



**Annual Report and Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council
For the Year Ended 31st December 2022**

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022

1. PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Annual Report to the Charity Commission of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of All Saints', Croxley Green in the Diocese of St Albans for 2022

Registered Charity No 1165115

The principal address of All Saints' Parish is The Parish Office, All Saints' Church, The Green, Croxley Green, Hertfordshire WD3 3HJ

Tel. 01923 772109

Website www.croxleygreenallsaints.org

Aims and Purposes

To promote the whole mission of the Church of England, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of the PCC are to co-operate with the Vicar and parish clergy in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church.

Public Benefit

All Saints' activities included:

- regular public worship open to all free of charge
- church open for private worship and contemplation
- pastoral work, including visiting the sick, the housebound and the bereaved
- teaching Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups
- promoting Christianity through staging events and meetings, including activities for senior citizens and young people
- supporting other charities, local, national and international.

Achievements and Performance

Electoral Roll:

Following an annual revision there were 92 names on the Roll, compared with 84 in 2021.

Notable Events:

2022 saw three major events at All Saints; namely:

- i) the resumption of normal worship and church activities following relaxation of Covid restrictions
- ii) the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the parish and
- iii) the adoption of a new Mission Action Plan.

Worship and Study

Following the Government's decision to make observance of Covid restrictions on public worship voluntary, there was a gradual increase in numbers attending services in church, back towards pre-pandemic levels. Communion in both kinds was restored and serving of refreshments in church after services was resumed. This was generally welcomed by all. Over time, the number of face masks worn in church declined.

We have also been working hard to ensure our worship and liturgy is appropriate for the broad age range of people in the services and that our style of worship is multigenerational and enables the spiritual (and numerical) growth and deepening of community within our church.



Lay assistants were appointed to assist clergy to administer communion, subject to their names being notified to the Bishop.

The involvement of children with the Sunday communion service was encouraged by admitting them to receive communion before they are confirmed and encouraging them to complete simple creative tasks linked to the gospel message, e.g. by drawings, or thinking and writing ways in which they gave examples of love for God and people they knew, which could be shown or told to the congregation at the conclusion of the service. Books held in the children's area of the church were regularly reviewed. Monthly Family Services were held in the church hall, combining learning about God, prayer, singing and dancing, crafts and fun activities.

Bible and spiritual study courses were run during Advent and Lent, and evening spiritual reflections were held, with lay leadership and ending in a short compline service. The church was also available throughout the year for Quiet Church contemplation. Evening bible study courses using the Lectio Divina reading method were held during Autumn.

Following the adoption of All Saints' new Mission Action Plan a number of informal groups hosted by individual parishioners were formed by personal invitation, to combine spiritual development with social contact and friendship.

150th Anniversary of the Parish

On Sunday 26 June 2022 a service of thanksgiving and celebration was held in the church attended by the Bishop of St Albans, the Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire and many other church and civic representatives, including clergy who had formerly served at All Saints'. Other celebrations included a Flower Festival on 16-17 July with floral displays in the church donated by a number of churches, schools and organisations, magnificent displays of crocheted woollen flowers inside and outside the church and on local post boxes, a Festival Evensong service, an orchestral concert and musical recitals in the church during the Festival.

Mission

The PCC adopted a new Mission Action Plan for the years 2022-24. It was inspired by a desire to build on what we perceived God to be doing in our parish. It contained four themes for action, namely Transforming Communities; Making New Disciples; Going Deeper into God; and Stewardship. Much of the preparatory work was undertaken by the Pastoral and Evangelism Committee. Three priority tasks were chosen for 2022, which were:

- forming a parish Youth Group for children aged 8-11 (Making new Disciples)
- expanding the ministry of the Friday Cafés (Transforming Communities) and
- encouraging people willing to organise and host informal groups for exploration of faith and social contact (Going Deeper into God).

Safeguarding

All Saints' continued to comply with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to safeguarding guidance issued by the House of Bishops. We are committed to safeguarding all within our church and those who use our church hall. Our Safeguarding Team was implementing in 2022 the requirements of the Level 2 Safeguarding Dashboard and ensured that all PCC members as trustees of the charity received training in Basic and Foundation safeguarding and in Awareness of Domestic Abuse. The following Safeguarding policies and documents were adopted by the PCC during 2022:

- Role Descriptions for those who lead our Choir, Toddler group, Drop-in Café, Pop-Up Cafés for young families, and the Afternoon Teas . Leaders have received safeguarding training and have had DBS clearance. These groups are covered by our church insurance.
- Annual review of All Saints' Church Safeguarding Policy which included the adoption of the formal statement of the House of Bishops 'Promoting a Safer Church: safeguarding policy statement for children, young people and adults' (2017), All Saints' Parish Safeguarding Policy, which required each person who works within the church community to agree to abide by the Policy and guidelines established by the parish church;
- Annual review of the membership of the Trustee Group who would be responsible for reporting to any Safeguarding and Serious Incidents to the Charity Commission and the Diocesan Safeguarding team.



Revd Paul – Ordination as Priest

- November- December:
 - a) Policy for Safer Recruitment, including Ex-Offenders.
 - b) Policy on Responding Well to Domestic Abuse.

DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks were ongoing for members of our church PCC and those holding roles of responsibility. Concerns can be raised by contacting the Parish Safeguarding Officer Anne Oke, the Assistant Safeguarding Officer Sam Jones or the Vicar, Revd Miriam Muga, or via the secure email address safeguarding@croxleygreenallsaints.org

Finance

The PCC set a cautious budget for 2022, having regard to ongoing uncertainties about the COVID pandemic and kept careful control over expenditure. The final accounts showed a surplus on the general fund of £9,803., with accumulated reserves of £46,503, an increase of £9,803 on the 2021 figure. Receipts from planned giving and cash collections at services, fundraising and donations from events, including the 150th Anniversary Flower Festival and concert, the Friday drop-in cafés and the beer festival, all showed increases. The 2022 accounts benefited from a fixed price energy contract until October. Expenditure on the wheelchair ramp and balustrade extension in the church and flooring works around the font was funded by legacies.

Reserves Policy

The PCC's policy is to maintain a level of reserves equivalent to three months' cash flow, which for 2022 equated to £28,261.

Social and Fundraising Events

During 2022, the Social and Fundraising Committee organised a number of successful fundraising events, including the annual Christmas Market and its associated Grand Prize Draw, a jumble sale and a table-top sale and a stall at the annual Croxley Revels held on the Green. Members also provided refreshments for a number of services and social events. In addition to earning a considerable amount of income, these served to welcome newcomers and visitors to All Saints', publicise church services and activities and provide enjoyable social activities for parishioners. Committee members also assisted at the Beer Festival in November. Financial outcomes of fundraising activities are set out in the Annual Accounts.

Buildings

2022 saw the completion of work included in the five-year plan to restore and refurbish the church building which had begun in 2017 and had expanded to include a number of other works, including a community project to replace the wooden interior church doors with incised glazed doors to commemorate World War I. In 2002 a wheelchair ramp was installed, the glass balustrade between the north and south aisles was extended to the west wall and including the ramp, flooring adjacent to the font was retiled and broken leaded windows were repaired. A carved slate plaque recording the hanging of the Memorial Doors and the contributing donors was mounted.

These works could not have been undertaken without a most generous legacy, external grants and donations from church members which are recorded in the report of the Buildings and Hall Committees. The effect has been to make the church a building fit for purpose as a place of worship and a community resource. A recent Quinquennial Inspection by the Church Surveyor confirmed that the church is structurally sound and that relatively routine repairs are all that are required to keep it so for the future.

The church hall, a valued community hub which is 100 years old, requires a great deal of modernisation. The hall is extensively used for church activities and also hired for use by a number of community and commercial leisure operators and for private social events. These lettings contribute significantly to the PCC's income. The Buildings and Hall Committees worked through the year on a plan of works and submitted an application for a grant to the National Heritage Lottery Fund. Unfortunately this was not successful and an alternative fundraising strategy will need to be pursued.

Parish Initiatives

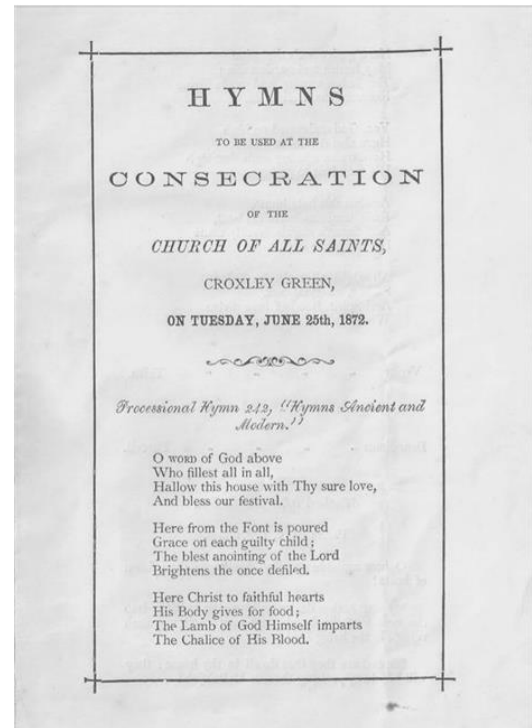
As an experiment a Beer Festival was held in the church, planned to run from Friday 4 to Sunday 6 November. In the event all the beer was sold by the end of Saturday evening, so the Sunday session was cancelled. The event was run by a local publican and attracted a large number of people, including some family groups, sitting at tables, who expressed many favourable comments. The atmosphere was relaxed and pleasant and the church received a substantial donation from the publican, who had taken all the commercial risks. We also managed to sell over 800 tickets for the parish Grand Prize Draw (a small lottery), made at the Christmas Market later in November.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral visiting and support was provided by Vicar Miriam and her clergy team of Rev Paul Palmer and Rev Anne Shaw, supported by members of the congregation, keeping in contact with parishioners who are elderly or housebound, for example by providing transport to services, deliveries of the Parish Magazine, transport to church activities including the Friday Cafés and afternoon teas and delivery of frozen cooked meals upon request by parishioners.

Deanery Synod

All Saints' is participating with the eight other Parishes in Rickmansworth Deanery Synod in holding joint services, developing common Mission Action Plan goals and launching joint activities, e.g. the Deanery Quiz Night. The Synod held one meeting in 2022, with the newly-appointed Diocesan Secretary David White, who asked parishes to consider their top three priorities for the year ahead.



From the Consecration of All Saints in 1872

Ecumenical Relationships

All Saints' is an active member of Churches Together in Croxley and supports a local food bank run on behalf of Churches Together in Croxley Green, which operates from the Baptist Church.

The Parish has continued its active participation in a project initiated by Churches Together in Croxley Green to employ a Parish Nurse to work part-time in Croxley Green, to support the existing health services. Our Vicar Miriam is a trustee of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation set up to appoint to and manage the project, which has attracted additional external support and finance and has been well-used by the local community.

Charitable Giving

The PCC supports a number of local, national and international charities chosen each year for the following year. Covid-19 restrictions limited fundraising for the chosen charities but donations totalling £1423 raised from after service tea and coffee voluntary contributions were given to the Herts Young Homeless, The Mothers Union, Plasyskill and Young Minds in 2022, while voluntary donations received at individual Friday drop-in cafés were given to the Ukraine Appeal, The British Legion Poppy Appeal and the charity Crisis UK.

Activities and Outreach

Activities such as the Monday Toddlers Group, the Friday drop-in cafés, school holiday pop-up cafés for parents/carers of under 5 children and afternoon teas were resumed, and a Youth Group for ages 8-11 was re-launched in September.

Other Church groups have continued to contribute actively to parish life, notably the Church Choir directed by Sarah Guest, accompanied by visiting organists Simon Dunn and David Heath, and the Flower Group whose work adds greatly to the worship at services and to the beauty of the Church.



Preparing the outdoor display for the flower festival

Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. It operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees who qualify as baptised members of the Church of England aged over 16 years are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and they may stand for election to the PCC.

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners to elect the Churchwardens was held on 24 April 2022, followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting which conducted elections to the Parochial Church Council, appointed the External Examiner and received the Annual Report and Accounts.

Membership of the PCC

Membership during 2022 is shown below.

Ex officio:

Revd Miriam Muga, Vicar and Chair of the PCC (appointed November 2007): Revd Paul Palmer, Curate.

Anne Oke and Lyndon Palmer (Churchwardens).

Deanery Synod Representatives:

Fran Bennett and Shirley Ford, elected to serve until 2023

Lay Members:

Jane Bates

Sam Beard

Nik Bennett (Vice-Chair)

Chris Fagan

John Galloway

Sam Jones

Janet Martin

Andrew Nobbs

Ann Palmer.

Following the Annual Parochial Church Meeting Nik Bennett and Ann Palmer were appointed by the PCC to serve as Assistant Churchwardens during 2022/23.

Advisers

Bankers Barclays Bank PLC

Independent Examiner Mrs Dorothy Reynolds

Organisation and Structure

The principal committees and groups are set out below, with memberships appointed by the PCC on 5 May 2022. Most committees include a mixture of PCC and non-PCC members. Chairs of the Committees were either appointed by the PCC or elected at the first meeting of those Committees after the APCM.

The Finance and Standing Committee is scheduled to meet in alternate months between scheduled PCC meetings with delegated financial powers and exercises oversight of the management of the Parish. Members: Rev Miriam (Chair), Anne Oke and Lyndon Palmer (Churchwardens), Nik Bennett

and Ann Palmer (Assistant Wardens), Andrew Nobbs (Treasurer), Janet Martin (Planned Giving Officer), Sam Beard (lay PCC member) and Chris Fagan (Secretary). Owing to the large number of PCC meetings, the Committee did not meet during 2022.

The Buildings Committee acts as stewards of the Church, the Hall and the grounds and is concerned with their maintenance and appropriate improvements. Members: Lyndon Palmer (Chair), Anne Oke, (Secretary), Nik Bennett, Janet Martin, Rev Miriam, Chris Oke and Ann Palmer.

The Pastoral and Evangelism Group is focussed on ensuring that All Saints' has sufficient arrangements in place to meet the pastoral and spiritual needs of the Church members and to enhance the spiritual life and numerical growth of the Church. Members: Rev Miriam (Chair), Rev Anne Shaw, Jane Bates (Secretary), Sam Beard, Fran Bennett, Sister Mary Bittles, Shirley Ford, Sam Jones, Andrew Nobbs, Anne Oke and Ann Palmer.

The Hall Committee exercises oversight of the use, maintenance and improvement of the Church Hall and Kitchen, which are used both by church groups and a large number of community groups and external leisure activity operators. It recommends levels of hiring fees. Members: Sam Jones (Chair), Wendy Shafe (Secretary). Jane Bates, Judith Man, Janet Martin and Anne Oke.

The Social and Fundraising Committee organises a variety of entertainment and fundraising activities through the year, including the Christmas Market. Members: Ann Palmer (Chair), Sue Humphries (Secretary), Nik Bennett, Chris Fagan, Judith Man, Janet Martin, Rev Miriam and Lyndon Palmer.

The Music Maintenance and Development Committee oversees the musical content of services and other matters relating to the Choir and visiting organists.. Its membership in 2022 was Rev. Miriam (Chair), Sarah Guest (Choir Director), Sam Beard, Chris Fagan, Anne Oke and Ann Palmer. We welcomed Organist David Heath as a Committee member in September.

The Communications Team oversees All Saints' social media platforms on the website, Facebook, Twitter and other forms of internal and external communication. Members: Lyndon Palmer (Chair), Sam Jones, Janet Martin and Rev Miriam.

The Magazine Team produces and organises distribution the monthly parish magazine which is an important means of communication within the church community. Members: Wendy Shafe (spokesperson), Fran Bennett, Shirley Ford and Shelagh Booth. During 2022 it was published online and paper copies were hand delivered to household parishioners. It was a very important means of keeping all parishioners in touch with All Saints'.

The Garden Team maintains the Church Garden, with help from other congregation members. Members: Janet Martin, Shirley Ford and Andrew Nobbs. The Eco Church Group established in 2021 continued its projects to increase recycling and to qualify for a bronze award from the A Rocha Church Eco Charity. Progress on this project was very limited during 2022 as other matters, including the 150th anniversary celebrations, were prioritised.

The 150th Anniversary Working Group met to prepare for the celebrations in June, with a sub-group working to organise the Flower Festival held in July. Members: Rev Miriam (Chair), Ann Palmer (Secretary), Sam Beard, Nik Bennett, Janet Martin, Sam Jones and Andrew Nobbs.

The PCC held seven ordinary meetings and three extraordinary meetings during 2022, with an average attendance at the ordinary meetings of 77%. The meeting on 3 March was held via Zoom as some members were in Covid isolation.

Parish Charities

There are three Parish Charities which are administered by Trustees independently of the PCC. Their registered charity numbers are stated below. The Vicar and the Churchwardens are Trustees *ex officio*.

1. The Reverend David Kenneth Williams Trust (803706). The objects of the Charity are to support such Christian religious and charitable purposes either within or outside the Parish as the Trustees consider proper. The Clerk to the Trustees has been appointed by the Trustees as an additional Trustee of this Charity. Most of the financial assets are invested for capital growth. In 2022 the trustees allocated funding of £10,000 to the PCC towards the estimated costs of a refurbishment and modernisation of the church hall to meet a shortfall of funding. The Church Hall is used by church groups and by a number of community and commercial leisure and exercise organisations who hire it for their activities and thereby contribute to the PCC's income. Another grant to a local family was made as an emergency measure.
2. The George Gurney Charity for the Sick Poor (212964). The object of the Charity, established in 1923 following a bequest, was to provide a qualified trained nurse for the benefit of the poor inhabitants of Croxley Green. Following the launch of the NHS in 1948 this object was amended by discussion with the Charity Commission to:

“The use of the money from the trust to help individual cases of hardship as a result of illness, and to provide amenities such as invalid chairs for the use of people in the parishes of All Saints' and St Oswald's. The income from the bequest remains to provide help for special deserving cases as well as enabling Christmas gifts to be given to some elderly and sick persons.”

3. The Croxley Green Annuity Fund (212965), established in 1920 following a bequest, had as its object providing pensions for three aged poor residents or former residents of Croxley Green.

In practice investment income from the latter two charities is used at the Trustees' discretion to provide financial support to less affluent parish residents on a one-off or regular monthly basis and to provide a financial supplement at Christmas. In 2022 total income was £1,969.20 and total expenditure was £181.23.

Anyone resident in or having links to Croxley Green who has financial or health needs is welcome to apply in confidence to the trustees. for assistance.

Rev Canon Miriam Muga, Vicar of All Saints' Parish

Christopher Fagan, PCC Secretary

2. ELECTORAL ROLL

All Saints', like all other Anglican parishes, maintains an Electoral Roll, which is revised annually. Inclusion on the Electoral Roll is voluntary, but inclusion is a sign of commitment and entitles those

on the Roll to vote in elections of lay members to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and the Deanery Synod and to stand for election to these bodies and to the Diocesan Synod. Every six years a full new Roll is produced and this was last done in 2019. To qualify for inclusion on the Roll you must be:

- aged 16 or over
- a member of the Church of England and a resident of All Saints' Parish, or
- a non-resident of the Parish who has habitually attended worship at All Saints' during the last six months or
- a member in good standing of another church which believes in the Holy Trinity who declares her/himself a member of the Church of England and who has habitually attended worship at All Saints' during the last six months before enrolment.

Following the 2022 revision the Electoral Roll had 92 names, an increase of 8 on the 2021 total. Sadly Joan Bovington died. However, Carole Chesterfield, Pamela Evans, Janet Francis, Clare Hearnshaw, Ron Hibbert, Charles Ridley, Cathy Scarborough, Alice Tims and William Vandy were enrolled and we welcomed all of them. They are contributing greatly to the life and worship of All Saints' Church.

Those on the Electoral Roll can ordinarily be expected to attend services and participate in activities of the church, including giving financial support to defray its costs of operation. Numbers on the Electoral Roll are used as one factor in determining the amount of the annual Parish Share which the parish is expected to contribute towards the expenses of the Diocese. In special circumstances such as sustained ill health an individual may not be able to continue to attend services or contribute financially and these circumstances will be taken into account when the Roll is revised.

The 2023 annual revision of the Roll will be carried out commencing in March and the names of qualifying applicants will be added to the Roll. I would ask anyone who qualifies to seriously consider enrolment on the Electoral Roll. Please speak to me or to Rev Miriam if you wish to obtain further information or an application form.

Chris Fagan
Electoral Roll Officer

3. CHURCHWARDENS REPORT ON THE FABRIC OF THE CHURCH AND BUILDINGS

Church Fabric

We had a new Quinquennial Inspection carried out in June 2022. The Quinquennial inspection report gives an overview of the condition of the church, what needs doing and what is most important. These five-yearly snapshots show how much and in what way a building has changed over time.



Ariel view of the Church

Quinquennial inspection reports give a solid, professional basis for making decisions about maintenance, repairs and managing the building. Above all, they are intended to help parishes look after their churches and churchyards. The findings of the report were handed to the Buildings Committee who look at the items from the report and prioritise any work that is required to be carried out.

During 2022 - The Buildings Committee has progressed the completion of all work required for the wheelchair ramp and balustrade at the west end of the church and also the levelling off of the floor by font and installation of floor tiles.

An electrical installation condition report and electrical PAT testing were carried out in the Church. A broadband connection was installed and connected in the Church. The memorial plaque for the church glass doors was mounted on the porch.

Repair of a damaged leaded light window in the clock tower and damaged glass in the choir vestry and north nave windows.

Routine maintenance has continued to be carried out inside and outside of the church during 2022 which includes the roof gutters / valleys.

Church Inventory

Added to the Inventory was the memorial plaque for the church glass doors. No items have been removed from the Inventory.

Faculties

Three faculties have been applied for and granted during the year.

- Broadband connection for the church.
- Carved slate plaque to commemorate the hanging in 2018 of engraved and etched glass doors to commemorate the centenary of the 1918 Armistice.
- Repair to three clear glass leaded light windows

Statutory Compliance

The safety checks for fire extinguishers, electrical/gas appliances, fire alarm system and the lightning conductor were conducted during 2022.

150th Anniversary of the Consecration of All Saints' Church

We would like to thank everyone who contributed and attended our 150th anniversary events throughout the year. It made it rewarding and memorable to celebrate this special occasion with so many people from the church and the community, past and present.

Thanks

A big thank you to all who help to keep All Saints' Church in such good condition be it inside or outside. There are so many different jobs such as church cleaning, flower arranging, gardening and all kinds of maintenance. These are undertaken by a small group of dedicated volunteers.

On behalf of everyone at All Saints', we would like to record our thanks for the excellent and very dedicated Pastoral Team we have at All Saints – Miriam, Paul, Anne and, for a short period, Tayo.

Lyndon Palmer and Anne Oke
Churchwardens

4. ARCHDEACON'S ANNUAL INSPECTION

The 2022 Archdeacon's annual inspection took place on 15th August and this year we were visited by John Rhodes, Lay Chair of Rickmansworth Deanery Synod.

This year, as with the last year, rather than an inspection, which sounds a bit formal, it was an opportunity to see how we as a church were getting on, to explore the life of the church and to pray together.

The primary focus was on Mission Action Planning and the lives of families and young people in the church and we were given the opportunity to raise issues of concern, or discuss new ideas or initiatives that we are working on.

The topics and matters that were discussed during the inspection were as follows:

- **Church Mission Action Plan (MAP)**
How are you progressing with your MAP? What are the achievements and have there been any barriers to progress? Have you renewed or redone your MAP in the last 2 years?
Having reached the targets of our previous MAP, we explained how, through specific meetings, we had built a new MAP for 2022-2024.
- **Fire Risk Assessment**
When did you last complete a Fire Risk Assessment for the church?
The churchwardens have been updating a new Fire Risk Assessment this current year.
- **Safeguarding**
Is the Safeguarding blue poster displayed in the church? Are safeguarding details on the front page of the church's website, or a one click away, and on A Church Near You website? Do you have any concerns about the management or practice of safeguarding?
Our safeguarding publicity and management of safeguarding matters are up to date.
- **Church Insurance**
Is the Employers Liability Insurance Certificate on display and do all members of staff, employed by the PCC, have contracts of employment? Yes
- **Children and Families**
How work with children, families and young people has been progressing and would we like some support from the Diocese on Youth and Children groups.

We discussed the way in which the children are integrated into our Sunday Worship, the Family Service and mentioned the various groups that are overseen by the PCC.

- **Churchwarden Training**

Is there any topic which would be helpful to cover in next year's programme of Churchwardens training?

We had no suggestions and we were both satisfied with the training organised.

Time was made available for us to raise any matters of concern about the life of the Parish, Deanery or Diocese.

*Lyndon Palmer and Anne Oke
Churchwardens*

5. TREASURER'S REPORT ON THE 2022 ACCOUNTS

In a year in which spiralling inflation and energy costs dominated the headlines it is pleasing to be able to report that our church finances finished the year to 31st December 2022 in a relatively strong position. On day to day activities income was £113,045 against running costs of £103,242. As a consequence, the general fund finished the year with a surplus of £9,803.

The accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis.

In setting the budget for 2022 the PCC had adopted a cautious approach, due to the ongoing uncertainties surrounding the future course of the COVID pandemic. In the event there were no major setbacks to impact on our finances.

Main variances against Budget - Income

In 2022 planned giving income and the cash collections at services performed strongly against budget. After excluding the tax recovered on donations given with Gift Aid, this was £5,215 to the good. This was helped, in part, by being able to hold our festival services without the COVID restrictions and the one-off donations given at the service to mark the 150th anniversary of All Saints'.

Fundraising also did well and following the excellent performance of the Christmas Market came in £2,886 ahead of budget. The generosity of our friends at the outreach groups raised £3,254 in donations towards the running costs of the church. After a slow start hall booking income ended the year exceeding budget by £2,155.

When setting the budget for 2022 the PCC budgeted £1,000 towards the costs of celebrating the 150th anniversary of All Saints' Church. In the event, the income generated from the flower festival, concert and beer festival more than offset the costs and the net effect was a surplus of £1,303.

Main variances against Budget – Expenditure

The PCC continues to maintain a firm control over expenditure and to seek best value for money.

Perhaps surprisingly the main cost saving of £2,737 was achieved against the utilities budget for gas and electricity. There were three reasons for this: a) a grant was received from the Diocese for

£1,279 to help offset the rising fuel costs. b) the gas and electric prices were fixed until October and c) lack of historic data had created difficulties in accurately forecasting the utilities budget for 2022.

The repairs and maintenance budget ended the year £1,177 over budget. This was largely due to unbudgeted electrical works throughout the year. As a contractor pulled out of works to the hall and church porch roofs £1,000 has been transferred to the designated Quinquennial Fund to cover the cost of this work once a new contractor has been found. Because of delays to the work to enhance the CCTV system, this will now be an unbudgeted cost in 2023.



Revd Paul
1st Service as Priest

As in previous years The PCC transferred funds to the designated Hall Restoration Fund to help facilitate the long overdue redecoration and as an investment against future letting income. In 2022 £3,500 was added to the fund which was £1,000 over budget.

Restricted and Designated Funds

The church holds a number of funds where money has either been given for a specific purpose or else the PCC has decided to set money aside for a particular project.

In 2022 the ramp was installed in the church and the glass balustrade extended to the area at the back of the church. This was funded from: the Margaret Lumsden Legacy, the David Williams Legacy and the funds in the Ramp Fund. The value of the VAT was reclaimed under the Listed Places of Worship Scheme. The tiling of the area by the font was also funded by the David Williams Legacy.

The plaque installed in the porch to commemorate the dedication of the glass doors was funded from the WW1 Special Project Fund.

As previously mentioned £1,000 was transferred by the PCC into the Quinquennial Fund to help cover the costs of areas of work identified by the church surveyor in his five yearly inspection of the church fabric. £3,500 was transferred to the Hall Refurbishment Fund.

Employees

In 2022 the church employed two members of staff. A pension scheme is available to employees through the NEST Pension Scheme. Contributions are paid by the church on behalf of one employee.

Reserves

At the end of 2022 our reserves stood at £46,503. This was an increase of £9,803 on the previous year. It is incumbent on the PCC, as trustees of the charity, to ensure the financial viability of the church and to maintain a reserves policy. It is the policy of the PCC to retain three months cash flow, which equates to £28,261. The budget approved by the PCC for 2023 shows a deficit of £11,286. This budget does not include the loss of booking income from the closure of the hall during the hoped for period of refurbishment in 2023. It was therefore agreed by the PCC to retain the surplus in 2022 to offset the projected loss in 2023 and the potential loss of hall booking income.

Financial Outlook

In 2023 we will see the full impact of the rising fuel costs. Double digit price increases that began to appear in our 2022 costs will no doubt become more common in 2023. We cannot forget the impact of rising costs on our congregation and those supporting our fund raising activities.

Whilst our budget for 2022 was perhaps conservative, the budget for 2023 gives us little scope for improvement.

As each year passes it becomes increasingly important to remind people that in 2026 the agreement for the phone mast is due to come to an end. How will the church fill the £22,000 gap in the church finances?

Acknowledgements

I should also like to express my personal thanks to Janet Martin, who has assiduously counted and banked the weekly offertory income and given me great support in the past year.

*Andrew Nobbs
Treasurer*

6. DEANERY SYNOD

At our first meeting of 2022 David White the Diocesan Secretary joined us. David has recently taken up this post and is very keen to visit each Deanery in his area as often as possible as his role is to support schools and chaplaincies and parishes in the Diocese dealing with issues from 'what can I do in a churchyard to helping with the financial challenges that all churches face. He asked us to think about the top three priorities that we have as a church and how we are going to go forward with them, what do we think the Diocese will look like in 5 or 10 years' time and making sure that we have a work/life balance. He gave us much to think about.

Going forward, churches were welcoming their congregations back to church after the Covid lockdowns. We know that this was going to be a difficult time as many people were still shielding and others were reluctant to come out to services as there is still Covid about.

*Fran Bennett
Deanery Synod representative*

7. PARISH SAFEGUARDING

All Saints' Church is committed to the safeguarding of all who are a part of our church community, especially children and vulnerable adults, whether in our church congregation or participants of group activities using our church hall. We are also here to support any person seeking support because they have been victims or perpetrators of historical abuse, as well as those who may present a risk to others. This commitment is clearly displayed on our church and hall noticeboards, and on the website, with links to direct contacts for support within the church, from the Diocese of St Albans and from other organisations and charities.

The Safeguarding Team continues to focus on the requirements of Level 2 of the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard as the requirements of this level were expanded in 2022. One change has been that all members of the PCC, as the trustees of All Saints' Church, now have 3 training requirements: Basic and Foundation safeguarding training, and Awareness of Domestic Abuse.

The following Safeguarding policies and documents were prepared, worked on and adopted by the PCC during 2022:

- Role Descriptions for those who lead our Choir, Toddler group, Drop-in Café, Pop-up Cafés for young families, and the Afternoon Teas . Leaders have received safeguarding training and have had DBS clearance. These groups are covered by our church insurance.
- Annual review of All Saints' Church Safeguarding Policy which included the adoption of the formal statement of the House of Bishops 'Promoting a Safer Church: safeguarding policy statement for children, young people and adults' (2017), All Saints' Parish Safeguarding Policy, which required each person who works within the church community to agree to abide by the Policy and guidelines established by the parish church;
- Annual review of the membership of the Trustee Group who would be responsible for reporting to any Safeguarding and Serious Incidents to the Charity Commission and the Diocesan Safeguarding team;
- November- December:
 - a) Policy for Safer Recruitment, including Ex-Offenders.
 - b) Policy on Responding Well to Domestic Abuse.

DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks are ongoing for members of our church PCC and those holding roles of responsibility.

If at any time you have any safeguarding anxiety or concern, please report it immediately. Contact with the Safeguarding Team can be made by telephone, in person or via this secure email address: safeguarding@croxleygreenallsaints.org. Our Vicar Miriam is also qualified to assist.

Anne Oke 01923 220782
Parish Safeguarding Officer

Sam Jones 07306 341321
Assistant Safeguarding Officer

8. BUILDINGS AND HALL COMMITTEES

The report for 2022 provides the opportunity to summarise, and celebrate completion of, the Five Year Plan for the church restoration and re-ordering whose aim was to be completed by the 150th anniversary of the church's consecration on 25 June 1872.

The church

At their meeting in August 2017 the Buildings Committee recommended the formulation of a five-year plan (FYP) of restoration and reordering of the church building. The intention was to complete the work by 25 June 2022, the 150th anniversary of the 1872 Consecration of All Saints'. Conveniently, the five years coincided with the period of the Quinquennial Inspection (QI) just carried out by the church's surveyor Tony Booth which recorded that for the most part the church building

was in excellent shape, structurally sound and dry, but that retiling of the south facing roof of the south nave had now become a pressing concern. Repairs were also needed to the mullions of the west windows as was some repointing of the north wall. Thus in a timely way the QI had identified features that the FYP would clearly need to include as priorities.



Access Ramp

The Buildings Committee began to identify and prioritise other projects, then cost them and locate them within the five year time window. The plan included the WWI Memorial Doors, a project already in hand at that time and which was completed a year later just in time for the centenary of the WWI Armistice. The project also included restoration of the inside of the porch.

The Buildings Committee also envisaged a need to re-order the inside of the church and a number of suggestions were made varying a lot in their ambitiousness and practicality. A small advisory group (CHIROG) was set up to take advice from architects and assess the feasibility of different options. In the end the Group recommended a complete replacement of the heating system and major re-ordering of the north nave, including removing the pews, installing a balustrade along the line dividing the two naves, and moving the Sacristy back to

its original position at the church's east end. Discussion with the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) resulted in the inclusion of a ramp to give access between the upper and lower naves for people using wheelchairs. The Group also recommended repainting the whole of the church interior and carrying out some retiling of the floor close to the font. 2019 saw the beginning of the church restoration in line with the recommendations described above; this included the roof retiling, a new heating system, repainting, removal of the pews followed by sanding and repairing the planked floors, and the oak and engraved and etched glass balustrade being built.

The following year, 2020, saw garden gates installed. Also in early 2020 there was discussion about the desirability of restoring the faces of the turret clock and converting the winding and time-keeping mechanisms from manual to electrically powered automatic operation. Specialist company 'Smith of Derby' advised on the work but the cost was beyond the church's means at the time. In late 2022 the PCC returned to the need to automate the clock mechanism; discussion is ongoing.

2022 saw the balustrade extended to the west wall and construction of the access ramp, the work completed just in time for the 150th anniversary celebrations on 25 June. Retiling of part of the floor in the north west corner of the north nave was carried out later in the year. Broken leaded windows were repaired. A handsome carved slate plaque recording the hanging of the memorial doors plaque was mounted within the doors' masonry arch.

Church Surveyor, Tony Booth, carried out a thorough 2022 Quinquennial Inspection, which happily identified nothing of structural concern much beyond the need within a couple of years for repairs to some of the stonework around windows and at the front of the porch and repointing of the boiler-room chimney. His report stressed, however, the need for routine surveillance and maintenance if the structure was to remain sound.

The work under the Five Year Plan cost close to £180,000. How has it been paid for? Money was raised from the church's own resources; through legacies, local council and other grants, fundraising and extreme personal generosity. A very generous legacy in the will of David Williams allowed work on the church building to begin in 2019. Its completion during 2022 was made possible through generous gifts by Wendy Shafe in memory of her husband Peter and from Jane Bates in memory of her mother, Margaret Lumsden. In February 2021 a successful application was made to the Garfield Weston Foundation for a grant. As a grade II listed building we have been able to recover some £30,000 of VAT costs from the Government's Listed Places of Worship Fund.

We now have a church very much 'fit for purpose' for some decades to come; a large, bright, light, attractive and uplifting, accessible and welcoming, building of great flexibility of use both sacred and secular...now for the church hall.

The Church Hall

At the beginning of 2020 as completion of work on the church looked as though it might possibly be in sight, attention turned to the church hall. By then almost 8 years had passed since the last major works had been carried out: creating a kitchen of a commercial quality, improving the heating with new boilers and modernisation of the pipework and radiators. Insulation of the roof had been brought up to the statutory standard and the hall's sprung wooden floor repaired, sanded and sealed. Joint meetings between the Buildings and Hall Committees now began to be held. They advised that a lot of work was needed to bring the hall to an acceptable standard for a modern public space. As an essential preliminary, a thorough survey of the hall building was carried out by Tony Booth showing, reassuringly, that despite its being 90 years old the building was structurally sound, and dry although with some work to the roof tiles and 'bonnets' was needed and, more ambitiously, the windows replaced.



***New double-glazed windows
in the hall***

On Tony Booth's advice, the two committees recommended that work on the hall should begin with the increasingly dilapidated hall windows. In February 2021 the original 90 year-old Crittall windows were replaced by double glazed aluminium framed ones. Just before Christmas 2021, new security lighting was installed around the hall, together with improved lighting for the choir vestry door. 2022 has been spent discussing and taking advice about how best to complete restoration of the hall to make it more fit for purpose - in other words to repeat for the hall the vision for the church and the ways that vision was realised. An application was made to the Lottery Fund for a grant.

As in past years this report can't be allowed to end without thanking all those - and there have been a lot of them - whose experience and expertise we drew on over the last five years; both those who advised us and those who actually carried out the work. Our warmest thanks therefore to our surveyor Tony Booth and his colleague Kay Thomas; to Tracey Shepherd, Mark Glendinning of Greenoak, Nero Glass Designs and Studio 21 for the memorial doors, access ramp and balustrade; Alec Peever for the memorial plaque; mason Peter Bennett for repointing the north wall and repair of the mullions; our carpenter Colin Bushel; GWS who retiled the roof; gas fitters HeatingGlobal; painter Peter O'Brien; Tony Rita and his team for the hall windows, Ernie Bradley for the new garden gates, Susan McCarthy of Auravisions for window repairs, Russell Hudson for security lighting; James Watts and his team from SPS for the floor tiling; Duncan Oliver for repairs to the hall roof;

Sam Welton and the team from Smith of Derby for advice on the church clock and Andy Basham for sanding and sealing the church's planked floors.

Sam Jones: Chair Hall Committee

John Galloway: Secretary Buildings Committee until August 2022

9. PASTORAL AND EVANGELISM GROUP (P AND E)

The P and E Group met 7 times in 2022. At the start of the year a key focus was the revision of the Mission Action Plan (MAP). Following a series of open PCC meetings, and a MAP development morning in January, to which all members of the congregation were invited, we were able to identify the following key areas for development during 2022 and beyond:

1. To continue to develop the Friday Café' as a community meeting point and explore opportunities for outreach
2. To develop a youth group for children between the ages of 8-11 years
3. To encourage and support people to explore and deepen their faith through informal small group conversations through meetings in someone's home or at a local pub.
4. To recognise our responsibility as stewards of God's amazing creation, and as our legacy for future generations, to act now to limit the devastating effects of global warming. By working towards achieving a bronze A Rocha Eco Church award by the end of 2022.

The MAP was formally launched at our morning service on Sunday 6th March by Reverend Kate Peacock who was the Assistant Director of Mission for the Diocese. The MAP will be reviewed in early 2023.

In addition the P and E group was also engaged in the planning and implementation of the following:

Lent and Holy Week activities;

150th Anniversary Service; and

A Kindfulness Course organised by Sam Jones on 7th May and led by Brother Cassian was attended by 14 people and was greatly appreciated.

10. SERVICES

2022 saw the first full year of church service attendance in person since the outbreak of Coronavirus. Initially some restrictions were continued e.g. mask wearing, hand sanitising etc but as the number of people receiving the full set of injections increased and Covid numbers in the local population decreased we were able to slowly reduce the requirement for some of the restrictions. People continue to be able to make their own decisions and hand sanitiser remains available at the back of church. We re-introduced the chalice on Easter Sunday and people are able to choose whether or not they wish to receive communion in one or two kinds.

It was pleasing to see how quickly people returned to in person church attendance, however, in some circumstances, the frequency of attendance has changed.

Taking into account what we learnt through Covid in relation to the service models and liturgy, we have introduced a liturgy with some prayers being much more focussed and in an everyday language. People have reported that they have found this really helpful and that it enables them to engage better with the service.

We have also been working hard to ensure our worship and liturgy is appropriate for the broad age range of people in the services and that our style of worship is multigenerational and enables the spiritual (and numerical) growth and deepening of community within our church. We have made good progress but this is still a 'work in progress'.

Looking at the total number of people (including children) who attended the 9.45 services in 2019 (2061) and 2022 (2218) it is pleasing to see an increase in numbers attending on Sunday mornings.

Lent, Holy Week and Easter



Good Friday

During Lent we Live streamed Daily Reflections, using The Lent Jesse Tree developed by the Rev Julia Quinn and used with her permission. It was lovely to have a number of people from the congregation along with clergy leading these reflections.

Weekly Quiet Church with prayers stations relating to Lent/Holy Week was the focus of our Lent course with an opportunity for discussion at the end of each evening. Whilst the numbers attending initially were good (8) they became less the nearer that we got to Holy Week with only 2 people (Rev Paul and myself) at the final session which was a bit disappointing.

In line with one of our MAP goals, Jane Bates organised a weekly group to meet at her house each week to reflect on the Lent readings/prayer stations. The group was a mix of people new to the church and others who have been a member of the church for some time. The group gelled well and continues to meet weekly with some new members joining during the course of the year.

During Holy Week we went back to our usual Passover meal on Tuesday evening which was very well attended. The Good Friday reflections were based on People of the Passion and on Easter Eve we held our vigil in the church garden. Our joyful Easter Day service also included a baptism.

150th Anniversary Service

It was wonderful to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the opening of All Saints' church on Sunday 26th June 2022. With the Bishop of St Albans, the Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, local councillors, friends old and new and local community representatives it was a wonderful



***Bishop of St Albans
at 150th Anniversary***

intergenerational service followed by tea and cake. Thank you to Kelly Buckle who made the lovely celebration cake.

In Memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth

The death of her Majesty the Queen was marked with a book of Remembrance in church and Sunday Morning and an Evensong service in memory of her and in Thanksgiving for her long and dedicated reign. There were also sheets available in church for people to leave messages.

Blessing of Animals service

This service was held on 11th September in the garden and was well received. It was attended by 5 dogs, 3 cuddly animals and their owners.

Service for All Souls

This annual service is very much valued by those who come to remember loved ones who have died. 102 people attended the service.

Remembrance Sunday

It was great to return to church for the Annual Service of Remembrance before going to the memorial on The Green for the Act of Remembrance. Having had only a service on The Green for two years during Covid we were uncertain about how many would attend a church service, however with around 275 people in church it was good to see how much people valued this important service.

Advent Sunday and Admission of children into Communion before Confirmation

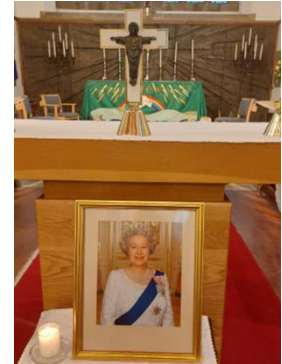
It was a joy to welcome Archdeacon Jane to preach at our service on Advent Sunday and to welcome Ian and Neave into Communion before confirmation. As it was just a few days after it had been announced that Jane had been appointed as the new Bishop of Hertford it was a particularly joyful occasion.

Advent in Narnia Daily Reflections

During Advent we livestreamed our daily reflections using the book Advent in Narnia by Heidi Haverkamp. Once again it was lovely to have people from our congregation take part in leading some of these reflections.

Christingle

This year we were able to revert back to one service with no pre booking required. Starting with a craft activity in the hall as well as each child making a Christingle, we moved over into the semi dark church for a short service of



***Thanksgiving
for The Queen***



Christingle Service

carols and listening to the Christmas Story. A total of 75 people attended which was the same number as the previous year.

Carol Service

With the finals of the World Cup happening on the same day as our Carol Service we decided to change the start time to 6.30pm. Despite the fact that (or maybe because) England did not reach the cup finals we had 104 people attend the service which is higher than the previous year.

The Crib Service

Focusing on the Amazing and Awful circumstances around the birth of Jesus people enthusiastically joined in with the 'amazing' and 'awful' responses along with the actions. This service is always very popular, with in the region of 180 people attending. At the end of the service each child was given a story book 'Amazing Days' from which the story in the service was taken. These were kindly funded by a donation from a member of our church.



Crib Service

Christmas Eve (Midnight) and Christmas Day

Both of these services were well attended.

Family Services

Attendance at these services continues to fluctuate, however in discussion with some of those who attend the opportunity to attend this service is greatly valued although the busyness of life along with other clubs often get in the way of people being able to attend regularly. We have chatted about trying to do something on a different day but this was not something those attending thought would make attendance easier, if anything it would be even more challenging.

Morning Prayer

Throughout the year we have continued to Livestream Morning Prayer on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Live views vary from 2-8 and there is at least one member of our congregation who moved away from the area who joins in this service on a regular basis, so it is a good way of us reaching out and maintaining our links with people. More views (between 15-20) take place over the course of the day.

Occasional Offices

During 2022 there were 17 Baptisms, 2 Weddings and 20 Funerals.

Miriam

11. FAMILY SERVICES

The Family Service happens on the third Sunday of each month, except for August and December.



Family Service

It is a very informal service in which we aim to engage the children, their parents, grandparents and all adults that come to the service, in worship and learning about God. The service lasts about 45 mins and includes songs; our most favourite are the lively action songs that we can play through the projector onto the screen. We have everybody up dancing and singing, it often provides a good morning's work out! We also have a time of sharing a passage or story from the bible. Sometimes we read it from a book, or show a short video or just tell

the story as we know it, making it an interactive time. This is followed by a time of prayer which is shared in a variety of ways; sometimes we have bubble prayers or use the parachute or even with lego bricks. Then we celebrate recent baptisms, baptism anniversaries and birthdays. We always end our service with a fun craft activity and refreshments and this is a good time to chat and build relationships with each other.

The numbers of families returning after Covid has been low this year. We think this is for a variety of reasons such as, family commitments to other activities for children especially sporting ones and we now have a number of families that once came to The Family Service attending the 9.45 service. It has been very exciting to see the numbers of families growing at this service where the children are able to partake in different aspects of it.

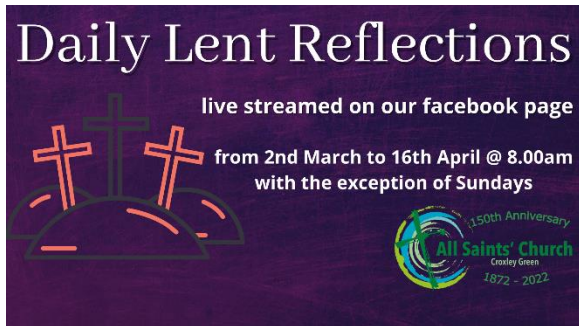
However, The Family Services is an essential part of our mission and outreach and speaking to parents, we know they enjoy coming and taking part in all that The Family Service offers but they are just short of time and come when they can. This very much shows at the huge number of families that come to other services during the year especially at Christmas and Easter and Mothering Sunday.

We would like to give our thanks to Lyndon who is always there behind the scenes giving us much needed technical support to help us deliver a fun and engaging service. We are always looking for new and innovative ideas to share at our services so please come along and join in with us and be a child at heart. We know the parents would love to get to know you.

Fran Bennett

12. COURSES AND LEARNING

2022 saw a range of learning opportunities with activities that were aimed to widen our spiritual experience being available.



The Jesus Tree, a series of reflections was the centre of our Lent devotions. These were broadcast on Facebook each day and focussed on the story of Jesus' birth, ministry, death and resurrection through the lens of John's gospel. We are very grateful to the Rev. Julia Quinn who allowed us to use this brilliant resource. If you would like to revisit the Jesus Tree it is available online at <https://thelentjesustree.wordpress.com/>.

Also in Lent, the church was open each Wednesday evening for quiet reflection. There were themed prayer stations each week to help people to reflect and journey through Lent. The evenings ended with a short service of night prayer or Compline, to give it its formal name; a wonderful opportunity to slow down and just be in God's presence in the busy build-up to Easter.

During February and March Rev Paul and Sam J attended sessions in the Living in Love and Faith consultation, enabling people to consider issues on gender and human sexuality. Responses to these sessions have helped inform our Bishops in the recent debate on same-sex marriage at General Synod.

A day which was special to many of us was the day of our Kindfulness course, run by David Cassian Cole, or Brother Cassian, as he is also known, a brother in New Monastic order, who helped us to focus on the need to be kind to ourselves as well as others. The morning comprised of interactive talks that helped us consider kindness and mindfulness followed by lunch and quiet time where we could sit in church, spend time in the garden or go on a walk. The day was meaningful in so many ways. If you would like to know more about Brother Cassian and Waymark Ministries, you can find their website at <http://www.waymarkministries.com/bio.html>.

In the autumn we ran a series of Bible reflections which we entitled 'Christ in Conversation.' Each week we used Lectio Divina, a contemplative way of reading the Bible, to think about a short passage



in Scripture where Christ is in conversation with different people. We were able to think about how the passage spoke to us in that moment, thinking about a word or phrase that might have caught our ear, and we then just allowed conversation to flow. The sessions were well attended with 12-16 people coming each week. We had really positive feedback and will be running a similar short course early in the New Year. We hope to make Lectio Divina in small

groups part of our regular spiritual practice.

Archdeacon Jane Mainwaring, now Bishop of Hertford, visited us at the start of Advent when we were delighted to welcome Ian and Neave to receive Holy Communion for the first time, having been made ready by Rev Miriam in the preceding weeks.

We continue to run Quiet Church through the year and would encourage people to come along and spend a quiet hour with God in the peace and beautiful surroundings of our church building.

A varied year has given us much to think on and if you have any ideas on other events we could run please contact Rev Miriam or Rev Paul.

Paul Palmer

13. CHOIR ANNUAL REVIEW

2022 was the first year we have had since Covid that had any semblance of normality after it changed our lives as we knew it in 2020 and 2021. The choir and congregation have been able to sing together for an entire year - not something that we ever foresaw the need to celebrate in years gone by - bringing joy to all.

We were lucky to be joined again by both David Heath and Simon Dunn as regular organists and we continue to have a regular rota, providing a good balance of both traditional organ music and piano. Their contribution to services is greatly appreciated. David also set up a music ensemble of piano, two violins and 2 cellos. The group play once a month to bring a slightly different feel to services and have been joined by William on the trumpet at some services over the year.



Choir at 150th Anniversary Service

It was decided by the Music Maintenance and Development Committee that the choir no longer needs a head chorister due to the less traditional role the choir play within the church. As the children are now almost all adults, it was also decided to move away from the Voice for Life awards and the chorister payments which was agreed by the young people themselves. We would like to thank Katherine for the years she spent leading the choir so well as Head Chorister.

The decision was made by the Committee to have the choir robed and sitting in the choir stalls for some services throughout the year. This went down particularly well with both members of the choir but also some members of the congregation. The general consensus is that the sound is better with the choir sitting in the congregation, but most agree that it is lovely to sing as a more traditional church choir in robes, including processing, every now and again.

The choir has been slightly depleted this year in numbers, but we were lucky enough to have support from fellow members of the congregation and were also joined by friends and family of the choir for some special services. The choir also had a guest appearance from the young children during the

carol service as they sang a verse of Away in a Manger so beautifully. We hope to see more of the children over the next year as they become more involved in the music in the church.

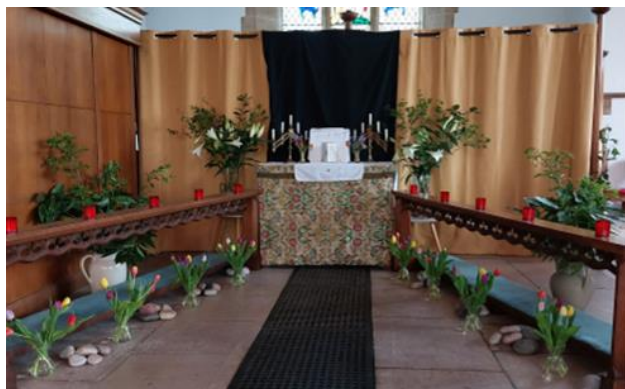
Music selection this year has still been mostly guided by the Sunday by Sunday magazine published by the Royal School of Church Music. We have drawn on past music purchased as well as some new music chosen by David. The choir also sang evensong on a couple of occasions which was well received, and we would like to thank David for organising this.

I would like to thank the choir for their hard work and commitment over the last year. They have had some challenging weeks when not many members were present, however those there persevered and managed to produce a lovely sound. We hope that the mix of music continues to bring something to everybody in the church and that we continue to evolve and gain further members over the coming year.

Sarah Guest
Music/Choir Leader

14. FLOWER GROUP

The highlight of the year has to be the wonderful Flower Festival that we held in church in July as part of our 150th Anniversary celebrations. It brought so many people from our community together to create a dazzling array of floral displays. The fellowship that we all experienced while the displays were being put together was amazing in itself. For me personally and I know with others as well, we renewed friendships, made new friends, learnt new skills and worked closely with members of our own congregation. It was a truly wonderful time.



Easter Flowers

My other memory from this year was arranging the Easter flowers. I always feel that the church has a real spiritual depth at this time of year especially with all the different services in Holy Week that we have but a very special time for me is arranging the lilies and tulips to help create a sense of the Garden of Gethsemane in the North aisle. It becomes such a peaceful, tranquil place to be, especially as we go through the week listening to and reflecting on all the emotional, turbulent times that Jesus was going through.

We are a very small group of flower arrangers and are always grateful for help so if you have a spare hour and would like to help decorate the church then please speak to Miriam, Wendy Shafe or myself. No experience needed, just a desire to help make our church a special place at festival times and to enjoy a chat and cup of coffee and biscuits.

We are always happy to provide flowers to put in church for members of the congregation to celebrate special events or in memory of loved ones.

Many thanks to the people who have given contributions to the flower fund over the year. This has meant that we can continue to decorate the church and make festival times even more special.

Fran Bennett

15. GARDENING GROUP



***Working on the
ECO garden***

A working day was held early in the spring to begin to clear the area to the west of the Church Hall to make a wildlife area. Trees and shrubs were pruned, brambles and nettles dug out, soil levelled and wood chopped to make this a more useable area for our wildlife. Thanks to some donations of feeders and food, birds have been well fed in this area, especially robins, blackbirds and pigeons. Thank you to everyone who helped with this and we look forward to continuing this work in 2023.

Thank you to Andrew Nobbs who has planted, tended and spent many hours watering the gardens and trimming hedges, Alick Burge who cuts the grass all year round and keeps everything looking tidy and Margaret Paddick and her husband who continued to look after the area of garden by the choir vestry. Tending the grounds is an endless task but much appreciated by those who come to Church, and it looked lovely for the Flower Festival in July. Thank you also to the Parish Council Rangers who cut the hedges around the perimeter of the church several times a year; this is a massive help to us and much appreciated.

If anyone is interested in helping with some gardening or clearing of the wildlife area, or donating bird food or more feeders, please speak to myself or Andrew.

Janet Martin

16. SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

What a year 2022 has been for All Saints! The Social and Fundraising Committee has been kept busy by not only holding a number of successful events but also most of our members have helped in some way or another with the 150th Anniversary celebrations.



Early in the year we decided not to hold a Jumble Sale in February but to replace it with the new venture of a Table Top Sale in March, which was a great success and we will be holding more Table Top Sales in 2023.

In June we were delighted to be present at the Croxley Revels which were held for the first time since 2019. It was so lovely to see the Croxley community coming together again for this much loved event.

Revels on the Green

Also in June we ran another very successful Virtual Balloon Race with the balloons being released on 26th June to coincide with the 150th

Anniversary of All Saints'.

On the evening of the first Sunday in July the Committee provided the refreshments (Prosecco and puddings naturally!) for Paul's first communion service following his Ordination earlier in the day.

Two weeks later the Committee provided the interval refreshments for the Music Concert which took place during the Flower Festival weekend.

In September we held our first Jumble Sale since February 2020 which sadly was not as successful as we had hoped. As a result we have decided not to continue with Jumble Sales but to focus on holding Table Top Sales instead.



Christmas Market

The Christmas Market returned to its usual date in November and, although it was hard work, it was great to see so many people coming along to enjoy the Market.

The end of the year was as always very busy! We provided refreshments for the Advent, Christingle and Carol services. We also had another very successful afternoon at the Parish Council Christmas Market and organised the Parish Christmas Post Box.

Thank you to everyone who has helped and supported us through the year and we look forward to having another great year in 2023!

Ann Palmer
Chair, Social and Fundraising Committee

17. COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

The Communications Team continues to oversee the All Saints' social media platforms such as the Website, Facebook and other forms of communication within and outside the church.



The team wanted to continue to focus on communicating services and events to the congregation and the wider public.

Our Facebook page continues to be a helpful social media tool for the church. Our following has grown again this year and we now have almost 500 followers. This is a useful way for us to advertise events, courses and services and share beyond the church congregation.

Throughout 2022 we continued to live stream morning prayer which has sustained a good number of people joining live and watching later in the day. It now takes the form of a daily reflection to make this useable all day.

We reviewed the use of noticeboards within the church and hall. Creating a new display in the hall to celebrate the 150th Anniversary. In the church, using one the small foldable noticeboard to be positioned insight of the main church door to promote services and events. The outside noticeboard backing was deteriorating making it hard to fix posters so a temporary card backing has been used. This will need replacing with a permanent solution in 2023

It was agreed to continue producing monthly events handout sheet/booklet and to produce handouts for the revels and 150th Anniversary events.

The dedicated broadband link in the church for live streaming and other internet access requirements was installed in July.

For events such as markets, concerts, tombola etc as use of cash is declining, other ways of taking payments need to be looked at. At present we have the card reader used at services but there was a requirement to have extra card readers that can be used at multiple payment points. Therefore, four new card readers were purchased for use at events.

You can follow what is happening at All Saints' via our Website and Facebook page using the links below: -

Website - <http://www.croxleygreenallsaints.org/>

Facebook - <http://www.facebook.com/croxleyallsaintschurch>

Lyndon Palmer and Sam Jones

18. CHURCH MAGAZINE

The Magazine Team of three (Fran Bennett, Shelagh Booth and Wendy Shafe) worked hard throughout 2022 as we went back to our 'pre-Covid' way of printing and distribution. The Magazine can still be accessed online but we now deliver and post out again as well as distributing at Friday Coffee and at the back of Church. Copies are free of charge (although many people give a donation) as part of our Outreach Programme.

As we celebrated our 150th Anniversary with a variety of events and returned to normal, there was a variety of social and fundraising events to report on as well as Church services and celebrations. The magazines throughout 2022 have become a record for future reference. Photographs bring these records to life and I would like to thank the people who have sent photos in for the Magazine.

We try to have a variety of articles, poems, prayers and reports, as well as information, and are always keen for members of the congregation to send in their contributions. This year's monthly 'Conversations with', organised by Shelagh Booth, have allowed us to get to know members of our congregation better and find out what interesting lives they have led. I would like to thank Shelagh for her articles and ideas and all those who have contributed to make our Magazine interesting and enjoyable to read.

Thank you also to Fran who has organised distribution and to Tony Booth, our proof-reader; with people working together we have continued to produce our Magazine.

Wendy Shafe

19. MONDAY TODDLER GROUP

The Monday Toddler group continues to flourish with over 30 members and a waiting list. It is lovely to see the friendships develop amongst the children and the adults. The session gives the adults time to relax, chat and play.



The crafts are always appreciated and all are really grateful for the opportunity for the children have paint and messy play rather than do it at home! Our singing session is popular with "The Greedy Crocodile" song, bubbles and stretchy band rowing song being favourites.

This year, we welcomed an extra helper to our group, Mya, who has special needs; she is fantastic at setting up the farm, zoo, trains and dolls house each week, washing drying up, chatting to children and adults and tidying up. We are really grateful for her help.

We hope the members of the group feel the love and care of God through this work and the friendships we create with them might lead them into finding out more.

A big thankyou to Anne, Shirley, Sue, Fran and Nik who are so supportive as the sessions would not run without them!

Jane Bates

20. ALL SAINTS' YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group started up again from September 2022. The aim is for young people aged 8+ at the church and their friends to have a space to mix with each other and have fun.

We had 3 sessions and although small in numbers, each time the young members have had fun, grown in confidence and numbers are growing. We have had a variety of activities from general games, along with table tennis, table football, big connect 4 and badminton net /large badminton bats out each week.



We have also made Christmas lanterns, decorated biscuits, spider races, apple bobbing, hands free doughnut challenge and even having snowball fights!

We hope next year for the numbers to increase and to continue the fun and laughter.

Sam Beard and Kelly Buckle.

21. THE FRIDAY DROP-IN CAFÉ

The Friday Drop-in Café, which started in November 2021, has now run for over a year. It has become such a popular venue for local people to meet, chat and enjoy homemade cakes and hot drinks. We are so pleased to welcome our weekly regulars and to meet newcomers joining us from all parts of Croxley Green as news of our friendly venue travels by word of mouth. We continue to welcome dogs too.



Apart from the refreshments, we have a Book and Jigsaw Puzzle Bring and Swap, and we like to let everyone know what is happening at All Saints' Church. It has been great to see many coming along and getting involved in our services and events, particularly the wonderful Flower Festival weekend.

When we thought that we might not be able to run through the Summer, we were thrilled to have some of our visitors volunteer to bake or help wash up. As a result we were open almost every Friday of the year.

Thanks go to all who have set up and cleared the hall, baked cakes and prepared the refreshments across the year. The voluntary contributions received are much appreciated, and from time to time, we have given the week's donations to a charity – the Ukraine Appeal, The British Legion Poppy Appeal and the charity Crisis which supports the homeless at Christmas.

Anne Oke

22. THE POP-UP CAFÉ

We re-introduced our Pop-Up Café on Thursday mornings during August for parents / carers and children under 5. We limited the age range as we felt this was a group of people who were more likely to feel isolated with all of the usual baby/toddler activities closed for the summer, it also meant that number attending were more manageable. The cafés were very popular and greatly appreciated by those who attended.



**Children at the
Pop-Up Café**

Miriam

23. CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CROXLEY GREEN

All Saints' have continued their active participation in the Ecumenical events of Churches Together, even though these were still restricted due to the unusual time brought about by COVID. This year we were able undertake the Procession of Witness on Good Friday. An addition this year was the Flower Festival at All Saints' as part of the celebrations to mark the 150th anniversary. We also reinstated the Civic Service at All Saints' on Remembrance Sunday followed by its observance at the War Memorial, which was extremely well attended. We were also able to participate in the Parish Council's turning on of the Christmas Tree Lights at the Library. A new venture was the Christmas Walk of Witness, culminating in a glass of Mulled Wine on The Green, also a very well attended event.

Our Food Bank in Croxley Green continues to receive our active support both by way of donations and practically through our participation in running the weekly drop in for receipt of donations and issue of much needed food support. More information can be found at <https://Rickmansworth.foodbank.org.uk> where the wider involvement in the area can be found.

The Parish Nurse project in Croxley Green is going from strength to strength where our two part-time Nurses and volunteers provided 1,000 hours of care during the year. The main areas dealt with are long-term health conditions, mental health, social isolation and loneliness. They also work alongside other community services including debt agencies, drug, alcohol and domestic abuse services. Further details can be found at <https://croxleyparishnurse.org>

Nik Bennett

24. FLOWER FESTIVAL – 16TH AND 17TH JULY

In July, All Saints' held a Flower Festival to celebrate its 150th anniversary. This was a weekend of celebratory events, with the focus being flowers, on the theme of 'Our Village'.



Hanging Knitted Flowers

The first part was the two flower nets: one draped from the northwest corner of the Church so it was visible as people came up Scots Hill and the other draped across the porch. The flowers, (and animals), had all been handmade by a number of people over about 6 months - crocheted, knitted and sewn in fabric, and then painstakingly sewn onto netting to create an amazing effect. The nets certainly became a talking point in Croxley and beyond, just what we had hoped! Thank you to everyone who had a hand in this project and made it so successful, and to Rickmansworth Fire Brigade who helped us by fixing it in place and then taking it down for us many weeks later. Another way that these handmade flowers were used was by making 5 fabulous village themed

letterbox toppers, made mainly by Kelly Buckle, which were placed around Croxley – again these became a real focus for people and a great advert for the flower festival. Small flowers were also made into keyrings, hairbands and fridge magnets which were used as advertising at the Revels.

The Flower Festival took place over two days, but the Friday before was a day of preparation and transformation. The Church was buzzing all day with chatter, sharing of tips and resources, and a growing sense of excitement as displays of all shapes and sizes were produced. There were 16 schools and local organisations represented, along with another 11 displays from members and groups within All Saints'. By Friday evening, the Church looked and smelled truly stunning and we were finally ready for opening on Saturday.



Flower Festival

The weekend was hot and sunny, and people were arriving at 10am on the dot to look at the displays. Both days were busy, with people of all ages enjoying the coolness of the Church, the amazing variety of flowers, both real and handmade, and the refreshments in the garden. For the younger visitors, there were 12 crocheted gnomes to find hidden around the Church. On Sunday evening, 12 lucky participants were chosen at random to win one of the gnomes – they were all extremely happy to give them new homes. Thank you, Kelly, for making these, a great addition to the weekend. The children were given a large board located in the garden, with lots of craft materials, and asked to create a 'Croxley Meadow'. This gradually grew over the weekend, with some children sitting in the shade for several hours to make flowers for this display. It was enjoyed by many, looking lovely in Church for weeks afterwards.

As well as the flowers, there was a programme of music performed by young people from the local area, as well as the Croxley Community Choir, which was very well received by visitors and attracted people for specific performances. It was very welcome to sit in the coolness, with a cup of tea, and enjoy the musical talent. Thank you to all those who gave up their time and performed and to Vicky Vandy for organising it, it really added a special quality to the weekend.

On Saturday evening, we held a concert of well-known pieces performed by a specially organised chamber orchestra. It was a lovely evening, with lots of people coming along to listen and again enjoy the coolness of the Church, as well as refreshments provided by the SoFun Committee. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this such a successful evening, to Vicky Vandy for putting together the orchestra and to all the musicians who gave up their time to rehearse and perform.

The Flower Festival actually ended up lasting a few extra days. The weather was so hot and the flowers so amazing, that we decided to keep the displays until the Wednesday so that it gave more people chance to come and visit, and a reason to come and sit in the cool Church.

A massive thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make this festival the success that it was. To the committee who worked for months to put it all together; to everyone from all the organisations and All Saints' who helped to decorate the Church with flowers, and to keep the flowers watered; everyone who made flowers and helped to sew them onto the netting; all those who gave up time as volunteers - advertising, welcoming, making and serving refreshments, producing the programme, selling concert tickets, putting up and taking down gazebos, moving furniture, recording the weekend with photos, and promoting the events; all the musicians, and everyone who came and supported the event. What an amazing weekend!

Janet Martin

25. ALL SAINTS' BEER FESTIVAL

Between the 4-6 November 2022 we held the first All Saints Church Beer Festival. The aim was to get people into the church space and allow them to see it in a less formal and more inclusive way.



Busy at the Beer Festival

We partnered with the local bar, The Anchor, Tap and Bottle, with them providing all the drinks, including 13 real ales, food and most of the serving staff. We provided the location, kitchen space and helpers. The church was converted to tables and chairs and was lit with fairy lights and candles.

It was free admission with donations only. The Anchor took £7,000 over the two days and made £1,100 profit on the event. They donated £600 to the church. Church members sold Prize Draw tickets for the Christmas Market and took over £800 for tickets sold.

Games were set up in the church for all to play. Beer mats were made with philosophical questions on them and details of how to find out about discussion groups on the reverse side. There were also

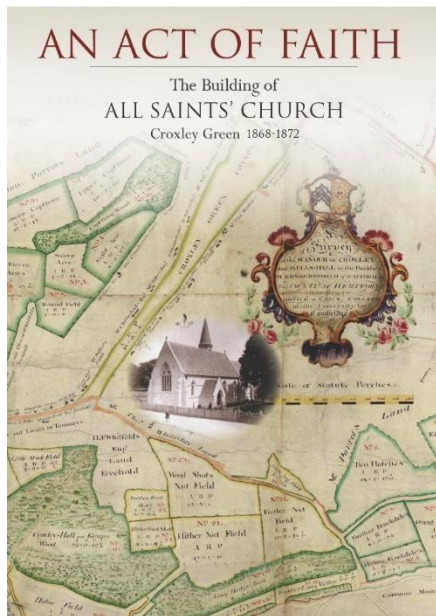
details of upcoming church events on display and members of the congregation were present to talk to people throughout the event.

The event was hugely successful, so much so that we ran out of beer on the 2nd night and had to cancel the third day. It was hugely enjoyed by all who attended. There were up to 200 people in the church over the weekend and everyone loved the atmosphere and how friendly and welcoming the church felt. We aimed to bring people into the church and achieved this with great success. Whether it was people who had never been to All Saints' or hadn't been for a long time, they were all very impressed by what we had done. There is a lot of support for another festival in 2023 and in the future.

Ben Guest

26. AN ACT OF FAITH - A HISTORY OF ALL SAINTS' PARISH

Among so much else, All Saints' 150th anniversary in 2022 was marked by the publication of 'An Act of Faith', a historical account of the building of the church between 1868 and 1872. Those years were a, now virtually unrecognisable, time when Croxley was a hamlet set in farmland with a population less than a twelfth what it is today. The history was an attempt by a group of local historians, together with members of the church, and local publisher, Greg Hill, to describe why, how and by whom, the church was built and the boundaries of its parish set.



The aim was not, however, merely to describe how the church came to be built, and its parish mapped, but to put the church in its place in the longer history of the Christian Church in England and in the history of Croxley Green itself.

It describes Croxley Green in the years just before the church was built and how the changes that were taking place in the village provided the local impetus for its building. The third part of the history describes the actual building of the church, and the carving out of its parish from the existing old and large parishes of Rickmansworth and Watford. It identifies who the movers and shakers were - mostly wealthy local landowners and businessmen - who set things in motion; how the necessary money was raised and by and from whom.

In January 1871 a committee chaired by Lord Ebury applied to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to build a new church at Croxley Green. Their proposal in turn referred to a meeting held at Mr Warwick's house Scots Hill Rickmansworth in 1868 "where it was resolved...to erect a Chapel of Ease to the Mother Church of Rickmansworth."...and an application made to Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge for a site." Over time 'Chapel of Ease' evolved first into an 'Ecclesiastical District' and finally the 'Consolidated Chapelry' it is today. It ends with the church's consecration, the appointment of its first vicar, the Revd. Astley Roberts,

and its first church wardens, Isaac Warwick and William Southey; and the first marriages, baptisms and funerals that were conducted in the new church.

Of course wherever it starts, history never ends. In terms of the whole history of All Saints' what was described here were the church's long historical roots. And neither the church's building nor the parish were fixed for all time; both have undergone considerable changes over the century and a half that has elapsed since the church was built. It is intended, therefore, that what was written here will form the first part of a fuller history to be published during 2023.

John Galloway

27. ALL SAINTS' CHARITIES – ANNUAL REPORTS

THE REVEREND DAVID KENNETH WILLIAMS TRUST

Registered Charity No. 803706

The Reverend David Kenneth Williams Trust was established in 1989 in accordance with the wishes of Reverend David Kenneth Williams as expressed in his will dated 4 February 1989. The income from the sale of his house at 36 Winton Crescent, Croxley Green provided the capital, which was invested. The objects of the charity are such Christian religious and charitable purposes whether parochial or outside the Parish of All Saints Croxley Green as in all respects the Trustees shall from time to time consider proper.

The focus of the Trust has been to use its assets to support the mission and outreach of All Saints' Parish.

In past years the capital assets of the Trust were used to purchase equipment for church services and youth work, employment of youth workers, support for the church choir, construction of the Parish Office and Youth Room, installation of CCTV and part-funding of an administrative post, now the Parish Administrator. More recently the Trust financed the initial and operating costs of a new computer software system to hold relevant data and enable members of the congregation and others with links to All Saints' to be contacted with information about church services and other activities. In addition to other benefits, this has facilitated the computerisation of Church Hall bookings and fee collection, which has increased church income. The arrangement was changed to part-funding of the costs, with the balance paid for from the parish accounts, but the Trust's contributions ceased in June 2018.

This spending substantially reduced the capital of the Trust and its income, which consisted of interest on a bank account. Following the recession of 2008 and subsequent years the amount of bank interest paid annually shrank to very little and eventually the Trust was not able to make any financial contribution to parish income. To seek to increase the capital of the Trust, in 2017 the trustees invested most of the remaining capital in Accumulation shares of the Church of England Central Board of Finance (CBF) Investment Fund, with the aim of growing the capital over time. This investment has been maintained and will continue in 2023. In 2022 the Trustees resolved to make a grant of £10,000 to All Saints' PCC towards the costs of the Hall refurbishment programme, as a

means of securing external grants on a match-funding basis. As the Trust's financial year runs from April to April, the year-end accounts for 2022/23 will be prepared in April 2023.

The Vicar and Churchwardens of the Parish of All Saints, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth, Herts. are the ex officio Trustees and have the right to nominate and appoint all new Trustees of the Trust. They appoint the Clerk to the Trustees, who is also a Trustee of this Charity. During 2022 the Churchwardens were Anne Oke and Lyndon Palmer. The current Clerk to the Trustees is Christopher Fagan of 75 Windmill Drive, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 3FB.

PARISH CHARITIES

THE GEORGE GURNEY CHARITY FOR THE SICK POOR, Registered Charity No. 212964
(previously registered as The George Gurney Bequest)

THE CROXLEY GREEN ANNUITY FUND, Registered Charity No.212965

(previously registered as The Cameron Bequest Annuity Fund)

ALL SAINTS CROXLEY GREEN CHARITIES ACCOUNTS (current and deposit bank accounts

**All Saints Parish Church, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth, Herts,
Year Ending 31 December 2022**

The George Gurney Charity for the Sick Poor was established using a bequest in 1923 following the sale of "The Hawthorns" residential property, in order to provide a qualified trained nurse for the benefit of the poor inhabitants of Croxley Green. Following the establishment in 1948 of the National Health Service the Charity Commission approved a change of object to relieving individual cases of hardship resulting from illness and providing amenities such as invalid chairs to elderly and poor people in All Saints' and St Oswald's Parishes, with Christmas gifts for elderly and sick people.

The Croxley Green Annuity Fund was established in 1920 by the Misses Cameron to provide pensions to three poor and aged residents of Croxley Green or Rickmansworth Parishes. This fund was established in memory of the late Thomas Woods of Durrants.

All Saints' Croxley Green Charities Bank Account was established in 1990 using later legacies and donations. There are now two accounts, a current account and a deposit (interest earning) account.

The two registered Charities operate in conjunction with the All Saints Croxley Green Charities Account to provide financial support to less affluent parishioners on a one-off or regular basis, and to provide a financial supplement at Christmas. Starting in 2018 the Trustees have also approved grants to the Charitable Incorporated Organisation set up by Churches Together in Croxley Green to run the Parish Nurse Scheme and the Croxley Food Bank.

The George Gurney Charity's capital is invested in income shares of the Charities Official Investment Fund and that of the Croxley Green Annuity Fund is invested in income shares of the CBF Investment Fund. Income accruing from both registered charities' investments is transferred into the two bank

accounts and disbursed to beneficiaries. Total income received during 2022 was £1,969.20 and expenditure was £181.23.

During 2022 the trustees have approved proposals for combining these charities and amending their existing objects to improve their ability to respond the needs of people today. These changes will need to be approved by the Charity Commission..

Anyone living in Croxley Green who needs financial help is welcome to contact (in confidence) any of the trustees, who will consider any application for assistance. Contact details can be obtained from the Parish Office, tele 01923 772109; Email: office @croxleygreenallsaints.org.

Trustees of the Charities are the Vicar and Churchwardens of: All Saints' Church, The current Churchwardens are Lyndon Palmer and Anne Oke. The Charities are administered on behalf of the trustees by Christopher Fagan, Clerk to the Trustees, 75 Windmill Drive, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 3FB.

Chris Fagan
Clerk to the Trustees

28. VICAR'S REPORT

Looking back over the last year we have had some wonderful services and events as we celebrated our 150th Anniversary of the opening of our church. It is both amazing and humbling to look at the wonderful photo display in the hall and see how the church has developed over the last 150 years and the feel that we are a part of this story as we seek to grow and develop the church for the future. Nurtured by the loving service and commitment of clergy and congregation



150th Anniversary Service
Cake with the Bishop of St Albans

All Saints' has been a beacon of hope and a symbol of God's presence in our community across the decades and continues to be so today. We have much to be grateful for those who have gone before us and the foundations they have laid that have enabled us to become the warm, vibrant, welcoming, inclusive church full of God's love and presence that we are today. To mark the 150th Anniversary John Galloway and a team of historians from the community along with a local publisher wrote a book about how All Saints' came into being called An Act of Faith which was very

interesting and popular. We are grateful to John and his team for providing us with this important book about the vision and the start of All Saints' church.

We had some wonderful events to mark the 150th Anniversary starting with a Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving led by The Bishop of St Albans, The Right Reverend Dr Alan Smith

and attended by other dignitaries, past and current clergy and members of our congregation, and people from the local community.

Another highlight of the year was Reverend Paul's ordination as a priest which took place on Sunday 3rd July at St Andrews Church Chorleywood. Led by the then Bishop of Hertford The



Revd Paul – Ordination

Right Reverend Dr Michael Beasley, it was a very moving, uplifting and special service attended by many of our congregation along with Paul's family and friends. In the evening Paul celebrated at a service of Holy Communion in our church which was another special and joyful service followed by puddings and prosecco. It is wonderful to have Paul as part of our ministry team, we are very blessed by the gifts that he brings to us and all that he contributes in so many ways.

The Flower Festival took place over a lovely warm weekend. It was wonderful to have so many different individuals and organisations taking part in outing together flower displays all of which were spectacular. With a wall of handmade flowers cascading down the church wall and across the church entrance and some creative crocheted post box toppers made by Kelly Buckle on all the post boxes in the village we really were the talking point of the village. We welcomed numerous visitors many of whom hadn't been in church for a long time or

hadn't ever been in the church before which was wonderful. Along with the positive comments about the flower displays people were also impressed with the brightness, openness, the welcome and the overall lovely 'feel' of the church. With a steady stream of musicians playing throughout the weekend, refreshments and children's activities in the glorious sunshine in the church garden and an amazing concert on Saturday evening organised by Vicky Vandy it was a very successful and memorable weekend. Thank you to Janet Martin and her team who worked so hard to organise this event.

Our first ever Beer Festival at the beginning of November was a fantastic event supported by the staff at the Anchor Tap and Bottle. It was incredible to see the numbers of people, including families, attending. Again people commented on how warm and inviting the church was and how welcome they had been made to feel. There were opportunities for catching up with friends, making new friends and getting into good discussions using the discussion prompts on the tables. So successful was the event that we ran out of beer and were unable to open as planned on the Sunday afternoon. It is something that we will repeat in 2023. Thank you to Ben Guest and his team for organising this and staff from the Anchor, Tap and Bottle.

The Christmas Market was back in full force following the easing of Covid restrictions and once again was very popular drawing in people from the local community and beyond. A variety of stalls meant that there were some wonderful shopping opportunities not to mention the fun of the Tombola's. It was lovely to have entertainment from Night Train and a local professional singer,

George who had people singing along to the Christmas favourites he was singing. Thank you to Ann and Lyndon Palmer, SoFun and everyone who helped in any way.

Alongside these special events, church life continued to go on and as always there was lots going on as we have read in this report.

It was wonderful to re-launch our new Mission Action Plan in March after a series of open PCC meetings to determine the priorities. The Friday Café has continued to flourish thanks to the fantastic people who so generously make cakes, set up and clear away each week. It is an amazing outreach opportunity and something that is greatly valued by those who attend. A typical Friday will see between 40-50 people attending. Thank you to Anne Oke and the team who work with her.

It was wonderful to be able to run Thursday morning Pop-Up Café's for children under 5 and their parents/carers during the summer holidays. We deliberately focussed on parents with younger children as research has suggested that they are the most likely to feel isolated during school holidays. We had a really good attendance each week and I am grateful to those who helped out in any way including that who made cakes.

I think that over the last year or so we have really built up a great reputation as a church that makes wonderful cakes!

Amidst all of the excitement and busyness we faced some sad times as well with the death of Jean Spencer and Jo Sterk, two stalwart members of our congregation who had contributed so much over the years.

We also mourned with the nation following the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

As always I am immensely grateful to everyone who has contributed to the life, outreach and mission of All Saints' during 2022, whether it is on a committee or tending the garden, keeping the church clean or helping at our services. It is thanks to you that we have such a wonderful caring and loving church community with God at the heart of it. Each and every one of you contributes in some way to being and building the church and I am so very blessed to be serving amongst such loving, supportive and encouraging people, so THANK YOU for being who you are and doing what you do.

Whilst I cannot mention everyone by name I would like to thank our church wardens Lyndon Palmer and Anne Oke who do so much work up front but also in the background to keep the church running smoothly and being an important link to the Diocese. They are supported by our assistant Churchwardens, Anne Palmer and Nik Bennett and as a team I greatly value and appreciate all that they do, their support, wise guidance and encouragement.



Baptism

My thanks also to our ministry team, to Reverend Paul our curate with whom it is a delight to work with along with Reverend Anne and Reverend Ron who give so generously of their time and gifts. I value their wisdom, encouragement and support. It has also been a delight to welcome and work alongside Reverend Tayo who joined us for a 3 month placement in September 2022 when he moved to the UK from Nigeria.

We are fortunate to have a very active, interested and engaged PCC and I am so grateful for their commitment and all that they contribute to the life and work of All Saints'.

Chris Fagan is a very knowledgeable and capable PCC secretary who keeps us all focussed by his gentle guidance and timely reminders for ensuring reports to the PCC and the writing of the APCM report are completed in the required timescales. I am very grateful for his knowledge, attention to detail, the support and guidance (not to mention his patience) he affords to me, he is an absolute gem!

Talking about gems, we have another gem in the form of our treasurer Andrew Nobbs who oversees our finances, prepares excellent reports for the PCC and provides measured and sensible guidance on all matters relating to finance. I really appreciate the time that he puts into this important role.

Thank you to Wendy Shafe and her team for continuing to put together and publish our Parish Magazine every month with interesting and informative articles mostly provided by congregation members.

My thanks also to Alick Burge. Climbing the church tower in the midst of winter or the height of summer is not something most of us would want to do, but week in week out Alick climbs the tower to wind up the church clock and to check that it is keeping exact time, and he goes back



Harvest Festival

up the tower in the dark two nights of the year, when the clocks go forward an hour and when they go back an hour. We, and the rest of the village who love hearing the clock chime the hour, are so grateful to him for continuing to keep the clock in working order and in time.

Thankyou also to Alick for cutting the grass in the church garden and to those who quietly pop along on a regular basis to maintain the gardens Andrew Nobbs, Margaret Paddick, Janet Martin and anyone else who helps.

Thank you to Fran Bennett who leads the flower team which includes Wendy Shafe and Rae Bowyer who provide such wonderful flower arrangements in our church, they are always so colourful and imaginative and add a lot to the beauty and welcome of the church.

Thank you to James McShane who walked the final 100km of the pilgrimage way to Santiago de Compostela in April raising £1000 in sponsorship which he donated to the church. It was lovely

to support him in this venture (albeit from the comfort of our armchairs!) and to hear about his adventure both physical and spiritual, on his return.

There are so many wonderful people in our church who help to keep the church and hall running and so many of you contribute in so many different ways that it is impossible to list everyone individually but please know that I am so very grateful for all that you do no matter how big or small, your contribution is so important and so valued. You are such a blessing to All Saints'.

As we look forward, we do so in gratitude for all that God has blessed us with in our church and we go forward knowing that God will lead and guide us in all that we do in His name. We know that our God is a God of surprises, so may we be open, ready and willing to journey with him through 2023 as we seek to continue building His kingdom here in Croxley Green.

With my love and prayers

Miriam