

ALL SAINTS'  
CHILTON

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2013

**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 church website is

<http://harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk>

The PCC banks with Lloyds 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 four times combining with St Matthew's PCC to consider matters common to both parishes. The Standing Committee met on one occasion. 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           First Elected 2009  
Mrs Naomi Gibson         First Elected 2012

**Representatives on Deanery Synod:**

Mrs Naomi Gibson  
Mr John Pigott  
Mr Philip Garner

**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 2013  
Mr Philip Garner          2 years from 2012  
Mrs Lin Kerr                2 years from 2013  
Mrs Liz Morris             3 years from 2013  
Mrs Ruth Poole            3 years from 2011

**Co-opted Members**

Mrs Sylvie Thompson      3 years from 2013  
(Elected at PCC 7<sup>th</sup> May, after re-enlisting on  
Electoral Roll)  
Mrs Helen Brook            1 year from 2013



## **Committees**

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

### ***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 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 elected from each PCC. Those elected at the APCM in 2013 were Liz Morris and Carol Pigott.

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

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

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 are 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) (resigned in 2013)

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

Monitors, consults on and makes 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)

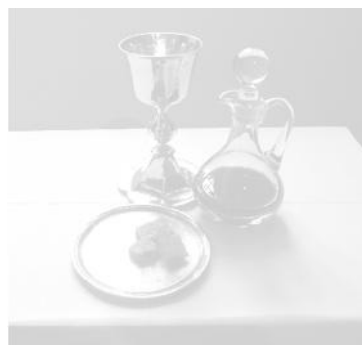
Vice-Chair: Pam Rolls (Chilton/Harwell)

### ***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 60 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, as at the APCM 2013. This is 20 fewer than the previous year following a complete revision of the Electoral Roll, which occurs every 6 years. Of these, 7 are not resident within the Parish. 6 names had been added to the roll and 26 removed. The average Sunday attendances over the year were:  
8.00 am – 9  
9.30 am – 49, including 7 under-16s  
(55 and 10 for All Age worship)  
Evening services – 12.

Highlights at All Saints' included:  
Carols by Candlelight (2 Services) with total of 273 attending across both services including 73 children  
Christmas Day All Age Worship (125 attending, including 19 children)  
Harvest Festival (116, 40),  
Education Sunday (104, 29), and  
Remembrance Sunday (102, 33).

During 2013, 3 weddings and 5 funeral or memorial services were held in church. 3 services were held at local crematoria and there were 2 interments of ashes in the Churchyard.

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

#### ***Connect***

Connect is an informal, family-focused gathering on Sunday afternoons in Chilton School, 4.30-6pm. It was launched as part of our programme of welcome to the new families moving into the 'Chilton Field' development. It is publicized by word of mouth, specially designed A6 postcard fliers through the doors of the houses on Chilton Field, and posters. It was launched in January 2013, initially with a term-time, weekly format, before moving in the autumn term to a monthly meeting pattern.

Connect has provided a place to meet, socialize and play, and a place where some of the key themes of Christianity can be gently presented. Each session is based on a biblical story or theme, and key ingredients are a film clip or short animation, a craft activity, games such as table tennis and darts, singing together, and food.

Numbers have fluctuated, and over the year there has been contact with dozens of individuals and families, particularly children and young adults, a large number of whom are non-British, and nearly every occasion has seen someone new in attendance. 'Connect Carols' in December had over 60 in attendance. Some people have become regulars, whilst others are one-off visitors. A small group plans, prays about and runs 'Connect', and we look forward to seeing how God guides us in the next phase.

### ***Schools***

Both All Saints' and St Matthew's have good and developing relationships with Chilton and Harwell Primary Schools.

Jonathan Mobey and Pam Rolls regularly take assemblies in both schools. Some of the children visit our churches for class visits and for special services. For example Chilton School contributes towards Education Sunday at All Saints' and Harwell School celebrates its whole-school Harvest Festival in St Matthew's Church.

### ***Prayer Spaces***

Once again, a "Prayer Space" event was hosted by Chilton School in the summer term. This was run by a volunteer team of adults from both churches. They hosted the varied and colourful prayer zones which were set up in a tent in the playing field. A report on the 2013 event can be accessed on the church website.

This event was well received by pupils and staff, as in 2012, and it is hoped to hold another in the summer of 2014.

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

The Holiday Club, which was free to attend and open to children of primary school age, was run by a team of just over sixty volunteers. It ran from 19th to 23rd August 2013 at Harwell School, whose premises were generously made available free of charge.

Eighty two children attended, 66 for all five days, and representing 51 families drawn from a wide area, covering Harwell (62%), Chilton (18%), Didcot (13%), and surrounding villages (7%).

Scripture Union material based on the biblical book of Daniel was used and followed a 'space' theme. The children spent time in year groups for den times, 'key stages' for larger group teaching, and mixed age groups for the afternoon activities. The afternoons saw a choice of 16 different activities provided and run by a large number of volunteers.

At the end of the Club many children were heard to ask when they would be able to come back and many positive comments have been received from parents. Holiday Club has given the children a thoroughly enjoyable week where they were able to learn about God through the story of Daniel. It has brought more families into contact with our churches and has allowed many people from both churches an opportunity to grow in faith and fellowship whilst serving God together.

### ***Children's Activity sessions***

Three activity sessions aimed at primary school children were held in the Benefice, one in Chilton and two 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 in the Church Hall, and also a drama-based Advent Activity afternoon in the School. In Chilton, the event was an Easter Praise Party at the Village Hall.

### ***Youth Fellowship***

Although held in Harwell, YF serves young people aged 14-18 years in both Harwell and Chilton parishes.

The group meets on Sunday evenings in the meeting room at St Matthew's Church and looks at topics which are relevant to young people's lives. The group also gets to go places! They went camping for the weekend at the 'Big Church Day Out' in West Sussex in May, and to the 'Big Church Night In' with Stuart Townend and Philippa Hanna in Reading in November.

In the autumn term YF did the 'Christianity Explored' Course looking at Mark's Gospel using engaging DVD episodes.

### ***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.

### ***Ridgeway Broadsheet***

The church magazine is distributed monthly to all parishioners. The magazine keeps the community informed of church activities and includes items that seek to nurture and develop Christian faith.

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

All Saints' Chilton forms a Benefice with St Matthew's, Harwell. This means that the two churches share one Rector. Regionally, the Benefice is part of the Diocese of Oxford (very broadly, the Church of England in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire) and, locally, part of the Wallingford Deanery. During 2013, the Deanery Synod – to which all parishes in the Deanery send elected representatives - took the decision to reduce from eight to six clerical posts in the Deanery at some point in the future. The reason for this was to maintain the quota of clergy as laid down in the national 'Sheffield Formula',

which takes into account, amongst other factors, the population of a Diocese. One post was subsequently ear-marked to be lost from the 'Wallingford' end and another from Didcot.

During the year, Deanery Synod worked on and approved a new system of sharing the Diocesan costs between the benefices. The basic principle agreed was that each benefice will pay in full its own ministry costs according to the number of full time stipendiary clergy in the Benefice, and a corresponding share of Diocesan 'support' costs and costs associated with training future clergy. Fees earned from weddings and funerals will be credited back to the Benefice that generated them. The new scheme will be implemented over a number of years, with ceilings on increases and floors on decreases.

Our Benefice has maintained membership numbers, and is able to "pay its way" and will, according to the agreement reached, for a number of years continue to subsidize other benefices as an act of Christian charity. Like all churches, All Saints' is vulnerable to the cultural trend of an ever-reducing proportion of the younger generations who have a Christian faith, and is seeking to address this challenge

The population in Wallingford Deanery is set to increase substantially due to large new housing developments, including near and within both Harwell and Chilton villages. This influx of population presents potential mission opportunities and challenges for All Saints', Chilton, and its sister church, St Matthew's.

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

#### ***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. There is also 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 July. (See Schools item, above.)

All Saints' 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.

### ***Home Groups***

Home groups are a very important part of church life, where small groups meet regularly (usually weekly) to read the Bible together, to pray, and to support one another in the Christian life. They meet on various days and times and are always happy for new members to join. Most groups have members from both parishes.

### ***Pastoral Care***

The Chilton Pastoral Visiting Team, under the leadership of Audrey Slater, continues to make a very valuable contribution to both the Church and the wider community. Often this work is done out of sight of most people.

As well as local visiting, visits are made to local nursing homes, and help offered in various practical ways.

### ***Chilton Field***

The new housing estate of 275 homes here in Chilton known as Chilton Field is now in its last stage of construction and the final 100 houses are now being built and sold.

The aim has been to knock on all the doors of the newly occupied properties. So far there has always been at least a pleasant conversation on the doorstep with one or more of our new neighbours.

Prayer has always come first, and a part of that prayer is that we would have Christians in amongst the new community. This prayer has been answered again and again.

Across Chilton Field some six homes have been regularly attending All Saints' morning services, nine homes are attending church somewhere, and a handful more are attending Connect once a month in the School Hall. There is also regular contact, when the Broadsheet is being delivered, with a number of families who consider us to be friends.

### ***Cream Tea***

On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August, as in previous years, a team provided cream teas in church. These were very well received, by parishioners from all parts of the village, and some passers-by. Donations were given towards improving the access paths to church from the car park and from the lychgate.

### ***Harvest***

On October 6<sup>th</sup> Harvest Festival was celebrated. This was followed by another Cream Tea in the afternoon, when the Harvest produce was available for people to take, in exchange for donations to Tear Fund. Gifts of canned and preserved food were taken to the Didcot Food Bank.

### ***Wives Group***

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. Chilton Wives were also invited to celebrate Christmas "All over the World" at a party hosted by St Matthew's Ladies group.

### ***Evergreens***

After careful prayer and thought it was concluded that the Evergreens group seemed to have run its course after many years. A final Service of Celebration and Christmas Lunch was held at which Mrs Audrey Slater and all previous leaders were thanked. The group is now in abeyance but could be re-started if needed. The small amount of money left in their funds would be placed in a Restricted Fund, under the control of All Saints', to be made available if a similar group should start up in the future

### ***Children***

Children are a very important part of our church family. Discoverers, which is for children between 3 and 9 years, has four children on the roll with on average two to three children attending the weekly sessions. There are a further five children who come occasionally during the year. Of these occasional attendees two are from the Chilton Field development bringing the total from Chilton Fields to four. The Check-it-Out group for older children over the age of 10 has six children on roll.

Since September Discoverers have joined in with Check-it-Out meeting in the upper room, this is due to the Village hall extension and the changing of closure dates. The two groups are expected to be meeting together until July 2014 with the Village hall reopening in September 2014.

During the last year the children have been studying Paul, Daniel, what is Harvest, The Sermon on the Mount, Joseph, and Moses. The children also created decorations for the church at Christmas.

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. All Saints' 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 up to 16 regular members from Year 1 to Year 6. Four of the children come from outside Chilton but the remainder live in the parish, half of them in Chilton Field.

During the year a new leader has been recruited who is the Mum of two of our newer members. 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 team of 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. This year's syllabus has been taken from the 'Son Seekers' resource. Two terms were spent learning from the Old Testament (including making a cardboard recreation of 'Nehemiah's Wall of Jerusalem' which was proudly displayed in the Church). The children then learned about the early life of Jesus and some of his parables and miracles. Particular highlights have included making Easter gardens which the children could take home with them.

### ***Christmas***

All Saints' normal Christmas Services were held in December, including the Toy Service, with gifts for the Women's Refuge and donations to See Saw, and two Carols by Candlelight services in church. These were one 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. These were in addition to the "Connect Carols", also held in December. Carols were also sung around the village, and the Rose and Crown visited for an evening of carol singing. As usual, the church was beautifully decorated for Christmas, with the chancel window lit from inside during the evening. An innovation this year was the introduction of three deep red banners, hanging from the roof of the nave. 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.

### ***Fabric***

A beautiful old church needs plenty of time and effort spent on it to keep it in good condition. All Saints' is blessed to have a team of dedicated volunteers who give their time and energy to do this. The Fabric Committee, under John Berry, meets regularly to consider the tasks that need to be done, and they and others put a lot of effort into doing what can be done by non-professionals; thus saving us a great deal of money. Judith Russell co-ordinates the work in the churchyard, and there are working party mornings, such as that on 9<sup>th</sup> November, when many tasks were undertaken, and general tidying up done to complement the grass-cutting that is contracted out. All Saints' is also grateful to the Parish Council, who regularly gives a donation towards the up-keep of the churchyard.

By law, churches must have a survey completed by the church architect every 5 years (the Quinquennial Survey) and ours was last done in September 2011. The resulting list of jobs to be done is kept under constant review, and up-dated by the Fabric Committee.

At the start of 2013, the heater by the font failed, and two elements were repaired. Members of the committee, and others, attended a workshop on Church Heating run by the diocese at Sutton Courtney in March. A new sub-committee on Church Heating was set up, under the chairmanship of Sylvie Thompson. The possibility of installing under-floor heating is being pursued, which will be covered in a report at the APCM.

Prior to this, a recommendation had been made, that a support rail be provided at the chancel step, to facilitate access to take Communion. A design had been produced, similar to the altar rail, and a generous offer to cover the cost has been received. However, this project is currently in abeyance, until a decision has been taken on the heating project.

Another major project is improving access to church by re-newing the paths to the church door, from the lychgate and Humfrey Stevenson gates.

A new table has been commissioned from Pierre Woodward (who made the Joan Fishenden chest, by the door, amongst other items in church). This will normally sit beneath the war memorial, and be used during communion services, weddings, etc. A specific donation has been made to pay for this.

### **Financial Review**

The main financial income of the Church (pledges, plate and tax recovered from pledges) fell by £650 compared to 2012. Pledged and plated income remained at the same level, whilst the tax recovered through Gift Aid was significantly less, reflecting the loss of Gift Aided income in earlier years – as indicated in the last report. On a more positive note the pledged and plated income did show signs of growth in the latter part of the year reflecting an increase in the number of new members.

Donations were actually lower than in 2012 but there were still a significant number of generous donors. Fees payable to the Church rose by 80%, on top of a rise of 50% in the previous year. These two categories of income are always difficult to predict and control. The net result was a 2.5% decrease in income or £825

The expenditure for the year (£32,939) was an increase of 10% compared to that of 2012 (£29,826). Again in 2013 All Saints' was not able to pay our full parish share allocation but we had

less of a shortfall than in 2012 (£3k compared to £4k). Also, missions giving was up, due to some unpaid allocation from 2012 and the outlay on electricity was significantly higher. This was caused by our suppliers erroneously putting us on the wrong tariff when changing our meter. This over-charging would be recouped in 2014. Clergy expenses were much higher but in 2012 they were not realistic.

Churchyard maintenance costs were on a par with the previous year as were Church Fabric expenses as a result of some significant generous donations to cover many of the projects. All other expenditure was at a similar level to 2012.

The parish share is our contribution to the Diocese and our main expense representing 55% of our expenditure and accounts for 56% of our income (but 78% of our regular income). The parish share increase for 2013 was marginally below the average increase applied by the Diocese to all Deaneries as we were approaching paying our target share. However, during the year the Deanery, which determines the parish share allocation, radically revamped the formula so as to make the allocation fairer to all parishes and removing the subjective elements of the calculation. The result of which is that our allocation will go down after a period of transitional relief. So in 2014 our allocation will remain exactly as for 2013, with the expectation it will start to fall in subsequent years.

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 can maintain a positive position, covering all our costs, the fund will be reinstated. The total payments to Charities & Missions for the year totalled £4,440 from the General Fund. In addition to this £511 was paid out of the Charities & Mission Fund which represents all the restricted gifts made through the Church during the year for specific charities.

All Saints' was unable to pay our full parish share allocation in 2012 so that the General Fund could be returned to parity following a number of years of being overdrawn. In 2013 we were closer to paying the parish share allocation in full but suffered from a reduction in pledged giving during 2012, which was reflected in the 2013 income and we had higher expenditure. As indicated earlier we have seen a reversal of this and there is a real hope of reaching the full allocation in 2014.

We are very grateful to all those who have very generously supported the Church in many ways including time and 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, (although restricted or designated) enabling 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.

