

# 2015 Report and Accounts for the PCC of: All Saints Church, Sawtry

## Aims and purposes

All Saints Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Revd Rosie Ward, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

## Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community. Our mission statement, agreed in 2012, is:

**‘Knowing Jesus, Growing in God’s love and Sharing it with all’**

This is designed to sum up our responsibilities to obey the Great Commandment, to love God and our neighbour, and the Great Commission, to make disciples of all nations.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of All Saints.

## Achievements and Performance

Our curate, Revd Imogen Falvey, was ordained priest in Ely Cathedral on 29<sup>th</sup> June, and is now established in her ministry as a priest. Over the last year her particular contribution has included a prayer initiative, leading Adventurers (since September), starting an Open the Book team, and leading a Pilgrim course on the Lord’s Prayer in the autumn. She now plays a full part in all the other areas of ministry in All Saints (and St Nicholas) as she continues to fulfil her 3-year training period.

In September we started the *Growing Leaders* course, with 14 participants, including one from Glatton and 5 from Stanground. The course is designed to grow leaders, whether existing leaders or emerging leaders. The course covers leadership character as well as competence, and by the end of the year was already proving beneficial to participants and allowing them to learn from each other.

In addition, one lay member of the church, who is exploring her sense of calling, preached several times, and her ministry was well received. Many other members of the church grew in confidence over the year through stepping up into new leadership responsibilities.

### ‘Knowing Jesus’

#### **Worship and prayer, and home groups which enable members to grow in their faith**

The ‘Ministry Team’, consisting of the Rector, Curate, LLMs John Gillis and Malcolm Ward, and ALMs Sue Simmons and Ali Scott, meets bi-monthly for mutual support and to discuss aspects of church life. Each member of this team has played an important part in the life of the church over the past year. Another small team meets to plan and lead All-Age services on the first Sunday each month, and a sizeable team meets to plan and lead Messy Church.

#### **Worship**

All Saints’ is keen to offer a range of services during each month, and over the course of the year, that our community can find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. Some appreciate the quiet monthly BCP communion at 8am, while families are encouraged to come to the monthly All-Age worship at 10.30 and/or Messy Church, which meets on Saturday afternoons. At the end of the year there were 70 people on the Electoral Roll, 2 of them not resident in the parish.

### **8am Congregation**

This congregation consists of around 6-8 adults who attend regularly each month. Those who come to this service do so because they like the language and familiarity of the Book of Common Prayer, or they like to worship early in the morning so as to leave the rest of the day free. The congregation has declined over the past few years, due to regulars moving away or getting older and unable to attend.

### **10.30am Congregation**

The 10.30 congregation is the main worshipping congregation. Within it, attendance patterns vary, with some attending every week, and some monthly, to either Morning Worship (ie non-eucharistic) or All Age Worship. In January there was a special service to thank God for the AV equipment and those who had so generously contributed to it. The projector has enabled the use of images to accompany psalms, sermons and liturgy, and for notices to be displayed before and after the service. Music varied from traditional hymns to new songs, including a few new ones introduced during the year. The teaching included some 'themed' sermons, including a series of three 'Puzzling Questions' in the summer, designed to help church members answer some of the questions that non-Christians may ask. We are encouraged that 'Usual Sunday Attendance' in 2015 went up from 38 in 2014 to 40 this year.

### **Messy Church Congregation**

Messy Church is a 'fresh expression' of church, ie a form of church established primarily for the benefit of people who are not yet 'members' of any church. It started in September 2014 and meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month (excluding August and December), at 4.30pm. Each session aims to provide a warm welcome, and engagement with the Christian story through themed 'messy' activities exploring our Bible theme, a short 'celebration' of Bible story, songs and prayer, and through sharing friendship and a meal.

Over the year the Messy Church team grew to around 20 people, including some new to church. We have enjoyed welcoming, on average, 32 adults and children, making average attendance around 50.

Messy Church is an informal style of worship. It aims to welcome people who may be exploring Christian faith for the first time and are not familiar with the Christian story or 'church'. It also encourages them to find out more through hands on crafts and messy activities and to share friendship and a meal.

We take advantage of the many Messy Church publications and resources to help select themes for our worship. In 2015 we explored key stages of Jesus' life (lost in the Temple; tested in the desert); Bible landscapes (mountains, roads and seaside), Easter, Pentecost as well as Old Testament lessons about God through the eyes of the Israelites. See [www.messychurch.org.uk](http://www.messychurch.org.uk) for more about this growing style of worship.

The real development and wonder of this year has been the growth of the MC team in confidence and fellowship. There are now more than 20 of us and although we were all slightly nervous starting out, now there's nothing much that fazes us! The team is an absolute testimony to what can be accomplished when we support and care for each other. We have welcomed new members to the team and for some – and some of our visitors - this may be the only contact they have with All Saints'. It is a much needed opportunity to bring people together to explore the Christian faith in action, through Bible and praise and through nurturing relationships.

Ali Scott,  
Messy Church Co-ordinator

## **Special services**

During the year there were a variety of special services, attended by many who do not normally worship at All Saints. One of these was the St George's Day Parade service, attended by 68 adults and 55 children from the groups of local Scouts and Guides. In October we held the first Healing Service which had taken place for some time; this was well received, and so we hope it may become a regular feature.

The Rector is Chaplain of the local branch of the British Legion. A short service was held in May to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day 1945, and another in August to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VJ Day. Services were held around the war memorial to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of each man who fell in World War 1, in August and September. This year's Remembrance Sunday was well attended, with 161 adults and 85 children; a service was also held at the war memorial in St Andrew's Cemetery.

In December we were very encouraged by increased attendance at nearly all our special services. The Christingle service saw a large increase, with 73 adults and 24 children (42 and 15 in 2014). The Family Nativity service was attended by 62 adults and 24 children, Carols by Candlelight saw a rise of nearly 40 to 109 adults and 9 children, and Midnight Communion was up by 12 people to 101.

At **baptisms, weddings and funerals** we help people to mark the milestones of life. It is always a joy to welcome new people into the Christian community, and this year 13 infants and 1 child were baptised. Many of the baptism services were attended by large numbers of people. We celebrated two weddings. 12 funerals were held in church, and another 8 parish funerals were taken at the crematorium; thus a significant number of families received help in their grief and heard the message of resurrection and hope proclaimed.

## **Music and Choir**

We are grateful to Joyce Day who has continued to lead the choir. Also to Helen Reece and Keith Walters who played for one Sunday each month, augmented by Rebecca Rickwood when available. On other Sundays we have used backing tracks either downloaded, or from a set of CDs which we purchased during the year, or occasionally we have had guitar accompaniment. We were grateful that Henk Kamminga was able to play for Remembrance Sunday and Carols by Candlelight. We also thank Bron Taylor and David New who played for weddings and funerals. Many thanks to Pete Ayres, Mark Fellowes and Malcolm Ward who prepared the slides for Sunday worship, music tracks where necessary, and operated the AV system.

## **Choir report**

We have all enjoyed singing for the Church Services this past year. For most of the year we practised in Church, but in the very cold weather we met at my house where it is much warmer. There are currently 7 members; we are a friendly bunch and it is not essential that you are able to read music to be a choir member.

The choir were delighted to welcome some friends to sing with us at the Carol Service. Their presence made it possible for us to choose rather more ambitious pieces and to sing in two parts. We thank them very much for their help. Pat would love to have support with the alto line every week!

Joyce Day

## **Ministry of Flowers**

Our Team of eight have had a busy year providing and arranging flowers for Easter, Harvest Festival, Christmas and the fortnightly change of flowers at the Altar.

A team made approximately 40 Posies for Mothering Sunday. For the Christmas Tree Festival we decided to decorate a real tree with fresh flowers, greenery, cones, berries etc to denote the meaning of a 'Real' Christmas.

Unfortunately, one of our members has retired due to family reasons and we would welcome anyone who enjoys working with flowers to join us and help our team continue our commitment in helping to enhance the beauty of our Church.

Maureen Westbrook, Flower Co-Ordinator

## Home Groups

We have two Home Groups at All Saints, one meeting on Wednesday evenings and one on Thursday mornings. Both run on a fortnightly basis through the year with breaks for seasonal holiday times, apart from the 5 weeks of Lent when the meeting takes place weekly.

The **Thursday Group** has twelve members, and we have got to know one another quite well, a major plus point for Home Groups! We meet at Doreen Pattinson's home in St Judith's Lane and thanks must go to Doreen for her great hospitality-real coffee and homemade biscuits/cakes most sessions.

Our studies this year started with the series we began in 2014 on, 'Women in the Old Testament'; it was good to hear of the many challenges some women faced and how they dealt with them with the help of their faith.

Our Lent course was produced by Churches Together in Britain & Ireland (CTBI), and focused on the Church in the troubled Middle East, giving historical background as well as up-to-date information on how the Church is faring in those parts. It was quite a challenge to face some brutal realities of fellow Christians trying to live out their faith in hostile surroundings.

In June we followed a study called, 'Meeting the Holy Spirit', which cast a lot of light on the topic and was as affirming, enlightening and supportive as was hoped. We finished the year with a Reflection for Advent' which paved the way for our Christmas celebrations, and rounded off another year where we got to know our Bibles better and to apply its many truths in our own lives.

Sue Simmons

The **Wednesday Evening** group has eight members and over the year we studied the Lord's Prayer, then in Lent we used the CTBI course on Christians in the Middle East. We followed this with a series on the book of Revelation, one of the least studied and most challenging books in the Bible! We take it in turn to lead the studies; and on occasion we have spent the evening in conversation and prayer.

Gwynneth Fellowes

## Causeway Group

The Causeway group began in the late 1980s when a handful of Christian women in the village decided that they would like to meet on a monthly basis to listen to a speaker and share Christian fellowship.

Initially they met at the Rectory (hence the name), then they began to meet in each other's homes and gardens. We have a variety of speakers, two outings a year and each meeting begins with a short service, led by a different member of the group. We have 16 members at present and look forward to an interesting programme in the coming year. Many thanks for each and every member for the part they play in making our meetings so enjoyable.

Isolde Whitmore

## **‘Growing in God’s love’**

### **Including pastoral care, and social events designed to build up the church**

Pastoral care is the responsibility of everyone: as Christians we demonstrate Christ’s love for us by caring for each other. Home groups and other groups are also important in helping people to find support and care within the life of the church. For older members and those who are unwell, much pastoral visiting is done by our Pastoral Assistant Sue Simmons, and more informally by many others, to provide company and encouragement and to keep people in touch with church life.

The Rector took turns with the Methodist minister to lead monthly services at Mellor’s Court sheltered housing and Hill View care home, with Holy Communion celebrated at festivals; though during the year attendance at both venues dropped to quite low numbers.

### **Pastoral Assistant’s Report**

As members of our Church, we all have responsibilities of care for those around us. It is good to draw alongside people when they might benefit from a listening ear, or help with practical concerns. I see many acts of thoughtfulness and kindness taking place which help improve people’s day-to-day living, and help people to feel valued and loved. I find it a great privilege myself to be able to be part of that, both the giving and the receiving.

The contacts I have had with people over the year through my role as Pastoral Assistant, I do hope have spoken of the love of God, and made people feel they are very welcome to find themselves drawn into the community at All Saints’.

Pastoral work is limitless and needs to be shared. It is good to be part of the Food Bank initiative run by CARESCO and the Churches, and to see people benefit from the kindness of others with all the donations received through the year.

From my visiting, I hear how pleased people are when others give their time for all the visits and support which take place through our clergy or lay visitors. Such service is a privilege to give and a joy to share.

Sue Simmons

## **Sawtry Foodbank**

Sawtry Foodbank Centre opened in January 2015, based at the CARESCO building. Through the year it has continued to work with the underprivileged in the village, guided by a hard-working four-person steering committee, along with lots of great volunteers working busily in the background.

For those who are still unsure of what a foodbank is or does, Sawtry Foodbank Centre is committed to giving short term support to clients who find themselves unable to meet personal or family commitments. This may arise through illness, loss of employment, delays in paying benefits, or other financial challenges. Sawtry Foodbank Centre aims to provide a helping hand with short term need by supplying food boxes and, where it can, by providing information as to where clients may find expert help to guide them through their problems.

The Sawtry Foodbank Centre works in co-operation with Godmanchester and Yaxley foodbanks to ensure the surrounding area is properly and efficiently covered. This is a partnership which has proved to work well, ensuring help is offered where it is most needed. Over its first year of operation there has proved to be a continuing and fluctuating need for the foodbank in the village. 87 parcels were issued to 41 individuals and families.

The foodbank is always eager to accept offers of help from volunteers. That help may be to work directly with clients through the foodbank held in the CARESCO building, through warehouse management, or by manning the food collection points on regular occasions at certain supermarkets. There is always work to do! If you think you can help us, please contact Miranda Knell CARESCO Volunteers Manager.

In the meantime, please remember us in your prayers and help to support those in the village who find themselves in difficulty.

Jim Hogg

## **‘Sharing God’s love with all’ - Mission and Evangelism**

A healthy church must be a growing church, but growing new Christians continues to be an area where we need to give attention. During the year the Evangelism Group ceased to meet, on the basis that the whole PCC needs to keep mission at the top of its agenda.

Much of our mission emphasis is currently focused around Messy Church, which attracts a large number of families who would not normally attend church. We are also in contact with families through Adventurers and Discoverers, which continue to flourish. As Messy Church continues and relationships strengthen, some of those new to church are now attending regularly and getting involved. Our annual statistical return showed that ‘Usual Sunday Attendance’ increased from 38 in 2014 to 40 in 2015, and we added in total 9 adults and 8 children to our ‘worshipping community’ (those worshipping at least once a month, including Messy Church).

But there is clearly more work to be done to address this area of our Mission Statement, including helping church members become more confident in sharing their faith, and improving our welcome to those who visit All Saints. A sermon during the year on welcoming reminded church members always to be on the look-out for new people and to welcome them, and a series on ‘Puzzling Questions’ was designed to help church members to ‘give an answer for the hope which we have’ (1 Peter 3:15).

The 2014/15 **Mission Action Plan (MAP)** was reviewed, and the three goals had been achieved :

1. **Messy Church** continued to develop.
2. A celebration service was held to thank God for the **audio/visual system**, it was up and running, and Pete Ayres compiled a manual and trained several people to use it.
3. In co-operation with CARESCO, Sawtry Methodist Church and St Benedict’s Community, a **food bank** distribution centre was set in Sawtry, supported by Godmanchester Food Bank.

Early in 2015 Ely Diocese launched a strategy consultation, to which the PCC responded. In the light of this, we did not start work on a new ‘Development Action Plan’ until the end of the year.

Information on all our services is on our notice sheets, church website and in the bi-monthly village magazine, the *Sawtry Eye*. At Christmas and Easter the local ministers take turns to write a reflection.

## **Children’s Ministry**

2015 saw the fifth year of our monthly after school club “**Adventurers**”, held at Sawtry Infant School on the second Tuesday of every month. This is for children aged 5-7. After a slow start in the autumn term we have maintained a healthy membership with 7 new members replacing the 10 who moved up to Junior School. We’ve seen an average of 12 children and we currently have 23 children on the register. Our leadership team has also benefitted from the help and enthusiasm of new team members, Lynn and Sarah Scott. The loyalty and commitment of the whole team is a real strength. We are always keen to encourage new team members to join us, as Together Everyone Achieves More (TEAM). We really valued the prayer support offered by everyone at All Saints’.

The children are enthusiastic and very open to learning about Jesus. They enjoy a varied programme of songs, stories, games, prayers and crafts. We finish each session with the Adventurers prayer, and we try to encourage parents and helpers to come in for the last five minutes to hear about what we have been doing, and to join in with the prayer.

Over the year we've enjoyed hearing about God's love for us: how everyone is special to Him. We have looked at many stories from Jesus' life including the story of the Good Samaritan; Jesus meeting Zacchaeus, and Jesus healing a blind man. We have looked at creation, celebrated God's generosity, and enjoyed both a Christmas and an Easter celebration together.

Thanks must go to Head teacher Fiona Wheatley and her staff who support us with free facilities and allow us to publicise these sessions as well as to our leadership team: Imogen, Sue, Rosie, Doreen, Christina, Lynn, Sarah Scott and Sarah Fielding.

Imogen Falvey

Our **Discoverers** group (ages 7-11) continues to meet in church every 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday evening. They are a lively bunch and we were pleased to welcome three new children in September – all of whom had moved up from Adventurers. We use a range of materials to help open up our Bible theme for the session – some from published resources – some our own ideas. Ideas explored in the first half of the year included the story of Naaman and what it tells us about trusting God; Jesus as a servant king; and talking and listening to God in prayer. In autumn we thought about what God thinks of us and how he welcomes us. Harvest gave us a chance to develop some thank you prayers and to think about where our food comes from. We heard about the prodigal son and what Jesus teaches us about forgiveness. We join together in a prayer activity (sometimes very noisy!), along with the occasional game, songs and a bit of creativity all based on our theme. We also enjoy having fun when we go "off programme" for a few sessions. So we had a movie night back in April and a games evening outside with picnic to round off the summer term. The Christmas Tree Festival gave an opportunity for a quiz evening based on the different trees and the year ended with the annual Christmas Party for Adventurers and Discoverers. Thanks to Teresa and Steve Austin, Gill and Andre Bradley and joining us this year, Joyce Day – all who make up our leadership team. Please pray for Discoverers – and for the leaders as we find ways to make the Bible and Jesus' example relevant to this age group.

We started **Seekers** in September as a house group for the young teenagers in our church. While small in number, this group has had some great and meaningful discussions about the nature of God and the part he plays in our lives. I am really grateful to Roy Dunn from St Benedict's RC Community for helping to lead this group. We hope and pray it will go from strength to strength.

Ali Scott

### **Schools Ministry**

School **assemblies** are an important ministry, the only time many children will hear the Christian message. At the invitation of the head teachers, church-led assemblies were held every Wednesday at the Infant and Junior schools. These consist of a Bible story, with involvement by the children, a prayer, and song. During the year the time of Junior School assembly was changed by the school from morning to the afternoon; we were very pleased that Imogen was able to set up a team from all 3 churches in Sawtry and St Nicholas Glatton, to '**Open the Book**' at this new time. From September the team presented Bible stories once a fortnight. The Rector also visited Learning Bears (pre-school held at the Methodist Church), to tell a Bible story and sing a song with the children, roughly once a month.

In July all the Year 6 leavers at the Junior School were given a copy of '*It's Your Move*', a booklet about moving to a new school, which also uses Psalm 139 to introduce the concept of faith. In October we welcomed the Infant School to church for their Harvest Festival.

Rosie Ward

## Deanery Synod Report

A deanery synod is a council of church members, and each parish is represented at deanery synod by both lay and clergy members. Joyce Day and Alison Scott continued as our representatives on the Yaxley Deanery Synod. The Synod meets 3 times a year, with meetings held in different parishes. The meetings discuss and reflect on issues affecting the church in the local area and more widely.

Meetings start with an overview of the worship and outreach life of the host parish and it has been interesting and inspiring to hear of the different ways parishes are reaching out to people in their communities.

At the first meeting we enjoyed a talk by Revd Jane Keiller, Diocesan Officer for Spirituality, on the difference prayer can make, and all were encouraged to take advantage of Jane's offer to help us try fresh prayer initiatives both in our parishes and the deanery.

In summer we welcomed the Bishop of Peterborough who spoke about the role of the deanery. He stressed its role in encouraging fellowship and support between parishes rather than being a decision making body. He also offered his support to parishes in the deanery, offering to take services when needed and to offer to have deanery candidates confirmed at Peterborough cathedral, if wanted.

In November we were hosted by St Peter's Yaxley. Parishes shared new initiatives both for outreach into the community (e.g. foodbanks, homeless shelter projects, Messy Churches) as well as fresh prayer initiatives (e.g. midweek quiet services, growth in church following additional prayer meetings).

The year's business has also been dominated by the consultation on the new diocesan strategy and several open meetings have been held to allow people to engage with this. The new strategy "Ely 2025" was presented to the deanery in October. Each parish was given a workbook and had been encouraged to produce a Development Action Plan in response to it for their parish.

The strategy identifies five areas that the diocese and parishes should be focusing on:

- nurture a confident people of God,
- develop healthy churches and leaders
- serve the community
- re-imagine our buildings
- target support to key areas.

As has previously been noted, Yaxley Deanery has been subsidized for some time and has been challenged to move towards paying its way. The deanery share for 2015 was paid in full, and a number of churches increased their bids substantially for 2016 in order to move closer to what is required.

Ali Scott

## Ecumenical Relationships

The ministers (Revd Katy Dunn, Fr John Minh, Imogen and I) had a good working relationship, and continued to meet regularly during the year to keep each other informed about our respective churches and to plan the annual calendar of shared services and events. We were sad when Katy unexpectedly left the Methodist Church in December.

A 'Goodwill' (frugal) Lunch was held at the Methodist Church in February in aid of the Leprosy Mission, but it was agreed that this should be the last, as it was poorly attended. We worshipped together at the Ash Wednesday service, Paschal Meal in Holy Week, Maundy Thursday, the March of Witness and Good Friday service; also at the Feast Week service in June, All Souls service and Remembrance in November, and a Christmas Day service at the Methodist Church. The Anglicans and Methodists shared a stall at the Carnival in June, and all three churches combined to contribute to the Holiday Club in August, which attracted a good number of children.

The churches united as usual to deliver a Christmas card to every home in the village, advertising the Christmas services of all three churches and the village Christmas events. The Village Carol Service, organised by the three churches, was boosted by increased input from Village Academy pupils, and carols outside the Old School Hall had an exceptionally good attendance.

Rosie Ward

## **Financial Review**

### **Treasurer's Report**

2015 has been an encouraging year of sustained growth for the finances of All Saints Church.

#### **General Fund**

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £37,435.24 of which £21,949.91 was from unrestricted voluntary giving and donations; a further £7,281.37 was received from tax recovered under the Gift Aid scheme. Restricted donations of £5,040 for the Roof Appeal and £300 for a new computer for the AV system were also received and are detailed in the Financial Statements.

Giving through Standing Orders at All Saints has increased and it was good to see that by the end of 2015 nearly £600 per month is now received in this way. This is a great help when budget planning for the future and currently 10 members of the congregation give in this way. Giving by Standing Order makes our income more predictable and the handling of cash much easier; everyone is encouraged to consider utilising Standing Orders.

Total income at All Saints for 2015, including tax recovered, went up by 10% compared with the previous year. (This figure excludes the legacy received in 2014).

£31,878.84 (total expenditure less fund raising expenses) was spent from unrestricted funds to provide Christian Ministry at All Saints Church. This figure includes the contribution to the diocesan Parish Share that increased by 3.4% in the year. The Parish Share primarily provides stipends and housing for clergy. The diocesan financial strategy for the next 10 years requires that all churches in the deanery and the diocese, including All Saints, contribute a greater amount year on year; the diocesan aim being for each parish or benefice to cover all the costs of having a full-time stipendiary rector. All Saints must continue to plan for this!

The net result for the year was an excess of receipts over payments of £3,578.88 on unrestricted funds. The available cash balance carried forward at 31<sup>st</sup> December on unrestricted funds totalled £17,396.32. Thank you to all who have contributed so generously to the work of All Saints.

#### **Sub Funds**

Total receipts on Designated and Restricted sub-funds were £7,387.68, of which £5,040 was received towards the Roof Appeal. Total expenditure on Designated and Restricted sub-funds was £3,433.32. The cumulative balance of monies held in sub-funds at year end was £12,049.03.

#### **Reserves Policy**

It continues to be PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to at least two months unrestricted payments; this is equivalent to £5,380 based on figures for 2015. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The cash balance of £17,396.32 held on unrestricted funds at the year's end 2015, together with the end of year Reserve Fund balance of £4,953.10 currently satisfies this policy, though we do need to continue to be financially prudent against future demands.

#### **Legacy Policy**

All Saints established a Legacy Policy in 2014; details are available on a leaflet and on the church website.

### **Conclusion**

I hand on the position of treasurer at All Saints with church finances in a healthy position; and I wish to extend my gratitude, both personally and as treasurer, for the generosity of giving at All Saints. It has been greatly encouraging that more use is being made of 'Giving by Standing Order'; thank you to all who give in this way. Also a huge thank you to everyone who has made a donation, large or small, to All Saints over the last financial year, every amount is a great help. And thank you to all who work so hard at Events and Fund Raising and to all who support our events; without you our financial position would be nowhere near as healthy.

I would also like to say thank you to everyone for the support and encouragement that I have received in my position as treasurer and also to extend my thanks to Keith Walters who, as the independent examiner, has helped greatly to ensure the accuracy of the accounts.

Average overall giving at All Saints has increased from £5 per head per week in 2010, to £7 per head per week in 2014, which is heartening; but, in order to keep abreast of inflation, we continue to ask that church members review their giving annually. The Church of England encourages its members to give at least 5% of their annual income; in reality the figure is 3.3%, with 2.9% to general funds, and a further 0.4% to special purpose funds.

The cost of running All Saints during 2015, including our tithe, was £32,284.78; this averages £621 per week. If giving alone, without fund-raising, was required to cover our expenditure, then each regular member of the congregation would need to give £16.33 per head per week for the church to break even.

I would like to encourage all members of All Saints to continue in their financial support of their church. Whilst we are currently in a healthy financial position we must not rest on our laurels. If we were to suffer a couple of major expenditures, money could become very tight as we also try to become self-sustaining in accordance with the diocesan aim.

It has been calculated nationally, that if every member of every congregation of the Church of England was able to give the 5% of income that is requested, then there wouldn't be a single church or congregation in the land that was struggling financially. A target to aim for?

Malcolm Ward

### **Giving and Gift Aid Report**

Planned giving aids our Finance Committee and PCC members to gauge our giving receipts during the year. There are now 10 people who give by standing order (the most efficient way to give) and the envelope scheme remains healthy with 34 people giving this way. We are sorry to keep hounding you into signing Gift Aid declarations, but we must keep these up-to-date to keep the tax man happy. The Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) is now providing a healthy income and tax rebate.

The net amount received through voluntary giving by envelope and cash was £ 22,831.33 including tax rebates paid into our bank account. This total includes GASDS. We could not claim for £266.00 because it did not meet the criteria set down by HMRC (if you write a cheque or give more than £20, you need to complete a yellow envelope). We received a total of £4566.26 in tax rebates. Income from envelopes was £14262.41 and from GASDS £4002.66. Tax rebate remains at 25%. These figures do not include the income from Standing Orders or gifts received by the Treasurer. These figures only represent the cash that we handle and bank.

With regards to the HMRC, thanks to Pete and Pat Ayres, we have a good working relationship with the tax man. We deal directly with them and they submit our rebates directly into our bank account.

We have 34 regular envelope givers, and if you wish to participate in this scheme then please contact your Gift Aid Officers.

Finally, we thank you all for your continued giving.

Neil MacKinnon and Pat Ayres

### **Events Committee Report**

Firstly I would like to thank the committee for their service in the past year, and thank Isolde Whitmore for her assistance with this report. After many years of service, most of the members of the committee stood down at the end of 2015, and a new committee was formed to take events forward into 2016.

Once again the Events committee worked very hard during the year to provide events to bring the church and community together and to raise funds for the church. During the year we planned 2 quiz evenings, a plant sale, a Goodwill Lunch, a Harvest Tea, Winter Fayre and Christmas coffee morning at the Rectory; these all went ahead with great success.

During the first 2 weekends in Advent we held our bi-annual Christmas Tree Festival, organised by Sue Simmons. 29 groups from the village dressed trees in some very inventive and attractive styles. This was very well attended and certainly helped to instil the Christmas Spirit. £535 was raised for the group Community Action Nepal, for the victims of the earthquakes in spring 2015.

Roger Jubb

### **Buildings: Churchwardens' Report 2015**

#### **Introduction**

Church wardens are elected annually by their parish and appointed by their bishop to represent the laity and to work with the incumbent to care for the church and its community. We are primarily expected to encourage the parishioners in the practice of true religion and to promote unity and peace among them. Our responsibility also extends to the maintenance of the fabric of the church and its contents. This report summarises the maintenance and repairs carried out or proposed during the past year as well as plans for further work in the coming year.

First we would like to thank Rosie and Imogen, for their continued support and encouragement for all those at All Saints during the past year. We would also like to thank the great many people involved in the day to day activities at All Saints, our flower arrangers, brass cleaners, our congregation members who regularly clean the church and the people who make coffee after the services. Also thanks to our readers, intercessors, sides-persons, church rota administrator, Malcolm our hardworking treasurer, and Ali Scott who organises our children's work and Messy Church. Without all these people the church would not run as smoothly as it does.

As we move towards Rosie's retirement in July 2016 we all need to continue to actively work together as a team to continue the work of the God in our lives and support our Church and village community.

#### **Church Building - Quinquennial Inspection report and maintenance works**

During 2015 we had our Quinquennial Inspection (every 5 years) which reported that while the church building was in a generally good state of repair, there were a number of issues that needed to be addressed.

## **Church Roof**

One of the main items in the report was to employ a roofing contractor to inspect the north side of the roof and replace a number of broken and damaged tiles.

The PCC employed a roofing contractor to replace the broken and damaged tiles with like for like, recycled replacements. During the inspection it was also noted that a couple of the ridge tiles had suffered some damage and the contractor fitted suitable replacements. Other than some minor frost damage, the rest of the roof tiles were in a generally good condition. The roofers replaced all the missing/damaged tiles on the upper part of the roof; however they discovered that the lower slope over the north aisle was in a much worse state than expected.

When removing the tiles on the lower slope they discovered that the roof battens that retain the tiles had, in places, completely rotted away and the tiles were just resting on the roofing felt. Also when attempting to remove and replace individual roof tiles on the lower slope, the adjacent tiles tended to fracture and to collapse. It was apparent that almost all of the tiles on the lower pitch of the roof were in very poor condition, brittle and porous due to age and weather.

Early in 2016 we received all the necessary approvals and permissions for the roofing contractor to carefully strip and replace the whole of the lower slope with new felt, battens and new tiles to match. Any usable old tiles would be carefully removed, retained and stored for future use for any later repairs to the rest of the roof.

A very big 'Thank You' goes out to all those who have helped with fundraising for the repairs.

## **External Stonework**

While the church walls are in generally reasonable condition, the Quinquennial inspection highlighted a number of places around the walls and on the east window where the original stonework has suffered some erosion and recesses which will require re-pointing and filling. As this is specialist work which involves the use of lime mortar, it can not be undertaken while there is a risk of frost so these repair works will be undertaken during 2016.

## **Heating System**

The heating system has continued to give us some cause for concern; the two old heaters are nearing the end of their service lives and it is likely that they will soon be beyond economical repair as new parts are no longer generally available and the internal heat exchangers are becoming quite pitted. A full inspection of the old heaters was undertaken as part of the routine annual heating maintenance service and while they passed the inspection, it was recommended that we install carbon monoxide alarms to monitor any emissions.

We still suffer from areas of damp in places, mainly caused by condensation due to heating the church from cold for our weekly Services and occasional meetings. It is a recurring problem that, due to the solid wall construction of the building, we will have to live with.

Works carried out during the year:

- Churchwardens' routine visual inspection of the church and grounds
- Install carbon monoxide alarms to monitor any emissions
- Installation of a new PC to run the A/V system.
- Maintenance of the church log book and inventory
- Annual testing of the fire extinguishers
- Annual maintenance of the heating system
- Maintenance of the organ

### **All Saints Annual Spring Clean**

During 2015 we organised a 'Spring Clean' morning where all members of the church community were invited to volunteer to do a number of cleaning and maintenance tasks. The 'Spring Clean' Morning on 25<sup>th</sup> April was a great success and a great many cleaning and polishing jobs were undertaken. The spring clean also included a number of routine maintenance jobs such as some re-painting of the walls and ironwork and repairing of various items. We are looking forward enjoying each other's company again at the 2016 spring clean which is currently being planned.

### **Churchyards**

#### **All Saints**

We undertake routine inspections of the graveyard to ensure that the gravestones are stable and safe, but we must all remain vigilant to ensure that they remain this way, so as to ensure the continued safety of all the visitors to the All Saints graveyard. We are very grateful to all those who help to keep the churchyard tidy and looking good.

#### **St Andrews**

The legal ownership of the churchyard remains as before in the hands of the Incumbent, and the churchyard remains wholly within Faculty Jurisdiction; but all the maintenance responsibilities which previously fell on the PCC have now passed to the local authority.

It is a great pleasure to see All Saints Church in a generally good condition and well placed as it has ever been to face the opportunities of the future.

Cheryll Elmer and Mark Fellows - Churchwardens

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

### **Parochial Church Council**

The method of appointment of Parochial Church Council (PCC) is set out in the *Church Representation Rules* (2011). The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The full PCC met 9 times during 2015, with an average attendance of 9 people. The main items discussed during the year were Pastoral Care at All Saints, monitoring of progress of the Mission Action Plan, the purchase of new chairs for the church, the management of church finances and the problems with the roof over the North Aisle.

Besides the Standing Committee, the PCC has 2 other committees: Events and Finance, which are responsible to the PCC and report back to it. The Evangelism Committee ceased to meet, referring the subject back to the whole PCC.

Mike Pearce

## Administrative Information

All Saints is situated in Church Causeway, Sawtry. It is part of the Diocese of Ely in the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Rectory, Church Causeway, Sawtry PE28 5TD. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and a charity currently exempted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio members:

- Incumbent: The Revd Rosie Ward (Chair)
- Assistant Curate: The Revd Imogen Falvey
- Licensed Lay Minister: Mr Malcolm Ward (Treasurer)
- Churchwardens: Mr Mark Fellowes (Vice Chair)  
Mrs Cheryll Elmer (also Safeguarding co-ordinator)

Elected Members:

- Mr Stephen Austin
- Mr Pete Ayres (from 19<sup>th</sup> April 2015)
- Mr Andre Bradley
- Mrs Gillian Bradley
- Mrs Joyce Day (representative on Deanery Synod)
- Mrs Gwynneth Fellowes
- Mrs Judi Finnegan
- Mr Mike Pearce (Secretary)
- Mrs Alison Scott (representative on Deanery Synod)

In addition, although not members of the PCC, Mr Neil MacKinnon is the Gift Aid officer, assisted by Mrs Pat Ayres.

**And finally:** This Annual Report is a composite document prepared collaboratively by the officers and members of the PCC, in line with the terms of the Charities Act 1993/2011 and the Church Representation Rules 2011. We hope it gives a clear picture of the life of the church and the way in which the PCC have administered the task placed upon them as trustees of All Saints.

**Approved by the PCC on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016 and signed on their behalf by Revd Rosie Ward (PCC chair)**