ALL SAINTS FLOWER CLUB Report 2022 (2023 AGM)

2022 was a rather better year for the Flower Club due to the world opening up again from Covid. However, we still have diminishing numbers to assist with flowers, due to illness and lack of mobility. We were very saddened by the passing of Teddy Johnson who had helped with the flowers at All Saints for many years and had real talent when working on a pedestal. A further member left as she no longer attends All Saints so our helpers in 2022 reduced to just 8.

Our donations went down for general monthly flowers by over £80 as many friends have left or passed away. Costs however went up. Donations for the Easter, Harvest and Christmas festival went up by £85 as were able to celebrate once again after the pandemic.

We had several weddings over the year (the post covid bulge, where many had been cancelled more than once!)) and had £775 income from them which was excellent. We tried something new when one bride wanted to have dried flowers and one of those arrangements lasted until Lent. The pew ends that were used, continued to be used for many months, were changed to have poppies and were to have had decorations for Christmas. However, we had a *very* mixed reception from the congregation – like 'Marmite' they were loved or hated! It was lovely to do so many weddings but very hard work for the few involved.

We have bought, and been donated, more artificial flowers of varying colours this year and this has enabled us to have arrangements that last much longer, often without people realising they are artificial. Even some greenery is artificial nowadays!

Financially the Club is managing ok at present and while we made a loss of nearly £140, much of that was on the purchase of the artificial flowers, which will make life easier in the future. We have just under £500 in the bank.

We have found a way of coping – just - with so few members and I would like to express my grateful thanks to each of them for helping with flowers. We have just 2 teams now and just have to switch around for holidays and illness. We would welcome more assistance but appreciate that is not likely to happen at the current time. We will continue to do flowers while we are able to, but the future does look bleak.

Dorothy Toyn

Flower Club Leader