meetings or emails. However, a full meeting was held in January including the architect to prioritise work and agree the way forward.

2. The water heater in the sacristy, required for washing the vessels after communion, had to be replaced.

3. The tower clock stopped striking. The cause was detected as a faulty battery which had to be replaced at a cost of £497. Then later on in the year it started chiming the wrong hours. That has also been corrected. (£175)

4. A new stay was fitted to one of the bells.

5. It had been planned to ring a three-hour peal on the occasion of the King's coronation, but a rope broke part way through. All the ropes have now been replaced, thanks in very large part to the generosity of the bellringers (cost £2000), and the peal was successfully accomplished at All Saints Tide.

6. In January the church heating system failed. It was diagnosed as a faulty pump but, as fortunately we have a dual pump system, we were able to switch pumps and replace the faulty part later. Readers should be aware that in times of very cold weather the heating system is fitted with a frost stat which will override the timer and cut in as a protective measure. This has cost implications whenever it is very cold.

7. Southwest corner. As some may have observed the cracks at the West/South sides, which were repaired some years ago, have opened up again. We are monitoring them by means of plastic telltales in two places. In six months now there has been no observable further movement.

8. An emergency interim faculty was granted to take down the remains of the east end cross, thus enabling the Birinus garden to be accessed again.(cost £1864)

9. A contract has been entered into with Harrison and Harrison to maintain the organ.

10. An energy audit by an outside expert (paid for by the Diocese) was carried out to judge what could be done to conserve heat and energy en route to net zero carbon use by 2030. The report included the following recommendations:

CHURCH

Install reflective panels behind the radiators. Yet to be discussed with the architect would be inexpensive.

Draughtproofing works. Gaps between the door frames and the walls have been sealed. Recommendations for better draughtproofing the doors themselves have not yet been implemented. Holes in the stained glass have yet to be repaired. However, bear in mind that a church such as ours, with a high uninsulated roof and glass which gives off cold air, can never be totally free of draughts.

Continued use of internal shutters when meeting room is out of use. This is normal practice.

Management of hot water tank use. This refers to the heater which provides the hot water in the office. Yet to be considered

Investigate Heat Pumps for future replacement of boiler. Our current gas boiler hopefully has several more years ahead of it. However, when the time comes to replace it we will need to look very seriously at air- to-air solutions, which currently are very expensive.

Investigate heated cushions for pews. Interesting, the idea being not only to warm the user but reduce the heating costs to the church. They are expensive, and it is not clear how the church could charge them up or store them. Congregants could buy their own to

use but they must be battery charged or cordless because they cannot be plugged in in church and must be taken home again after use.

HALL

Install loft insulation. A good thing to do in theory but in practice it would be an extremely expensive operation and it would not be possible to raise the parish centre usage fees to pay for it.

Draughtproofing. E.g., block keyhole in little door, which has been done.

For future low hours of use Replace storage heaters with direct electric convector heaters. We have installed a new electric heating system in the hall.

OR

For future high hours of use Replace electric heaters with Air-to-Air Source Heat Pump system. To be considered should that time ever arise.

11. All lights in the church and parish centre are now LED thus saving energy costs.

12. We have engaged the services of a qualified drone pilot to inspect the gutters and high level stone work.

13. Certain areas of the church are alarmed. Should the alarm go off one of the keyholders, which includes Fr. Jeremy, has to attend to check whether the alarm is genuine or false, and to turn it off. Although such an occurrence is rare it is of course not safe or acceptable should this happen in the middle of the night, so a specialist company has been engaged to undertake this function and to liaise with the alarm company, at a cost of £180 per annum and £49 per callout.

14. The Sustainability Group recommended the installation of cycle racks as some already use their bicycles and it could encourage others to do so. (A challenge for you?). One location could be in the churchyard by the North porch, and another on the far side of the quadrangle where it might also encourage the users of the parish centre. We are progressing the latter option.

15. All the window cills at the front and back of the office, Birinus room and flat have been re-painted.

16. The lights in the quadrangle could only be operated via a timer, making it difficult to adjust for differing visit times and ad hoc visits, so people often had to walk to and fro in the dark. These have now been replaced with very effective sensor lights.

17. Repeat Maintenance. The checks on all items which require it have been carried according to the schedule.

C. PARISH CENTRE

18. We have a new electric heating system in place of the very old and totally inefficient storage heaters that we had before. All users have been very complementary about the warmth in the hall now. (Cost £11,500, offset by a generous donation)

19. Toilet trouble! The gents' urinals were clogged with limescale so were replaced as the best solution. A pan in the ladies' toilet needed to be replaced as it was leaking. Between Christmas and the New Year it was evident that the drains were completely blocked and a company had to be called in as an emergency to unblock them.

20. The roof over the kitchen has had to be replaced as it was leaking badly. It has been done but could only be accessed through the neighbour's garden. (Cost £1200)

D. THE FUTURE

We are in discussion with our architect on issues to be tackled next but the crumbling chimney and stained glass windows are high on the list. Unforeseen work will continue to arise, and repeat maintenance will be undertaken.

***Ken Smith
John Bolodeoku
Churchwardens***

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. July 2023 marked the start of a new triennium after Synod elections for lay representatives at parish annual meetings earlier in the year. At the end of 2023 the Synod had 68 members. Attendance varied from 31 to 38 over the year.

There were three meetings of the Synod during 2023:

Wednesday 8th February 2023 at All Saints Church, Boyne Hill, Maidenhead:

- Representatives of four Deanery churches shared experiences of studying the Bible
- All Saints Dedworth shared about their Life Groups and their use of the Bible Course by the Bible Society
- St Andrew's Clewer shared about a group which read the whole Bible together over five years, meeting up regularly to discuss what they had read.
- St Mary's Maidenhead shared a personal experience of studying Philipians, and how it had helped in spiritual growth, joy, and dependence on God.
- All Saints Boyne Hill (including an Iranian refugee) shared about their use of a book "Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes", interpreting Scripture through first-century eyes, including how Jesus offered new life and gave value to women.

Tuesday 23rd May 2023 at St Michael's Church, Bray:

- General Synod member Gracy Crane gave a detailed report on what had happened at the February 2023 General Synod sessions, in particular the motion and proposed amendments relating to Living in Love and Faith.
- Synod members discussed and gave feedback on their past and present use of online church, with a diverse discussion and many examples of blessings as well as some challenges.

Tuesday 17th October 2023 at the Soltau Centre, Stubbings:

- Bishop Olivia, Bishop of Reading, addressed the Synod under the title of “Our church: where are we and where do we go from here?”, sharing her thoughts on history; post-pandemic trends and statistics; tired volunteers and clergy; a recent clergy survey; Living in Love and Faith; the challenge of making Jesus known to unchurched people; and the vision of a “simpler, bolder, humbler” church.
- Synod members shared questions and comments with Bishop Olivia.
- General Synod member Daniel Matovu reported on the range of topics discussed at the July 2023 General Synod sessions.

Thanks to parishes’ hard work and generosity, the Deanery paid £ 931,978 of parish share in 2023, against an allocation of £ 1,000,714, which was 93.1% of the requested amount from the diocese. The diocesan average was 94.5%. This was a reduction from the £1,019,38 paid in 2022.

Rod Broad took over the position of Deanery Treasurer in October 2023 and the Deanery would like to thank Jim Tucker for managing the responsibility whilst the position was vacant.

Diocesan and Deanery links

All Saints Boyne Hill is represented on the Deanery Synod by Fr Jeremy as a Clergy Representative and by Rod Broad, John Bolodeoku and Kenneth Smith as Lay Representatives. Fr Jeremy and Rod Broad were also members of the Deanery Standing Committee during the year, with Rod Broad taking the role of Deanery Treasurer at the end of the year. In addition Fr Jeremy is a Clergy Representative on the Diocesan Synod.

David Morgan

Mission and Evangelism

During 2023 the mission of the church at All Saints has continued I believe through the focus we have had supporting Asylum Seekers from Iran. Many of the original group that sought support in April 2022 have been given the right to stay in this country and have slowly found places to live. We pray that they will find jobs and slowly find a way of contributing positively to the life of this country.

We have though found new people arriving at the church. This has meant that we have continued with Baptism and Confirmation classes and Sue Nordberg has provided English Classes. Over the year we have shared trips with the Iranian community to Oxford both for the Chrism Mass and for a tour of the Cathedral last summer. It is wonderful to note the positive way people from All Saints engage with our friends from Iran at the back of the church over coffee. In December 12 more candidates for confirmation were presented at the Minster Church, Reading. It was a wonderful experience for me, our two

church wardens Ken and John and for the 12 Iranians that were confirmed by Bishop Olivia.

Other significant areas of mission have been the Sundays @4 continuing to provide a simple service in the summer within the quadrangle followed by a BBQ. We hope that this will continue to provide a channel through which we can share the Christian story with families. Other areas of ministry have been the growing relationship with the Ripple Effect charity in Africa as we seek to support 6 countries with sustainable farming. The Lent lunches and successful harvest lunch and auction has provided substantial funding towards helping this excellent charity.

This year saw the link with OAK re-established which I think all concerned with All Saints will be delighted with. As many of you know I had the privilege of visiting Kenya and the Diocese of Taita Taveta in 2013 and saw the value that a priest trained with our help brings to a community.

Of course, ministry at All Saints runs wider and you will find Schools ministry, pastoral care, Street Angels and All Sorts within this annual report.

Fr Jeremy

Courses provided at All Saints during 2023

As a community we have attempted to provide courses that help people to search to understand more about the Christian faith and do discover an active faith as a baptised member of the Body of Christ.

1. Throughout the year we have run Baptism/confirmation courses in the Birinus Room for people from Iran and for others within the community that have been searching for a faith journey. Two former students from Altwood, one about to go to University in Wales and another working in Maidenhead both followed Peter Jackson and Chris Wright's book called 'Faith Confirmed.' Many of these sessions took place in person but we did discover adults who had children baptised take up the zoom option of studying with me one to one.
2. With the Asylum Seeker community, we once again studied the brilliant 'Jesus through Middle Eastern Eyes' – Cultural Studies in the Gospels. The range of subjects covered included the birth narratives, the Beatitudes, The Lord's Prayer, Jesus and Women and the Parables of Jesus. I have learned from those who understand what it is to live in the Middle East and appreciate the truths of scripture through their eyes.

Fr Jeremy

Walsingham Pilgrimage

A good number of you have benefited from Fr John planning and leading pilgrimages to Walsingham in Norfolk, continuing the long tradition of our parish visiting England's Nazareth. This is a place where many of us have enjoyed spiritual renewal and friendships have grown within our community

Fr Jeremy

Safeguarding Report

The congregation of All Saints Boyne Hill are 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. Accordingly, the church complies with the Church of England “Safeguarding Policy and Practice”, “Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance” and “Safeguarding Learning Pathways”.

As the main decision maker of the parish, the Parochial Church Council (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.

Following the April 2023 APCM a meeting was held with the Church Wardens to review their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding, and the document setting out the role of PCC members was also updated, to reflect the members’ position with respect to safeguarding, and issued to them.

The All Saints’ Safeguarding Policy “Promoting a Safer Church” was reviewed and agreed at the PCC meeting held on 18th July 2023.

In November 2023 All Saints held a successful “Safeguarding Sunday Service”; the resources provided by the Church of England proved very helpful in allowing us to share key safeguarding messages with the congregation.

Safeguarding Roles

In early 2023 Louise O’Dwyer Barnard, who had been sharing the Parish Safeguarding Officer role with Stella Harding, decided to step down and Stella accepted responsibility for the full role, including DBS administration and verification.

Compliance

The bespoke, All Saints’ database of volunteers was updated, maintained and regularly reviewed by the PSO over the year to help ensure compliance with all DBS and Safeguarding Training requirements.

Group Leaders were reminded to ensure the PSO was notified of any potential new volunteers, to ensure that Safer Recruitment practices could be adhered to where required, and DBS checks and safeguarding training carried out as appropriate.

1. Disclosure and Barring Service Checks (“DBS”)

In accordance with the House of Bishop’s Guidance, all necessary DBS checks were repeated at the end of their 3 year period during 2023.

In addition, all new PCC members and new volunteers in roles requiring one, provided a satisfactory DBS check.

2. Safeguarding Learning Pathways

In accordance with “Safeguarding Learning Pathways” safeguarding training was repeated after 3 years.

In addition, all new PCC members and new volunteers in roles where it is required undertook the necessary safeguarding training.

3. Safer Recruitment

In accordance with “Safer Recruitment” practices, all new volunteers working with children and vulnerable adults, completed Application Forms and provided satisfactory references. Confidential Declaration Forms were also completed where the role required an Enhanced DBS Certificate.

Parish Dashboard & Safeguarding Hub

We continued to update as necessary the All Saints information on the Parish Dashboard; the Dashboard provides a way for churches to assess their progress against a range of safeguarding practices.

We will also be signing up to the new Safeguarding Hub in 2024; the Hub, which can only be accessed by the Incumbent and the PSO due to the personal nature of the information it contains, consists of three tools or stages: the first enables us to keep track of DBS checks and safeguarding training, the second to create role descriptions and person specifications, and the third to track safer recruitment of new volunteers.

Note: Once the Safeguarding Hub has been set up for All Saints, we believe we may find it no longer necessary to maintain our own database.

Concerns Raised

An historical safeguarding allegation was raised with Fr Jeremy by a past member of the All Saints’ church community. In accordance with the procedure for dealing with such matters, the matter was discussed locally with the PSO and a Church Warden. The decision was then taken to escalate the matter to the Diocese Safeguarding team and Fr Jeremy attended an initial on-line meeting with members of that team and Archdeacon Stephen. A Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor took responsibility for dealing with the matter, and relieved Fr Jeremy of the need to take any further action.

Focus for 2024

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 the agreed procedure is followed for dealing promptly with safeguarding allegations or suspicions of abuse.

Annual reviews will be 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.

Safeguarding in the All Saints Boyne Hill community, providing a safe, supportive and encouraging environment in which young people and vulnerable adults can flourish and achieve fulfil their potential

Stella Harding
Parish Safeguarding Officer

The Welcome Group

In his Welcome Group Report to the 2022 APCM, Fr John, Welcome Group Chair reported that the Group was focused on two main areas:

- Making the church building itself more welcoming especially to first time and occasional visitors, and
- building a programme of events to foster and create a sense of belonging amongst the congregation and others.

This has continued to be the governing *raison d'être* in 2023.

The most important task of welcoming is that carried out by the sides people, and they have performed their duties cheerfully and conscientiously Sunday by Sunday, and at other times, under Stella's expert leadership. It has been a joy to enroll a number of our Iranian friends as sides people during the year. A sides people's meeting was held to review duties and a thank-you lunch provided for the team.

Two olive trees have been set up at the entrance to the North porch with bedding plants to welcome people as they arrive and a large WELCOME sign was placed on the notice board. These, together with the A-board OPEN notice boards outside has seemed to encourage more passers-by to walk in off the street to explore Street's wonderful building and sometimes just to reflect quietly.

The Welcome Group are very pleased to note the work done on the gardens in front of the church which enhances the welcoming appearance of the church, thanks to Anne Sweeney of the Sustainability Group.

A busy programme of events was implemented in 2023, involving many people outside the Welcome group, not least Fr. Jeremy, and the group thanks everyone who helped. The events included:-

A trip to Oxford including a tour of Keble College and Evensong at New College

Weekly soup lunches in Lent with homemade soup.

The harvest festival with a guest speaker from Ripple Effect followed by an auction with proceeds going towards the Ripple Effect charity supporting sustainable farming in Africa. The Ripple Effect charity also received donations collected at the soup lunches in Lent

All Saints Festival service enhanced by Fr Nicholas Cheeseman, Director of Ordinands Berkshire as our visiting preacher.

Fr. John led a pilgrimage to Walsingham accompanied by a dozen or so members of the congregation.

Other events which took place in 2023 included The Christ Child Market at the beginning of Advent and the Heritage Weekend and Ride and Stride activities including a much-appreciated organ recital by Relf Clark.

A choir social and a bell ringers reception were organised. A thank-you afternoon tea was held for the Church Flower Arrangers which was well attended and much appreciated.

Experience has demonstrated that detailed advance planning of all events, both inside the church and away from the church are essential to a successful outcome and to assist that examples of planning documents have been drawn up including risk assessments.

Fr John moved to St Michaels and All Angels Maidstone at the end of March 2024. In wishing Fr John farewell in the Parish News before Fr John left, Fr Jeremy referred to Fr John's welcome ministry at All Saints and some of the events organised by the Welcome Group.

Ken Smith/David Morgan

Bellringers

The bells have continued to ring most Sundays during the year. Unfortunately at the beginning of January Gerald who had just joined us died suddenly. We sent our condolences to Pat and rang a half-muffled for his funeral.

Simon Smith (Derek's son) has taken on the Young Ringers in the Diocese. On 22 April, we welcomed ringers from the East Berks & South Bucks Branch (our local branch) for their AGM. The Vicar conducted a lovely service before tea and the AGM. There was ringing before and after proceedings. About 40 ringers attended.

The Coronation. We were pleased to ring before the Coronation, in common with most towers. We also rang on Sunday morning 7 May. On Sunday afternoon 7 May, there was to be a Peal in celebration. Unfortunately about an hour after the start, a rope broke. The Peal would have taken about three hours.

New bell ropes required ! These were ordered and arrived in the middle of October. The re-scheduled Peal took place on Wednesday 1 November in celebration of All Saints Day and the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

In the middle of August we welcomed ringers from Wokingham on their outing. During the year we rang for two weddings.

We hope for another successful year

Doreen Young Tower Secretary

Sides People Report

In 2023 we continued to provide Sides cover for Sunday morning services on a regular, rota basis, with each of the teams covering one Sunday per month. Sides cover for the Wednesday morning service was provided largely by one member of the Sides group, with additional cover provided by other members as required.

During the year we were delighted to welcome several of our friends from the Iranian community, who had joined our congregation, as new members of the group. Working together, we have sought to provide a consistent service to All Saints, and to enhance the welcome we provide to all our visitors.

A social event was held in November to review the “Role of the Sides Person”, the role summary and the “Sides Person Checklist, to make sure that everyone was up to date with their duties and to address any questions and concerns. A few updates were made subsequently to reflect changes over the year and to help clarify arrangements, e.g. for counting and recording the collection.

At the end of the year we said “goodbye” to Pauline Holes a long-serving, and much valued member of the Sides group. Whilst the core of the group remains relatively stable, we are always keen to have new people join and to welcome the new ideas and experiences they bring. We also appreciate that some of our newest members from the Iranian community may be leaving us as they have the opportunity to develop new lives here in the UK.

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.

Stella Harding

Worship

2023 has continued to see a steady return of people to worship at All Saints and pleasingly new people joining the church to worship God. The church of All Saints has at its heart Eucharistic worship where we are drawn into communion with the Trinitarian God of Father, Son and Holy Spirit and with each other as we partake of the Body of Christ to become the Body of Christ to the world.

The Sunday morning worship is complemented on two Sundays by Young Saints for children and on the second Sunday of every month we share Worship for All with a talk that aims to be interactive. Since the Pandemic we have been making more use of the beautiful quadrangle and sharing Sundays @4 which includes an assembly style service followed by a BBQ. During the Spring and Summer months this has continued to bring people of all ages to share worship and hospitality. One of the new Sundays@4 themed services was for pets as part of our Sustainability Eco-Church programme. Thanks to the

Sundays@4 team we were also able to have the children perform Nativity and Easter plays in church.

Highlights through the year would be the joy of sharing Holy Week and Easter at this wonderful complex of buildings that George Street provided for this community. To share Palm Sunday, The Last Supper, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil using the various parts of the church complex adds I believe to the faith journey of the Christian Faith. To begin the vigil by listening to the Old Testament stories of creation, prophecy and a spirit filled people, before moving to the Easter fire in the quadrangle and the lighting of the Paschal Candle, to then enter the church to celebrate the light of Christ and the Resurrection hope is a truly marvellous experience for those of us present.

Other highlights would be the Harvest service with the Ripple Effect speaker, followed by the excellent harvest lunch and fun auction of harvest goods. At All Saints Patronal Festival, we were treated to another excellent guest preacher in Fr Nicholas Cheeseman and then we enjoyed the delicious food of the Ghandi restaurant. In November Ken Smith, John Bolodeoku and I travelled by train to Reading Minster to share a wonderful confirmation service with 12 of our Iranian friends and 7 other parishes. The parish of Reading Minster provided wonderful welcome and hospitality as our candidates were confirmed by Bishop Olivia.

Fr Jeremy

Choir and Music

The choir has continued its dedicated support and hard work during the course of the year. The choir members continue to grow and develop their skills and we benefit from their strong lead for our Sunday worship.

Dr Relf Clark continues to play the organ for the regular Wednesday morning, and periodic, evening services, which is much appreciated.

The use of All Saints as a concert venue continues. In addition to the Renaissance Voices, which have become regular performers at the church we have welcomed the Maidenhead Symphony Orchestra. We already have bookings from other groups for concerts in 2024.

We wish Simon Fullarton well as he continues his recovery from illness in 2023. I look forward to his resumption, in due course, of accompanying 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 to its continuing growth and development in the coming year and beyond.

Brian Graves, Director of Music

Flower Arrangers' Report

It is with much pleasure we can report on another successful year in which the church has had a good display of flowers each week. Our continued thanks go out to the members of the congregation who enabled us to produce the arrangements by kindly sponsoring the flowers each week, for their generosity, the special gift of lilies at Eastertide, and for their continued support, thank you!

Thanks are due to Marian Duncombe, Valerie Duncombe, Jean Balchin, Carole Deverill, Ann Rawlings, Linda Wallbank, Alison Leigh and Helen Graves for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. In September, an afternoon tea was held at the church to say a special 'thank you' to the team.

Thanks also go to Alan Ketley and Pauline Hole for setting up the Easter Garden and the Nativity, and all the members of the congregation who helped to make up the little posies, which were handed out on Mothering Sunday.

We are pleased to welcome Pat Newth who has recently joined the Team and we would welcome anyone else who would be interested in joining us, no experience is necessary, help will always be given to new members. Flower arranging is a lovely way to serve the church and to give pleasure to all, as well as giving glory to God. For more information, please speak to a member of the team.

Jo Towers & Stella Harding

All Saints Servers and Sacristan

Prior to the beginning of the year Jo Sheppard was assigned the Sacristan role and has been doing this for 18 months. The sacristan ensures we have enough supplies for services and reports what needs to be ordered to the office and Fr Jeremy.

She sets up for services, which includes putting the vessels for the altar in the church, putting out the collection bags, removing the altar cloth, making sure the readings are in the correct place, arranging the service books and hymn books for the priests and serving team and putting the bell and collection plate in the church.

At the end of the service washing and putting away the altar vessels and washing and ironing the altar linen. She changes the altar frontals in accordance with the liturgical colours and prepares additional items required for services, such as towels for Maundy Thursday. She also coordinates the stripping of the altars on Maundy Thursday and replacing them on Saturday before the Easter Vigil. She is also a server and assists the priest as required.

We have five members currently on the serving team and Christine Pocock who covers serving at baptisms. Jo Sheppard is also trained to serve at baptisms and usually serves when baptisms are held during the service or when Christine Pocock is away.

Andrew Stafford, Henderson Burgess and Jo Sheppard are trained as thurifer, crucifer and acolyte. Sally Deal and Lorraine Ansell are trained as acolytes. We have a thurifer at each Sunday service and where possible a crucifer. On occasion we have a full team including acolytes. We aim to provide servers at additional services, such as at the Easter Vigil or Midnight mass.

In addition to serving at the altar the servers light the candles at the beginning of the service, bring in the altar vessels to the sacristy after communion, and at the end of the service put out the candles and replace the altar cloth. During the service they assist the priest as required.

Jo Sheppard Sacristan

Stewardship Group

The Group focus was on Fundraising through the following :

Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). This has seen a healthy increase following more awareness of the scheme and benefits and how it works, Articles were placed in Parish News and approaches made informally and individually to members of the congregation. An easy to use page was set up on the website to encourage both one off and regular donations,

Easyfundraising was promoted on the website as an easy and no cost way to raise money each time you shop on line at over 3,000 retailers. Several people have signed up.

Father John volunteered to take the lead on **Wills and Legacies**. He preached on this and wrote an article in Parish News. Literature is available in the church . We hope that this will help people understand that will writing is an important act of good stewardship and encourage gifts in wills to help the church mission and ministry.

Jeremy Nordberg Chair Stewardship Group

Sustainability – Caring for God’s Creation

As a church, we recognize that the world is in a climate emergency and our commitment to practical action, prayer and advocacy is summarized in the PCC Climate Emergency Statement, which can be found on the Church website.

Sustainability is regularly a theme in our worship, and we continue to engage with our local community and globally. We are working to make our buildings and land as sustainable as possible. We encourage our congregation to think about their environmental impact and how they can live more sustainably.

This year we have established a partnership with the Ripple Effect charity, which works to fight poverty and build sustainable livelihoods in eastern Africa through giving smallhold farmers skills to grow enough food to feed their families and provide income. In turn, these farmers share their knowledge with others – hence the ‘ripple effect’. Collections from our Harvest festival auction and our Lent soups were contributed to this charity.

In our gardens, we have installed facilities for composting and a bug hotel. The pupils at Boyne Hill Infants School get involved in growing some fruit and vegetables there too. We have implemented and planned some energy improvements as the result of an energy audit e.g. changing all lights in the church to LED as they need replacing.

Members of the congregation provided hints and tips on ways of reducing, reusing and recycling, and these are being shared through our newsletter to give ideas to others on how to ‘do the small things well’.

Thanks to all those who have contributed to our aim to be more sustainable. We are always looking for ideas of how to 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 Report

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 regular services to our care homes, Normanhurst, Larchfield and Clara Court. At Normanhurst we offer a monthly communion service and at Clara Court we offer two services each month, one being a communion service and the other a Songs of Praise style service. The communion services take place on Wednesday mornings,

which allows us to take out the host which has been consecrated at the 10am All Saints Eucharist, again joining the care homes together with our church community.

The residents at Larchfield are mostly living with dementia, so our service there is tailored more to the specific needs of the residents, using familiar hymns and readings which trigger memories.

All the services we offer are well attended and seem to be much appreciated by not only the residents but also the care home staff.

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.

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.

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 weekend night, usually between the hours of 10pm and 1am. Street Angels provide a listening ear to those in any sort of need including the homeless or the lonely etc. We have access to clean bedding, clothing and hot food. 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.

There has been a lot of new development taking place in the town centre with several new clubs, bars and restaurants opening. The town is starting to get much busier, so we now aim to put a team out every Saturday night and the last Friday of each month (payday Friday). To help us achieve this, we have been trying to recruit more volunteers. In 2023 we were given several generous grants. These have supported our drive to recruit more Angels by paying for equipment and new warm jackets.

We also received a generous donation which we used, in conjunction with Thames Valley Heartbeat, to sponsor and provide a Public Access Defibrillator now in place outside St Mary's Church.

All Saints Church continues to be very supportive towards Street Angels with Fr Jeremy as an active Angel (and Chaplain), Mike Moss as our Treasurer and four others within the church family as active Angels.

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

Jeanette Lock Chair Maidenhead Street Angels

Boyne Hill Tuesday Club 2023

At last we begin a year that looks very similar to what used to pass for normal!

In January our brilliant Secretary, Janet, stretched our brains with one of her now infamous quizzes. Then in February our legs were stretched walking up Kilimanjaro in the company of Graham Horn – a fascinating afternoon. In March we had an interesting talk from Ro of the Berkshire Lowland Search and Rescue Dogs team, accompanied by her dog, who rather stole the show.

In April we made our own entertainment with jigsaws, Ludo, Snakes and Ladders, Happy Families and so forth. This, at times, generated complete silence, such was our absorption in what we were doing. At other times there were shrieks of laughter from some of the noisier and unruly elements. All in all it proved quite revealing of some of our members' characters.

Richard Davenport of Maidenhead Waterways Regeneration visited us in May and gave us insights into their achievements to date in making the town more appealing. In June Anne Sweeney talked to us about how to care better for ecology and the environment. And finally in July some of us braved appalling weather to visit Carolyn Foster's garden. Carolyn, who designed the Birinus Garden for the church, opens her own garden under the Nations Gardens Scheme.

After our summer break we held our AGM in September where we were reminded that our Secretary's term of office ends at the end of our 2024 season and that she does not intend to stand again.

We know of several local groups which have had to give up due to lack of Officers and we very much hope that the Tuesday Club, which has been going since the 1960s, will not go the same way.

The new season got off to a strong start in October when Jennifer James from the National Trust gave us a fascinating insight into the life of Nancy Astor. Followed in November by a talk about the work of Mercy Ships, an organisation of which many were unaware.

In December our Christmas floral decoration making (facilitated by Jo and Marian) and social afternoon was well attended and brought another year to a very happy close. Whether we shall have another full year to report on you'll have to watch this space!

Jan Moss Group Leader

Senior Saints

Senior Saints continue to be a steady ongoing group, with an enthusiastic determination to support All Saints to the best of their ability. Being "Senior" is no bar to giving help when needed from time to time, despite being about a dozen in number.

Margaret Hill has been our Leader for a long time now. However, her mobility is not good, and she depends on outside help to come to meetings, always with a smile, showing pleasure and contributing to the conversation. As her secretary, we discuss any topics affecting Senior Saints, and so we continue to combine our efforts.

Two of our members have established a regular warm welcome coffee break after the mid-week Eucharistic service on a Wednesday morning. This is always popular, and the numbers have grown. The Church now has an open invitation to passers-by to come and view the wonderful architecture, followed by a coffee break!

Another member assists the Tiny Toddler Group on a Friday morning, while yet others support the Flower Team who expertly decorate the Church on such occasions as Mothering Sunday, Easter, and Christmas Days. Many smaller tasks are often undertaken, but always with a smile, and these tasks are very much appreciated.

Senior Saints have tailored their monthly meetings to run from April to December, for several reasons. The dark winter months do not encourage outings, and our drivers are now limited in number. During the recent shut-downs and Covid restrictions, we began to meet in members' homes under a rota system, which has taken root! If anything, it has brought the existing members an enthusiastic welcome from a different hostess each month. We miss having speakers, while appreciating that we could always be welcomed to specific occasions in the Parish Hall from time to time. The main "outing" in recent years has been our Christmas lunch at the Toby restaurant, Father Jeremy is always

invited, as has Father John. This year we shall miss the fun and friendliness of Father John, and we take this opportunity of passing to him our blessings and warm wishes for success in his new post down in Kent.

Very sadly, we have recently been informed of the death of one of our long-standing members, Gwen Burkitt, aged 101. A talented lady, full of warmth and enthusiasm. We shall continue to miss her in the coming months.

If you are new to the area, come and introduce yourself - a warm welcome awaits!

Many thanks

Wendy Channon Secretary

The Lunch Club

The Lunch Club meets at Cox Green Community Centre on Tuesdays from 12 noon – 2pm. The Lunch Club provides a hot meal for the elderly, housebound, lonely and bereaved in the Parishes of All Saints, St Edmund Campion, and the Church of the Good Shepherd. Cox Green. It is a lovely home cooked meal.

The Lunch Club met for 43 weeks in 2023. We had a good attendance each week, varying between 34-38 members. We had recruited a couple of new volunteers for help in the kitchen and the hall. We had a Coronation celebration lunch in May for King Charles followed by a cream tea and entertainment.

In July, after our last lunch before the summer break, we had entertainment by a Barber Shop quartet followed by tea and cake. In October we had an afternoon tea and the Marlow Ukelele Group provided the music for a great sing song.

For our usual Christmas lunch in December we invited all the volunteers (in the many varied capacities in which they help at the Lunch Club) to join us. We were therefore cooking for 100. Lowbrook Choir sang Christmas songs before the lunch and after we had the Gaslights, a Victorian entertainment group to entertain everyone.

Community Praise continues once a month.

The Lunch Club Committee thank all those who continue to support and encourage us throughout the year with donations and volunteers at special events, particularly Johnson and Johnson, Cox Green Parish Council, St. Edmund Campion Church, All Saints Church, The Church of the Good Shepherd and Cox Green Community Centre..

For further information, please contact Pauline Hole

Maidenhead Care

Since 1985 Maidenhead Care has provided a good neighbour scheme. Some church members continue to be volunteers or officers to enable the operation to continue to

flourish. Sadly we are all getting older year by year (how unexpected!) and new volunteers are always welcomed. The principal request is for transport to medical appointments. All our drivers can claim 45p per mile. We are experiencing a growing demand in the community for volunteers to visit lonely people. We try to match volunteer interests to those of the client. All clients requesting visitors are risk assessed for Safeguarding requirements. It is very sad to discover just how many people in our community, particularly those with mobility constraints, do not have regular contact with other people. A one-hour visit sharing a cup of tea with a client can be a highlight in their week.

Care supported the Doctor at Home service from Thames Hospice in 2023. Decisions will shortly be made for our charity in 2024. The surplus income comes from clients who show their appreciation by entirely voluntary donations to Care. We also transport and visit some clients who are unable to make donations. Maidenhead is not universally prosperous. Do please consider if you are able to help others in our community.

***Mike Moss
Maidenhead Care Trustee***

ALLsorts

This group for adults with learning disabilities, friends, carers and everyone else (ALL sorts) celebrated its twentieth anniversary this year. We started with prayers, songs and acting out the story of God's Big Party (Mat 22) in All Saints Church and then enjoyed cake & games in the Parish Centre. This is largely the format of all our meetings – usually held at St Mary's - but composed of helpers, including clergy, from All Saints, High Street Methodist Church, St Edmund Campion, Church of the Good Shepherd and St Joseph's Church.

We thank God for his boundless love, help, guidance and inspiration. Our numbers are reduced owing to age and infirmity of members (and helpers!) . So we ask for your prayers for volunteers who could lead the group forward to bring God's word to the younger members of our community still unreached whose spiritual needs might be addressed in this form of worship.

Sue Nordberg & The ALLsorts Team

Ministry to Children, Families and Schools

Following the Diocesan Common Vision Strategy, we have continued to support engagement between children, young people and families with the church, the community and local schools.

Young People and Families

To Encounter Christ in Word and Sacrament

1. Tiny Saints – From a very young age children are encouraged to share with their parents and with other families the Tiny Saints mornings held on Fridays at the Parish Centre. The morning begins with activities, then games before refreshments for children and adults. We end the session with the Tiny Saints nursery rhyme service. The activity is led by Tanya Fullarton with support from Ursula Hutchison and Carole Deverill.
2. Young Saints – On the first and third Sundays of the month our team of leaders including Jo McMullen, Dianne Familoe, Sibó Veira, Pearl Boakye, Louise O’Dwyer Barnard and Nelli Pang provide biblically based activities and teaching during the 10am Sunday Eucharist.
3. The church provides a Worship for All service once a month with an interactive talk. We try to involve the families through the prayers and readings.
4. Sundays @4 – This is run on the fourth Sunday in every month and takes the form of an assembly style service followed by a BBQ and activities for children within the quadrangle. We try to link the theme with a school value but broaden it to sustainability themes as well. Thank you to Sibó Veira, Sally Unwin and Elaine See for their excellent ministry to the young people.

Within the schools we have the following links;

1. Open the Book as in partnership with other churches we share the bible stories. Students are frequently encouraged to take part in the story either by acting or by being part of the responses of a crowd. The two schools we support at Larchfield Primary and All Saints Junior School.
2. Assemblies are held at Boyne Hill Infants, All Saints Juniors, Altwood Academy and more recently Desborough school.
3. We welcome schools at Christmas to the church. Christmas services of a wide variety of content are shared with Boyne Hill, All Saints, Altwood, Claires Court and Newlands.
4. The Revd Jo Ellington continues to offer time each Tuesday as a chaplain to Altwood School. I work in partnership with her to support the excellent ministry of presence that she provides. Together we are working in partnership with Duncan Dyason and the Street Kids Direct in Guatemala. Jo has grown the number of students attending the chapel with lunchtime conversations over her homemade chocolate brownies.
5. All Saints School continues to hold services at church to celebrate All Saints Day, Christmas, Easter, SS Peter & Paul and leavers services.
6. All Saints Church provides governors at Boyne Hill, All Saints and Altwood Academy. All our governors are highly thought of and provide excellent support and challenge to the teaching staff within the schools to try to ensure the best education within a calm, safe and supportive school environment.

All Saints Church was designed with a school within the quadrangle. George Street alongside William Gresley the first vicar were keen for the church to play its part in the

education of the young. As well as meeting one of the five actions of the Diocesan Vision we hope that we are following the rich heritage of All Saints Church in Boyne Hill.

Fr Jeremy

Open the Book

Regular readers will know that Open the Book is a wonderful way of enabling young children to hear and watch the great Bible stories at All Saints and Larchfield schools. Both schools give us a warm welcome. Inevitably we need to find additional storytellers. Some of us have been going into schools for around 15 years!

You might be worried about 'acting' and remembering lines. All the words are prepared by the Open the Book organisation which is now part of the Bible Society. There are no lines to remember, we all have scripts, and acting is generally responding to what the story says a character does. We have an extensive range of costumes and props and these resources help you to become the character. Even if the 'production' does not go quite as planned in rehearsal, remember that the children only see the story once. They are very encouraging in showing their appreciation.

School staff generally pick up the theme of the story and follow the story presentation by discussing with the children the issues raised.

All in all, a delightful way to spend 50 minutes.

Mike Moss

Boyne Hill C of E Infant and Nursery School

Boyne Hill is a two-form entry Infant school and Nursery 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 is very much part of the local community with a vision to serve the diverse population within the catchment area. This vision states that 'together we are building a welcoming sanctuary where everyone is shown love, care and respect'. Inspired by Jesus, the ethos is 'not to be served but to serve' (Matthew 20 v 28). This is evident in the inclusive, friendly behaviour of the children towards each other and in the care given by all associated with the school. The Headteacher inspires all to service towards others through actions such as litter-picking around the school, collecting for FoodShare and providing a crèche so parents and carers can attend school meetings and supporting local, national and international charities.

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.

This year children have benefitted from a new and exciting curriculum, which provides both challenge and systematic revision so the pupils can continually build on what they have previously learnt. Boyne Hill school welcomes children with a wide range of abilities, ethnicities, language development and additional needs and therefore has a high staff-pupil ratio to enable every child to reach the potential God has given them. Funding is set aside so pupils from families with limited incomes (Pupil Premium children) may attend outings and a lunchtime club free of charge and so have the same chances to develop their unique interests and skills as other children. There is also provision to buy second-hand uniform and all children may have a free nutritious, hot meal every lunch time.

To further support parents and the learning and development of the children, Boyne Hill offers full 'wrap-around' breakfast and after school care on the premises at a very competitive cost. The school has also reorganised the Nursery in order to provide flexible sessions covering whole and part days, according to what best suits the parents. This, along with up to 30 hours free of charge for those eligible, has made a huge difference to families where both parents must work.

Pastoral care for the children, staff and parents continues to be 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 has a specially trained employee to help children with social and emotional support needs and has also been recognised as an 'Attachment Awareness' school that recognises the additional needs of pupils who are not living with their natural parents.

Spirituality is encouraged and developed through times of prayer and reflection, and opportunities for awe and wonder are provided through trips, visits and engagement with the natural world, music and arts. The children learn about the main world religions and share with their classmates in the major festivals and celebrations, such as Christmas, Easter, Chinese New Year, Eid, Diwali, Purim etc. Visits to All Saints Church are also a regular part of their education along with services in Church, such as the Christingle in December. Classrooms have places for quiet prayer and reflection and the school holds regular assemblies, Fr Jeremy leading many of these, thus 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 children grow food and flowers in the playground through their Gardening Club and were able to give some of their produce to those in need at Harvest time. The School Council meets with the Headteacher and designated governor every term to give those in charge feedback from each class on what they would like to see improved and what they particularly enjoy.

School has an active parents' association, the Boyne Hill School Association, which organises events and fundraisers throughout the year, many of which are open to the whole community. The school has also advertised Church community events, such as the Christ Child Market.

Our thanks goes to the inspirational Head, Mrs Davies and her excellent team for another outstanding year.

Anne Sweeney Vice Chair of Governors. Foundation Governor

All Saints Church of England Junior School

All Saints Junior School is a two-form entry junior school in a diverse, multi-cultural area in Maidenhead. Children come predominantly from the feeder schools of Boyne Hill Infants School and Burchetts Green Infants School.

On 1st January 2023, the school joined the Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust (ODST), a multi-academy trust with over 8000 pupils and 43 schools across Oxfordshire and Berkshire. A new vision and new values have been developed to better reflect the school in its new content. All stakeholders were involved in the creation of the vision and selection of the values.

Our aim is for every child to Believe, in their own abilities and those around them, to Grow and develop continually and to Achieve the very best they can. Our vision centers around a belief that all our children are special, set apart for God's special purpose, and our promise is that our school will be a place where children know they are loved and nurtured, and where they will learn to live well. Fundamental to this is our belief that all children should be enabled to fulfil their whole potential, not just academically, but also creatively, morally, physically and spiritually. This links to Isaiah 58:11: And I will always guide you and satisfy you with good things, I will keep you strong and well. You will be like a garden that has plenty of water, like a spring of water that never goes dry.

Our three values of Compassion, Wisdom and Responsibility bring our vision to life. Collective worship on Mondays focuses on one value per term, as one of the many ways these are embedded in the school.

There continue to be strong links between the school and the church. Fr Jeremy regularly leads assemblies, the Open the Book team shares Bible stories weekly, and the children visit the church for several services during the year (e.g. Christmas nativity, All Saints Day, St Peter and St Paul).

As well as following a stimulating curriculum, the children are active in leadership roles, charity fundraisers, World Book Day celebrations and sports activities. The latter was recognized with the School Games Silver Mark award for commitment to sports involvement and competition. In November, the Year 6 residential trip to Rhos y Gwaliau Outdoor Education Centre took place. This enables the pupils to gain from the benefits of outdoor education and is a highlight for many of their time at All Saints.

Thanks to the school leadership team of Mr Snipp, Mr Harris and Mr McKrell and to all the staff for leading the school through this time of transition, and to the PTA for their continuous support.

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. This link has been further strengthened in the last year, with Altwood being one of two founding schools of Agape Multi Academy Trust, along with The Piggott School. This is the development of a strong working relationship and collaboration between the two schools. Altwood officially joined the trust on 1st March 2024.

The vision of Agape Multi Academy Trust is:

Vision

To be a collaboration of schools which enhances the educational experiences and outcomes for children, maximizing the benefits of working together, whilst maintaining the individual culture and ethos of each individual school.

Agape:

*In the scriptures, the love that Jesus talks about and refers to is **Agape** love.*

The term Agape refers to unconditional love.

Christians believe this is the highest type of love, and it is the love that Jesus has for humans.

Agape involves feeling so much love for someone that you put them before yourself.

Altwood Church of England School has continued to perform well with students achieving some very impressive GCSE and A-Level results in the summer 2023. 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.

In September 2023 Ofsted visited Altwood. The outcome of the inspection was very pleasing, with Altwood maintaining its Good judgement. The report is available to read on the school website. The following quote is from the report:

The school has high expectations of all pupils. In response, pupils are considerate, polite and courteous. In class, and around the school, pupils work diligently and behave well.

They know that teachers want the very best for them. This helps pupils to achieve well, including pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

After 11 years as headteacher Neil Dimpleby will step down as headteacher at the end of the current academic year. He has been appointed headteacher at Lord Williams's School, Thame. We thank Neil for all his work and commitment to the school and wish him well at his new school.

After a robust and demanding interview process the governing board have appointed Mrs Cath Harden to be our next Headteacher, starting 1st September 2024.

Jan McLucas Chair of Governing Board

Report from 8th Maidenhead Rainbows and Brownies

Rainbows are the youngest section of Girlguiding UK, from 4 – 7 yrs old. 8th 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 been working on our teamwork by being cars, robots and completing recycling relay challenges. Food has featured strongly over the last year, with opportunity to try new things and learn new culinary skills making fruit kababs, pizza and fajitas. We got out and about with woodland and park picnics, an exciting hands-on evening at Maidenhead Heritage Centre and enjoyed Maidenhead Drama Guild's pantomime *The Snow Queen*.

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. At Brownies this year the girls have been considering how their actions can impact those around them, we then selected a charity to support throughout the year. The girls chose to support Guide Dogs and opted to hold a fundraising evening, where they ran a range of different stalls from baking to games in order to support their chosen charity. S'mores cookies are still a firm favourite at Brownies and we have spent many evenings practicing our match lighting skills before enjoying our s'mores. We finished the term off with a glow in the dark party, where we played skittles, musical statues in the dark and enjoyed a chocolate fountain and fresh popcorn!

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, click on the parent's tab and follow the route to register their daughter.

***Nina Heavyside - Leader 8th Maidenhead Rainbows
Lauren Webb - Leader 8th Maidenhead Brownies***

All Saints Web Site and Social Media 2023

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

Whilst the All Saints web-site continues to be a well-used source of information and, when linked to facebook posts a good promotional channel, the Parish needs to carefully consider that 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. The current website platform is unsupported and is gradually degrading. A decision needs to be made during 2024 whether the resource can be found to implement, and migrate to, a new website; if not then it is advised that the “A Church Near You” Church of England website for All Saints (and all Churches) is utilised and maintained.

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 continue to degrade and malfunction.

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.

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 be 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 ChurchEdit 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.

If neither of these options is followed through then use of the “A Church Near You” website becomes a “fall-back” option (this would not be as feature rich, nor hold nearly as much of the “ancillary” (mainly Building related and WW1&2 information related) content.

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.)

To Encounter Christ in Word and Sacrament

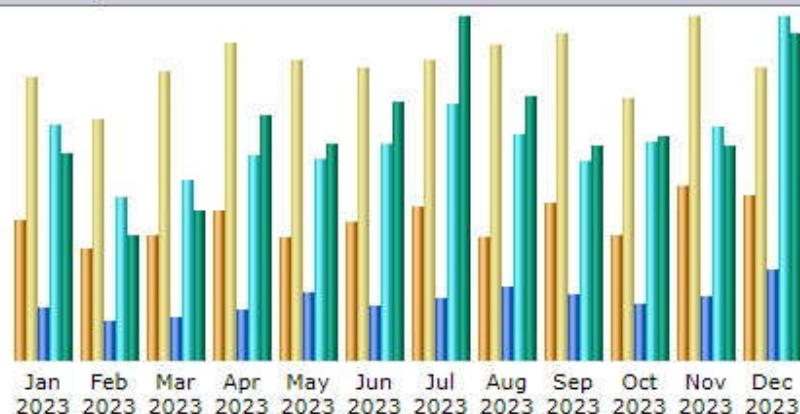
Following Martin's move away Simon Fullarton kindly took over maintaining the technical and infrastructure aspects of the website. This includes organising the server, secondary domain, bandwidth availability and back-ups.

From the graphs below it can be seen that the site remains used is still generating a good level of monthly traffic, with, on average, approx. 1,000 unique visits per month, over 2,000 site visits and around 5,000 pages visited per month.

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

The most "popular" downloads included the Holy Week booklet, the Community Annual Report, the Floor Project, along with the information of the fallen from the Parish in WW1 and WW2.

Monthly history



Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2023	996	2,008	4,374	19,749	913.10 MB
Feb 2023	790	1,713	3,266	13,652	554.02 MB
Mar 2023	887	2,053	3,520	15,087	663.17 MB
Apr 2023	1,067	2,247	4,218	17,149	1.06 GB
May 2023	873	2,125	5,593	16,873	956.65 MB
Jun 2023	984	2,074	4,590	18,165	1.12 GB
Jul 2023	1,093	2,124	5,219	21,424	1.48 GB
Aug 2023	866	2,232	6,129	18,895	1.14 GB
Sep 2023	1,109	2,321	5,483	16,659	952.25 MB
Oct 2023	886	1,862	4,775	18,243	993.86 MB
Nov 2023	1,239	2,434	5,340	19,576	947.43 MB
Dec 2023	1,172	2,077	7,646	28,761	1.41 GB
Total	11,962	25,270	60,153	224,233	12.05 GB

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. The number of posts has reduced since Jayne Chapman, who kindly took on an admin role, has move away. Facebook has been beneficially used to promote events such as the Christmas Market and Heritage Days. Despite the relative lack of content the number of Facebook followers has increased to 270 compared with 217 the prior year.

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.

X/Twitter

There is also an X/Twitter feed at: -

<https://twitter.com/AllSaintsB Hill>

However this is currently dormant. If anyone would like to take on posting on this site please do speak to the writer.

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.

R J Broad