

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH, BOYNE HILL, MAIDENHEAD**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2019**



**To encounter Christ in Word and Sacrament**

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## To encounter Christ in Word and Sacrament

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## To encounter Christ in Word and Sacrament

### Overview of the Year

One of the courses we followed this year at All Saints was a course written by Bishop Steven Croft called 'Principles of Deep Water Fishing'. The Bishop reminds us that in the gospel of St Luke chapter 5 Luke focuses on the heart of Christian mission which is the calling of the disciples to follow Christ and to help bring something of the values into God's world by the way we lead our lives as baptised members of Christ's Body the church.

In Luke:5 Jesus challenges Simon Peter 'to put into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' However, the disciples have been fishing all night and caught nothing, so they are not sure about this challenge. It's like many of us who try to share the Christian faith but struggle to see any reward. However, Simon Peter listens and trusts in the Lord. From that moment the disciples were going to be fishers of people.

Our hopes are that we will be a church that is fishing in deep waters. Pope Francis who set this vision for 'Deep Water Fishing' in his book 'The Church of Mercy' in 2014. The Pope was fully aware that we are poor fishermen with fragile boats and frequently mended nets. Pope Francis might not be quite so aware that we at All Saints have a rather rather large floor to repair as well as the nets!

Pope Francis though was aware that the strength of the church does not depend on its members but on the strength of God. We then want to be a church based on 'Word and Sacrament', a church of Mercy that welcomes people and allows them a feeling of belonging. We want to offer as a church a place where people might discover a 'Thin Place' a place where they encounter God.

Our mission aims at All Saints are 'To be a welcoming church family, encouraging and supporting people of all ages on their journey to faith and relationship with Jesus; through vibrant Eucharistic worship, supportive small groups and strong community and schools outreach to build a joyful and sustainable future, enabling our community to live and share in the love of God.'

We have as a church family at All Saints aimed to meet the Vision and Mission aims of the PCC in consultation with the congregation and local community. Having completed a pilot scheme called Partnership in Missional Church where we listened and discerned the word of God and listened to our community at church and in the wider parish we came up with 3 key areas of mission.

Welcome – be a church of welcome in all that we do, enabling people to find a sense of belonging.

Worship – Making our worship more vibrant and engaging

Schools – Building a relationship that supports the education of our young people within the parish.

Underpinning this mission are the following aims.

Financial and Stewardship – ensuring we can fund the mission of the church

Administrative – ensuring good administration in areas of legal work, safeguarding, planning services and the sacraments of marriage and baptism and pastoral care such as funerals.

Buildings – we need to maintain this wonderful building of George Street and indeed the surrounding buildings of the complex that speak of pastoral care, education of the young and worship to the glory of God.

Branding – to help improve our welcome and links into the community we have initiated a branding exercise thanks to a member of our congregation that has branding expertise. We have moving into 2020 formed a 'brand Model'.

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**Welcome** – A group has been formed that will be using a welcome course to explore ways that we can be a more welcoming church. As Pope Francis said a church that is one of Mercy that is open to all and allows people to feel a sense of belonging.

**Worship** – A small team of people have been updating our eucharistic booklets and liturgy. We are hoping that these booklets will enable people to find a more vibrant sense of worship. We are looking at our liturgy, music and preaching to see how we might enable people to find a 'thin place' or a place where they feel the presence of God.

**Schools Ministry** – we have continued developing our ministry of welcome and hospitality to schools. The Open the Book teams continue to flourish and reach out to over 500 students a week sharing the stories of Jesus. We host services for schools in church and share memorial services and key Christian services of the year with schools. We also continue to host occasional classes and take regular assemblies. We have 7 school governors serving at Altwood, All Saints and Boyne Hill schools.

**Pastoral care** – there is a growing team of pastoral care workers in the parish. We are reaching out to individual at home and offering services in care homes. In numerical terms this adds up to 250 pastoral care visits, 24 nursing home visits offering communion to 250 residents and 40 nursing home services with 800 residents.

**Mission and evangelism** – we continue to support the mission in Kenya through OAK, helping train new clergy in the diocese of Taita/Taveta. Other mission organisations that we support are Christian Aid, The Children's Society, Berkshire Churches Trust, Maidenhead Food Bank, Street Angels, Brett Homeless Charity, Salvation Army, College of St Barnabas for retired Anglicans, Samaritans Purse to which we provided a record 100 Christmas boxes too this year. Members also support Maidenhead Care, The Royal British Legion and the Larchfield Open Table and Cox Green Luncheon Club.

Within the community we host a very popular Summer Fete which attracts over 300 people and a successful advent 'Carols in the Quad' with the support of the Salvation Army. We also have Heritage Open Days for people to explore this wonderful building designed by George Street,

We have members involved with the wider church. 4 members are supporting the Deanery Synod and two of us represent the Diocesan Synod allowing All Saints to have a greater awareness of the objectives of the wider church.

We have hosted and visited the Muslim and Jewish communities this year. This has been part of a community cohesion project that saw us sharing the meaning of compassion with other faiths. We are a Presence and Engagement parish which means we have over 10% of our parish population worshipping in other faith communities. We share excellent relations with our local Sikh community and Karnail Pannu.

Can I give thanks to all the work that is happening within the parish centre, in the areas of sustainability and finance, in Health and Safety and safeguarding and in GDPR.

It was wonderful last autumn to appoint a new Parish Administrator, Melanie Dunsford, who has become a much -respected member of the team at All Saints.

Thanks to everyone involved in the massive project to sustain our Church building particularly those trying to move forward the floor project and all of you supporting financially that proposed work for 2021.

Thank you to those involved in Social media as this is clearly helping us to communicate with people in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Thank you to all of you within the All Saints Church community. 2019 marked 14 years for me as vicar of All Saints. It was a great thrill for me to share the Eucharist on the day of SS Peter & Paul in June 2019 and to mark 25 years as a priest. It was a wonderful day for me, Monika and my mother as I was able to share with

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you the people of All Saints, the wider communities of Maidenhead and people from Newport and Bracknell where I had served before.

Thank you to all of you that play your part as members of the Body of Christ at All Saints. We have over 100 active volunteers which is fantastic.

Sadly, this year marked the deaths of a number of wonderful servants of this church including Dorothy Guest, Marie Wright, Elaine Williams, Margaret Blakemore, Daryl De Silva, Philip Scotcher and Ella Titchener. May you all rest in peace and rise in glory.

Thank you all of you for sharing the Pilgrim journey through this life as members of the Body of Christ at All Saints.

With our love and prayers,

*Fr Jeremy & Monika*

### Report of the PCC of All Saints

The PCC carries out its duties in assisting the priest in his role of promoting the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ and carrying out the mission of our church covering pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical matters. It is also responsible for practical matters regarding maintenance and repairs of the buildings to ensure mission can be carried out unhindered.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is made up of church members currently on the church electoral roll. The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules. The Annual General Meeting, which is open to all church members on the church's electoral roll, gives them the right to vote at that meeting on matters on the agenda and how the PCC is constituted.

During 2019 the PCC met on nine occasions. Our first meeting took place following on from the APCM to elect key roles for the next year. These were Treasurer, Rod Broad assisted by Sue Stannett Financial Administrator, PCC Secretary, Jan Moss with David Morgan retaining his role of PCC Minutes Secretary.

The Standing Committee comprised Fr Jeremy (*Vicar*), Rod Broad (*Treasurer & Deputy Churchwarden*), Sue Stannett (*Financial Administrator, co-opted member supporting the Treasurer*), Jan Moss (*PCC Secretary*), Ken Smith (Derek Smith until April) and Ann Rawlings (*Churchwardens*), supported by Stella Harding (*Deputy Churchwarden*). This committee usually meets between PCC meetings to deal with day to day matters arising and to plan future PCC meetings and future mission requirements.

*Jan Moss, PCC Secretary*

### Churchwardens' Annual Fabric Report

#### A: Introduction

The Churchwardens are responsible for the maintenance and repair of the church buildings and are assisted by others. Primarily at All Saints they are Mike Watts and Roger Towers, with Fr Jeremy and Rod broad as very able consultants and our architect, Roderick MacLennan. We thank them for their support.

From January to April the churchwardens were Ann Rawlings and Derek Smith, and from May to December they were Ann Rawlings and Ken Smith.

In many churches the group that looks after the buildings is known as the Fabric committee or Buildings committee. At All Saints we prefer to call it the Resources Group because the bricks and mortar do not exist

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solely as monuments but were designed and built to the glory of God and as a RESOURCE for the Mission of the Church.

Information about the church itself is recorded formally by Canon Law in the **Terrier** (a record of the land we occupy), the **Inventory** (a record of the contents of the church both fixed and movable) and the **Log Book** (a record of church maintenance and repairs). The last named is maintained by Chris Watts, to whom again thanks are due.

This report describes the work done in the church, the progress of the floor project, and work in the parish centre and the properties in the quadrangle.

### **B: The Church** (excluding the floor)

**1 Gutters and Roof.** The lower and upper gutters have been cleaned out and a number of slipped tiles reset.

**2 Boiler Chimney Stack.** Chippings are no longer falling from it but it remains a cause for concern and is due for repair. The architect is progressing.

**3 Stained-glass windows.** There is some damage to the windows including missing pieces which are contributing to draughts in the church. The architect is in discussion with Chapel Studios (who have carried out our previous repairs) and, given that scaffolding will be required to carry out the work it is hoped to do this when the church is closed for the floor restoration.

**4 Paschal candle stand.** Thanks also to Roger for re-painting it and fitting a new candle holder. When moving the stand the candle must always be removed first.

**5 West end crack.** It has been noticed that a slight crack has appeared in the west wall of the church again (that was repaired recently), and there is a crack in one of the pieces of glass in the window. It is very slight, and no accompanying crack has appeared in the south wall. The structural engineer has visited and does not believe any action is necessary at the moment. It is being monitored

**6 Heating.** The clock mechanism in the programmer for the heating system failed. As it was some years old the decision was taken to replace it as a matter of urgency. A new timer is now installed and working.

**7 Bells.** The clapper on no. 7 bell was repaired. The amount of water entering the belfry remains a concern and consideration is being given to glazing some of the larger openings in the spire.

**8 Tower stairwell.** The water coming into the stairwell is due to mortar missing between the stairwell tower and the main tower. It may be possible to do the work using a cherry picker and the architect is progressing. The repair is on the list of work required urgently.

**9 Clock.** Following representations from a neighbour the clock striking was silenced after 11pm and before 6 am.

**10 Calvary memorial.** The roofing has been repaired.

**11 Notice Boards.** A new blue and white notice board has been affixed to the North porch to replace the previous board which was in poor condition, and a blue direction sign to the Parish Office and Parish Centre has been placed in the quadrangle (capable of being taken out to allow mowing), both thanks to Derek Smith and Roger Towers.

**12 Indian Bean Tree.** The tree has been pruned to remove broken and split branches. Further pruning may be necessary.

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**13 Churchyard.** Overall, a very pleasant location for relaxing and quiet contemplation and the council cuts the grass regularly. The Council have been asked to repair the fencing which is an increasingly poor state.

**14 Appointment of architect.** From 1 April 2019 the Diocese required every parish to select an architect “who should be an ARB registered architect or chartered building surveyor or any other professional regulatory body as identified appropriate by future meetings of the General Synod. If the church building dates from before 1900 the Inspector must hold conservation accreditation under a scheme recognised by Historic England.” Our existing architect meets those criteria and has served us well since we appointed him via competitive tender fourteen years ago both for the five-yearly Quinquennial Inspections and for project work. Accordingly the PCC agreed Resolutions to re-appoint Roderick MacLennan.

### **C: The Parish Centre**

The Parish Centre outside wooden paintwork and the gates were painted. The work was completed in June 2019. At the same time Mr Wheeler painted the outside of Properties 3&4 for a total cost of £1720 including the garages. In January he returned to decorate the 3 toilets in the Hall and also the Vestry Toilet. The radiator in the main entrance was painted at the same time.

The major change was to the Parish Committee Rooms. Permission was granted in August by RBWM for a commercial let to ClearPhysio Ltd to have a 2 room Physiotherapy Centre. A Tenancy was agreed for 3 Years at a rent of £450 p.c.m to Ms Laura Howell. The Church’s expenditure has been £420 for Planning application, Legal Fees of £1130, Plumbing of H&C water to rooms from the ladies toilet £909, replacement of 1 Heater ? and £180 provision of an E.P.C certificate. Our expenditure has been approximately £2639 in return for a rental of £5400 per annum for at least 3 years. The tenant has decorated and refurbished the properties to a high standard and will be responsible for Business rates and a share of the heating bills.

In February, the plumber had to investigate a leak in the kitchen and clear blocked drains due to nappies and wipes. This was at a cost of £168.

### **D: Church Properties**

#### **No 1**

This flat was let for 1 year at £850 p.c.m after a 3-month vacancy. The Boiler had some trouble with the supply of hot enough water, which seems to have been resolved by Funky Pair Plumbers (Chris Scammell). The last inspection in February 2020 showed a need for cleaning but the tenant has had serious health problems.

#### **No 3**

This property is let and is in good order. A new shower was installed in the late Autumn at a cost of £786. £172 of which was incurred because the agents instructed the plumber who we would have instructed. This is something to watch in future water emergencies.

#### **No 4**

This property is let and the rent has increased to the agreed rate of £1200 from £1075 in October.

Some decoration was done to cover a water leak.

The cooker really needs replacing.

### **E: The Floor Project**

The floor project has made good progress throughout the year and we remain on target to achieve our goal of restoring it between April and November 2021, dates which were agreed by the PCC during 2019 taking

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into account the urgency of the work and the time required for fund-raising. The church will need to be closed during the work and it was proposed that services would be held in the parish centre.

The project is managed by a team whose members are Fr Jeremy, Ann Rawlings, Rod Broad, Jeremy Nordberg, David Morgan, Paul Lion, Roderick MacLennan and Ken Smith.

Issues which the PCC addressed included covering the floor with linoleum or carpet, and repairing the whole of the floor at once or only doing the front part of the floor.

Although of course we already have very old linoleum in place, as a non-breathing material it is not now permissible under any circumstances.

Carpeting in a grade 1 listed building is not acceptable to the Oxford Diocese buildings committee(DAC - the committee which gives planning advice in lieu of the local Council), the Victorian Society or Historic England other than as a temporary measure, and the carpet company we use says that it cannot lay on loose tiles.

On professional advice it was agreed that the floor of the west end extension was sound and therefore would not need repairing (except for two minor surface areas) whereas the whole of G e Street's floor was suspect due to faulty original sub-strate work. At first, to keep costs and timescales down it was intended to repair only half of the floor but given the disruption that would inevitably occur and on hearing what a number of potential sponsors would support it was agreed that we should restore the whole of the floor at once, thus securing the church for ourselves and future generations and enabling us to further the Mission of the church with confidence. Pre-tender estimates of the work, commissioned from a floor tiling specialist, indicated some £287,000 would be needed.

During the year work commenced on drawing up a Works Specification and in developing Statements of Significance and Need to accompany the Faculty Application which would need to be made to the Diocesan Chancellor and the congregation were kept advised of the progress of the project, notably in a report issued in July – We Want To Fix The Floor.

Given the rather notorious nature of the land in the neighbourhood of the church – gravel – sinkholes - the PCC authorised the carrying out of a Ground Radar Survey of the floor (think Time Team). This will be carried out in 2020.

But a major activity in the latter part of the year was devoted to initiating the raising of the funds needed to carry out the work, both from the congregation and from external grant-giving Trusts.

Internal fund-raising - . Rod Broad, Jeremy Nordberg and Ken smith formally launched the appeal to the congregation in the parish centre on 22 September when overwhelming support to the project was given. So much so that in the ensuing few months an amazing sum of some £140,000 has been donated or pledged by the congregation, a testament to the devotion of its people to All Saints and a desire to secure its future. The fund very much remains open to receive further pledges.

A contactless card machine has been introduced to facilitate one off donations and Sue and Jeremy Nordberg funded the printing of Christmas cards as a fund raiser, which was very well received.

External fund-raising – Several grant giving Trusts have been identified and will be approached. These include Berkshire Churches Trust, Allchurches Trust, National Churches Trust, Garfield Weston, Wolfson Foundation and National Lottery Heritage Fund. The requirements of each one are demanding and each are different so a team has been set up specifically to develop the applications, consisting of Ann Rawlings, Barbara Bannister, Andrew Stafford and Ken Smith.

Although this area of fund-raising is very competitive and strong cases need to be made all in principle will be sympathetic to the work we want to do. However, it has become very apparent that they all expect to see good and worth-while links to the community, and they expect to see expanding links. All Saints of course is already strong in its pastoral work and with links with schools, the Royal British Legion, Street Angels,

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lunches, after school club, Care Homes etc, but the requirements of the Trusts have caused us to think about what more could we do and this could lead to some exciting developments for the future, being mindful of course of resources.

We have been encouraged in this by an approach by our two ward councillors, Cllrs, Stuart Carroll and Gurpreet Bhangra who see All Saints as an important focus in the community and want to help us in outreach. As an earnest they have donated their discretionary council fund of £750 to the floor fund.

In order to underline the more welcoming outlook we have initiated a project to re-order the west end of the church with the objective of providing an area to relax and socialise for the congregation. To offer a more welcoming environment for visitors in formal and informal situations, and to help us more easily to welcome people from our local community.

We hope to provide café-style tables and chairs, a servery with running water and a sink and more cupboard storage. The floor project however must take priority.

*Ken Smith and Ann Rawlings, Churchwardens.*

### **Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery**

The Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery comprises 14 parishes and benefices. The Deanery Synod comprises all the clergy in the Deanery and Lay Representatives elected by their respective parishes for a period of three years. Elections were last held in 2017, and 2020 APCMs will need to elect or re-elect parish representatives. There are currently 73 members of the Synod.

All Saints Boyne Hill is represented on the Deanery Synod by Fr Jeremy as a Clergy representative and by Rod Broad, Ursula Hutchinson and David Morgan as Lay Representatives. Fr Jeremy and Rod Broad are also members of the Deanery Standing Committee. In addition, Fr Jeremy and Rod Broad are Clergy and Lay Representatives, respectively on the Diocesan Synod.

The Deanery Synod met informally on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at Altwood School, Maidenhead to say goodbye to Bishop Andrew Proud, Bishop of Reading. A buffet meal was enjoyed by those present and several representatives from the Deanery recounted some of the occasions they had shared with Bishop Andrew and gave thanks for his work and contributions to our Deanery. All Saints contributed by sharing the value of the Partnership in Missional Church process.

There were two formal meetings of the Synod during 2019, both focusing on the Diocese of Oxford's Common Vision of being a Christ-like church for the sake of God's world:

#### **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at All Saints, Dedworth:**

Members of our own Deanery introduced and explained aspects of the diocese's Common Vision, including the seven working groups to provide resources to help individual parishes relating to certain areas. More details about Common Vision and these working groups are available on the diocese's website. The Synod watched a talk by Bishop Steven encouraging us to be courageous.

Jim Tucker was elected as the new Deanery Lay Chair. John Sykes stepped down after being elected Diocesan Lay Chair.

The Synod was alerted to a consultation relating to term limits for Deanery Synod members.

#### **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 at St Peter's, Furze Platt:**

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Andrew Anderson-Gear, Director of Mission at the Diocese of Oxford, gave a presentation about and explanation of the new Parish Planning Tool (Appreciative Enquiry) which has been produced to support the mission of individual churches to become more Christ-like. The Synod was given a chance to look at the tool and ask questions.

Details of how the Deanery is planning to manage the parish share increase for 2020 were shared.

Thanks to hard work by parishes and their generosity, the Deanery paid its parish share of £ 986,103 for 2019 in full and on time. Deanery Share reserve stands at £ 54,165 and some of this will be used to delay part of the 3.89% increase requested from our Deanery for 2020. (The overall increase in the diocese for 2020 stands at 1.75%; we anticipate a significantly reduced increase for our Deanery for 2021.)

The Deanery is currently looking for a new treasurer and would welcome interest from someone with suitable skills in this area.

Parish inspections on behalf of the Archdeacon were carried out by the Deanery during the year, as part of an ongoing three-yearly cycle. The Deanery also engaged with various parishes, considering how best to support them, both pastorally and financially.

*David Morgan, Deanery Synod Lay Rep*

### **Mission and Evangelism**

The mission aims of All Saints are;

To be a welcoming church family, encouraging and supporting people of all ages on their journey to faith and relationship with Jesus; through vibrant Eucharistic worship, supportive small groups and strong community and schools outreach to build a joyful and sustainable future, enabling our community to live and share in the love of God.

The three areas of Evangelism are Schools, Welcome and Worship.

We have over 2019 continued to develop our links with the schools of Boyne Hill, All Saints, Altwood, Larchfield and Claires Court.

The ways we have sought to build relationships have been through Open the Book with people from the congregation delivering bible stories to 3 schools to over 500 pupils each week.

We host services at church for Christmas and Easter. All Saints school has 5 services throughout the year at the All Saints. When we host services, we now have a welcome team which has helped develop better relationships with staff, pupils and parents. On occasion we offer hospitality at evening school services which enables people to share conversations.

We take assemblies into the schools for themes that the school provide as well as themes for the Christian year. On occasion we host schools for classes at church.

Major memorial services are kept with Altwood School with the support of the Royal British Legion.

### **Welcome**

Ken Smith, Simon Juden. Sue Nordberg, Jo Sheppard, Jeanette Lock, Stella Harding and I have formed a welcome group. A number of important ideas are planned, following our viewing of and discussion of a Welcome course. One of the key areas of this course is how to enable people to have a greater sense of belonging.

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### **Worship**

Mike Moss and Jeanette Lock alongside myself have been working to update our service booklets based on the story of the Road to Emmaus and the ripple effect.

Some of the highlights are;

The Ascension leading into Pentecost booklets with the prayers that each of us seek the Holy Spirit to empower us to use our gifts for the building of the Body of Christ.

The variety that the three new ordinary time booklets alongside our new Worship for All is helping we believe in achieving a more vibrant worship. People are using occasionally different ways of offering the intercessions and our new hymn books offer a greater variety of music.

Going forward into 2020 we will be developing new 12 noon Baptism booklets and BCP booklets.

We continue to support overseas mission and evangelism through OAK and our support for the training of clergy in Kenya.

Other areas of mission are Christian Aid, the Children's Society, Berkshire Churches Trust, The Brett foundation, The Salvation Army, The Shoe Box appeal and the Samaritan's Purse which produced a record number of boxes of 100 this year. As a one off to mark my 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a priest the church supported the St Barnabas College which provides living accommodation for retired Anglicans.

Thank you to all members of All Saints who have contributed to the various areas of Mission this year.

Blessings,

*Fr Jeremy*

### **Courses in 2019**

We have continued to offer courses designed to help us be a church that is mission orientated and is grounded in the word of God.

Our church has as its strapline 'To Encounter Christ in Word and Sacrament' and these courses have been followed with this teaching in mind.

Bible Studies based on 'Jesus through Middle Eastern Eyes' by Kenneth Bailey. These wonderful studies of some of the great texts from the New Testament are viewed through the eyes of the 1<sup>st</sup> century middle eastern understanding and then viewed as they would be understood today. Bailey also challenges the Western reader to interpret the stories with this new knowledge gained to see how these stories make sense in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

From these studies we developed new insights within our preaching.

The diocese of Oxford led by Bishop Steven Croft has challenged us to be 'Contemplative, Compassionate and Courageous' church communities. A group of us delved into the course written by the Bishop of Oxford on 'Exploring the Beatitudes' and how these central texts of Christian teaching lead us to be the church of the 3c's.

The other Diocesan course we studied was how to be Contemplative, Compassionate and Courageous using the 'Deep Water Fishing' model of church. This model used by the Diocese owes its understanding to Pope Francis and the book that we used in Lent 2017 called Pope Francis 'The Church of Mercy'.

In this wonderful book Francis sets out a vision for a church showing God's mercy to the World. Francis wants us to understand the meaning of throwing out our nets in mission. To not be afraid of 'Deep Water

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Fishing'. Francis is aware, that we the poor fishermen have fragile boats and much mended nets and despite our best efforts we seem to fail to catch a single fish! However, Francis knows too that the strength of the church does not depend on its members but on the strength of God. We are called to be the house of mercy, a place of welcome, a place where our weakness as humans is met by God's patience, mercy and grace. We must seek those encounters of the human meeting the divine, or 'Thin Places'.

Bible studies were based on Tom Wright's 'Acts for Everyone' which looks at the early church through the stories of the Apostles following the dramatic conclusion in Luke's Gospel of the Road to Emmaus and the invitation to know the Risen Lord in the breaking of bread, to feel our hearts burning as we hear afresh the scriptures and to be that church of mercy, welcome, patience and grace. A church that is compassionate, courageous and contemplative.

Blessings

*Fr Jeremy*

### **Web Site and Social Media**

The All Saints Church website has been active for over six years now and continues to be a good vehicle for communications and information for both our congregation and potential new members and visitors to All Saints Church. (Although this report covers 2019 the website has been extensively used to provide information, worship and prayer resources and service videos during the Coronavirus crisis).

Several visitors and new members have commented that the website was a useful source of information before they came to/visited All Saints.

As a reminder. the site was kindly constructed by Martin Whitehurst, who has now moved, and is based upon a Content Management System (CMS), and uses a purchased template from "Presence Church", which is designed for Church Use. As such it's overall structure and look and feel is fixed. As web-site technology has moved on, as has the original site designer, it is prudent for the Parish to expect to consider a replacement site and to be prepared to allocate resource to build, migrate and maintain a new site. Maintenance of the existing site will become increasingly problematic. (The use of the website during the Corona Virus crisis exposed its limitations and it is strongly advised that a sponsor is identified who will be able to introduce a more modern version of the website. As always this will depend upon the page and information owners taking responsibility for the areas they are involved in).

There is an explanatory video on YouTube for new and potential users of the website. This is very interesting and informative, and it is worth viewing at: -

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

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

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

Maintenance of the content and calendars is the responsibility of the relevant "page-owners" / "event owners", although there is some difficulty with this being operated as originally planned and agreed. As time has progressed, and people have changed activities, virtually none of the agreed page owners are maintaining their pages on the site. Responsibility for both static and dynamic data and page content maintenance will need to be clarified before it will be prudent to consider introducing a new site.

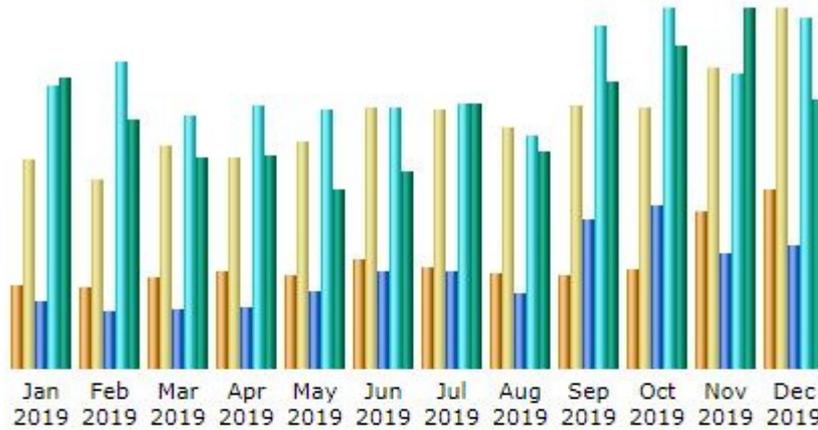
The website continues to attract more unique visitors showing an increase of 20% over 2018. The site now regularly attracts between 30 and 50 unique visitors per day; these visitors now average over 340 page

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views per day, a 23% increase year on year – a page view includes, for example, looking at a calendar event, a pew sheet, an image and/or a news item. The high number of “hits” includes viewing every component on a page (images, text, content blocks, calendar entries etc.) and as such mainly impact upon the use of bandwidth (the amount of web traffic between the sites host and the user/viewer).

We also continued to use a small number of “Facebook (paid) promotions” in 2019. This did not lead to many direct visits from Facebook compared to previous years, however they were effective in promoting key events such as the fete, heritage days, Carols in the Quad and Easter and Christmas services.

The table below gives an indication of the monthly usage being made of the site: -



Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2019	850	2,115	7,471	31,115	1.69 GB
Feb 2019	832	1,919	6,289	33,809	1.45 GB
Mar 2019	930	2,265	6,477	27,898	1.23 GB
Apr 2019	990	2,140	6,675	28,942	1.23 GB
May 2019	950	2,299	8,493	28,643	1.04 GB
Jun 2019	1,101	2,654	10,681	28,678	1.14 GB
Jul 2019	1,019	2,640	10,801	29,284	1.54 GB
Aug 2019	957	2,441	8,242	25,619	1.26 GB
Sep 2019	936	2,667	16,536	37,765	1.67 GB
Oct 2019	999	2,648	17,964	39,695	1.88 GB
Nov 2019	1,602	3,053	12,767	32,604	2.09 GB
Dec 2019	1,815	3,659	13,527	38,650	1.57 GB
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,981</b>	<b>30,500</b>	<b>125,923</b>	<b>382,702</b>	<b>17.78 GB</b>

As noted above this represents a slightly over 20% increase in the number of unique visitors to the site compared to 2018.

As the site develops and matures it is holding significant amounts of information that is being used for reference. As well as details on the Church, Church groups and organisations, calendar events etc., there is also a store of past pewsheets, annual reports, accounts and documents such as the excellent research into the fallen of All Saints (which continues to head the downloaded files list).

In order to ensure that the site remains current and informative with accurate calendars it has been designed for the leaders/page owners/calendar owners to directly maintain their own pages/calendars. However, this is not happening, with few people taking responsibility for their areas of ownership, which means that some of the pages are not as current and/or useful as they could be. There is also an issue with training, which

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Martin was offering, however few people took advantage of this, which means that people are unable to carry out content management for their areas.

Training people will now be difficult as no one has full control of all of the features of the site. It is planned to arrange for the calendars to be maintained (as originally planned) by the Office Administrator. The writer is prepared to continue to assist the PCC with content updates, as long as these are provided to the writer in a usable form and as long as the PCC has identified, within a maximum of a 12 month period, an appropriate resource, along with a timed plan and support from page owners, to introduce a new website.

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

### **Facebook**

In conjunction with the website we also have an All Saints Church Facebook page which can be seen at: - <https://www.facebook.com/AllSaintsBoyneHill>

Please do visit. This is being used intermittently and one of our congregation, Jayne Chapman, has kindly taken on an admin role and is helping to keep the site interesting by with relevant posts. If anyone wishes to be registered as an “admin” to enable posting and updating, please do let the office know. The more vibrant this page can be maintained will mean that the All Saints Church will be more informative and attractive to users.

As noted above several paid for post “boosts” have been used during the year which has assisted with attendance at the Fete, the Heritage Open Days along with key services and events.

### **Twitter**

We also have a very active Twitter feed at <https://twitter.com/AllSaintsBHill>

This is kindly being maintained by Julia Wakeling and has attracted 109 “followers”. (Slightly down from last year). Please do visit if you have not already done so.

### **Future**

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

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

### **Belfry**

With only 5 or 6 ringers we have done our best during the last year to ring as much as we could. In February we welcomed members of EBSB branch to the Annual Tower Captains’ meeting.

We were asked by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to ring at 7.00pm on Maundy Thursday as a mark of solidarity following the devastating fire at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris.

On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June we were pleased to ring for the service to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of priesting for our Vicar, the Revd Jeremy Harris, and to ring for the service which launched the Floor Project in September.

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We rang for 2 weddings and welcomed visiting ringers from West Sussex.

The year ended on a sad note when Derek Smith announced that he and his wife were going to retire to Exmoor. We are very sorry to see them go but wish them well in their new home.

### *Doreen Young, Tower Secretary*

#### **Pastoral Care and Home Ministry**

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

It continues to be led by Father Jeremy with support from myself as Lay Pastoral Worker plus many others from within the congregation at All Saints Church. Examples include home and hospital visiting, taking extended communion to those unable to come to church, telephone calls to check people are ok and have everything they need, and giving lifts to and from church for those unable to drive or without transport.

As more of the older members of our congregation have become increasingly frail, there has been a considerable rise in the numbers needing to be visited at home, in hospital or in Care Homes. For many of these people, being able to continue to receive communion is important to their spiritual wellbeing and it is a privilege to be able to share this sacred time with them.

We continue to offer monthly services to Boyn Grove Day Centre, Normanhurst Residential Care Home and Larchfield Nursing Home. These monthly services are a way of sharing God's love in a practical way and allowing those whose memories are fading, to recall and enjoy hymns, readings and prayers from their past. To see someone with severe dementia "come alive" as they sing with gusto words from hymns often sung as a child in Sunday School, is a really fulfilling and rewarding Christian Ministry.

### *Jeanette Lock, Lay Pastoral Worker*

#### **The Larchfield Mission**

We have continued to see some areas of ministry develop in Larchfield while one or two previously successful projects have come to an end.

Some of the great strengths of mission in this part of the parish of All Saints has been the wonderful ecumenical Open the Book team that Jan Moss has co-ordinated for over 10 years. Larchfield School continue to enjoy the visits of our team to share the bible stories through acting, reading, and the use of visual props as well as engaging the children in the telling of the story too. You will find a report about this engaging ministry within our annual reports.

As I have frequently stated in my time at All Saints one of the key areas of mission is to share the good news of Jesus' stories and indeed the great Old Testament background to those stories. The Open the Book teams from our parish in partnership with members from other churches are making sure that the baton is being passed on in terms of sharing the stories of faith.

Another area of mission in Larchfield that continues to grow is the wonderful ministry of Jeanette Lock, Sue Nordberg, Ursula Hutchinson and Alison Leigh at Larchfield Care Home. Jeanette has developed accessible services using recorded music, both hymns and music that might bring back happy memories for residents, frequently suffering with some form of memory loss. We also have a bible reading and a theme that Jeanette has thoughtfully put together within a service. Sometimes there are simple activities too, like playing a small instrument or getting up to dance. We may find residents responding to the service in a way that is quite moving. For example, singing along to a song that they may have learned over 50 years ago. The staff at Larchfield are wonderfully supportive when we visit and frequently join in with the services.

Another successful summer club took place in 2019 led and planned by Alice the outstanding URC youth worker. Alice has gone onto another phase in ministry for the United Reformed Church and we will miss her

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ministry greatly. We are though looking to see if we can continue to hold summer clubs at the Larchfield community centre in the future.

One of the most successful areas of ministry in the period from 2011 to 2019 has been Larchfield Open Table. This wonderful group made up of members of the Church of the Good Shepherd, River Church, All Saints and more recently St Edmund Campion has over this 9 year period provided meals, talks, activities and spiritual and practical support to many people. However, over the last year numbers attending have declined and we have decided to finish this activity to try to discern a new ministry moving forward. Thank you to Mike & Jan Moss, Joan Poolman, Dorothy Padfield, Sue Nordberg and members of other churches who have supported this rewarding ministry over this long period of time.

Blessings,

*Fr Jeremy*

### **Open the Book at Larchfield & All Saints Schools**

After 10 or more years it is difficult to bring a fresh perspective to this thoroughly enjoyable sharing of bible stories with young children and the captive staff in the assembly!

One small example recurs throughout the years. Typically, on a Saturday morning in Maidenhead High Street when we are in search of a Barista a young voice will say, 'I know you from Open the Book'. We enquire which school, but that is secondary to the typical refrain 'Open the Book is the best bit of the week'. On asking, quite often the child has taken a character part [absolutely the minimal of rehearsing] and the pleasure is shown in their face.

Who thinks taking the Gospels to other people is beyond them?

*Jan & Mike Moss*

### **OAK Project**

We worked with Fr Robert Langton in 2003 when he brought back from Kenya the inspiration to fund the training of ordinands. As we head towards the twentieth anniversary this ministry continues to be supported. No fund raising will be undertaken whilst the Floor Project is required. Fortunately, we have the cashflow to enable the work of OAK to continue.

On a personal basis we treat OAK as one of our family charities which helps some income to flow. Several other families have been long term supporters of this work. When the floor is fixed, do join us in sustaining this distinctive ministry.

*Jan & Mike Moss*

### **All Saints Film Nights**

For several years Fr Jeremy ran a film club for young people and he had long expressed a wish to do something similar for adults. So in March 2019 at the home of Mike and Jan Moss about 10 people watched *Chocolat* with a glass of wine (popcorn optional) and discussed it afterwards. It continued on the last Friday of every other month; the films shown were *The Greatest Showman*, *Hidden Figures*, *Loving Vincent* and *The Pursuit of Happyness*. Numbers have been as high as 18.

*Jan & Mike Moss*

### **Maidenhead Care**

Maidenhead Care was established in 1985. Originally all the volunteers came from churches. The scheme provides a service to match the needs of people in the community in areas such as travel to NHS services, shopping, visiting the lonely and sometimes providing relief for a Carer. Volunteers offer a fixed time, generally weekly, when they are available to be approached to meet a Client need. The matching of Client request to available Volunteers is undertaken by the Duty Officer. This pivotal role is undertaken by specially trained Volunteers who are on duty, ideally, one day a month.

This report is very similar to 2018 and as the years pass our volunteers get older and many, quite reasonably, look about to retire. The need for volunteers across the voluntary sector exceeds the demand within the local community. All Saints has a core of long standing Volunteers whose contribution is invaluable. Maidenhead Care needs more London Drivers. It is revealing how many people need transport to London for hospital appointments. Maidenhead Care needs more drivers generally. Volunteers can select the local areas that they are prepared to drive to. Travel expenses, when claimed, are fully reimbursed.

Maidenhead Care needs more Duty Officers. Most months some people undertake additional shifts to help keep the scheme viable. Excellent training is provided and a computer and mobile phone moves from home to home. Do you have a day, or morning, or afternoon that you can offer, ideally each week, to help someone in our community? Do speak to Jan Moss for an insight into the role of the Duty Officer.

*Mike Moss, Maidenhead Care Trustee*

### **Street Angels**

Maidenhead Street Angels have now been patrolling our streets for just over nine years. We have a team out every Saturday night and payday Friday night (normally the last Friday of the month). Our teams are made up of Christians from a variety of churches in the town with blesses us with a richness and freshness in our approach to the people we meet.

Perhaps the easiest way of giving an update for this years APCM report is to simply give an example of one of our many valuable encounters:

*We had talked to several people outside the pubs and nightclubs and had taken soup to the homeless men in Nicholson's car park and then decided to wander over to the railway station. It was just after 1.00am and we came across an elderly lady lying on the floor with an empty flagon of cider beside her.*

*It was a very cold night, so we wrapped her in a space blanket and spent some time talking to her. She told us how much she had messed up her life (using slightly more colourful language) and asked us if we would pray for her. I held her hand and prayed with her, reminding her how much she was loved by God and that, whatever mess we all make of our lives, God meets us where we are.*

It's such a privilege to show God's love to those in need and to be able to serve God in such a practical and meaningful way. We currently have four members of our All Saints congregation involved in Street Angels as well as having Fr Jeremy as our Chaplain. However, we always need more volunteers so please keep Maidenhead Street Angels in your prayers.

*Jeanette Lock, Maidenhead Street Angel and Trustee*

### **Senior Saints**

The newly formed Senior Saints group is now well established into its second year, and despite becoming less in number, the enthusiasm of current members is still evident. Naturally, it is not always possible to undertake projects more suitable for a large group, but continuity is all important and so are the friendships which have been formed over time.

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Our organisation is more relaxed, as are the formalities of large committee meetings! We believe in our annual AGM held each year, as a way of reminding ourselves what we have achieved, together with ideas we hope to achieve in the coming year. Our last Treasurer, Irene Wilson, has sadly now become house-bound and is no longer able to cope with our finance. That task has therefore fallen into the lap of our Leader, Margaret Hill, to combine that duty with her own situation as Leader.

Last April, we welcomed Gill Curry, a member of St. Luke's Church. Our Secretary, Wendy Channon, has known Gill for many years, through an interest in "Stitch Ups". By way of explanation, Gill oversees the production of forming blankets from knitted squares. These blankets are then sent to deserving children and families abroad as the result of some trauma depriving them of basic creature comforts. Gill had recently returned from her own "round the world" trip, visiting numerous countries and witnessing different ways of life, so she had a fascinating repertoire of information and curious to share with us. An interesting lady, who held our attention for a full afternoon.

In May, we had a demonstration given by First Responders. These are people who are trained to cope with any unexpected collapse by a member of the public – or indeed, family and friends – so no further difficulties occur immediately. A well-produced demonstration on a mock "body" then enabled such information to be seen and understood. On that afternoon, we welcomed extra interest from some members of our own congregation, who were heard to comment they were pleased to have been present at our meeting!

In June, we had another visit from the Revd David Downing, of the United Reformed Church. He spoke to us eloquently about his involvement with the Calais Camps for immigrants in Northern France, complete with slides demonstrating the incredible state of affairs out there. It completely encouraged our interest yet again to see and hear of such needs that have to be dealt with.

In July, on a very hot and sunny Saturday, our Group ran the Toiletries Stall at the Annual Church Fete. Incredibly, Senior Saints raised almost £100 towards the grand final total of the Fete, which successfully made just over £4,000. Good news indeed – All Saints desperately need to raise a huge amount for the proposed replacement floor in the Church, on the basis that work is hoped to begin in the year 2021.

Also in July, Senior Saints held a Quiet Afternoon, "Living Water", led by our own Jeanette Lock. We welcomed time to reflect on where we each found refreshment, and our thirst for the moment.

Our next meeting occurred in September, when Mike Ansell gave a well-informed account of his recent holiday in Peru, supported by many incredible slides, particularly when he was in Macchu Picchu. Yet another vision of a very different country, with very different attitudes and abilities. All quite breath-taking.

In October, we invited our friends from the Edmund Campion group to join us for our visit from a speaker in the National Trust. We were to hear of their role during World War 11 at Cliveden, and the importance of providing a haven for recuperation of invalided military numbers. It was good to see film of some of those times, to realise that the National Trust lives up to its name to this day by sharing their experience with our visitors. We then discussed events over refreshments later.

November has become the month for our group to enjoy a Cream Tea at the Vicarage with Father Jeremy assisted by Jeanette Lock. It also gives each of us an opportunity to relax and socialise together, and to discuss the year's activities. Thanks are due to both Father Jeremy and Jeanette for their support in all that we think and do.

For the final end-of- year meeting in December, we once more invited our friends from Edmund Campion to enjoy some 'Keith Russell Music'. Keith with his accordion is now well known by all of us, and we felt uplifted by singing festive songs and carols together, after which we enjoyed some festive fare.

Sadly but inevitably, we have lost yet another faithful and loyal member of our Group, Margaret Blakemore. She had been in a Care Home near Windsor for many months, where she received good care

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and attention as such establishments always give. Her funeral was well attended by Church members and by many friends and neighbours. Her own family, now resident abroad, were naturally with us. Senior Saints provided a small wake in the Parish Centre for the occasion, which was appreciated.

Some other members also need our prayers. Margaret Widdicombe was the victim of a stroke attack at the end of last year, and Gwen Burkitt – now aged 97 – is in a Care Home near Dedworth. These are members who have been involved in our activities for many years. Indeed, Gwen was a regular provider of our small Christmas plays, all produced with humour and affection. Now she is able to enjoy a more relaxed approach to life.

We anticipate continuing our varied meetings over the coming year, and would appreciate any potential new members of our friendly group – we promise to make you very welcome.

*Wendy Channon & Margaret Hill*

### **Tiny Saints**

This year has been another wonderful time for the Tiny Saints. Thanks to Tanya Fullarton, Carole Deverill, Neila De Silva, and Silvia Telford we have continued to grow fruitful relationships with parents, grandparents, child minders and children.

The typical session for those that are not familiar with the group takes the following course. We begin with welcoming and offering tea/ coffee and lovely biscuits and cakes to the adults. The children are provided with activities which Tanya will have planned and provided based upon the Bible story for the week. The children also have games that they can play and in so doing make social contact with other children.

The parents enjoy meeting other families and frequently this leads to friendships developing that continue to flourish outside the church. At the end of the games and activity period Silvia, Neila and Carole will provide the children with healthy snacks of fruit and vegetables.

The session concludes with a nursery rhyme service using songs, a story and activities and prayers.

Tanya has contact with 25 parents through her Face Book page and frequently new members join us by word of mouth. We do find a good number of the parents seeking Holy Baptism for their children at All Saints Church.

Thank you to all who are involved in this wonderful ministry.

Blessings,

*Fr Jeremy*

### **AllSorts**

We continue to meet at St Mary's, but Fr Jeremy Harris from All Saints Church who is now one of our leaders kindly hosted our summer BBQ. We are delighted that we now have helpers and leaders from that church and also St. Edmund Campion and St Mary's, White Waltham. This year we tried to help to start a similar group in Windsor but as the churches there could not take on the work we were extremely grateful to receive a grant from Windsor and Maidenhead Christian Trust which enables us to pay for transport from Windsor for adults with learning disabilities wishing to come to ALLsorts. Please pray that we will be able to continue to do this and to welcome all who want to worship with us.

*Sue Nordberg*

### **Young Saints**

Young Saints has continued successfully through this year. We have welcomed a new volunteer Jo to our team of leaders and now have an average of 5 children per session, including welcoming three new regular

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attendees, a small increase on last year. Activities have focused around a different theme each term. Themes this year have included parables, giving, women in the bible and this terms focus on prayer, with a different form of prayer looked at each week. Activities have focussed around crafts and games with children making, amongst other things, a model church, advent candles, poppies and prayer journals. The Young Saints also took part in All Age Worship, 'interviewing' members of the congregation and the crib service. Our next step is to look at extending attendance, perhaps through a weekend afternoon event.

*Louise O'Dwyer Barnard*

### Rainbows



Rainbows are the youngest section of Girlguiding UK, from 5 – 7 yrs old. Our unit has typically 20-24 girls and meets for an hour each Friday during term time at the Parish Centre. The leaders are Nina Heavyside (Fox) and Heather Noyce (Hedgehog), Abigail Dennis (Butterfly), supported by guides in the role of Rainbow Helpers. The unit is thriving with a good leadership team, lots of Rainbows and supportive parents. Nina has over 14 years of experience as a leader and commissioner in guiding and she also runs a guide unit in Taplow.

In 2019 we have enjoyed exploring Girlguiding's new programme. The hugely varied programme each term, encourages the girls to try new activities, work as a team and learn about themselves and the world around them whilst having in fun. For the first time, Rainbows have a range of interest badges they can work towards at home.

Over the last year we have played games, learnt magic, made crafts, explored science and built robots from recycled materials. Learnt about the wildlife in our Maidenhead gardens, learnt to make chocolate bars with Rosie's Chocolate Workshop and all about fingerprints from a visiting [dermatoglyphist](#).

We have also been out and about. We thoroughly enjoyed the Maidenhead Drama Guild pantomime 'Dick Whittington' at the town hall just before Christmas. Have met the Queen's horses in the Royal stables at Buckingham Palace, been pond dipping at Braywick Nature Reserve and enjoyed a Christmas meal out at Pizza Hut. As well as activities during our unit meetings, we have had the opportunity to join up with other Rainbows in the rest of Maidenhead Division at Rainbow Riots and enjoy outdoor cooking and learnt other camp skills.

Girlguiding is always looks for adult volunteers to support our Rainbow, Brownie and Guide units – if anyone is interested please get in touch. Not all roles involve weekly meeting and we have website coordination, commissioner, advisor and treasurer roles available. If you know of anyone who would like their daughter to join Rainbows, they will need to go to [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk), click on the parent's tab and follow the route to register their daughter. Most Rainbow Units in the area have very long waiting lists so if the child is already 5, it is advisable to register them on a Brownie waiting list.

*Nina Heavyside, Rainbow Leader*

### Altwood Church of England School

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

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

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

### Vision

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

### Mission

To be a high achieving academic community

To identify and develop the full potential of every member of our community and give them the skills and qualifications they need to achieve their ambition

Do this within the context of the culture and values of the Christian faith emphasising the strong moral and spiritual values shared with other faiths

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

There are good links between the School and the Church. Fr. Jeremy regularly undertakes School Assemblies and leads the Christian Union in the School, which utilises the School Chapel. Altwood students lead the school's Christmas Carol Service at All Saints Parish Church. Altwood School maintains strong links with the Diocese of Oxford, a representative of which is a member of the Trust, and Foundation Governors ensure a sound representation on the Governing Body. Altwood has been proactive in developing strong links to share best practice with both Primary and Secondary Schools in the Diocese.

Summer 2019 saw students achieving some very strong GCSE and A level results. These results further reinforce the strong position the school has established in the local area and confirm its place as a high achieving learning community.

Parental involvement is encouraged through regular school bulletin updates, Parent Power evenings and our Parents' Forum. Strong working links with numerous local businesses continue to support and enhance the learning of Altwood Students.

## *Janice McLucas*

### **Boyne Hill Infant & Nursery School**

Boyne Hill is a two-form entry school with 240 pupils aged 3-7 years and is a short walk from All Saints Church. The Head Teacher is Mrs Jane Davies and the school is rated Outstanding by OFSTED. In November 2019 the school had a SIAMS inspection under the new evaluation schedule by the National Society on behalf of Oxford Diocesan Board of Education. As a result of this, Boyne Hill Infants is deemed to be a Good Church school and the full report is on the school website.

The school serves a diverse local community with an ethos of nourishing its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. Its vision of togetherness, building a welcoming sanctuary where everyone is shown love, care and respect and strapline of 'Feeding body, mind and soul' has the firm theological basis in the biblical story of the Feeding of the 5000. In this story, Matthew 14: 13-21, Jesus performed a miracle to ensure that everyone's physical needs were met through rest and food; expanded their thinking and understanding through his teaching; and brought them closer to God through prayer and his loving compassion towards them. Jesus told us that he came 'not to be

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served, but to serve', so in a like manner, the school sees its purpose as serving the local community through providing a place where the children in its care can grow morally, socially, spiritually and academically.

In my role as Foundation Governor I can attest to the fact that the school ethos and vision, as outlined above, is fully embedded in all that it does. It is an aspirational ethos and a description of the day-to-day life of the school and, as such, gives the children entrusted to it a multitude of opportunities to grow personally, socially, morally and spiritually. The presence of both parents and teachers working alongside the external persons on the Governing Board further provides assurance that the school lives out the ideals of its founding fathers irrespective of their background, ability, culture, religion or beliefs.

The school has very active support from its parent body through events organised by the Boyne Hill School Association, a prayer group, attendance at information evenings and workshops and attendance at assemblies and shows put on by the children. The school has also raised a substantial amount of money for a wide range of local, national and international charities, as well as supporting the local food bank. Through this, and a proactive school council and eco-committee, the children are learning the importance of showing Christ-like care and compassion for others and the world around them.

As a school serving a diverse population, it has strong links with both the Church and other local faith communities through multi-faith assemblies, workshops, religious celebrations and visits to places of worship. Fr Jeremy regularly leads whole-school assemblies and worship and each class leads a bible-based whole-school assembly to which parents and carers are invited. One of the most encouraging things for me is to witness the high degree of enthusiasm that the children have for bible stories and the breadth and depth of their spiritual knowledge and understanding.

As governors we recognise the uniqueness of the individual and the importance of developing the God-given skills and talents in each and every child. To this end we monitor both the academic and non-academic provision for the children and are very pleased by the breadth of opportunity offered both during the school day and at the wide range of clubs and support activities. The school also uses its funding wisely to ensure that every pupil is given opportunities for personal development through extra-curricular activities no matter what their parents/carers' financial circumstances.

Our thanks go to Mrs Davies and her team for providing such an excellent grounding for the children of the parish.

*Anne Sweeney*

### Sidespeople

The role of the Sides Person is laid down by Church law - Canon E2:

"It shall be the duty of the Sides People to promote the cause of true religion in the Parish and to assist the Churchwardens in the discharge of their duties in maintaining order and decency in the Church and churchyard especially during the time of divine service."

At All Saints a Sides Person's practical responsibilities include helping prepare the Church for the service by putting out hymn books and service sheets, then welcoming the congregation, guiding people to the altar to take Communion, taking and counting the collection and tidying up at the end of the service.

Their most important contribution is the warm welcome that the Sides People provide to the congregation as they arrive for a Church service; they attend particularly to newcomers, children, people with mobility or frailty issues, or sight or hearing difficulty; they introduce new people to someone who may be able to assist them if needed; if newcomers have children they explain about the Creche and Young Saints, and when and where to go to find these various groups; they show people – especially visitors or newcomers - to their seats if necessary.

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All Saints is blessed with a small team of dedicated people who fulfill these duties at all of our regular acts of worship each Sunday, and who volunteer readily for the additional, special services at Christmas and Easter. They are a welcoming face and an encouraging voice for anyone new to our Church as well as for the regular members of the congregation.

We meet as a group to review, and update if necessary, the "Sides Person's Guidelines" and health and safety arrangements. This is a lovely opportunity for the whole team to get together – the 8 o'clockers and the 10 o'clockers - to share each other's company.

We are very grateful and thank all those who carry out this valuable and important role. As with most teams we are always keen to welcome new members and to share the opportunity to provide this wonderful service for All Saints Church.

*Stella Harding*

### Flower Arrangers

We are pleased to be able to report that 2019 saw another year when our beautiful church was enhanced with a lovely display of flowers, not only for important festivals, but every Sunday. Our continued thanks therefore go out to the members of the congregation who enable this to be achieved by kindly sponsoring the flowers each week. Also, for their generosity in the special gift of lilies at Eastertide, and for all their support, thank you!

However, behind every beautiful arrangement is a dedicated team, and therefore, thanks are due to every team member, Marian Duncombe, Jean Balchin, Carole Deverill, Valerie Duncombe, Ann Rawlings, Linda Wallbank, Helen Boulter, Alison Leigh, and Helen Graves. Their talents, hard work and dedication throughout the year is very much appreciated. Thanks also to Alan Ketley and Pauline Hole for continuing to set up the Easter Garden, for decorating our lovely Christmas tree, and for setting up the Nativity each year. Special thanks also to all those who have helped at festivals and other busy times, their support is very much appreciated.

It would be very remiss, not to extend our grateful thanks to Nash & Sons who each year supply the beautiful Easter lilies which play such an important part in the Easter floral displays for this very important festival, their kindness, advice and support is invaluable.

In addition to the weekly arrangements, the Flower Team together with other volunteers produce the small posies which are blessed and handed out to members of the congregation on Mothering Sunday, this is a tradition we continued in 2019 and which we feel sure all recipients appreciate, and one which we hope to continue in 2020.

The Team would welcome anyone who would be interested in joining them, no experience is necessary. Help will always be given to new members; the flowers are usually arranged by one or two members of the team and anyone new would work with an experienced arranger until they feel completely confident. Although the flowers are usually arranged on a Friday morning this is not set in stone! If Friday mornings are not convenient, they can be arranged at any time on Friday or Saturday providing the church is not being used, details of which can be found on the pew sheets or from the Parish Office. Flower arranging is a lovely way to serve the church and to give pleasure to all, as well as giving glory to God. It can be a very relaxing and uplifting pastime, so why not give it a go? For more information, please speak to one of the team who will be happy to give you details.

*Jo Towers*

### **Boyne Hill Tuesday Club**

2019 got off to a hilarious start although I'm not sure that was quite what Patricia Miller intended when she came to talk to us about *Tai Chi for Well-being*. We listened intently and watched her demonstration but when it came to our turn to take part ....

Our February talk should have been *Policing before Radios and Computers* but sadly the speaker had an accident, in the snow I believe, and our wonderful secretary, Janet, came up trumps with a quiz at short notice.

In March quite a few members signed up to support Wild Maidenhead after their speaker told us all about *Maidenhead's wildlife and supporting its habitat*.

In April we had an intriguing evening; someone from the National Trust gave a fascinating talk about the Astors and Cliveden.

May saw the return of John Harrison, always a popular evening.

At the beginning of June the Tuesday Club Amble took us on a gentle stroll around Braywick Park to see the new Bowls Club, the weir under construction and the skeleton Leisure Centre. Our season finished when some of us visited Holy Trinity, Cookham for the Deanery Festival.

After the summer break our AGM took place in September, and our long-standing Leader, Brenda Ilott stood down with our grateful thanks ringing in her ears. We were sorry to see her go, but she continues to be a member so we shan't lose touch with her.

Our first meeting of the 2019/20 season saw us finally welcome a full-recovered Tony Keep to tell us about *Policing before Radios and Computers* Well worth waiting for.

In November our speaker was Margaret Thomas from Thames Hospice updating us about the new building currently under construction. It will be amazing when it opens.

2019 came to a traditional close as Jo, Marian & Val guided members to some wonderful Christmas flower decorations, and we shared mulled wine and Christmas fare.

*Jan Moss, Group Leader*