

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HERTFORD

REPORTS TO APCM – 2015

Safeguarding	Page	2
Mothers' Union	Page	3
Art Group	Page	5
Junior Church	Page	6
Deanery Synod	Page	7
St John's Hall	Page	8
Flower Club	Page	9
Music	Page	
Churches Together	Page	

Safeguarding Report

One more person has been checked through the Disclosure and Barring Service via CCPAS (Churches Child Protection and Advisory Service) since last year.

This was carried out speedily and successfully using the new CCPAS online service.

People who have a disclosure certificate need to be updated every five years. Some will need updating this year.

Helen Harvey-Wright
Lead Recruiter for Safeguarding

All Saints' Hertford Mothers' Union Annual Report 2014

We have had another successful year and our members continue to be involved in many aspects of the worship and life at All Saints. Our branch includes several members who worship elsewhere and we maintain close links with MU members in other churches.

Our programme in 2014 was varied and interesting and included talks about various topics. John Earle always gives us a fascinating talk in February and this year it was about their travels in Nepal. Other meetings included talks about angels, the Hertford Foodbank and Nick Hoyle's USA road trip with the Oates. We also arranged a Teddy Bear's Picnic for the Prayers and Bears congregation, which was appreciated.

Some of our members were involved in the Easter Journey and Ginni very kindly led us in a memorable evening Lent Meditation travelling around the Easter Journey, reflecting on our own journey with Christ. We found it so moving and inspirational in the quiet dark of the Church, that we have asked her to do it again this year.

Our Deanery events included our annual coffee morning when we raised £270 for the Overseas and GB & Ireland Funds, which was a fantastic achievement and very many thanks to everyone who attended. This year it will be on Tuesday 28th April, please come along to join in the fellowship. Our Deanery meeting on the MU theme "Building God's Love" was led by Kim Wilkinson, our Wave of Prayer service was at Bramfield Church led by Janet Bird with an excellent attendance and the Lady Day service was at Stapleford Church.

We had a lovely visit to Hopley's Garden Centre which we enjoyed so much that we are going to be going back.

We were all very much saddened and distressed to lose Jean Gilby on Christmas Day. Jean was an important member of our branch and has supported the MU for over 20 years, she was in charge of the Travelling Cribs and organised them with enthusiasm. We are all going to miss her friendship and humour dreadfully. The sunflower on our programme is in her memory.

For 2015 we have another varied programme of events and would be delighted to welcome you to attend any or all of our

meetings – you do not have to be a member to come! This year we have already had an excellent musical evening, which was very popular and filled the meeting room.

Our Coffee Morning will be at 39 Fordwich Rise, Hertford on Tuesday 28th April from 10am to 12 with proceeds going to MU funds supporting work in the UK and overseas. You are warmly invited to attend.

Please pick up a programme at the back of Church or talk to me. Please come and join us anytime! We look forward to welcoming you.

Rosemary Bolton

Report for All Saints Art for 2014 – 2015

Another good year of Art activity has been enjoyed. Attendance has been variable but it has averaged 6 people a week. During the year our oldest members Eileen and Kathleen have stopped coming as it is too difficult for them to come out in the evenings.

In the summer we revisited St Marys Hertingfordbury and Fiona and John's garden for outdoor drawing sessions. We also drew poppies in our garden at Valley Close.

We have used artists such as Matisse and Klimt as inspiration for work. We made Mexican plates, a fun activity copied from Messy Church! We made scraperboard pictures for the first time and now have the kit to do this again in the future. Towards Christmas we made stars with straw as decorations and on cards.

This term we have had Lyn Bruce helping us on how to use acrylics. Leon Ajao has sat for us to practice portraits. Dr Roger Aubery has shown us his slides of John the Baptist as portrayed in art over the centuries. We meet on Thursdays 7.30–9.30pm in the church meeting room. We draw up an agreed and varied programme for each term and print copies for everyone. Everyone pays £2 each week they attend, this goes to meet the cost of speakers, tuition and craft materials, and a donation towards church heating costs.

New members are welcome to join us at any time. You do not need high artistic skills - or indeed any – we have all been beginners at some stage and our experiences vary widely!

My thanks go especially to Pauline Geering for keeping control of the finances and to Nick Hoyle for his help with crafts and his enthusiasm.

Gillian Harman
Co - ordinator

Junior Church Report for the Annual Parish Meeting

Junior Church continued to meet on the second, fourth and fifth Sundays of the month until December 2014, with the children in church for the whole service on the first and third Sundays, attending the Family Service and the Family Eucharist.

Unfortunately numbers attending have been dropping steadily in recent years and in December we reached a point where the group was no longer viable. On a number of occasions no children were in church so the session did not go ahead and when it did take place the wide age range of the children often made teaching extremely challenging. The decision was therefore made to stop offering Junior Church from January of this year. We will of course keep this under review.

Messy Church meets on the third Sunday of the month in the afternoon in St John's Hall. Numbers continue to grow and we now have 45 children who attend regularly. We follow a theme each month and 7 or 8 craft activities are offered, based on the theme. In 2014 we focused on Jesus's miracles and the major Christian festivals. Our craft activities are followed by an act of worship and then we all sit down to tea together. This is a very valuable time as it gives us a chance to chat and get to know each other better. Our special Messy Church session with a fireworks display still sees our largest attendance of the year with many families bringing friends along with them. We are fortunate in having a large number of committed helpers without whom Messy Church could not take place each month.

Thank you to everyone who helps us in our work with the young people of the church. We appreciate your support and encouragement very much.

Kath Oates

DEANERY SYNOD

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2014

Four Deanery Synod meetings have been held at various locations within the Hertford and Ware Deanery since the last review. Deanery Synod Representatives come from each Parish. The Synod consists of a House of Clergy and House of Laity. The Deanery Synod is part of the governmental process of the Church of England. We have a speaker each month followed by the 'business' section of the meeting, where reports are given from various Diocesan Committees and General Synod.

Our first Deanery Synod meeting was held 3rd February 2014 at St Mary's Church, Ware. Revd Nick Sharp gave a presentation on Communication, giving us steps for communicating effectively within our churches and to the wider community.

The second Deanery Synod meeting was held on 1st May 2014 at Essendon village hall. Chris Neilson, Diocesan Church and Community Officer spoke to us about the work of Credit Unions and we also reported on the work of the Christians Against Poverty debt Centre based at Christ Church in Ware.

The next meeting was held on 21st July 2014 at the Nigel Copping Community Centre in Stanstead Abbots. Following the Deanery Elections, Simon Baynes gave a very enlightening talk on the work of the Diocesan Penal Affairs Group and the conditions within our prisons. This was of particular interest as we have two prisons in our Diocese.

Our last Synod meeting of the year, held 28th October 2014 at Christ Church hall in Ware, was an opportunity for us to review our Deanery Mission Action Plan. Revd Nick Sharp led the discussion, giving us opportunities to think about our own parishes and how we can work together to achieve the priorities laid out in our MAP.

St John's Hall Annual report 2014

2014 saw a recovery in the fortunes of the Hall. Our income for the year recovered from the fall seen in the previous year and we finished the year showing a surplus of £1015. The hall has continued to be popular with many different groups and weekend lettings were well up again this year.

On the expenditure side, some costs rose but not all. The major expense for the hall has usually been the heating but this year the cost fell by nearly 50%. Whether this was all due to the roof insulation which we had carried out in 2013 or whether the weather was rather kinder to us is debateable but the fall in the overall the cost was welcome. In general though, most costs, although up, showed only a modest increase which helped the recover in the overall surplus.

Looking to the future, the use of the Church website appears to be working but we are still endeavouring to reduce the call on our Hall Manager's time at weekends when access to the hall is required.

Finally, we are pleased to confirm that, as promised, we were able to contribute £6,000 the Church funds to help it meet its funding target for the year. We are planning to make a similar contribution in 2015.

FLOWER CLUB REPORT 2014 - 2015

The Flower Club continues to manage in its new format, and we welcome Verity Tranter onto the team. There is a Team 'on duty' each month sorting the flowers and co-ordinating with the wedding couples, except in December where we all assist during Advent and leading up to Christmas. This enables the Teams to move on a month each year so we all work with different seasons. We also have another team of 'ad hoc helpers' who are available to assist at Festival times which helps to ease the workload of everyone.

We aim to continue to provide flowers or greenery for the church throughout the year, and have been creative using plants and some artificial flowers on occasions – the Amaryllis in January were particularly stunning! We have all worked together to decorate All Saints' for the major Festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas so a huge thank you to everyone involved in these events, and this year we provided the "Garden" – complete with pond – for the Easter Journey. Thank you to those who assist in the clearing away afterwards also which is often more work than decorating originally and can get easily forgotten.

There were 3 weddings during 2014 and included Helen & John Harvey's: it is always a special pleasure to decorate the church for regular members of the congregation! Grateful thanks for our efforts were received from all the wedding parties which is lovely feedback to members.

2014 was especially busy for the Club as we masterminded the Posy Festival and special thanks must be given to Fiona and Diana for all they did to assist me with the Festival. It was a great success and we were able to pay back the PCC loan given to us earlier in the year and give the Church £2000. It also enabled our bank balance to have a boost as seen in the accounts.

Income and expenditure has been broken down further to give greater detail of both and we made the first profit for several years! Donations were up significantly on last year and we were also very lucky to receive the memorial money for my late father, Frank Clow. His friend and her family wanted the flower money to be used for church flowers rather than just funeral flowers, for which I was very touched. This boosted funds by over £300. We also have a new pair of smaller brass vases which I have donated in memory of my parents.

Expenditure was well controlled by prudent spending by the Team Leaders and sourcing some flowers directly from the Nurseries, and we ended the year on a much better footing than we began with over £600 in the accounts. We have a few weddings planned for 2015 and hope to continue to sustain ourselves financially.

Anyone interested in arranging flowers is welcome to join us – no experience required!. Thank you to all in the Flower Club who work so hard to make All Saints look so lovely, and comments that come back to us show that all the effort is appreciated

Dorothy Toyn, All Saints Flower Club Administrator

Music in 2014

Martin Penny

This is my sixth report and is much as in previous years. There were some great achievements, individual progress, welcomes and sad farewells.

James Gough provided sterling support until July when an ever-expanding workload at Haileybury and many external recital commitments meant he had to step down as ADOM.

We found a replacement at short notice in Christopher Joyce; sadly, school workload meant that he had to limit his involvement. After some experimentation, we settled on a pattern using David Ford as Associate Director to cover the gap.

Sam Chadwick has continued to put much energy and ingenuity into providing instrumental arrangements for the All the Family Service. Congratulations too on the birth of Jonathan – neatly timed for the day of her school Christmas Carol Service!

Much of what follows is, of necessity, a reflection of highlights. I hope everyone knows that we regard every service as special and prepare for each 'regular' with the same care and attention whether it be a swinging number for the All the Family Service, an anthem we know almost too well or a deeply contemplative motet for Compline.

Membership

Overall we grew slightly in 2014. The 'Come & Sing' events led to Katie Long joining us as a Choral Scholar. Later in the year Kate and Martin Slack also joined us whilst also forming 50% of the choir at Braughing! Samantha Bowden joined us mid-December just in time for the carol marathons.

We ran a focussed recruiting event for youngsters at St Josephs in the Park in November. We are expecting one new member to start in May 2015 as a result of this. Thanks to Gabriela Matosevic and the school for allowing us to do this.

Our portfolio of regular deputies also grew.

Team Work/Special Events

The year began with choral services on 5th Jan and an Epiphany Carol Service a week later (one rehearsal only!).

In February we began planning activities to mark the outbreak of WW1, sang at Helen and John's

wedding and worked with the diocese on preparing a service to mark the 20th anniversary of the ordination of women. It was great to work with such a skilled bunch and a privilege to introduce them to a suitable setting of a text by Julian of Norwich.

March was a busy, and difficult, time. Dad had been in hospital and, just as we were all planning his return home, he took a turn for the worse and died on 7th March. I would like to thank everyone for rallying round and making sure it was 'business as usual' whilst I spent time with Mum.

In April, Michael Stephens-Jones took his Grade VI Organ exam passing with distinction (140/150). Congratulations to him on the effort and thanks to his mum, Ann, and gran, Beryl, for many hours sitting in All Saints whilst he practises.

We ran a 'Bring & Sing' Crucifixion on Palm Sunday attracting some 45 singers. This made something of a contrast with the morning service where we sang Chilcott's *Little Jazz Mass*. There was the usual flurry of services through Holy Week, mostly well attended.

On Ascension Day we joined with Hertford Heath to sing a special Team Eucharist. We also were delighted to be able to pull together some suitable music for Ginni's ordination (including a new anthem learnt in a week). We ended the month with our annual Come and Sing evensong giving a number of people the chance to experience it from the 'inside'.

We were glad, but sad, to provide musical support for the funeral of Colin Dear. We also hosted the Team Eucharist on Trinity 2.

In July we said au revoir to James, sang a Festal Evensong to mark the end of the Posy Festival and sponsored Michael's attendance at the week long Oundle for Organists course. You can read his view of the week at www.allsaintshertford.org/2014/sep14msj.pdf

Over the summer, Mary and I tidied the library further and started a programme of replacing hand written copies with proper engraved/typeset alternatives.

Late August brought the exciting news that Hazel Ford had achieved the necessary grades and so

would be going to Robinson College, Cambridge as a Choral Scholar, reading linguistics.

In September we provided the music for a town-wide service marking the outbreak of WW1. This included Chris Oates singing a Hertford recruiting song from memory and our first performance of Philip Stopford's beautiful setting of *If ye love me*. We also sang part of the Duruflé Requiem and pieces by Purcell and Walton.

October saw a Harvest Week so we were able to fit in everyone's favourite Harvest hymns and mark the occasion in several styles.

November brought three 'big' events in the form of our Patronal festival (with Baptism), Remembrance with Bishop Alan and the Advent Carol Service. Each was marked with specially learnt music – a huge effort by the team.

December had even more Carol Services/concerts than last year (I first played "Once in Royal David's City" the day before Advent Sunday again!) with some 6000 people attending services.

As well as delivering the two major Carol Services we again sang at Isabel Hospice. Thanks are due to Chris Benham for agreeing to accompany the 9L&C at a busy time for him.

One other 'special' deserves mention. As part of the Festive Finale of Soundbites St Edmund's School very generously brought their original copy of the music of *Adeste Fideles* (O Come, all ye faithful). I believe it's the first time it has been outside the school in many years. Special thanks to Paolo Duran, Headmaster for allowing this, and attending the concert in person.

Repertoire

I have tried to continue to keep our music making alive by refreshing the familiar with new material, often sourced at little or no cost from the web.

We added a new mass setting by Mozart (also 'free' from CPDL). This was chosen because it could be accompanied by a string quartet – any sponsors out there?

We continue to add contemporary material in both 'traditional' and modern guises. Particular thanks are due to several anonymous donors who have provided the funds to do this. There's more in the pipeline!

If you have any particular requests or recommendations, please let me know.

Concerts

Chris Benham pulled together three more great series of 'Soundbites' concerts and, aided and abetted by Ann, an equally skilled catering team. The income from this is a key part of the whole All Saints economy. Thank you to you all.

We also further increased the number and nature of customers who hire the building for (mostly musical) events.

Thank You's

I would like to finish with thanks; firstly to the choir for:

- Delivering week in week out – come hail, shine, snow, ice or whatever
- The music for Epiphany, Holy Week/Easter 2014 and Advent/Christmas.
- Turning out in force for Remembrance Day and all the other occasional services – almost one a month!
- Willingly working on new anthems/carols from all ages and styles.
- Working together as a large family – encouraging and supporting each other
- Putting up with me!

and also to

- James, David and Sam for their skill, support and constant good humour
- Jo, Ginni & the Janets for their support and encouragement of all we do
- Nicola, Julia, and all the committee for their hard work in pulling things together
- Mary and Rachel for the weekly work with the folders
- all the adults, young adults and choristers who make such wonderful music and their parents who do so much fetching & carrying
- all of you for your comments and suggestions
- and, finally, to Mary who keeps me sane – and firmly grounded in reality!

Love, Martin