

Annual Parish Meetings 22nd April

At the Annual Vestry Meeting Andrew Povey-Richards and Janet Bird were re-elected unanimously as Churchwardens.

Gillian Harman, our Electoral Roll Officer, presented the new Electoral Roll. The total for 2011-12 was 197. There have been 9 deaths during the year:

Neville Collins, Denise Dilley, Sylvia (Mary) Geering, John Harvey, Glenys Hurley, Constance Murkin, Margaret Phillips, Sue Irene Robinson, Dorothy (Peggy) Worrin

The following 5 people have moved away:

Tarnya Ramdulara, Viviane Robertson, Deborah Russell, Michael Russell, Christopher Wild,

During the year the following 27 people have joined the roll:

Amanda Joy Berry (nee Leslie), Duncan Clive Berry, Karin Carne, Margot Carne, Nicholas Charles Chapman, Joanna Louise Crawley, Sophie Lysette Isabella Freeston, Rachel Julie Mary Goddard, Zoe Jane Gould, Clare Haworth, Richard Ian Haworth, Anna Hollow, Malcolm Hollow, Jeanette Anne Kruger, Janet Kathleen Larroude, John Louis Bertran Larroude, Cheryl Massey, Robin William Massey, Ashley McMahan (nee Watt), Steve McMahan, Carolyn Meggison, Rachel Morgan, Jenny Owens, Jonathan Martyn Stephens – Jones, David Colin Trapmore, Anthony Weeden and Sandra Weeden.

Several changes of address and names following marriage have been noted.

This makes this year's total 212, a net increase of 15. Of this total, 93 live in the parish and 119 live outside the parish. Thus 56% of those on the roll are non resident.

Gillian is standing down as ER Officer and was warmly thanked for her service. A new Officer is needed – not an onerous task but one that requires some computing skills.

At the following Annual Parish Meeting a new PCC was elected. All previous Councillors stood for re-election, bar Martin Bird who is standing down due to time conflicts with his other commitments. All were thanked for the important service they give as Trustees of the Church.

A variety of reports were presented – key items appear in articles in last month's magazine (Finance) and this (see View from the Pew and the following report on MAP).

Vicar's Report

Thanks were given to the whole family of All Saints who share the visiting and pastoral care for members of All Saints and beyond, for their love, generous support and prayers.

The Vicar shared our Mission Action Plan which the Diocese has asked all parishes to put together. The MAP was accepted by all present.

Mission Action Plan.

A. Our situation

We have the privilege of serving the wider community, working very closely with the County, East Hertfordshire and Town Councils, and we serve as the Civic church. We have many contacts with schools, with the Fire & Rescue Headquarters, not only holding many services – including carol services - but also with many mid-week visits and governor links.

We have a larger number than average of people in our congregation who are of working age and these are often highly pressurised posts and we need to ensure that the services we hold make vital connections with daily life and work and build us up for the week ahead.

B. Current response

All Saints Church offers a great diversity in our worship, from Prayers and Bears and

Messy Church to Community Services and Choral Compline as well as our more regular services.

It is parish policy to ensure an appropriate welcome for all who wish to attend our church, and to facilitate this we are continuing to progress (albeit slowly, with consultation with the Diocese and English Heritage) the removal of one back pew and some side pews, following our parish consultation. This will allow us more space to welcome and enable us to help people to feel drawn to our family.

We are working hard to ensure that we serve all people and that is the spur to pastoral care and we have set up a small pastoral group to do this; there is a challenge to all church members to become involved, undergirded by good systems of communication.

The establishment of the Hertford Team Ministry in November 2007 has led to increased co-operation and mutual support between the clergy within the team and enriched the Anglican churches involved. The churches can now share common concerns and liaise to maintain effective involvement in the life of the whole town community.

The church serves a wide cross-section of people in the Parish through our all-life ministry and care in our baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Record numbers of people requested pastoral services last year, suggesting that people really know and trust us to meet their needs.

We seek to serve people of all traditions and none, and we have done this through serving the community, in worship, music, teaching and social events – such as the Masaai Warriors amazing evening of performance and education, and fund raising, our Quiz evenings and Sixties Night.

The engagement with community, individuals and families is borne entirely out of care for those around us, yet they are the

vehicles for our living and proclaiming the Gospel. The regular worship and witness of God's people through prayer and praise maintains the bonds of love and care which inspire our ministry.

C. Priorities

All Saints has outreach at its heart, seeking to live and share the Gospel through its involvement in the community, in pastoral care and welcome ministry.

Priorities in 2012-13 are to:

- 1. Further develop our pastoral care with wider involvement from suitable lay people who feel called to minister to others.**
- 2. Improve our accessibility, especially for families with young children.**
- 3. Improve the consistency and effectiveness of our welcome within the church and associated activities, underlining our conviction that everyone matters.**

Our Goals for the next year stem from these priorities:

- 1. Establish a clear pattern of 'inreach' groups/Pastoral Visiting Team to provide nurture and support within the growing congregation.**
- 2. Develop the hospitality space at the back of Church by removing some pews.**
- 3. Provide new and clear external signage – at both ends of the churchyard**
- 4. Widen the range of liturgical music available and make full use of the recently-donated Common Praise hymn books, blending traditional and contemporary music in our worship.**

In the longer term

we would like to develop firm, thought-through and costed proposals for more flexible and suitable lighting in the church, and improvement of our kitchen facilities to enhance the ministry of welcome and care.