



## **ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, CHILTON**

### **ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2012**

#### ***Background***

All Saints' Chilton PCC co-operates with the Rector, the Revd Dr Jonathan Mobey in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. This is summed up in our Vision "Sharing life at the heart of the Community, making followers of Jesus". We are also responsible for All Saints' Church building and churchyard.

The Church is located on Church Hill, Chilton and a Church Office, shared with St Matthew's Harwell, is situated in the Church extension at Harwell. The main address for correspondence with the PCC is that of the PCC Secretary, 18 Latton Close, Chilton, Didcot, Oxon OX11 0SU.

The PCC banks with Lloyds TSB in Curie Avenue, Harwell and its Independent Examiner is Jane Moreton of Harrow House, Burr Street, Harwell, Didcot OX11 0DT.

#### **Membership**

Members of the PCC are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year All Saints' PCC met five times to deal with matters pertaining to Chilton parish, and an additional three times combining with St Matthew's PCC to consider matters common to both parishes. During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

#### ***Incumbent:***

The Revd Dr Jonathan Mobey

#### ***Assistant Curate:***

The Revd Pam Rolls

#### ***Wardens:***

Mr Andrew Hayes Elected 2009  
Mrs Naomi Gibson (from April 2012)

#### ***Representatives on Deanery Synod:***

Mrs Naomi Gibson  
Mr John Pigott

#### ***Elected Members:***

Mr Stuart Gibson 3 years from 2011  
(Treasurer)  
Mrs Carol Pigott 3 years from 2012  
(Secretary from April 2012)  
Mr Alex Reich 3 years from 2012  
Mrs Hazel King 3 years from 2010  
Dr John Berry 3 years from 2012  
Mr Philip Garner 2 years from 2012  
Mrs Lin Kerr 1 year from 2012  
Mrs Liz Morris 1 year from 2012  
Mrs Ruth Poole 3 years from 2011

#### ***Co-opted Member***

Miss Avril Butler (Secretary until April 2012)



#### **Committees**

The PCC operates through a number of committees, which meet between full meetings of the PCC.

#### ***Standing Committee***

This is the only committee required by law. It meets occasionally when there are urgent or emergency decisions to be made between PCC meetings. It consists of the Clergy, Churchwardens and Treasurer, with the addition of the Vice-chair and Secretary.

#### ***Finance Committee***

This oversees the general financial dimensions of the work of All Saints' by monitoring income and expenditure, budgeting and reviewing the planned giving. It consists of the Clergy, Churchwardens and Treasurer, and meets in December to discuss and prepare a budget, to be presented to the January PCC meeting for approval.

### ***Fabric Committee***

This committee takes care of the church buildings and surroundings. It is currently chaired by Dr John Berry, with Judith Russell, Andrew Hayes, Jeff Stopps, and John Pigott as regular members. Mrs Russell has kindly taken on overall responsibility for the churchyard.

### ***Joint PCC***

The Joint PCC is a legal requirement, as the benefice consists of two parishes, and meets as required. It comprises the Clergy, Churchwardens and Treasurers of both parishes, with two members of each PCC elected at the APCM. Those elected at the APCM in 2012 were Liz Morris and Carol Pigott.

### **Joint PCC sub-committees**

The Joint PCC was given the power to form sub-committees, by the PCC at the PCC meeting of November 2011. The subcommittees have primarily an advisory function: monitoring, encouraging and seeking to develop the work of the Churches in the defined areas so as to advance the mission of the Church. Such matters are most efficiently and effectively considered jointly.

The sub-committees listed below, their Chair, Vice-Chair and members were agreed at the July 2012 Combined PCC meeting (which incorporated a meeting of the Joint PCC). The Chair and Vice-Chair of each subcommittee is appointed annually by the JPCC (maximum term normally 5 years). The Chair or Vice-Chair or both shall be members of the PCC of one of the parishes. Other subcommittee members were either from one of the PCCs or from the wider congregation.

### ***Communications & Operations***

Is concerned with the communication of the churches in the parishes they serve, to facilitate access to and participation in the services and activities of the churches.

Chair: Liz Roberts (Harwell)

Vice-Chair: Ian Thompson (Chilton)

### ***Outreach & Support***

Monitors, consults on and make recommendations relating to the evangelism, discipleship and pastoral care of all adults in the Benefice.

Chair: Andrew Hayes (Chilton)

Vice-Chair: Frances Taylor (Harwell)

### ***World Mission***

Encourages and promotes support for our mission partners beyond the benefice of Harwell with Chilton through preaching and teaching, prayer and giving. The Group considers how our

missions giving should be distributed, presenting a suggested budget to PCC annually.

Chair: Pam Rolls (Chilton/Harwell)

Vice-Chair: Sid Gale (Harwell)

### ***Worship Services***

Is concerned with the development of formal public acts of worship in the Benefice, including regular Sunday services, occasional and seasonal services, and “fresh expressions” of worship

Chair: Jonathan Mobey (Chilton/Harwell)

Vice-Chair: Pam Rolls (Chilton/Harwell)

### ***Youth & Families***

Is concerned with developing the work of the Church amongst children and young people and families – making followers of Jesus amongst those under 18 and their families – as well as monitoring and encouraging this work, including that done in Church, in the primary schools in the Benefice, and in whole-family events.

Chair: Vicky Macarthur (Harwell)

Vice-Chair: Naomi Gibson (Chilton)

### **Church Attendance**

There are 80 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, as at the APCM 2012, one fewer than the previous year. Of these, 10 are not resident within the Parish. 1 name has been added to the roll and 2 removed. The average Sunday attendance, counted during October 2012, was 41 adults and 6 children. This excludes Harvest Festival when the attendance swelled to 82 adults and 42 children.

During 2012 there were 2 Baptisms, and 5 Funeral or Memorial Services were held in church.

### **Review of the Year – Benefice Activities**

#### ***Combined PCC Away Day, Benefice Strategic Priority and ‘Connect’***

The Combined PCC held an Away Day on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2012 at The Court Hill Centre near Wantage. Members of both PCCs got to know each other better, by pairing up to discuss their spiritual journey. Most observed that they had been introduced to Christianity as children, underlining the importance of the youth work of the Church. The group also discussed strategic aims for the Benefice. These were agreed as “growing out” (adding to our number) and “growing up” (individuals increasing the maturity of their faith). We heard how our congregations under-represent men and those under 44 years of age (the latter often being referred to as “Generations X, Y and Z”).

Given the context of new housing at Chilton and Didcot, the importance of reaching children and families, and understanding the cultural

tendencies of Generations X, Y and Z, some possible ways of achieving the strategic aims were discussed. These were then considered further by individuals through prayer and as a group at the Combined PCC meeting in November 2012. The PCCs agreed at that Combined PCC meeting that the strategic priority was to “plant” a new congregation at Chilton School, near the newly forming Chilton Field community. A sub-group from the PCC and the wider congregation subsequently met to plan how to go about this in the first instance. The sub-group agreed to run a weekly gathering on Sunday afternoons from the third week in January at Chilton School from 4.30-6pm to include a hot meal, a craft activity and a short Christian talk. The name “Connect” was subsequently chosen for this venture.

### ***Church Website***

At the Combined PCC meeting in January 2012 it was agreed to replace the Church website with one built using the platform/template provided by Church Insight. The Rector had used this type of website at his previous Church and highlighted its advantages to the PCCs.

With a fresh, modern look, layout and features, a key advantage of the Church Insight platform is that it incorporates a “back office” administrative function called Web Office. This provides a single, central place with controlled access to a database of Church members, and a facility, amongst other functions, to set up and distribute rotas, provide a calendar of events, to send emails to pre-set groups of people (such as PCC members) and storage of key documents (such as PCC minutes). This improves the efficiency and accuracy of administrative tasks

The church website is now fully operational, at [www.harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk](http://www.harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk)

Members of the public are able to view our activities, past and future, and church members are able to log in to check their duties on the rotas, etc. As of February 2013, the website had 103 active members and 89 other individuals registered on it. The decision to use the Church Insight platform will be reviewed during 2013.

### ***Alpha Course***

An Alpha course was launched with a “taster” evening on 11<sup>th</sup> January. Six guests attended the 10 week course.

### ***Schools***

Pam Rolls and Jonathan Mobey regularly take assemblies in both Harwell and Chilton primary schools. Additionally this year, Chilton School hosted a Reflective Prayer Space event over 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> June, in a tent on the playing field. The space was organised into creative interactive prayer zones, and staffed by volunteers from

both Churches. The week was very well-received by both pupils and school staff, and there are plans to repeat ‘Prayer Spaces’ in 2013.

### ***Olympicnic***

On 1<sup>st</sup> July, following the 9.30 service in Chilton, there was a walk (in fancy dress for some) to Harwell, where an “Olympicnic” and games were held on the Rectory lawn, following St Matthew’s 11.00 morning service. This picnic event included light-hearted races and games, in honour of the London 2012 Games.

### ***Summer Holiday Club***

A Summer Holiday Club was again run at Harwell School, from 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of August from 9am to 3pm. It was open to all children of primary school age, at no charge, and was attended by a total of 64 children, the majority of whom had little or no firm connection with either of our Churches. A team of almost sixty leaders and helpers from both Churches was assembled to prepare for, support and run the week. The theme was the Olympics, with a Bible focus based on Mark’s gospel and a large range of sporting, creative and fun activities. We are thankful to Harwell School, for their kind generosity in allowing us to use their facilities, including the field and pool; and also to everyone who gave their time and energy, which helped make the event such a success.

### ***Children’s Activity sessions***

Two Saturday morning/afternoon sessions were held aimed at primary school children in the Benefice, one in Chilton and one in Harwell. Such sessions are structured around a Christian or biblical theme and generally feature crafts, a story and singing. The timing is designed to appeal particularly to families who do not generally attend Sunday services. In Harwell there was a Good Friday activity, and also a “Light Party” - an alternative to Halloween. In Chilton, the event was an Advent Special.

### ***Youth Fellowship***

Although held in Harwell, YF serves young people aged 14-18 years from both Harwell and Chilton parishes. The group meets on Sunday evenings and have recently been having sessions based around the ‘Nooma’ DVD series by Rob Bell. They have also been away together for ‘The Big Church Day Out’.

### ***Fledgelings***

Also caters to both parishes. It is essentially a parent/carer and baby/toddler group but with a high ratio of unencumbered volunteer helpers who plan and organise the sessions and ensure a welcoming, supportive atmosphere. The group meets every Monday in term time.

### **Deanery Mission and Pastoral Plan**

Our two parishes are in the Wallingford Deanery. As with other Deaneries in the Diocese of Oxford, the Wallingford Deanery had to finalise and agree its Mission and Pastoral Plan in 2012, to which the Deanery Synod representatives from our Benefice contributed. The Mission and Pastoral Plan identifies key issues across the Deanery, priorities for mission outreach and the shape of the ministry for the future. The backdrop to the plan that the Wallingford Deanery has been wrestling with for the last six years is the Sheffield Quota. The number of ordained stipendiary (paid) clergy in the Church of England is in decline and this is set to continue for the foreseeable future. The Sheffield Quota is a formula to determine the deployment of stipendiary clergy in a given area; Wallingford Deanery exceeds this formula by two posts and many of our congregations are declining. The “sustainability criteria” being applied to the appointment of a stipendiary member of clergy is an average Sunday attendance of 150-200 and the ability to pay the costs of the clergy post plus the annual running costs of the church - maintenance, insurance, heating etc.

The key issues across the Deanery and priorities for mission outreach are:

- new housing developments (population set to increase from 45,000 – 75,000);
- children and youth (in schools, youth organisations, on the street);
- missing generations in our churches (25-45 year olds).

The shape of the ministry in the Wallingford Deanery:

- of the eight stipendiary posts, five fall short of the sustainability criteria.

The Mission and Pastoral Plan illustrates a number of options for losing two posts including reshaping benefices at the eastern end of the deanery and combining two posts in Didcot (creating a new benefice). For Harwell and Chilton, options include realigning parish boundaries to bring new housing developments and the remainder of Milton Park into the benefice. The Plan encourages churches in the deanery to act missionally; to see church as being beyond the walls of the church building and what happens on a Sunday morning. The Plan, approved by the Berkshire Archdeaconry Missions and Pastoral Committee, is awaiting approval of the Diocese of Oxford Committee.

### **Review continued– Activity specific to All Saints**

#### ***Diamond Jubilee***

As with the entire country, 2012 figured large in the life of the church, with the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee, and the Olympics. All Saints’ joined with Chilton village in celebrating the Jubilee, with cream teas in church on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June; with flower and art displays, poetry reading and music, and displays from the registers and bell ringers. These complemented the pig roast and exhibits in the hall.

#### ***Prayer***

Prayer continues to be an essential part of the life of our Church, with a weekly prayer meeting held at 8.30am on Saturday mornings, and once a month evening prayer, led by the Choir, held on a Wednesday evening at 8.30pm. All are very welcome to join these times of prayer. We also have a small group of people who are part of a prayer chain. This enables emergency and continuing prayer for anyone within the church or for issues known to church members. Home Groups have met during the year for prayer, Bible study and mutual support. Members of All Saints’ congregation were also actively involved in the Reflective Prayer Spaces event held at Chilton school in June. (See Schools item, above.)

A prayer walk was also held on August 12<sup>th</sup>, from Chilton hall to the Ridgeway and back with the aim of praying specifically for the new Chilton Field housing development. Our usual Good Friday procession was held, with prayers and hymns at various places through the village, finishing at church in time for the 9.30 service.

#### ***Chilton Field***

There will eventually be 275 houses in the Chilton Field development. By July 2012, around ten new houses were occupied, rising to 40 by Christmas. From July onwards, new residents of either the development or the main village in Chilton were visited and welcomed, and given one of our recently redesigned “welcome” leaflets. Members of Chilton PCC hosted a Welcome BBQ in Chilton on 15<sup>th</sup> September, which was attended by about 30 newcomers as well as by 12 established residents and 18 All Saints’ congregants.

#### ***Harvest***

On October 7<sup>th</sup> we celebrated our Harvest Festival and followed this with a Bring and Share lunch in the Hall, and an auction of produce, in aid of Tear Fund. Gifts of canned and preserved food were not auctioned, but taken to the Didcot Food Bank.

### ***Wives Group***

Another celebratory lunch was held on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Nov, when our Wives' Group celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It has been another successful year for this group, with monthly meetings with interesting speakers, and events such as the quiz night and plant sale, which have raised substantial funds for various charities over the years.

### ***Children***

Children are a very important part of our church family. Discoverers, which is for children between 3 and 9 years, has eight children on the roll with on average three to four children attending the weekly sessions. We now have two children attending from the Chilton Field development, which is encouraging. During the last year the children have been studying Samuel, miracles of Jesus, and joined in with the rest of the church studying Genesis. The children from Discoverers have enjoyed joint sessions with "Check it out" during Advent and Lent. The children have worked well together to create decorations for the church at Christmas and working together to cook pancakes. The "Check it out" group, for older children over the age of 10, continues with 5 children attending regularly. They have a chance to explore the Christian faith further, ask questions, discuss topics of interest and nurture their relationship with God. Our children have also continued to enjoy taking part in Activity Days, which take place in Chilton and Harwell. They continue to support World Vision, a Christian organisation working to alleviate the effects of poverty, hunger and injustice in over 100 countries, by buying gifts from their weekly giving. We are very grateful to the leaders and helpers who faithfully support these groups.

### ***Y-Club***

During the past year the Y-Club has continued to thrive with between 7 and 14 children from Foundation Stage 1 to Year 4. The majority of these children live in Chilton, and the remainder live in North Drive, Harwell, Grove and Abingdon. The children take part enthusiastically and some have shown signs of spiritual growth and a willingness to tell their families what they've been learning about in Y-Club. We continue to be grateful to the 5 people who join with Pam Rolls on a rota basis to help in leading the group. They show genuine care and concern for the children and several are greatly gifted in creating our craft activities. Our resources over the last year have included 'Barnabas Story Bags' (with stories illustrated by small figures on a cloth, rather like 'Godly Play') which retell some of Jesus' parables, and 'Son Seekers' (from which we've learned a great deal

of the characters in the Old Testament from Joshua to Jehoshaphat). We've also enjoyed seasonal 'specials' such as creating Easter Gardens and Christmas decorations.

### ***Prayer Spaces in Schools***

During the last week in June Chilton School was visited by 'Prayer Spaces in Schools' who set up a 'Prayer Tent' in the playing field and provided wonderful exciting resources to encourage the children to learn how to pray. All the children in the School came out to the tent, half a class at a time with teachers and teaching assistants, to engage in 'thank you', 'please' and 'sorry' prayers and to learn about prayer needs in other parts of the world. The tent was staffed by a superb team of adults from both All Saints' and St Matthew's Churches who, with guidance from the Prayer Spaces team, helped small groups of 3 or 4 children to spend about 10 minutes on each activity. Parents were also welcome to visit the tent after school. The feedback from the School was overwhelmingly positive and they are going to welcome Prayer Spaces back in 2013.

### ***Churchyard***

We are looking forward to seeing the bulbs in the churchyard this spring, following a churchyard working party in the autumn. The bulbs were planted in an area that will be left for them to flourish, when the grass cutting starts again. Sadly, we had to say goodbye to the large chestnut tree which overhung the road, as it was severely diseased and dangerous.

### ***Christmas***

Inside church, both the projectors are now in regular use, and our Christmas Services were enlivened by the use of video clips. We had our normal Christmas Services, including Toy Service, with gifts for the Women's Refuge and donations to See Saw, and two Carols by Candlelight services. These were in the afternoon, aimed at families with young children, including contributions from Chilton School; with a more traditional service of readings and carols in the evening. We also sang carols around the village, and visited the Rose and Crown for an evening of carol singing. As usual, the church was beautifully decorated for Christmas, and an innovation this year was to light the chancel window from inside during the evening. With the Christmas tree and lights on the tower, and the chancel window glowing, the church was a beacon to the parish at this time.

## **Financial Review**

The main financial income of the Church (pledges, plate and tax recovered from pledges) remained at the same level as for 2011. Pledged income fell marginally whilst plated rose by nearly a third. Tax recovered through Gift Aid was significantly less which reflects the loss of income in 2011. 2012 also saw a loss of significant pledged donors and this will impact on the Gift Aid claim submitted in 2013. On a positive note there was a successful stewardship campaign held in the latter part of 2012, which helped to plug the gap in terms of lost income in the past year or so. The full impact in terms of tax recovered will not be seen until the Gift Aid claim in 2014.

Donations were up significantly due to a number of generous donors and fees received rose by over 50%. The latter two categories of income are difficult to predict and control. The net result was a 10% increase in income from £31,420 to £34,298.

The expenditure for the year (£29,826) reduced by nearly 10% compared to that of 2011 (£33,257) principally because we were unable to pay 100% of our Parish Share allocation. Over the last few years the general fund has become increasingly overdrawn and it was not practical for this to continue. Consequently the Parish Share was underpaid by £4,000 to enable the general fund to break even.

Churchyard maintenance costs rose by around 10% and in addition a tree had to be removed at a cost of £720. Church Fabric expenses were significantly up due to necessary electrical work required in the church. Other costs remained at a similar level to the previous year.

The parish share is our contribution to the Diocese and our main expense representing 58% of our expenditure and accounts for 50% of our income (but 72% of our regular income). The parish share increase for 2012 was marginally below the average increase applied by the Diocese to all Deaneries as we are now approaching paying our target share, which is determined by the Deanery. In 2013 this is expected to rise again by around 2.5% to £21,713. In 2014 the parish share calculation is due to be radically revised in the hope it will become fairer for all Deaneries and parishes.

It is standard practice for the PCC to give 15% of its income to Charities & Missions, divided into overseas based (10%) and home based (5%). A further 2.5% is normally allocated to an Emergency Aid Fund. The latter was suspended

for the year, as it has been in the last few years. Once we return to a positive position the fund will be reinstated. The total payments to Charities & Missions for the year totalled £3,720 from the General fund. In addition to this £679 was paid out of the Charities & Mission fund which represents all the restricted gifts made through the Church during the year for specific charities.

As stated over the past few years the focus for the future is still to ensure that expenditure is balanced by regular giving and other income with a move to a mindset where particular activities of the Church are funded by a specific campaign/appeal. This year we have met the first objective, however we have regrettably underpaid the parish share to achieve this. We are very grateful to all those who have very generously supported the latter objective. The PCC is most grateful to all those who support the Church through both regular and spontaneous giving.

## **Reserves Policy**

It is the policy of the PCC to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds, where possible, which equates to at least six months of running costs to cover emergency situations that might arise from time to time.

Although the General fund has now returned to parity, following a few years in deficit, it has still not been possible to meet the reserve policy. However, the PCC is fortunate in that there are other funds, which although restricted or designated, enable the policy to be met. Should an emergency situation arise then a loan from one of these funds could be made to enable the Church to continue to function.

It is the policy of the PCC to invest our funds with the CBF Church of England.

