

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

ANNUAL REPORT 2011



Overview Of The Year

Revd Debbie, myself and members of the PCC have recently shared a course looking at gaining 'Confidence in Discipleship'. One of the key themes running through the course was the issue facing the Church in our secular society, that of Individualism. It would appear that we live in a society that sees people struggling with stress, loneliness, lack of purpose, and any faith seems to be found within the individual rather than within a community of believers.

With these thoughts in mind I will use the 5 priorities of Living Faith alongside the 'Communion Model of the church' to reflect upon the mission of All Saints, Boyne Hill. It was said at the day course on Discipleship that community needs to have a purpose. It is my belief that what we are trying to do at All Saints in sharing community will have the purpose of bringing Kingdom qualities to the present.

To begin the reflection for this year I would like to thank all of you for supporting the mission to fund housing for a curate this year. This highlights the commitment of the parish to mission and, with the support of the Bishop, Area Dean and the Deanery, we have purchased a house and Revd Debbie Davison has begun her ministry with us. Already Debbie has made good pastoral links within Larchfield and is developing ministry, with the help of others, in the Care Home and school. Revd Debbie has quickly been accepted into the community at All Saints and I know many are appreciating her natural pastoral skills. We are all looking forward to her being ordained Priest in June 2012.

1. The Sacred centre

The first of our 5 priorities of Living Faith has been to develop Bible studies. We have moved on from using Tom Wright's excellent commentaries to Mike Moss and Mary Cooper developing their courses on the Old Testament and the Book of Hebrews. Barbara Bannister continues to lead a Bible Study group that meets on Friday evenings. It was thrilling news that Elizabeth Bryson and Sirpa Arovaara led an Alpha course that had 5 new people, including people who were to later be Confirmed. Matt Firth has continued to use Christian Art to help us develop our faith. This year he led an excellent course using religious Icons.

The annual parish pilgrimage to Walsingham was again a great success and we shared a wonderful week in August with our friends from Bracknell. The pilgrimage is a time every year when we grow spiritually and enjoy one another's company. Powerful conversations are shared and sometimes lead people to change direction in life. People are on occasion left feeling a sense of healing in an area of their life. Successful trips were organised by parishioners to Cambridge, Pagham and Chichester and St Alban's for the 950th anniversary of when Walsingham became a place of Pilgrimage.

Importantly our worship with people of all ages continues to grow and develop. This year Brian, the choir and All Age worship planners have helped us to introduce new music to our services. We are looking to continue to develop our worship further in 2012.

2. Making Disciples

The Diocese is encouraging parishes to 'Make Disciples' and we have some evidence to suggest we are moving, with the help of the Holy Spirit, in the right direction. We have already mentioned the success of Alpha and the nurture courses, but we also can reflect that Debbie Firth, Mary Firth, Revd Debbie, Nick Kirk, Leigh Hutchinson May and Elizabeth Bryson led 8 children and 1 adult on a Confirmation course this year. Special thanks to Elizabeth Bryson for her input to the course and for doing the background planning for the Confirmation service itself. Believe me this is a large job

Open the Book teams are growing throughout the town and an increasing number of All Saints people are giving their time and talent to help share the Bible readings with children. Leading on from the Open the Book team in Larchfield, a very successful summer club took place at the school last summer; the success of this club was due to the fact that people from different churches were willing to work together.

Revd Debbie was able to reflect recently, having gone on a course for Baptism, that All Saints offers genuine community to new families. We visit families, lead them to Baptism preparation classes, through the joyous celebration of the sacrament to Tiny Saints, Messy Church, Young Saints and Worship for All. Tiny Saints regularly has 30-40 people attending on a Friday and a number of the families are coming to regular worship. Thanks to everyone involved in this ministry, but a word needs to go to the folk who make the tea, coffee and other refreshments. Young families are saying that people from another generation are mixing with them and this is great news. Deborah Firth continues to use her skills to develop Godly Play at our Baptism classes and occasionally at Young Saints. The Young Saints leaders continue to create an environment that encourages families to bring their children on Sunday morning.

3. Making a difference in the World

We have continued to offer ministry in the schools through Open the Book, listening to children read, classes in church and school, assemblies and celebrating the great Christian festivals together. Revd Debbie has offered a pastoral support to the school at Larchfield which has been appreciated. She has also made good links between the school and the Care Home.

In the care home Brigitte Ranger has continued to develop ministry to the elderly. Brigitte and Revd Debbie are visiting people in the home on a regular basis and offering services of communion. The singing and afternoon tea on a Tuesday continues to be well received. Residents are clearly appreciative of the love and care Debbie and Brigitte are bringing to the home.

Elizabeth Bryson has offered wonderful support to people through home communions and visiting. I know that many are appreciating this ministry. We still have people involved in the ministry of Street Angels and it would be good to have more volunteers in this area.

Sue Stannett has continued with offering Prison ministry and is writing letters to prisoners.

We have recently started planning 'Church on the Move' which involves Bible Study, practical ministry, communion and hospitality. The themes include Ministry to the Parish Centre, Art, Open the Book, Mothers' Union, Music, Street Angels, Tiny Saints and Care Home Ministry. Already we have been challenged by Sue Stannett and Prison work and Ella Titchener through her ministry to people using the parish centre.

We of course continue to support charities including Christian Aid.

4. Creating vibrant Christian Communities

Special thanks to Christine Watts and the team for another excellent Parish Fete. It was again a wonderful community event. Another superb community event was the celebration of the April Royal Wedding at the Quadrangle. Many people from the wider community thanked the Families for organising an event that they could share in. The Salvation Army blessed us in Advent with another excellent Christmas Carol service in the quadrangle and the Christmas Carol service was quite superb this year. Thanks to Brian, Andrew and the choir.

The Parish holiday continues to grow. Thank you to David and Janet for planning another trip to Torquay following the success of last year's trip. I believe that 70 people are eager to share in the trip in 2012.

5. Shaping confident, collaborative ministry.

We are fortunate at All Saints to have gifted people willing to give their time. Within the Ordained and Licensed ministry Revd Debbie and Elizabeth are offering their gifts and we look forward to Neil's ordination this summer. However the 'Communion Model' asks us all to give of our time as members of the Body of Christ and it is fantastic that we have so many people involved in ministry of all kinds. At All Saints we have people involved in teams working on Messy

Church, Baptism Preparation, Young Saints, Marriage Preparation, Open the Book, Flower arranging, Alpha and Bible study teams, Mothers' Union, Tuesday Club, Hospitality and cleaning teams.

The supportive office staff including Elaine, Christine, Doreen, Janet and Barbara make my life so much easier.

Thanks to the Congregation of All Saints

All Saints has great potential as a place for 'Living Faith'. I would like to express my thanks to the choir, the servers, our Director of Music, Brian, all those who help with the pew sheet, rotas, service booklets, those who clean the church and prepare the flowers. The church wardens Andrew and John, our sacristan Sue, the sidespeople, our school governors and our superb office staff all deserve great credit. Can I thank Rachel our web master for the quality that she brings to our website. A good number of people from outside the church comment on the quality of our site.

I would like to thank all the members who have served the PCC this year and special thanks to John Ainslie on completing 6 years as Church Warden and Dorothy Strack Hankey on putting so much work into the accounts and the maintenance of the buildings. John and Andrew in their role have overseen, with the help of others, significant buildings work, celebration of our 150th, and more recently fantastic work in seeing the Larchfield housing project through. John is a deeply spiritual man who contributes through his preaching, serving and intercessions. His contributions on Parish pilgrimages alongside Elizabeth and Neil Bryson have been wonderful. Dorothy has given hours and hours of her time to the vital role of our accounts and gives in so many other ways, not least her commitment to charity and the work of Christian Aid. Thank you to you both.

Finally thank you again to all of you at All Saints who have supported me through another difficult year with my health. The support of Revd Judith and other local clergy as well as you, the community of All Saints, has been superb. There are many, many people who have not been named in this report but in their own quiet and significant ways give so much to the life of this church. Thank you to all of you.

Looking forward to the next year we have the community events involving the Olympics, the Football championships, the Paralympics and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. It should be a quiet and peaceful year!

With my love and prayers,

Fr Jeremy

Church Fabric Report

Resources Group

The Church

The South West Corner:

Regular meetings with the Architect, Roderick McLennan have taken place and he has advised on the investigation through regular visits, consultations and meetings during the past twelve months. Regular monitoring of the movement and dimensions of the cracks has taken place and the engineering consultant (Stuart Tappin) has now a clear idea of what movement there is. To determine the cause, there have been examinations of the ground by radar, and TV examinations of the drains. This has necessitated digging holes through the tarmac surface to examine the condition of pipes leading away from the discharge of the downpipes.

We are pursuing a course of investigation which we hope will establish a reason for movement which will be covered by insurance. We expect to correct movement by using tie bars to the Arcade and a Faculty will be sought when the design is clear.

Quotations for the necessary remedial work, repair of the window arch and replacement of the stained glass window will be sought at the end of April.

Once we have quotations, we will send all the information to the claims adjuster, Chris Rechtern. Should EIG not recognise a claim, we will seek grants towards the cost of repair.

Externally, the damp proof course has been cleared of surrounding soil at the West end and pea shingle has been placed in the trenching to be uniform with the rest of the Church.

Heating:

Austin Heating were engaged to diagnose and repair the system. It was established that Crowthorne Heating had not installed the pipework correctly in 2006. The DAC was informed of the situation. The Registrar strongly advised that we might incur more costs by attempting to recover our expenditure through legal channels than by accepting the cost of repair ourselves, and the PCC accepted this advice. After the installation of a 4" header and the valves, in accordance with manufacturer's instructions, it was clear that the heating units would need replacement and the system rebalancing. The Church is now heated correctly.

A hook for the font has been forged following an inspection from EIG

In the Sacristy, the humidifier is redundant and could be removed. The overflow pipe was re-lagged this winter and no freezing occurred. The stopcock has been turned off.

Lighting

Bulbs have been regularly replaced. The Lectern light is still unsatisfactory. Two spotlights in the chancel have blown, one of which was replaced. This requires a professional.

Displays and use of space

The West end of the Church is still rather untidy and the Architect would like to see a better arrangement. It would be desirable, both aesthetically and for mission and community purposes, to have better display boards and to update displays before they become tattered, untidy and ignored.

Exterior

The railings around the boiler room access were replaced and a gate fitted after planning permission had been granted. The ring on the gate to the churchyard was replaced. The yew tree nearest the church on the North East side was heavily pruned by the Local Authority. We are advised to seek Registrar's faculty for any future work.

The Notice Board on the Bath Road/ All Saints Avenue junction blew down. It has been beautifully repaired. We need to think about how we can better use this resource to reach out to the Community.

The Secretary of the DAC, accompanied by five of the Committee inspected the Church and exterior and were fully apprised of the repairs and work needed. They encouraged us to seek further reduction or removal of other trees close to the Church.

Events and external groups:

We have reviewed the charges made to groups using the Church and Birinus Room for concerts. It is pleasing to note that we have had several new groups and the church acoustic is regarded as very fine. It is highly desirable to encourage such activities as we can thereby reach out to the Community. These events require a volunteer "caretaker" to unlock and close up and generally ensure that the visitors have all they need, move the furnishings and get the lighting they require.

Properties:

The Gresley flat was redecorated and new white goods were installed. The Shower has new screening and hosing. The windows were repaired and repainted. Some attention to the draining board in the kitchen area was necessary to ensure water drained from it.

Nos 3 and 4 Church Close had repairs and repainting where wood was rotting.

The carpeting in No. 4 will need attention in the near future. The PCC voted to replace the hall stairs and landing carpeting over two years ago.

The rents for all these properties were reviewed, and notice of increased charges and the future increases has been served on all tenants, after discussion and careful consideration of their positions.

93 Brunel Road

To house a curate in Larchfield with support and finance from the Deanery, we purchased 93 Brunel Road. It had been bought by a builder and refurbished, but there remain some problems, which are being addressed by the Resources team. A new oven was installed; extensive work on the electrics and plumbing and the shed/ workshop has been undertaken and all safety certificates are in place. We have bought the property with the help of a grant from the Deanery, and from Bishop Stephen on his departure to Chelmsford, and a mortgage from the Malachi trust.

Non fitted white goods such as washing machine and dishwasher are not the PCC responsibility.

In view of the downward trend in house prices, which may last for another few years, it is to be hoped that we will not need to dispose of the property until prices resume a rising trend.

The Parish Centre

The kitchen was refurbished and redecorated and the oven, fridge/freezer and dishwasher were replaced. It is clear that this is a vast improvement; but users are not always exercising appropriate care when using the appliances. Some cupboards have locks for particular regular users.

The gutter, hopper and downpipe above the small door were replaced in cast iron after planning permission had been given. The back door has a new lock fitted and the key is on a chain affixed to it. New rear gates have been fitted and painted.

The car park has been cleared of leaf litter and the railings painted.

Most of the work recorded here was done by a dedicated group of DIY experts, led by Chris and Mike Watts and Roger Towers. Other members of the group gave their time thought and responsible advice and there was help from individuals not in the group.

They have been thanked in person and in the PCC reports, but we should place our gratitude to them all on record in this Annual report.

PCC Report

John Ainslie

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 Dorothy Strack-Hankey as Treasurer and Christine Watts as PCC Secretary. The Standing Committee comprised Fr Jeremy, the Treasurer and Secretary, both Churchwardens, and Rod Broad.

The PCC has been delighted to welcome Revd Debbie Davison as curate.

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 Stewardship Sub-Committee has sought to raise the profile of the Planned Giving scheme during the year, and also promoted Will Aid Month in November.

A major task for the year was the purchase of a house in the Larchfield part of the parish for use as a Curate's House. Unfortunately two prospective purchases were unable to proceed to completion, but the third opportunity did proceed to completion and Revd Debbie is now housed at 93 Brunel Road. The property is subject to a mortgage provided by a local Christian charity.

Towards the end of the PCC year, the PCC approved plans for revisions to the All Age Worship services. The intention is to provide a more integrated all-age liturgy, whilst maintaining the catholic and eucharistic nature of the service. These services will be trialled monthly starting in April 2012.

Plans have been considered and put in place for major celebratory events later in the year, associated with the Queen's Jubilee and the Olympics, both of which will feature opportunities for engagement with our local community, and with our schools.

The extensive outreach work including Open the Book, assisting with reading at Larchfield School, services and pastoral activity at Larchfield nursing home, extended communion at other local nursing homes, baptism preparation, Tiny Saints and Young Saints have all continued thanks to many willing and enthusiastic helpers and colleagues.

The PCC records it's 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.

Young Saints

Teachers

Current members of Young Saints teaching team: Christine Dunford, Michelle Symonds, Hannah Wilson, Sirpa Arovaara, Sally Dahlbohm, Pearl Boakye, and Zoe Reece and Jenny Wilks have also recently joined us. We were sad to lose Nicola Johnston at Christmas due to family relocation, and thank her for all her work with organising our meetings and taking minutes, as well as Young Saints teaching. We would also like to thank Debbie Firth and Lyn May for running some Young Saints sessions this year. They have both stepped down due to other church commitments.

Attendance

We currently have 60 children on the register who have attended Young Saints during the past year. We have had a number of new families joining us this year. The age range is from 4, (or 3 if accompanied by an adult) up to 12/13. Some of our former older Young Saints are now serving in church. We regularly have 20+ children on a Sunday morning in the age range of 3-12 in the Birinus room and the teachers are working very hard to ensure there is appropriate learning for such a vast age range in one session.

All Age Worship

Young Saints have continued to play a big part in preparation and participation in the Monthly All Age Worship services. This year children have regularly been reading the prayers at these services as well as presenting the gifts.

Events

The Young Saints team ran a children's second hand stall at the Summer Fayre last July.

The Alpha Course

Elizabeth Bryson

Alpha 2011 started on 15th January, when we had a wonderful Holy Spirit Day on a Saturday when people came from the small Course that had started in November 2010 with people from the congregation who wanted to learn more about the Holy Spirit. The Alpha Course continued on Wednesdays, finishing before Lent. Two people from that Course were then Confirmed in May. We started another Alpha Course in September 2011, which was also part of the adult Confirmation preparation. The Autumn Course had three people who were enquiring about the Christian faith. During the Course it was a great joy they all came to faith, one was Confirmed in November and now regularly attends Church. It was good to have other people using the Alpha Course as a 'refresher' course.

It is great to have people on the Courses wanting to find out what Christians believe. 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. 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 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 2011. Here are some from these Courses, which reflect the spiritual journey that has been experienced. Holman Hunt's painting with Jesus, the light of the world, standing at the door and waiting for us to open the door so He can come in, is helpful for people to understand how to come to faith – there are references to 'the door' in some of these comments:

- During the Course I realised that spiritual faith is an important part of my life.
- I learned to pray which has enabled me to embrace Christianity.
- My Christian faith has totally transformed my life. Now I feel free and complete.
- I feel now I have re-opened the door and have allowed Jesus into my heart and soul.
- I was wholly filled with the Holy Spirit.
- I have a better understanding of God and his message. The door is now open.
- Encouraged and renewed

I hope that the 'Sports Alpha Course' starting in September 2012 to follow up our evangelistic events for the Olympics 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. 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:

- A) Enjoy a friendly welcome
- B) Find out what Christians believe
- C) Ask questions
- D) Discuss your ideas

E) Have a delicious supper

Please will you recommend Alpha to people you know, who you think will be interested and invite them to our next Alpha Course.

Bible Study

Mary Cooper and Mike Moss

Old Testament and Hebrews Study Courses 2011

Bring a Bible, Be on Time: we have enjoyed two study courses during the year, happily interspersed with periods to prepare, assimilate and apply topics discussed.

Meeting usually in a sitting room, with a spectrum of experience, age and outlook among the participants, proved conducive to productive thought and fearless discussion. An indicator of success is reaching the stage where most of the group join the discussion. It is not unusual for those who might perceive themselves to be amongst the least confident present to make the most significant contributions. Mid-session refreshments are served. The leadership rotated and was predominantly laity led. We are very grateful to Fr Jeremy for allowing this to happen.

Hebrews was scheduled for autumn 2011. Early preparatory work led to a foundation course based on the many Old Testament references found in Hebrews. This ran in Spring 2011.

Sessions are usually based on selected readings and questions from the relevant Tom Wright study guide and enriched by those who have thought about the material in advance and spontaneous contributions. Having a variety of bible translations available to explore aspects of the text is fascinating and often enhances understanding.

An important outcome of the 2011 courses has been the evolution and piloting of Church on the Move. Starting in February with 'Parish Centre Ministry', a 2012 programme of this themed service has been launched, to be held in different homes and comprising biblical text, discussion, a short presentation on the theme, prayer and Eucharist, then simple hospitality.

There is now a range of courses and course leaders in the life of All Saints. Experiment and find the style that is good for you.

Altwood School

Greg Hurst, parent governor

The role of a school governor involves trying to strike a balance: getting a good sense of day-to-day life within the school but not interfering with the responsibilities of the head teacher and staff. The governors job is take strategic decisions while playing an active part in the school community.

At Altwood, where I have been a parent governor since 2009, this has been an especially busy period. GCSE results have improved strongly and Altwood was rated good with outstanding features when last inspected by Ofsted three years ago. This year and next, places for pupils starting in Year 7 have been over-subscribed.

So how can a governor become familiar with the school without getting in the way?

I have sat in on lessons, been shown around the school, eaten lunch in the canteen all the while trying to avoid embarrassing my teenage children who are pupils. Teachers and non-teaching staff seem to appreciate it if governors try to understand more about their work, provided they let them get on with it. There are evening events, such as an annual presentation evening and the carol service at All Saints.

But the chief way is in regular meetings with the head and senior staff. There are governors committees that look in detail at the schools budget, the site and buildings and at the curriculum. Sometimes the role means asking difficult questions, tugging at loose strings, looking at things in a new way its in everybodys interests that decisions can stand up to scrutiny.

The most important decisions are referred to the full governing body every term or so. Governors are offered introductory training and can attend more specific training in specialist areas, but some of the work simply involves looking at things from a detached perspective and speaking up when necessary.

Some activities are legal requirements, such as hearing appeals, reviewing policies or approving school trips. The most interesting work is getting to the heart of the schools role: looking at pupils academic progress, standards of teaching, subjects that are taught and other ways in which children can be nurtured and supported. As a Church of England school, a Christian ethos is at the core of Altwoods mission.

After consulting within the school community and beyond, governors decided in January this year to apply for academy status as two secondary schools in Maidenhead have already done. This would mean Altwood would become an independent state-funded school with greater freedom to run its own affairs and therefore greater responsibility too although its designation as a Church of England school would remain as now.

Altwood values its links with All Saints and, although currently over-subscribed, has changed its admissions policy to give priority to parents who wish their children to be educated at a Church school. As an academy its admissions would continue to follow the Governments legal code for state schools.

The school will remain integral to and active within the community it serves. We hope it will become even more so. In another sign of Altwoods recent progress, parents have launched a group to raise money for the school and organise social events. We consciously decided not to restrict membership just to parents or staff but to reach out to anyone who wishes to be involved: it is called the Friends of Altwood School.

We hope that news of its events may be included in the pew sheet so that members of the congregation at All Saints can follow its activities and join in if they wish.

All Saints School

Oliver Wilson, George Hutchinson, Mike Broad & Alwyn Kimber

Our Church Schools are very important to our community.

From 'The Way Ahead. Church of England Schools in the new millennium'

'The Church has a problem attracting young people to their services. In contrast, about 900,000 young people attend Church Schools, where the pupils should experience meaningful daily worship, quality religious education as well as a distinctively Christian ethos. These children also provide access to parents, many of whom would have no contact with the Church..'

As Foundation Governors it is our role to see that Christian principles are adhered to as closely as possible, through encouragement, understanding and sometimes as 'critical friends' to the Head Teacher and other members of staff in the school, and by forging links between the Church and School. We go into school unannounced to check that all the pupils are attending Collective Worship and at least once a month one of us will witness an Act of Worship.

All Saints has 207 pupils on roll as of January 2012. Many of the pupils come from minority ethnic backgrounds (mainly Pakistani, Indian or Eastern European) and 50% have English as an additional language. The Head Teacher is Bridget McGregor and she takes her responsibility to the Christian ethos very seriously. She and her staff aim 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 attitudes of mutual respect and responsibility, providing a sound foundation for adult life. Consequently the behavior of the pupils has been graded as outstanding.

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 Father Jeremy that impacts on the whole school community. The 'Open the Book' team lead the Worship every Thursday. On Wednesdays, each class has their own Act of Worship in their classroom. This often includes 'Candle-time', a moment of calm and reflection in a busy school day. Throughout this term a class has been given responsibility for organising the Act of Collective Worship on a Friday, with minimal guidance from the class teacher. This has been taken very seriously by pupils, and staff have commented on how effectively the children have modeled their own acts of worship on those they have experienced previously in school.

In the past, the school has extended an invitation to the congregation of All Saints Church to attend an Act of Collective Worship at the school. We hope to make this invitation once again during the Summer term.

All the pupils become familiar with All Saints Church by regular visits. The Christmas and Leavers services, which involve the parents coming into Church, are always well attended with 'standing-room only'. Year 4 visit the Church to learn about various features e.g. altar, pulpit & font and Year 6 hold a pretend Baptism in the Church. This is important as they learn about the promises made by Parents and Godparents.

Good links have been established between the school and the neighbouring infant and secondary schools. This year Boyne Hill, All Saints and Altwood Schools will be working together to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with a performance held at Norden Farm on 9th and 10th July. Church members will be invited to take part in this celebration.

Towards the end of June, we hope to realise the initiative of 'Prayer Spaces in Schools' as devised by the Diocese to promote prayer in the school environment. It is envisaged as a two or three day event on the theme 'Change'. The Christian community of Boyne Hill and All Saints School will work together to try to make this an unforgettable experience for the pupils. This would be a truly wonderful opportunity to involve members of our congregation so that the pupils are not only familiar with the Church building but with the Church as a whole.

Immediately after the OFSTED inspection, in May 2010, there was a SIAS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools) inspection organised by the National Society. The impact of the distinctiveness and effectiveness of All Saints School as a Church of England School was scrutinised at this time. The SIAS inspector graded the school as good. However he did remark that he would like to see more evidence of displays to promote Christian values. As a result Year 6 made a cross to be displayed in the school hall. This was brought to Church early this year and is well-worth studying as it depicts various activities that take place in school and is most inspiring.

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.

The members of the school would be delighted to email their weekly newsletter to any members of the congregation who would like to know more.

Boyne Hill School

Christine Pocock and Sally Deal

Boyne Hill has 252 pupils on roll as of January 2012 School Census. Many of the pupils come from ethnic backgrounds (mainly Pakistani, Indian or Eastern European); 20% have English as an additional language, 70% where the cultural background is not white British. The Head Teacher Jenny Stephen takes her responsibility to the Christian ethos very seriously at the same time as respecting the cultures and beliefs of the ALL the pupil and staff at Boyne Hill. She and her staff aim to provide a safe, caring Christian environment, where learning is enjoyable and fun for all and everyone is able to develop to their full potential. The school encourages politics and respect to all.

There is a daily Act of Collective Worship lead by the Head teacher, teachers or invited guests. Rev Debbie Davison has led such an assembly.

The Head teacher wishes that all pupils understand each others faiths and traditions, so at such times as Christmas, Easter, EID and Diwali assemblies are lead explaining their traditions.

Good links have been established between Boyne Hill and the neighbouring junior and secondary schools. This year Boyne Hill, All Saints and Altwood Schools will be working together to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with a performance held at Norden Farm on Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th July. Church members will be invited to take part in this celebration.

Our Chair of Governors, Rachael Odeiyini leads a time of worship on a Friday morning where pupils can ask for individuals to be prayed for. An invitation is open to all to join her.

We would like to thank the Head teacher and her staff for all their hard work and dedication shown to the school; when we visit the school we feel welcome and part of the community and witness a happy thriving environment

If any members of the congregation would like a copy of their weekly newsletter emailed to them, please contact the school and they will be happy to arrange this.

Tiny Saints

Elizabeth Bryson

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, and tea, coffee and cake for their Carers. We have a time of singing – children's songs, nursery rhymes and songs about Jesus, such as 'Jesus love is very wonderful'. We enjoy a Bible Story and end with our Tiny Saints prayer. Some Tiny Saints come every week, some occasionally and most weeks we have new Tiny Saints.

Here are some comments that have been written by the Carers about Tiny Saints:

We enjoy coming to Tiny Saints each week because we have made new friends (young and old) The children enjoy the various crafts and toys. We all love the sing-song and bible stories and the genuine welcome we all receive.

Lovely social environment to enjoy. Links nicely to Church and community. Very well organised and run.

Tiny Saints is a lovely Playgroup because it is Christ centred and follows a biblical theme. It's wonderful when my little one bursts into song later in the day and I know that it is one from Tiny Saints.

Lovely environment for my daughter to meet other children (and me to meet other mums!) We really enjoy the singing & story time.

We love the group. It's a lovely environment for the toddlers. The crafts are really imaginative and my daughter loves the singing at the end.

Fantastic group. We look forward to Friday mornings. Very lovely ladies and we love the live music!

It is great to have a team of people from the Church who help by setting out the toys, organising the craft activities, preparing the food and drinks, playing the piano, talking to the Tiny Saints and their Carers to provide a friendly, caring welcome. Thank you to all of you. It is a joy to plan, organise and lead Tiny Saints with Sirpa, where we have had up to 19 Tiny Saints each week.

Messy Church

Lynn May

2011 marked the fifth anniversary of Messy Church at All Saints and we celebrated another successful year. We met eight times during the year with an average attendance of between 30-40 people at any given session. Our congregation attracts a variety of families from those who familiar faces, to those dipping their toes in the water for the first time! Together we have enjoyed many messy activities, worshipped together and enjoyed fellowship over a meal.

2012 marks a new chapter for Messy Church, as we have taken the decision to move from All Saints School to our own church complex. Our hope is that this will allow us to build a bridge between our more informal style of worship and the traditional regular Sunday worship. We would like to thank the school for allowing us to be “messy” over the last five years and the use of their facilities.

All are welcome at Messy Church, whatever your age, so please join us for some “messy fun”!

Open the Book

Brigitte Ranger and Dorothy Strack-Hankey

We have two 'Open the Book' teams: one at Larchfield Primary School that meets on Wednesday mornings during term time and the other at All Saints Junior School that meets on Thursday mornings during term time. The Teams come from a variety of local churches. Our two teams join the other fourteen teams in Maidenhead doing the same thing in other schools. Each team needs to be from six to ten people to allow for holidays and illness, so new volunteers are always welcome. The stories are read so no lines need to be learned.

The children seem to really enjoy these dramatic presentations of Bible Stories from both the New Testament and the Old Testament. The talents of each team from choreography skills to costume design and manufacture skills to use of voice skills, are employed in a variety of ways to present these stories. The stories used follow a specific format and are especially written for this use. Various themes (for example the miracles of Jesus, or the bravery of individuals), connect the stories into groups. Occasionally, the stories are used in worship services.

It is amazing how wearing a hat or some other form of simple costume changes one's willingness to get up in front of others to tell the story of God's Love for everyone.

Evangelism Group

Elizabeth Bryson

The 'Evangelism Group' made their main 'contact event' for this year the Holiday Club at Larchfield August 1st - 5th – by being activity leaders, helping with craft preparation and praying for this week. It was great that other people from Church helped at the Holiday club too. 13 of us from All Saints helped during the week – some of us every day. Here is a Report about the Larchfield Holiday Club that was sent to the Maidenhead Advertiser.

Larchfield Holiday Club 'Showstoppers!' lifts the curtain on the Greatest Show on Earth

Around 30 children aged 5 to 10 years rolled up for a show-stopping holiday club held at Larchfield Primary School every morning last week (1st -5th August). Planned and run by representatives from local churches – All Saints, United Reform Church, Church of the Good Shepherd, St. Mary's and River Church – the Larchfield Holiday Club was organised in response to the wishes of many residents of the Larchfield Estate whose high priority is to have something more for their children to do.

The aim of 'Showstoppers!' was to reveal the greatest show on earth: God's great plan for humankind and salvation. This good news unfolded through five storytelling episodes in the bible – Creation, David & Goliath, Daniel in the lions' den, Christmas with the birth of Jesus and, finally, Easter with the death of Jesus and His resurrection. The children enjoyed exploring these events through the use of song, dance, drama, art workshops and games, and by watching short DVD clips to help bring the stories alive. The weather was mainly hot and sunny enabling many games to be played on the school field. Even when it rained on Thursday it was not too disappointing as the children stayed inside the school hall absorbed with learning about the Christmas story and having fun making Christmas crafts ... all in the month of August! The club ended on Friday lunchtime with a fun water fight on the field using sponges and water pistols.

Linda Crew, one of the organisers of the Larchfield Holiday Club, praised the efforts of those involved and spoke about the success of this new venture on the estate: "Special thanks to all those people who helped with the preparations, organisation and running of the club, particularly Alice Gilbert who was the main organiser and presenter of 'Showstoppers!' We are especially grateful to Larchfield Primary School for supporting the community in this way – it is a superb setting for a holiday club. It was brilliant to see the children having such a great time and the leaders and helpers from different churches all agreed how good it was to be able to work together. Given the positive feedback from the children and their parents we hope we will be able to return next summer to run another Larchfield Holiday Club."

Our All Age Worship for Sunday 25th September was a 'Back to Church' Harvest Eucharist Service. We invited families from 44 recent Baptisms as well as those who come to Tiny Saints and other people too. It was great to see families from recent Baptisms and Tiny Saints at this special Harvest Service.

In 2012 we look forward to evangelistic community events at the time of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations and the Olympics. Let us use those events to reach out to our neighbours and be ready to tell them about the love of Jesus.

And 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)

Website

Rachel Andrew

The church website for All Saints is at <http://www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk>.

The website received on average 450 visits per month over half of these visits come from search engine traffic. This is people searching in Google and other search engines either looking directly for our church, or for information about churches in Maidenhead. The top queries entered into a search engine which find our site are:

- all saints church maidenhead
- all saints maidenhead
- all saints junior school maidenhead
- all saints school maidenhead
- churches in maidenhead
- maidenhead churches

I have tried to add to the site a page about all of the different activities that happen at All Saints and the things we are involved in. As I also create the Annual Report a lot of the information is taken from this report and updated yearly.

Can you contribute to the site?

Contributions are always welcome for the website - for many people it will be their first impression of our church so we have a chance to demonstrate the wide variety of things we are involved in, and the different activities on offer for people of all ages. Some ideas:

- Write a short news piece (just a few paragraphs) about an event you have attended or helped organise.
- Write a news article about something that will be happening soon - to help publicise it.
- Write a short article about why you enjoy being a member of All Saints.
- Send photographs from an event or outing for the gallery? (please make sure that if they feature young people we have permission to put them on the site).
- If you run a group at All Saints check the information about your group is on the site and up to date.

If you could do any of the above then please send your news, photos or edits to Rachel Andrew, me@rachelandrew.co.uk and I'll be pleased to add it to the site.

OAK (Ordinands Appeal in Kenya)

Elizabeth Bryson

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. 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.

We first supported Margaret and Eunice and they are now Priests in the villages of Kenya, because we paid for their training. Then we funded Patrick through his training for Ordination, in Bishop Samson's Diocese of Taita Taveta in Kenya. Patrick completed the third year of his training in August 2010. He graduated in November 2010 and was Ordained Deacon on December 5th 2010. They are all very grateful for the financial and prayer support from All Saints' Church. Here is an e-mail from Patrick, at the beginning of 2011:

Happy New Year! Thanks for the prayers and New Year wishes. I am doing well while settling in the parish. Indeed the ordination was good, blessed and colourful and thus we thank God. The parish is quite far from the town thus it takes a considerable time to access the email however God is good at all times. I am glad and thankful to the Almighty God that am well and that it's a unique year in my life to begin serving as a deacon. May the Almighty God richly bless us.

Patrick is a curate at Rong'e parish in the Diocese of Taita Taveta. Patrick is looking forward to getting married to Catherine Hope Mghoi in April 2012.

We are now supporting Jemimah Mkiwa Mgalu. She has been an Evangelist in the Diocese of Taita Taveta for three years. She is at the Bishop Hannington Institute where she is in her 2nd year studying theology and training for Ordination. She is very grateful for our financial and prayer support. Thank you to everyone who gave money in 2011 so that we have paid for Jemimah's tuition and full-board accommodation in this 2nd year of her theological training and preparation for Ordination at Bishop Hannington Institute in the Anglican Diocese of Taita-Taveta in Kenya.

Eunice is now studying for her Bachelor of Divinity after being acting vicar at one of the churches up in the Taita hills at Sagalla. Margaret is now vicar of Waa on the coast, South of Mombassa and she is a chaplain of Waa High School. Her husband, Judah, is curate at St. Peter's, Nyali, about 40 minutes away from Waa. The journey involves a ferry crossing and two journeys by matatu! They have recently had a baby. Both Margaret and Judah sent their best wishes to all at All Saints.

Please give financially to OAK, to help to pay for the 3rd year of Jemimah's training; by putting cash or a cheque made out to 'All Saints Church Fund' with OAK written on the back, in an envelope marked 'OAK' in the collection on a Sunday, or leave the envelope in the Church Office.

Please continue to pray for Jemimah, Revd Margaret, Revd Eunice and Revd Patrick.

Gutjwa School

Peter Scatchard

Having received considerable financial assistance from the funds provided by the Gutjwa School Appeal donated in both the UK and Australia, this has enabled Gutjwa School to so raise its game s that it has attracted the attention of the local Mpumalanga Province schools department; they have also now allocated considerable financial resources into improving the school's facilities – new sports fields, netball pitch, improved road access to the school have also recently been provided.

Gutjwa still requires additional classrooms (the stoeps under the trees provide with All-Saints funding are still having to be used as 'everyday' additional classrooms, rather than the sub-set teaching they were intended for). However, thanks to the dedication and commitment of Siena Sibambo, the charismatic head-teacher, and some of her most dedicated staff, the assistance provided initially via New Zealander Lorraine Hird, whose input inspired her UK fellow motorcyclist Peter Scatchard to launch the Gutjwa UK Appeal that All-Saints Parish and schools have so willingly contributed to, has transformed Gutjwa School into a true 'model' school in the Nelspruit region of South Africa.

Boyne Hill School has now raised an additional thousand pounds that will be used to provide reference books for the newly established Gutjwa school library, and there continues to be direct contact between the two schools head-teachers on academic, social and cultural matters. So, whilst the major financial support required is now increasingly coming from the South African government, a friendly supportive relationship still exists over the thousands of miles between Maidenhead and Kabokweni, the township where Gutjwa School is located.

Deanery Synod Report

David Morgan

The vision of the Deanery is to encourage, support and help parishes as they assist people to become committed followers of Christ.

The Deanery seeks to promote and share good practice across the parishes in the Deanery in line with the Bishops Direction that:

“as we go forward, we will need to share and collaborate so that the resources we have are maximised and directed most effectively to the call that Christ gave us – that we should spread his gospel “.

With this in mind, the Deanery launched Meet & Share in 2009. This is an initiative to encourage church wardens to share best practice in their parish with other parishes in the Deanery. A Meet & Share event usually takes the form of an afternoon visit to a church or cathedral for church wardens across the Deanery, followed by tea, an exchange of views, ending with evensong. Two Meet & Share events took place in 2011, including one which focused on an exchange of ideas on 'how to make disciples'.

Guest speakers Deanery Synods

The Rt Rev Andrew Proud Bishop of Reading talked to us at the September Synod about how his experiences and challenges in Ethiopia shaped his view on how we can make a difference in the world.

Canon Ed Newall, Sub Dean of Christ Church Oxford addressed the March Synod on Cathedrals Mission and Evangelism. He showed how cathedrals have a distinctive mission. Many who visit cathedrals are unchurched or occasional churchgoers - an opportunity for evangelism

Women Bishops

We held two debates during the year. In each case outside speakers covered a range of views on the issue. This was followed by a straw poll with the results passed on to the diocese. The subject of Women Bishops was debated in the summer. A significant majority was in favour of the ordination of women as bishops. The majority was also in favour of making provision for those clergy who were not in favour of women bishops.

A following Motion proposing specific special provisions for those clergy not in favour of women bishops was carried at Deanery Synod and later proposed by the Deanery at the following Diocesan Synod.

The Anglican Covenant was debated at the November Deanery Synod. In the straw poll after the debate, a large majority voted against the formation of an Anglican Covenant.

Farewell to Rev Jeremy Hyde

Area Dean Jeremy Hyde resigned in the autumn to take up the position of Vicar of Fineham near Coventry. Just before Christmas we learnt that Fr Michael Smith, Vicar of the Benefice of the Cookhams would take over as Area Dean in the New Year

Parish Centre Users Committee

Stella Harding

Representatives of All Saints Church and the users of the Parish Centre meet four times a year, encouraging and enabling good communications between the two groups. Four user groups are regularly represented on the Committee: Rainbows, Brownies, Mothers & Toddlers and AA. By rearranging the day of the meetings the Brownies representative, who had previously been unable to attend meetings, is back on the Committee. All representatives continue to make an enthusiastic and active contribution to the meetings.

This has been an exciting year for the Parish Centre and its users with the work to repair the hall floor in the spring followed by extensive repair and redecoration of the entrance and the hall over the summer by a truly dedicated working party from the Church. The hard work and expertise of this group produced fantastic results and we now have a super facility for the Church, the Parish Centre users and all our visitors.

Following the redecoration of the Parish Centre proposals from the Users Committee to review letting fees were agreed with the PCC.

Whilst all this was taking place, Sylvia Denison, with husband Reg, continued to manage diligently the day to day presentation and care of the Parish Centre.

The end of the year brought more great news that the kitchen refurbishment was to go ahead in early 2011. The Users Committee look forward with great interest and anticipation to contributing to the plan and proposals for this.

We can report that the plans for the kitchen were agreed in the New Year and the work completed in early March by a fantastic group of volunteers - and we now have a beautiful new kitchen!

Mothers' Union

Ena Jones

We have had a good year, with some interesting speakers, and a sprinkling of new members. One new project has been prison work. Our nearest prison is at Huntercombe, and therefore we cannot do any 'hands on' work, so as well as holding prisoners and workers in regular prayers, we are collecting cards to be given to prisoners to send to their families – Mothering Sunday, Anniversary, Birthday, and Christmas cards- as there is a need for this. Mary Sumner House (M.U Headquarters) can give us any 'left overs', and we will be glad of any donations of unwanted cards – they must of course be unused! Nearer Christmas we hope to be able to help a little with presents through the charity 'Angel Tree' .

We have again been able to supply the church with the prayer cards 'Praying through the day' so that they are still given to every baptism family, and are much appreciated. Regarding children, several of our members now help with 'Tiny Saints' - `elevenuses, coffee for mums, craft work, and piano playing for their worship songs. We are also getting to know the young mums too, and making new friends!

Our work for 'Feed the Children' still goes on, and we as usual marked the beginning of Lent by bringing gifts of toiletries and stationary, and raised £21 towards their transport by holding a raffle. We make pullovers, vests, and blankets – roughly 2,000 blankets a year- and they go all over the world, wherever there is need. We have periodic 'sewing sessions' with St Luke's which is great fun.

We are also keeping up our ecumenical activities. For years Margaret Blakemore was our representative on the Womens' World Day of Prayer Committee, but she has now handed over to Rose Sheaf, and as usual, about 15 of us went to the service this year at St Mark's Methodist Church. Our long association with Boyne Hill Baptist and St Edmund Campian Churches continues, and besides supporting each others meetings on occasions, we help in other ways as and when we can.

Another development is little unofficial 'get togethers' for meals out or excursions, and concern for, and visiting, the lonely or dwelling bound.

I think Mary Sumner, who founded the Mothers' Union in 1876, would quite approve of the way we have adapted over the years, and I hope the All Saints Branch, which was founded in 1899, will continue to move with the times, always be open to new ideas, and be aware of the needs of those around them.

8th Maidenhead Rainbow Guides

Alwyn Kimber

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

We have fun playing games, making things, cooking, singing and stories (usually each meeting is based on a theme). Last term we worked for our 'Wizard of Oz' badge – making lion masks, painting rainbows and having a toy dog show. This term we 'journeyed' to Switzerland from England via France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany, learning about each country as we travelled through it. We have been quite active too, with silly sports, nature walk, eating healthily and keeping fit. We also had a great talent night with lots of singing, dancing and jokes.

Every year we renew the flowers in three pots in the quadrangle and, last year, we ran the Children's Tombola at the Church Fete.

We have met with other Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from Maidenhead West Division and Maidenhead District. Both Division and District had campfires. Division last Summer and District in the Autumn – this was even more exciting because it got very dark. Thinking Day was celebrated with 'Thinking Day on the Air'. This was led by Ham-radio enthusiasts who showed the girls how to use the equipment to contact people from all over the world. Rainbow Riots was held on St. Patrick's Day this year, so you can guess the theme! The girls learnt Irish Dancing, made shamrocks, snakes and 'stained glass' biscuits

We are looking forward to a great Summer with lots of outdoor activities.

As you can imagine we have a long waiting list so if you would like your daughter to join us please contact Alwyn on 01628 670176, the sooner the better.

Flower arrangers

Barbara Bannister

Once again I am able to report on another successful year in which the church has had a good display of flowers each week. Thank you to all members of the congregation for their generous sponsorship of the flowers week by week, and the special gift of lilies at Eastertide. This sponsorship means that there is no money taken from church funds for the decoration of the church.

Thanks are due to Marian Duncombe, Jean Balchin, Katie Easthill, Jo Towers and Carole Deverill for their hard work and enthusiasm throughout the year. During the year Ann Rawlings joined the rota and is very welcome, as is Valerie Duncombe who is working with us regularly now. Brigitte Ranger, Brenda Ilott and others have also helped us at festivals etc. We are greatly blessed at All Saints, both in the number and ability of our team of flower arrangers, enabling us to keep the church looking good every week.

We are always looking for more people becoming involved and joining the rota - in pairs or on their own. We have one lady interested at the moment, June is going to come along at Easter and work with us to see what it is all about. We are always very willing for anyone to work with one of us for a while to learn the ropes and gain confidence. Everyone is very welcome to come along at any time, particularly at major festivals when an extra pair of hands is extremely useful. It really is a very enjoyable way to serve the church and give pleasure to everyone, as well as giving glory to God.

Pastoral Care Group Report

Elizabeth Bryson, Licensed Lay Minister

Pastoral Care is given at All Saints by many people by 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 2011. There is more detail about some of this Pastoral Care in separate Reports.

Baptism visits, Baptism Preparation, post-Baptism visits

Baptism Anniversary cards sent

Tiny Saints 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

Some School R.E. lessons and visits to the Church

Larchfield Holiday Club in August

Confirmation Preparation for 8 children and 4 adults

The Youth Group

Messy Church

The Alpha Course

Bible Study groups

Marriage Preparation

Wedding Anniversary cards given to people married at All Saints

Home Communion taken to people unwell at home and in hospital

Extended Communion taken to Normanhurst and Clara Court every month

Funeral visits and post-Funeral visits

Requiem Eucharist at All Souls – invitations given to people from recent Funerals

Prison Ministry

Larchfield Nursing Home Services, visits and activities

Street Angels

Caring for members of the Church groups: Mothers' Union, Tuesday Club, the Choir, the Servers

Visiting people at home

Healing Services

Praying for the sick and those in other need

Pilgrimage to Walsingham

Street Angels

Sirpa Arovaara, Street Angels Maidenhead team member

Street Angels Maidenhead (SAM) is a Christian-run charity whose main aim is to be of assistance to those who need help at night-time in Maidenhead. Maidenhead's Street Angels took to the streets for the first time on Friday 11th February 2011. The official launch evening was attended by the Home Secretary, the Rt Hon Teresa May MP as well as many local dignitaries and representatives from the police.

Street Angels has worked successfully in many other towns in the UK.

We are Christian volunteers who believe that people deserve care and love in their time of need. Those needs could be homelessness, intoxication, drug abuse, assault or any other issue that has caused personal distress or the potential for physical harm. We'll help people whoever they are, whatever their situation by listening, caring, offering practical help or by referring people to other specialist agencies who can help them. We currently work the streets of Maidenhead every Friday night between 11pm and 3.30am.

The project involves volunteers from all the churches of Maidenhead whether they are actual street team members, base supporters, prayer team members, or financial backers. All street team members have received training including conflict management, drug and alcohol awareness and first aid skills. They also have been CRB checked.

Street Angels Maidenhead have currently about 30 volunteers from different churches in Maidenhead. There are several people involved from All Saints Church. Mike Moss works as a trustee for the charity and Jane Morgan and Sirpa Arovaara as street team members. Street Angels also receive weekly prayer support from the ministerial team of All Saints Church.

The project has now been going on in Maidenhead for more than a year. It has been very successful. In October 2011 The Street Angels Maidenhead was rewarded a Group winner prize in Community Safety champions by Windsor and Maidenhead Voluntary Action.

More importantly the project has been successful because every Friday we manage to help people who are on the streets at night. This can mean anything from assisting someone who has become separated from their friends and has no means of getting home to helping people who are suffering from the effects of alcohol and are at risk. We also offer a friendly presence and a listening ear to anyone who needs that, and are happy to pray with anyone who asks. We receive a lot of very positive feedback every week.

However we currently need more street team volunteers for us to be able to keep the fantastic project going and expanding.