



ALL SAINTS'  
CHILTON

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016

**Background**

All Saints' Chilton PCC co-operates with the Rector, the Revd Dr Jonathan Mobey in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Specifically, the All Saints' Church mission statement, which was adopted during 2015, is: "Growing God's Church, wider, deeper and closer"

We are also responsible for All Saints' Church building and Churchyard.

The Church is located on Church Hill, Chilton and a Church Office, shared with St Matthew's Harwell, is situated in the Church extension at Harwell. The main address for correspondence with the PCC is that of the PCC Secretary, 18 Latton Close, Chilton, Didcot, Oxon OX11 0SU.

The Church website is

<http://harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk>

The PCC banks with Lloyds, Market Place, Didcot OX11 7LQ and its Independent Examiner is Jane Moreton of Harrow House, Burr Street, Harwell, Didcot OX11 0DT.

**Membership**

Members of the PCC are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year, All Saints' PCC met five times to deal with matters pertaining to Chilton parish; one additional meeting to discuss patterns of services, and a further four times combining with St Matthew's PCC to consider matters common to both parishes. During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

**Incumbent:**

The Revd Dr Jonathan Mobey

**Associate Minister:**  
The Revd Pam Rolls

**Assistant Curate**  
The Revd Jan Radford

**Wardens:**  
Mrs Naomi Gibson First Elected 2012  
Mr Alex Reich First Elected 2014

**Representatives on Deanery Synod:**  
Mr John Pigott 3 years from 2014  
Mrs Sylvie Thompson 1 years from 2016

**Elected Members:**  
Mr Stuart Gibson 3 years from 2014  
(Treasurer)  
Mrs Carol Pigott 3 years from 2015  
(Secretary)  
Mrs Hazel King 3 years from 2016  
Mrs Liz Morris 3 years from 2016  
Mr Phil Corbishley 3 years from 2016  
Dr Carina Loblely 3 years from 2015  
Mr Steven Hale 2 years from 2016  
Mrs Helen Brook 3 years from 2014  
Mr James Hellem 3 years from 2014



## **Committees**

Given its wide responsibilities the PCC operates through a number of committees. Each deals with a particular aspect of parish life, and is responsible either to the PCC or to the Joint PCC. The committees report back regularly at PCC meetings, with minutes of their decisions and recommendations being received and discussed as necessary.

### ***Standing Committee***

This is the only committee required by law. It meets occasionally when there are urgent or emergency decisions to be made between PCC meetings. It consists of the Clergy, Churchwardens and Treasurer, with the addition of the Vice-chair and Secretary.

### ***Finance Committee***

This oversees the general financial dimensions of the work of All Saints' by monitoring income and expenditure, budgeting and reviewing the planned giving. It consists of the Clergy, Churchwardens and Treasurer, and meets in December to discuss and prepare a budget, to be presented to the January PCC meeting for approval.

### ***Fabric Committee***

The Fabric Committee facilitates the maintenance, upkeep and development of All Saints' Church building and Churchyard.

Committee members are: Alex Reich, Andrew Hayes (chair), Jeff Stopps, John Pigott and Judith Russell.

### ***Joint PCC***

The Joint PCC is a legal requirement, as the Benefice consists of two parishes, and meets as required. It comprises the Clergy, Churchwardens and Treasurers of both parishes with the Vice-chair and Secretary of each parish.

The Joint PCC was given the power to form sub-committees, by the PCC at the PCC meeting of November 2011. During 2015 it was agreed that 'sleeping' sub-committees are permitted, in which the membership is comprised solely of the sub-committee Chair. The Joint PCC also has delegated responsibility for the areas of Safeguarding and for matters pertaining to employed staff and also to ministers and other individuals licensed or authorised to operate across the Benefice.

Meetings of the Joint PCC are generally held as part of Combined PCC meetings. As such, voting by Joint PCC members on any decisions required by the Joint PCC generally follows discussion by the Combined PCC.

## **Review of the Year**

### **Church Attendance**

There are 81 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, as at the APCM 2016. This is 8 more than the

previous year following the annual revision of the Electoral Roll. Of these 10 are not resident within the parish. 11 names had been added to the roll and 3 removed.

Average attendances throughout 2016 at All Saints' were

8.00 am: 10 (9 in 2015)

9.30 am: 57, being 47 adults, and 10 under 16s (47 and 11 in 2015). (This is the average of all 9.30 am Sunday services).

Attendance at our quarterly evening services averaged 12, being 1 more than 2015.

Taking "Special" services and "Normal" services separately, these averaged out at 70 adults and 22 children over the 8 Special services, with 41 and 6 at the Normal services.

("Specials" consisted of Christingle, Mothering Sunday, Easter Day Family Communion, Harvest, Remembrance Day, Toy Service, Christmas Day and Baptisms).

Additionally, our 2 Carols by Candlelight were still quite well attended, with a total of 143 in the congregations, including 37 children. (Last year these services were held during term-time, and schoolchildren and their parents had swelled numbers to 224 and 58).

Our reflective services at Easter are also appreciated, with 44 (39 adults and 5 children) attending our "At the Cross" service, at 9.30 am Good Friday (following a procession of witness), and 22 (20 adults with 2 children) coming to our Easter Vigil, at 8.00 pm on Easter Saturday (these totals having increased by 3 and 6 respectively, compared with 2015 numbers).

In 2016 across the Benefice there were 6 Baptisms (4 at All Saints' and 2 at St Matthew's) and 1 Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child (at All Saints'). Also 5 Weddings (all at All Saints') plus a Wedding Blessing (at St Matthew's). All the couples had preparation meetings with the minister responsible.

### ***Consultation on service pattern at All Saints'***

During 2015, All Saints' PCC had been considering an alteration to the existing pattern of services, in order to create space for growth and allow for greater breadth in our style of worship. Consultations were held with parishioners to seek opinions on either holding two services, consecutively, but of different styles, on Sunday mornings (which would necessitate moving the 8.00 a.m. BCP service of Holy Communion), or holding an additional service at a different time, possibly in a secular setting.

In January 2016, PCC held an extraordinary meeting, in order to consider the results of the consultation.

It was decided to explore the possibility of holding "Fresh Expressions" type services.

Following this consultation, a "family area" was introduced within the main body of the Church to provide space for parents to participate in the main service with their little ones, and '*Pebbles*' – a children's group for those in the Foundation years, which half-a-dozen children who have 'graduated' from the family area regularly attend.

It was decided that the question of whether to change the Sunday morning services should be revisited at a later date.

### ***Prayer***

Prayer continues to be an essential part of the life of our Churches, with a weekly prayer meeting held at 8.30am on Saturday mornings, and once a month night prayer, led by the Choir, held at All Saints' on a Wednesday evening at 8.30pm. All are very welcome to join these times of prayer. There is also a small group of people who are part of a prayer chain. This enables emergency and continuing prayer for anyone within the Church or for issues known to Church members. Members of our congregations were also actively involved in the *Reflective Prayer Spaces* events held in June. (See Schools item, below).

All Saints' usual Good Friday procession was held, with prayers and hymns at various places through the village, finishing at Church in time for the 9.30 am service. The procession continues to start in Chilton Field in order to link the two parts of the parish.

### ***Y-Club***

During the past year, the Y-Club has continued to thrive with up to 12 regular members from Reception to Year 6. Throughout 2016 all of the children have been residents of Chilton.

The children take part enthusiastically and some have shown signs of spiritual growth and a willingness to tell their families what they've been learning about in Y-Club. Some children have prayed aloud at the end of our meetings. We continue to be grateful to the team of volunteers who join with Pam Rolls on a rota basis to help in leading the group. They show genuine care and concern for the children and some are greatly gifted in creating our craft activities. New helpers are always welcome.

During 2016 we learned about the Patriarchs, the Exodus from Egypt, some of the Kings of Israel (both good and bad) and some of the Judges, as well as celebrating the Easter and Christmas stories at the appropriate times.

### ***Women's Group***

It has been another successful year for Women's Group. Topics for speakers have ranged from the challenging and supportive role of a Street Pastor in Wantage, through an inspirational demonstration of Church flower arrangements to the enabling work of Styleacre with people with learning disabilities and autism. Our outing this year was to Blackfriars in Oxford. We ended the year with a Victorian Christmas Celebration.

This year members were welcomed from Harwell Ladies' Group which sadly had to close last year.

Other highlights of our calendar were the Annual Charity Quiz Night, the Christian Aid Plant Sale and Coffee Morning and our monthly Charity Market Stalls, where we were well supported by the villagers of Chilton, and were able to raise funds for a wide range of local charities.

### ***Home Groups***

These play an important part in nurturing the spiritual development of Church members. These groups meet regularly (usually weekly) to read the Bible together, to pray, and to support one another in the Christian life. They meet on various days and times and are always happy for new members to join. Most groups have members from both parishes.

### ***Bell Ringing***

The sound of bell ringing is deeply rooted in British culture. Chilton has had a bell since the 14th century. After the Church restoration in 1847 a stone tower was added to the Church and in 1892 the bells were restored and a new Church clock was added. In 1959 the tower was declared unsafe and the bells fell silent. In 1998 the Millenium project saw the tower made safe and the six bells restored, tuned and rehung. The bells were rededicated on the 7th January 2001 with much celebration.

Chilton has a small but dedicated group of bell ringers. We aim to ring every Sunday from 9am for the 9:30am service and for national celebrations such as St. George's Day as well as personal celebrations such as weddings. However, we are very short of people to ring. Although we have six bells it is rare that all are rung on Sundays - we only ring if there are more than three of us - and we always depend on local ringers to bolster our numbers. Over the next year we would very much like to teach bell ringing to you - please contact Carina Lobleby if you would be interested to learn. Chilton has a lovely bell tower and beautiful bells and we would love them to continue to ring out for many years to come!

### ***Harvest Barn Dance***

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October, All Saints' hosted a Barn Dance in the Village Hall for both parishes, with a hot supper. This was very well attended by members of the Church family and wider community, and enjoyed by all. *Harvest Festival* was celebrated on Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Perishable Harvest produce was available for people to take, in exchange for donations, following the service. Gifts of canned and preserved food were taken to the Didcot Food Bank, while donations, and profits from the Barn Dance, were sent to Tear Fund.

### ***Christmas***

In December, All Saints' usual Christmas Services were held, including the Toy Service, (with gifts for the Oxford Women's Refuge and donations to the charity See Saw), and two services of Carols by Candlelight. One was held in the afternoon, aimed at

families with young children, with a group of Y-Club children presenting a dramatic Bible reading of the angels proclaiming the birth of Jesus to the shepherds. The evening service was a more traditional service of readings and carols. Carols were also sung around the village, and the Rose and Crown visited for an evening of carol singing.

As usual, the Church was beautifully decorated for Christmas, and with the Christmas tree and lights on the tower, and the east window illuminated, the Church was a beacon to the parish at this time.

For the first time, in 2016 a '*Christmas Together*' lunch at Chilton Village Hall was organized by one of the home groups and attended by 35 to 40 people. Turkeys were cooked on a barbeque and the event included games and the Queen's Speech. There are plans to repeat the event in 2017.

### **Fabric**

#### **Annual Fabric and Ornaments Report for 2016**

This paper has been prepared by Andrew Hayes, Fabric Committee Chair, and produced separately with this report.

#### **Review of the Year – Benefice Activities**

All Saints' Chilton forms a Benefice with St Matthew's, Harwell. This means that the two Churches share one Rector. Regionally, the Benefice is part of the Diocese of Oxford (very broadly, the Church of England in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire) and, locally, part of the Wallingford Deanery.

#### ***Worship Services***

Every Sunday our Churches meet together to worship God, hear from his Word, pray together, and encourage one another. Our services range from the quiet, traditional ones from the Book of Common Prayer, to contemporary, family-friendly ones. During the course of the year St Matthew's decided to suspend the monthly 'Hands Free' Sunday evening service pending the exploration of options in the Benefice for a 'Fresh Expression' of Church. (See "Consultation on service Pattern", above) designed to engage with those not served well by our current style of worship services. As part of this process, we experimented in the autumn with a series of gatherings on late Friday afternoon called '*Family Fridays*' for "fun, friendship, food and faith".

#### ***Youth and Families***

Provision for youth and families is an aspect of the Benefice's work into which significant resource is invested. This reflects the acknowledged importance of reaching the young, not least in growing the Church.

The whole of our Children, Families and Youth work now operates under the umbrella title of "***G2G: Generation to Generation***", signifying our desire to fulfil the Biblical mandate to reach whole families,

equipping them to pass their faith onto the next generation.

#### ***Children & Families' Worker***

By the end of the year the Children and Families Worker (CFW) was about 80% of the way through his initial three-year tenure. During the year, an appeal for funds to support the CFW post for a further three years beyond August 2017 was launched, with a good response.

Throughout 2016 the CFW has been working to implement the proposals that were consulted over and approved by the PCCs at the start of the year. These affect almost every area of the CFW ministry and you can read about some of the changes in the rest of the report.

#### ***Children and Young People's Sunday Groups***

In St Matthew's '*Kids Church*' continues to provide a weekly, child-appropriate service for all those in primary school, running concurrently with the adult service.

Two weeks out of every four, *Pathfinders* provides a Bible study during the service for those in key stage 3 (i.e. aged 11-14).

The Sunday evening youth program ("*YF*") has two sessions each week – *Mainstream* (aged 11-14) and *Upstream* (aged 14+). Attendance from those outside the Church family has dropped which has allowed us to focus much more on discipleship. Six members of the group also attended '*Soul Survivor*' conference in the summer – which proved to be very significant for their spiritual development.

Across all the groups it has been a year of consolidation rather than growth or development.

#### ***Summer Holiday Club***

*Holiday Club* is now an established annual event in the Benefice. In 2016 it was held from 15th to 19th August at Harwell School, whose premises were generously made available free of charge. It continues to be one of the most significant events in the calendar of both our congregations – not only in scope of its outreach, but also in terms of the level of volunteer investment and service. It was organised and run by 60 volunteer leaders and helpers, donating circa 1,100 hours of time during the week.

The club was free to attend and open to all children of primary school age. A *Christianity Explored Course* was also run concurrently for those in Years 7 and 8. Over 130 children pre-registered, and 114 attended during the course of the week – 92 of them every day. Average daily attendance was 105. This year we limited attendance to those resident in the Benefice (excluding children of the team).

This year we used resources written and produced in-house – a Camelot theme (with spectacular stage and scenery) and teaching that studied the miracles of Jesus and what they reveal about His character.

The feedback responses from parents rated almost every aspect of Holiday Club as 'Outstanding'. Pre- and post- Holiday Club services were enjoyable events which attracted a few guests. However, the challenge remains about how we can move people beyond being occasional guests to Church members.

### ***Fledgelings***

Fledgelings is for pre-school aged children and their parents/carers, and is held in both Harwell and Chilton. Combined, these two groups constitute the largest aspect of our regular Children and Families Work, and the largest regular interaction with those outside of the Church membership.

Fledgelings provides play and activities for the children and company and conversation for the adults. Naturally there is quite a through-put for the group as children leave at the top end to start nursery. However it is pleasing to see that we fill at the bottom end just as quickly. The '***See & Know***' sessions – with their structured singing and story-time with an explicitly Christian curriculum – have proved no barrier to recruitment and are appreciated by all who come. The mums have formed friendships beyond the group, attended social events together, a "***Care for the Family***" event called "***Parent Talk***", organised a pediatric first aid course, and held fund-raising events towards a proposed outdoor play area in Harwell.

### ***Schools***

All Saints' and St Matthew's have continued opportunities to collaborate with both Chilton and Harwell Primary Schools.

The Children and Families' Worker, along with the Associate Minister, has regularly taken assemblies in both Schools. Harwell once again hosted their Harvest Celebration within St Matthew's Church. A team of volunteers leads a well-attended weekly after-school club (***Y-Club***) in Chilton School. A volunteer team of adults from both Churches ran the annual ***Reflective Prayer Spaces*** event in Chilton Primary for the fifth consecutive year, and for the second time at Harwell Primary.

The Schools also provided the art work for the ***Easter Story Trails*** in 2016.

We also provided both Schools with informal support through Church members offering their time and talents to assist with practical activities such as being reading partners, musicians, community governors, 'full circle' volunteers, etc.

### ***Community & Special Events***

Looking for opportunities to share the gospel beyond the walls of our building and to have a positive impact on the community, we provided a number of special events this year:

We repeated the ***Easter Story Trail*** in both Chilton and Harwell – with the artwork produced by pupils from the primary Schools.

Back by popular demand was the successful ***Living Advent Calendar*** around Chilton and Harwell, with participation growing steadily. The events culminate with a celebration at All Saints' on Christmas Eve, and at the Crib Service at St Matthew's.

Family-friendly services were held at Chilton Primary School on Father's Day, and with an ***Easter Fiesta*** at the Chilton Field Community room on Easter Sunday. Around 30 children and 30 adults attended each.

We hosted a special event with pastor Bill Wilson – founder and director of the international organisation, Metro World Child. His message was provocative and inspiring. Around 60 people travelled from around the diocese (and beyond) to attend.

### ***Evangelism & Discipleship***

Our Churches seek to fulfil the Great Commission to make disciples through loving service, evangelism and discipleship – sharing the good news of Jesus in word and deed and helping individuals to grow in faith. This is done through our worship services but also through other groups and activities, such as the ***Women's Group***, meeting one evening a month in Chilton, and ***Harwell Evergreens***, an afternoon social group for older residents.

A ***Science and Faith*** discussion group (see below) was established in autumn 2015 and has continued since, meeting fortnightly.

The ***CAP Money Course*** has become established in the Benefice with 8 individuals being trained to deliver the course, and 3 courses having been run during the year. Both Churches have continued to collect non-perishable food for Didcot Emergency Foodbank throughout the year, with a special collection at Harvest time. Our Churches agreed in October to support, along with three of the Didcot Churches, the extension of the Wallingford Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Debt Centre to cover the OX11 area, with a formal launch in January 2017.

The Benefice ran an ***Alpha Course*** April to July, and a ***Christianity Explored Course*** October to December. We had a ***Songs of Praise*** event in Harwell in May, with a Queen's 90th Birthday theme and featuring interviews with four Church members.

In June we launched a ***Benefice Walking Group*** that aims to run a regular pattern of local walks that are open to all, settling on a pattern of Sunday afternoon walks of around 5 miles on alternate months with a few extra walks, such as a night hike. Five such walks were held in 2016 and well-supported with a range of people of all ages mainly from the congregations and some from the wider community.

The **Science and Faith Group** in 2016 successfully applied for a grant covering £5,000 of funding for activities over a year from September. The project, entitled '**Crossing the Gap**' consists of two streams of activity:

- 1) 9 monthly sessions of a family science club with activities for younger and older children, and
- 2) A series of 9 adult discussion forums spread over three terms, plus one high-profile lecture or "Speaker Event" each term.

The project proposal included appointing an apprentice / intern to manage the project, but this post was not filled and the funds used instead to appoint from the beginning of January 2017 a Science and Faith Project Assistant working 20 hours a month for the remaining 8 months of the project. The first speaker event, held on 29th November at the Pickavance Lecture Theatre, Harwell Campus, was by Professor John Lennox, on 'Cosmic Chemistry: do science and God mix?' and was fully booked with around 200 in attendance.

### **Pastoral Care**

The **Pastoral Care Teams** (and many individual members of our Churches) take on quiet practical support for those in need of help, whether short or long-term, at home or, for example, in hospital.

All Saints' Pastoral Care Team operates in Chilton under the leadership of Mrs Audrey Slater. A similar team, consisting of six people, is led by Revd Joan Impey in Harwell. The teams meet together a few times a year to compare notes and pray for those whom they visit. Oversight of pastoral care in the Benefice is the responsibility of Revd Pam Rolls.

Pastoral Care to our parishioners is much enhanced by the involvement of Revd Jan Radford through her chaplaincy role in the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford.

**Funerals** provide special opportunities for ministering to our parishioners. In 2016 we conducted 18 funerals in the Benefice (2 at All Saints', 15 at St Matthew's and 1 at a crematorium) plus three committals at crematoria in conjunction with funeral services in Church (2 at St Matthew's and 1 at All Saints'), and 6 interments of ashes - 3 each in Chilton and in Harwell. Usually this ministry is carried out by our clergy or by licensed or approved lay leaders, with follow-up visits to bereaved families taking place wherever possible.

**Home Communion**s are taken four times a year to parishioners who are not very mobile - Easter, summer, Harvest and Christmas. During 2016 there were between six and nine Home Communion each quarter.

**Generation Gold Services**, initiated by Revd Jan Radford and Revd Pam Rolls in 2015, were continued in 2016, with the enthusiastic support of teams of people in both parishes, and the venue alternating between St Matthew's and All Saints'. The services are quite short (about 35 minutes) and informal. They explore a different Biblical theme each time (e.g. keys, water, light). Members of the congregation each take

away a card containing the relevant Bible text and a visual aid. Worship is followed by tea and cake and an opportunity for members of the congregation to have fellowship afterwards. The numbers attending have steadily increased and there is a growing core of people who are enthusiastic about the services and the fellowship that they afford.

We hope to develop Generation Gold further in 2017. Plans include holding an 'Alpha Gold' Course when the time is right.

### **World Mission**

The World Missions Group consists of ten people, with good representation from both Churches in the Benefice. The Group proposes to each PCC how each Church could spend its World Mission budget. There were additional appeals and collections during the year focused on Tearfund and Didcot Food Bank at Harvest and Oxford Women's Refuge at the Toy Service.

In 2016, we supported the following people and organisations across the Benefice: Christine Perkins, Heather and David Sharland, CPAS, Prayer Spaces in Schools, Church Army, Scripture Union. In addition to this All Saints' supported Leprosy Mission and John Abu Bakker, St Matthew's supported MAF and Barnabas.

We were pleased to receive visits from both Christine Perkins and Heather and David Sharland in 2016. The Missions Group organised Benefice-wide events for their visits, which included local gatherings for them to meet people in the parish, speaking in the Sunday morning services and visiting the youth groups.

### **Strategic plans**

The focus of the PCCs in 2017 and beyond will continue to be on the growth of the Church, in numbers, maturity and relationships, in keeping with our Mission Statement "Growing God's Church - wider, deeper and closer". We will seek to connect with the wider community through loving service, sharing the good news of Jesus with those with whom we have relationships, and seeing the members of our Churches mature in their faith and sent out in the power of God's Spirit.

A strategic focus, under the leadership of our Children and Families' Worker, will continue to be on reaching and discipling children and their families. This will include continuing and consolidating the work already being done as well as developing new work, in particular a 'Fresh Expression of Church' serving the needs of families.

The scope and terms of the work of the CFW will also be reviewed, as part of a larger review of the terms, conditions and experiences of the paid Church staff.

Another key area of activity will be building up the body of Christ, and growing closer to one another through mutual care and support, which will be a particular focus for the preaching and home groups in the autumn.

### ***Administrative Support***

The Benefice has a paid Administrator, working 20 hours a week.

The Administrator creates and prints service and notice sheets each week and Ridgeway Broadsheets eight times each year; updates the website calendar, rotas and news items; prepares various reports for the Diocese, Christian Copyright Licensing International, and the County Council; manages the office; and provides PA support to the Rector.

### ***Ridgeway Broadsheet***

The Church magazine is distributed monthly to all parishioners. The magazine keeps the community informed of Church activities and includes items that seek to nurture and develop Christian faith. It is replaced at Easter and December by a card highlighting seasonal services and events.

### **Report on the Proceedings of the Wallingford Deanery Synod 2016.**

This paper has been prepared by George Curtis, Deanery Synod Secretary, and produced separately with this report.

### **Finances**

#### **Annual Financial Review for 2016**

The main financial income of the Church (pledges, plate and tax recovered from pledges) increased by £1,077 compared to 2015. Pledged income rose by 3% whilst plated income fell by 15%. Gift Aid recovered rose by 15% due to the fact that plated and pledged giving increased in the previous year. We hit the limit on the Small Donation Gift Aid reclaim submitted in the year. As of April 2016, the limit was increased so we should be able to take advantage of this form of income in our reclaim in 2017. The increase in pledged income again in the year was very encouraging to see.

Unrestricted donations were at the same level as 2015 as were fees payable to the Church reflecting again the “unusual” number of weddings and funerals in the year. These two categories of income are always difficult to predict and control.

The Fledgelings Group, in its second year, generated a small amount of welcome donations whilst revenue from the hire of the Church unsurprisingly ceased with the village hall back in operation in the previous year.

The expenditure for the year (£37,717) was an increase of 7% compared to that of 2015 (£35,240). As with the previous year, All Saints’ was able to pay in full its Parish Share allocation (£22,628), leaving a very small excess in the General Fund of £203. However, there was an underpayment of the allocated Charities and Missions donations of £2,800 to achieve the breakeven position. The increase in expenditure was mainly down to the increase in the Parish Share

and the cost of the quinquennial inspection. Joint costs were slightly higher, otherwise all other areas were pretty much unchanged or in line with expectations.

The contribution from the general fund to the Churchyard maintenance costs was on a par with the previous year with the Church Fabric expenses slightly higher; the former being supported by a generous grant from the Parish Council.

The Parish Share is our contribution to the Diocese, to cover the cost of clergy, training and support plus Diocesan Mission. This is our main expense representing 60% of our expenditure and accounting for 60% of our income (but 88% of our regular income). The Parish Share for 2016 was 5% more than in 2015, which was as expected. The Diocese is now expecting the Deanery to cover its costs, which it is still not quite achieving, so the annual rise is slightly more than the rise in the actual cost in order to achieve the objective. In 2017 we have agreed a “freeze” so we can get our finances into a position where we can meet all our financial commitments.

One third of the costs of the dedicated Children and Families’ Worker hired in 2014 by the Benefice continue to be underwritten by the PCC. There has been very generous support for this initiative and this year it was self-funding. With the pledges received so far it should be close to achieving the same in 2017.

The PCC undertook the major project of replacing the gravel paths in the Churchyard in 2015, which were uneven and difficult to maintain. They were replaced by a wider, resin-bound path which has improved ease of access considerably, amongst other benefits. The cost of £19,000 was underwritten by the PCC and there still remains a £8,000 shortfall from the legacies, donations and fund-raising that has already been received.

It is standard practice for the PCC to give 15% of its income to Charities & Missions, divided into overseas based (10%) and home based (5%). A further 2.5% is normally allocated to an Emergency Aid Fund. The latter was suspended for the year, as it has been in the last few years. Once we can maintain a positive position, covering all our costs, the fund will be reinstated. The total payments to Charities & Missions for the year totaled £2,000 from the General Fund. In addition to this £534 was paid out of the Charities & Mission Fund which represents all the restricted gifts made through the Church during the year for specific charities.

All Saints’ was unable to pay its full Parish Share allocation in 2012 and 2013 so that the General Fund could be returned to parity, as it had been in deficit for a period of time. As indicated earlier, since 2014 the full Share has been paid but at the cost of a reduction in the Charities and Missions giving. Pledged giving has continued to increase, following a few years of it reducing, and should this continue there is a real hope

of being able to run and maintain the Church, meet our Charities and Mission goals and cover the true cost of ministry via the Parish Share.

Once again we are extremely grateful to all those who have very generously supported the Church in many ways including time and through both regular and spontaneous giving.

### **Reserves Policy**

It is the policy of the PCC to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds, where possible, which equates to at least six months of running costs to cover emergency situations that might arise from time to time.

Although the General Fund has now returned more or less to parity, following a few years in deficit, it has still not been possible to meet the reserve policy. However, the PCC is fortunate in that there are other funds, (although restricted or designated) enabling the policy to be met. Should an emergency situation arise then a loan from one of these funds could be made to enable the Church to continue to function.

It is the policy of the PCC to invest our funds with the CBF Church of England.

The content of this report was approved by the PCC at its meeting on 7th March 2017 and is signed on their behalf by Jonathan Mobey, Rector and Chair of All Saints' PCC.

