

# **2018 Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council**

## **All Saints' Church, Hartford**

### **Aims and Objectives**

All Saints Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Geoffrey Boucher, in promoting the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

We are called to be a local church, learning and growing together, rooted in the love of God, and bound up in all sorts of everyday ways with the life of our community. Our mission is to reach open hearts with the love of Christ, and to help all the people of Hartford to find Christ, to be found by Him, and to respond to His love through the life and worship of their Parish Church.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to be part of the parish community at All Saints.

In addition to our normal Sunday services regular monthly Communion services are held, an evening service for healing in church and a morning service at Hunters Down. Home Communion is taken to those in need. Monthly Sunday School and a weekly Tots Praise ran during term time for most of the year.

Reaching out to the wider community various activities are held in our Church Room some run by members of our church family and others through the hire of the room by external groups.

### **Worship and Prayer**

As of December 2018 the total number on the Electoral Roll was 86 of which 47 were residents and 39 non-residents of the parish.

The average Sunday 11am service attendance was 52 adults and 2 children. The average bimonthly 8.30am service was 7, the monthly 6pm service was 7 and the monthly healing service was 7.

Attendance was high at our Carol service, 106 adults / 6 children, and Nativity service, 112 adults / 40 children.

During the year 15 baptisms, 7 weddings, 1 renewal of vows, 17 funerals in church and 9 at the crematorium, 3 memorial services and 6 interments of ashes took place.

## Rector's Report

Our sharing of life at All Saints Hartford continued to be both strength and joy in 2018, rooted in our sharing of faith, worship, prayer, creativity, hospitality and conversation.

It is good to see the Sunday services faithfully attended and well supported. We are blessed by the variety of services and the voices to lead them, giving thanks for Elaine, Kate, Trisha, Mary, Clifford and Michael and for all who read the lessons and enable our prayer in the intercessions. We are grateful too for Linda and the choir in the leading of our singing and offering of praise.

At the beginning of 2018 we were just beginning to talk about a project to restore the church tower. Remarkably, by the autumn the project had not only been planned and put out to tender but begun and completed. In addition to this major piece of work, a number of other significant jobs were done in and around the church building and these are recorded in the churchwardens' report below. Amongst them were the upgrading of the sound system and the repair of the church wall. Our thanks are due to Sue Craven, Pam Clarke, Paul Fearon and Derek Colbert for causing all of these things to happen and managing the financing of them.

Hospitality continued to be offered generously and regularly in the building through the Monday and Sunday lunches, tea and chat, cream teas and the scrabble club, and fellowship was also enjoyed at the monthly Sunday lunch at the Barley Mow. Creativity was expressed in the Art Group and in the Crafty Saints group which began in late 2018. Thank you and congratulations to everyone who makes these things happen through your inspiration and dedication. There was much social activity and creativity and alongside that much Fundraising too. Thank you too to everyone who organises and contributes to these events.

The Parish Giving Scheme was introduced in the Spring of 2018 along with a sermon series on the theme of giving and a 'Parish Giving Day'. Twenty seven people signed up to the scheme which is now fully established and working very well for us.

We are very blessed in having an excellent website and in 2018 it was improved still further. Our thanks to Pat and Haleema for the thought, imagination and work that made this possible.

It was a joy to welcome Kate Baker to the parish in July after her ordination as deacon. Kate settled into the parish immediately and has been a blessing in so many ways, through preaching, conversation and visiting and in the conducting of funerals. I am particularly grateful for Kate's understanding and kindness whilst I have been unwell.

We said goodbye to John Unwin who died in 2018 and gathered together to give thanks for the goodness of God and the faithfulness, love and joy that we have witnessed and known in John and his presence amongst us.

Finally, thank you to all of you for your support whilst I have been recovering. I am very blessed to be amongst a Christian fellowship that is characterised by such love and kindness, patience and understanding and which we can think of as family in Christ. You have sustained me and kept me going. I hope that I will be able to return to ministry soon.

### **Choir – Linda Davies**

We are very fortunate at Hartford to have a choir of dedicated members who come to church for 10.00am every Sunday to rehearse before the service. They all enjoy singing and I hope they help you to worship and feel confident to join us in praising God. We sing a wide variety of music and are always open to learning new hymns and songs.

My thanks go to Helen Dowzall for taking on playing for services when I am unable to attend. She is becoming very proficient. Helen regularly plays the organ on a Thursday morning when she opens the church. Hunters Down appreciates Helen's playing at their service once a month. David Brown has taken on playing for Evensong on the first Sunday of the month. David also goes in during the week and can be heard playing a wide variety of music.

Elaine Levitt and I meet to choose hymns quarterly. Also if you would like a particular piece of music before the service please just give me a CD.

### **Children's Work – Elaine Levitt**

Sadly Tots Praise folded in the summer as all our children departed for school or nursery. We decided to close, with regret, after many enjoyable years. The morning in the church room has changed to a different sort of praise as we launched a craft group calling ourselves Crafty Saints.

Sunday school sessions have continued to be offered on the first Sunday of the month when possible. A steep drop in numbers attending and unforeseen delays in appropriate recruiting and training of new leaders have resulted in this becoming an ongoing project for 2019.

### **Hunters Down – Elaine Levitt**

We still continue our monthly communion Service at Hunters Down on the first Wednesday of each month (11a.m.), Thanks to Helen Dowzall who plays the keyboard we can sing favourite hymns with confidence. Pearl and Claire, who co-ordinate it all, are great at getting many folk to it and we see the appreciation each time. Our annual carol service there is also well received. Anyone is welcome to join our group to help.

### **Deanery Synod – Elaine Levitt**

Huntingdon Deanery Synod continues to be an important layer in the Diocese. Huntingdon is fortunate in being able to pay the share in full. This is our contribution to the cost of having a priest. There have been changes to the shape of the Deanery with the joining of All Saints Huntingdon to St Barnabas and the appointment of Rev Jon Randall to these parishes. Hopefully the proposed changes will see a new Deanery Plan in place soon.

### **Diocesan Synod- Elaine Levitt**

Diocesan Synod is at the beginning of a new triennium. It continues to look at the Strategy for 2025 and the Diocese offers many training opportunities for lay as well as clergy.

### **Churches Together – Janet Boston**

Clifford, Elaine and Janet have attended various meetings during the year, which has been a time of some change with a new Chairman (Tim Anderson) and Vice Chairman (James Bamber) appointed at the AGM in November. The treasurer has now formally resigned and at present there is no-one willing or able to take over. Monthly Prayer meetings and both Mens' and Ladies' breakfasts continue

to be held and are usually well attended. As it was not possible to find a Church to host it was not possible to hold a Christmas Day lunch last year. During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Janet attended the service at St Barnabas Church, and had an enjoyable morning of prayer and fellowship.

## **Achievements and Activities**

During the year many social and fund raising events have taken place and been enjoyed by members of the congregation and the wider community. These have included a Spring lunch, Lent lunch, Eve of St George's Day lunch, Harvest lunch, two cream tea afternoons, Parish Giving Day, Art Exhibition weekend, Lucy Bunce concert and a Christmas Fayre. Details of our fundraising and charitable giving are detailed in the Financial Report.

In addition there are several events which take place on a regular basis throughout the year.

### **Monthly Lunches – Elizabeth Cooper**

The lunches, held on the first Monday of each month including bank holidays, continue to flourish. We cater for an average attendance of 24 people and our priority is making ALL people welcome and adapting to any particular needs. At times we have even become 'meals on wheels' delivering the cooked lunch to their home when we know someone is unable to attend.

There is a charge of £3 per person, and whilst it was never intended to be a money making scheme, by careful purchasing and not claiming expenses, a healthy sum is donated to church funds each month.

### **Cuppa Club – Elizabeth Cooper**

On the second Monday of each month and again meeting in all bank holidays, the club is simply what the title says – we meet, chat, lend a listening ear and enjoy a cup of tea and cake without any charge what so ever. This is a much smaller group grown from the needs of people who attend the lunch, but nevertheless is open to anyone who wishes to while away two hours in pleasant company, hosted by 3 church members.

We do not have a "booking" scheme for either of these occasions, we cope no matter what happens or how many people come and do so gladly.

### **Monday Scrabble Group – Helen Dowzall**

At 2pm on the second Monday of the month, a small group of people (from Hartford and neighbouring villages) continue to meet in the Church Room to enjoy a friendly game (actually two games are usually managed) of Scrabble. The numbers are small but the players rarely miss a session. The afternoons – which include a cuppa and chat - have been enjoyed by those attending. Anyone interested is welcome, no matter what your level of Scrabble expertise. Indeed, we are happy to teach non-players. If you don't want to play Scrabble, a game of chess can usually be arranged instead. If you fancy neither, you can always join the folk that just meet for a cuppa and a chat - and think about having a game of Scrabble at a later date. Whatever you decide, you will be made most welcome. If you require any more information, ask Helen Dowzall.

## **Monthly Sunday Lunch at the Barley Mow – Helen Dowzall**

Usually held on the second or third Sunday of the month, a group of people (usually about twelve) meet for lunch at the Barley Mow around 1pm. These monthly Sunday lunches have been held now for a good number of years and it is a great opportunity for folk to have the time to get to know each other better. If you do not have a prior commitment for Sunday lunchtimes, and fancy a meal out, think about coming along to see what it is like. You will be made very welcome. There is a sign-up sheet displayed at the back of church usually two weeks before the meal. If you need any further information, ask Helen Dowzall.

## **Crafty Saints – Mary Adlam**

Crafty Saints started in September 2018. It was decided to disband Tots Praise temporarily as there were currently no children in that age group. This left Monday mornings free so the craft group moved to that time and now meets weekly from 10am onwards.

The aim of the group is to enable those who enjoy a craft to get together either to do their own craft or to learn a new one such as crochet, jewellery making, flower arranging, patchwork and quilting.

We have had a very successful four months during which we furnished a stall at the Christmas Fayre and knitted over one hundred poppies which were placed in church for Remembrance Day.

Everyone is welcome to come along to Crafty Saints and our numbers are steadily increasing week by week.

## **Art Group – Pam Clark**

The art group has been running for a number of years and we meet on roughly alternate Fridays throughout the year. Numbers have gone up and down but we have a good core group. Exhibitions take place nearly every year at a time to fit in with other church events and members' availability. This is a good fundraising activity for the church and generates many visitors who would probably not come into the church otherwise.

The two-hour sessions are enjoyed by all and we welcome new members of any ability. It is a self-help group and we support and encourage each other rather than have an official structure.

## **Hartfordian – Peter Levitt**

The Hartfordian magazine has been produced in two versions for a number of years. A print version produced by Huntingdon District Council Print Services from print ready material and an e-magazine version produced 'in house'. There are currently 64 subscribers (56 print and 8 e-magazines with 5 complimentary electronic recipients) and the current subscription is £6 which covers 10 issues including a double edition for January/February and July/August.

A sudden decision by Huntingdon District Council to close the community print service has caused a significant change in the production of the magazine. The next 3 editions will be printed and finished 'in house' using the new Epson Workforce printer. At the end of this time the future format and number of editions per year will be reviewed by the PCC which had already (before the HDC decision) received a submission from the Editor about the magazine and likely future costs.

I would like to thank all those who have made contributions to the magazine in 2018. It is a matter of continued regret that there is little or no material about church activities other than that which is generated on rota by the Ministry Team, the Churchwardens and by the Editor.

## Financial Review

Please see the Annual Accounts paperwork for details.

### Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At All Saints the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent, associated clergy, elected and co-opted members drawn from members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll.

The full PCC meets six times a year to discuss and make decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including how church funds are spent. A smaller Standing Committee meets prior to the PCC meeting to collate and prepare information for PCC consideration but it has no powers to make decisions unless specifically instructed by the PCC at a prior meeting.

To facilitate the worship and outreach activities that take place at All Saints it is important that we maintain the fabric of our church and church room. We are very grateful to the small army of unsung heroes who regularly carry out cleaning and maintenance tasks in and around our church and those who look after the church contents and consumable supplies.

### Churchwardens' Fabric Report for 2018 – Pam Clark and Sue Craven

**January** - fire alarms checked; first aid box checked and contents updated

**February** - fire extinguishers serviced; Health and Safety Inspection carried out; repairs to plasterwork behind organ

**March** – organ tuned; PAT testing carried out

**April** – removal / disposal of asbestos shed roof

**May** – PA system checked; tower repairs started

**July** – churchyard wall repaired

**August** – fault in fire alarm system checked, alarm in kitchen replaced

**September** – Smart Water applied to outside metalwork and relevant interior items

**October** – replacement of faulty outside light unit with LED photo cell, replacement of faulty emergency light unit

**November** – sound system updated and new speakers installed; repairs to outside light; gas boiler serviced; new water meter installed; tower repairs completed apart from work on bells to be carried out in 2019

**December** – trellis / posts replaced at rear of church room; collapsed gate post and gate, Hollow side, moved to safety

### **Church Flowers – Pam Clark**

The flowers in church are arranged all year round on a rota except during Lent. Special displays at Christmas, Easter and Harvest are part of the cycle when all the arrangers work together. As our numbers decreased a few years ago we are no longer able to offer special flowers for weddings. We would be very pleased if new people joined the current group and if they felt under-confident they could be with one of the established group until they felt ready to work on their own arrangements. Money is available to pay for flowers but currently none of the ladies accept payment and this saves the Church a considerable amount of cash. Donations are given by some members of the congregation especially for the lilies in memory of loved ones at Easter.

### **Health and Safety – Vaughan Clark**

The annual Health and Safety inspection was carried out in February, regular informal checks carried out throughout the year and any issues promptly rectified.

### **Safeguarding – Alastair Hill**

I am pleased to be able to record that there have been no safeguarding issues at all to report in 2018.

The concept of safeguarding, once just ensuring the safety of children, has increased to cover safeguarding of all vulnerable people. To reduce this to manageable proportions, our focus should be on ensuring that all children and vulnerable older people are safe when in the company of members of our Church. The main activities over the year, where we need to cover ourselves, have been Tots Praise, Youth Club, Breakfast Club, craft groups, the nativity service, Sunday School and Communion services at Hunters Down. The principle of never being alone with a vulnerable person, if at all possible, reduces the likelihood of a concern being raised and this principle seems to be followed in Hartford Church.

Advice and training is available either from the Church's own Safeguarding Officer or through Ely Diocese.

## **Administrative information**

All Saints Church is situated at The Hollow, Hartford, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE29 1YF. It is part of the Diocese of Ely within the Church of England.

The Rector, the Reverend Geoffrey Boucher, who is responsible for the benefices of All Saints Hartford and St Mary the Virgin Houghton with Wyton, resides at The Rectory, 3 Rectory Lane, Wyton PE28 2AQ.

PCC members who have served at any time during 2018 are listed below.

### **Ex-Officio Members:-**

The Rector - Reverend Geoffrey Boucher

Associate Ministers – Reverend Clifford Owen, Reverend Amanda O'Neill (until April 2018), Reverend Kate Baker (from July 2018)

Licensed Lay Minister – Mrs Elaine Levitt

Churchwardens Mrs Pam Clark, Mrs Sue Craven

Deanery Synod Representatives – Mrs Elaine Levitt, Mrs Mary Hill

**Elected Members:-**

Mrs Mary Adlam (from 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018)

Mr Richard Barrett

Mrs Janet Boston (from 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018)

Mr Derek Colbert

Mrs Elizabeth Cooper (until 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018)

Mrs Linda Davies

Mrs Helen Dowzall

Mr Nicholas Esders

Mr Paul Fearon (from 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018)

Mrs Carol King

Mr Peter King

**Co-opted members:-** Mrs Nanette Cleghorn (from 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018)

**Appointed Positions:-**

Treasurer –Mr Paul Fearon

PCC Secretary –Mrs Carol King (until 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018), Mrs Janet Boston (from 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018)

Verger – Mrs Elizabeth Cooper

Fabric Officer – Mr Derek Colbert

Organist and Choirmaster – Mrs Linda Davies

Health and Safety Officer – Mr Vaughan Clark (from 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018)

Gift Aid Co-ordinator – Mrs Helen Dowzall

Electoral Roll Officer – Mrs Helen Dowzall

Churches Together Representatives – Mrs Janet Boston (from 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018)

Safeguarding Officer - Mr Alastair Hill

Data Protection Officer – Mrs Nanette Cleghorn (from 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018)

Website – Mrs Haleema Hawkins

Flower Arranging Co-ordinator – Mrs Pam Clark

Independent Examiner - Mr David Ebdale

Authorised Worship Leader – Mary Adlam

Magazine Editor – Mr Peter Levitt