

FLOWER CLUB REPORT 2018 (2019 AGM)

2018 was another challenging year for the Flower Club, mainly on the 'manpower' front. Financially we managed ok and made a profit of £40.50 but we decided to give that away plus more when we donated £100 to All Saints to assist the main church finances.

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. 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 stable although small in number, the age and health of those who assist us does not, and those who do assist also have other commitments so are not always available. I have said that the future has looked tough for the past couple of years but it is now becoming a serious problem. There are many weeks when we have just one member doing flowers...

However, we aim to continue to provide flowers or greenery for the church throughout the year, and try to be creative using plants and 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. Everyone pulls together for these major events and also for weddings and I must thank everyone involved in the flowers for David and Dani's wedding in June. I was one proud mother of the groom! Thank you to those who assist in clearing away afterwards also, 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 roughly level on 2017 but general donations were down with just two weddings. 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, despite the challenging weather of 2018, and we made £40 profit before giving it away. 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 several weddings booked for 2019 which is great news. Thank you to everyone who has assisted with donations which we will continue to need in 2019 and we do appreciate the PCC's offer of financial help, but we hope to pay our way where we can.

The Reredos looks fantastic now it has been restored so we need to be very mindful of not damaging it with split water and it will only be at Easter that we start to put flowers back there. While alabaster seems very solid and stone like, it soaks up any spills of water which ultimately damage it, so even small spills are far more damaging than any of us ever imagined.

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 well and truly appreciated.

Dorothy Toyn
All Saints Flower Club Administrator