

# **ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HERTFORD**

## **REPORTS TO APCM – 2018**

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## **FLOWER CLUB REPORT 2017 (2018 AGM)**

2017 was an extremely tough year for the Flower Club, both financially and 'manpower' wise. For the first time in our history we did not provide any 'full wedding packages' and over recent years this was the mainstay of our income together with donations for flowers. This therefore meant that we had to ask for further donations to make ends meet.

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 a few more 'ad hoc helpers', who are available to assist at Festival times to help ease the workload of everyone. While our Teams remain small but stable, the age and health of those who assist us does not, and we face a tough future with a diminishing number of able bodied helpers. I wonder how long we can continue for...

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 assist in the clearing away afterwards which is always more work than decorating originally and can get easily forgotten!

Income and expenditure has been broken down to give detail of both. Easter and Harvest donations were down a bit but general donations doubled which was brilliant, and kept us afloat as wedding income was down by over 60% to just £290.

While the income was down on last year, expenditure was well controlled by prudent spending by the Team Leaders and sourcing some flowers directly from the Nurseries, and we broke even with .40p to spare! We end the year on a sound footing with savings, and hope to continue to pay our own way at All Saints. We already have one wedding booked for 2018 and hope for more, and thank you to everyone who has assisted with donations which we are also likely to need in 2018. We do appreciate the PCC's offer of financial help if required, but they have their own issues and we hope to pay our way where we can.

Anyone interested in arranging flowers is welcome to join us – no experience required, and we are 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**

## **All Saints' Hertford Mothers' Union Annual Report 2017**

**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 is one of only two remaining in Hertford & Ware Deanery & includes several members who worship elsewhere. We are pleased to have welcomed many visitors to our meetings & events throughout the year. We maintain close links with MU members in other churches and attend Diocesan events representing the Deanery.**

**Our members were also involved in the Easter Journey, providing & making the Mothering Sunday posies & making wreaths for ourselves & to order following the Christmas Bazaar.**

**Our programme in 2017 was varied and interesting. We started with Andrew & Rosemary Bolton brightening up February by presenting a slideshow of their colourful Vietnam holiday.**

**Our Lent meeting, during March was a thought provoking reflection by Doug Loveridge "Shepherding God" & was beautifully complemented later in the year by Jo Loveridge presenting our September talk on the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation. She revived & enhanced our hazy memories from school of Luther's Protestant revolution & the changes it brought about.**

**April saw Anne-Marie Parker's delightful illustrated talk "Images of Enchantment" on the history of picture books from ancient cave painting to the digital age. The images she presented from all over the world were fascinating.**

**In May we arranged a visit & guided tour of St George's Cathedral of the Coptic Orthodox Church in Stevenage where we were given a warm welcome despite high security. We watched a slideshow on the history of the Coptic faith, learnt how to read icons & much about the form of their worship & congregation. The modern building is truly stunning, fitted with marble brought from Egypt. We also visited the mansion where the Archbishop lives & the older chapel where the community also worship.**

**Later in the summer we enjoyed a very sociable lunch & browse at Pearce's farm shop.**

**In June, we again hosted the Deanery Wave of Prayer Service, led by Janet Bird & followed by tea. The collection from this, together with contributions from guests at meetings this year allowed us to send a £50 donation for MU projects.**

**Also in June, close to the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the battle of St Julien, Jean Riddell gave us a very moving talk commemorating those from Hertford who gave their lives in WW1 & are remembered on our Church memorials. She really brought home with photographs & information on local families, the huge sacrifice they made. Later in the year, Peter Ruffles shared with us more of his fascinating old photographs of our lovely town with his own delightful reminiscences of characters & buildings long gone.**

**During Advent, our travelling crib sets, (also containing Christmas story books, Advent calendar, colouring sheets & a short service) were given a home by our Messy Church families, returning for the Crib Service. We are very grateful to Kath Oates for arranging their travels.**

**For 2018 we have another varied programme of events & outings with something for everyone. Please pick up a programme & come to any of our meetings, we would love to see you there.**

*Ann Stephens-Jones & Rosemary Bolton*

## **Report for All Saints Art for 2017 – 2018**

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

We had good summer visits to Panshanger Park, our churchyard, Diane's garden and Fiona's garden as before and added Hartham and Rye House, Hoddesdon.

Pauline Geering passed on the job of Treasurer at the end of August. Pauline had done this for 6 years and we all thank her very much. Sandra Weeden has taken over this job.

In the autumn we did mosaic tiles led by Nick. We all enjoy this. We also learnt how to paint trees. For All Saints Christmas Fair we upcycled boxes and bags by decorating them in various ways. It made a different craft activity but they did not sell very well.

In January Doreen Brown sat for us, and we had practised sketching each other the previous week. Flower painting is done to fit with the seasons of the year. We again had a March talk by Dr Roger Aubery on Angels in Religious Art. Unfortunately this had to be moved due to snow and there was a very poor turnout. Following this talk we are making our own paintings of Angels.

We use watercolours, acrylic paints, and pastels, using different subject ideas. We try to do at least one new thing 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, Pauline Geering and Sandra Weeden 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 usually meets on the third Sunday of the month in the afternoon in St John's Hall. We follow a theme each month and 7 or 8 craft activities are offered, based on the theme. Last year these included the Prodigal Son, the miracles of Jesus, journeys in the Bible and looking after God's world. We also had sessions which followed the major Christian festivals. Our craft activities are followed by a short worship time with instruments, 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.

Unfortunately, numbers attending declined in 2017 with 36 different children coming to one or more sessions, of whom only 15 attended regularly. This was mainly due to the fact that a number of older children stopped coming to Messy Church and we were not attracting new families in sufficient numbers. The main problem we faced was how to reach new people as conventional advertising (posters, flyers etc) was not working. We decided to join Facebook and as a result we are starting to see new people joining us. Our Facebook address is <https://www.facebook.com/MessyChurchHertfordAllSaints/> We are fortunate in having such a large number of committed helpers without whom Messy Church could not take place each month. Many of our helpers have been with us since we first started in 2010!

The monthly youth group, which we set up in summer 2015, also struggled with numbers in 2017. As a result, we decided to stop meeting after the summer holiday as numbers were no longer sufficient for the group to be viable. We will keep this under review.

We continue to support the work of Send a Cow through the plant sale and the cow bucket. This year we sent £435, which was matched at Send a Cow by the UK government meaning that our gift was in effect doubled. The money was given to their Mother and Child appeal.

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

Kath Oates

## **Safeguarding Report**

Our church safeguarding policy may be viewed by everyone. It is kept at the back of the church in the leaflet rack, and is clearly marked in red print

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH HERTFORD SAFER CHURCH

Martin Penny has printed a handy pocket leaflet for All Saints', "Safeguarding, Quick Reference Guide." We also have posters on the church notice board and in St John's Hall giving details of who to contact should a safeguarding problem arise.

An addition was made to our Safeguarding Policy in order to comply with a request from the Diocese. This is a statement concerning Domestic Abuse, together with guidelines on dealing with it should anyone need help. The statement and guidelines are those suggested by the Diocese. The PCC agreed this addition at the meeting held on 11 July 2017.

The Diocese has recently asked all parishes to consider safeguarding in relation to the letting of our church halls; this will need to be addressed by the PCC. The Diocese continues to provide free "face to face" safeguarding training, but much will be carried out as online training in the future.

The final piece of information from the Diocese is that we have an Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, Martyn Hedley who works alongside Jez Hirst.

DBS checks were carried out for All Saints' PCC between May and July 2017 on the five newly elected PCC members.

CCPAS (Churches' Child Protection and Advisory Service) is the agency we, and the diocese use for DBS checking. It has just produced updated versions of their online Guide for Recruiters (Safeguarding Officers,) and Guide for Applicants needing DBS checks. CCPAS is an organisation which ensures everything is done correctly before submitting an online application form to the DBS. It also provides excellent training courses and will give confidential advice regarding all safeguarding matters on request.

Helen Harvey-Wright  
Parish Safeguarding Officer  
March 2018

# Music in 2017

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

We welcomed Leon Edwards as a probationer, Trixie Wraith moved to the Adults and Romarilla Blanche-Drammeh became Head Chorister.

We said farewell to Michael Stephens-Jones after twelve years as he took his first steps towards a professional career with his 'Gap year' scholarship at Dean Close/Tewkesbury Abbey before going to Selwyn, Cambridge in October 2018.

We also said farewell to Zoe Nendick as she starts to read Music at Nottingham University. Congratulations to her on gaining a Choral Scholarship at St Mary's Nottingham as well.

After a term's gap, we were delighted to welcome Mark Scaife, B Mus, as our new 'Soundbites' organ scholar.

## The Support Team

John Norris puts in many hours learning/relearning our repertoire to great effect, not least in successfully mastering the complexities both technical and registrational in Finzi's *Lo, the full, final sacrifice*.

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.

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.

Julia continues both to keep our finances in order and to ensure our robes are in good order and fit properly - we had both expansion (height) and shrinkage (weight loss) this year!

## Special Events during the year

The year began with choral services on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan with a Family Service in the morning and an Epiphany Carol Service in the evening (one rehearsal only!). Somehow there is never time to rehearse this in December!

A couple of weeks later we sang for the Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity using both responsorial psalmody and a metrical version of the Lord's Prayer sung by all.

Thereafter we enjoyed a few weeks of 'business as usual' before arriving at Holy Week.

Palm Sunday evening saw a revival of Allegri's *Misere*, featuring the Fab Ford Four as the solo quartet (by a happy chance they were exactly the right four voices...). It was great to see Zoe in such good health too.

For Good Friday the choir learnt Poulenc's *Timor et tremor* – possibly an accurate reflection of the feelings of choir and director a few days before but it came together on the day.

We joined with choirs from other churches in the team to sing for a Celtic Team Eucharist for Pentecost at St Andrew's. We just about managed to rehearse everything before the service began – though it was disappointing that the children went out for so much of it and missed the full experience.

The following weekend saw the second Hertfordshire Festival of Music (of which more later). This focussed on Haydn and his visit to Hertford. We marked this with an evensong completely of music by Haydn, apart from the Canticles, which were sung to Stanford's stunning setting in A.

July saw us really 'nail' Dove's *Missa Brevis* in a performance that was both exuberant and accurate! Much of the rest of the month was spent learning the Agnus Dei from Britten's *War Requiem* and reviving Finzi's *Lo, the full final sacrifice* (in truth new for the half the choir that

had joined since we last sang it). This was for the Commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of St Julien. The Agnus Dei came alive with the splendid solo singing of Michael Stephens-Jones, at 18 exactly the same age as many of the young soldiers).

The Autumn Term saw an experiment with the evening services with two Choral Evensongs each month themed to match the six sessions of the Pilgrim Course.

In the midst of this came the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation. We sang the first movement of Bach's cantata for Reformation Day – an extensive treatment of Luther's great hymn *Ein Feste' Burg*. As we also sang the hymn and both organ voluntaries were based on it too, I think we can safely say it was noticed!

All Saints Sunday was marked by our first performance of Gabriel Jackson's *Mass for All Saints* (published in August 2017). I believe this was only its second performance. To be safe we only sang some movements. The remainder will appear in 2018.

On November 19<sup>th</sup> we celebrated Hilda of Whitby, including a hymn originally written (in English) in 670. Happily we had a modern translation in a hymn book donated by the late Mary Geering.

December was the usual flurry of Carol Services – and an unexpected 'night off' on 10<sup>th</sup> due to the snow. For the Nine Lessons & Carols we learnt a new setting of words by Herrick – an imaginary dialogue between the stars and the shepherds. It rather divided opinion being both the 'best' and 'worst' carol of the evening. As with all new pieces, it will get another chance to either shine or fall into obscurity.

### Repertoire

I continue to try to keep our music making alive by refreshing the familiar with new material. There are a few pieces 'in the works' for 2018 but there's room for more. 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 the 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 benefitted from support in 2017 and the Fund remains within the intended target balance of £10-12,000.

We were able to take advantage of a real bargain and acquired a second-hand Yamaha upright piano for a mere £1000. As a result we have a rather moth-eaten upright available if anyone fancies a nice piece of furniture!

The Hertfordshire Festival of Music continues to expand and we have now entered into a formal partnership with them. The plans through 2020 are very exciting!

### Thank You's

Firstly to the choir for:

- Delivering week in, week out
- The special services over Passiontide and Easter, for St Julien and over the Christmas period
- 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, Mark and Sam for their skill, support and constant good humour
- Jo, Colin and Richard for their support and encouragement of all we do
- Julia in keeping our finances and robes 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

## Hertford and Ware Deanery

### Synod Report for 2017

The Deanery is part of St Albans Diocese and consists of 23 churches with 10 stipendiary clergy and supporting clergy, other ministers and committed laity. During the year the Deanery has focused on the creation of the Deanery MAP and begun to think about Fresh Expressions, and is actively seeking to enable and encourage parishes to find new ways of being the church in their areas, reaching new people with the Gospel.

Rural Dean: The Revd. Canon Jo Loveridge (All Saints, Hertford)  
Assistant Rural Dean: The Revd. Mark Dunstan (Hunsdon with Widford and Wareside)  
Lay Chair: Diana Perkins (Christ Church Ware)  
Treasurer: Janet Bird (All Saints, Hertford)  
Secretary: The Revd Doug Loveridge (All Saints, Hertford) (Samuel Stockwell until July)

NEW DEANERY WEBSITE : [www.hertfordandwaredeanery.org.uk](http://www.hertfordandwaredeanery.org.uk)

#### January Meeting

The Revd Mark Dunstan gave a Presentation on the Deanery Mission Action Plan (MAP) and encouraged the Deanery to engage with the project which the Diocese has made a priority for all Deaneries and Parishes.

The Church has a call to fulfil, and we are asked to engage with the formation of a 5 year vision and to establish priorities and goals. Attention was drawn to strategic planning to fulfil the Great Commission, our biblical heritage from Matthew 28:19-20, a task given by Christ, and that the first apostles thought strategically in spreading the good news (Colossians 1:28 vision, Romans 15:19-24, Acts 14:21-23).

Attendees fed back their reflections on changes experienced within the last five years and changes anticipated in the next five years, along with comments about the way they perceived the impact of these changes. They contributed opinion about the way our Deanery was/wasn't keeping in step with the threefold Diocesan Vision of Going Deeper into God, Transforming Community and Making New Disciples. They also gave feedback about the Goals, Priorities and Vision that made up our previous Deanery MAP, indicating their

understanding of any progress made and whether the Goals, Priorities and Vision should be changed, dropped or augmented in the formation of the new MAP.

Our Vision and Plan comes from listening to God and looking at our context. Our Context as churches within a deanery and diocese is common to us all. The Deanery needs to be aiming to be a place where churches are growing numerically as new people are coming to faith, where individuals are growing in their own faith, where churches are sharing their gifts and resources to help transform the surrounding communities.

### May meeting.

This was the first meeting of the newly-elected Synod, and began with the Eucharist.

The main topic was “Ideas on leading your church into growth” with three presentations about activities that had been run in churches in the deanery during Lent.

Jenny Grey spoke about “10 Things to do in Lent”, since - following from an idea based from a book by John Pritchard - Jenny has been producing in her parish magazine a series of themed articles prompting people to think about 10 things to do to grow in faith.

Janet Bird spoke about “The Easter Story”, an event aimed at schools, which takes pupils on a journey through the last few days of the Easter narrative, through the voices of those who are at the heart of the story.

Wendy Wall and Sian Campbell-Colquhoun spoke about “Easter Explored”, a multi-sensory retelling of the Easter Story and takes over the whole church building for a week. It takes people on a guided journey through the events and places of the Easter Story. People are encouraged to consider the why of the Easter story.

The Deanery MAP was further considered, and Mark Dunstan presented an update In the historical understanding of the structure of the diocese, it sends out the parishes to work in the areas that they sit geographically. The parishes send requests to the diocese and the diocese sends back advice and support with the deanery acting as an

intermediary. So the deanery acts to assist the diocese and as well as supporting the parishes.

Going forward there should be a focus within deanery of collaboration, sharing the resources that exist within the deanery, supporting all the parishes. There should also be more strategic way of working within the deanery and the meetings in particular, with material at the meetings supporting the members of the deanery as they seek to fulfil their roles. There needs to be a rethinking of the idea that the diocese exists only in the offices at St Alban's, as we are all the diocese.

### July Meeting

Communication by parishes was considered, again with three speakers.

Brenda Howarth reported on Bengo's new Parish Magazine, which has been upgraded recently, including colour and a "slicker" presentation. It has been well received.

Catriona Baker introduced Christ Church Ware's new website and its varied contents.

The Revd Nick Sharp spoke about Social Media and how helpful they can be if used wisely.

Colin Bird reported that for 2018 there will be a 2.2% increase in overall costs, which is below inflation. The average Parish Share will rise by 2.46% for 2018.

The Diocese has bidden for strategic funding for a major Fresh Expressions project, and the Church Commissioners have awarded £1.74M over 5 years, the full cost is £3.6M, including items already budgeted. There will be no material impact on the Common Fund until Year 4 or 5. The intention is to create 1,200 lay leader posts and 8,000 new disciples via Fresh Expressions of church over the 5 years – it is a large-scale project!

A Treasurers' Meeting on 11 September discussed parish share allocations and dealt with shared concerns about parish finance, including a Pastoral Support Grant Application.

Lay Leaders of Worship training sessions took place on 23 September and 4 November.

## October

Jo Loveridge and Mark Dunstan presented the MAP to the Diocesan Pastoral Committee and, following further fine-tuning, this has now been agreed by all parties.

## November Meeting

This meeting was given to Bishop Michael of Hertford to share his ideas about First Steps in making New Disciples. Parishes were encouraged to send additional people to the meeting. The Bishop gave an enthusiastic presentation about St Paul's style of evangelism, how he made it relevant to his hearers, how persistent he was – and acknowledged that he was not always successful. Those present were encouraged to discuss in groups how they came to faith and what lessons can be learnt from their own experience.

Canon Tim Lomax spoke briefly about Fresh Expressions. The website is available at <https://freshexpressions.org.uk> – and is well worth exploring.