



Annual Report 2017

All Saints' Church

Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex

www.allsaintsspringfield.org.uk

“A friendly, welcoming church for everyone in the heart of the community”

Introduction

All Saints' Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England and is now registered with the Charity Commissioners, (Charity Registration Number: 1131427). The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish of All Saints' Springfield, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the All Saints' Church Centre buildings, part of the Burial Ground in Trinity Road, a Freehold property at 60 Chichester Drive and the internal decoration of the Rectory.

Objectives

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to become part of our parish community at All Saints' and to worship at our church. The PCC maintains an overview of worship and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. When planning our activities for the year, the incumbent and the PCC have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus. We make provision for pastoral care to people living in the parish, those on the Church Electoral roll outside the parish, and conduct outreach work in the local community. In support of this we make extensive use of our church and church centre and maintain the buildings.

Parochial Parish Council

Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex officio (e.g. clergy, readers, churchwardens or Synod members), representatives of the laity elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules, or people co-opted by the PCC for special reasons. During the year 2017 the following served as members of the PCC:

RECTOR and CHAIRMAN:	Revd Susan Iskander
CHURCHWARDENS:	Mrs Barbara Garside Mr Roger Shilling (<i>Vice chairman</i>)
DIOCESAN SYNOD MEMBERS	Mr Roger Shilling Mr Robin Stevens (<i>Lay Minister</i>)
DEANERY SYNOD MEMBERS	Mrs Barbara Garside Mr Roger McFarland (<i>Licensed Lay Minister</i>)
ELECTED MEMBERS: (until 2020)	Mrs Valerie Miller Mrs Jan Penney Mr Ben Alder Mr Dave Gauld (<i>Secretary</i>)
(until 2019)	Mrs Nicola Howard Mr Nick Milbank (<i>PCPR</i>) Mr Mark Parirenyatwa Mr William Warns
(until 2018)	Mrs Ros Webb Mrs Katrin Bome Ms Marie Copping Mr Colin Brown (retired at the APCM) Mrs Paula Hiett
CO-OPTED	Mr Steve Ashley Mr Roy Alexander (<i>treasurer</i>) Mrs Anne Walton Mr Roy Walton

PCC Officers appointed from non-PCC members included the following:

- Planned Giving Recorders: Mr Tim and Mrs Angela Pearce
- Architect: Mr David Ferguson AADipl MPhil RIBA MRTPI
- Independent Examiner: Mr Roger Foreman
- Electoral Roll Officer: Mrs Janet Shilling

Committees

The PCC operates through a number of committees that meet between full meetings of the PCC so that members of the congregation with particular interest or expertise might have an opportunity to contribute to a broadened discussion.

Standing Committee :

This is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

Finance Committee:

Oversees the general financial dimension of the work of All Saints' by monitoring income and expenditure, budgeting, and co-ordinating the annual review of the Christian Stewardship of money through planned giving. It met three times during the year.

Fabric Committee:

Attends to matters relating to the stewardship of the church buildings and fabric, the churchyards, the Rectory and the house at 60 Chichester Drive, retained for the use of a Curate, but currently rented out. It met once during the year.

Social Committee:

Responsible for the co-ordination of our catering and social activities. It met informally to arrange catering for church events, such as the Easter breakfast and Harvest 'Bring and share' lunch.

Church Attendance

At the beginning of 2017, electoral roll membership was 266. The number of worshippers in attendance during the four Sundays in October, which are counted for a variety of statistical purposes, averaged out at 96 adults and 18 Children (under years 16) per Sunday. 20 adults and 22 children attended Midweek services. It is also estimated that some 184 worshippers attended church on Easter Day, of whom 158 are known to have taken communion, and that some 769 worshippers attended church on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, of whom 158 took communion. 31 individuals (29 children and 2 adults) were baptised in 2017. 14 couples were married. 9 funeral services were held in church. A further 33 funeral services were conducted at the crematorium on behalf of the parish of All Saints' Springfield during the year.

Proceedings of the PCC

The full PCC met six times during the year, it numbered 25 members throughout 2017. An average attendance of 20 members at meetings was achieved.

The PCC and its committees met regularly to debate and agree actions concerning the worship and pastoral activities of the church.

During the year the work of the PCC included:-

Development of the Mission and Ministry Partnership (MMP)

- Participation in the discussions leading to the establishment of the MMP and ongoing review of policy and progress.
- Contribution to the Commissioning Service which took place on 1st April and the subsequent development of network for sharing and support.
- Discussion and agreement of the Mission and Ministry Partnership strategy for allocation of Parish Share, since this responsibility has been passed from the Deanery Synod to the MMP.

Children's Work

- Review of the progress the development of Children's work and the proposals for Sunday Special Leadership. Pat and Keith Otter were thanked for their work in initiating and growing Sunday Special.

Worship

- Review of proposals for Family service (now Worship Together) and supported the updated orders of Service
- Approved the preparation of a supplementary songbook for us at all services.

Lighting project

- Agreement to replace the lighting in the church, which had become unreliable, with modern LED lamps and controls. There will then be no necessity for regular replacement of light bulbs.

Organ Refurbishment

- Agreement that we would commence refurbishment and upgrade of the organ, to eliminate the reliability problems, with a series of fundraising events to be organised. We would also seek approval from the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the proposed solution.

PCC Priorities and progress

- Review and refreshing the PCC priorities for Mission
 1. **Young People and Families and Involvement with Schools** – to support and nurture children and young families especially primary school aged children.
 2. **Befriending People** – to befriend the bereaved and others needing care.
 3. **Using Our Skills and Gifts** – Using our Gifts to develop Discipleship and provide support to those in need.
 4. **Funding Our Mission** – to develop our Christian giving.
 5. **Work with Other Local Churches** – Commitment to playing a full part in helping to develop the collaborative working and missional focus of the North Chelmsford Mission and Ministry Partnership.

Church Activities during the year

Worship and Prayer

We are keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. For example, morning and evening prayers provide a quiet, intimate and reflective environment for worship whilst opportunities are provided for people to engage in more outgoing worship such as that provided by the monthly “Worship Together” service held on the first Sunday of the month. Baptisms are held monthly in the afternoon to accommodate family groups, and the families welcomed at the corporate “Worship Together” service or at Sunday Special services.

Every Wednesday morning during term time, Children in Church continues to provide a valuable opportunity to welcome pre-school children and their carers into the safe and friendly environment of the church, to play and to enjoy a range of other activities, and to join in a short child-friendly service if they wish. It is very popular, with over twentyfive children and twenty adults coming every week.

The Sunday Special worship service continued to develop with an increasing attendance of young families and children and is now a significant mission activity in the Parish with many regular attendees (average of 23 adults and 14 children). The service is designed with children and adults in mind and takes place every Sunday, (except the first of each month), at the same time as the main service. The attendees are able to participate in the Eucharist during second and fourth Sundays and an appropriate Eucharist is now offered during the third Sunday worship. The links with the rest of the congregation have been developed during the year.

The Uniformed youth organisations, BB, Brownies and Guides regularly hold church parade services.

The Prayer Ministry team continues to offer personal prayer to those in need.
The Mothers' Union send cards to the children on the anniversary of their baptism.

Pastoral Care

The church organisations provide support for anyone seeking help. These activities range from practical befriending and personal prayer support provided by the clergy, at the Priory Hospital (opposite the church), and our Prayer Ministry Team.

Keith Otter arranges follow-up pastoral care visits of the bereaved.

Four House-Groups meet to provide opportunities for support and learning.

The Church Centre is used daily by the Pre-School, providing early years schooling to children from the local community.

The Lunch Club continues to provide our guests with a monthly opportunity for fellowship and friendship while sharing a meal. In addition 'Cuppa & Chat' and 'Chat & do' groups provide a regular opportunity for people of the Parish to meet for fellowship.

The church continues to support services at Lyons Court and The Lawns Nursing Home with worship and pastoral visits.

Residents in the parish are encouraged to participate in our activities and 18 individuals, primarily children, were baptised in 2017. The families appreciate these services.

Mission and Evangelism

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. The church actively supports the Chelmsford Food-Bank, with regular donations of food items, and participates in the Christian Aid collections in the parish. Additional collectors are always welcome.

The Angel Tree service provides an opportunity for gifts to be given, through the Prison Fellowship, to the children of fathers in the local prison.

350 parishioners take our parish magazine, distributed by a team of volunteers or available at the church centre. It provides news of our activities and articles that help develop our knowledge and trust in Jesus.

Four House Groups provide opportunities for members to meet, study and discuss the Bible and its application to everyday life.

Ros Webb is our schools contact point and arranges all their Christmas services.

- Three of the schools in the Parish used the Church for their Christmas Carol services again in 2017. The rector opened and closed each of these services .
- Classes from Tyrells and Perryfields Junior schools visit the church as part of their RE lessons.
- During term time the Rector attends Perryfield Infants and Bishops (church school) for assemblies. Other church members are well connected with Tyrells
- School and Youth Ministry are active in Boswells
- Perryfields schools provided Country Dancing teams at the church summer fete.

We are working to form improved links with Perryfields Juniors and Tyrells schools and this remains one of PCC priorities.

Work with Children

Work with Children at All Saints' continued during 2017 with:-

- Children in Church continues to provide a valuable opportunity to welcome pre-school children.
- Sunday Special has an active and enthusiastic attendance on Sundays.
- Boys Brigade meeting weekly, comprising Anchor, Junior, Company and Senior sections. The Rector is now chaplain to the Company.
- Rainbows, Brownies and Guides meeting weekly in the Church Centre.

Church and Church Centre

The church is open on many days of the year for private worship.

The Church Centre is well maintained with accessible rooms and continues to be heavily used by all the Parish Organisations, as well as being used by some 'external' Community-based organisations and Charities. It is available for occasional use by private individuals.

The church is very popular for weddings with 14 couples being married during the year. The families appreciate the music provided by the organist and choir.

Church Relationships

Two members of the PCC sit on the deanery synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the Church of England. This year the PCC has focused its attention on the establishment of North Chelmsford Mission and Ministry Partnership and is committed to playing a full part in helping to develop the collaborative working and mission focus of the partnership, including the establishment of ministry in Beaulieu development, as it evolves in the coming years.

Roger Shilling and Robin Stevens kindly provided the PCC with briefings of the proceedings of the Deanery and Diocesan Synod meetings that were attended throughout the year.

Ecumenical Relationships

The church is a member of Christians Together in Chelmsford, (previously Churches Together) and regularly participates in the Good Friday Procession of Witness and the Easter Service in the High Street. Christians Together publicise and co-ordinate ecumenical activities across the city.

Parish Organisations

Apart from the activities in and beyond the parish that have received mention in the preceding section of this report, much of the church's activities and mission in the parish is carried out week by week by dedicated people and groups meeting in the Church Centre to pursue a variety of social, educational and recreational activities. Annual reports of the activities of these groups are presented in a separate report.

Role of Volunteers

Our Rector (stipendiary) prepares and conducts the services, assisted by an Associate Priest, four Lay Ministers, an Authorised Local Preacher and two Churchwardens support services, who are all volunteers. All the activities reported are led and supported by unpaid volunteers, including the organization of meetings, booking of speakers, provision of refreshments, etc. Volunteer workers carry out all Church Centre management and Parish administrative functions.

Financial Highlights of 2017:

Giving & income

- There are 105 members in our Planned Giving Scheme. Planned Giving in 2017 contributed £89,000, with associated Gift Aid providing an additional £20,000 of income tax reclaimed from the taxman.
- The cash in collection bags provided income of nearly £6,000.
- The successful fete and bazaar raised over £5,000.
- The use of the church centre generated £12,000.
- As usual the church was popular for weddings, and wedding and funeral fees provided a net income of £6,000.
- Advertising in the church magazine provided income of £1,000 with the sales of the magazine more than covering the print costs.
- The house we own in Chichester Drive provided rental income of £10,000, which represents a good return on the capital tied up in the property.

What we spent

- We were again able to pay our parish share of over £106,000 in full.
- We were able to pay the usual bills to heat, light and insure the church buildings.
- The lighting in the church was completely replaced this year at a cost of over £28,000. It is anticipated that this will result in reduced maintenance and running costs in future years. The cost was covered by most of the remainder of a large legacy given some years ago which is restricted to the maintenance of the church buildings, and by a grant of £10,000 we successfully requested from another local trust set up for the same purpose. In 2017 we also spent £6,500 on repairs to the church and church centre from the General Fund.
- We gave £200 to the Bishop's School again this year.

Charitable giving

Many charities were supported by collections at services and events held in the year including Angel Tree Project, The Children's Society, Church Army, Mission to Seafarers, CMS, Embrace, Chelmsford YMCA, CHESS, Macmillan Cancer Support and Combat Stress. The total amount donated was £5,331, and some of this was also Gift Aided.

Setting something aside

Mainly due to increased giving, we ended the year with a surplus on the General Fund of £14,121. From this we have made prudent provisions totaling £14,000 for future expenditure on repairs at the rectory and Chichester Drive; organ repairs and improvements and towards the cost of future repairs to the church. These are additions to designated reserves. This leaves the balance of £121 to be added to the general fund reserve.

Summary of the accounts for 2017

The following is the financial detail of the important GENERAL ACCOUNT which covers the day-to-day running of the Church to maintain its mission.

INCOME			EXPENDITURE		
	2017	2016		2017	2016
	£	£		£	£
Planned giving	88,985	80,772	Diocesan overall cost of		
Income Tax recovered	20,892	19,113	an incumbent	47,865	45,510
General collections	5,728	6,181	Contribution to the diocese	58,852	60,709
Sub-total	115,605	106,066	Total parish share paid	106,717	106,219
Wedding/Funeral fees	5,896	5,127	Church services/Youth activities	7,594	6,359
Fete, Bazaar & other events	6,108	6,393	Admin, incl. printing/stationery	1,562	1,390
Magazine sales	2,961	3,195	Burial ground/gardens	1,454	813
Use of Church Centre	12,468	10,010	Clergy and rectory expenses	1,608	1,608
Rent	10,060	9,800	Magazine costs	1,454	1,545
Grants	470	470	Church heat, light, telephone, & insurance	8,122	8,004
In memoriam	–	–	Other building expenses	6,883	5,831
Other	868	931	Charity donations excluding special collections	200	200
			Costs re events	250	79
			Centre cleaning/consumables	2,631	2,253
			Other	1,840	891
TOTAL	154,436	141,992	TOTAL	140,315	135,192

At this stage our income exceeds our expenditure by £14,121. Consideration was then given to likely commitments in 2018. It was agreed apposite to appropriate this surplus as follows:

- £2,000 to the Rectory Dilapidations Fund.
- £2,000 to the Freehold Property Dilapidations Fund.
- £5,000 to the Church Fabric Fund
- £5,000 to the Church Organ Fund

The remaining £121 increases our Reserve to £12,903. This Reserve compares to our monthly expenditure which in 2018 can exceed £11,500.

Roy Alexander – treasurer