

# **Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council**

## **Year ending 31 December 2022**

**Incumbent:**

Revd Lizzy Holland  
The Rectory  
Rectory Lane  
Allesley  
CV5 9EQ

**Architect:**

Adrian Mathias  
Brownhill Hayward Brown LTD  
24 Birch Street  
Lichfield  
WS13 6PT

**Bankers:**

NatWest Bank  
Coventry City Branch  
PO Box 301  
Coventry  
CV1 1ZZ

**Independent Examiner:**

McGlone Wardzynski Limited  
Eagle House  
14 Queens Road  
Coventry  
CV1 3EG

# **All Saint Church**

## **Allesley**

*Part of the Christian Church in Coventry*

### **Annual Meeting for the election of Church Wardens and Annual and Parochial Church Meeting**

**Sunday 7 May 2023**

**10:00 am at the Church**

#### **Annual Meeting for the election of Church Wardens**

1. Prayer, Thanksgiving and Encouragements
2. Apologies
3. Approve minutes of last meeting 15 May 2022
4. Election of Church Wardens

#### **Annual Church Meeting Agenda**

1. Approve minutes of the last meeting 15 May 2022
2. Election of 6 PCC members
3. Election of 4 Deanery Synod Representatives
4. Appointment of the Independent Examiners McGlone Wardzynski Limited
5. Appointment of electoral roll officer
6. Comments and questions
7. Thanks

# Minutes of Annual Meeting for the election for Church Wardens

**Sunday 15 May 2022**

**1. Apologies**

Lesley Grove, Debbie Brown, Candi Harris, Nick Blunt.

**2. Approve Minutes of last meeting held on 18 April 2021**

Shera Payne proposed to accept the minutes of last meeting dated 18 April, Colin Holtum seconded. Minutes were accepted.

**3. Election of Church Wardens**

Nomination for Church Warden were received from -

Candice Harris	Proposed by Paul Payne	Seconded by Shera Payne
Rozilla Merrall-Hosiene	Proposed Shera Payne	Seconded by Paul Payne

Both were unanimously elected.

# Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

**Sunday 15 May 2022**

## **Approve minutes of the last meeting date 18 April 2021**

Rozilla Hosiene proposed the minutes of the last meeting dated 18 April are accepted as a true record, seconded by Fey Holtum with the amendment that Matt Jones had stepped down as Deanery Synod Rep.

## **Approve Independent Examiners McGlone Wardzynski Limited**

Colin Holtum proposed that McGlone Wardzynski Limited continue as the independent examiners, this was seconded by Paul Payne. All were in favour.

## **PCC Members**

Nominations of PCC members were

Peggy Sidebotham	Proposed by Lois Baldwin	Seconded by Shera Payne
Brenda Wood	Proposed by Paul Payne	Seconded by Tracy Kates
Catherine Rachel	Proposed by Alison Glover	Seconded by Lesley Borrell
Tracy Kates	Proposed by Fey Holtum	Seconded by Sabrina Mower
Peter Glover	Proposed by Lesley Borrell	Seconded by Sarah Coulthard

All were unanimously elected.

## **Deanery Synod**

There were no nominations for Deanery Synod rep. Fey Holtum continues to be the Deanery Synod rep and three vacancies remain.

## **Servers**

Servers will be elected at the next PCC meeting.

## **Electoral Roll**

There are 164 names on the electoral roll for this year 2021, 92 in the parish, 72 out of the parish. This compares with 179 the year before.

The Treasurer and Church Warden gave their reports during the service.

## **Comments and Questions**

Questions were raised regarding youth work. It was agreed previously that the church would look into having a partnership with Thrive, but this seems to have stalled. Thrive were unable to form a partnership with three churches in the area as was the original discussion. They are now doing a new model and this will be looked at again.

It was agreed the church does have a large reserve that should be shared. The meeting was advised people are welcome to put together a proposal that will be then considered at the PCC. The Chair explained if anyone would like a proposal considered, they need to fill out the proposal form which will be discussed at Standing Committee. If it is approved at this point,

the proposal will go on the next PCC agenda for discussion. If not, it will be returned to be amended and can be resubmitted.

Lesley Borrell requested a donation be sent to Muddy Church as we have used a lot of their resources over the last couple of years.

The meeting wanted to know who is in receipt of the £74,039 parish share. The Chair advised this is All Saints giving for stipends, housing, training and 23% is given for other costs in the Deanery.

The PCC is responsible for the salaries for the Administrator, the Children's and Families Worker and Verger as the PCC are the employers.

Advice from the Diocese is given for fees for weddings and funerals.

### **Thanks**

The Chair gave thanks and showed her appreciation to the following

The PCC  
Standing Committee  
Paul Payne (Treasurer)  
Yelena Williams (PCC Secretary)  
Church Wardens – Rozilla Hosiene and Candice Harris  
Angela Taylor (Verger)  
Lesley Borrell (Children's and Families Worker)  
Alison Glover (Administrator)  
Worship Leaders  
Preachers  
Musicians  
Small Group Leaders  
Bell Ringers  
Tech Team  
Cleaners and Church Yard Tidy Team  
Flower arrangers  
Pastoral Care and Home Communion Team  
Children and Youth Team

## Rector's Report

Reflecting on all the following reports, I am so grateful to everybody in our church community who has faithfully served, prayed and contributed to our life together in 2022. It has been a year of finding our feet after all the ramifications of the Covid-19 pandemic and a time of working out together what our new normal is. There have been some real joys throughout the year and some times of challenge too. It has been a privilege to journey together through this unprecedented time and discover more of who we are called to be as All Saints in Allesley.

Thank you to everyone who is involved in our community in any way. We are enriched by one another's presence, gifts and skills and the time that we share.

2022 has certainly been a year of getting back into our rhythm as a church, establishing what our new pattern of worship will look like and deciding where to put our energies and what has come to an end. It has been a year of re-engaging with our local community and seeing where connections are still ready to be built on, particularly with our local schools, life events ministry and the Allesley Festival back to its usual fullness. It has been a year of giving things a try and seeing what takes hold and what doesn't, and hopefully being gentle and curious about that process.

With all this in mind, we look to 2023 with hope at what God will do in our church community as we continue to seek life in all its fullness for ourselves and the parish we serve whilst remaining true to the call to keep things simple, gentle and connected. A focus for 2023 is to listen, being aware that so much has changed since the pandemic began, to assess whether the growth action plan given in 2019 still feels relevant or needs to be changed, to explore who we are and what our values are as a church, to listen to the wider community and hear the stories of the people of the parish, and to draw all of this together in a vision for our future. This vision will mean the necessity to focus and prioritise, to be clear about how best to use our resources to serve the Kingdom of God in this place as the Lord is calling us. I hope that much of this work will be supported and led by a new Values, Vision and Culture team.

So, the encouragement and invitation for 2023 is to pay attention. It is a call to practice attentiveness to the Holy Spirit, particularly seeing where God is already at work and welcoming us to join in, to be attentive to one another within our church community, caring for one another in love and encouraging each other on our discipleship journeys, and to be attentive to our community, remembering that we are here to serve and bless the world around us. Throughout our worship this year we will be, in a variety of ways, reflecting on this call to attentiveness, and aim to practice ways to develop this skill to empower our discipleship. I hope that this will be a year of rich blessing for us as a church and for our wider community as we discover more of the abundant life of Christ.

One again, thank you to all of you for your faithful commitment to this community. May you be blessed for the year ahead.

Rev'd Lizzy Holland

## Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31 December 2022

Total income during 2022 was £158,522, which was £75,597 less than during 2021, but still higher than anticipated at the start of the year and £16,716 more than 2020. This total included £106,068 of Stewardship giving and reclaimed Gift Aid; £3,866 from donations and other gifts; £27,150 from grants for a specific purpose; £11,462 from Wedding and Funeral fees; £2,228 from hiring out the church hall and £4,227 in interest on bank deposits. Income was around £20,000 more than expected, largely due to a National Lottery grant towards ongoing work with Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Migrants and a large donation from the Thompson-Bree Charitable Trust received towards the end of 2022. The PCC continue to be very grateful to all our regular givers who together contributed over 68% of All Saints' income during 2022.

Expenditure for 2022 was £157,559, which was just £55 more than 2021 and meant there was a small surplus for the year of £963. Parish Share was £74,645; in house staff costs £24,802; utilities, communications and insurance came to £11,953, which was £6,823 higher than 2021 as it included a full year of insurance direct debits and higher gas and electricity costs; church, hall and grounds maintenance came to £10,396 with the biggest single item being extensive tree work across the church site. The Parish Magazine was not published throughout 2022, so there were no associated costs. From qualifying income, the PCC have made grants and donations of £14,478, mainly distributed amongst seven different charities, with three each receiving 20% of £9,401 and the remaining four, 10%. Printing costs returned to a similar level to 2020 and Legal and Professional fees have increased again owing to a full year of Human Resources consultancy and the need for an architect's consultation.

Looking to the budget for 2023 and the continued negative outlook for inflation, in November 2022 the PCC agreed to a budget showing a potential deficit of £43,480. It is a very difficult time to project towards future income, but the PCC are hopeful a small improvement in giving, and a continued increase in the use of the church and hall for weddings and other events, will see this figure considerably reduced. Activity during the first three months of 2023 suggests that this is likely to be the case.

All Saints Allesley is blessed to have received substantial amounts of money over the past few years, which means that the PCC held over £364,000 in unrestricted funds at the end of 2022, so in addition to the operational budget deficit for 2023, £38,000 has been set aside from those funds to cover essential maintenance on the church building and grounds, and several other long-awaited projects furthering the mission of the church.

### Reserves Policy

The level of unrestricted funds is maintained at a level to cover committed one-off expenditure, together with a reasonable level of headroom to cover unforeseen expenditure. The Operational Reserve Fund is a designated fund containing money set aside in line with the PCC Reserves Policy to ensure a degree of continuity in the event of serious disruption to church income. The level of reserves is calculated as one year of Parish Share (£74,645), plus six months of operating expenses (not including Parish Share) (£41,462), giving £116,107. Added to this is the value of restricted funds (£4,085), giving a total reserve figure for 2022 of £120,192. This has increased to £125,236 for 2023.

All unrestricted income of the PCC is tithed, excluding Gift Aid, Grants and Legacies.

Paul Payne, PCC Treasurer

## **GOVERNANCE**

### Electoral Roll

The electoral roll is the list required by each parish of those who are entitled to vote on elections within the Church of England. If you would like to be on PCC, deanery synod, be a churchwarden or vote at the APCM, then you must be on the Electoral Roll of All Saints, Allesley. You can join each year before the APCM or throughout the year by completing a form and giving it to the PCC secretary.

The current number of people on our electoral roll is 155 (last APCM was 164).

89 people living in the parish (last APCM was 92)

66 people living outside the parish (last APCM was 72)

People are removed from the electoral roll if they have passed away, moved away from the area or no longer attend.

Rev'd Lizzy Holland

### PCC and Standing and Finance Committee

The PCC met once every two months throughout 2021, with the Standing and Finance Committee meeting in the intervening months to set the PCC agenda, review proposals and dispatch any smaller PCC business between meetings. Key agenda items throughout the year have been a conversation about care for leaders at All Saints, signing the Hope into Action service level agreement, discussion about the church piano, big lunch proposal, Rector's Helping Hand proposal and updating our church policies.

Alongside these specific agenda items, the PCC have oversight and responsibility for the church buildings, personnel, safeguarding and finances. We are looking to have clearer oversight of the different groups happening within the life of the church and are trying to find better ways of ensuring there is better communication between PCC members and other people and groups in the church.

We continue to aim to be appropriately open as a PCC, with the outline agenda shared in focus with an encouragement to speak to PCC representatives and a simple note after each meeting sharing key decisions and discussion topics.

The PCC also had an additional meeting in September to begin to think about how we might structure ourselves as a church for vision and from this the PCC agreed to develop a Values, Vision and Culture team with members nominated by the congregation. This team is intended to begin work of listening in 2023 with the church family and wider community.

Rev'd Lizzy Holland

## WORSHIP AND SPIRITUALITY

### Services

Throughout 2022 it has been wonderful to be able to worship together in a variety of ways including having a regular weekly and monthly pattern of worship and special services throughout the year that help us to connect with God and one another. Our services have, thanks to our dedicated tech team, continued to be livestreamed where appropriate and possible, so our worshipping life is accessible to those who are unable to or would prefer to not be in the church building. Our monthly pattern of worship has been embedded with a traditional service of Holy Communion at 8am on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month, a service of Holy Communion at 6pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month, a service of evening prayer or Celtic prayer on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, a 10am family service every Sunday (which is Holy Communion on the last Sunday of the month) and a service of Holy Communion at 2:30pm on the first Tuesday of the month. Across the month it is our hope that we offer variety that enables us to have a healthy and diverse spiritual diet, enhanced throughout the year by special services. In terms of special services, we have had:

- A celebration of baptism, thinking about the baptism of Christ and our own commitment in discipleship
- Safeguarding Sunday
- Encounter worship evenings throughout the year
- A celebration of the ministry of Elizabeth Kerr
- Ash Wednesday Taizé service
- Special services during Holy Week including a Maundy Thursday agape meal and a Good Friday sung reflection
- A special service to mark the Jubilee
- Allesley Festival service with the crowning of Festival royalty
- Worship throughout the summer outside with a focus on fellowship and Bible study
- A celebration of our Patronal festival for All Saints
- A service of remembrance for All Souls
- Quiet, reflective services to mark the death of Queen Elizabeth II
- Special services for Christmas including an outdoor Christingle, scratch nativity, carol service, crib services, Midnight Communion and family Christmas Communion

Throughout the year, our attendance seems to have stabilised since the covid-19 pandemic and it has been a particular joy to welcome people back and welcome people for the first time. We have begun to move to a pattern of sermon series which have been inspiring, including a series on counting our blessings in January, a series on the “one another” passages in Scripture in October and finishing the year with a series on who Jesus was promised to be.

My hope as we look to 2023 is that our services will continue to be life-giving, inspiring and places of encounter with the Holy One, where new people are welcomed and lifelong Christians can still grow, and that we will be inspired in our discipleship that our worship would be beyond what happens on a Sunday, but a whole life way of living.

I am so thankful to everybody who contributes to enabling our worship services to happen, particularly Angela (our verger), those who offer their skills on audio visual and livestreaming,

our leading and preaching team, our musicians, those who welcome, lead intercessions, read and offer refreshments, and all who attend. The creativity, depth and warmth that we are able to offer through services is such a gift.

### Worship Zones

Over the last year the number of children attending the 10am services has continued to vary weekly from five or six to between twelve and fifteen, with an age range from eighteen months to ten or eleven.

The range of worship zones in the hall and the creative zone at the back of church have both continued to be popular with both children and parents. Enabling the children to take steps along their own individual faith journeys, encouraged and supported by Children's Ministry team members and the other children.

The Youth Hub in the Bree Room, for Young People of Secondary School age, remains available but has rarely been used this year as the young people attending church have chosen to serve on the Tech team or to support and / or engage in the Worship Zones.

We also continued to offer the Creche room as a quieter alternative for families with children under three this remains unstaffed.

Personal joys resulting from the children worshipping together have included seeing relationships blossom between peers, observing older children supporting younger ones, and being privileged to witness individuals taking steps of faith resulting in one or two beginning to take on leadership roles of particular zones.

Another highlight of the year was for Lizzy and I to be able to take two children to the first, post pandemic, Thrive Juniors Worship event. A good time was had by all and we look forward to being able to take more primary aged children to Thrive's next event in 2023.

I am delighted to welcome Catherine Rachael and Michelle Twaites who have been safely recruited on to the team and am pleased to report that two other people are also in the process of being safely recruited.

Looking forward, although some progress has been made, my hopes for the future remain the same as last year: To continue to safely recruit and grow our Children Ministry Team to enable All Saints to:

- increase the ratio of adults to children on Sunday mornings.
- re- launch Hallelujah puppets.
- make the possibility of running a mid -week club a possibility
- establish a new vision for Youth work.

Lesley Borrell

### Prayer

Prayer remains a central part of who we are at All Saints, both in organised forms where we pray together and also in encouraging the prayer lives of individuals in our church. Prayer is part of our culture with the practice of prayer happening in each of our services, meetings and many of our gatherings.

Throughout 2022 there were some changes to our practices of prayer together, with Tuesday night prayer on Facebook taking a pause and the monthly prayer group which met on Zoom during the pandemic ceasing. There were many opportunities for gathering for prayer on open Saturdays at church and on Thursday mornings. There was a special Morning Prayer for Ascension day which was joyful.

We have encouraged one another to continue to gather with other Christians across the city to pray, for example with the City Praise and Prayer events which happen twice each year.

It is my hope that throughout 2023 our prayer life will flourish, both individually and corporately, through services, small groups, and other opportunities to gather together with others. We are planning to have some prayer sessions at Breathing Space in Lent and a quiet day later on in the year, towards the Summer, both helping us to spend time enjoying the Father's presence.

Rev'd Lizzy Holland

## Music Team

### 1. Key Events in 2022

Music has continued to be used in our 10am services and 6pm services. We have continued to develop songs that are new to Allesley and use these at regular intervals. We have journeyed the liturgical seasons together, including having the band lead us in worship on Easter Day, and having a quartet sing our Good Friday service. Again, our Christmas Community Choir was well attended and there were many people from the community who got involved during the process. After initially exploring replacing the piano the PCC decided against going ahead with this project at this stage.

### 2. Joys/Celebrations & Struggles/disappointments

We had the band back together regularly at the beginning of 2022 but this tapered off towards the end of the year. Many members joined us again for Christmas, which was great fun for the band. The Choir seemed to enjoy those moments too and I was really pleased with the work that they had put in and the joy that was had! It was incredible to have Billy Coulthard singing our Once in Royal Solo too. Well done Billy! It was also wonderful that Abby Clarke also rejoined us for the Christmas service.

Sam has decided, for the moment, to step back from choosing music for services, but continues to be involved in our music team, whilst Abby has offered some support for music in 2023. Eileen has taken up regular support of the music leading for services too.

I wish to extend my most sincere thanks to Julie, Eileen, Sam, Abby and Chris for their contributions to the musical life of the church.

### 3. Hopes and plans for 2022 - where is God calling us?

I believe that God continues to call our church into deeper worship, exploring and developing its musical life in collaboration with one another. I hope that we can engage in generosity and encouragement as we seek to build up all in our music team.

Please pray for people who might want to lead, sing, play - of all abilities and ages - that they might feel God draw them into this deepening of their own calling.

Mitch Holland - Music Lead

### Courses

The main focus of courses at All Saints is to help people to grow in faith, to gather people together for fellowship, and to do some focused learning and reflection on their discipleship journey. In 2022 we ran the Prayer Course II: Unanswered Prayer, with people gathering together one evening a week for 5 weeks to think about some of the challenging questions around prayer, such as 'what do we do when God seems silent?'. Each week began with soup, a video to introduce the topic and space for discussions. To help deepen the learning and experience we followed the course on the Sundays too, listening during the 10am service to people's experiences. This seemed to be a really powerful journey as a church in openness, honesty and sharing.

Other courses have been run in a more informal way, usually in smaller groups, such as an introduction to Christianity course led by our two Readers for those who are new to the UK and usually new to faith.

Rev'd Lizzy Holland

### Life Events

Our life events ministry continues to be a dynamic and exciting area of mission and ministry in our church, with many people choosing to connect with the church for key moments in their lives, particularly when a child is born, a marriage is happening, a relationship wants to be blessed or a life has ended. These occasions are a profound opportunity to share the love of God with those who perhaps have very little relationship with church, and to offer a warm welcome. Through this ministry there are many people who, although they don't attend services regularly, consider All Saints to be 'their church'.

In 2022 we had the privilege of sharing 17 services of baptism (both children and adults), 9 marriage services or blessings, 28 end of life services (funerals, thanksgiving services or burial of ashes) and had 4 members of our congregation were confirmed at Coventry Cathedral.

In relation to our wedding ministry, we have seen some real growth which is to be celebrated. We held a styled shoot where photos were taken of a mock wedding to give us some excellent photos for publicity around weddings and gave the opportunity to liaise with other businesses who work in the wedding industry in the local area. These connections have continued with an invitation to a local wedding fayre, businesses attending a wedding fayre at our church and the opportunity to be publicised through some of these businesses. We have seen a higher uptake in weddings booked in for the next couple of years and have had many requests for blessings too, often to celebrate a significant anniversary.

- This area of mission and ministry in our church is one that I believe is to be celebrated and developed. In 2022 we will have encountered around 3,000 through these services and through that people will have heard the gospel and hopefully experienced a joyful welcome in the church. As we look to the future, I hope that we can develop these connections, particularly thinking about how we can enable people to become part of the

worshipping life of the church and how we might follow up with families afterwards. It has been our practice to send anniversary cards and to hold an annual service of remembrance for the bereaved, but I wonder what else we could do that might support these connections.

Rev'd Lizzy Holland

## **RELATIONSHIPS AND PASTORAL CARE**

### Small Groups

#### **Macdonald Small Group**

2022 saw a return to normality after the strange "pandemic years" and we were able to meet in each other's houses again on a regular basis. We mainly used this time to check in on each other offering support, both practically and with prayer, for the challenges life gives us and to share in the joy of celebrations. We have also used some of the resources provided by the church to help us go deeper in our faith and we hope to do more of this in 2023, providing encouragement and challenge to each other. We also welcomed new members to our group during 2022.

We have not abandoned technology completely as we continue to use group messaging to ask for urgent prayer, share quotes/resources that we think will be helpful and to make arrangements for our weekly meeting. We are still very relaxed and informal in our approach and this is appreciated by all members.

Julie Macdonald

Macdonald Small Group

#### **Payne Small Group**

Our Hybrid Small Group meets every Thursday. It consists of a face to face meeting which starts at 8pm for refreshments. Then incorporating Zoom at 8.30pm for those who are unable to attend in person.

Our regular meeting place changed last year to allow new members, who offered to be home hosts, to attend the group.

We regularly have seven members, and together we use the Christian resource book "4 Life: God's Values for Living" by Mark Powley for Bible study and discussion. Our discussions generally have to be extended online, to allow free Zoom use, as we go deeper in sharing experiences and applying Christian values in our everyday lives.

The last time we had a Breakfast Social at The Elms was in January 2020 just before the pandemic. We restarted this popular social gathering in October 2022, which saw twelve people attend. This was just the right size as any bigger and a different venue would have needed to fit us all comfortably.

We to continue to support, challenge and encourage one another in our journey with Jesus.

Blessings x

Shera Payne

Payne Small Group

### Social Events

Being together, enjoying one another's company and having fun remain important to our church family. Each Sunday we continue our worship as we chat and share over coffee after the 10am service and we are very grateful to everyone who serves by offering refreshments. Throughout the year we also held specific times for being together as a community which were really valued, including a bring and share lunch, pancake party, tea and cake events, a jubilee Big Lunch, scarecrow making session for the Allesley festival, family fun evening and pumpkin carving in October.

I hope that this commitment to spending time together and being attentive to the gift of one another's company continues through 2023, with a particular hope that we will be able to do something special to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III and that we will be able to continue to weave together our social and worshipping life in a meaningful way.

Rev'd Lizzy Holland

### Pastoral Care

The pastoral care group composes of Rev Lizzy, Paul Payne, Angela Taylor, Brenda Wood, Judith Whitehouse, Lesley Borrel and Fey Holtum. We meet every 2 months to consider the pastoral needs of those connected to All Saints and how we might also care for the wider community.

Within our care for All Saints we consider those other aspects of church life that offer care eg. Bereavement group, Small groups, Children and Families, and Home Communion. We recognise the good care that these areas offer and also the care given by each one of us in the fellowship.

The monthly Communion service on the 1st Tuesday of each month is increasing in numbers. and in fellowship. We enjoy fellowship afterwards as we share a cuppa and biscuits. Tea and cakes is 4 times a year and numbers are growing. We had a bumper attendance at Christmas with people of all ages attending. We kept having to source more tables and chairs. A great problem to have. Christmas goodies and carols all added to the sense of celebration. We try to offer lifts where needed to both of these events.

Lesley's contributions to our meeting continue to make us aware that it is not only the elderly that need our care. Across the ages there are several struggling with health, mental health and finance issues etc

We endeavour to support those who need it most by phone calls, visits, a spot of gardening etc as seems appropriate. Prayer too is foundational.

We don't have a Parish administrator at present. That person is often the first person to hear of needs, in particular of those outside of the congregation. Please pray that the right person will soon be in place for this vital role.

Thank you each one of you. Fey Holtum

### Bereavement Care Group

The Bereavement Care Group holds a coffee morning on Fridays from 10.30am until 11.30am. It is for anyone who has been bereaved (whether they are a church member or not) who would appreciate a friendly chat with others who have been through a similar experience.

In September we held a Macmillan coffee morning which included an auction which raised £186. A service of Commemoration took place at the end of October at which names of loved ones who had died were read out.

We would love more people to join our group. They would be sure of a warm welcome.

Barbara Green

### Home Communion

After restarting monthly visits in September 2021 following the Covid pandemic restrictions, 2022 saw a return to something more normal as far as Home Communion was concerned.

It is sad to report that several people who were on our list at the start of 2022 are no longer with us, including team member Rev Elizabeth Kerr, but there were also some new faces too. At the end of the year there were fifteen people or couples on our list, not all of whom were receiving communion regularly, but who we still keep in touch with. For the first six months of the year, we were a team of four people, before becoming three after Elizabeth left us, plus Lizzy when needed, and are part of the Pastoral Care team at All Saints.

We share Home Communion with some who might still be able to attend church occasionally, but on the whole are not as mobile as they once were or have other health issues which means that leaving their home is a challenging or stressful experience best avoided. We aim to visit everyone once per month to share a simple Communion service and to chat and pass on news about what is happening at All Saints Church. If you know someone who would appreciate receiving this service, then please get in touch so that we can add them to our list.

Paul Payne

Home Communion Coordinator

### Safeguarding

During 2022 we continued as a church to maintain our commitment to this church and community being a safe space for all. At the beginning of the year we offered basic training to all during a 10am service which focused on some practical implications of safeguarding (what to do if you have a concern) as well as sharing experiences and reflecting theologically on the call to safeguarding.

During the year we continued to safely recruit into roles which included one new member of the home communion team, 5 new people offering their time and skills to serve children and young people's ministry and the newly formed Friendship and Support group for our partnership with Hope into Action. Three DBS checks were completed and 28 people completed foundation level safeguarding training and 6 people completed the Safer Recruitment and People Management training.

We are ably assisted by the safeguarding dashboard which is checked before PCC meetings and uses a red, amber and green system to alert us as those responsible for safeguarding in our church to any actions that are required, and we are in regular communication with the safeguarding team at the diocese for further support when required.

Alison Glover, our Parish Safeguarding Officer for many years, stepped back from the role towards the end of 2022 and we are thankful for her years of service in this position. In the interim between Alison stepping back and recruiting a new Parish Safeguarding Officer, Lizzy and the churchwardens are overseeing the role. We have somebody who is prepared to take on the role now, for which we are very grateful, and are beginning the process to safely recruit them. It is always beneficial to have a team of people who are willing and able to support this ministry, so if you feel able to offer your time and skills please do speak to Lizzy.

If you have any questions about safeguarding or any concerns please do speak to Lizzy. Our church notice boards inside the church and the hall have lots of information that you can find if that is helpful.

Rev'd Lizzy Holland

## **BUILDING AND GROUNDS**

### Churchwarden's Report

Hello wonderful people of All Saints,

We would like to give you an update on some of the projects currently underway and completed ...

#### **The Gazebo and pathway to Church:**

Work on the Gazebo has now been completed.

The hedge that was overhanging on the path is now trimmed and the broken fence by the gazebo is fixed. As part of this work the path from the gazebo to the church is also now cleared.

#### **Churchyard trees:**

The work for trimming of the trees in the Churchyards and car park has now been completed.

#### **Lower churchyard :**

Thanks to the generosity of one person, Dave, who offered to pay for the work to be carried out in our lower churchyard. The work in the lower churchyard had got out of control due to us not being able to meet during the pandemic. He brought his own gardeners and they carried out all the work that needed doing, trimming hedges and mowing. We hope to keep this churchyard work in control.

#### **Mowers and Strimmers**

We have a company coming to give us a quote for servicing all our mowers and streamers. We will assess if our equipment is worth fixing, quite a few of the equipment we have is not working. The servicing will be carried as part of health and safety requirement.

We have also discussed looking at getting the mowing carried out by professional gardeners in our churchyards. We will keep you up to date on this. This will enable our churchyard tidy team to carry out the work in the rest of the churchyard

### **Date for your diary - Churchyard Tidy:**

On the last Monday of each month starting **27<sup>th</sup> March, 2023**

We are looking for volunteers to join us in tidying up the churchyards in preparation for the summer months. If you are available and willing to get involved, please could you let one of us know so that we can get an idea of numbers.

### **Notice boards:**

We are looking at having five new notice boards in following part of our church

- 1) Car park by the flower bed
- 2) In the square grass next to the porch
- 3) Replacing the current one at the bottom of the hill
- 4) Entrance to churchyard extension
- 5) Entrance to woodland

This proposal has been approved by PCC; faculty application is in process.... watch this space

### **Training bell:**

Our church is one of six in the diocese to be chosen to have a training bell. The bell is to be installed for people to be trained to ring church bells. There will be no sound outside of the tower, in order that the amount of training is unlikely to be restricted by time, events in the church, etc. The bell will be installed by Taylors of Loughborough, a professional bell foundry. Our head tower captain and bell ringer Mike has been in the belfry with the expert from the company and the training bell will be attached to the existing framework for the bells and will not therefore have any effect on the church fabric. A faculty has been approved.

### **Trees in the spire:**

The work for removing the trees in the spire is in process. The architect has surveyed the work and given us options to carry out the work. We are looking at getting this work done as part of the quinquennial survey which is due this year. Further information to follow as soon as we know.

### **Quinquennial:**

The arrangements for the quinquennial have been delayed due to a change in architect, but this has now been booked in for May 2023.

### **Cooker:**

We now have a new cooker in our kitchen, this will enable people who hire the hall to use this too

**Cooking:** we will be having cooking sessions and working alongside support from Coventry City Council Migration team, these cooking sessions will be for refugees from the hotel. These sessions will start at the end of March 2023 and be fortnightly.

### **Church administrator:**

Thank you to Lizzy for all the additional work she has done to keep our church functioning. The process is in place to recruit a new administrator.

### **Baby Harris:**

We have a new addition to our church warden team, beautiful Josie Harris. So adorable..

Many thanks to you all for your continuing support. Please do get in touch if you have any questions, concerns or anything you would like us to do.

Your Churchwardens,

Candi and Roz xx

### **Eco Church**

Back in 2019 All Saints PCC agreed to work towards being awarded Eco Church status. Since then the Coronavirus pandemic has intervened and despite the increasing need for action worldwide, nothing much has happened over the past year at All Saints.

Eco Church is a scheme run by A Rocha UK, equipping churches to care for God's creation through their worship, buildings, land, community engagement, and individual lifestyles. By completing an online survey, churches can be considered for an Eco Church Award at either Bronze, Silver or Gold level. The scheme is a fantastic resource for encouraging churches, cathedrals, and dioceses to embody the fifth mark of mission: To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

There are five areas we must demonstrate environmental engagement with, in order to receive an award:

- ☑ Worship and teaching.
- ☑ Management of church buildings.
- ☑ Management of church land.
- ☑ Community and global engagement.
- ☑ Lifestyle.

As I said last year, whilst we currently meet the criteria for at least a Bronze award in the first four areas, we fall short in our promotion of a sustainable Lifestyle at All Saints Church. For example, we don't promote walking and cycling to church services and events, rather than arriving by car; and there are 14 more points that we are failing on too! Hopefully, if more people start asking questions about this, we can improve the situation during 2023.

Paul Payne  
PCC Lead on Eco Church

### **Hall Hire**

As life continued to return to normal, hall hire usage grew throughout 2021 both with regular bookings returning and one off bookings happening too. During this year our main regular bookings were Coventry Arts (a music group using the hall roughly monthly), a yoga group (weekly on a Wednesday evening), the Beekeepers (Monday nights once a month) and the Coundon Wedge Conservation Society (meeting every few months).

The church usage of the hall is mainly for meetings (such as PCC), Mainly Music, Mites and Minders, the bereavement coffee mornings and refreshments on a Sunday morning.

There is capacity for us to increase bookings, both one off and regular bookings, which we hope to do throughout 2023 both to make good use of the community space that we have on offer and the connections that will bring and for our own church income.

A deep clean of the hall was done towards the end of the year and the hall and its facilities remain in good condition. In 2023 we will be looking to replace the oven with a grant and the PCC will consider other developments to this space to make it more user friendly.

Rev'd Lizzy Holland

## **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

### Mainly Music

Throughout 2022, supported by Judith Whitehouse, I have continued to lead weekly Mainly Music sessions on Saturday mornings during term time. My thanks go to Judith and also to Xenia Jacques, who has assumed a leadership role when Judith or I have been unable to attend.

Until the Summer holidays an average of five or six families attended for whom Mainly Music was their only contact with All Saints. Although numbers remain smaller than those before the COVID pandemic, this has enabled us to build relationships with these families and to offer a listening ear and support when needed. In July we said goodbye to families whose children had reached school age.

At the start of the Autumn term numbers averaged three or four families each week but as the year progressed, on occasions, only one or two families booked on. As a result of this decline in numbers we began to seek God's guidance with regard to the future of Mainly Music. Reluctant to close the group, as those attending were not only faithful but said they valued what Mainly Music offered we agreed to continue into 2023 and focus on a recruitment drive.

I'm pleased to report that following a conversation with the leader of a new pre-school group hiring the hall numbers have begun to increase again. A real answer to prayer enabling us to reach out to a new group of families from the community.

Looking forward we need to widen the advertising for this group to encourage more families to join and gradually further increase the number of families attending each week. We also need to grow the Mainly Music team so that as the group grows there are enough team members to cover all roles, possible illness and team holidays.

Lesley Borrell

## Mites and Minders

During 2022. Sabrina Mower and Sarah Stacy have continued to lead Mites and Minders each week, during term time with my support. I would like to thank Sabrina, Sarah and Louise Cosby, who stepped down in July, for their support.

Membership of Mites and Minders continues to be a mix of church families and families from the parish and wider community and includes several grandparent and carers. The average number of families in attendance, each week, has been between ten and twelve. The maximum number of families attending is fifteen, to ensure a calm and welcoming atmosphere, allowing children to socialise with their peers safely whilst enabling us to build more meaningful relationships with parents and carers and offer support when needed.

Once again It has been a joy to see the children grow in confidence week by week and for the parents and carers to get to know one another and share the joys and challenges of caring for pre-school children.

Looking forward, especially as Louise has stepped down and Sarah, due to work commitments, can now only attend every other week there is a growing need to safely recruit more members onto the Mites and Minders team. We would therefore ask people to prayerfully consider if they can help with setting up the room before the group, help to serve refreshments or become more actively involved in the running of the group.

The use of the What's App groups, created last year, to enable families to book into both Mainly Music and Mites and Minders have develop over the year, not only improving communications but also in developing a sense of belonging and community between members of the groups.

Lesley Borrell

## Muddy Church

Once again, the Muddy Church activities have continued to be popular with all ages and have enabled us to make better use of the church yard by encouraging people to wonder about where God is in creation and to reflect on their own spirituality and faith journey as they wander through the church grounds.

'I spy' trails continue to be popular with the younger members of the community whilst others have valued opportunities to engage in activities and show their support for our late Queen and the war in Ukraine, as well as events focusing on Christmas and Easter.

Over the Summer, a number of sessions were arranged targeted at different age groups including picnics for Families with Preschool, Early Years and KS1 children to which both past and present Mainly Music, Mites and Minders and Baptism families were invited; games afternoon for primary aged children and their families.

The Muddy Church element into the 10am outdoor Family services were once again popular with the children who attended.

The aim for 2023 is to continue to build on the success and popularity of Muddy Church as we continue to develop and grow this area of ministry, but to enable this to happen we need to recruit a team of people with a heart for Muddy Church to ensure its sustainability going forward.

Lesley Borrell

## Ignite +

During 2022 a group of young people met for Ignite + on an ad hoc basis for social events, fellowship and Bible study. A particular highlight was a canoeing social during August which was enjoyed by both the adults and young people who attended. A challenge throughout the year has been to re-establish a regular pattern of youth ministry post covid and this is something for the church to pray for and consider in the coming year. We want to particularly thank Peter Glover for his commitment to this group of young people over the last year and look to the church to ask who might be willing to take over this area of responsibility and help lead our young people for the future.

Rev'd Lizzy Holland

## **COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**

### School's Ministry

During 2022, I'm delighted to report that we have seen real progress in the rebuilding of relationships with Allesley Primary:

Nursery and Reception classes accepted All Saints invitation to engaged in Easter story bag sessions with Lizzy and I.

I also had the privilege of leading an Easter assembly for KS2 children.

For the second year running we were delighted to welcome Y3 children to church as part of an as part of an RE day focusing on what it means to be a Christian today and to welcome Y4 children again to an Advent in Narnia Event. My thanks to everyone who made these events possible.

After a couple of false starts, December 2022 saw All Saints Open the Book team restarting monthly assemblies by sharing the Christmas and other Bible stories with children from Y1 to Y6. I would like to thank all the members of the Open the Book team for their ongoing prayer support and patience as we worked to re-established Open the Book, to welcome Michelle Twaites onto the team and to Julie MacDonald for agreeing to agree to co- lead the group.

Nicky MacIntosh and I also lead Christmas story bag sessions in Nursery and Reception. Thank you, Nicky for your inspiration in developing the story scripts and your ongoing support.

I was also delighted and privileged to welcome two classes from Sherbourne Fields Special School to explore All Saints Church and grounds.

We were once again able to bless the children with a copy of Bob Hartman's latest Easter and Christmas book each, and copy of Scripture Unions 'It's Your Move' booklet to all Y6 pupils to support their transition to secondary school and to send in treats for staff as a token of All Saints thanks and appreciation for all they have done to educate and care for the children of Allesley.

Looking forward to 2023:

I am pleased to announce that dates for monthly Open the Book assemblies are in the diary until July and would like to ask you to pray for existing and new opportunities to further develop the relationships between All Saints and both schools in Allesley Parish.

Lesley Borrell

## Ministry with Asylum Seekers

We continue to be blessed as a church by the number of asylum seekers worshipping with us each Sunday and enriching our relationships. Two of our friends who gained refugee status have now been joined by their families and are settling down to life in the UK; one in Manchester and the other right here in Allesley. Another, who was moved to accommodation in Smethwick, is now fully involved in volunteering with the local Salvation Army Corps and worshipping with them on Sundays. During the last twelve months two more young Iranian men have been discipled and baptised here at All Saints and then confirmed at the Cathedral. Recently we have seen an increase in the number of people from the hotels dropping in to attend worship on Sunday. They have come from Iran, Syria, Eritrea, and Somalia and all have stories of the challenges they have faced and how they have had to depend on God for each day. Whilst they face the uncertainty of where they may finally end up and whilst the UK tries to regain some control over the overwhelming influx of people risking their lives to arrive on our shores it has been good to see how the congregation here have sought to welcome and befriend those who dare to risk entering our church. Most are awaiting the official interview to make their case for asylum, and that is currently taking well over twelve months, and many have the added concern of family who are still under threat in their home countries. With the everyday challenges of understanding a new culture, learning a new language, and being confined in a strange place with minimal finance, it is a privilege for us to be able to provide them with a friendly face, a listening ear and spiritual support. This year we have also partnered with the Diocese in obtaining a Lottery grant to fund a support worker to spend time here in Allesley helping people in the hotels.

Colin Holtum

## Allesley Festival

The Allesley Festival returned with a full programme of events in July 2022 and brought much needed joy to the area after the previous two years. With a theme of “Disney” there was plenty of scope for scarecrows and floats and our talented residents did not disappoint. All the usual events took place and were very well attended, raising plenty of money to be distributed to worthy local charities. The committee is delighted to have delivered a successful week of community building events making all the work worthwhile.

Looking forward to 2023 the committee is forging a relationship with the new landlady of The Rainbow and is welcoming onboard new members with fresh ideas to keep this brilliant local tradition alive.

Julie Macdonald

Church representative on Festival Committee

## **WORK SUPPORTED BY ALL SAINTS**

Below are reports from the different charities that All Saints tithes to, sharing updates about their work and ministry.

## **Church Mission Society**

Many of you will remember our Mission Partners from the Church Mission Society, Rachel and John Waters, visiting All Saints last year. John is still heavily involved in the detailed and demanding work of translation while Rachel's focus continues to be on building relationships within the local community in which they live. This includes plans to start an English language class for local children. Rachel and John were able to make a brief visit to Britain at Christmas to see their son William and other members of their family. Their daughter Connie was unable to join them because she is doing language study in the Far East.

John has recently had some health problems. He and Rachel ask for prayer for good health both for themselves and for their fellow mission partners and for the necessary rest and refreshment needed from time to time. Please also pray for wisdom to make good decisions and realistic methods of working in the translation work as well as good relationships within the neighbourhood.

The most recent news of Rachel and John is that John and his colleagues have returned from a conference in Cyprus and their local sessions with their consultant have finished: so Rachel and John can finally draw breath.

RUTH AND DONALD HAMILTON

## **CHIPS**

At CHIPS, we have had an incredible season marked by celebrations, growth, and a significant transition. Recently, we celebrated ten years of successful peacemaking at the CHIPS project in Nakpayili, Ghana. During the ceremony, members of opposing tribes, Konkomba and Nanumba, came together, presented dances and speeches, and shared the progress made in the region.

Additionally, CHIPS Brixton has experienced tremendous growth in the past six months. As a bridge between various organisations in Brixton, we are thrilled about the Lambeth Police surgery program taking place in our office. We provide a peaceful space where police and community members can openly discuss policing and violence, a complicated and ongoing issue in Brixton.

Finally, we are excited to welcome our new director, Alex Cameron, a long-term CHIPS supporter and volunteer. Alex will bring a decade of peacemaking experience and extensive knowledge of CHIPS' previous work. Her appointment marks a significant transition for us, and she will assume her role on April 3rd.

## **SIM**

Once again, I would like to register my sincere appreciation for the prayers and financial support I receive from your church, through this the church in Kenya has benefited. There has been tremendous growth in discipleship and leadership. Churches have been planted, community support groups have also been launched where members assist each other socially, morally, and financially. Pastors have discovered the best way to involve everyone in the church. Many talents have been discovered and many are serving the Lord according to their capabilities.

I responded to your email through Sim Kenya personnel, kindly let me know if it gave you some light on the support and activities. I will gladly respond to any question. Once more am very thankful may the good lord bless you and protect your families.

Yours in Christ

David Juma missionary

**Coventry City Mission**

Following the struggles of the lockdowns during the pandemic the Mission has grown at quite a rate during the last twelve months. The 'pay what you can' café now serves of average 70 meals during a lunch session (previously 30 meals); the foodbank grows each week and the Giving Tree Christmas project has doubled in size in the last 5 years (1250+ children were helped in 2022) Our men's group (City Mission MAFIA) has offered a number of trips over the year and in the late autumn launched a weekly men's breakfast which has seen a good number attend regularly. Our Monday senior lunch club has increased in size and many of these clients also enjoy joining the 'Holiday at Home' trips during the summer. Thank you for your ongoing support of the Mission. Please keep praying for us, especially during this special 40th anniversary meal. For more details/news check out our Facebook page.

## **Embrace**

Embrace continues to offer support through evening outreach and weekly visits to women in the city subject to on-street sex work and other disadvantages. Both the number of women we support and the level of our support has increased in the last year.

Evening outreach takes place twice a week and remains steady and much needed. We regularly see between 8 – 12 women during outreach and provide a variety of support, from simply a hot drink and food to further mid week support. We continue to offer prayer during outreach and many of the women ask us to pray for them.

In November we moved into an office at St Peter's Church Hillfields as our base during the week. The women are gradually learning that we are here and are starting to visit for appointments and support. We pray that this will increase and this will be a safe and supportive place for them to come.

At Christmas we had our annual Christmas Goodie Bag appeal and were able to gift 46 hamper bags, full of treats, to the women we support. Many were delivered to them at their homes - it was so wonderful to see their smiles as they received their gifts. We also partnered with Kairos (another agency) in hosting a party for the women - it was great to be able to celebrate with the women, enjoy a Christmas dinner and have some fun.

The Embrace team is growing, having taken on a number of new volunteers at the end of last year - this has been a real encouragement to us.

This year we are planning to develop a new project in Birmingham, which will follow the same model as our Coventry Embrace. This will be a completely separate project, having its own volunteer team and supporter base in Birmingham. We are excited about the growth of Embrace generally and what God is doing in and through us as a Charity. We would really value your prayers as we embark on this new adventure.

We would like to say thank you to all of you at All Saints Church and your community; for your financial support, practical support and for praying for us and our work. We are really grateful for you. Thank you.

Ali Maynard, Project Manager. (ali@embrace-uk.org)