

To encounter Christ in Word and Sacrament

## ANNUAL REPORT 2015



### **Welcome to the Annual Report of All Saints Church, Boyne Hill, Maidenhead**

We are an Anglican Church, part of the Church of England Diocese of Oxford in the UK. We welcome all to our church whether you would like to come to a service, a course or event, or are interested in our history.

#### **Our Vision:**

**To be a welcoming church family, encouraging and supporting people of all ages on their journey to faith and relationship with Jesus; through vibrant Eucharistic worship, supportive small groups and strong community and schools outreach to build a joyful and sustainable future, enabling our community to live and share in the love of God.**

Please visit our website for current information @ [www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk](http://www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk)

# All Saints Church Annual Report 2015

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## 1:- Fr Jeremy's Overview of the Year 2015

Two years ago the Ministry team and the PCC put forward our Mission statement :

***'To be a welcoming church family, encouraging and supporting people of all ages on their journey to faith and relationship through vibrant Eucharistic worship, supportive small groups and strong community and schools outreach to build a joyful and sustainable future, enabling our community to live and share in the love of God.'***

To help us fulfil our hopes for mission at All Saints we were fortunate to be invited by the Diocese of Oxford to take part in a 3 year pilot missional process called 'Partnership in Missional Church'. You can read about the process in Jeanette Lock's excellent report on PMC later in our annual report. A large part of the process is about listening to God (through dwelling in the word), to each other and to the outside community.

The findings of our first report, from a reading team in the mission department in the Diocese of Oxford, based on the findings from responses from our congregation, was that 'There is an overwhelming sense of people's hopes (and even some expectations) to grow the Church younger by involving all generations and working with the community. We were told that this is a brilliant aspiration and that there is clear evidence that this hope comes from across the whole congregation. The challenge over the next 12 months will be for us as a congregation to discern together how we can turn these hopes into reality. How will we need to change as a congregation in order to meet these hopes?

In 2015 we looked again at the communion model of the Church that encourages us to see ourselves as members of the Body of Christ. In the breaking of the bread and the pouring of the wine we are joined one with God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and we are joined one with each other. We are charged to be a light to the world following our Baptismal promises. Can we look at ourselves and discern individually, as well as within community, what we can do to encourage and support people of all ages on their journey of faith?

In this annual report I will use the 5 themes of Living Faith to highlight what we are attempting to do to build the body of Christ at All Saints. It is important to stress, however, that even to maintain the mission activities we share now, we will need more people to offer their time and talents. The detail of the following you can read about in the individual reports.

### 1. The Sacred Centre

Continuing to discern ways in which we can reach out to people through our worship; the development of Rock Shop alongside our choir; and the use of the Roots worship resources. The worship group that plans the 12 month cycle of services.  
Alpha and Pilgrim courses  
Future plans of Thursday evening 'Space for God' services

### 2. Making Disciples

Open the Book teams in our schools  
Baptism preparation  
Tiny Saints, Young Saints, Cafe Church and Young Peoples Film Club  
Alpha and Pilgrim courses

### 3. Making a difference in the World

Schools ministry including Open the Book and our other schools work including governor roles.

The Larchfield ministry including the summer club, Larchfield Open Table, Larchfield Care Home, listening to children read at school  
Support of OAK in Kenya  
Charitable work including Christian Aid  
Food Share  
Individuals who support the Homeless group, the Christmas lunch at Braywick, prison chaplaincy and Street Angels. Also the support of Fr John Chadwick's charity 'The Margaret Clitherow Trust'.

#### 4. Creating Vibrant Christian Communities

The summer fete that draws people from the wider community  
The Christmas and Easter services including the Salvation Army band during Advent.  
The pilgrimage to Walsingham  
The Mothers' Union  
Tuesday Club  
The Men of Boyne Hill

#### 5. Shaping confident, collaborative ministry

The Ministry team and wardens  
The office staff  
Baptism and Marriage preparation teams  
Choir and serving teams  
Hospitality and cleaning teams  
Those who help with rotas, service booklets, preparing flowers, bell ringers, sacristans, director of music and musicians.  
Sidespeople and School governors

There are many other ministerial tasks I have left out not least the large amount of work that goes on to maintain not only the fabric of the church building but also the other properties that we look after.

To all those people involved in ministry at All Saints and all those who play their part in the building of the family of God in mission I thank you all.

Thank you too for the welcome and support you have offered to Monika, and we both look forward to sharing with you this year the service at All Saints on the 7<sup>th</sup> May when we will both dedicate to God our life together.

With my love and prayers,

***Fr Jeremy***

## **2:- Report of the PCC of All Saints**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is made up of church members who are voted onto the PCC by members of the congregation each year at the Annual General Meeting. The PCC meets to discuss and pass resolutions on issues affecting our church.

The PCC has met on 7 occasions in the year following last year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting, one of which was a short meeting to elect the PCC Officers and Standing Committee. The Standing Committee has met several times to prepare for PCC meetings and transact occasional business between PCC meetings.

The PCC appointed Peter May, with Lynn May assisting, as Treasurer and Christine Watts as PCC Secretary, along with David Morgan who kindly took on the role of PCC Minutes Secretary. The Standing Committee comprised Fr. Jeremy, the Treasurer and assistant, the Secretary, and both Churchwardens.

Our team of Sides Persons performs a valuable role in welcoming people to the Church and helping the services run smoothly. We are fortunate to have had new members join us in 2015 and we ran training/refresher/discussion groups for all our Sides People which has proved beneficial.

During the year we continued the practice of holding planning and communication meetings with our extended PCC (our PCC and the people who also carry out a major role in the operation of the Church). Two meetings were held on Saturday mornings. These focused upon the All Saints Mission/Action Plan, Stewardship, the All Saints website along with PMC (Partnership in Missional Church) updates, discussions and PCC involvement with the PMC Group. The PCC also set up steering groups for Health and Fire Safety, Resources and Property Maintenance and Stewardship. The Stewardship group led the successful appeal for funds to replace the faulty Church Boiler and the Fete team led our successful Summer Fete which raised funds towards the Birinus Garden refurbishment.

Matters relating to the fabric of the Church and associated buildings are covered in the Fabric Report, and financial matters are covered by the PCC Accounts. The PCC has sought to both inform the congregation of our financial position and to raise the profile of the Planned Giving Scheme during the year.

The parish continues with our extensive outreach work, thanks to many willing and enthusiastic helpers and colleagues; which is covered in detail elsewhere in this report.

All Saints is blessed with a very large number of people who voluntarily work to keep our wonderful and spiritual Church operating and to support Fr. Jeremy in our mission. There are too many people to list and the PCC records its thanks to all those who help with these activities, and those who continue to develop the vision of how All Saints can embody the love and grace of Christ to those in our local community.

***Roderick Broad and Stella Harding***

### **3:- Churchwardens Annual Fabric Report for 2015**

As usual this has been another busy year, mainly due to heating issues within the Church, preparation and investigative work for the pending repairs to the SW Corner and repairs, updates, replacements and improvements to the rented properties. Much thanks must go to our small Resources team who have been excellent in carrying out minor works and maintenance and have saved the Parish significant sums of money. Thanks also go to the members of our congregation who undertake gardening to keep our grounds in order and regularly cut the Quadrangle grass.

## **CHURCH**

### **Church Heating**

Following repeated failures of the Church's Keston Boiler the PCC approved replacement with a new Broag Boiler. (The Keston Boiler has proved unreliable, more so since Keston was acquired by Ideal Standard and the model was discontinued; with Ideal Standard moving the replacement Heat Exchanger fabrication overseas).

The Stewardship Group ran a fund raising campaign and our congregation, along with donations from the Bayliss Trust and Michael Shanley Builders, responded magnificently, raising around £14,000.

The boiler was replaced by our Heating Contractor, Austin Heat and has worked very well. We also needed to replace, at the same time, the gas feed pipe as this was undersized, along with the condensate tank and pump, which was also faulty.

Unfortunately we subsequently suffered a failure of the (original) recirculating pumps which also needed replacing. We also appear to have some faulty valves on the radiators which will require replacing during the summer months.

During the summer months it is also probably that updated remote controls will be installed. Currently all of the controls are located in the Boiler House which does not allow adjustment from the Church. The local area also periodically suffers (short) power outages which trips the boiler safety lock-out. This must then be manually reset (for safety reasons) and it is not immediately obvious if this has occurred. A power cut indicator has been purchased and remote controls would also enable a check on the boiler status.

### **SW Corner Repairs**

Following acceptance of the claim by the insurance company and the granting of the faculty work started on repairing the cracks in the SW Corner of the Church.

The initial masonry work has been carried out which allowed the area to be used over the Christmas service period. This followed several years of the area being masked off and our ability to use it again has been very beneficial.

We are awaiting the rebuild of the Stained Glass window before any further work takes place.

### **Stained Glass**

Chapel Studios have been instructed to rebuild the Stained Glass Window that was removed from the SW Corner and stored whilst work was underway. The rebuild of the window is in progress and should be completed within the next few weeks.

In March 2013 it was also noticed that several fragments of glass were missing from the cinquefoil windows on the South side of the Nave. Our Architect, Roderick Mclellan has been twice to see the problem. We have found the largest pieces- two halves of the St Cecilia angel's head and surrounding glory. These can be repaired, and are stored in the Parish Office. The two pieces from the angel's head show that one is in clean condition but the other covered with algae. This may suggest that the piece cracked and separated some time ago.

Chapel Studios will be asked to assess the situation and offer a quotation when they are on site to replace the Window in the SW Corner. Should the repairs needed prove to be extensive then sources of grants to support the cost will be investigated.

### **Church Floor**

The Church Floor remains in a poor condition with some cracked and missing tiles. Some of the broken tiles were re-affixed by our resources team; however this work proved too extensive to continue. Investigations are underway to source replacement tiles, along with the most cost-effective way to repair the floor.

### **Gutters and Trees**

Gutters were cleaned and inspected as agreed with English Heritage.

Applications were approved and work carried out to trim and reshape the Magnolia Tree in the Courtyard and also to cut back the Cedar Tree in Bishops Court, which was touching the roof of the Church. The Cedar tree in the Alms House Gardens was also cut back as it was causing an access issue in the Church car park.

### **Birinus Garden and Fences**

The poor condition of the Birinus Garden continued and members of our congregation weeded and cleared the area in preparation for restoration of the garden which took place during 2015.

The wonderful work made to improve the appearance of the Birinus Garden was funded by money given in thanksgiving for the life of Brigitte Ranger's much loved late husband David and by the community of people that supported the All Saints Parish Church summer fete. Thanks go to all the people involved in the work to make the garden a place of beauty and a place to quietly reflect.

A blessing of the Birinus Garden is planned for Sunday June 12<sup>th</sup>, following the morning service, along with a BBQ and celebration of the Queens Birthday.

### **Quinquennial Inspection**

Our Quinquennial Inspection (QI) was carried out and a detailed report made of the work recommended for the Church over the next five years. This report has been considered by the PCC who will prioritise the work and expenditure. A copy of the report is available in the office for those who may be interested. Our architect did comment that a significant amount of the work recommended in the previous QI report had been carried out.

### **Interment Plots**

Whilst the All Saints Church cemetery is closed to new burials there is an area, approved by faculty, which allocates an agreed space for cremation interments. The faculty was based



upon a plan drawn up by the Borough in 1989. We are reaching a situation where the agreed space is becoming exhausted and we may run out of space for future internments.

The Borough's Cemeteries Officer and the Diocese advised that there is no objection to applying for a new faculty to extend the space allocated to interment of Ashes. Discussions with the Borough have resulted in the RBWM drawing up an area plan for extension which has been submitted, along with the appropriate documents, for faculty approval.

## **PARISH CENTRE**

The Parish Centre suffered from a roof leak during the year, which was repaired, along with minor glass repairs.

## **PROPERTIES**

During the year there were numerous repairs needed for the rented properties, covering leaks, replacement equipment, repairs to windows and guttering, replacement of damp plaster and roof tile replacements. These were all carried out, or organised, by our resources team.

Some roof work was needed above Flat No1, in conjunction with the chimney, which was carried out in March 2015. Hopefully this will not re-appear. Flat 1 was also inspected for any sign of cracks or movement of the end wall. Our Architect could see no sign of this. Several minor leaks were dealt with during the year, along with white goods repairs. Investigation of the potential for additional insulation of the properties has shown this to not be viable.

Note for 2015 – our tenants have vacated the property which will need redecoration and replacement flooring before re-letting. The heating in the flat is very poor (leading to rent reductions). Fresh investigations are being made to establish the feasibility of installing gas central heating. We have requested the RBWM to visit and inspect to determine the acceptability of this as the building is Grade 2 listed and an external flue would be required.

The refurbishment of No.3 was completed and the property re-let at a market rate.

Thanks again must go to our small resources team who undertake much of the work themselves, saving the Parish significant amounts of money; they are always willing to turn out for emergencies and to organise the extensive amount for work (many of the smaller items not being noted above) that is needed to keep the All Saints complex operational.

***Roderick Broad***

#### 4:- Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery Report for 2015

The Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery comprises 14 parishes and benefices in a geographical area more or less corresponding 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. The combined Electoral Roll of the Deanery in 2015 is 2295.

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. The last election was in 2014. There are 27 Clergy Members, 45 Lay Members and 4 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 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. This mission action plan was significantly overhauled in conjunction with the parishes and the deanery synod during the second part of 2014 and early 2015. It was approved by the Deanery Synod at its March 2015 meeting and subsequently 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 four times in 2015. The main topics at the meetings were as follows:-

**Tuesday 24 March 2015** at Holyport Primary School, Maidenhead

- A presentation by Jessica Hall, Regional Director for Christian Aid
- Presentation, discussion and approval of the Deanery Plan
- Presentation and approval of the 2014 accounts

**Wednesday 10th June** at the Soltau Centre, Stubbings

- Leading your Church into Growth: parishes give their experiences of the Diocesan course held in May and putting it into action.
- Report back from the Archdeacon's Pastoral Committee on the adoption of our Deanery Plan

**Thursday 17th September** at Clewer St Stephen's, Windsor

- Presentation by Rev'd Dr Mark Balfour, Vicar of St Peter's Furze Platt on mission to Guatemala, which he is taking up in 2016

### **Wednesday 18th November at All Saints, Dedworth**

- Mission to Secondary Schools: a presentation from representatives of the Diocesan Board of Education, and the Headteacher at Churchmead School in Datchet.
- Rev'd Sally Lynch gave us an outline on the work done by Grove Education Books
- The Cookhams introduced an idea for promoting best practice across the deanery
- An update was given on the share negotiations with the diocese for 2016 and the prospects for the parishes.
- There was an update on the activities in the Deanery Plan.

### **Payment of Share**

The Deanery continued its approach to paying its allocation of share from the diocese by a collaborative and collective arrangement. This has resulted in the share being paid in full and on time for many years, and 2015 was no exception. The total amount paid to the diocese in 2015 was £882k. The deanery has share reserves at the end of 2015 of £77k.

The proposals by the diocese for share allocation in 2016 meant that this deanery faced a 6.4% rise in share compared with the headline figure of 1.2% This was successfully negotiated down to 5.1%, and with the use of reserves we should be able to meet this with only a 2.1% increase from Parishes. This has only been made possible through our collaborative arrangement, and a number of other deaneries that do not operate in this way are facing a difficult challenge.

### **Pastoral Developments**

In 2015, the Deanery considered and participated in:-

- The appointment of a Vicar of Old Windsor parish
- The proposed amalgamation of St Mary's and St Andrew's, Maidenhead with St Mary's, White Waltham
- The proposed separation of Shottesbrooke from White Waltham and its amalgamation with Waltham St Lawrence including the holding of a Boundary Commission.
- The forthcoming interregnums at Waltham St Lawrence and St Peter's Furze Platt.
- Supporting parishes where there is little or no clergy resource over and above a single stipendiary post.

### **Parish Inspections**

8 Parish Inspections covering 15 churches were carried out on behalf of the Archdeacon in the year.

### **Deanery Officers and Standing Committee Members (with their respective parishes)**

Area Dean	Rev'd Margaret Bird (New Windsor Team Ministry)
Assistant Area Dean	Rev'd Richard Cowles (Bray)
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 Alberry (St Mary's and St Andrew's, Maidenhead), Tony Boyd (Waltham St Lawrence) Katy Kerr (New Windsor), Jane Burr (Clewer St Stephen and St Agnes), Martin Chandler (Clewer St Andrew)

### **Diocesan Synod Members**

Rev'd Ainsley Swift (New Windsor Team Ministry)  
Rev'd Sally Lynch (St Luke's Maidenhead)  
Rev'd Sam Alberry (St Mary's and St Andrew's, Maidenhead) John Sykes (Cookham Dean)  
Martin Chandler (Clewer St Andrew)  
Jim Tucker (Bray)  
Ralph Hinchcliffe (St Luke's Maidenhead)

### **General Synod**

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

## **5:- Report from the Foundation Governor, Boyne Hill Infant & Nursery School**

Boyne Hill Infant & Nursery School is an Outstanding School (OFSTED 2013), and also achieved Outstanding at the last SIAMS inspection (2014). It welcomes families from all faiths and celebrates the rich diversity of its community. The school's values are founded on its central principle of 'Growing within our Christian ethos of Care, Love & Respect.'

It meets its aim of preserving its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England through this ethos, coupled with regular visits to school by Father Jeremy, displays around school which embed the Christian philosophy and areas set aside in the classrooms for quiet reflection and prayer. The pupils also have opportunities to visit All Saints, so maintaining our close links and familiarising the pupils with the parish Church. There are morning Assemblies in school, some led by the various classes and other linked to the school's values, religious festivals or in celebration of pupil achievements. Parents are welcome to attend, especially when their own child is taking part.

The school provides a safe, secure environment where the children have a very positive attitude towards their learning and show a respect for the spiritual, moral and cultural values of both their own racial and religious backgrounds and those whose ways of life are different from their own. The governors are made very welcome in school, so can see this in action for themselves.

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, (formerly Hunsley), has 256 pupils from ages 3-7 years and has a high staff pupil ratio with 11 Teachers, 28 Teaching Assistants, 6 Support Staff and additional volunteers, including those from All Saints Church who hear children read and help in other ways. The staffing model enables the children to have a lot of personal support and attention, so developing their self confidence and enabling them to achieve high standards in their learning (see the OFSTED & SIAMS reports on the website [www.boynehillschool.org](http://www.boynehillschool.org) for more details). The school also has a lively PTA that has raised funds for various 'extras' and, together with the parent governors, has aided the development of a real community feel to the school.

In the last year the school has shown its commitment to caring for the environment through gaining its Green Flag (Eco schools [www.eco-schools.org.uk](http://www.eco-schools.org.uk)) in November. The school has also supported others in need through charitable and fund-raising, such as raising money for the Autistic Society, dressing up for Children in Need and dancing at a local care home.

We would like to thank Mrs Davies and all the staff for their hard work in making this such a lovely school for the children in the Parish. As this report barely scratches the surface of all the many wonderful things that go on there, we invite you all to keep up with what is happening through their website where you will find all the details in their weekly newsletter.

**Anne Sweeney**

## **6:- Report from the Foundation Governors of All Saints C of E Junior School**

All Saints C of E Junior School welcomes children from all backgrounds and traditions. At present they have children from 39 different countries. The head teacher, Bridget McGregor, and her staff strive to provide a caring Christian environment where learning is enjoyable for

all and everyone is able to develop to their full potential. The school promotes mutual respect and responsibility, working to ensure each child is nurtured intellectually, emotionally, physically and spiritually.

As Foundation Governors it is part of our role to see that Christian principles are adhered to as closely as possible and to ensure that the school is effective as a distinctive and inclusive Church of England school.

There is a daily Act of Collective Worship, on set weekly themes, which all the children attend. This is an inspirational time led by the head teacher, the senior staff or a member of the clergy. The 'Open the Book' team lead the Worship every Thursday and on Wednesdays, each class has their own Act of Worship in their classroom. Also time has been given to allow the pupils the freedom to talk about their own and others' faiths in a calm and friendly environment.

All Church of England Schools are subject to SIAMS inspections (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools). These inspections consider how the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meets the needs of all learners. In June a SIAMS inspector visited the school and talked to children, parents, staff and governors, as well as observing the school in action. She was extremely impressed with All Saints school, particularly the children's understanding of, and respect for, world religions and one another's differences and diversity. Consequently the School was judged to be 'outstanding'.

This year, 'prayer spaces' was held in the school library. The children were all able to experience a quiet time for prayer and reflection, taking part in a variety of activities which included 'Fizzy Forgiveness' and a 'Thank you Tree'. This was organised and set up with the help of many parents and friends, mainly from the River Church. It proved to be a lovely period of calm at a very busy time of year!

The School has been going through a very exciting time of expansion from 2 form to 3 form entry. During the summer holidays a new double storey block of four classrooms was added to the school and some of the existing building refurbished. The staff worked really hard to make the transition go as smoothly and quickly as possible and must be thanked for their diligence.

We would like to forge more links between the Church and School, making All Saints Church more familiar and accessible to the pupils. To this end, there was an exhibition of Advent artwork produced by pupils from the three Church Schools linked to All Saints Church. The exhibition was open for anyone to view at the Church during the Christmas period. We hope the congregation enjoyed the pupils' work. The Christmas Service, which retold the story of Jesus' birth through readings and songs, and the Leavers service, both held in the church, are always well attended with 'standing-room only'.

We would like to thank the head teacher and all her staff for all their hard work and co-operation. So that when we visit the school we feel welcome and part of the community. Mrs McGregor will be retiring as head teacher and we know we will miss her strength of commitment and enthusiasm for the Christian Ethos. Please pray that the Governing body can find an equally dedicated replacement.

There will be a vacancy for a Foundation Governor. We truly recommend members of this congregation to consider taking on the role as it enhances one's understanding of the present education system and provides an amazing insight into the lives of young people.

***George Hutchinson, Mike Broad & Alwyn Kimber***

## **7:- Report for All Saints Church of England School and the Ministry of Open the Book 2015**

This is perhaps one of the most important aspects of mission within the town of Maidenhead. Churches from across the town have for the last 8 years shared through acting and reading the wonderful Bible stories of the Old and New Testaments to the children of our schools. As I have repeatedly shared with the people of All Saints there is a challenge throughout Britain, and indeed Western Europe, to close the gap of knowledge of the stories of the Bible. There is, say sociological writers, a 'Break in the chain of Religious memory' in that parents and grandparents may not have the knowledge or indeed the desire to share the stories of the Bible with their children.

The coming together of all ages of people from a range of churches within the town has helped the schools share the stories of faith with the young people. We hear stories of children needing time off school, perhaps for a dental or doctor's appointment, but asking their parents to take them anytime apart from OTB assembly time. One parent at All Saints School was fascinated to discover what OTB did that encouraged her child in such a way and asked to see a presentation of a story. Other stories like this are heard from around the country as well as leaders of OTB being stopped in the town by children recognising them as 'open the bookers!'

A wonderful extension of this ministry in the last couple of years has been Altwood Students preparing and leading the stories at All Saints School during the second half of the summer term following examinations. Students from Altwood enjoy the opportunity to lead and the younger students love receiving the stories from them.

Running OTB requires a regular commitment of a weekly Bible story being presented in a school and therefore it is good to have large teams to present. If you feel you have a little time to give to this rewarding ministry please let me know.

Thanks to all those from All Saints Church and indeed from the wider Maidenhead Churches group who share the stories of faith throughout Maidenhead.

With my prayers,

***Fr Jeremy***

## **8:- 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, popular 11-18 age range (roll of 780), 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 converted to an Academy in 2012 and ever since has looked to develop opportunities for its students to reach new heights. Its Christian 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 and 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's newly refurbished (and dedicated in 2013) School Chapel. Throughout the year the Christian festivals are observed with visits to All Saints Parish Church as well as through educational based visits such as the visit by Technology Students to take in the superb architectural features of the Church building. Altwood students lead the school's Christmas Carol Service at the 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 continues to build on the outcome of its "Outstanding" Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS). The full report can be found on the Altwood Church of England School website at [www.altwoodschool.co.uk](http://www.altwoodschool.co.uk)

The Governing Body through its Finance and Sites Committee and hardworking staff has enabled the continued upgrading of buildings and facilities. This has included improved safety and security through the introduction of a new CCTV system and fencing.

Parental involvement is encouraged through weekly updates by the Headteacher on student achievement and forthcoming events, Parent Power evenings and regular meetings of Parents' Forum.

***Janice McLucas***

## 9:- Mission and Evangelism Report for 2015

**'If you are asked about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. But you must do this in a gentle and respectful way.'** (1 Peter 3: 15-16)

We should always be ready to tell others how Jesus has helped us and how being a follower of Jesus is great. Please invite people to our next Alpha Course. Bishop Stephen Cottrell wrote: <sup>1</sup>'The most effective evangelism of all is the Christlike witness of ordinary Christians in their everyday lives'. He explains the process of contact, nurture, commitment, growth and then reaching out to make more contacts. He writes: <sup>2</sup>'all of us are called to be witnesses.' I will list here some of the ways that as a Church Community we have reached out to provide 'contact and nurture' for those seeking to know more about the love of Jesus. These are opportunities for people 'to encounter Christ in Word and Sacrament'.

**Baptism Preparation** gives teaching to the parents of the babies being brought to Baptism, so they understand the symbols of Baptism, how we can help them as a Church and they are prepared for the Baptism Service where they will 'encounter Christ in Word and Sacrament'.

**The Alpha Course** in the Summer provided opportunities for people to explore what Christians believe and have a 'refresher course' to enable them to talk more confidently about their Christian faith. Two adults from this Course were Confirmed at the Service with Bishop Andrew on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2015 and so came to 'commitment and growth'.

**Open the Book** at All Saints Junior School and Larchfield Primary School have continued to be wonderful opportunities of sharing Bible stories with children and staff, giving them time to reflect on the stories and pray.

**The Summer Holiday Club at Larchfield** was in the last week of July, when the children learned more about the love of Jesus through singing, craft activities and games. It was good to have people from All Saints Church helping. This was a 4 day club with the helpers came from churches which make up the Larchfield Churches Team: All Saints, URC, Church of the Good Shepherd Cox Green and River and some volunteers from St. Mary's. It is good to be working together in this way to share the good news of the love of Jesus with these children.

**Christmas Holiday Club at Larchfield** when the children enjoyed Christmas crafts and a drama of the Christmas story. There were helpers from All Saints and the other Churches on the Larchfield Churches Team.

**LOT** (Larchfield Open Table) is a wonderful opportunity to reach out to the people of Larchfield and others in the town, with the love of Jesus. A supper is provided, activities for the children and some Christian teaching through a short talk. People can ask for help and prayer. They enjoy the friendship and care shown through LOT, which started in May 2013. Thank you to those from All Saints who help at LOT.

**Tiny Saints** provides contact and nurture for Baptism families and others to bring their babies and young children. They are introduced to the love of Jesus in this friendly Group.

**8<sup>th</sup> Maidenhead Rainbows** enjoyed their visit on 22<sup>nd</sup> May to, explore the Church, look at some stained glass window while I told Bible stories and have a Service.

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<sup>1</sup> 'From the abundance of the heart': Stephen Cottrell p. 39

<sup>2</sup> 'From the abundance of the heart': Stephen Cottrell p. 91



**9<sup>th</sup> Maidenhead Brownies** visited All Saints Church on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November to explore the Church, make Christingles and enjoy a Christingle Service.

***Elizabeth Bryson, LLM***

## **10:- Report for the Mission in Larchfield 2015**

The mission in Larchfield is seen at its best through Maidenhead Churches coming together to share projects. One couple wrote 'We have a passion for Larchfield families and we enjoy the working together of Maidenhead Churches for the Gospel to go forth in that estate.' They went on to write that it is about doing the small things well, something with which St David would have agreed.

This year has been another good one for the Larchfield Open Table which meets at the Desborough Park Community Centre once a month on a Tuesday evening. You will see a separate report for this from Linda at River Church who, alongside Alice the Youth Worker from the URC and Sue Brett from FoodShare, do much of the planning for this community event.

In the summer the annual Larchfield Holiday Club took place at the Desborough Park Community Centre. It was another fantastic week of activities planned by Alice but with great support from members of the Larchfield Churches Mission. The event takes place from Monday to Friday and includes games, activities, singing, acting and all with a Bible related theme. Over the last 4 years a Christmas Holiday Club has taken place on a Saturday in Advent.

Within Larchfield School, the "Open the Book team" continues to share the stories of the Bible through acting. The children love the team going in to the school and we are coming to the end of 8 years sharing this wonderful mission project. See the report below on "Open the Book".

There are other members of the Larchfield Churches team that go to the school on a regular basis to hear young people read. You may recall the head teacher Nicki Alvarado speaking to the All Saints PCC in 2010 and commenting that one of the most important things people can do for children is to help them to read.

An important aspect of ministry in Larchfield is the pastoral care undertaken by Elizabeth Bryson, with support from Sue Norberg. Elizabeth twice a month shares services with residents of Larchfield Care Home and spends up to 2 hours praying with residents within their rooms. This pastoral care extends by Elizabeth arranging for clergy to offer last rites to people when families want the prayers of the Church towards the end of a person's life.

The mission in Larchfield is wider than this with River Church planning outstanding events especially the Larchfield weekend and their Easter event. They have also established a Messy Church on Sundays and a Toddler group at the community centre.

The Larchfield Churches team meets about every 6 weeks and together plans and oversees the projects for the year. Thank you to the members of All Saints that regularly contribute to the mission in Larchfield.

With my prayers,

***Fr. Jeremy***

## **11:- Open the Book at Larchfield School**

“Open The Book” is in its eighth year at Larchfield School. There are currently nine members of the team drawn from three different Anglican churches.

Larchfield is a combined Infant & Junior School so our weekly audience consists of children who are rising 5 in their Reception Year up to 11 year-old Year 6s. The Open the Book programme is on a 3 year cycle so at Larchfield it's possible for a child who's currently in Year 6 to be hearing the Year 1 OTB stories for the **third** time. But because they'll be being performed by different people, the children don't seem to remember or complain.

It's a delight to share the Bible stories with the children, some very familiar tales and also some (sometimes slightly obscure bits of the Old Testament, or some of St Paul's adventures) that are new to the Open the Bookers. And it's nice to be hailed across a major supermarket in town with a yell of “Hello, Open the Book!” as we are from time to time.

It's been a frustrating year, and we missed quite a few sessions due to difficulties at the school, but we are now back in business so if anyone reading this is a frustrated thespian (ability to over-act essential) and would like to join us between 09.30 and 10.30 on a Wednesday morning, then do mention it to Fr Jeremy or me in the first instance. You'll need to be DBS'd by the Church and by Larchfield and provide satisfactory Disclosure & Barring Service (“DBS”) Certificates, and then you could be an “Open The Book Friend” as the children call us.

**Jan Moss**

## **12:- OAK Report for 2015**

### **OAK is the Ordinands Appeal in Kenya**

The **OAK** project is an exciting way that we can contribute to the building of God's kingdom in Africa. We give money to pay for the training of Ordinands in Kenya and to pay for further training. When new priests are ordained, Bishop Samson is able to set up new parishes in his diocese. This means better provision of services, pastoral care, teaching and evangelism in the villages and towns of Kenya. We started supporting this project in 2004, after our curate Fr Robert went to Kenya with Rev Roy Taylor. We also continue to pray for those we have financed through their training. This is a wonderful way that we can help people in Kenya ‘to encounter Christ in Word and Sacrament’.

We first supported Margaret and Eunice, who trained in 2004-2007. You can see photographs of them on the **OAK** board at the back of the Church. Then we funded Patrick through his training for Ordination, in Bishop Samson's Diocese of Taita Taveta in Kenya. Patrick graduated in November 2010 and was Ordained Deacon on December 5<sup>th</sup> 2010. Next we supported Jemima Mkiwa Mgalu, who has completed her training. Jemima had her graduation Ceremony for her diploma Studies on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2013. It was wonderful that Fr Jeremy was at Jemimah's Graduation and the Ordination Service, as All Saints Church has funded her training and we have been praying for her. Richard Mwachaga Wughoma is our current OAK Ordinand on the Diploma Course. We have also been raising money to support Stephen Satale Norman on his Course for Graduate Studies, starting in 2014.

Bishop Samson sent this news and appreciation in October 2014:

“Greetings from the Anglican Diocese of Taita Taveta Kenya: We indeed appreciate the work of All Saints Maidenhead in supporting in the training of clergy through OAK. Margaret is married to a clergyman in Mombasa Diocese, serves in a parish, she graduated with BD St Paul's University two weeks ago. Patrick is serving with us in one of our parishes and doing very well. He is married. Eunice has been doing further theological training in St Paul's University. She developed ill health during her last semester so she is on recovering break before going back to try and finish her BD studies. Our next ordination will be early next year. It is very likely that we shall ordain Jemima then. Richard is doing well at Bishop Hannington College Mombasa. We were very grateful with the fees you sent to us for him which we received in our Diocesan Account. Stephen has settled in St. Paul's University for his first year. Thanks so much for your support for him. Our greetings to Fr. Jeremy and all members of All Saints.”

It has been good to hear more about Kenya and how **OAK** is appreciated there, from Fr Jeremy, following his visit there as part of his Sabbatical in 2013.

In September 2015 it was good to hear more news of those who have received training through our giving to OAK, when Bishop Liverson, his wife Miriam and Rev Alex visited from Kenya. They all thanked us for the money we give for the training of Priests in Kenya. Bishop Liverson will become the Bishop of Taita Taveta when Bishop Samson retires in the Summer 2016.

At our Harvest Thanksgiving this year we had a retiring collection for the spiritual harvest in Kenya through the OAK project. We are grateful that more than £400 was given into that collection.

Patrick has sent this email expressing his appreciation of our support for him:

“Praise the name of our lord Jesus Christ, am fine and doing well, its quite sometime since we communicated, presently I am happy that I am serving at Buguta parish, kasigau archdeaconry, Taita Taveta diocese.

We are ever grateful for your continued support to us. In fact the training I received by your support has been so helpful to me and the church as a whole. By the grace of God we have seen the number of Christians increasing and we have been able to plant more churches, for instance Mwagwede is a daughter church of Buguta parish that I serve.

We most sincerely thank God for the opportunity to serve Him. As you plan and empower others for the Lords service, we pray together for the advancement of the kingdom of Christ. Once again we are ever grateful.

Rev Patrick Mwilagho Maza.”

Margaret, Eunice, Patrick, Jemima, Richard and Stephen are very grateful for the financial and prayer support from All Saints' Church.

Please will you continue to give financial and prayer support to our **OAK** project.

Thank you,

**Elizabeth Bryson** OAK Co-ordinator, LLM

### **13:- Report for OAK – Fr Jeremy**

We welcomed in September 2015 our mission partners from the Diocese of Taita Tavata in Kenya. We were delighted to see again Bishop Samson, his wife Agatha and Samson's successor, Bishop Liverson, and his wife Miriam. Alex, a priest in the Diocese and serving in Voi, also joined us at All Saints for the weekend in October.

When I visited Kenya with Roy and Jenny Taylor as part of my Sabbatical in November 2013, I met Liverson who was at the time the Headteacher of St Bartholomew's High School. This school came top in the last academic year for its results in the local district, and second in the region, which is about the size of Southern England. Liverson and I had many conversations

during my stay and he gave me a number of opportunities to share my faith with the young people of the school. Liverson commented that it would be great to get the opportunity to preach at All Saints, should he get the chance to visit England. That hope came true last autumn and we were all truly blessed to hear him preach. Bishop Liverson not only preached powerfully but gave such encouragement to the parishioners of All Saints with his words of support at the end of the service.

Fr Alex enjoyed his stay with us as many of our parishioners took him to some of the wonderful attractions that Windsor and Maidenhead offers and I know a few of you have kept contact with this prayerful man.

Within the parish we continue to raise money for the training of clergy in the diocese of Taita Tavata . I am still fortunate to find parishes that are keen to hear of the varied pastoral experiences I was given during my time in Kenya and frequently this leads to money being donated for the OAK appeal.

Please continue to hold the Diocese of Taita Tavata in your prayers as this June Bishop Samson retires and Bishop Liverson will be the new Bishop, seeking to build on the wonderful ministry of Samson. Since 1992 the Diocese has grown from 20 parishes to nearly 100 and we have played a significant part by helping to train a number of the clergy serving in the Diocese. Please continue to support the OAK project in the coming years.  
With my prayers,

***Fr Jeremy***

#### **14:- Partnership for Missional Church Report 2015**

Last year we accepted the invitation from Bishop Andrew 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. We began by forming a PMC Steering group (Jeanette Lock, Mike Ansell, Jo Hawkes, Jo Shepherd, Debbie Firth, Matt Firth and Father Jeremy as our Spiritual leader).

The first year of PMC is all about "listening" to our congregation as a part of discovering our partners.

Key within PMC is "Dwelling in the Word". When we gather together for any PMC meeting we begin each time by "Dwelling in the Word". This helps us to focus on hearing God speak through the Scriptures by His Spirit. For the first year of PMC we have been asked to use Luke Chapter 10, verses 1-12. This passage is a story of mission, of being sent out with the most basic of instructions, dependent on the hospitality of the receivers. As we consider our work, God speaks to us through this passage, sometimes moving us forward, sometimes making us think differently about what is happening and how to respond.

We have had 2 Cluster Meetings in September 2015 and February 2016 where we spent 2 days with other PMC groups from various Churches in the Diocese. These meetings give us the tools and support to help guide us through the PMC process. In between these Cluster meetings, the PMC Steering team has met several times, including a Quiet Morning at Burnham Abbey, to help us plan and prepare for the two main activities we needed to carry out as part of the listening process.

Our first activity was the Listening Survey where, with the help of our “listeners”, we interviewed 24 people from our congregation using a mixture of questions some set by the Diocese and others chosen by the PMC Steering team. These questions were designed to encourage people to talk about their experiences of life and work within All Saints. Recording these stories and insights from our Church are the foundation of Church communication and decision-making. Later in the year we also invited the congregation from both the 8am and 10am Sunday Services to be involved in the Congregational Timeline Event. This gave us the opportunity to collectively reflect on key moments (the good, the bad and the hoped-for) which have been important to us in our religious life at All Saints.

The information from the Listening Survey and Congregational Timeline, together with demographic information collected in the Church Future Finder, have now been collated and our next challenge is to begin the discernment process to help us consider what God has been doing and what God may be calling us to do in mission. These findings will be presented to the congregation within the next few months. Please continue to pray for the PMC Steering Team as we continue to try to discover what God wants us to do at All Saints. In January 2016 we introduced a new style of evening worship in the form of “Space for God”. These take place on Thursday evenings from 7pm to 7.30pm and use a variety of quiet, meditative services to allow us some time out from our busy lives to give us the opportunity to find “Space for God”.

The next Cluster meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18th June 2016 is open to any PCC member to also attend. Please let me know if you are interested in joining us; we would value your support. For more information about PMC please see our information board at the back of church or visit the All Saints web site.

**Jeanette Lock**

*PMC Steering Group Representative.*

## **15:- Pastoral Care Report for 2015**

Pastoral Care was given at All Saints in 2015 by the Ministry Team and also by many people through **conversations, visiting, giving lifts** to and from Church, **telephone calls** and **helping** people in many ways to show the love of the Lord. There are **teams of people** involved with leading and helping at Baptism Preparation, Tiny Saints, Young Saints, Marriage Preparation, Confirmation Preparation and the Alpha Course. The Sidespeople and others **welcome** new people to our Church Services.

Here is a list of some of the ways that we have offered Pastoral Care in 2015. These are ways that we have nurtured people in faith and enabled them ‘to encounter Christ in Word and Sacrament’. There is more detail about some of this Pastoral Care in separate Reports.

- **Baptism** home visits and Baptism Preparation
- **Tiny Saints** Babies and Toddlers Group
- **Young Saints**
- **Open the Book** – taking dramatised Bible stories to Larchfield Primary and All Saints Junior Schools
- **School Assemblies** at Boyne Hill Infants, All Saints Junior, Larchfield Primary and Altwood Schools
- **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

- **Confirmation Preparation** for 2 adults
- **The Alpha Course**
- **Bible Study groups:** The Pilgrim Course – *The Return of the Prodigal Son* in Lent, *The Communion Model of the Church* in Eastertide and *The Beatitudes* in the Autumn.
- **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
- **Prison Ministry** – writing letters
- **Larchfield Nursing Home** Communion Services and individual prayers twice a month
- **Boyn Grove Day Centre** 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 and attending meetings
- **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**

**Elizabeth Bryson LLM**

## 16:- Alpha in 2015

Alpha in 2015 has been a great joy and a blessing to those who attended, because they grew in faith, knowledge, understanding and experience of the Lord. It was wonderful to have people on the Course wanting to prepare for Confirmation. It has been good to have people who have recently started coming to Church as well as people who have been going to Church for many years, using Alpha as a 'refresher course'. Alpha has helped people 'to encounter Christ in Word and Sacrament'.



Alpha 2015 was in the Summer, with 7 evening sessions in the Birinus Room and the Holy Spirit Day on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August.

It was a great joy that two adults attending the Alpha Course were confirmed by Bishop Andrew on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at a very special Service at The Minster Church in Reading. We welcomed them to their First Communion on All Saints Day 1<sup>st</sup> November.

We are grateful to the members of the Congregation who support the ministry of Alpha by praying for the Group. The DVD Talks followed by discussion enable those on the Course to find out about Christianity, with an emphasis on knowing God and coming into a relationship with the Lord through faith in Jesus.

It is encouraging to read comments written by people who have come to Alpha in 2015 about how the Alpha Course has helped them to grow in faith:

- I enjoyed being around fellow Christians and growing together.
- I am on a long and happy journey, gaining confidence and knowledge every day.
- My Holy Spirit Day was a revelation and prompted me to learn more.
- I am now growing in faith and am more involved.
- I feel more refreshed about beliefs.
- I now feel a lot happier that God knows and understands me.
- The Alpha Course answered many of my questions.
- I enjoyed the company and the theological discussions.
- Alpha has helped me as I am less stressed, happier and more contented with my life.
- My faith is deeper and my love for the Church is stronger.
- I have grown deeper in faith and learned new things.
- I am a true believer and follower of Christ.

There are many people who wonder: 'Is there more to life than this?' They would welcome the opportunity of finding out about Christianity and experiencing the love of God in their lives. The Alpha Course is such a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a friendly welcome, find out what Christians believe, ask questions and discuss your ideas.

This 2015 Alpha Course is the 22<sup>nd</sup> Alpha that I have led here in the Parish of All Saints Boyne Hill since 2002. In all those Alpha Courses people have grown to know more of the love of Jesus and are inspired to share their faith with others. Please will you recommend Alpha to people you know and invite them to the next Alpha Course so they can 'encounter Christ in Word and Sacrament'.

Thank you,

***Elizabeth Bryson, Alpha Course Leader, LLM***

### **17:- Street Angels Report for 2015**

All Saints' support for Street Angels was strengthened during 2015 by the appointment of Fr Jeremy as Chaplain to the charity and the active involvement of Jeanette Lock. Fr Jeremy has taken over from Revd Mark Balfour (formerly at St Peter's) who has been called to ministry in South America with his wife. Periodically Fr Jeremy will meet with Street Angels at the start of a shift to pray with them, and for the people they will encounter on the streets that evening.

Regulars at the Sunday 10.00 am service will have seen Jeanette wearing her Angel jacket. This is to signify that she has been on duty overnight. Do please make a point of asking her about her experiences on the streets of Maidenhead. You might be inspired to join her! So what is required to be a Street Angel?

When you encounter situations as told in the Good Samaritan, is your instinct to cross to the other side of the road, or do you say a quick prayer to ask God to give you the strength to see if you can help? Perhaps the hardest challenge is to be able to suppress any prejudice over the circumstances and see the person needing help as just that, a fellow human being. Think how often in our newspapers and on television news there are stories about refugees, immigrants, or the homeless. Try and think of those people as fellow human beings. If you can, then you are on the way to being a Street Angel.

***Mike Moss***  
***Street Angel Trustee***

## **18:- Boyne Hill Mother's Union Report**

Boyne Hill Mothers' Union continues to flourish, despite the fact that there are very few surviving Groups in Maidenhead and Windsor.

It has been somewhat different this last year, with many changes and re-settling after the departure of our much loved and respected Ena Jones. True to her promise, she has kept in touch and indeed some of us have been to visit her in her new Home where she has settled very well. In her absence from All Saints, we have made strides to maintain the high profile she established, hopefully with some measure of success, although we at All Saints have not found a new pianist.

Last May, the Group, led by Margaret Hill, held a Retirement party for Ena. We also welcomed back another staunch ex-MU member, Ella Tichener, who was making a farewell appearance before settling finally with her daughter on the South Coast. The Rev. Jeremy was also a guest, and Mike Moss from the general congregation recorded the event with a warm and happy photograph which some of you may have seen in a subsequent issue of Focus.

Happily, after a rocky start to the year, our finances have stabilized. Although we had a willing volunteer to be our new Treasurer, she sadly stepped down at an early stage when she found the problems to be insurmountable for her experience. We now have enormous help from Wendy's husband, Arthur Channon, who has been invaluable in dealing with the seemingly endless requirements from the Bank with their ever-changing regulations. As a result, he has now become an enrolled member of our Group.

We are also grateful to Mike Moss who has acted as our independent Examiner when submitting our Accounts to Oxford. Barbara Bannister, who has kindly audited our Accounts for very many years is currently recovering from a hip replacement operation as the result of a fall, and we include her in our prayers for a successful recovery.

There have been many changes this year at the head office of Mary Sumner House in Oxford, and a new team have been establishing themselves in a new set of offices. There is no doubt that in this technical age in which we live, communication takes on an entirely different significance. Far from minimizing paper, it simply seems to multiply the necessity for form filling and box-ticking! However, despite the volume of administration, we seem to hold our own, although it does mean another small increase in the annual subscription fees. This is a topic which regularly causes great worry to our committee, and we are grateful to our members for maintaining their donation.

With all these activities, the Group has retained its close-knit attitude, and largely it has been a self-help year. We have had interesting visits from members of the congregation, and our Quiet Day was led by the Rev. Sally Lynch from St. Luke's Church, talking of her deeply satisfying time in Galilee. In November on Remembrance Day, we welcomed our Elizabeth Bryson, and she gave us some well researched tales of the Fallen from Maidenhead in the First World War. That was indeed impressive.

In January 2016 we welcomed Jean Vaughan, our Area Vice President from Oxford. She hopes to instil a new project for the Group, and to inspire us all in our outlook. We in turn enjoyed meeting her, encouraging a closer link for the future.



We have continued our commitment to support the Mothers and Toddlers Group, and also regularly take our turn in the Parish Rota for Refreshment duties, and offering Gifts on Sunday mornings. We have organised the Toiletries Stall at the annual Fete, and are proud of our donation to a very healthy total raised in aid of All Saints.

Sadly one of our regular and loved members, Muriel Boulter, lost a long-fought battle with her health last month. It was a wonderful tribute to her warm and loyal personality to see such a large congregation at her funeral, movingly led by Father Jeremy. Afterwards there was a gathering in the Parish Hall for refreshments, where we were able to inspect the many photographs on show. We are now praying deeply for Kath Horne, who was our able Treasurer for 17 years, and another loyal and much respected member of the Mothers' Union. She is currently in St. Marks Hospital and we continue to pray for her in her suffering. *(Since writing this report Kath has sadly passed away after some years of failing health.)*

Our new leader, Margaret Hill, has a serious eye defect which means she can no longer drive and also recently had an accident resulting in a broken right wrist. She is also suffering from other health problems but, despite these set-backs, she is proving to be a strong leader and encourages us all to maintain our efforts to sustain the aims of the Mothers Union. At this time of year, and indeed across the globe, so many people need sincere prayers and support. As Ena has previously mentioned, the second commandment- Thou shall love thy neighbour as thyself – could not be more appropriate and applicable.

Our Christmas party with Carols included a small playlet – Xmas Express – which was a great success. We were delighted to welcome several members from Edmund Campion Church and the Baptist Church who joined us for the occasion. The play was written by a writer friend of one of our members, Gwen Burkitt, who produced the event. There was much hilarity – and the grand raffle was also popular, enabling us to once more send some Christmas cards to families of prisoners, as we have done for a few years now.

We have just completed the season from March 2015 to March 2016, and have gathered and paid the yearly subscriptions which are due to be paid this month to the Head Office of the Mothers Union in Oxford. Overall, when analysed, it means that members pay £2 for each month of their membership, which we believe to be worth the support we receive. It covers the large amount of administration necessary to maintain the efforts by the Diocese, and reinforces the unity across the globe which is inspired by the Mothers Union.

**Wendy Channon**

## 19:- Tiny Saints in 2015



Tiny Saints Toddlers' Group started in December 2010, to provide a Church Toddlers' Group with a Biblical theme each week. We invite those planning their baby's Baptism to come to Tiny Saints, as this makes an excellent 'next step' after Baptism. We have a Christian theme each week to introduce small children to the teachings of Jesus. There are craft activities linking to the Bible story, toys and activities suitable for babies up to children aged 4 years, Bible story books to

enjoy, fruit and healthy snacks for the Tiny Saints. Their Carers enjoy tea, coffee and cake. We have a 'Service' with children's songs, nursery rhymes and songs about Jesus - 'Jesus loves me this I know' and 'Jesus love is very wonderful'. We enjoy a Bible Story and end with our Tiny Saints prayer. In 2015 Tiny Saints continued to be very popular, with up to 25 Tiny Saints enjoying the activities on a Friday morning.

Here are some comments about Tiny Saints:

- We enjoy coming to Tiny Saints each week because we have made new friends.
- The children enjoy the various crafts and toys.
- We all love the sing-song and Bible stories and the genuine welcome we all receive.
- It is great to come to a Group where babies are welcome.
- I like the calm and peaceful atmosphere of Tiny Saints.
- Very well organised and run. We love the group.
- The Group is very friendly.
- Fantastic group. We look forward to Friday mornings.
- We like the 'healthy snacks' with the children sitting round the table.

Thank you to the great team of people from the Church who help by setting out the toys, organising the craft activities, buying and preparing the food and drinks, playing the piano earlier in the year and talking to the Tiny Saints and their Carers to provide a friendly, caring welcome.

Tiny Saints would love to have some new helpers in this important Ministry of Pastoral Care and Welcoming new people to Tiny Saints and the Church Community. We are pleased to welcome people who are new to the area, those planning Baptisms and their friends coming to Tiny Saints.

Our new Church strapline is 'to encounter Christ in Word and Sacrament'. We 'encounter Christ in Word' through the Bible Story each week emphasising the love of Jesus. Many of the Tiny Saints have recently 'encountered Christ' in the Sacrament of Baptism. Other families are preparing for Baptism. We encourage the Tiny Saints families to attend our 10am Worship for All Eucharists where they can 'to encounter Christ in Word and Sacrament'.

**Elizabeth Bryson, Tiny Saints leader, LLM**

## 20:- Young Saints Report 2015

**Members of Young Saints Teaching Team:** Christine Dunford, Michelle Symonds, Hannah Wilson, Pearl Boayke, Sally Dahlbohm, Isabelle Fatoux, Jenny Wilks, June Crouch  
Thanks to Christine and Hannah, who stepped down during 2015, for their contribution to Young Saints over many years.

## **Attendance**

There are about 20 children on the register who have attended Young Saints at some stage during the year. The number of children attending each week has varied a lot but numbers are generally low at between 2 and 6. In addition, we have had about 10 visitors who have come once or twice. The children who are old enough for Cafe Church (age 10 and over) now rarely come to Young Saints which explains some of the drop in numbers. However, we also compete with other activities taking place on Sunday mornings. We continue to have an issue with not many younger children starting in Young Saints.

## **Structure**

The monthly structure for the young people on Sunday mornings seems to be working well. Week 2 is a Messy Church style session in the Parish Centre focused on activities for the younger children to coincide with Cafe Church. Week 3 involves preparation for All Age Worship e.g. making a poster, preparing an activity. Week 4 is All Age Worship when children stay in church during the service. The other weeks are usually based around a Bible story with a variety of activities. (The structure can vary slightly due to All Age Worship topics during the Church calendar).

## **Operation Christmas Child (OCC)**

Several of the older children led the organisation for the OCC project in the autumn. The Young Saints were actively involved in collecting items and making up shoeboxes with gifts. They talked to the congregation about OCC, including being interviewed during the sermon, they made posters to show what gifts could go in the boxes, and they generated enthusiasm for the project. It culminated in a morning of wrapping the boxes and filling them with gifts, which everyone enjoyed. The children learnt about children elsewhere in the world who are not as fortunate as they are and how to help them in a practical way. The project was a great success as the congregation donations enabled the Young Saints to make up 76 boxes. Most of these went to Albania and Zambia.

## **Crib Service**

The Crib Service is one of the highlights of the Christmas season. During this service on Christmas Eve, the Young Saints acted out the Nativity. Nine children took part - they narrated and acted confidently in front of a packed church.

## **Summer Fair**

The Young Saints team ran a stall selling toys and books at the Summer Fair.

## **The future**

The numbers of children attending Young Saints continues to fall. There do not seem to be many young families attending church on Sundays. We continue to look at ways to link Young Saints with Tiny Saints, baptism and other connections with very young children to see how we can encourage families into church and therefore children into Sunday School when they are of age.

## ***Christine Dunford***

## **21:- Report for Café Church and The Film Club 2015**

The Café Church is a group of young people that meets once a month on a Sunday at All Saints Church in the Birinus room. The group share hot chocolate and normally some cakes or chocolate biscuits. The group sometimes watch clips from films to introduce some themes to discuss. Some films that have been viewed over the last 12 months or so include Bruce Almighty, Evan Almighty, the Grinch, Noah, Kite Runner and Inside Out, Paddington, and The Simpsons.

Noah and Evan Almighty helped us to look at the events and questions raised by the flood described in Genesis. Using the Simpsons we looked at the commandment 'Thou shalt not steal' and through the enjoyable Paddington film about a bear from Peru we looked at how we receive people from other countries.

The wonderful film 'Inside out' is an imaginative journey in to the mind of an 11 year old girl called Riley. We discovered the emotions of joy, fear, anger, disgust and sadness. As a group the young people discussed whether there is righteous anger and do we sometimes have happiness or joy at the expense of others.

Following our Christmas showing of the Grinch young people shared a roast dinner and gave a donation. The £50 raised went to buy food for the homeless Christmas meal that was provided by Sue Brett and other volunteers on Christmas day.

The Café Church is used mainly to introduce the film and one or two ideas from the story and the Film club on the Friday evening allows a full showing of the film with some discussion.

The group has recently grown in number to about 10 young people.

With my prayers,

***Fr Jeremy***

## **22:- Report for The Men of Boyne Hill 2015**

The year began with a wonderful pilgrimage to Walsingham when we joined Fr Simon Evans and his parish from Ruislip. The weekend enabled us to join with men from Fr Simon's parish sharing the Eucharist, the Stations of the Cross, the healing services and a few extras such as hymn singing over beers and wine and interesting discussions over questions of faith. I know that the 6 pilgrims from Boyne Hill found this pilgrimage a rewarding experience. In March of 2015 we invited Ron Berry to give us a talk at the vicarage on The Tall Ships. This is a charity that Ron has supported for a number of years and it led to another interesting evening.

In May we shared with the Tuesday Club an excellent walk in Eton finishing with a relaxed drink in a pub. It was a beautiful evening's walk organised by Mike and Jan Moss which was enjoyed by all.

In June, Peter May and Matt Firth prepared a BBQ following the morning Eucharist to celebrate Fathers' Day. Fortunately, the sun was out and we enjoyed the burgers and hot dogs and a good number of people shared in the celebration.

Also during the summer, the Men of Boyne Hill shared a brunch at the vicarage. As has become the custom ladies were invited to join in the hospitality.

The events for 2015 concluded with the showing of the titanic battle in the Rugby World Cup between South Africa and New Zealand. The All Blacks won a close game to advance to the final where they defeated the Aussies. Not much to report in terms of the Home nations other than a small nation wearing red defeated a large nation wearing white!

In 2016 we will be planning another exciting series of events including the showing of 2 parts of the History of Christianity series with Diarmaid MacCulloch, Professor of the History of the Church at Oxford University, the showing of more 6 nations rugby games and hopefully one or two walks during the summer.

Thanks to John Harrison and Mike Ansell for their contributions to planning the group.

With my prayers,

***Fr Jeremy***

### **23:- All Saints' Servers' Report 2015**

The Servers' ministry is essential to effective Anglo-Catholic worship, and we can be rightly proud of our serving teams. They take their duties seriously and carry them out with dignity and diligence. A mark of proficient Servers is that for the most part the congregation is not consciously aware of what the servers are doing: this indicates that they are not drawing attention to themselves, but are providing an effective back-drop to worship. True worship lifts up the soul to heaven and gives us a foretaste of what it means to be caught up in God; the servers play a vital role in enabling this glimpse of our real celestial home. As a priest I am buoyed up by the ministry of our servers and grateful indeed for their devotion to the Lord and His people.

In past years we have gone through shortages of Servers – although there has always been a full team. We have had some servers on duty on more than one Sunday and even more so when there are extra services for festivals and solemnities. In the past year we have welcomed new and enthusiastic recruits who have stayed the course because, I am convinced, they know the value of what they do, and feel privileged to serve the Lord and His people. Experienced Servers encourage those who have recently joined, and all of them cover for one another. They also take responsibility for their duties, and arrange among themselves any swaps that are necessary. This gives them a sense of ownership and avoids administrative burdens.

My duties as head Server have now been handed to Nick Kirk, who is responsible for training, organisation and looking after the Servers, and to Sally Deal, who arranges the rotas. May the Lord give them all the grace they need in their tasks, and may all His blessings be upon our faithful and loyal servers.

***Fr Neil Bryson***

### **24:- 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 duties 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; 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 Crèche, Young Saints and Cafe Church (as appropriate) 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 and we are extremely grateful for their service.

### ***Stella Harding***

#### **25:- All Saints Boyne Hill Choir**

Last year I reported that a number of people had joined the choir on an ad hoc basis. I am pleased to report that their time commitment has increased and we have had one or two other new members join us. Thus the hoped-for growth and strengthening of the choir has continued.

The accomplishments of this group is also growing and their contribution continues to enrich our worship at All Saints. A notable highlight was the Christmas Nine Lessons and Carols Service. Normally this service includes a significant number of extra singers (all of whom have connections with All Saints) but for a variety of reasons several of them were unable to participate this time. Thus we were more dependent than usual on our normal, regular resources who rose to the occasion in fine style.

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 not enhances the singing of the choir but also provides a variety of playing style. We are very fortunate to have the services of such talented and generous musicians.

We have also improved the planning and liaison with Rock Shop so that our respective contributions to the joyful praise at All Saints are complementary and supportive.

### ***Brian Graves***

*Director of Music*

#### **26:- Rock Shop Report**

Rock Shop has grown this year with new musicians recently joining and a wider repertoire of music to play.

Firstly, we would like to thank Martin Whitehurst for all his contributions to setting up and playing drums with Rock Shop. Without him, we probably wouldn't have our own instruments in Church. We wish him and Vanessa well for their new life in the Midlands.

Secondly, would like to thank Bridget McGregor. A lot of the music we play has been professionally arranged by her to suit all our instrumentalists and we always enjoy the

rehearsals which she has run for us once a term. We appreciate that, even though she has an extremely busy job, she has found the time to give her invaluable support.

Recently music has also been arranged by myself and our latest recruit, Matthew Ashley, who has inspired us with his arrangements. We were very pleased to welcome Matthew as our new drummer and guitarist and Alan Hatch who also plays guitar.

Thanks also to the children who have played this year with Rock Shop - Charlie Warren, Isabel May, Florence Wilson, Hazel Wilks, Charlotte Dorosh, Nicola Dunford. They work hard practising and we are pleased that the Church is able to offer them the opportunity to develop their musical skills during worship. Thanks also to Deborah Firth and Lynn May - our Lead Rock Shop Singers, who also help behind the scenes.

As you can see Rock Shop is thriving due to hard work from all its members - arranging music, practising and getting organised. We hope the congregation will continue to enjoy worship with us.

***Christine Dunford***  
*Rock Shop Leader*

## **27:- Flower Arrangers' Report**

I have been asked to stand in for Barbara and write this report covering the Flower Arranging Year 2015-2016, while she is recuperating from her fall.

As I am sure most members of the congregation are aware, Barbara has for many years guided the Flower Arranging Team throughout the church year, making sure all the Festivals are celebrated with flowers of the correct type and colour and her knowledge and guidance is very much appreciated. However, without the beautiful flowers, so generously sponsored by members of the congregation, the Church would not benefit from being decorated each week. It is obvious that all who attend our lovely Church appreciate the floral displays as I have had many comments, (at times when flowers are not present during Advent and Lent), that the Church looks bare and how uplifting it is when they are there, so our grateful thanks go out to all the members of the congregation for their generous sponsorship, the special gift of lilies at Eastertide, and for their continued support, which means that no Church funds are used to decorate the Church.

Thanks are due to my fellow team mates, Marian Duncombe, Jean Balchin, Carole Deverill, Valerie Duncombe, Ann Rawlings and Linda Wallbank for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. Also to Alan Ketley and Pauline Hole for setting up the Easter Garden last year (and hopefully this) and to all those who have helped at festivals and other busy times, particularly Brenda Ilott, Rosemary Tyson and Pat Church to name but a few.

As always we would welcome more people to become involved with the flower arranging, and we don't just mean the ladies! As I am sure you are aware there are many very talented men in floristry, so if we have any men who feel they would like to become involved they would be very welcome, maybe we could have some husband and wife teams! The flowers are usually arranged by one or two members of the team on a Friday morning so if anyone would like to try their hand at something new, come along on a Friday morning and see what is involved. To start with you could work with one of the present arrangers for a while or start as an assistant.

Thank you for reading this report.

***Jo Towers – for Barbara Bannister***

## **28:- Boyne Hill Tuesday Club Report**

To date, 5 April, we have had another successful year with good attendance: we now have 30 members, with as many as 24/26 regularly attending meetings.

Secretary, Linda, arranged an excellent programme, starting in November 2015 with Pagodas, followed by The lady with White Elephants, Revd Judith, Alexander Devine talk, Christmas Flowers, Birth of a Nation and Australia – to name but a few. We finish with a Ramble in June and Mike and Jan always come up with a lovely walk and a pub to have a drink at the end!

We look forward to our AGM in September – and hopefully another successful year.

***Brenda Illott***  
*Leader*

## **29:- Report from 8<sup>th</sup> Maidenhead Rainbow Guides 2015**

Rainbows are the youngest section of Girlguiding UK, from 5 – 7 yrs old. Our unit has 15 girls and meets for an hour each Friday during term time at the Parish Centre. The leaders are Marie Taylor (Hamster) and Heather Noyce (Hedgehog), supported by Abigail Dennis (Butterfly). Due to family relocation, it is likely that Marie Taylor (Leader in Charge) will be moving abroad in the summer and the unit will require a new leader to ensure its long term survival.

We started the year celebrating Rainbow Riots at Holyport Memorial Hall. This year it had a zoo theme and the girls were able to get up close to a range of small animals. We have met with other Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from the area for our District Christmas Celebration at St Peter's Church in December and the Division Thinking Day celebration at the Magnet in February. Next month we are hoping to join the division rainbows for an outing to Waddesdon Manor.

At Christmas we had a fundraising evening as part of our badge work. We raised enough money to adopt a Squirrel on Brownsea Island, one of the challenges for our Squirrel badge. This badge was put together by the 4<sup>th</sup> Maidenhead Methodist Guides to raise money for their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations next year. The evening was very successful and we were pleased to be able to donate £56 to the Brett Foundation. We have also completed our Butterfly Badge, Seahorse Badge and Roundabout Get Healthy Badge this year. We planted seeds for our mums for Mothering Sunday and will be renewing the flowers in three pots in the Quadrangle when the weather improves.

We have also been out and about this year. We have had a Silent Disco, taken part in the Farm to Fork Trail at Tesco in Windsor where we got up close to some fish from the fish counter and also thoroughly enjoyed the Maidenhead Drama Guild pantomime at the Town Hall just before Christmas.

In amongst all this we have found time to celebrate St George's Day, have an indoor campfire, make pizzas, enjoy ice cream at the pretend seaside and still fit in the annual favourites of annual silly sports day, Teddy Bear's Picnic at Punt Hill and Christmas party.



If you know of any adults or older teenagers that are keen to get involved and keep our unit running, please get in touch. 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.

***Alwyn Kimber***

### **30:- All Saints Parish Centre and the Users Group Committee Report**

The Parish Centre continues to provide a valuable meeting place for a number of local community groups as well as for Church events and activities. Groups using it on a regular basis include: The Mother & Toddler Group, Beavers, Rainbows, Boyne Hill Close Management Committee, Helen Styles - violin teacher, "JoJingles" and Social Services for "Family Conferences". Church groups include "Tiny Saints", Young Saints, Mothers Union and the Tuesday Club. The Parish Centre has also been the venue for many other events such as children's parties, baptism parties, "celebration of life" gatherings, pre-wedding receptions and drama group rehearsals.

Representatives of the regular user groups serving on the Parish Centre Users' Group Committee have continued to meet with representatives from the Church during the year to discuss the hiring arrangements and the facilities provided. Any issues or concerns the groups may have, have been shared and discussed at these meetings and generally resolved, or action plans agreed where necessary.

Other matters such as health and safety and fire evacuation procedures have also been covered in the meetings. The Parish Centre Hire Agreement is also reviewed regularly and updated as necessary; the experience gained by Janet Emerson, our Booking Clerk, of taking bookings provides a very useful source of information and helps ensure that all the key details are included in the Hire Agreement. Janet continues to provide an excellent service and is a valuable point of contact for both our regular user groups as well as those wishing to make a single booking of the hall.

Peter May, the PCC's Financial Officer has provided guidance on financial matters and input and advice to discussions about fixtures and fittings; due to the updating and maintenance work carried out in previous years there hasn't been much of this nature to do in 2015. Peter will be stepping down at the end of the financial year and we look forward to working with the new Financial Officer in due course.

Sylvia Denison continues to manage the day to day care 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.

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. In turn, the Parish Centre Users' Committee Meetings continue to provide a very useful forum for discussing the use of the Parish Centre and ways for improving and enhancing this valuable facility. The meetings also provide the opportunity to resolve any issues or concerns in good company, generally with some considerable laughter, tea and cake.

***Stella Harding***

### 31:- All Saints Web Site and Social Media

[www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk](http://www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk)

The new All Saints website has been active for over a year now and is 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 has kindly been constructed by Martin Whitehurst and is based upon a Content Management System (CMS), and uses a purchased template from "PresenceChurch", which is designed for Church Use.

Martin has also posted 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.)*

The website is regularly attracting between 15 and 30 visitors per day; with between 5 and 15 of these being new visitors. These are unique visitors and the numbers significantly increase around major festivals/events (such as Holy Week and the hosting of the Deanery Synod at All Saints). There are usually between 200 and 700 page views per day – a page view includes, for example, looking at a calendar event, a pew sheet, an image and a news item. This also includes indexing trackers which make the site relatively easy to find on search engines such as Google.

As site usage has increased, so has data usage and the site can be a bit "sluggish" at times. We will shortly move it to a new "host" with greater data throughput to enable the site to continue to respond as its usage increases.

As the site develops and matures it is holding significant amounts of information. As well as information 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 Elizabeth Bryson's excellent research into the fallen of All Saints.

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 pages/calendars.

However the content delegation is still largely unconstructed. This means that when you log in, the system does not know what page you have ownership of. This requires the page owners to both take ownership, be trained and to maintain their pages/areas/calendars. This is pending completion following a further review of ownership with the PCC/page owners. 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/content owners and to ensure that the content owners are able to, and do, maintain their 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.

Martin has moved on to a new job and we thank him for all his hard work in setting the site up. Simon Fullarton will, with Martin's continuing support, gradually take over the "webmaster" role and also migrate the site to a new host (where it is stored on the internet and which provides the amount of access/data to enable smooth operation).

## **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.

## **Twitter**

We also have a very active Twitter feed at:-

<https://twitter.com/AllSaintsBHill>

This is kindly being maintained by Julia Wakling and has attracted 92 "followers" (having made 837 "tweets"). 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.

## **Roderick Broad**