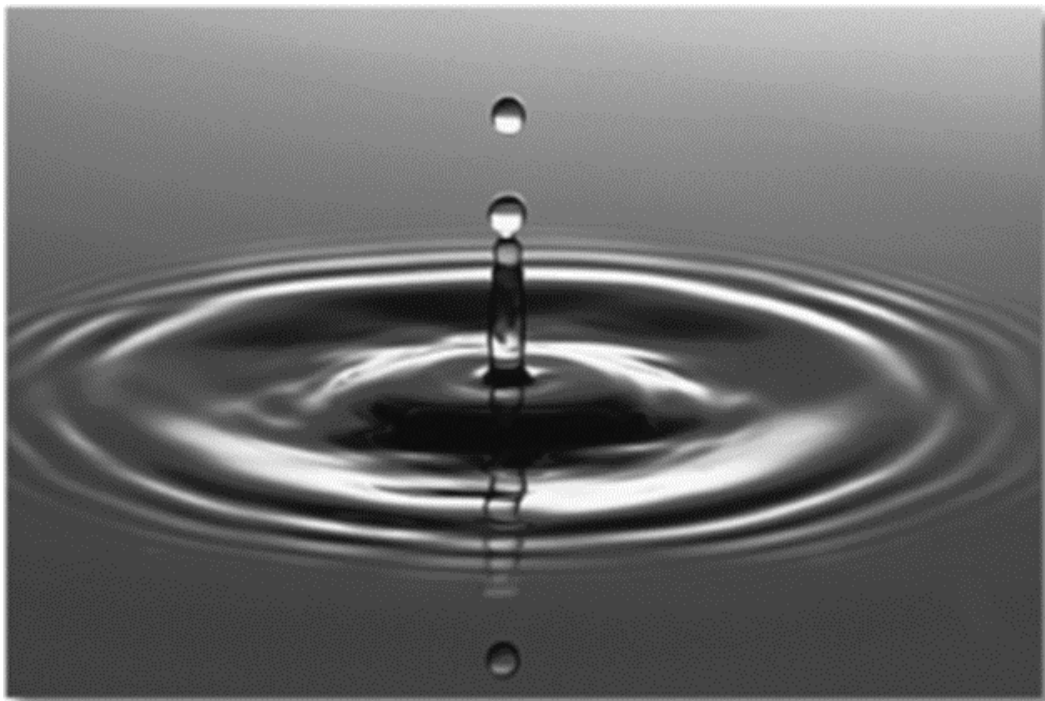


ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL MAIDENHEAD

COMMUNITY ANNUAL REPORT 2021



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To encounter Christ in Word and Sacrament

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Overview of the Year

I am thrilled this year that, thanks to the support of the community, we have been able to restore the wonderful design of George Street's floor to enable worship and mission to continue into the coming years. What follows is the outstanding report written by our Treasurer Rod Broad to the Charities Commission on behalf of the PCC/Trustees of All Saints and indeed of the parish to which we serve sharing how mission has taken place throughout challenging times.

Fr Jeremy

The Vision of All Saints

TO ENCOUNTER CHRIST IN WORD AND SACRAMENT To be drawn into the story of faith to live the story of faith. This is the story of the early disciples seeing Christ following the crucifixion and then encountering him in the word (Bible) and the sacrament (Supper at Emmaus) or Eucharist. They realised that he was alive and that they were to return to Jerusalem to be HIS body in the world. This is partaking to become. All that we do should enable us to encounter our risen Lord and try to share HIS life with others. This will be in our Worship, our welcome, our ministry to schools and outside bodies, and in all our contacts and connections. Within the All Saints Community this has been summarised in our Mission Aims Statement, which brings together the actions needed to achieve our Vision.

The Mission Aims of All Saints:-

TO BE A WELCOMING CHURCH FAMILY, ENCOURAGING AND SUPPORTING PEOPLE OF ALL AGES ON THEIR JOURNEY TO FAITH AND RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS; THROUGH VIBRANT EUCHARISTIC WORSHIP, SUPPORTIVE SMALL GROUPS AND STRONG COMMUNITY AND SCHOOLS OUTREACH TO BUILD A JOYFUL AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE, ENABLING OUR COMMUNITY TO LIVE AND SHARE IN THE LOVE OF GOD.

2. When planning our activities for the year, the Commission's guidance on public benefit has been considered along with the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. All Saints tries to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through: • Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus. • Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish • Missionary and outreach work • Community Engagement • Community use of the Church facilities, including the Quadrangle and Parish Centre Maintenance of the Church Buildings of All Saints, along with the support of many volunteers, is needed to facilitate this work.

2021 Pandemic and Floor Restoration

Whilst the Coronavirus and Covid-19 pandemic changed life completely in 2020; 2021 saw a gradual return to Church and other activities, although this was impeded by the late year 2021 Covid variant.

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As noted in prior reports the Church Floor of the Grade 1 listed All Saints Church needed restoration and this was planned for over the Summer months of 2021. With the Church closed in early 2021, due to the pandemic, the opportunity was taken to commence the floor restoration project earlier than planned and the project commenced in March 2021. The Church building was closed to enable the work to be carried out. Services during the closure of the building took place in the Parish Centre and, wherever possible, were streamed to enable members of the congregation to participate at home where beneficial.

It was fortunate that the work was able to start early as unforeseen issues with the floor delayed Practical Completion until November 2021. This presented some issues as, during October and November, some Baptisms and Weddings were booked. The Church teams worked with the contractors to make the Church available for these life events.

During this time the core aims of All Saints, and the resulting public benefit, remained a bedrock in formulating our activities along with our response to the pandemic. Regular contact was maintained with members of our congregation and those potentially in need. As well as personal contact communication was via the web-site, a weekly newsletter going to over 150 people and Zoom services. Fr Jeremy continued to record selected services which were posted, both on the web site and on the Church You Tube channel set up for this. The Church Facebook page was also regularly refreshed.

The pandemic along with the floor restoration continued to have a significant impact upon Church Finances which will be covered in the Finance section of this report. During this difficult time All Saints attempted to maintain its planned activities which are noted below in the report.

Activities and Achievements

As a church family, and as individuals, the parishioners of All Saints Parish Church, Boyne Hill aim to meet the Vision and Mission Aims developed by the PCC, in consultation with the congregations and the local community. That is 'to be a welcoming church family, encouraging, and supporting people of all ages on their journey to faith and relationship through vibrant Eucharistic worship, supportive small groups and strong community and schools' outreach to build a joyful and sustainable future, enabling our community to live and share in the love of God.'

The Parish had previously undertaken a review of its Mission aims and objectives. Through encouraging the parish to listen to the word of God through reflective Bible reading and listening to each other within the congregation as well as engaging with the community, the key areas discerned for focus are:-

- 1) Welcome – Being a welcoming Church in everything we try to do.
- 2) Worship – Making our worship more vibrant and engaging to all.
- 3) Schools – Developing our schools ministry, both in school and in Church

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These three aims are underpinned by three key areas of enabling Church Sustainability:-

- a) Financial and Stewardship – Ensuring sufficient funds to meet our Mission Aims
- b) Administrative – Ensuring good administration to deal with enquiries, make bookings, organise services and events and to ensure that statutory and legislative requirements are complied with
- c) Buildings – Maintaining the Grade 1 listed Church Buildings and the other listed buildings in the Church complex.

Worship

The worship team maintained their short term focus to meeting the needs of the community whilst the Church was closed, and then during its re-opening.

Whilst closed a blend of recorded on-line services and “meetings” was established. When the Church re-opened a trial took place with streaming for some of the 2021 Christmas Services which was well received.

The PCC has approved installing streaming equipment into the Church in 2022 to continue this method of outreach to those unable to attend. Several services continue to be available on ZOOM. The regular weekly newsletter – distributed to more than 150 people – was continued, which included updates, sermons, service information, links to on-line services and links to music. The website also hosted recorded services and information.

Schools ministry

In our three church schools and three other community schools we normally offer a combination of assemblies, classes in church, school services at schools and services which take place in the church.

We continued to work with local schools to provide recorded assemblies, Zoom and Microsoft Teams assemblies, and support where needed. Towards the end of 2021 School Class visits in the Church and live assemblies reopened. During the early part of 2021 All Saints raised funds to purchase twenty plus Kindle Fire’s for All Saints Junior School whose pupils faced a shortage of devices for learning. The purchase was organised in conjunction with Maidenhead Food Share who negotiated the supply.

Support was provided at Altwood School through the provision of a resource, on a part-time basis, initiated by the Diocese and provided in conjunction with St. Peter’s Church (Maidenhead), of a school chaplaincy, working with Fr Jeremy of All Saints. The ecumenical Open the Book team, which normally shares the Bible stories with up to 500 children each week of the academic year, moved to producing Zoom recorded versions in 2020 which were supplied to the schools. This continued during the early part of 2021. The five members of our congregation who act as school governors, across the three church schools, continued to support the running of our schools within the community.

Welcome

The welcome group worked hard during the pandemic to support the limited re-opening of the Church and then to support the period when services moved to the Church Hall.

We are grateful to all of the volunteers who assist ranging from sides persons who greet and guide, refreshment providers and cleaners who are managed, under difficult conditions, to make the All Saints a welcoming Church and community at all levels

Use of the Church Quadrangle and Christmas Market

During discussions with the community, it was established that there was a desire for more use to be made of the Church Quadrangle. When possible services and BBQ's, mainly for families, although all were welcome, were held during 2021.

With community desire in mind a Christmas Market was also planned and took place, mainly in the Quadrangle, at the end of November 2021, along with the Salvation Army Carols in the Quad. The event was a great success with an estimated 600 visitors and also raised just over £3,000, which the PCC voted to designate these funds for a potential "Back-of-Church" re-ordering project.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.

During 2021 All Saints has supported families from the church and wider community with, sadly 19 funerals, and, due to the church closure, a relatively low number of seven baptisms. There were two weddings later in the year as the floor project reached completion. Thanks go to our Priest, Fr Jeremy, who undertook the sad funeral support, many whilst the Covid restrictions were in place.

Diocesan and Deanery links

All Saints Boyne Hill is represented on the Deanery Synod by Fr Jeremy as a Clergy Representative and by Rod Broad and Ursula Hutchinson as Lay Representatives. Fr Jeremy and Rod Broad are also members of the Deanery Standing Committee. In addition, Fr Jeremy is a Clergy Representatives and, until June 2021, Rod Broad was a Lay Representatives on the Diocesan Synod.

Parish Centre activities

Our Parish Centre became vital for services and meetings during the year. As the year progressed community groups returned with the AA, the Brownies and Rainbows as well as the parent and toddler group Tiny Saints that offers activities, healthy food and a nursery rhyme service each Friday for parents and toddlers. A limited number of bookings were also taken for parties and community events.

Church Sustainability

We have a good number of volunteers who are working hard in areas of finance, stewardship, administration and buildings work, although these have reduced significantly due to the Covid pandemic. Our members are guardians of a Grade 1 listed building designed by the Victorian

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architect George Street, who also designed the London Law courts. The community of buildings at All Saints is in the design of an Oxford college and continues to serve the Alms houses that are part of the complex. We also have experienced people who are willing to give their time to ensure we comply with all regulatory requirements; this is especially helpful with respect to the matters of Health & Safety, Safeguarding and, more recently, GDPR.

With the increasing regulatory demands being placed upon the Church Office, along with health issues with volunteers, the PCC agreed to employ, and fund, the parish's first part-time paid administrator, who started work in Oct 2019. Unfortunately, mainly due to the pandemic and travel requirements, the administrator did not return to work in the Church office. Also, due to ill health, the other two office administrative volunteers could not return either.

This left Fr Jeremy without any administrative support in the Church Office and with no one to train any new people. Fortunately, an experienced pa/administrative volunteer stepped forward to assist and is getting to a position of being able to show new people what is needed. There needs to be additional resource in place to cover for that lost capacity and plans are in place to recruit for additional, paid, administrative support. During 2021 the cost of the administrator was kindly met by a local business. There are also indications that this support will continue in 2022; although additional financial support will be needed to cover the anticipated cost of providing all of the Parish and Office Administrative requirements.

Buildings

The challenges of maintaining the fabric of a Grade 1 listed building and a collection of Grade 2 and 2* buildings continue. Along with regular maintenance there was a major issue with the Church floor which was increasingly suffering from loose, broken and missing tiles. Exploratory work showed that the floor needed to be taken up and a new substrate laid following digging out. Some of the tiles were able to be reclaimed and new ones needed to be made. This restoration incurred major costs as well as disrupting the use of the Church for a significant period. Thanks to generous donations, mainly from within the Church community, the PCC approved the restoration contract. This was after engagement with the Diocese Advisory Committee, the Victorian Society and English Heritage which led to the proposal to replace the affected section of the floor during 2021, with the faculty for the work being approved (in 2020).

The final overall cost, excluding VAT, is expected to be in the order of £253k. The PCC gave approval to proceed, and work started in March 2021. The funds raised for the floor restoration are expected to meet these costs. For cash flow planning the PCC approved that £20k should be transferred from the restricted Church Restoration Fund to the restricted Floor Restoration Fund.

It is expected that this amount will be transferred back at the completion of the project (following retention payment and receipt of phased pledges made).

Social Media

As commented above the Church social media presence (web-site, Facebook and twitter) was vital for communication during the pandemic and continues to help generate interest in All Saints.

Volunteers

Fr Jeremy Harris as the parish priest and the PCC of All Saints would like to express gratitude to the many volunteers that contribute to both the running and the mission at All Saints Church.

Electoral Roll

The number on the electoral roll as at 31st December 2021 is 144. This is a slight reduction from the previous years' number of 145. The reduction from people moving away and from natural causes arising from the elderly age profile of the congregation was mainly balanced by new members.

Report of the PCC of All Saints

The PCC carries out its duties in assisting the priest in his role of promoting the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ and carrying out the mission of our church covering pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical matters. It is also responsible for practical matters regarding maintenance and repairs of the buildings to ensure mission can be carried out unhindered. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is made up of church members currently on the church electoral roll. The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules. The Annual General Meeting which is open to all church members on the church's electoral roll, gives them the right to vote at that meeting on matters on the agenda and how the PCC is consulted.

During 2021 the PCC met on six occasions. Because of the pandemic, the first four meetings and the APCM, were virtual meetings using Zoom. At the meeting following the APCM the following were elected to key roles for the next year. The Treasurer, Rod Broad, assisted by Sue Stannett Financial Secretary, David Morgan PCC Secretary with John Bolodeoku retaining his role as Minuting Secretary. There was a vote of thanks to Jan Moss who stood down as PCC Secretary.

The Standing Committee comprises Fr Jeremy (Vicar), Ken Smith and Ann Rawlings (Churchwardens), Rod Broad (Treasurer), financial administrator, Stella Harding, John Bolodeoku (Deputy Churchwardens) and David Morgan (PCC Secretary). This committee usually meets between PCC meetings to deal with day to day matters arising and to plan future PCC meetings and future mission requirements

David Morgan PCC Secretary

Churchwardens' Annual Fabric Report

A INTRODUCTION

The Churchwardens are responsible for the maintenance and repair of the church buildings and are assisted by others. Primarily at All Saints they are Mike Watts and Roger Towers, with Fr. Jeremy and Rod Broad. Our architect, Roderick MacLennan, is consulted on most issues. We thank them for their support.

Ann Rawlings and Ken Smith were the churchwardens throughout the year.

In many churches the group that looks after the buildings is known as the Fabric committee or Buildings committee. At All Saints we prefer to call it the Resources Group because the bricks and mortar were designed and built to the glory of God and as a RESOURCE for the Mission of the Church.

Information about the church itself is recorded formally by Canon Law in the **Terrier** (a record of the land we occupy), the **Inventory** (a record of the contents of the church both fixed and movable) and the **Log Book** (a record of church maintenance and repairs). The last named is maintained by Sue Stannett to whom thanks are due. This report describes the work done in the church, the progress of the floor project, and work in the parish centre and the properties in the quadrangle.

B THE CHURCH (EXCLUDING THE FLOOR)

The heating system.

Early In 2021 one of the radiators developed a leak in the control valve, which became a torrent when the pump in the boiler room was on, putting pressure on the system. At the same time, it was discovered that the pressure control in the boiler room was faulty. Both were capable of being repaired but given that the system was due to be shut down and the radiators removed shortly for the floor repair to start it was decided not to pay for the repairs to be done at that time but to ensure they were effected when the heating was restored at the conclusion of the floor repair (which was done in November 2021).

The boiler chimney.

Some of you may not be aware but there is a disused chimney over the boiler room at the Northeast corner of the church, which can be seen from the churchyard. Many years ago, the chimney had to be strengthened by iron straps because of vertical cracks. Now, the cracks are widening, and the ornamental top of the chimney is breaking up, with bits of it strewn over the roof of the boiler room.

There are two options. 1) to restore it in its entirety, or 2) to take the chimney down and cap it off. The latter will be significantly cheaper than the first option, but it is part of the grade I listed structure so any decision not to restore it will lead to lengthy negotiations with the church and secular planning authorities, including the Planning department of RBWM because it is externally visible. The PCC will need to address this in 2022.



The South door screen.

A faculty was granted to replace the six panels on either side of the screen with glass to provide better natural light within the enclosure and to give better visibility of the font. The work has yet to be carried out.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The CWGC has commissioned a project nationwide to place a plaque in a place convenient for the public to see, e.g., on the railings, which indicates that there are war graves in the churchyard. The plaque will be of aluminum, 25cms x 15cms, and free of charge to us. We have eleven graves from the first and second world wars, easily seen because they are all of white stone and uniform in shape.

The PCC has given its approval for the placing of the plaque, and it has been authorised by the Archdeacon. The plaque will be placed on the railings in due course by the CWGC.



The Stained Glass windows.

Some of the windows still need to be repaired. This will be a priority project for 2022.

A book describing the windows was written to raise funds for the floor and containing photographs of all of them – the only such record we have. Do you know where they all are and what they look like in detail? The book is available at a cost of £10.

Quinquennial Inspection.

The Inspection was carried out in December 2021.

C THE FLOORING PROJECT



Cliveden Conservation Company arrived on-site on 1 March 2021 to begin the repair of the floor. Prior to that of course work had to be carried out to clear the floor, to wit:-

- Protection of the organ

- Removal of twelve radiators

- Stacking of the pews at the west end

- Placing of the altars and artefacts in the west end, chancel, sanctuary or Birinus room.

- Removal of carpets

- Removal of all the linoleum

- Obtaining a licence and setting up for worship in the Parish Centre.

Quite a task for all concerned when one reflects on what was achieved!



As for the on-site project itself the floor was photographed before the tiles that were left were lifted and removed to Cliveden's workshop for cleaning. Early on asbestos was discovered in the heating tunnel that runs across the front of the church, leading to delay whilst the asbestos was

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removed. The foundations were dug out to a depth of about 12 inches and replaced partly with recycled glass – environmentally beneficial and with heat retaining properties.



After covering with a mesh limecrete was laid to provide a firm bedding for the tiles which were then re-laid , supplemented by new tiles to match the original ones, although inevitably lacking the patina brought about by years of wear. The new tiles were primarily laid in the centre aisle.

Although this is a very brief summary the carrying out of all this work brought with it a lack of understanding of the time needed for the lime mortar to dry, and the great difficulty of ensuring the tiles were laid in the correct pattern, and in diagonally straight lines. This was a task which defeated more than one tiling specialist and the brunt of it fell on Jeff and Amelia, two absolutely dedicated tiling specialists who were on their knees doing the work continuously for about ten weeks.

At the beginning of the year the forecast end time for the project was the end of August. Owing to the delays and extra work the actual completion date was 19 November, and the final waxing of the floor still remains outstanding at the time of writing.



The delay had a knock-on effect on the church in that weddings and baptisms had been planned on the understanding that the floor would be finished and the church available. It wasn't! Thus, a stalwart team more than once were called upon to create a church within a church, basing the ceremonies around the centre aisle with building materials to either side, and on one occasion even borrowing scenery from the Marlow Players to disguise some of the worst visual effects. It is pleasing to be able to say that the ceremonies went well, and the participants and guests were very appreciative.

And of course, the church had to be put back in good order at the end of the project. If you refer to the list at the beginning of this section all those operations had to be reversed in very short order. Thanks guys. The financial aspects of the project are covered elsewhere in the APCM Report.

D THE OUTCOMES FROM THE PROJECT.

Admiration for its appearance.

Relief that it is finished, and we can look forward with confidence and optimism.

A fitting part again of Street's vision.

A renewed resolve to share the church and what it can offer to the community. A number of visitors have already been shown around and a concert was held on 5 March.

E PERMANENT CHANGES

Following the completion of the project three major changes were agreed by the PCC and authorised by the diocese.

1 The dais on which the nave altar used to stand has not been put back and the altar now stands directly on the floor (see photo above). Most agree that this is an improvement not only visually but as an aid to worship, although it has to be said that from some locations in the nave it is difficult to see the celebrant

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2 Before the project the side altar stood on two daises. The larger dais has been removed, thus permitting the area to be used as a separate area for prayer and meditation. The value of doing so can be experienced during Morning Prayers on Thursday and Friday mornings.

3 The opportunity was taken to replace the antiquated sound system by a new system. This has given an improvement of several magnitudes and it will be possible to connect streaming services to it when the time comes.

F PARISH CENTRE

Since September we have increased the bookings for example baptismal and wedding parties, Rainbows, Brownies and the AA. We have ceased our contract with Rentokil Initial to service the toilets from October, so it is essential that all bookings are made aware that their bin rubbish is removed. Although we have a twice weekly cleaner Mondays and Fridays, there is no caretaker. Notices have been posted to remind them. Supervising the disabled toilet is important too. It would be advantageous to have a volunteer who would be responsible, especially for one off bookings.

Replacements A new fan heater has been installed and due to an accident a window has been replaced.

G CHURCH PROPERTIES

Residential lettings These comprise Flat 1 above the church office and Nos 3&4 in the quadrangle. They have all been occupied throughout the year, although Flat 1 had a rent reduction of £50 due to the tenant's ill health leading to loss of earnings. All but No 4 passed the new EICR which lasts for 5 years. No 4 needed new smoke alarms which have been installed at a cost of £220. All the properties have current gas safety certificates.

Maintenance No 3 has had a new shower at a cost of £786 and No 4 a cooker at a cost of £643. Currently there has been a problem of rat infestation. It has affected both Nos 3&4 and the Parish Centre loft. Vermatech are treating the problem and have recommended the removal of ivy in Nos 3&4 and filling in of any rat holes to the loft. This has been done at a cost of £1230. Running costs have been quite high this year although the rents have been holding up.

Commercial Let Clear Physio continue with their 5 year tenancy in what was previously The Parish Rooms. It continues to bring in much needed income for the church. The tenancy is for 5 years until December 2024 and hopefully will be renewed in the future.

Ken Smith and Ann Rawlings Churchwardens

Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery

The Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery comprises 14 parishes and benefices. The Deanery Synod comprises all the clergy in the deanery and Lay Representatives elected by their

respective parishes for a period of three years. The current triennium has been shortened due to Covid-19 and runs from January 2021 to May 2023. At the end of 2021 the Synod had 70 members. Attendance varied from 44 to 52 over the year.

All Saints Boyne Hill is represented on the Deanery Synod by Fr Jeremy as a Clergy Representative and by Rod Broad and Ursula Hutchinson as Lay Representatives. Fr Jeremy and Rod Broad are also members of the Deanery Standing Committee. In addition, Fr Jeremy is a Clergy Representative and, until June 2021, Rod Broad was a Lay Representative on the Diocesan Synod ?

There were three meetings of the Synod during 2021:

Wednesday 10th February 2021 on Zoom:

- Jim Tucker was re-elected as Lay Chair, and the new Deanery Standing Committee was elected.
- Area Dean Ainsley, Associate Area Dean Sally and Lay Chair Jim introduced the new Deanery Mission Action Plan, talked through active initiatives in the Deanery, and described the new plan as a working document, which will be updated over time.
- Synod members shared their thoughts on what they had been learning about mission during the pandemic and how this could affect the mission action plan.

Thursday 27th May 2021 on Zoom:

- Ian Macdonald, Diocesan Youth Adviser and Discipleship Enabler for Berkshire, spoke about how the church could better reach out into the parishes, particularly about reaching young people with authenticity, building relationships and intergenerational community.
- Synod members had an opportunity to ask questions to Ian.
- Lay Chair Jim updated the Synod on proposals for a formula to determine parish share allocation.
- John Sykes informed the Synod about upcoming Diocesan Synod and General Synod elections.

Tuesday 28th September 2021 on Zoom:

- Rev Polly Falconer, Diocesan UK Minority Ethnic Development Enabler, spoke about moving "From Lament to Action" in understanding and celebrating other cultures. She spoke of some of her experiences as a black woman and described some of the work she is doing to help the diocese and churches acknowledge the riches of diversity in our churches. Synod members spent some time discussing in breakout groups and asked questions.
- Lay Chair Jim proposed a new system of parish share allocation within the Deanery, moving towards a formula-based system, to be brought in gradually over a number of years. Synod members shared many comments and asked many questions about these proposals. The proposal was voted on and approved by a large majority.

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Thanks to parishes' hard work and generosity, despite the ongoing challenges of Covid-19, the Deanery paid 94.2% of its parish share for 2021, a total of £ 961,058 against an allocation of £ 1,020,191. This was a reduction from the £ 1,024,799 allocated and paid in 2020.

David Morgan, Deanery Synod Lay Rep (retired 2020)

Mission and Evangelism

The mission aims of the church at All Saints have been to try to create vibrant worship, a sense of welcome that leads people to belonging and developing schools ministry. Alongside this we have added during 2021 the desire to become an 'Eco-Church and look at sustainable ways of living.

The worship has over the last few years developed with new service booklets based on the 'Ripple Effect'. The Road to Emmaus Story supports our desire to be a church that responds to the call to use our baptismal promises to be a light to the world and to partake of the body of Christ to become the Body of Christ to the World. Alongside the new booklets (there are others that over time need replacing) we have the gift offered to us by a kind donation of excellent hymn books with a good variety of music to choose from. We have also over the last year introduced worship within the quadrangle alongside hospitality. This did enable an increasing number of people to join the Sunday afternoon services and enjoy companionship over the BBQ. We are now looking to develop the Sundays @4 working with the school themes of for example compassion, going for goals and relationships.

The welcome group has not met this year, but it did use the 'Everybody Welcome' course which was commented upon within the welcome report. The key here though is helping people to discover a sense of belonging through welcome that might lead to more active ministry.

Schools' ministry is continuing to develop. Some obvious examples are the success of Open the Book, sharing Bible stories with 500+ students across schools in Maidenhead. We have governors in our three church schools of Boyne Hill, All Saints and Altwood and over the last 6 months The Revd Jo Ellington from St Peter's has been offering Tuesdays at Altwood School and her presence throughout the day is building some great links and opportunities. Jo is developing the use of the Jesuit style of prayer in schools and encouraging practical Christianity. Examples include students making Christmas cards for residents in our Care Homes. In the coming year we hope to develop a Sustainability project alongside Altwood that will benefit both the school and an overseas school in South Africa. We continue to offer school classes at All Saints Church and assemblies in the schools.

As you will read in the Sustainability group report the need to become an Eco-Church is of significance as we try to change and develop our habits to be people that care about God's creation.

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A small but significant mission opportunity has been the use of zoom for Baptism/Confirmation classes which you can read about in the courses report. I do hope that this will lead to a confirmation service at All Saints later in the year.

I think we should mention the marvellous efforts that went into planning the new Christmas Market. Over 600 people attended and not only enjoyed the market and atmosphere but also the opportunity to visit the church to pray. It is hoped that we can offer more opportunities in 2022 for the wider community to join with us at All Saints..

Fr Jeremy

Courses offered at All Saints in 2021

The courses that were offered during the year were the art course in Epiphany, the course on prayer in Lent, the welcome course and there have been regular on-line Baptism/Confirmation courses on zoom.

The art course led by Matthew Firth was very well attended with Matthew leading us through the work of various artists from around Europe. The art courses have always enabled people to enjoy appreciating art and also to capture some of the ideas focusing on religious faith captured by the artist.

During Lent we offered the opportunity for people to discover the Ignatian traditions of prayer. The book we used to focus our prayer was @the Jesuit Guide to Almost Everything by James Martin SJ. Part of the course led to us experiencing the Ignatian Contemplative style of prayer. Some of the techniques used are Stilling, Noticing God in all things, Dwelling on the word of God, seeking reconciliation with God and neighbour and then seeing how we might take the opportunities God affords us in our daily lives to share his light with others. The new chaplain at Altwood School is developing this way of prayer with students. The welcome course (referred to in the welcome report) focused on how people seeking and enquiring about the Christian faith may find a welcome that leads to belonging and the desire to become disciples.

Finally, thanks to zoom I have met with seven adults sharing 'Faith Confirmed' Preparing for Confirmation by Peter Jackson and Chris Wright which is a 16-week course that helps people with Baptism and confirmation preparation. I hand out a copy of the book and people read the relevant chapter and we discuss via zoom. This has enabled even people with young children to join from their own homes. I am hoping that 3-4 of the adults will be confirmed later in 2022.

Fr Jeremy

All Saints Church Welcome Group

This group did not meet in person during the year due to the Pandemic. However, we did run a course based on the 'Everybody Welcome' course on zoom. A good number of people attended

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the course which encourages and challenges every member of the church to look anew at what it means to be a welcoming, embracing community. The hope is that people who come to worship at the church or indeed enquire about support in planning a wedding, a baptism or a funeral will receive the support they need. We hope that people will move from a position of enquiry towards a place as a member of the community that feels a sense of belonging.

The course encourages the church community to see our worship, activities and building from a fresh perspective. The hope would be that people who contact All Saints will become contributing members.

It is the case that this group has not met this year however, we can see a number of areas where we have tried to be a welcoming church.

1. The church worshipped for 6 months within the parish centre. It was great to see that the sides people adapted to the new role to make people feel safe and comfortable in a new worship environment.
2. During the year we did not have access to the church building as the floor project took place. However, we adapted and shared services with BBQ's in the quadrangle. Although these started slowly, they built up to congregations of 40+ enjoying informal worship on a theme before sharing food and drinks. Thank you to those who offered money to support these welcome activities and offered to cook the food. At one or two of these afternoon services local people joined us from outside the church community.
3. We memorably hosted two weddings in 2021. The first of these was conducted in a building site! However, thanks to the brilliant support of the church community and Marlow Players the couple experienced a joyful wedding day.

Fr John Ainslie is going to take this group forward in 2022 with the support of its membership. Thank you to everyone who has helped All Saints to be a welcoming community this year.

Fr Jeremy

Belfry

No ringing at the beginning of the year. On Friday 9 April HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh died. Saturday 10 April - tolled one bell 99 times. Saturday 17 April 3pm – tolled for Prince Philip's funeral.

No ringing until Saturday 2 October for a wedding. I would like to add that we had rung for a wedding on the very same day in 1971. This was for Lynne Cox and Richard Livesey's wedding at All Saints on Saturday 2 October 1971. Lynne was a local girl and had rung with us. Lynne and Richard Livesey, who now live in the West Country, returned to Maidenhead to celebrate their golden wedding on 2 October 2021. They rang with us on Sunday morning. We were delighted to welcome them, and they attended the service.

Saturday 20 November – second wedding to ring for. Church floor finished. We have not got many ringers these days, but Simon Smith (Derek's son) joins us, and his daughter Charley has now learnt to ring. As a result, we can ring five bells

Doreen Young – Tower Secretary

Worship

Worship is central to our mission and community. Any consideration about how to develop it is a significant and sensitive undertaking. However, the disruptions of the last two years provide the ideal opportunity to explore this topic because we have been forced to adapt to changing circumstances in ways that would never occur in normal times.

I volunteered to work with Fr Jeremy on this topic. The first task was to consider the scope of this committee. Given the scale and complexity of the topic, we considered five fundamental questions as follows:

1. Who wants to come to All Saints Church?
2. What do people want from coming to All Saints?
3. What does our worship provide to the community?
4. How do we strengthen the bonds of community?
5. How do we create a process to make things happen?

Over the course of four sessions, we developed an initial scope on the purpose of the worship committee. We discussed this scope with the Churchwardens and several other interested groups.

Subsequently, the worship committee has been on hold as we have focussed on re-opening the church and in due course, we will reactivate it. Our hope is to build inspiring eucharistic worship which supports the mission of All Saints to share the love of God through our church family to the wider community.

Brían Graves, Director of Music

Choir

We started 2021 in the depths of winter and height of the pandemic. Then as Covid restrictions were being relaxed the church was out-of-bounds due to the floor project. During this time and up to the end of November I continued producing the "Sounds of Worship" series of articles for the Parish Newsletter. Ultimately, I wrote articles covering over 150 hymns.

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Whilst the floor project was in progress, the organ was sealed in plastic sheeting to prevent any dust arising from the building work to infiltrate it. We also took the opportunity to undertake some remedial work on the Swell soundboard (the part of the organ where the pipes stand). Richard Bower, the organ builder who restored the organ in 2003 and has maintained it ever since, removed the soundboard and “trued” it at his workshop in Norfolk in order to remove some slight distortions which caused wind leakage between the pipes. The organ was reinstated just before the church reopened.

Not only has the floor project transformed the visual appearance of the church but the removal of the carpets and dais has significantly enhanced its acoustics. Resulting in the sound of the organ, singing and speech being brighter and carrying for longer.

When services were being held in the Parish Centre, during the summer and autumn, we were able to use the piano there to play some hymns but sadly restrictions in force at the time prevented people from singing but it was good to add some musical life to the service.

Eventually, the church re-opened on Advent Sunday and the choir was able to lead singing. Thanks to the support and efforts of the church choir and supplementary singers we were able to hold the Nine Lessons and Carols service on the Sunday before Christmas. This proved to be a joyous occasion which fittingly reinforced the message of hope inherent in the Nativity and Christmas season.

We are very fortunate to benefit from the skills of two other regular organists and I thank Simon Fullarton who played for the nine lessons and carols and Dr Relf Clark who has resumed playing for the Wednesday morning services and other occasional offices. We are very fortunate to have their help and support for the musical life at All Saints.

The hiatus of the last two years has, however, had an impact on the membership of the choir. Margaret Simpson decided to retire after providing many years of regular attendance and support to the choir and one or two other members have either moved out of the area or want time to find their voice. Sadly, Marjorie Pocock another long-term choir member and stalwart died towards the end of last year.

Looking to the future, we also have been able to welcome one or two new members and I am confident that over the coming months we will grow in strength and confidence.

Brian Graves, Director of Music

Young Saints and Family Ministry

It has been a challenging time for many church communities to keep contact with families and young people. However, Easter Day 2021 provided an opportunity for our first attempt at an outdoor service in the quadrangle when a group of families joined me to think about things in our lives that we were sorry about and hopes that bring us joy. From that first service in the quadrangle, we developed a monthly service followed by a BBQ. The afternoons were very successful with a small number of people attending to begin with before we reached 40+

people by the end of the summer. Our last Sunday afternoon service marked All Saints Day before we had a break for Christmas.

Just before Christmas a team of people including Pearl Boakye, Jo McMullen, Dianne Farmiloe, Elaine See, Louise O'Dwyer Barnard and Sally Unwin offered to support children's and family ministry going forward. This includes offering a fortnightly Young Saints on Sunday mornings and a once-a-month Sundays@ 4 which reflects the themes and values taught in schools. We hope that over time students from Boyne Hill, All Saints and Larchfield may join this service. The second Sunday in the month service at 10am will be a 'Worship for All' Eucharist.

Please pray for the ministry to young people, families and schools at All Saints.

Fr Jeremy

Tiny Saints

It was wonderful to be able to return to the Parish Centre for Tiny Saints following a year when we had been unable to meet due to the pandemic. As soon as we were able to return with outdoor events in the quadrangle Tanya sent invitations via Face Book to families who had enjoyed Tiny Saints in the past. Very quickly we returned to the normality of seeing young children enjoying healthy food, playing games and sharing in activities with other children.

Everyone has seemed to enjoy the return to our Tiny Saints nursery rhyme service singing 'Jesus' love is very wonderful!' One of the major concerns for families with young children has been the lack of opportunities to socialise and Tiny Saints certainly offers the chance for children to meet with others and for parents and grandparents to engage.

Thank you to Tanya, Carole, Ursula and Sadie for all that you do to plan the Tiny Saints sessions, offering hospitality and speaking to the families. The good news is that as well as seeing familiar faces return, we are making new friends through Tiny Saints as well.

Fr Jeremy

Sides People

The start of 2021 sadly saw the continuation of the pandemic arrangements with reduced services in the church. The number of Sides People available fell during the early days of the pandemic with several of the longer serving members being understandably cautious about going out and others needing to self-isolate. Whilst the 8am Sunday service was set aside, four smaller Sides teams were able to cover the 10am Sunday service during the months January through to the end of February 2021. Duties at all these services included the additional requirement to ensure all visitors signed in, sanitised, wore face-masks and followed the safe distancing arrangements laid out in the church.

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The Wednesday morning service continued throughout the year with one member of the Sides team providing the majority of the Sides cover, and additional cover provided by two other members of the team as required.

From the beginning of March work started on the church floor and services moved to the Parish Centre with a further, corresponding change in Sides duties; this included setting out chairs to allow for safe-distancing, then clearing them away at the end of each service to make space for other Parish Centre users who were continuing to meet in the hall. In May the highly flexible Sunday Sides teams rose to the challenge again and agreed a small increase in the frequency of their duties in order to cover the re-introduction of two services – 9.30am and 11am.

From October services in the Parish Centre went down to just one at 10am which eased the pressure on the Sides teams, and in late November, following completion of work on the church floor, we were able to return to church and resume nearly-normal Sides duties (subject still, of course, to pandemic restrictions). Throughout the year, all the Sides teams – Sunday and Wednesday - have shown considerable willingness, and ability, to provide cover for the changing arrangements necessitated by both the pandemic and the work to the church floor. They have provided a warm welcome to members of the congregation at all services, both in the church and in the Parish Centre.

During the year we sadly went on to lose the services of some of our longer-serving Sides People for whom the challenges of the pandemic and the frequent lockdowns proved too much, and whose advancing years / health led to eventual retirement from Side duties. We thank them hugely for their dedication and greatly valued service over the years. However, we have been able to welcome several new members to the Sunday 10am Sides teams, including two long-standing Sides people from the 8am service. They have all made a significant contribution to the work of the Sides team and to our ability to ensure we continue to provide full Sides cover for all services.

We look forward to the easing of the pandemic restrictions at some time in the future and, now that we are safely returned to church, to our normal, regular Side rota arrangements in 2022. And we look forward particularly to continuing to provide this valuable service to the congregation of All Saints, Boyne Hill, seeking wherever possible to enhance the welcome we provide to all our visitors.

Stella Harding

All Saints Servers

There is very little to report as for most of 2021 the church was closed and services were held in the parish centre, the rest of the time we were in lockdown. This meant that no serving teams were needed and due to this when we came to set up serving teams at the end of the year we found that most of the teams no longer existed or that people, like myself, were still being careful and mindful of their health, or the health of other family members.

Since the opening of the church we have managed to have one full serving team, the rest of the weeks we have mainly managed to have one server who is also a Thurifer. We have, most weeks, had a refreshments team. Hopefully things will improve as the year goes on.

Nick Kirk

Flower Arrangers

The dreaded Pandemic continued to disrupt everyone's life and activities, including the Flower Arrangers Team. From the beginning of January until the end of March all services and activities were conducted via Zoom and during this time the Flower Team were stood down. However, it was with great joy the first physical service was held in the Parish Centre on Maundy Thursday, and the Flower Team were once again able to spring into action, decorating the Paschal candle and producing two pedestals which were placed either side of the small altar. It was amazing how well these were received, not only by members of the congregation who attended the service in person but also by those attending via Zoom. It was a clear indication that flowers can really lift one's spirits even in worrying times.

Our dedicated Team continued to produce a beautiful arrangement each Sunday throughout the rest of 2021 so many thanks go to Marian Duncombe, Jean Balchin, Carole Deverill, Valerie Duncombe, Ann Rawlings, Linda Wallbank, Alison Leigh, and Helen Graves, their talents, hard work and dedication throughout the year is always very much appreciated but never more so than in 2021.

Normally, the weekly flowers are funded by members of the congregation who kindly sponsor a week so our wonderful church can be beautified, however, with the uncertainty of the pandemic restrictions, the decision was taken that funding would be made from the reserve available in the Flower Account held for such occasions, however, no-one expected the occasion would last so long!

2021 also witnessed another important change, Barbara (Bannister) who has been part of the team for many years not only as a talented arranger and leader but more importantly as Treasurer of the Flower Fund, decided in April that it was time to hand over this important role and I am pleased to confirm Stella Harding has very kindly agreed to take on the mantle. As we welcome Stella, and offer her our utmost support, we thank Barbara for her help, support and knowledge which ensured the smooth running of the flower Team over many years; we will miss her but know that she isn't far away should we need help or advice.

Our continued thanks also go out to the members of the congregation who enable us to produce the arrangements by kindly sponsoring the flowers each week, for their generosity, the special gift of lilies at Eastertide, and for their continued support, thank you! Thanks also go to Alan Ketley and Pauline Hole for setting up the Nativity, and to Ann and Chris Rawlings for setting up and decorating the beautiful Christmas Tree.

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The Team welcomes anyone who would be interested in joining them, no experience is necessary. Help will always be given to new members; the flowers are usually arranged by one or two members of the team and any new member would work with one of these until they feel confident. Flower arranging is a lovely way to serve the church and to give pleasure to all, as well as giving glory to God. It can be a very relaxing and uplifting pastime. More information is available from a member of the team for anyone interested in joining them.

Jo Towers, Stella Harding

Safeguarding

All Saints Boyne Hill is committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of children, young people and vulnerable adults, and to providing and promoting a safe environment and culture for people of all ages in our Church community.

The All Saints' Safeguarding Policy "Promoting a Safer Church" was reviewed, and the following (extract) agreed at the Parochial Church Council ("PCC") meeting held on 8th July 2021. The full policy is available on the All Saints' website.

"In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others."

The PCC is the main decision maker of the parish and has a duty of care to ensure the protection of the vulnerable in the church community. Safeguarding is a standing agenda item at PCC meetings.

All Saints works in line with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy and Practice. During 2021 the House of Bishops published Guidance on "Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance" and "Safeguarding Learning Pathways"; these come into effect on 4th January 2022, with a two-year period during which parishes will need to ensure full compliance with the Guidance. All Saints will work to ensure compliance as soon as possible within this timeline.

Safeguarding Roles

Louise O'Dwyer Barnard was the All Saints Safeguarding Officer, providing the church with comprehensive safeguarding support for the early part of the year. Louise took maternity leave from May 2021 and Stella Harding was appointed Safeguarding Officer to cover her period of leave. Stella also took responsibility from Louise for DBS administration and verification.

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Following Louise's return in May 2022 the intention, with PCC approval, is to arrange for the Safeguarding role to be covered on a job-share basis by Louise and Stella.

Disclosure and Barring Service Checks ("DBS")

One of the changes resulting from the revised Guidance includes the requirement that DBS checks are carried out every 3 years, instead of the previous 5 years. This will result in additional and more frequent work to ensure compliance.

We are also encouraged to ask those having a DBS check to sign up for the DBS Update Service; this enables portability, i.e., the check can be used across different roles and settings, and means that it will no longer be necessary to repeat a DBS application every 3 years as the Church is able to review a person's record (with their agreement), online, at regular intervals

Parish Dashboard

In late 2021 the Parish Dashboard was introduced as a way for churches to assess their progress against a range of safeguarding practices. All Saints will be signing up in 2022 and will work to complete the Level 1 requirements.

Compliance

During 2021 work was ongoing to ensure that all members of the All Saints community who were undertaking active roles within the church, and whose roles required that they provide a current DBS Certificate and / or undertake safeguarding training, were in compliance. The database of volunteers, their roles, DBS and training status was also updated to reflect the impact of the pandemic on those able to continue volunteering.

In accordance with Safer Recruitment practices, all new volunteers were required to complete Application Forms and provide satisfactory references. Confidential Declaration Forms also need to be completed where the role required an Enhanced DBS Certificate. Advice from the Diocese was that certain retrospective action was not practical, but we would need to continue to ensure DBS checks were carried out where the role requires.

All Group Leaders were asked to ensure the Safeguarding Officer was notified of any potential new volunteers / paid employees to ensure that Safer Recruitment practices could be adhered to, the database updated accordingly, and safeguarding training carried out as appropriate

Concerns Raised

One safeguarding concern relating to an elderly, potentially vulnerable adult was raised with the Safeguarding Officer in 2021. Following an informal discussion with the Diocesan Safeguarding Team, the matter was resolved satisfactorily with the family of the person concerned.

Focus for 2022

Looking forward, the PCC will continue to work with the Safeguarding Officer to ensure that all those working with children, young people and vulnerable adults are safely recruited, all church officers are aware of the church's safeguarding policy and are appropriately trained, and a procedure is in place for dealing promptly with safeguarding allegations or suspicions of abuse.

A review will be undertaken of all current All Saints' recruitment, people management and training policies and practices to ensure full compliance with the House of Bishops' Guidance.

Stella Harding

Sustainability Group – Caring for God's Creation

In the early part of 2021, we began to think about starting a group to focus on sustainability. With the agreement the PCC the Group started in the summer. As Christians, we all have a responsibility to Care for God's earth. The Diocese is encouraging and supporting churches to take practical action, prayer and advocacy to meet its net-zero target by 2030. All Saints has a role to play. Fr Jeremy had Initial contact with the church schools, but this was quickly expanded to 3 areas:

- Worship: focusing on bringing the themes of creation and environment into services and other church activities
- Buildings and land: investigating ways in which the management and use of the church building and surrounds might become more sustainable
- Schools: linking with headteachers at our local schools to understand how we as church can support their sustainability agendas

With the agreement of the PCC, we decided to register with 'EcoChurch', a charity backed by the Church of England among others, which supports churches to become more environmentally aware. This will provide us with a framework to measure progress and resources to support our activity. As well as looking at Worship and teaching, Management of Buildings and Land and Local community engagement, EcoChurch also includes Global engagement and Lifestyle, so gives a more rounded approach.

Here are some of the highlights to date:

- Celebrating Climate Sunday and COP26, praying for the environment and collecting for WaterAid at Harvest
- We already have a renewables energy contract which is estimated at saving 3.7 tonnes of CO2
- Circulating 3 newsletters with sustainability hints and tips on Christmas, waste reduction and shopping
- Holding an open morning for the congregation setting the theological context, listening to an external speaker from St Mary's, Wargrave, having discussions and Fairtrade refreshments. This was supported by over 20 people
- And our involvement with the church schools continues, as they take forward their individual environmental plans.

During Lent, we are encouraging people to think about what they can do to support the environment (e.g. eat less meat, plant insect friendly flowers) and we will be showing films with an environmental theme. Plans for 2022 include regular worship activities and the installation of a bike rack once we have the necessary approvals for our listed building status.

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Thank you to all the support received from the congregation and we look forward to reporting more progress next year!

Jenny Wilks on behalf of the Sustainability Group

Pastoral Care and Care Home Ministry

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

It continues to be led by Fr Jeremy with support from myself as Lay Pastoral Worker plus many others from within the congregation at All Saints Church.

With the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic there has been a huge change in the way we have been able to offer pastoral care and care home ministry, with much less in-person interaction and making use of other methods of communication and contact.

From March 2020, at the start of the pandemic, our monthly worship services and visits to the care homes of Larchfield, Clara Court, Normanhurst and Boyn Grove Day Centre were suspended, and video services were provided as a way of offering spiritual support. It was therefore a great blessing to be able to restart our care home visits and services from September 2021.

With safety paramount, we decided to limit our services to just Larchfield Care Home and Normanhurst Residential Home although Larchfield has now had a big expansion programme and currently has over 90 residents. Due to COVID restrictions, the care homes only allow Fr Jeremy and me to visit and we have to do lateral flow tests before going into the homes. The services we offer include well-known hymns and bible passages and it is amazing to see those living with dementia coming alive and sharing familiar hymns, songs, and readings, often with great passion and emotion. At both homes we also get enthusiastic participation from the staff on duty. It really is the most amazing and rewarding ministry, truly nurturing people in faith by sharing God's *love*.

Jeanette Lock, Lay Pastoral Worker and the Pastoral Care Team

Maidenhead Care

Maidenhead Care was founded in 1985 under the auspices of Churches Together in Maidenhead. It is as a good neighbour scheme which, at its peak, handled over 6000 jobs per annum. It is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee.

Operations were suspended in March 2020 due to Covid and reopened in July 2021. Originally all volunteers came from churches, but there is now majority support from the wider community. Since re-opening the demand for help has reduced by just over 50%. In larger part

this reflects the significant change in the provision of health services from face to face to voice and video. We have also had to suspend transport to London hospitals through a shortage of drivers offering this service.

Around 80% of jobs are driving to appointments, the balance mainly a combination of shopping and long-established visiting. All volunteers claim mileage. The clients are invited to make a voluntary contribution to the charity. If you have time and skills to offer, please speak to me and perhaps contribute to the good neighbour dimension of Eco Church that is being developed at All Saints Church.

Mike Moss, Maidenhead Care Trustee

Street Angels

For much of 2021, Maidenhead Street Angels patrols had remained paused until it was felt safe to restart once again. But at the end of September 2021, we were able to restart sending our teams back out onto the streets of Maidenhead again, helping those in any sort of need on a Saturday night. Our strapline is, " *Love the person in front of you*", and our aim is to share God's love with those we meet, letting them know that whoever they are, whatever they might have done, God loves them and meets them where they are.

It has been such a difficult and challenging time for all of us, for our town and for those people that we meet out on its street at night. The pandemic has changed a lot of people and there are now many more mental health issues, anxiety, financial and family issues so the ministry of Street Angels is perhaps as important as it ever was.

Unfortunately, our volunteer numbers have been somewhat reduced as several of our Angels have either moved away or no longer felt able to volunteer. So currently we are going out twice a month (2nd and last Saturday) from 10pm until around 1am.

If we can recruit more volunteers, we might be able to increase the frequency of our patrols in 2022. I ask for your prayers for us to be able to recruit more Angels to help this happen and if anyone is interested in coming out on a Taster Night to see what we get up to please speak to either myself, Mike Moss, Dianne Farmiloe or Fr Jeremy.

Jeanette Lock, Chair Maidenhead Street Angels

Senior Saints

So much has happened during the last two years - for everyone in so many ways. Our group has remained small in number but is strong in loyalty to All Saints and each other. Those of us left continue to enjoy the friendship and warmth we all experience. Sadly, we lost a staunch member in the passing of Vivienne Paterson last November. Father Jeremy has already paid a warm and sincere appreciation of all that Vivienne had offered during her life in Maidenhead,

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which was much valued. Irene Wilson continues to be house-bound, and Gwen Burkitt, who will be 100 next Autumn, is in St. Marks' Care Home. Visits to them have naturally been difficult, but when made, are warmly welcomed.

Despite the recent restrictions, the small group recently enjoyed a belated Christmas lunch out at the Toby restaurant, including Fr. Jeremy. Again, bad health prevented some from joining us. Also, transport is not always easily available. Most of our remaining members enjoy the mid-week Eucharist on a Wednesday morning, followed by the newly arranged coffee-break at the back of the Church. This helps to continue the support we each receive from long established friendships. We miss the leadership of Margaret Hill, now confined to home through lack of mobility,

Last Autumn we all met in her garden for a social "tea party" gathering. We had already held two similar afternoons. Such was the success of this, and considering all restrictions, the group have decided that the first three months of 2022 should be held in abeyance, until weather, health and restrictions eased, re-starting once more in April, with "tea party" afternoons in the homes of members, with a rota to be arranged. Fr. Jeremy would be kept informed with a copy of the rota, so that it would enable him to fit this with his own arrangements.

There has been a suggestion that members would be very welcome to attend the Tuesday Club at 2.30pm on the first Tuesday afternoon each month. An excellent idea, but not always so easily arranged. Time will tell.. So yes, the Senior Saints remain a small, but strong, group, and we hope that 2022 will bring some hope and inspiration to both them and to All Saints. Our prayers are for all our loved and respected members no longer with us. As always, visitors are always very welcome.

Wendy Channon

Boyne Hill Tuesday Club

2021 started with us being back in lockdown so our meetings were held via Zoom. Not a huge take-up for these but some meetings were just for a get-together chat and at others we tried some varied entertainments like some poetry read aloud, and a couple of quizzes. One of our members had experienced a Beetle Drive via Zoom so we had a go. Only 3 participants plus a visiting grandchild, but this was also at an experimental time – our first afternoon meeting.

Janet, our Secretary, continues even now to keep members informed and entertained with her regular Chirrup; the majority of members enjoyed these via email but three or four people receive hand-delivered hard copies.

It was a great delight in July to have a real in-person get-together; out of doors – our traditional end of year Ramble (now down-graded to an Amble). Socially distanced we started from Braywick car park, got caught by a huge downpour in Bray churchyard (how lucky that churchyards have so many big trees!), admired the homes of the rich and famous in the

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Fisheries before crossing back over the new footbridge into Braywick Park. We returned for refreshments at Mike & Jan Moss's.

Fr Jeremy and Monika very kindly hosted our AGM in September at the Vicarage spoiling us with a delicious cream tea. There we took the momentous decision to switch the time of our meetings to 2.30pm for the 2021/22 season to see how it goes. Not unanimous – we have members with afternoon commitments – but a majority felt that they would prefer not to come out in the evenings particularly in winter so we shall see how it goes.

So on the first Tuesday in October we welcomed our first afternoon speaker, Graham Horn, whose topic was Royal Consorts. Graham is an entertaining speaker who has entertained us in the past.

In November we had a real treat: our speaker, Mike Moss (not that one) from Hearing Dogs for the Deaf brought along a delightful young deaf woman, Sara, and her dog, Waffle. Sarah's mother came too and it was really inspiring to hear about the difference Waffle has made to Sara's life. She is now at College and hoping to become a journalist.

And in December – a return to something which felt almost normal – our traditional Christmas Flower arranging meeting. Jo, Marian and Val encouraged and assisted, Christmas music played, we had mulled wine and festive refreshments and members departed with some beautiful door wreaths and table decorations. What a lovely end to the strange year that was 2021.

"Are you staying up to see in the New Year?" "No, I'm staying up to make sure the old one has gone!"

Jan Moss, Group Leader

AllSorts

This Christian group is composed of helpers from several churches in Maidenhead (All Saints, St Edmund Campion, St Mary's White Waltham, St Mary's Maidenhead) and members with learning disabilities in supported living, group homes and family homes in Windsor and Maidenhead.

Because of the vulnerability of the members, we have not met in person this year of Covid but have tried to hold zoom sessions. These have not been entirely successful because of the living circumstances of our members, but we have otherwise kept in touch via phone calls and the distribution of Christmas and Easter cards and gifts.

However, we did have a memorable, costumed Nativity Play on zoom, with the (two) kings journeying from Slough and the shepherds in their fields in Maidenhead. We all hope to start

the group again this year with St Mary's as our hosts, with Fr.Jeremy helping to lead us. We would welcome your prayers. Thank you.

Sue Nordberg

8th Maidenhead Rainbows and Brownies

Rainbows are the youngest section of Girlguiding UK, from 4 – 7 yrs old. 8th Maidenhead Rainbows would normally have 20-24 girls, meeting for an hour each Friday during term time at the Parish Centre. After a year's break in 2020, we have enjoyed getting back to face to face meetings. We have been busy building birds nest, making sun dials and playing lots of games. We had a really interesting evening finding out more about All Saints Church with Father Jeremy. We recognised the people who make a difference in our lives by planting Thank You Pots of Kindness as presents.

Brownies is for girls aged 7- 10 years old. Our unit meets on a Monday usually for about an hour and a half during term time. Over the past year 8th Maidenhead Brownies have been working on developing their skills when faced with an emergency. We have been looking at our first aid skills and what to do if we find someone in need, as well as putting our acting skills to the test to practice these skills. We also celebrated bonfire night by holding a glow in the dark party, full of glow in the dark games, such as ring toss and skittles. We ended our year with a pottery painting activity.

Girlguiding is always looks for adult volunteers to support our Rainbow, Brownie and Guide units – if anyone is interested please get in touch. Not all roles involve weekly meetings and we have website coordination, commissioner, advisor and treasurer roles available. If you know of anyone who would like their daughter to join Rainbows, they will need to go to www.girlguiding.org.uk, click on the parent's tab and follow the route to register their daughter.

Nina Heavyside

Schools Group

Membership: Father Jeremy, Ursula Hutchinson, John Bolodeoku, Diane Farmiloe, Greg Hurst. The Schools Group seeks to ensure that All Saints is attuned to the needs of the schools in worship and learning whilst being mindful of their multi-faith make-up. Its principal focus is on nurturing and developing relationships with the three Church of England schools in the parish: Boyne Hill CofE Infant and Nursery School, All Saints CofE Junior School and Altwood Church of England School.

All Saints Church aims to be visible to the schools through assemblies, by providing services for schools, Christian Union and other meetings, through Open the Book visits to share Bible stories with children, carol services and other special services in church, by offering educational opportunities on request and by providing trustees to schools' governing bodies

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The Schools Group has discussed how best the Church can build relationships with local Church schools at a time when teachers are under enormous pressure and face many competing demands. The group has encouraged an emphasis by the Church on supporting local schools by emphasising Christian values in support of education.

Furthermore, the group has discussed how the Church can help and encourage leaders and teachers at local schools by listening to and supporting the themes and educational priorities in each of the schools, and by talking about big issues of interest to children and young people that are priorities for schools, such as protecting the environment and the Church's work to create a more sustainable building and community. This means, for example, that when our clergy are invited to deliver an assembly at one of our Church schools the theme of the assembly will support each school's current themes and priorities.

The Church will also use its links with local schools to promote the service for families and children at 4pm on the last Sunday of each month.

Greg Hurst

Open the Book at All Saints & Larchfield Schools

Those of you with good memories will recall that in 2020 we created video versions of our stories for use in school during Covid. You will not be surprised that in the first half of 2021 we produced a further 17 video stories.

We were thrilled to be invited back into All Saints School for the autumn term. The school experimented with one class as the audience and the rest of the school watched a live video feed in their classrooms. This changed at half term with lower school well spread in the hall. Note: at the start of 2022 we now perform the story twice to cover all students. The interesting dynamic has been, whatever the format, the children love to hear the stories.

Our current team is augmented by storytellers from St Peter's Church, United Reformed Church Maidenhead, and St Mark's Hospital Church. The fellowship amongst the team is excellent. We also sent video stories into Larchfield but were delighted to be invited to return in person in September 2021. Again, limited numbers in the hall but the stories were videoed and sent live into the other classrooms. Our storytellers are also augmented by folk from St Luke's, Good Shepherd and St Mark's Hospital Church.

We have had periodic social gatherings where members of both teams get together. Perhaps it is a good demonstration of the friendships that can arising from volunteering.

Jan and Mike Moss

Boyne Hill C of E Infant and Nursery School

Boyne Hill is a two-form entry school with around 260 pupils aged 3-7 years and is a short walk from All Saints Church. The Headteacher is Mrs Jane Davies, and the school is rated Outstanding by OFSTED.

In November 2019 the school had a SIAMS inspection under the new regime by the National Society on behalf of Oxford Diocesan Board of Education. As a result of this, Boyne Hill Infants is deemed to be a good Church school and the full report is on the school website.

The school serves a diverse clientele and lives out its vision to be rooted in the local community; hence together we are building a welcoming sanctuary where everyone is shown love, care and respect. Inspired by Jesus, the ethos of 'not to be served but to serve' (Matthew 20 v 28) is evident in the behaviour of the children towards each other and in the thought and care given to all associated with the school.

The school motto 'Feeding body, mind and soul' has a firm theological basis in the biblical story of the Feeding of the 5000. In this story, Matthew 14 v 13-21, Jesus performed a miracle to ensure that everyone's physical needs were met through rest and food; expanded their thinking and understanding through his teaching; and brought them closer to God through prayer and his loving compassion towards them.

This year the school has largely returned to normal teaching since the Covid-19 restrictions have been eased. However there have still had to be some adaptations as staff and pupils have been self-isolating or absent with Covid. Thanks to the great skill and dedication of the staff the children have been able to avoid falling behind in their learning and the school has made excellent use of the government 'catch-up' funding available. The children benefit from a varied and creative curriculum, which does indeed provide the space and time for each child to develop their strengths to a high standard and be supported and encouraged to persevere in the areas they find hardest, no matter what their ability or individual needs are. This really does give the children the best possible start in life.

Pastoral care for the children, staff and parents is given a high priority at Boyne Hill Infant School, and it has been designated an official '52 Lives Kind School' in recognition of this. The children's spiritual needs are also prioritised through times of prayer and reflection, and opportunities for awe and wonder to feed their souls. The festivals and teachings of the major religions are given due recognition in class lessons and celebrations and the children visit All Saints Church as part of their education. There is also a multi-faith prayer shed in the playground for use by the children, and places for quiet prayer and reflection in classrooms. The school holds regular assemblies and Fr Jeremy leads many of these, rooting the school in its historical association with the Church.

The children have always been involved in caring for others and the environment through support for charities, litter-picking in the nearby streets and sustainability activities such as recycling and growing food and wildflowers. This has continued throughout these difficult

times, and they have raised substantial sums for charity. In March the school's plot in the Birinus Garden will receive two miniature apple trees as part of Her Majesty's 'Plant a Tree for Jubilee' initiative.

The parents of the pupils have continued to fund-raise through events organised by the Boyne Hill School Association, although this has at times been a challenge due to restrictions in compliance with Covid guidance. We are very grateful to them for their creative thinking this year to put so much in place when it has not been as straightforward as in pre-Covid times.

Through all of these things the school goes a huge way towards fulfilling its mission statement to develop the full potential of every pupil by providing a place where they can grow academically, physically, morally, socially and spiritually, equipping them with the skills to face future challenges with confidence.

Our thanks goes to Mrs Davies and her excellent team for another outstanding year.

Anne Sweeney

All Saints Church of England Junior School

It's been a challenging time for all schools over the past 2 years with the restrictions of Covid, but the school adapted to providing online learning for pupils and in-school provision for vulnerable children those of key workers. On behalf of all the staff and pupils, we would like to thank the congregation of All Saints Church for the generous donation of the extra tablets to allow more pupils to access the online classes and schoolwork. Fr Jeremy and the Open the Book team continue to support the school with online assemblies and Bible story sessions. The school's vision is 'Loving all our Neighbours' and the values are being Safe, Ready and Respectful and these are evident in school life.

Since the beginning of the new school year, the school has been able to see some normality returning to the classroom and have started to enjoy some extra activities.

The pupils started the current school year by taking part in Jeans for Genes Day by wearing Jeans to school for a suggested donation of £1 to the Jeans for Genes charity, and in October the pupils were encouraged to walk, cycle or scoot to school to boost health and well-being, while reducing the emission of environment-harming toxins.

October also saw the launch of the new PTA committee, which has been busy arranging some much-needed fund raising events. We know this will be a great advantage to the school community, and the extra money raised will help to fund an Eco garden and extra equipment the school budget cannot cover.

With the Covid restrictions slowly lifting, the students have been able to again enjoy some extra sporting activities starting with the older year groups participating in swimming lessons at the

new Braywick Centre. Year 5/6 have been able to take part in the new Dynamos Cricket and Year 3/4 entered a mixed team into a fun football tournament against other local schools.

In November, the year 6's were able to experience a residential trip to Rhos y Gwaliau Outdoor Education Centre in North Wales where they had the opportunity to take part in activities including Gorge Walking, Canoeing, Mountain Hike, Mine Exploration, Orienteering and Ropes course/ Zip Wire.

In December, the Headteacher Mr Rhodes decided to take early retirement as he has plans to move to the North Yorkshire coast. Mr Mckrell has taken over as Acting Headteacher of the school. Mr Mckrell has been a part of the school for eleven years, including the last four years as Assistant Head.

Dianne Farmiloe Foundation Governor

Altwood Church of England School

Altwood Church of England School is one of the family of schools which fall within the Parish of All Saints Boyne Hill in Windsor and Maidenhead. It is a well-respected, multi-faith school, 11-18 age range, with a broad range of ability, where those of all faiths and of no religious backgrounds are welcome and nurtured in the safe surroundings of a Christian community with Gospel values at its foundation.

Altwood's church ethos is central to all that it does as it aspires for every student to achieve their best and go from strength to strength in all areas of their lives as they continue to develop into valued members of society.

This ethos is reflected in both the Vision and Mission statements as well as the statement of Gospel Values:

Vision

- To offer an outstanding education for our students and prepare them for successful, independent lives in the 21st century

Mission

- To be a high achieving academic community
- To identify and develop the full potential of every member of our community and give them the skills and qualifications they need to achieve their ambition
- Do this within the context of the culture and values of the Christian faith emphasising the strong moral and spiritual values shared with other faiths

Our House system reflects the theme of Gospel values the students chose the names of the three Houses as Faith, Hope and Joy. Other Gospel values are revisited regularly through themed weeks at school and through the "Theme for the Week".

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There are good links between the School and the Church. In the last year Rev. Jo Ellington has taken on the role of school chaplain. She plays an active part in the Altwood Union and encourages students to develop their reflective practice. Fr. Jeremy regularly undertakes School Assemblies and attends Altwood Union in the School, which utilises the School Chapel.

Altwood School maintains strong links with the Diocese of Oxford, a representative of which is a member of the Trust, and Foundation Governors ensure a sound representation on the Governing Body. Altwood has been proactive in developing strong links to share best practice with both Primary and Secondary Schools in the Diocese.

The Covid- 19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the Altwood community since March 2020 and a variety of measures have been implemented to combat the threat posed by COVID-19 (Coronavirus), whilst continuing to support the teaching and learning of our students, whether in the classroom or learning remotely. Online teaching and resources, social media and online parent/carers meetings have been an integral part of the support.

In spite of the Covid-19 pandemic, Altwood Church of England School has continued to perform well with students achieving some very impressive GCSE and A-Level results in the summer 2021. These results further reinforce the strong position the school has established in the local area and confirm its place as a high achieving learning community. These outcomes have allowed a significant number of our young people to successfully gain a place at their first choice University or destination of choice.

Janice McLucas - Chair of Governors

Section 30: Website and Social Media

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

The All Saints web-site continues to be a well-used source of information and, when linked to Facebook and Twitter posts a good promotional channel.

For a few years now it have been advised that the Church migrate to a new website as the current site, as well as being a bit outdated, is also becoming obsolete.

As a reminder. the site was kindly constructed by Martin Whitehurst, who has now moved, and is based upon a Concrete5 based Content Management System (CMS) and uses a purchased template from “Presence Church”, which is designed for Church Use.

As such its overall structure and look and feel is fixed. As web-site technology has moved on Concrete5 has now become the much improved Concrete CMS (currently version 9) – with support for the All Saints version (5.6.3.4) having now ceased (being classified as EOL – End of Life). This means plug-ins and the site will probably continue to degrade.

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In addition, Presence Church is also now classified as EOL (and was only designed to work with Concrete5 up to version 5.6 and is not compatible with the current Concrete CMS). Presence Church was last updated in Sept 2013.

Hence it is becoming important that, whilst in the immediate future the site can be maintained, All Saints put in place resource and plans to transition to a new web-site.

The options available would appear to be:-

- To build a new site based upon Concrete CMS – which, assuming we can find a webmaster to build and transition the site, should give an improved site with similar controls to the existing site.
- Without confirmation it is likely that the infrastructure, hosting, bandwidth and cpanel control could be organised as per the existing site (Simon Fullarton kindly manages the site infrastructure/back-up etc).
- To build a new site based upon WordPress. WordPress is one of the most common web-site platforms and if a webmaster can be found with WordPress capability then this may be an alternative option to using a Concrete CMS platform.
- A WordPress site would also require infrastructure management similar to the existing site, which would need to be confirmed if this option was followed.
- Set up a new site using a Managed Platform – such as Church Edit. This option would be more expensive and less flexible. However it would be more focussed upon church needs. It would need work in design and transition which no doubt the Managed Platform provider would be able to quote for.

A benefit of using a services provider such as ChurchEdit is that, if used, these sites can link into Church Management Systems (such as iknowchurch/LED). It is believed that several local Churches use a Church Edit platform.

- Infrastructure would be provided by the Managed Platform provider and would not require any further involvement from All Saints for this.

Whichever option is chosen there will be a need for a group to agree the tree structure and the data transition to the new site, along with the functionality expected. It will also need to be clear where the responsibilities would be for both static and dynamic content management of the site.

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Also, as a reminder, the front page was (inelegantly) modified to give, amongst others, access to Covid information, the Diocese and the Church of England on-line services page, updated Church information along with a new YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnPQFuQQ-Yb0ffFuT1Mjv8A/videos>) being established, together with new website pages and regular links to Church and Service recordings made by Fr. Jeremy (of which there are now some fifty plus recordings available on-line).

The hope and intention was that a new site would be in place to negate the need to undo the modifications, although these have now been partially undone.

The site has been supported by regular promotion and information posts on both of the Churches Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/AllSaintsBoyneHill>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/AllSaintsB Hill>) pages.

For interested persons there is an explanatory video, provided by Martin, on YouTube for new and potential users of the website. This is very interesting and informative, and it is worth viewing at: -

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-5dG3MvOxoncjs3SuOmggg>

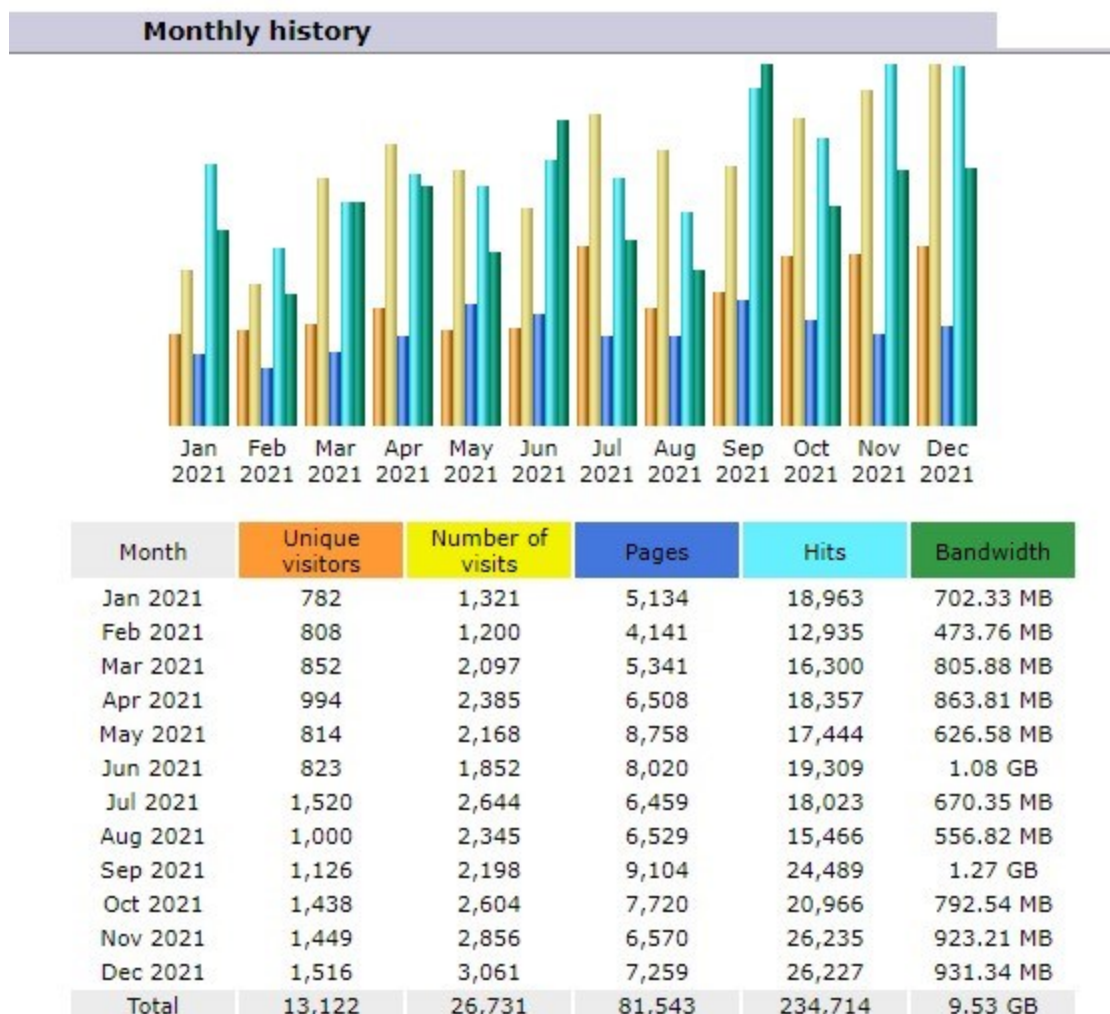
(Please note that there are direct links to the YouTube video, along with the All Saints Facebook page and Twitter feed on the front page of the website.)

Following Martin's move away Simon Fullarton kindly took over maintaining the technical and infrastructure aspects of the website. This includes organising and managing hosting (bandwidth availability) and back-ups.

From the graphs below it can be seen that the site is still generating a good level of monthly traffic, with over 1,000 unique visits per month, over 2,000 site visits and nearly 7,000 pages visited per month.

(This traffic excludes over 50,000 pages visited per month by robots, worms and for indexing reasons).

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Interestingly two of the most downloaded items (pdf's) remain "the stories of some of the fallen of WW1" talk and the "research into the fallen of WW1". During 2021 these were exceeded by the "Returning to Church for Private Prayer" pdf (from 2020)

The excellent informative weekly Parish News is also hosted on the website, along with back issues of these (and prior pewsheets). Whilst the extended Parish News distribution reduced the need for the website to be used for Church information, it was interesting to see that the visits to the web-site increased as the year progresses, leading up to, and including, the return to Church.

The website has tremendous potential for development which depends upon people having both the time and motivation to do this. With development the site can, amongst other uses, be used to proactively send out information when uploaded to people who have requested this. Using these features, along with rota and other information, would help reduce Parish administration time whilst also improving communication for our congregation along with promoting All Saints to new visitors.

In the short term it is hoped that the Parish Administration can take on maintenance of the existing sites content and calendars/events.

Facebook

In conjunction with the website we also have an All Saints Church Facebook page which can be seen at: - <https://www.facebook.com/AllSaintsBoyneHill>
Please do visit. Many thanks to Jayne Chapman who has kindly taken on an admin role and is helping to keep the site interesting with relevant posts. This has certainly improved the content of this page. The number of Facebook followers has increased to 217 page followers.

We have also periodically used the Facebook page for (paid) promotions, most recently to promote the Christmas Market, which had an estimated 600 plus visitors.

Twitter

There is also an active Twitter feed at: - <https://twitter.com/AllSaintsB Hill>
Please do visit. This has been maintained by Julia Wakeling and has attracted 107 “followers”. (Slightly up from last year).

Streaming

Whilst the services were held in the Parish Centre Fr Jeremy managed to live stream some of this on Zoom via a mobile phone. This would not give adequate quality of sound and vision in the Church. Some of the Christmas services were live streamed using a PC and web-cam equipment. This allowed wide viewing of the services, however the sound and vision was still not the best quality, and this required a good deal of set-up time.

To live-stream in the future the suppliers of the (updated) sound system have proposed a fixed camera system that can also link into the sound system. This is the simplest system to both set up and use. This appears to be the best solution and discussions are in place with the Diocese. Should this progress, and the congregation value live streaming, then operators will be needed for when streaming is used.

Future

Overall, the website and social media activity, as well as acting as a vehicle for communication, give All Saints a great opportunity to both spread the Word of God and to help make the Church attractive to people of all ages.

It is hoped that we can generate enthusiasm and support to both maintain, and develop, this important channel of communication in today’s society.

Rod Broad