

All Saints' Church, Hertford

APCM – 11th October 2020

Churchwardens' Report

It is a long time since the last APCM in April 2019. In May 2019 the church gained some swift boxes and the Hall gained some LED lights. In December significant electrical work was carried out, mainly in the kitchen area.

The PCC noted that a substantial increase in income is required in order for All Saints to survive long-term and considered possible ways to achieve this. As a result, in November 2019 the PCC voted to make a planning pre-application to EHDC in the hope of establishing whether development of the Hall site could achieve this. This process is still ongoing. We should emphasise, however, that the PCC has not decided whether or not this is the appropriate way forward.

The appeal to renovate the bells, launched in February 2019, reached its target and we are now in a position to apply for the necessary permissions to allow the work to go ahead.

As you all know, in March 2020, we went into lockdown. We responded well and continued worshipping online while the church building was closed, as well as providing telephone support, opportunities to socialise online and a well-attended course on prayer. We would like to thank everyone who made this possible. Then, in July, we made the church covid-secure and completed the required risk assessments so that we could re-open, at least partially. Again, we would like to thank everyone who helped with this.

Going forward we face a number of challenges. As explained in the Finance Report our financial position is worse than anticipated at the beginning of the year. Also, we are all getting older and we are struggling to find fit people with time on their hands to volunteer to do all the many tasks which are necessary to ensure our services and activities run smoothly and to allow us to reach out into our community. In February the General Synod passed a motion committing the church to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030, a big challenge for us with our large church building currently heated using fossil fuels.

We would like to thank you all for your support of time, skills, money and prayers over the past year and look for your thoughts, ideas and help as we try to discern God's new-normal for All Saints.