

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HERTFORD

REPORTS TO APCM – 2017

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FLOWER CLUB REPORT 2016-2017

The Flower Club continues to manage to have a Team on each month, except in December This works well as we just have greenery in Advent and the Christmas decorations gradually build up for the schools, Hertford Choral Society, the Nine Lessons and Carols and finally Christmas itself. We also have another team of 'ad hoc helpers', growing in number, who are available to assist at Festival times to help ease the workload of everyone. Sadly our number has diminished this year with the passing of John Earle who always had a theme in mind when decorating the Font for many Easter and Harvest celebrations. He always managed to make the Font 'explode' with flowers and greenery!

We aim to continue to provide flowers or greenery for the church throughout the year, and try to be creative using plants and some artificial flowers on occasions, and 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, Thank you to those who donate money, and to those who assist in the clearing away afterwards which is often more work than decorating originally and can get easily forgotten!

There were several weddings during 2016, with a variety of decorations: flower pedestals, the arch, 'pew ends' and candles. The money from weddings adds to the Flower Club income

Income and expenditure has been broken down to give detail of both. Easter donations were up in 2016 but general flower donations down – swings and roundabouts!. Wedding money was up and we had one funeral to provide church flowers for, but income was around £75 down on the previous year.

Expenditure was well controlled by prudent spending by the Team Leaders and sourcing some flowers directly from the Nurseries, and although less than last year, a small loss of £18 was made. and we made a profit of just over £27. We end the year on a sound footing and hope to continue to pay our own way at All Saints. However, the wedding bookings are down so all donations gratefully accepted, and we do appreciate the PCC's offer of financial help if required.

Anyone interested in arranging flowers is welcome to join us – no experience required, and we aim to be a happy and relaxed group!. Sincere thanks 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

GET UP & GO EXERCISE CLASS

This exercise class started in June and has run successfully on a Thursday afternoon since. It began with a talk I gave to the MU about the importance of exercise, muscle strength, balance and falls awareness and prevention. It is based on a 'Falls Prevention Programme' backed by The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, Health England and Saga and consists of chair exercises, sitting to standing, some simple balance work, ball work and walking, monitored by me, in my role as a physiotherapist. Those attending have reported an improvement in what they feel they can do, and that is the aim of the group – to try and help if possible and have a fun afternoon.

It is open to anyone at All Saints and you can be as active as you like, or stay seated the whole time if you feel safer just doing that! It is followed by a tea and biscuits and has proved to be a good social event! The cost is £3 per person (£5 for a couple) and the money is split between All Saints and myself (as I am doing this in my professional capacity) In 2016 we raised £375, £200 of which was given to All Saints. While the Accounts are not part of the All Saints' accounts, they have been checked and are available if anyone wishes to see them.

We have a regular group of about 6 people so if anyone else would like to join us – ladies or gents – please come to the Meeting room at 2.30 on a Thursday afternoon and you will be most welcome!

Dorothy Toyn MCSP

Safeguarding Report

This year there has been a change of policy in the diocese. It is now a requirement that all PCC members (who are trustees as we are a charitable organisation) must be checked and receive a clearance certificate from the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Since January this year, eleven PCC members have been checked and received their DBS certificates, so we are compliant with the directive from the diocese. One other person helping to teach young choristers has also received a certificate this year. Currently nine other members of All Saints' have received DBS Certificates between November 2012 and December 2015.

The Diocese is responsible for checking our Vicar Rev. Canon Jo Loveridge, as well as our Readers Janet Bird and Geoff Oates

Personal details are always a sensitive matter. Anyone going through the checking procedure at All Saints' can be assured the only record kept is a list of people who have been checked. This shows the name, the certificate number, the date obtained, and the recommended date for renewal. All personal details are removed from the CCPAS online system. While it is necessary for me to see personal details online when a person applies, I am the only person from All Saints' who sees them and who checks the necessary Identity Documents in person.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor Jeremy Hirst is entitled to view details should anything untoward be disclosed, and initially he would be responsible for dealing with the situation.

Janet Oldham, Colin Bird, Kath Oates and myself attended the very comprehensive Deanery Safeguarding Course in January. I have also attended a CCPAS Safeguarding Course.

We have a Safeguarding Policy which has been revised in order to comply with recent recommendations from the Diocese. The Policy was approved by the PCC on 4 April 2017.

It is available at the back of the church for everyone to see. There is a poster on the board in church and in St John's Hall giving details of contacts should a safeguarding problem arise.

Helen Harvey-Wright
Parish Safeguarding Officer

All Saints' Hertford Mothers' Union Annual Report 2016

We have had another successful year and our members continue to be involved in many aspects of the worship and life of All Saints. Our branch includes several members who worship elsewhere. We are delighted to have welcomed Janet Larroude as a new member. We maintain close links with MU members in other churches and attend Diocesan events representing the Deanery.

Our programme in 2016 was varied and interesting. Easter was early so we started our programme with Jo leading us in a Lent Reflection which was wonderful. We hosted the Women's World Day of Prayer, celebrating the women of Cuba and providing afternoon tea for our many guests.

Our members were also involved in the Easter Journey, providing & making the Mothering Sunday posies and helping with the 50th Anniversary Christian Aid Walk and at the very successful Wreath Festival.

Janet and Colin Bird kindly hosted our Deanery coffee morning which was graced with wonderful weather and raised £150 for the MU Disaster Fund.

Dorothy Toyn led us in an exercise session which has resulted in a very successful weekly "Get up and Go" programme. Later in the year Dorothy shared her memories and photos of their Singapore trip, whilst we sampled the Singapore Slings she brought along; it's a tough life in the MU!

In June, we hosted the Deanery Wave of Prayer Service followed by tea. This was well attended and the collection together with contributions from guests at meetings this year allowed us to send a £75 donation for MU projects.

In the summer we enjoyed a guided visit of the beautiful Waterford Church windows and a very pleasant lunch and stroll at Hopleys.

2016 marked the 140th birthday of the Mothers' Union and we celebrated it with a birthday party in the Church with special guests from our congregation. We played board games, ate party food and drank wine and soft drinks. Everyone who came really enjoyed themselves. We love parties!

Jean Lord kindly demonstrated beautiful flower arrangements for the home for us and we shared our Desert Island Disc choices, which was enlightening and great fun. We also welcomed Keith Neate with his fascinating collection of Watcombe Pottery.

The year ended on a very sad note for our members with the loss of John Earle. John has been a stalwart of our group for many years, leading many meetings and giving us much pleasure with his talks and infectious sense of humour. We miss him very much and the world is a sadder place without him, however we have so many happy memories of him that make us smile.

For 2017 we have another varied programme of events with something for everyone. Please come to at least one of our meetings, we'd love to see you there.

Rosemary Bolton and Ann Stephens-Jones

Report for All Saints Art for 2016 – 2017

All Saints Art has had another good year. Our membership stays much the same, with about six to eight people each week.

We had good summer visits to Panshanger Park, our churchyard, 2 Valley Close and 13 The Chestnuts.

In the Autumn we had an excellent talk by Ann-Marie Parker on Hidden Art in Hertfordshire. It was open to anyone to join us and we had a good turnout. It was held in the Memorial Chapel, which we found a really good venue, so we planned our March talk on Saints by Dr Roger Aubery to be held there too. Unfortunately this was not so well attended. We like to have a few talks to complement our practical evenings.

Some of us made art inspired wreaths for the Wreath Festival. It was interesting to be able to exhibit some a little bit different from the traditional (greenery and flowers) wreath, and to be part of this good fundraising festival with the rest of All Saints.

We have tried collage again, and also watercolours and acrylic paints using different subject ideas. We try to do some new things each term.

We meet on Thursdays 7.30–9.30pm in the church meeting room. Each term there is a printed programme. Each person attending pays £2 and this pays for speakers, tuition and craft materials, and a donation towards church heating costs.

New members are always welcome .

I am very grateful to Nick Hoyle and Pauline Geering for helping in the smooth running of the group.

Gillian Harman
Co-ordinator

Messy Church and Youth Group Report for the Annual Parish Meeting

Messy Church meets on the third Sunday of the month in the afternoon in St John's Hall. Numbers were largely stable in 2016 with 54 different children coming to one or more sessions, of whom 23 attended regularly. We follow a theme each month and 7 or 8 craft activities are offered, based on the theme. Last year these included the The Good Shepherd, Noah, Moses and Creation. We also had sessions which followed 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 (33 children this time) with many families bringing friends along with them. We are fortunate in having such a large number of committed helpers without whom Messy Church could not take place each month.

The youth group, which is run by Jo, Martin Bird and myself meets monthly and is open to children from year 6 at primary school. 14 young people attended various sessions in 2016 and so far we have held games and film evenings, a tour of All Saints, including the ringing chamber and the tower, a barbeque and a Christmas party. We have also been bowling and to see a youth production at Hertford Theatre. The young people have also taken an active part in our Family Services and this is something which we are continuing to develop further.

We continue to support the work of Send a Cow through the plant sale and the cow bucket. This year we sent £610, which was matched at Send a Cow by a private donor meaning that our gift was in effect doubled. The money was given to a project which supports Ugandan orphans.

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

Hertford and Ware Deanery Synod Report for 2016

The Deanery is part of the St Alban Diocese and consists of 23 churches with 11 clergy and many supporting clergy and laity

The Revd. Canon Jo Loveridge (All Saints, Hertford) is the Rural Dean and the Revd. Mark Dunstan (Hunsdon with Widford and Wareside) the Assistant Rural Dean and Diana Perkins (Christ Church Ware) is the Lay Chair.

- January Meeting

The speaker was Roy Crowne (C.E.O.) from HOPE Together. This is an organisation set up by representatives from the Church of England and the Evangelical Alliance in order to bring the churches together in mission. The goal is to see individuals and communities in villages, towns and cities throughout the UK transformed by Jesus' love. Together in words and action: HOPE models what mission can look like, working with Christians of all ages, ethnicities, worship styles, genders and theological perspectives – together achieving much more than can be achieved apart. This lines up with Jesus' prayer that his followers would be 'brought to complete unity' so that the world will know about God and his love for humanity (John 17:23).

HOPE focuses on key mission moments - a rhythm of mission through the church calendar where churches can reach out into their communities: Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, Harvest.

HOPE website <http://www.hopetogether.org.uk> is worth visiting.

- May Meeting

The speaker was the Rev Tim Lomax the new Director of Mission for the Diocese. He said he was excited to be joining the St Albans Diocese as we set out to renew and refresh Living God's Love following the three themes (Going deeper into God's love, Transforming communities, Making new disciples) during the autumn events which would celebrate and encourage mission. This would be a time to commit, renew and refresh. Making disciples was a challenge which we all need to be involved in be it youth and children's work, Enquirers courses, reaching the un-churched, fresh expressions or encouraging pioneer ministers. We need to equip and pray for these ministries. He understood we would find it daunting and challenging. The Holy Spirit is inviting us and we need to take up the invitation.

- July Meeting

The speaker was Martin Goldsmith

Martin spoke on the challenges that the church faces when considering how we reach out to those of other faith.

He began by encouraging the members of the Deanery to make use of and draw on the knowledge and experience which can be gained from All Nations College, which exists as a centre for training and equipping for overseas mission service.

A recent visit to South East Asia opened his eyes to the growth that there has been within the church in that area of the world. With churches seeing growth and forming into churches of various sizes from 150, which is viewed as a preaching station, 450, which is viewed as a small church and churches in the thousands.

He continued by exploring the ideas that are central to Christianity and how we should share these with those who we come into contact with who are seeking to explore the Christian faith.

- October Meeting

This was a central meeting held at Christ Church Ware when representatives from all the churches in the deanery came together to share with Bishop Michael the re-launching of the Diocesan initiative Living God's Love. It was an excellent evening of unity with other clergy and church members taking part in the presentation.

Music in 2016

Martin Penny

Much of what follows is, of necessity, a reflection of highlights. We regard every service as special and prepare everything 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 Passiontide.

Membership

Overall, we grew again during 2016.

We welcomed Grace Cadzow and Zoe Nendick into the front row, Elanor Cadzow to the Altos and Julian Royals, initially to the Basses but now in the Tenors. Geoff Blyth and Miles Knapman joined our roster of skilled deputies.

Happily, Hazel and Zoe Ford returned to full health (and University), though we continue to benefit from their voices when in Hertfordshire.

We also said farewell to Ciera McClean, who has been with us for some twelve years and is now studying for a Music and Therapy degree at Derby University. We were pleased that she was able to join us at Christmas.

The Support Team

John Norris puts in many hours learning/relearning our repertoire to great effect, not least in successfully mastering the complexities of much cross-hands playing in the Gloria of Dove's *Missa Brevis!*

Michael Stephens-Jones, of whom more later, also has stepped up to all the challenges that come his way.

David Ford continues to give sterling support as Associate Director, allowing me to play from time to time to keep my hand in, occasionally visit another church on a Sunday to pick ideas, and, between us all, to expose the choir to a rich variety of ideas and approaches – thereby keeping what we do fresh and never 'routine'.

Sam Chadwick has continued to put much energy and ingenuity into providing instrumental arrangements for the All the Family Service, matching individual parts to the increasing skill level of our younger players. Congratulations to her on her second pregnancy.

Natasha Page worked with all our young choristers, giving them individual support and tuition funded by the MDF. She moved to London to commence a Master's degree at the RAM in September and so this arrangement ended. Since then Mary has worked with some of them on specific aspects of singing and music theory, in addition to other things that come her way!

Mary, Rachel (Morgan) and Julian put many hours of effort in behind the scenes putting out all the music and collecting it back in – the Vestry is a busy place on a Friday Night! Simple to say but several person hours every week.

Special Events during the year

The year began with choral services on 3rd Jan and an Epiphany Carol Service a week later (one rehearsal only!).

February saw the first performance of the complete Dove *Missa Brevis*. The Gloria was very well received and was subsequently performed on Easter Sunday and at Ginni's farewell service.

Passion and Easter-tide was the usual blur of services. Palm Sunday morning was marked with great drama and Chilcott *Little Jazz Mass*. The Maundy Thursday service featured the usual mix of old and new – the latter a lush setting of *Ave Verum* by Mawby.

April was a relatively quiet month; it proved to be something of a 'calm before the storm'. On St George's day we hosted a special evensong for the Herts County Association of Change Ringers who sang lustily and well.

May saw the annual Civic Service on Trinity Sunday and the revival of a couple of old favourites.

In June we found ourselves hosting two farewells and a confirmation. Having sung of Badgers and Hedgehogs at the beginning of the month (with a Mozart mass in the evening) we sang music of Ginni's choice (Dove, Whitbourn and Mawby) for her farewell. She readily admitted that these choices were as much a surprise for her to make as they were for us to receive!

The following Saturday we assembled choirs from across the Archdeaconry to sing at Archdeacon Trevor's farewell. In the end we had choristers from some ten churches – and a mighty noise they made as we sang *Ecce Sacerdos Magnus* (Behold, a great high priest). I agreed the music plan with Trevor whilst queuing in Luton Airport on Easter Sunday afternoon, which left most of those nearby worried about what sort of secret code ecclesiastical Latin might be!

We performed a new piece by John Rutter the following day - *Veni Sancte Spiritus*; this was specially written for Kings Cambridge and created a very calm and reflective atmosphere. The following Tuesday was the confirmation with Bishop Alan. It was good to be able to support our own candidates.

After the summer break a relatively quiet September gave us the opportunity to revive Parry's *My soul there is a country*. We also got the exciting news that our Soundbites Organ Scholar, Michael Stephens-Jones, had been elected Organ Scholar of Selwyn College Cambridge for Autumn 2018.

October began with Harvest and then time to revive Howells' magnificent *Gloucester Service* and part of Leightons *Sequence for All saints* for our Patronal Festival.

We spent much of September and October 'camping out' whilst the roof was repaired but glad to move back in. We took advantage of the opportunity to 'retire' the old worn out furniture and folders and replace them with something more suitable. Many thanks to all involved in moving things and to those who kindly donated the drawers and folders – I think our biggest cost was a nasty bruise to Colin Bird's hand sustained as we moved furniture back.

November brought three usual 'big' events in the form of Remembrance, Commemoration and the Advent Carol Service. Each was marked with specially learnt music – a huge effort by the team, especially those who had not sung with us for long enough to have previously encountered the pieces we 'revived'.

December had as many Carol Services/concerts as last year with over 7500 people attending services. Trixie Wraith was again a fearless soloist in *Once in Royal (and bang in tune)*. We were also delighted that Michael secured a 'gap year' Organ Scholarship with the Dean Close Foundation (Cheltenham and Tewkesbury).

As well as delivering the two major Carol Services we sang for Isabel Hospice in their temporary home in Hatfield. Though we are delighted to do it we were very touched by not just the very warm welcome, the singing along (word and note perfect!), but several donations from patients.

Repertoire

I have tried to keep our music making alive by refreshing the familiar with new material. You can read more about this on our website (An article by Jo on hymns in July 2016 and one by me on anthems etc in February 2017).

I was able to take advantage of a '75% off' fire sale of bulk quantities of the *Choirbook for the Queen* a collection of 44 pieces specially commissioned and published for her Diamond Jubilee in 2012. This represented a saving of £900 on the list price (£300 rather than £1200). Whilst there are some things we will never sing it works out at well under £1 per piece. We also added a collection of anthems by *Whitbourn* and a number of 'out of copyright' pieces downloaded from the web.

In total we learnt (or relearnt things that hadn't been sung for so long that they were unfamiliar to most of the choir) by *Byrd, Palestrina (2), Dyson, Howells, Poulenc, Walton, Leighton, Gjeilo, Rutter, Beamish, G.Jackson, Whitbourn, Todd* and *Dove* amongst others. For those who have joined us in the last three years, there were many more 'first performances'!

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

Concerts/MDF

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.

Most of income from this goes to our Music Development Fund. This allows us to make grants to support individual studies and to provide support and assistance (and materials) as needed. Everyone who is eligible has benefitted from support in 2016 and the Fund remains within the intended target balance of £10-12,000.

We also further increased the number and nature of customers who hire the building for (mostly musical) events. We are particularly excited by the potential of the fledgling Hertfordshire Festival of Music.

Thank You's

Firstly to the choir for:

- Delivering week in, week out
- The special services over Passiontide and Easter, for Ginni and Trevor and all the other 'specials'
- 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!

but also to

- David, John, Michael, Natasha and Sam for their skill, support and constant good humour
- Jo, Janet, Colin and Helen for their support and encouragement of all we do
- Julia in keeping our finances in order
- Mary, Julian 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 (ish) – and firmly grounded in reality!

Love,

Martin