

2017 REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, SAWTRY

AIMS AND PURPOSES

All Saints Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent: until the end of November 2017 this was the Rev'd Dr Donald McFadyen. We look forward with prayer to being able to welcome a new incumbent in 2018 and, with them, promoting 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.

REVIEW OF PAST YEAR

During 2017 All Saints' were delighted to be able to continue with the support of the Bishop's Vacancy Officer, the Rev'd Dr Donald McFadyen as priest-in-charge. Along with our curate Imogen Falvey, they continued to support services in the church as well as relationships with Churches Together in Sawtry and the village as a whole.

In addition to maintaining our regular pattern of Sunday worship, Donald and Imogen encouraged us to explore new ones. Our Monday Morning Prayer services, provides a prayerful start to the working week and Holy Space, on Sunday evenings once a month, where anointing with oil and prayer with the laying on of hands is offered. We were also introduced to other services including a Celtic communion and an Easter bonfire when we lit the Paschal candle for the first time. In addition to this we continued with our Advent Waiting silent prayer vigil which Donald had introduced the previous year and managed a rota to cover the church for a twenty four hour silent prayer vigil in May. These additional services helped us to follow the “Prayer and Party” guide to our church life that Donald brought with him when he arrived in the late summer of 2016. However, we had not anticipated that some of the “party” element would be having to say goodbye to both Imogen and Donald during 2017. Imogen left to join a team ministry in Peterborough having completed the three years of her curacy with us and a few months later Donald left to get married and pursue some academic ventures.

The fact that we knew we would be without a minister by the end of the year gave some people the opportunity to develop their leadership talents. During the time that the Rev'd Rosie Ward was with us she had helped a number of the members of our church family to consider their God given talents and how they might be called to use them. Donald continued this encouragement and we are grateful to all those who feel called to help lead our worship. This will be especially welcome during the period of vacancy.

Sadly, the decision was made earlier in the year that we would disband the choir. There were many years of faithful service from these ladies but, with no new members coming forward, it was felt that this could no longer continue. We have also had the pleasure of the musical

talents of Mr Bob Harwood as organist for the past year.

Ali Scott continues her work with Messy Church. This is a wonderfully lively event which takes place on the third Saturday of the month. It is important for us to remember that this is very much a part of our church family; without children our church has no future and Ali and her team nurture this in a wonderfully warm and enthusiastic way.

The schools continue to approach us and make visits to the church for services. Open the Book goes into the schools about once a month with support from members of all of the churches in Sawtry and Glatton.

We are grateful for the continued strengthening of our relationship with our church family in Glatton which are especially welcome as we move through the period of vacancy.

THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE

Later on in this annual report, you will see our treasurer's report and you will be able to consider the current state of our finances. However, there is no way of being able to quantify the time and effort that is put in by all those who serve the church in any way they can. In conversation, it is easy to hear people say that they wish they could do more or that they don't do as much as they used to. People will often pick out one or two people who they feel are doing a lot; they recognise their input and comment on it. We all have the opportunity to give of our time and talents and do what we can. At this time of the annual report, there is a chance to reflect on what we have given, whether time or money and consider whether or not this should change.

On behalf of All Saints' church family, we should like to take this opportunity to thank everybody for all that they do for the church. Earlier in the report we mentioned those who are supporting us to lead services: it is easy to see who these people are and you can check the noticeboard at the back of the church to see the members of the PCC. However, there are many who are involved; cleaning the church, brass cleaning, gardening, maintenance, administration and many other tasks who are not so easy to identify; our thanks and appreciation go to them also.

You may not feel that you are doing much, but, if attending services, keeping the church in your prayers or even reading this report is all that you are able to do then you are contributing to our church life and your support is welcome. The mustard seed will grow.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

None of us know what the future will bring and, in many ways that is a blessing. There is nothing that we can do about the fact that change will happen; we can try and manipulate it but life cannot remain the same, there will always be new ways of thinking, it's how we got to where we are now. We pray that 2018 will bring us a new incumbent and, with them, fresh ways of thinking about our future. Sawtry is a parish which continues to grow in terms of population but, although our regular Sunday attendance figures have increased, they have not done so in line with the population of the village as a whole. There is huge potential to develop the life of our church; this will mean thinking of new ways to bring people in the village to faith and participating in the life of what is after all, *their* church too. Thinking about and making new plans does not mean abandoning the "old ways" - without knowing where we came from we cannot plan where we are going- but it does take a willingness to be open and to have courage and faith. Let our prayer for the coming year be that we are thankful for the foundations that we have and that we are ready to open our hearts and minds to the

challenges before us.

MESSY CHURCH

2017 has been our third full year of Messy Church and we're still going strong! Messy Church has been described as:

'A way of being church for families involving fun'

'A church, not a craft club, that helps people encounter Jesus as Lord and Saviour.'

Messy Church is found across the world and values being Christ-centred, for all ages, based on creativity, hospitality and celebration. It has been lovely to welcome both regulars and some new families and we have averaged 29 adults and children at each session reaching a peak of 55 in January. At that session we were also visited by Debbie Hill who is the Cambridgeshire Messy Church Co-ordinator and member of the Ely Diocese mission team. She is a constant source of support and advice to us and we are very grateful to her. In February we had our first ever Messy Baptism. This incorporated the normal Baptism service into activities and experiences celebrating new life and using the symbols of water, light and spirit. A thank you from the baby's Mum says it all:

"The decoration and bunting was amazing, and the activities were incredible. The kids all had a brilliant time and lots of the adults told me how much they enjoyed the activities too. It really was perfect. Words can't explain how grateful we are. It really was a special day and we felt very much a part of the church family."

We too are part of a growing family in Messy Church and there are now 71 Messy Churches in Cambridgeshire of all denominations. Here at All Saints' we have 24 people on the leadership and helpers team with between 10 and 14 at any one session. Thanks to every one of you for your efforts, time and enthusiasm. If you have a talent or skill that could be blended into our activities then please let Ali Scott know. Please pray that our Messy Church grows and helps bring people to an understanding and faith in Jesus.

Ali Scott Messy Church

Coordinator

MINISTRY OF FLOWER

Another busy year attending to the Church flowers has been enjoyed by the flower arrangers. The team join together to decorate the whole Church for Easter, Harvest Festival and Christmas. There is a rota for the rest of the year when it is only the Altar that is decorated. Our year starts with the posies we make for Mothering Sunday. The Church held a Christmas Tree Festival at the beginning of December and along with other clubs and organisations in the village we produced our interpretation of a decorated tree. We were informed that a donation towards flowers had been given to the Church, I therefore applied for a drawdown of £45 towards the cost of the Christmas flowers. This was agreed and the monies were distributed to the team. This completes my final year as Church Flower Co-ordinator; my successor is Mrs Patricia Walters with immediate effect. I would like to thank the Church Wardens and everyone who has shown their appreciation of our efforts over the past year; we enjoy working with flowers and helping to make the Church a beautiful and welcoming place of Worship.

Maureen Westbrook Flower Coordinator

THURSDAY MORNING HOME GROUP

The Thursday Morning Group meets fortnightly at 10.00am for 10.30 am start at the home of Mrs Doreen Pattinson, 3 Grange Close. We have shared another year's bible study together, getting to know the bible, and each other, a lot better. There are ten of us in the Group, but we would welcome anyone else who might like to come along and see what goes on. We started off the year using studies especially written for those 'rich in years'. These studies gave good insight into the challenges of life in latter years and were a good source of

information on this for younger members, too. During Lent, our Curate, Rev Imogen Falvey, led us through a six week course on Paul's Letter to the Philippians. After Lent, we embarked on a study produced by the Bible Society which, under the general title of 'Lyfe Studies', covers a whole range of topics and leads to lively discussions all based on a bible reading. After covering the Introductory Session for each wider topic area, we are now working through each separate topic set. They are thought provoking and manage to put what we read from the bible into the context of today which helps with day-to-day living and guidance. Thanks must go to our hostess, Doreen, who welcomes us so warmly with real coffee and often homemade refreshments. Doreen is also Group Co-Ordinator, so if you'd like to know more, please contact her on 01487 834303.

Sue Simmons

CAUSEWAY GROUP

The All Saints' Causeway Group consists of 16 ladies of any denomination who enjoy meeting in one another's homes in fellowship, care and friendship on the first Wednesday of each month, except during August, from 2 to 4pm. We sing hymns, say prayers and share readings chosen by different members each month. We enjoy a variety of themes each month: speakers, quizzes, games and outings. For 2017 our chosen charity was the Leprosy Mission. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our members, the hostesses and drivers for their input. We look forward to another enjoyable year ahead.

Isolde Whitmore

SAWTRY FOOD BANK

The Sawtry Food Bank is located in the CARESCO offices on the site of the Old School Hall in the middle of the village. The Food Bank has been in place since February 2015 and has always been supported by the local Church community consisting of Sawtry Methodist Church, St. Benedict's Catholic Church and All Saints' Church. It is run by volunteers from CARESCO along with local people from both Sawtry and the village of Glatton. Firstly, the Food Bank wishes to thank all those who have contributed their time to this initiative and those members of the All Saints' congregation for their continued support with the many donations of food made over the past year to give to those who are less fortunate. This has been a busy year for the Food Bank. We had been under the umbrella of Godmanchester Baptist Church which assisted Sawtry in setting up a Food Bank of their own. The Food Bank was also getting all of their policies and procedures from the Trussell Trust who provided guidance and structure to Godmanchester. In June 2017, after consultation with Godmanchester Baptist Church, Sawtry Food Bank decided the time was right to go independent from the Baptist Church and to sever our ties to the Trussell Trust. It was a decision that was not made very quickly and Godmanchester came to our assistance again by helping us become an independent enterprise. The Food Bank had another successful Summer Holiday scheme where the Food Bank provided food parcels to families who were entitled to free school meals during the school year; the scheme ran during the six weeks the schools were on summer recess. During the Christmas season the Food Bank put together 21 Christmas hampers for families in the local area that had come to their attention during the past year mainly due to their continued struggles. In total the Sawtry Food Bank processed just over 750 kgs. of food during the year.

The Food Bank has seen many changes over the year; the greatest change was being taken on fully as a volunteer initiative within the CARESCO organisation in February 2018. Also the volunteers have noticed that the financial climate is changing for the better and recently not as many people are using the service. The Food bank is now open once a week. The support from the All Saint Church family has been heartfelt and wonderful.

Andre Bradley Food Bank Coordinator

PASTORAL ASSISTANT'S REPORT

Pastoral Work, caring for each other, has a very wide remit and is something that, as members of our Church, we can all contribute to. There is opportunity for us all to lend a helping hand when needed, or a listening ear in time of trouble and to offer a sense of peace by offering to pray for and alongside anyone for whom this would bring comfort. Our caring springs from a deep sense of gratitude that we have come to know the love and care of our Father and want to share this with others. People are often drawn to know God for themselves through the kindness and care shown them when they are going through troubled times. Giving a little of our time can make such a difference and small kindnesses speak volumes. As part of a caring community, we should all be on the alert to find opportunities to reach out to others. We are fortunate to be blessed with a very caring wider community in Sawtry, notably, the many groups supported through CARESCO who do so much to give help where it is needed. There is an old adage about life being like a journey and we are all travelling along together. May we always be aware of those around us and help them to lighten loads if need be, and to reap the benefit of shared time and resources which really do bless both those who give and those who receive.

Sue Simmons, Pastoral Assistant

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

"We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord, about his power and his mighty wonders...so the next generation might know them - even the children not yet born - and they in turn will teach their own children. So each generation should set its hope anew on God, not forgetting his glorious miracles and obeying his commands." Psalm 78: 4, 6-7

Our Discoverers (7 -11) group continues to meet every three weeks on a Friday evening mainly in Church. We use an on-line resource called Energize to put together a programme that combines Bible discovery with fun and engaging activities and games as well as responding to what we have heard in prayer. We number between two and six and are beginning to see some of our younger Messy Church members join us. We would always like to see more so please let your friends and neighbours know about this group that meets on Friday evenings.

We also use this resource for our older group Seekers (11-14s) which allows us to pitch the content at the right faith stage for the children. The themes we explored in 2017 included friendship, families, forgiveness and trust. We ended the year with a Christmas Quiz and both Discoverers and Seekers made and decorated trees for the Christmas Tree Festival. The younger group focused on a retelling of the nativity story while the older group made and decorated a tree out of recycled materials to draw attention to the beauty of God's world and our role in looking after it.

The first week in August also saw a number of All Saints' congregation join with St. Nicholas, the Methodists and St Benedicts communities to run the village annual Holiday Club led by Matt Coates. This year our theme was Mission Rescue and we explored the story of Exodus and God rescuing his people from Egypt through the perspective of being spies and secret agents. A great turn out and a great time was had by all including the adult helpers. We finished with a traditional barn dance.

A big thank you as ever to Gill, Andre, Teresa, Steve and Roy Dunn from the St Benedict's community who all play their part in preparing and leading our Discoverers and Seekers sessions.

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

The main news from the Deanery is that a re-structure of the parishes is under way which, it is hoped, will ensure that Clerical cover can be provided for all churches; though not at every church every Sunday. Sawtry/Glatton are held up as a good example of local initiative, with some services being conducted very well by Churchwardens, ALM's and members of the congregation. It is likely that we will add Holme to our group soon. A number of new ALM's have been created in our Deanery during the year, including one of a new type, a Baptism specialist, and more emphasis is to be given to following up both baptismal families and the Godparents.

Joyce Day Deanery Synod Rep

FINANCIAL REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT

Total Receipts for the year fell £6,645 to £29,595 principally due to a fall in voluntary giving and other income offset in part by a rise in net income from church activities.

Total payments fell by £8,731 to £32,261 principally due to a fall in Church running costs resulting from no roof repairs and moving the payment of insurance premiums from annual payments to monthly offset in part by the payment of the tithe (Nothing paid in 2016).

The net result is a reduction in the net deficit of £2,086 from £4,752 in 2016 to £2,666 in 2017. At 31st December 2017 the PCC had bank balances of £22,027 of which £10,248 related to designated and restricted funds leaving unrestricted funds of £11,779.

It should be noted that at 31st December 2017 there was £1,174 due to third parties for fees for services provided to the PCC and that the 2017 tithe is estimated to be £2,200

GIVING AND GIFT AID REPORT

Gift Aid envelopes and plated cash continue to give a vital support to Church finances; although our figures are down this year, support remains healthy and more people are now contributing by Standing Order. As usual the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) remains a vital source of income; tax rebates from HMRC remain timely. The net amount received through voluntary giving and plated cash was £12,044.56p including GASDS, but this figure does not include the income from Standing Orders, nor gifts and donations received directly by the Treasurer. We received a total £4,572.04p in tax rebates. The level of tax rebate remains at 25 per cent. Pat and Pete Ayres maintain a good working relationship with HMRC by dealing directly with them on line and they in return submit our rebates in a timely fashion directly to our bank. Sadly we continue to lose old friends through death or moving from the village; however, new gift aiders have been forthcoming and 32 regular envelope users remain.

Finally, we continue to receive cheques not correctly made out. May we gently remind you to ensure that the magic words '**Sawtry PCC**' appear on the Payee line? The bank will reject cheques not made out correctly and charge us £5 each time.

Again may we thank you all for contributing to Gift Aid throughout the year.

Neil MacKinnon and Pat Ayres, Gift Aid Coordinators

EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

I would like to thank Pat Ayres and Cheryll Elmer for their help and many thanks go to all the people who helped, donated and supported us throughout the year. This past year we tried

to put on a couple of extra events, but due to clashes from within the community were unable to. Once again we held a Plant Sale and a Cream Tea at the Manor House. My thanks go to John Potter for organising it and letting us use his garden. In September on a Messy Church day we also held a Church Social BBQ. Despite the weather, it was a huge success and we welcomed some of our friends from St Nicholas. Hopefully it is going to be repeated again this year and that the weather is better. An Autumn Fayre was held in the Old School Hall and was enjoyed by everyone who attended. The Christmas Tree Festival was held once again in the Church on the first 2 weekends in December. Just under 30 trees were on display from various Organisations and Schools. People attending made donations to Christian Aid and the Alzheimer's Charity; a donation being made to All Saints' Church. I would like to thank Sue Simmonds for the hard work in previously putting the plans in place. I just had to follow what Sue had done. The New Year saw the first of the village Quiz Nite's; this was well supported and was enjoyed by all.

Since I have been chairing the Events Committee Pat and I have struggled with organising events because of a lack of help. We managed last year with assistance from Cheryll, but found it was still a lot of hard work. Through Cheryll we have said to the PCC that, if someone would like to put on an event, then we would help them.

Roger Jubb

CHURCH WARDENS' REPORT

Church Wardens Role.

Church wardens are elected annually by our parish and appointed by the bishop to represent the laity and to work with our minister to care for the church and its community. We are primarily expected to encourage our 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.

A Time for Goodbyes.

Sadly, we have had to say two goodbyes during the year. In the summer, our wonderful curate, Imogen Falvey, had come to the end of her training. We were sorry to see her go but proud and happy that we had been able to provide significant support for her ministry here and help contribute towards her continuing journey through faith. She made such an impression on so many people not just in our church family, but in the wider village too. Imogen is now part of the team at Holy Trinity, Orton Longueville. In November it came time to say our farewells to Donald McFadyen who had been our Priest-In-Charge for sixteen months. In his short time with us Donald made a real impact and helped us to consider new and different types of worship as well as encouraging our closer relationship with St Nicholas in Glatton. Donald left to get married and to take on some new academic challenges.

Big Thank You.

As ever, there are many people to thank; all those people without whom our services wouldn't run as smoothly as they do and also those who ensure that our church always looks so well-cared for. At All Saints' we have teams of: flower arrangers, brass cleaners, those who help on the cleaning and churchyard maintenance rotas, the ladies who make coffee and serve cakes after the services. Also thanks to our: readers, intercessors, vergers, sides-persons, church admin team, audio visual team, Home Group leaders, Events Team, Gift Aid officers, Children's Outreach and Messy Church team,.

During the year we have also benefitted from the talents of Bob Harwood who played the organ for some of our services and John Potter, our treasurer, both of whom have now left to

pursue other interests.

We rely on all these people for the successful running of the church and their support, particularly in this period of vacancy, is vital and very much appreciated.

Church Building - Quinquennial Inspection Report and Maintenance Works.

In 2015 we had our Quinquennial Inspection 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. The roof on the north side of the church was repaired during 2016 but unfortunately we have not been able to address other tasks we had hoped to.

External Stonework.

While the church walls are in generally reasonable condition, the Quinquennial Inspection highlighted a number of places around the walls and east window where the original stonework has suffered some erosion and recesses have formed which will require re-pointing and filling. As this is specialist work which involves the use of lime mortar, it cannot be done while there is a risk of frost and it had been hoped to schedule this for later in 2017; unfortunately, this hasn't happened.

Heating System.

At the annual inspection and service of the heaters in 2015, it was found that the two old heaters are at the end of their service lives and, whilst we were allowed to continue to use them, they are beyond further repair. To ensure the safety of the congregation we installed carbon monoxide alarms to monitor any emissions. These heaters are also still awaiting replacement.

Damp.

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

Footpath.

We recognise that the path to the church door is very uneven and we hope to address during 2018

As these are all very expensive tasks, any contributions to help towards the costs will be most gratefully received.

Routine Tasks. Routine tasks carried out during the year included:

Churchwardens' routine regular visual inspection of the church and grounds.
Maintenance of the church log book and inventory.

Annual testing of the fire extinguishers.

Annual inspection and maintenance of the heating system.

Annual service of the organ.

Review of the Church's policies, including Health and Safety and Child Protection.

The Rectory

The Diocese informed us that, during the vacancy, they will try to find tenants for the property we, therefore, had to empty the house of all the office equipment; desk, photocopier, filing cabinets etc. These are now in the choir vestry: the choir robes and music are securely stored away from the church.

Churchyards.

All Saints'.

We undertake routine inspections of the graveyard to ensure that the graves stones are stable and safe, but we must all remain vigilant to ensure that all the gravestones are stable and in a safe condition, to ensure the continued safety of all the visitors to the All Saints' graveyard. We are reliant on a group of church volunteers who help to keep the churchyard tidy and we really appreciate their support.

St Andrews.

The legal ownership of the churchyard remains as before in the hands of the Priest-In-Charge, and remains wholly within our Faculty Jurisdiction; all the maintenance responsibilities that previously fell on the All Saints Church PCC have now passed to the local authority.

We have had a year which has brought some changes but we have come through ready to face the challenges and opportunities to come

Mark Fellows and Cheryll Elmer, Churchwardens

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The method of appointment of Parochial Church Council (PCC) is set out in the Church Representative Rules. 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.

Besides the Standing Committee, the PCC has two other committees: Events and Finance that are responsible to the PCC and report back to it.

Mike Pearce, PCC Secretary

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 Church Secretary, 58 Newton Road, Sawtry, PE28 5UT. The PCC is a body incorporate (PCC Powers Measures 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and a charity currently accepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2017 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio members:

Incumbent: The Revd Dr Donald McFadyen (Chairman). Donald left on the 30th November.

Assistant Curate: The Revd Imogen Falvey. Imogen left on 30th July.

Since 1st December 2017 All Saints' has been without a priest.

Licensed Lay Ministers: John Gillis
Churchwardens: Mr Mark Fellowes
Mrs Cheryl Elmer

Elected Members:

Mr Stephen Austin until 2nd April 2017
Mr Pete Ayres
Mr Andre Bradley
Mrs Gillian Bradley
Mrs Joyce Day representative on the Deanery Synod
Mrs Gwynneth Fellowes
Mrs Judy Finnegan until 2nd April 2017
Mr Mike Pearce (Secretary)
Ms Angie Ryan from 2nd April 2017
Mr Keith Walters

Although not members of the PCC, Mr Neil MacKinnon is the Gift Aid Officer and Pat Ayres is the deputy Gift Aid Officer.

The PCC met 8 times during 2017 with an average attendance of 11 people.

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 1993/2001 and the Church Representative Rules 2011. We hope that 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 26th April 2018 and signed on their behalf.

Mr Mark Fellowes Churchwarden

Mrs Cheryl Elmer Churchwarden