

## **ALL SAINTS FLOWER CLUB Report 2024 (2025 AGM)**

2024 was a good year for the Flower Club as we gradually learn to work with fewer helpers, and by using our ever-increasing supply of artificial flowers. It is amusing to watch people looking at the arrangements and touching them to see if they are real! Sometimes they are and sometimes they are not, but good to keep people guessing!

Following the Epiphany Carol Service we kept the Christmas arrangements up until Candlemas for the first time. In March we joined with members of the MU to make 80+ posies for Mothering Sunday. We managed our usual Easter arrangements, and All Saints looked it's best. We continued to provide flowers throughout the Summer and provided special flowers to welcome Simon to All Saints. Following that there was Harvest, then lots of Sunflowers for Val Cole's Funeral, more arrangements for the Graduation Ceremony of Hertford Regional College, then yet more flowers for Fiona Earle's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. A busy few months, and everyone in the Flower Club pulled together brilliantly.

We continue to work with just 2 teams of 4 but 'mix and match' when we need to. When Fiona's Team is on, there is usually a Woofer or two in tow, and a friend who brings them to All Saints and we are really grateful for their assistance. We had a big clear out of the Flower Room, and the cupboard in the meeting room with new storage boxes for all the artificial flowers and accessories. In September we had a Coffee Morning and with a demonstration / discussion about flowers and the technicalities of arrangements which was a good get together.

We had less weddings, probably due to the interregnum, but financially we had a successful year. We had just over £1,200 in income mainly from donations for festivals and monthly memorial flowers, and expenditure was £1170 so we made a modest profit of £34 with reserves of £700.

We now have to pay EHDC £49 to have the Brown Bim emptied, and from 2025 we will have to pay over £4 per month service charge for the Lloyds bank account...not what people donate money to the Club for. However, short of having no bank account we would have to pay wherever we hold the money.

I feel far more positive at the end of this year than I have for many years, despite our low numbers in the Flower Club we are managing, and I would like to thank everyone who assists us for their ongoing support, and those who donate to enable us to continue to fill All Saints with flowers.

Dorothy Toyn

Flower Club Leader