



ALL SAINTS'
CHILTON

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2014

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 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

Associate Minister:

The Revd Pam Rolls

Assistant Curate

The Revd Jan Radford From July 2014

Wardens:

Mrs Naomi Gibson First Elected 2012
Mr Alex Reich First Elected 2014

Representatives on Deanery Synod:

Mr John Pigott

Elected Members:

Mr Stuart Gibson 3 years from 2014
(Treasurer)
Mrs Carol Pigott 3 years from 2012
(Secretary)
Mrs Hazel King 3 years from 2013
Mrs Liz Morris 3 years from 2013
Mrs Sylvie Thompson 3 years from 2013
Mrs Helen Brook 3 years from 2014
Mr James Hellem 3 years from 2014
Dr Carina Lobley 1 year from 2014

Vacancy on PCC

There was 1 vacancy on PCC for the year 2014.



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 2014 were Liz Morris and Carol Pigott.

During 2014, the PCCs of All Saints' and of St Matthew's delegated to the JPCC the authority to deal with matters pertaining to recruitment and employment, this in addition to the already-delegated area of Safeguarding.

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.

Changes in personnel and areas of responsibility within the Benefice have enabled a Senior Leadership Team to be formed. This consists of the Rector, Associate Minister, and Children's and Families worker, together with those

responsible for other areas of service in the Benefice, including World Mission, the Benefice Administrator, and the Churchwardens (whose role includes being responsible for the facilities and representing the laity).

Each leader is chair of the JPCC sub-committee associated with their area of responsibility.

Review of the Year – Benefice Activities

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.

Administrative support

St Matthew's has a paid Administrator, shared with All Saints', Chilton.

Amongst many other things, the Administrator puts together and prints the weekly notice sheets and orders of service, the monthly Ridgeway Broadsheet magazine, deals with Diocesan 'returns', manages stationery supplies and administers the website calendar and various rotas.

To help resource the Benefice for growth, the role of the Church Administrator will be expanded in 2015 from 13 to 20 hours per week to include communication strategy work and to give the Rector PA support.

Children & Families Worker

A key development in 2014 was the appointment of a Children & Families worker (C&FW) by the Benefice on an initial three year contract starting in August. Money to fund this post is being raised from the congregation. The intention is to make this post a long-term one.

The objective of the C&FW is to make disciples of Jesus amongst primary school aged children and their families. To this end, the C&FW made various proposals in November. The proposals are due to be agreed in early 2015 and implemented as soon as possible afterwards. These proposals range from increasing the impact on children already within the Church community as well as reaching children and families currently on the fringes and outside the Church.

The C&FW's proposals have been shared with the PCC and the congregation on several occasions, feedback obtained, and a programme of implementation initiated.

Connect

Connect is an informal, family-focused gathering on Sunday afternoons in Chilton School, 4.30-6pm. It was launched in January

2013 as part of our programme of welcome to the new families moving into the 'Chilton Field' development. Initially running with a term-time, weekly format, it moved in the autumn term to a monthly meeting pattern, which it maintained throughout 2014, with varying numbers and regularity of attendees.

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 has been 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. A review facilitated by the new Children & Families worker towards the end of 2014 concluded that the resources involved should be re-deployed to other outreach activities from 2015.

Schools

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

Summer Holiday Club

Holiday Club is now an established annual event in the Benefice. In 2014 it was held from 18th to 22nd August at Harwell School, whose premises were generously made available free of charge. It was run by 54 volunteer leaders and helpers, including the new Children & Families Worker. The Club was free to attend and open to all children of primary school age. A Youth Alpha course was also run concurrently for those in Year 7. Average daily attendance was 91 children, with 68 attending all five days. The club ran 9am-3pm each day.

Scripture Union "Mega Maker" material was used in the mornings. The Biblical teaching was based on events in the life of Jesus from Matthew's gospel. The theme was around inventors/discoverers with a "mad professor" character and his "Mega Machine" providing the backdrop to the daily teaching and programme. In the afternoons, children



participated in two leisure activities each, with eleven different sports, crafts, etc. on offer across the week.

Parents were asked to complete a feedback survey. This indicated an overwhelmingly positive experience for both them and their children. The Children & Families Worker then visited the home of each child and invited the whole family to a Celebration Service and BBQ on 7th September at St Matthew's Church. The follow up strategy will be developed further for 2015.

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 the School's Field Shelters in the playing field. A report on the 2014 event can be accessed on the church website.

This event was well received by pupils and staff, as in 2013, and another prayer spaces event has been booked for June 2015.

Children's Activities

Looking for opportunities to share the gospel beyond the walls of our buildings and to have a positive impact on the community, we instigated two new events this past year:

"Blessing & treating" at Halloween. Forty Harwell homes were visited by 4 teams of children & leaders in fancy dress. The householders received a blessing, jokes, chocolates and a book of stories about lives transformed by the good news of Jesus. This was followed by a bonfire, with food & games for the children & their families.

A **"Living Advent Calendar"** was organised around Chilton & Chilton Field. Twenty-three homes (plus the Rose & Crown pub) took part - each hosting a separate night of the 'calendar'. The nativity story was told in instalments each night, and chocolates & stickers were collected by those taking part. It culminated with a celebration at All Saints' on Christmas Eve. Approximately a dozen children and their parents participated. The hosts & the participants were very enthusiastic about the event

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

Fledgelings

Caters for both parishes in the Benefice and is for pre-school aged children and their parents and carers. The group meets in St Matthew's Church Hall.

There is play and activities for the children and chatting for the adults and the high ratio of volunteer helpers 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. It is replaced at Easter and December by a card highlighting seasonal services and events.

Deanery Mission

The following Digest of the Proceedings of the Wallingford Deanery Synod from May 2014 to February 2015 was kindly provided by George Curtis, Deanery Synod Secretary.

The main proceedings of the Deanery Synod in the May, October and November meetings were to encourage all parishes to consider initiatives to grow their Church, without these being eclipsed by our collective responsibility to contribute together to the Deanery allocation of the parish share. This sum, £451,083 in 2014, funds the costs of our ministers (approx 68%), the training of future ministers (14%) and the support costs of our Church (18%).

The terms of reference of the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee, a subcommittee of the Synod, were agreed by the Synod 'to consider all aspects of mission planning as well as to look at issues around clergy deployment.' At its meeting on the 3rd November, the Area Dean made the following points: "Our challenge is 'How do we grow the parishes across the Deanery.' This means growth in discipleship as well a growth in numbers. There are already lots of initiatives for growth in the Deanery but we may not be doing enough! The financial reality is that, as a Deanery, we are not paying our way. But we should keep our resourcing problems in the background and focus on Church growth. This is a collaborative exercise; together we can move forward."

The Mission and Pastoral Committee considered the [opportunities and challenges now facing the parishes in the Deanery](#) and encouraged parishes to [communicate parish plans to each other](#). These are now on the web; click on the item to see

more. A suggested Mission statement was passed to the Synod for approval. 'The Deanery Mission is to make and execute a plan, in co-operation with all parishes across the Deanery to prioritise growth, to nurture disciples and to assist parishes to choose the appropriate style of worship for our 21st Century parishioners.' A workshop was held on 21st February for parishes to exchange information about their initiatives and to assist those present to define a vision for where that parish might be in three to five years' time.

The Wallingford Deanery has now moved into the Dorchester Archdeaconry. Archdeacon Judy has been asked to support the Deanery plan to grow into a fully sustainable unit over the next 3 to 5 years.

A review of the Local Ecumenical Partnership joint initiative with the Baptist Church in Ladygrove has received the approval of Bishop Colin and of the Baptist authorities. There has been steady growth in church membership which has recently embraced people from the Black and Minority Ethnic community, and also younger families.

The Revd Mark Bodeker, appointed in June as a curate, part time in Great Western Park and part time in All Saints' Didcot, reported that he is receiving very positive acceptance in the new development; 700 houses are already built and a total of 3500 planned. Many of the new residents have a desire to become part of a community and the Church is seen as a possible facilitator for this.

The Synod addressed the just, fair and practical allocation to benefices of the parish share. With the loss of the Deanery Treasurer, it did not become fully apparent until the September meeting that the previously agreed scheme would never meet our Deanery obligation to the Diocese. The old scheme was to allocate all costs in proportion to the number of stipendiary and house for duty ministers. We expected those who had in the past contributed less than this to stand a 6% annual increase while those paying more would continue to do so but have no increase. The deficiency of this procedure would have been £22,000 in 2014. In addition to this the Diocese subsidises the Deanery by £30,000 to prevent too steep an increase towards the full costs of the Deanery.

The November Synod agreed that this £22,000 deficiency should be met by a series of ex gratia gifts and loans to be repaid from our 2015 income. The decision was taken to pay the share as a whole in this way because it is right to use every available source to meet our obligation to

our Church; and to prevent the Deanery being seen to be a chronic under-payer and hence the number of posts unsustainable. To fulfil the Deanery Mission of growth, we need the services of a full complement of clerics.

The only practical way for the Deanery to meet its 2015 allocation would be for every benefice to make a 10% increase over their 2014 contribution. The Synod agreed that this was too great an increase to expect; but passed a motion allocating every benefice a 7.5% increase over its 2014 contribution. This will result in an underpayment to the Diocese of about £10,000, unless we are able to raise this sum by some other means.

The general 7.5% increase for all benefices was seen as an emergency arrangement for 2015. The Standing Committee agreed to present options and to make a recommendation to the Synod in 2015 as to the process to allocate the share in 2016 and beyond. Discussions are continuing with the Diocese and the Synod will deliberate in 2015 as to how the Wallingford Deanery will indeed grow to become a self-sustaining community.

Review continued– Activity specific to All Saints

Church Attendance

There are 71 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, as at the APCM 2014. This is 11 more than the previous year following the annual revision of the Electoral Roll. Of these 9 are not resident within the Parish. 12 names had been added to the roll and 1 removed.

Average attendances throughout 2014 at All Saints' were:

8.00 am – 8

9.30 am – (average of all services) 56, including 8 under-16s

with an average of 14 at our quarterly evening services.

Highlights at All Saints' included:

Education Sunday – 119, including 36 under 16s.

Harvest Festival – 155, incl 48

Remembrance Sunday – 118, incl 33

Christmas Day – 113, incl 18.

Our 2 Carols by Candlelight were also well attended, with a total of 223 in the congregations, including 44 children.

Our reflective services at Easter are also appreciated, with 41 attending our "At the Cross" service, at 9.30 am Good Friday (following a procession of witness), and 20 coming to our Easter Vigil, at 8.00 pm on Easter Saturday.

During 2014, there were no weddings, but there was one blessing of marriage. One funeral and one memorial service were held in church, and two services were held at a local crematorium. There were 2 interments of ashes in the Churchyard. We also had 4 baptisms, during 2 morning services.

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 June. (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 am service. In 2014 we began the procession in Chilton Field in order to link the two parts of the parish.

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 Care 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.

Welcome Picnic

A picnic, to welcome new-comers to the Parish, was held by the Community Room, on Chilton Field, on Saturday 13th September. This had been a good event, with about 50 attending, and was thought to be worth repeating in 2015.

Harvest

On October 5th 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. There had been a very good atmosphere, with over 100 visitors served with cream teas.

Women's 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. All Saints' Women's Group entertained St Matthew's Ladies group at Christmas with a novel version of a Nativity Play, and a hot supper, in the newly extended Village Hall.

Children's and Families Work

The most significant aspects of the C&FW ministry in the parish centre around the primary school:

The weekly "Y Club" is attended by 20 children most weeks (i.e., over 10% of eligible pupils). Each week the children are engaged with Bible-centred crafts, stories and prayer.

We are invited to lead collective worship on a regular basis, where all 200 pupils (and many staff) get to hear explanations of significant events in the church calendar and/or key Biblical events. These have been eagerly received by the pupils and staff alike.

The school are also regular supporters of our special services - promoting and participating in our Christmas, Harvest and Education Sunday services.

Prayer Space was well received and hugely popular once again - and has been scheduled again for 2015.

Pam Rolls has been asked to accompany classes on day and residential trips- a testimony to the trust and respect they have in her and the Church.

There have been discussions with the head teacher about other ways the Church's ministry might be able to serve some of the children and families who would benefit from extra support. There are prospects for developing this partnership in the future.

In contrast, our Sunday morning children's work is, numerically, very small. But what it lacks in size it makes up for in vitality and persistence.

Attendance is typically 6 or less and half of these can be pre-schoolers. Numbers attending All Age Worship services maybe even less! Yet this is no reflection of the quality of the program provided which is consistently lively and

creative. It is certainly enjoyed by the children and appreciated by the parents. We are extremely grateful for the outstanding dedication of Judy Goodall in consistently coming up with new and imaginative activities, week-in and week-out, year-in and year-out. "Good and faithful servant" is certainly a fitting slogan for her!

Y-Club

During the past year the Y-Club has continued to thrive with up to 22 regular members from Year 1 to Year 6. Three of the children come from outside Chilton but the remainder live in the parish.

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 (including our newly recruited Children's and Families Worker), 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 we have learned about Paul's missionary journeys and the life of the early Church, and we've also been considering important questions about God and Jesus from the 'Why God?' resource such as 'Why did Jesus die?' and 'How did Jesus come back to life?'

Christmas

In December, All Saints' usual Christmas Services were held, including the Toy Service, (with gifts for the Oxford Women's Refuge and donations to the charity See Saw), and two services of Carols by Candlelight. One



was held 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, and with the Christmas tree and lights on the tower, 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 working party mornings, when many tasks are 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.

The possibility of installing under-floor heating is being pursued, by a Church Heating sub-committee, under the chairmanship of Sylvie Thompson. This will be covered in a report to the APCM.

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

Financial Review

The main financial income of the Church (pledges, plate and tax recovered from pledges) increased by £1,224 compared to 2013. The sum of pledged and plated income remained at the same level, whilst the tax recovered through Gift Aid was significantly more. This was due to the fact that Gift Aid can now be claimed on the majority of plated donations, which actually grew from the previous year. On a more concerning note the pledged income fell, reflecting the loss of some regular givers.

Unrestricted donations were much lower than in 2013, along with fees payable to the Church down by 75%. These two categories of income are always difficult to predict and control. The net result was a 3% decrease in income or £936, which was similar to the decrease experienced in the previous year.

The expenditure for the year (£34,231) was an increase of 4% compared to that of 2013 (£32,938). For the first time in three years All Saints' was able to pay our full parish share allocation (£21,713) but it did leave a small deficit in the general fund of £770, which will need to be made up in 2015. In 2013 there was a significant overpayment for electricity due to a

tariff error when the new meter was installed and consequently this reduced the payment in 2014. Other than these two expenses, all other expenses remained at a similar level compared to the previous year.

The contribution from the General Fund to the Churchyard maintenance costs were on a par with the previous year as were Church Fabric expenses, the former being supported by a generous grant from the Parish Council.

The Parish share is our contribution to the Diocese and our main expense representing 63% of our expenditure and accounted for 67% of our income (but 72% of our regular income). The Parish share for 2014 was unchanged as the Deanery started the implementation of a new formula for allocation agreed in 2013. The full implementation is planned to take place over a five year period. An increased share was applied by the Diocese to the Deanery, as the Diocese is looking for each Deanery to cover the cost of its Clergy. However, no increase was applied to our Parish as we still pay more than our target share. Although the Deanery did manage to pay its full share in 2014 it is not clear that it will do so again in 2015. Therefore, there may be some adjustments to the transitional arrangements going forward.

During the year a dedicated Children and Families Worker was employed by the benefice with the PCC agreeing to underwrite one-third of the costs. A campaign was launched for pledges to cover as much of the cost as possible. There were a number of very generous pledges received which averaged out at around £6,000 per year over the initial three year period of the project. The PCC is very grateful for the support and this amount will cover 60% of the expected costs. New pledges and the fulfillment of the existing pledges would be most welcome.

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 totaled £4,342 from the General fund. In addition to this £569 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 its full parish share allocation in 2012 and 2013 so that the General

Fund could be returned to parity following a number of years of being overdrawn. As stated in 2014 the full share was paid but at the cost of a slight deficit in the General fund. There has been a reduction in pledged giving during the past few years, however there are signs of a reversal of this and there is a real hope of reaching the full allocation again in 2015, provided we are not impacted by the Deanery position.

Once again 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 more or less 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.

