

A L L S A I N T S C H U R C H
Boyne Hill, Maidenhead

ANNUAL REPORT



2006

Overview Of The Year

At the time of writing this report David Morgan, John Ainslie, Mike Moss and Ken Smith were invited to a Deanery event at Windsor Castle aimed at improving the links between parishes. David and Mike were asked to take a symbol that would represent the ministry of All Saints. They came up with the idea of taking a bottle of wine, not so as to survive the meeting but because they thought it spoke about our vision. The wine representing the Communion model of the Church, Eucharistic worship and the desire for the gift of hospitality to be at the centre of all our missionary activity in our celebration year and into the future.

To remind ourselves of the Communion model with its five dimensions. 1. The Trinity, 2. The Body of Christ, 3. The Sacrament, 4. The People of God, 5. The Social or Leaven in the World.

In the Trinity we are reminded of the Rublev Icon and our invitation to enter through the Eucharist into a relationship with God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. That relationship of love should reflect our relations with each other within the Body of Christ.

The Body of Christ again reminds us of the Eucharist when we receive communion with God in the breaking of bread and sharing of wine. We the people that make up the Body of Christ through communion with Him are to share fellowship with each other, learn together, pray together and reach out to others.

The sacramental dimension is that God through Christ revealed His love for the world. As Christ left this world he left the Church empowered by the Holy Spirit to represent Him in the world. Think of the Supper at Emmaus as Jesus broke the bread, the disciples eyes were opened and he disappeared from their sight. They were charged to be His body in the world, The Sacrament of Salvation.

The People of God suggests that we are a group of faithful people that are not perfect, but journeying towards the Kingdom of Heaven and as we do so we should reach out to others. Through our Baptism we are equipped by the Holy Spirit to use our gifts to carry out God's mission in the world.

Finally the social or Leaven in the world dimension. If we become more aware of the implications of living communion, the links between collaborative ministry and mission will emerge. We will take these values into our daily lives in our families, work and the wider society. In church we may consider the way we value young people, the elderly, families and what importance we attach to issues of justice such as Fairtrade and ecology.

What were our hopes and expectations for the year?

- That we would grow in our relationship with the Lord and grow in confidence in our faith.
- That we would offer hospitality in our life as the Body of Christ.
- Through our growth in faith we would want to use our gifts to build up the Body of Christ, the Church.
- We will become a Missionary congregation.

Outcomes

We have grown in faith through Godly play, Alpha, Emmaus, Bible reading and the use of art, literature, music and films.

Our celebration events including speakers, courses, concerts and our Sunday afternoon opening all have hospitality offered with them.

More and more people having recognised the value of the Communion model of growing in relation with God and each other are using their gifts in various ways.

We have teams of people running Young Saints and Godly play.

The Baptism preparation is lead by a group of people using Godly play.

Messy Church has people offering family activities, eucharistic worship and hospitality.

The church has recently started a youth club run by church members.

The nurture courses of Alpha and Emmaus have teams of people leading them and people offering hospitality.

Our children's confirmation course will be planned and led by a group of enthusiastic leaders and again offering hospitality.

A number of people have offered their gifts and interests in art, music and through the Chocolat film to enable faith issues to be discussed and you guessed it, hospitality has been offered.

The church has used and sold Fairtrade products and as part of the Mission weekend is working closely with the schools to become more eco-friendly and perhaps find a sustainable project to help people in Africa.

Let us not forget that nearly £35,000 was raised in 6 months using peoples gifts and talents to install the new heating system.

Others have helped by using their skills to put us on a path towards restoring the tower and spire.

Thanks to the Congregation of All Saints

My thanks go to all of you who have helped in the planning and leading of the projects mentioned in this report. In the everyday running of the Church I cannot give thanks by name but I express my gratitude to the choir and servers, our director of music, all who help with the pew sheet, rotas, service booklets, and those who clean the church and prepare the flowers. Other important roles are the ministry of the church wardens, the verger, the sacristan, the treasurer and those who act as sidespeople and those who give me invaluable support running the office. There are I am sure people and groups of people who I have left out so can I say thank you to all of you who contribute to the life, worship and mission of All Saints.

Finally Carys and myself would like to express our sincere gratitude to all of you for making us feel so welcome as members of the community at All Saints.

God Bless

Love Fr Jeremy and Carys



Cream Teas



Social Events



Traidcraft - supporting fair trade

Churchwarden's Fabric Report

Ken Smith

Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991

It is a requirement of this measure that a report should be presented to the Annual Church Meeting on the 'fabric, goods and ornaments' of the church. This report from the Resources Mission Group encompasses the requirement

Goods and Ornaments

These are in good order, including the linen, silver, candles and brassware. An Inventory is available. We are grateful to Rod Broad and Simon Fisk who have presented us with the wonderful wooden chalice and paten in memory of Chris Broad and Sue Freeborough.

Fabric

Under the auspices of the Resources Group the church building has been carefully monitored throughout the year and attention paid both to major and less significant issues. This report highlights a number of those items and looks to some issues for the future.

West window

The grill was refixed over one of the lights.

The arch

Considerable vegetation was removed.

Asbestos

An asbestos survey of the church and the parish centre has been carried out and as a result all the asbestos lagging in the boiler room was removed in June and a certificate of removal is held.

Heating

After careful consideration by the PCC of recommendations by our architect and other experts a Faculty was obtained to replace the old oil-fired boiler and old radiators by a new gas-fired system and new cast iron radiators. The installation of the new system was completed in November. The work has been made possible by the generosity of parishioners.

Tower and Spire

A block of masonry fell from the top of tower on 25 April. An urgent investigation by steeplejacks revealed that a rusted iron band and rusted cramps elsewhere in the steeple, together with weathering of the masonry, meant that the tower and spire were in poor condition. With the authority of an Archdeacon's Certificate temporary netting was installed to contain further crumbling masonry and an urgent application made to English heritage for a grant once it was established that the cost of the restoration could be over £1M.

We now know that English Heritage, in conjunction with the Heritage Lottery Fund, have given us a grant in principle of £754,000. Detailed investigation work is forecast to continue through 2007 and the physical work is likely to commence early in 2008.

Future work on the church

We are holding in a restricted fund money to replace the carpet in the church, which the PCC has agreed should be red. Once a suitable price has been agreed with the retailer a faculty will be applied for.

- A brick in the arch needs to be replaced.
- Lead flashing over the sacristy needs to be re-fixed.
- Excess pea shingle along the north wall needs to be removed.
- Parish centre.

Now that a Parish Centre Committee has been established repairs to the parish centre are described in that Committee's annual report (q.v.)

Prior to this:

- 2 new taps were fitted in the Gents.
- A new toilet seat was fitted in the Ladies
- A window broken by a bird in the hall was renewed
- A baby-changing platform has been fitted.



P.C.C. Report

John Ainslie

Meetings

The PCC met on 9 occasions in 2006, of which 7 were regular meetings, one was an extraordinary meeting following the APCM to elect officers and standing committee, and one was an extraordinary meeting held in July to approve the submission of a Faculty Application for the installation of the new heating system.

Issues

Particular issues dealt with during the year have included fund raising for, and installation of, a new heating system to replace the one which was the subject of extensive leakage over winter 2005 / 6; the making safe of the tower following a fall of masonry in spring 2006, followed by a successful application to English Heritage for major funding towards repair of the tower and spire; and preparations for the 150th anniversary celebrations in 2007.

Activities during 2006

The PCC Resources Mission Group has continued to oversee the general care and maintenance of the buildings. The Links and Community Mission groups were suspended part way through 2006 to allow for a more flexible approach to planning for all our activities throughout the 150th year Celebrations in 2007. However, activities in the areas of Links and Community continued during the year, in particular through the Alpha, Emmaus and Godly Play activities, through PCC representation on the Churches Together in Maidenhead steering group, and through the various activities organised as fund-raising events for the new heating system – many of which had a social or community dimension.

The shape of the Celebration 2007 events was agreed, taking note of guidance from our Bishop about how All Saints might evolve into an outwardly-focussed Missionary Congregation. The main components for the Celebration year are to be a Celebration weekend over All Saints-Tide 2007 including a confirmation service and schools activities; a series of special services with keynote preachers dealing with various aspects of the theme of becoming a missionary congregation; a series of concerts and musical events; an invitation to the congregation to join together in following a bible reading scheme - reading the whole of the bible through the course of the year; and having the church open to the public on every Sunday afternoon throughout the year – supported by the production of updated notes on features of interest in the All Saints church building.

Young Saints

Lucy Cowdery

Members of the group

Lucy Cowdery, Christine Dunford, Debbie Firth, Stella Harding, Father Jeremy Harris, Tanya Howarth, Leigh Hutchinson-May, Michelle Symonds, Margaret Phillips, Anne Smith.

Our Sessions

We have continued to build on the great work that was accomplished last year and started to include regular Godly Play sessions for the whole group.

Several teachers have been on Godly Play courses and, although we do not have the time or resources to do Godly Play every week, we do ensure that the Godly Play style is followed each week for consistency.

The children come through from the Church during the first hymn and line up outside the Birinus room to be registered. They know to take their shoes off as they are about to enter a special room – the Birinus room. They are welcomed into the room one by one by ‘the gate keeper’ and join the teacher in a circle.

If it is a Godly Play week the children will be shown a story using wooden figures which allows them to wonder and question. At the end they are asked questions which draw out their thoughts. It allows them to really live the stories rather than just have a story read to them.

If it is not a Godly Play week we will follow the theme of the Church year eg Christmas, Harvest, Easter, Epiphany etc and teach them using resources such as web sites and books.

Whether it is a Godly Play week or not the children will finish by doing some sort of craft work and a prayer before re-joining the congregation for Communion.

Part of the congregation

The Young Saints notice board is regularly updated and we have continued to produce a termly newsletter which is proving very popular. There is also a page on the Church web site.

When all age worship is celebrated in the Church we join in with the service and usually practice a song that can be sung to the congregation that morning.

There have also been several events and trips where the children and their families have participated such as a skittles evening, Easter egg hunt, a trip to Llandaff Cathedral and St. Fagans, pilgrimage to Walsingham and a children’s Christmas trip to the Godly Play centre in Abingdon.

Future Plans

Our future plans are to build on the Godly Play resources that we already have and encourage more people to help us teach. The numbers of children attending Young Saints is growing so much that the Birinus room is becoming too small for us. A decision will need to be made as to whether we look for more suitable space in the next few months.

The Alpha Course

Elizabeth Bryson

We had two Alpha Courses in 2006. The January – March Alpha had Church people enjoying a ‘refresher Course’ and some guests from outside the Church wanting to find out about Christianity. In the Autumn of 2006 we had five people who had recently started coming to Church and were seeking to find out more about what Christians believe. In both these Alpha Courses it has been a joy to see people grow in knowledge, understanding and experience of the Lord.

We are grateful to the members of the Congregation who support the ministry of Alpha by praying and by providing suppers. The supper enables us to give a friendly welcome, which is an important start to each session. The DVD Talks followed by discussion enable those on the Courses to find out about Christianity, with an emphasis on knowing God through faith in Jesus.

It is encouraging to read comments written by people who have come to Alpha. Here are some from our 2006 Courses, which reflect the spiritual journey that has been experienced:

“I would still describe myself as an agnostic – but closer to Christianity. I think I’m moving in the right direction – it’s a very gradual process for me.”

“I have a bit more insight and can understand a bit more.”

“I have made a commitment and have a much surer faith.”

“I have a real yearning to get closer to God and can feel the Holy Spirit being present.”

“Faith strengthened.”

“A desire to rid myself of all my past sins.”

“The most reassuring thing is that I don’t have to be in charge of everything, God is.”

“I have a Christian faith, but feel that I’m in the very beginning of the journey (lots to learn.)”

As in previous years, some people who have enjoyed Alpha now regularly attend All Saints’ Church. Some have been helped by the Emmaus Course with further opportunities for discussion, nurture and growth in faith.

In this our Celebration Year of 150 years of All Saints Church, when we want to become a missionary congregation; I hope that the Alpha Course in the Autumn 2007 will have many guests from outside the Church as well as people from the congregation who would like to join us to grow in their knowledge and understanding about our Christian faith. In previous years the poster outside the Church has drawn guests and the Internet contact of the Alpha website and our Church website. 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. Please will you recommend Alpha to people you know who you think will be interested and invite them to our next Alpha Course, starting on September 19th 2007.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Bryson

Alpha Course Leader

The Emmaus Course

Sue Price

Emmaus began in mid-May 2006, firstly with a six-week block of teaching and discussion, immediately followed by a four-week block, both of which focused on Nurture aspect of the course. Numbers were in the mid-twenties and were well sustained.

The sharing of a meal and the subsequent course activities provided an invaluable opportunity for fellowship, in addition to learning about our faith and exploring and discussing our faith journeys. Feedback was extremely positive.

After a summer break, Emmaus started up once more, this time taking material on prayer from the Growth section of the course. Numbers were again in the twenties. There was, however, a more mixed response. The different delivery style required for the Growth material shifted the emphasis from a high teaching input from the leaders to mostly buzz groups and discussion amongst the participants.

Emmaus recommences on May 2nd 2007. We will be concentrating on the Nurture material used last May.

OAK (Ordinands Appeal in Kenya)

Elizabeth Bryson

In 2006 we gave the money so that Margaret Ndisha Mwasaru and Eunice Kandi Mwarashu can complete the third year of their training for Ordination in Bishop Samson's Diocese of Taita Taveta in Kenya. They will be Ordained in November 2007. They are very grateful for the financial and prayer support from All Saints' Church. They were also thankful for the gift of books from two members of the Church here, to help them in the preparation of Essays and Sermons.

The Revd. Roy Taylor brings us news of Eunice and Margaret after his visits to Kenya. We were challenged and inspired by his Sermon at All Saints' last Summer. When Bishop Samson visited and preached at All Saints' in October, he expressed appreciation for the financial support given to those in Kenya who God is calling to Ordination. He hopes we will continue our support for OAK so that young men whom the Lord is calling can be given financial and prayer support.

This project is an exciting way that we can contribute to the building of God's kingdom in Africa. 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 and evangelism in the villages and towns of Kenya. Please give financially to OAK and continue to pray for Margaret and Eunice.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Bryson (OAK Co-ordinator)

Mothers' Union

Ena Jones

What is the Mothers' Union?

The Mothers' Union is a world wide organisation whose special concern is for family life in all its aspects. It runs parenting courses, helps prisoners' families, arranges holidays for needy families, and much more - look on the notice board in church for our latest news. In Africa it has a scheme for educating women in numeracy and literacy, and teaching them about hygiene, sewing and all things to do with the home. All this is backed up by prayer, and every year we have a special day of prayer when we remember all our individual workers and projects abroad.

The Mothers' Union at All Saints

Our branch here at All Saints meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 2.30 in the Parish Centre. We have a varied and interesting programme of speakers, outings and activities. Our membership is about forty, which includes four husbands. Sadly, this last year, two members have died, and one has moved away, but we have enrolled three new members.

As usual, our All Saints branch activities have included visits to and from groups from Edmund Campion R.C. and Boyne Hill Baptist Churches with whom we have long standing friendships. Our own branch includes members from St. Luke's, St. Peter's and The Church of the Good Shepherd - all these contacts bring us fresh ideas and help us to look outside our own parish.

Fundraising and Outreach

Our ongoing project is helping, "Feed the Children", whose depot is at Twyford, and we have made 1,353 blankets with knitted squares since March last year, besides a quantity of baby clothes. We enjoy friendly sewing sessions with St. Luke's, and at our Lent meeting we always bring offerings of stationary and toiletries which are taken to Twyford. This year we also collected unwanted jewellery which is to be auctioned by "Feed the Children".

It costs £20 to educate an African woman in numeracy and literacy skills, and we collected £300 - enough to educate 15 women. They in turn will educate their families and so their literacy will spread and grow and, we hope, help to overcome some of the ignorance and superstition which thrive on illiteracy.

On the home front, we have had the gift of a lively 'Challen' piano. Two of us paid to have it tuned, and one member initiated a tombola come raffle which paid for a sturdy waxed cover for it. We did not forget the church heating and the spire. Our 'mini market' raised £350 for the spire, and our jar in the church has raised over £600 for the heating, and has now collected its first £30 towards the spire.

A new development is informal tea parties and cinema outings to help promote friendship and seek out the lonely. And on a more serious note, a small "cell" who wherever they are and whatever they are doing, try to link up in prayer for a short time each evening, and remember those who are sick and troubled. And we support one another as much as we can with transport and difficulties of any kind.

Joining us

Membership of the Mothers' Union is open to any man or woman of any denomination who has been baptised, and if any of you would like to know more about us, do ask, or come to a meeting and see for yourselves.

Bell Ringers

We are pleased to have been able to ring for most Sunday morning services during the year despite our limited number of ringers. For four Sundays during June/July we couldn't ring while the inspection of the Spire was being carried out.

Two quarter peals were rung, each consisting of 1260 changes of Grandsire Triples taking about 50 minutes. The first on the 16th January in celebration of the 125th anniversary of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Bellringers. The second on 25th April celebrating the 80th birthday of Her Majesty The Queen.

We continue to ring for weddings as required.

Tuesday Club

Jan Moss

Our History

Boyne Hill Tuesday Club originated in the nineteen-sixties as the Young Wives' Group. It provided a forum for young women to listen to speakers who weren't their own much-loved toddlers and enabled them to spend an evening with their contemporaries. Later it became the Ladies' Group but now it is the more inclusive Tuesday Club.

Our Meetings

Meeting on the first and third Tuesdays of the month; in 2006 members spent an energetic evening line-dancing, heard about the work of the local Air Ambulance and then raised money for it at a Bring & Buy Sale. That also incorporated our inaugural Poetry Evening where members brought along a favourite poem to share. We were all brought to shame when one member read her own work to us! We have a speaker at most meetings but also enjoy a meal out at a local restaurant occasionally and have an annual ramble in June to wind up our programme. New members are always welcome; meetings advertised on the church weekly pewsheets.

Deanery Synod Report

David Morgan

The Deanery Synod met three times during the year. These meetings are open to all Church members.

At the June Synod, Rev Dr Simon Jones, Chaplain of Merton College Oxford and Consultant to the Church of England Liturgical Commission introduced us to a set of new liturgies designed to enrich Common Worship called Common Worship - Times and Seasons.

Later at the same synod, Rev Richard Holroyd gave a talk on music as a tool for mission. Rev Holroyd emphasised that to make the most of opportunities which music offers us to bring us into the presence of God, in a way that no other medium can, we need a vision. Not a vision to settle for what is comfortable and familiar; but a vision to develop and explore, a vision to let music serve our worship and mission well

Rev Professor Ian James Diocesan Adviser on the Environment and Professor of Meteorology at Reading University was our guest speaker at the September synod. Professor James' theme was Climate Change. He told us that a Christian response is to recognise that we share God's planet and to act now on global warming and climate change.

At the November Deanery Synod, we learnt about Maidenhead Inter Faith and the newly formed Windsor and Maidenhead Community Forum. Our guest speaker – Nigel Cohen saw Inter Faith activities as an answer to the call to love thy neighbour – as Nigel Cohen pointed out - before you can love your neighbour, you must first get to know your neighbour.

At an evening in March, three Deaneries had an opportunity to say farewell to Bishop Richard before his retirement. Rather in the style of a Desert Island Discs radio interview, Bishop Richard highlighted some of the milestones in his life and the books which were special to him.

Deanery Synod representatives for All Saints are Neil Bryson, Nick Kirk and Ena Jones. Mike Moss is Deanery Treasurer; David Morgan is Deanery Secretary.

Parish Centre Users Committee

Stella Harding

The first joint meeting of representatives of All Saints Church and the users of the Parish Centre was held in November 2006. The aim of the meeting was to foster communications between the two groups and to increase awareness of the various issues that exist with respect to both the Church and the Parish Centre building. Eight representatives of six of the user groups attended this first meeting at which one of the key topics was the general maintenance and refurbishment of the Parish Centre.

Sally Deal, who had done an excellent job keeping the Parish Centre clean for a number of years, decided to give up her responsibilities towards the end of 2006 and Sylvia Dension took on the role. Sylvia has proved to be a very appropriate replacement for Sally, working hard to build upon and maintain a high standard of cleanliness and repair and, together with her husband, playing an important part in the overall presentation of the building.

In the light of the critical need to focus on fund raising for the Church spire it was agreed that the Parish Centre Users Committee and the Parish Centre Users should not undertake any separate fund raising for the Parish Centre for the time being, as this might adversely impact and detract from the Church's efforts. Whilst any key maintenance and repair work will continue to be undertaken as always, particularly where there are health and safety implications, it has been possible through the Committee, to identify skills and talents amongst Committee members and their friends / colleagues / associates which have been used to complete other important work in the Parish Centre, e.g. a leak to the water heater which caused constant damp in the back yard has been repaired, the heater guards have been repaired by Mr Stevens, Beckie the Brownies Leader's father and Reg Denison has repaired the hatches.

It was agreed that the Committee should meet every 3 months and at the January meeting a small number of officer positions were created:

Co-Chair – Stella Harding

Co-Chair – Vacant; it is proposed that a representative of the User Groups be appointed to this position

Secretary – Simon Cowdery

A small sub-committee has also been formed to consider longer term issues such as refurbishment of the kitchen.

The Committee has already proved a valuable means of communication and information sharing with the Parish Centre Users Group and through its meetings it has been possible to more easily address and resolve several key issues and areas of concern.

8th Maidenhead Rainbow Guides

Alwyn Kimber

Rainbow Guides are the youngest members of the Girl Guiding UK, age range from 5 – 7 yrs old. All Saints has a thriving unit of 12-14 girls who meet between 4:30pm and 5:30pm every Friday in term-time at the Parish Centre. The leaders are Alwyn Kimber (Duck), Brigitte Ranger (Swan) and Heather Noyce (Hedgehog), ably assisted by Caroline Lander and Lucy Saxton.

We have fun playing games, making things, cooking, singing and stories (usually each meeting is based on one theme). Our meetings have included making pancakes, Valentine cards, a visit from a Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, healthy eating, snow, stars and many others.

Days out

In addition to the normal meetings, last November we had a day at Legoland, we have been to the pantomime at the Methodist Church, and then we have had Rainbow Riots (where all the Rainbows in the Maidenhead Division get together) and District Thinking Day (craft and activities based on Global Awareness). In May we are looking forward to helping the Scouts to celebrate their centenary by visiting their camp for the day.

Joining us

If you would like your daughter to join us please contact Alwyn on 01628 670176, but please be quick as we have a long waiting list.

Traidcraft Fair Trade Products

Rachel Andrew

When I offered to become a "Fair Trader" on behalf of All Saint's Church back in November 2005 I had no idea whether people would be very interested in buying fairly traded products in church. However, I decided to purchase a small number of products that myself and a few others were interested in buying and see what happened.

The response has been fantastic, in 2006 the congregation of All Saints purchased £1,347.95 worth of fairly traded products from Traidcraft via our stall - all in small items that we might otherwise have picked up in a regular store without worrying about it's origin.

Why does fair trade matter?

To make a lasting difference to producers and their families, people need to be encouraged and reminded about the benefits of buying fair trade all year round. Many churches see running a Traidcraft stall as part of their Christian response to poverty - and buying products that you will use anyway or as a treat for Sunday teatime is a simple yet really effective way of helping others.

Traidcraft is a Christian-based fair trade organisation, and was formed by a group of people concerned about issues of Christian witness through trade. Christians are called to love the poor – but also to ask questions as to why they are poor.

Fair trade is not about charity, it's about giving people the dignity of working their way out of poverty, providing opportunity and hope for the future. It's about developing a different way of buying things, whether we're choosing coffee or cards, tea or t-shirts.

Thank you for your support of Traidcraft in this past year, it makes heaving heavy boxes out of the car every Sunday morning worthwhile!