



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH,

SOUTH WIMBLEDON

Annual Report on the proceedings of the
Parochial Church Council, and the general
activities of the Parish

Prepared for the A.P.C.M. 5th May 2024

Aims and Purposes

The Parochial Church Council of All Saints' Church, South Wimbledon works together with our Parish Priest – Father Christopher Noke – to promote the worship, mission, outreach and care of the parish. As of March 2023 the parish entered an interregnum, but it has been agreed that Father Christopher should continue as Parish Priest with 'Permission to Officiate' until at least the latter part of 2024.



Visit by the Bishop of Southwark – March 2023

On June 14th All Saints' was proud to host the Annual Visitation Service for the Archdeaconry of Lambeth when churchwardens from across the Archdeaconry were sworn into office. We all worked together with the Social Committee to provide abundant refreshments, and welcomed many visitors from other churches throughout the Archdeaconry. It was a wonderful example of what All Saints' does so well! Promoting and nurturing the links that exist between the church and our primary school is also part of the council's remit, and several members serve on the Governing Body. "Growing stronger together in God's Love" is the collective ethos for both church and school.

Safeguarding, Serious Incident Reporting and Health and Safety are regular agenda items, and the council is tasked with ensuring that all the relevant training, Risk Assessments and reporting procedures are kept up-to-date and adhered to.

All Saints' is a 'Society Parish' and 'Episcopal Oversight' is provided by the Bishop of Fulham. However, we also seek to co-operate fully with the Diocese of Southwark, making sure that we are properly represented on Synod, and that we engage with, and support, as many Diocesan initiatives as possible.

As if to emphasise this we welcomed Bishop Christopher last March when he preached at our Sunday Mass and afterwards spent time sharing food and talking to our congregation.



Visitation Service for the Archdeaconry of Lambeth

All Saints' Annual Report 2024

The regulations also require the council to check the proper maintenance of all gas appliances, electrical installations and fire extinguishers, to make sure that all certificates are current, and to check that necessary performance licences are kept up-to-date. This is particularly important when it comes to renewing the insurances for both church and hall. All relevant paperwork is checked by the Archdeacon (or his representative) at the Annual Visitation which usually takes place in the spring.

The Council's responsibility for the care and maintenance of the church buildings also extends to the church hall which is normally used on a regular basis for a wide range of activities, and also as a meeting place for several community groups. That this building should continue to function, despite ongoing deterioration, will be a major challenge for All Saints'. However, thanks to a very generous legacy we are pressing forward with plans to consolidate and repair the structure of the church and replace the hall with a new building. You can read more about our plans, and how they are progressing, on pages 12-13.

The Parochial Church Council also bears overall responsibility for the finances of the parish, and there will be more information on this later in this report.

As in all matters the Council is required to follow the Data Protection regulations as applicable.

Objectives

To grow and foster our Parish Community is one of the prime objectives of the P.C.C. All Saints' has a tradition of 'Anglo Catholic' worship stretching back over many years, and the council is anxious to maintain this. However, the age profile of our current congregation necessitates the need to explore new initiatives that will encourage not only children and their parents to join our worshipping community, but also those who might otherwise pass us by. In this context our 'Mission-Action-Plan' and links with our church school continue to be of increasing importance. We also try to ensure that we 'keep in touch' with those who, for whatever reason, cannot attend church regularly. This may be by phone or e-mail, but also with personal visits wherever possible. The pandemic presented us with new challenges, and important lessons were learnt that have enabled us to improve our service to our community. Every December the council, in conjunction with our Social Committee, approves a calendar of events for the coming year which aims to appeal to as many people as possible through its variety and accessibility. These activities are promoted on our website, in our school, in the parish magazine and, in the case of Jumble Sales, on local radio.

Worship – Congregational

The P.C.C. has ensured that access to the church is easy for the disabled and for those who are less mobile. A lit and level path to the west end of the church allows disabled access through the south door, which is wide enough for wheelchairs and pushchairs. Handrails have also been installed to either side of the steps leading to the main door, as well as additional grab rails on the doors themselves. The main doors can also be securely fixed in an open position. Sidespersons are on duty at all points of entry to assist as necessary. Toilet facilities incorporate special provision for the disabled, as well as a baby changing station for those with younger children. As part of our building plan we hope to further improve disabled access by constructing a new ramped entrance via the north door.

1. Sunday worship is centred on our main Sunday service of Solemn Mass at 11.00.a.m. which generally attracts a congregation of between 35 - 45 people. Incense is used and the service is choral. There is also a team of servers, which will comprise a Master of Ceremonies, Thurifer, boat boy, Crucifer and two acolytes. There are also normally one or two Eucharistic Ministers who will administer the Chalice.

All Saints' Annual Report 2024

Lay persons are encouraged to join our 'reader's list' and they will read one of the lessons on a regular basis. Other members of the congregation lead the intercessions. We also actively encourage people to join our choir (Contact Mr. David Coram, organist), and serving team. (Contact Mr. Patrick Wood, Sacristan) After the service coffee and biscuits are served by volunteers at the back of the church and once a month there are homemade cakes for sale.

It is important to us that we ensure everyone receives a friendly welcome, and that any newcomer is greeted warmly and invited to stay behind afterwards to join us for coffee and a chat.

2. There are normally two Low Masses during the week – at 7.30.p.m. on a Tuesday evening and at 11.00.a.m. on a Thursday morning. These services may expect a congregation of between 8 – 12 people on a regular basis. Mass on a Thursday is usually followed by coffee at the back of the church.
3. With the exception of September, Solemn Evensong and Benediction is held on the third Sunday of each month. It is a sung service with both choir and servers present. Attendance is usually between 10 – 16 people. The time of this service varies according to the season.
4. Information regarding Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals etc., are invited either by e-mail or telephone and anyone wishing to see Father Christopher personally can arrange a mutually convenient meeting using the same means.
5. Our Walsingham Cell usually meets bi-monthly, on a Saturday in Church at 12 noon for a Mass dedicated to Our Lady, followed by refreshments and a meeting. The Cell, which has members from other nearby churches, aims to make a weekend pilgrimage to the Shrine once a year. We also have a small, but dedicated Rosary Group which meets on the first Sunday in the month at 6.00.p.m.
6. There are of course additional services at various times throughout the year. These include Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, certain Saints' Days, and on days surrounding the Great Festivals. In addition we often host the Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary – Fr. Christopher being chaplain to the Chapter of The Incarnate Word, S. Alban & S. Edward.

7. For the festival of Corpus Christi we lay a carpet of flowers down the main aisle of the church. Provided that the school is not on holiday, we encourage some of the children to bring along their own petals and to lay their own design.



Corpus Christi Procession



Corpus Christi Flower Carpet

8. Additional services are always advertised on our notice boards outside the church and hall, in our weekly news sheet, in our magazine and on the parish website.

Worship – For The Children

1. 'Teddy Bear' Church

As part of our initiative to encourage families with young children to join our worshipping community 'Teddy Bear' Church meets on the second Sunday each month in the S. Michael Chapel. Beginning at 10.00.a.m., it lasts for about 30 mins. Each meeting features a theme for the day which includes songs, prayers and activities in which all the children can take part. Parents and friends are all welcome to join in with the fun! Roger Stanley, who leads the group, has expanded the programme to include sessions in our school, and is always looking at varying the format to widen its appeal.



2. Sunday School

On Sundays when there is no 'Teddy Bear' Church, Roger Stanley leads an informal Sunday School in the church hall or, when the weather is fine, in our 'Quiet Garden'. These sessions run in tandem to our Sunday Mass and the children come back into church prior to the administration of Communion.

3. All Saints' C of E School



Several members of the Parochial Church Council serve on the Governing Body of the school, either as P.C.C. or S.D.B.E (Southwark Diocesan Board of Education) governors. The present co-chair of the school's Governing Body is a member of the P.C.C. and the council is also represented on the school's Faith Group which seeks to develop and strengthen the links between school and church. Our Organist & Choirmaster, David Coram, has also joined the Governing Body and is now working to establish a school choir which we hope will sing not only in the school, but also in church.

These links are highly valued, and the children experience Christian worship as part of their everyday life. Father Christopher leads assemblies in the school, and the whole school meets in the church throughout the year for services to mark the end of each term, and to celebrate the important festivals of the Church calendar. They also gather at All Saints' for a service to mark All Saints' Tide, and for their Christmas Carol services. On many of these occasions we welcome parents and friends to the church when we hope they will find us to be both welcoming and inclusive.

As part of a new initiative, some of the older children have attended one of our weekday Masses to learn more about the meaning of the Eucharist. Children also come into church to learn about various aspects of the faith and the meaning behind some of the symbolism used as part of our worship.

Worship and Outreach

1. Our parish website gives up-to-date and detailed information on all our services, and also provides links to the other relevant sites of interest such as The Society, the Bishop of Fulham and the Diocese of Southwark. There are also additional resources for those unable to attend public worship including our own 'Facebook' page. Our monthly 'Parish News' Parish Magazine is published each month and is not only available in church, but is also posted out to as many people as possible. Many of the articles – including Fr. Christopher's letter and the school news – are posted on our website.

All Saints' Annual Report 2024

- 2 Every year as part of our Lenten observance we hold a 'Walk of Witness' in the parish. This invariably receives a positive response with people often joining us either in prayer, or in the singing of some of the more familiar Lenten and Passiontide hymns.



Christmas decorations around the font



Walk of Witness 2023



The Christmas Tree – decorated and lit

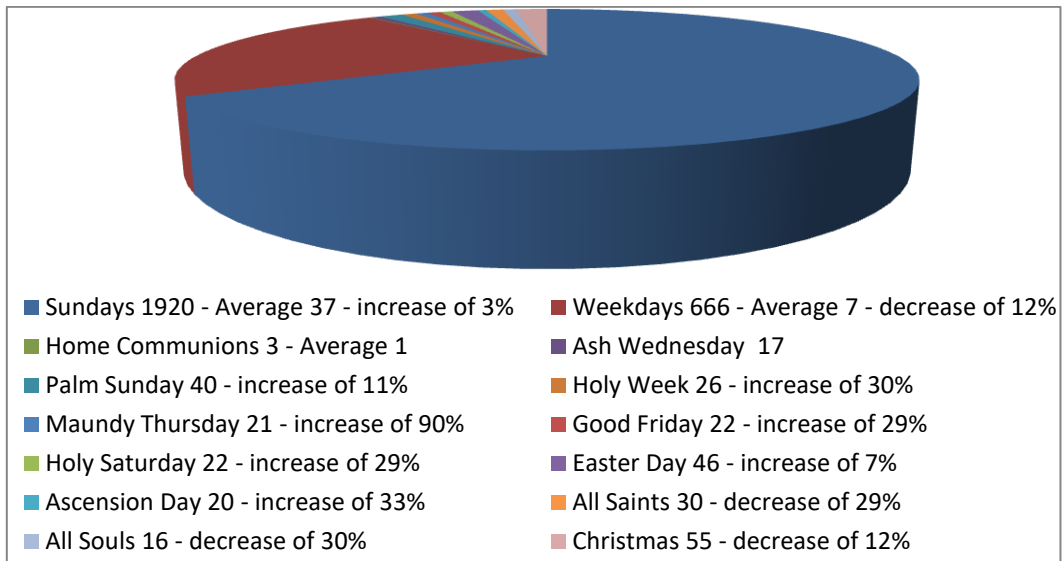
- 3 Christmas is a joyful time for most and at All Saints' we try to make it as traditional as possible. The church working party will fell the Christmas tree and manfully erect in it the church whilst the flower arranging team will provide an abundance of seasonal decorations. Our Carol Service by candlelight is particularly popular, attracting a number of people who might not otherwise attend church. Mulled wine and mince pies in the hall afterwards give the opportunity to strike up new acquaintances in a relaxed and convivial atmosphere, and hopefully encourage some to return on a more regular basis. On Christmas Eve we hold our 'Christingle' service, which is particularly aimed at young children. This has become increasingly popular - the children carefully carrying and placing the crib figures, holding their lighted 'Christingles' and joining with their parents as, in a darkened church, they gather round to sing 'Shine, Jesus, Shine.' A moment to treasure.

Although in recent years we have discontinued our 'Carol Singing' around the parish our choir continue to sing in the Sultan Public House on Christmas Eve, collecting on behalf of the Children's Society. By closing time the boxes will be full, some of the customers will be in church, and the choir standing ready to lend their vocal talents to our Midnight Mass.

All Saints' Annual Report 2024

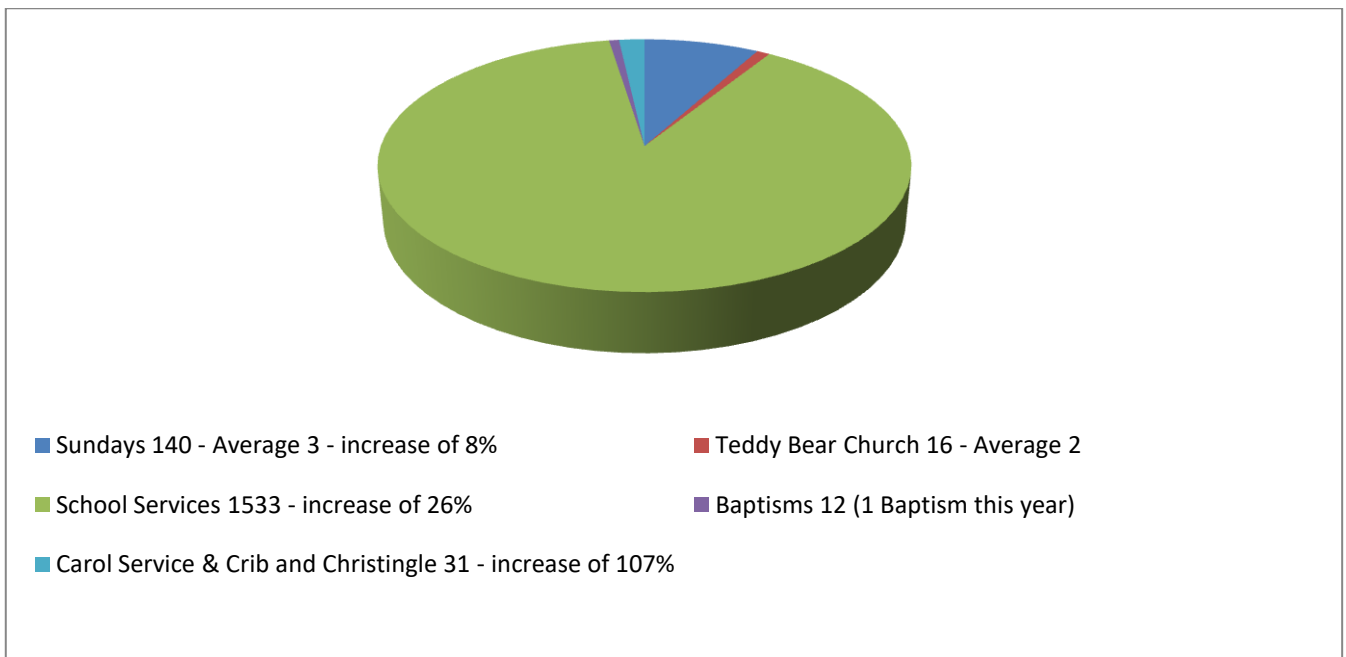
Worship – Statistics

Communicants – January – December 2023



Overall the number of communicants over the past year has remained stable. Numbers were down at All Saints' Tide and at Christmas, but showed an increase over the Easter Season. There were also increases at Ascension Tide and on Palm Sunday. Sunday Communicants were slightly up, whereas weekday numbers showed a small decline. There were 145 Communicants at the Archdeacon's Visitation Service on June 14th.

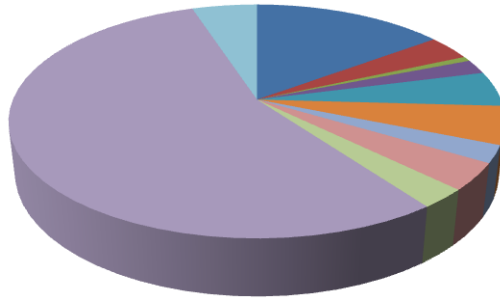
Children's attendance – January – December 2023



Overall there has been an increase in children's attendance this year. Numbers at the Carol and Christingle services increased as did those for the school services. The figures for school attendance include two services where Year 4 children came in to learn more about the Eucharist.

All Saints' Annual Report 2024

Other attendance – January – December 2023



■ Evensong 156 - Average 16 - increase of 22%	■ Rosary 36 - Average 3
■ Maundy Watch 7	■ Walk of Witness 21 - increase of 75%
■ Stations of the Cross 51 - Average 7 - increase of 6.25%	■ Carol Service (Adults) 55 - increase of 8%
■ Crib & Christingle(Adults) 25	■ Baptism (Adults) 39
■ Teddy Bear Church (Adults) 28 - Average 4	■ School Services (Adults) 576 - Average 72 - increase of 68%
■ Funeral 53	

Attendance at Evensong increased this year as did adult attendance at our school services. There were also increases in attendance at the Carol Service, Walk of Witness and at Stations of the Cross. There was one Baptism and one Funeral (Pauline Lewis) in church this year.

Activities

Overview

The P.C.C. appoints a Social Committee at its first meeting after the A.P.C.M. This group comprises primarily P.C.C. members, but also has the power to co-opt other members of the congregation who have particular gifts and talents that could be of benefit in making decisions with regard to the forward planning strategy. In partnership with our Parish Priest, the Churchwardens and the whole council, the Social Committee formulates a plan of activities for the coming year, encompassing not only events primarily aimed at fund-raising, but also planning occasions that appeal to the wider community and social gatherings that relate to the times and seasons of the year.



The Summer Bar-B-Q



Enjoying a meal together

1. Church-Centred

a. 'The Quiet Garden'



The Bishop of Kingston Blessed the Quiet Garden in 2019



The Quiet Garden

The Quiet Garden was born out of the small plot of land to the south west of the church that remained after the Vicarage garden was fenced off. Dedicated by the Bishop of Kingston on 20th March 2019, when children from our school helped plant an apple tree and some bulbs, it is now not only a place for prayer and quiet reflection, but also an outdoor space that can be utilised in the warmer weather by 'Teddy Bear' Church and by our Sunday school children. The P.C.C. agreed that the garden should be affiliated to the 'Quiet Garden Movement' and listed on their website. It is always open at the same time as the church, and also by prior appointment. It is also open on Friday mornings in conjunction with 'Open Church.' Access is either via the church or along the path that runs from All Saints' road and under the west window.

b. 'Open Church'

'Open Church' is an initiative designed to welcome anyone into church on a Friday morning. Coffee and biscuits (sometimes homemade cakes!) are served and church members are always on hand to greet visitors, some of whom may never have visited All Saints' before. There is also the opportunity to light a candle for someone, to sit in silent prayer, or to just soak up the atmosphere of the building. During the season of Lent it is expanded to include a 'Lent Lunch,' the proceeds of which usually go to the 'Bishop of Southwark's Lent Appeal.'

c. 'Tuesday 'Drop – In'

The Tuesday 'Drop-In' group is a new initiative that offers the opportunity for people (some of whom may live alone) to meet with others and enjoy games, tea and coffee and some simple snacks – such as filled rolls etc. People are free to come and go as they please during the session, which runs from 12.30.p.m. – 2.30.p.m. As the group meets in the church hall, it also serves as a 'warm space' during the winter months.

d. 'Working Party'

Our 'Working Party' comprises a small, but dedicated band of people that meet regularly on a Wednesday morning to maintain the church gardens, clean the church itself and do all those smaller jobs that would otherwise involve the church in extra expense. Our flower arrangers often join the group, and at Easter their numbers swell as people come along to help with the annual 'spring clean' of the church. Working together like this fosters love and care not only for the church buildings, but also for each other. It is very much the case that a Church that works together, stays together.

2. For the Church and Community

a. 'Eating Out!'

The real joy of food is being able to share it with friends, and one of the great joys of friendship comes from eating together. At All Saints' this has become part of our social calendar, and we now plan a number of celebratory lunches each year – more if the occasion warrants it! Our lunches are open to all and aim to be as informal as possible. In 2023 a special lunch was held to celebrate the coronation of our new King, and there were lunches to celebrate the Dedication of our church, as well as our traditional 'Harvest Supper.' This coming Christmas we will be re-introducing a sit-down Christmas Lunch which should prove very popular with young and old alike!

Some of our social evenings now feature food from other cultures. We have held a Caribbean Evening, Chinese Evening and American Evening to name but a few. Burns Night is celebrated in traditional style, complete with Haggis and a 'wee dram' and a summer barbeque and cream teas afternoon also form part of the mix.



b. 'Fun and Funds'

You will see from the financial statements that All Saints' needs to raise additional funds to meet its liabilities each year, and to set aside money for future projects. The P.C.C. and Social Committee therefore plan a number of events each year to fulfil this need.



Stallholders at the Coronation Fair 2023

The Christmas and Summer Fairs are our largest undertakings and involve the most planning and commitment. As well as stalls run by the church, we have furthered our outreach by inviting third parties to run stalls of their own, and by asking the uniformed organisations to add their contribution to the mix. The added attraction of refreshments and lunches, plenty of advertising and attractive prizes, hopefully helps to encourage as large an attendance as possible. In 2023 our Summer Fair was themed to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III.

Our 'Cream Teas' afternoon – which also incorporates a few stalls – is another opportunity to welcome people to our church in a relaxed and informal atmosphere. If the weather is fine tables are set up in the 'Quiet Garden' where tea, scones, strawberry jam and lashings of fresh cream - quintessential elements of an English summer afternoon - can be enjoyed in peace and tranquillity. For those seeking an intellectual challenge we usually run two quizzes each year. The first - aimed specifically at the younger members of the congregation and family groups - is our 'Family Quiz.' This light-hearted gathering usually includes something to eat and a selection of questions appropriate to the occasion, and we hope that the popularity of this will grow as time goes on.

All Saints' Annual Report 2024

Our Annual 'Inter-Church Quiz Nite' is timed to coincide with our Patronal Festival celebrations. Planning for this popular event starts in the early autumn when invitations to take part are sent out to a number of local churches, as well as to our school. About eight teams take part and, despite the rivalry and maybe the occasional dispute, good humour abounds and a fun evening is had by all.

c. 'A Walk in the Park'



Our Walkers gather at Wimbledon War Memorial for the 2023 'Sponsored Walk'

Every year, on or around the August Bank Holiday, we hold our 'Sponsored Walk' – a leisurely stroll through country or town, taking in places of interest, and often visiting unfamiliar locations. People are invited to sponsor the walkers – the money raised usually specifically targeted at a particular project or need that the church might have. Purely for pleasure, and for a chance to get out together, Roger often organises walks at weekends throughout the year. These form part of our Mission-Action-Planning strategy and are open to all.

3. 'Pile it High and Sell it Cheap'

a. 'Jumble Sales'

Jumble Sales are on the decline and are much harder to find today. However, at All Saints' we have to date maintained a 'Jumble' tradition. The Social Committee organise a few sales during the year, and there seems to be no shortage of clothes, books, bric-a-brac and miscellanea to sell. The sales are well advertised and generally well attended – many familiar faces turning up on a regular basis in search of that elusive bargain. We also offer coffee and tea, as well as a selection of filled rolls, all at very reasonable cost.

4. 'Spreading our Wings'

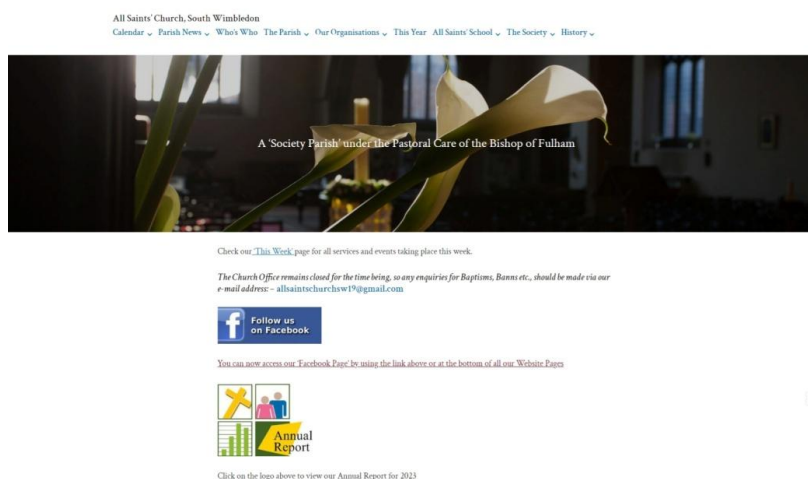
a. 'Concerts'

In 2022 we held a very successful concert combining the talents of the Aber Valley Male Voice Choir with those of our school choir. Despite the freezing temperatures the audience thoroughly enjoyed the performance, and the combined sounds of the male voices and those of the children were a joy to hear. A repeat concert in June 2024 is now in the calendar when the Welsh Choir will once again be joined by children from our school. It will be an occasion not to be missed!

b. 'Here we are!'

Every month the parish publishes a **Parish Magazine** which contains a letter from Father Christopher and news from our school and the wider parish. It also gives up-to-date information on services, impending events and those planned for the future. No charge is made for this, but donations are welcome. The magazine is distributed to all members of our regular congregation – to their homes if necessary – and is also available at the back of the church to anyone who might like one.

All Saints' Annual Report 2024



In tandem with the magazine the church has its own **website** packed with information on the church and its history, as well as the full church calendar, information on our church officers and details of contacts. In 2020 the website was completely overhauled, not only to improve its appearance and ease-of-use, but also to ensure that it meets current security protocols.

We also now have our own **facebook** page and every Sunday our 'weekly news sheet' gives the congregation information on the readings for Mass, the current parish prayer list and a list of events and services for the coming week. This is designed to be taken away and referred to during the week.

Our notice boards also carry detailed information about services and events happening in and around the parish.

Going Forward

1. Our Church Hall

The Church Hall fulfils an important role as a meeting place for the church, as a venue for many of our fund-raising events and as a facility that can be used by the wider community. For a very reasonable hourly fee, and subject to the approval of the P.C.C., the hall can be hired for a variety of functions.

In addition to its use by our own church community, it is utilised by various groups and clubs, and parties – especially for children - often grace the hall on a weekend.

The money raised from our hall lettings forms a significant part of our income, but the state of the hall building itself is giving increasing cause for concern and is now impacting on the number of lettings that we attract. Built in the 1950's and with a concrete-bound asbestos roof, the building is now barely watertight. The floor slab suffers from the ingress of damp and there are settlement cracks to some of the walls.

We have made some improvements in that we have now installed L.E.D. lighting throughout, but the P.C.C. accepts that there will come a time when complete replacement of the structure will be necessary. Later in this report you will find details of how we are progressing our plans.

2. Our Church

a. The Building

Our Quinquennial inspection – a Diocesan requirement – was last carried out in 2021 and will be due again in 2026. This comprehensive examination of the church buildings was completed by our architect, who provided a detailed report highlighting what work was required along with a suggested timescale for completion. Following these recommendations we now have a plan for stabilising the structure of the church for the future and you will find details later in this report.

All Saints' Annual Report 2024

In the interim however, the council is mindful to mitigate the need for emergency repairs by ensuring that a routine schedule of maintenance is in place, and that all roof slopes, gutters and rainwater goods are inspected on an annual basis.

Our five-yearly electrical inspection fell due at the end of 2021 and all the wiring was passed as safe. In addition – and as an insurance requirement - all portable items were checked in 2023 as to their electrical safety. With regard to our gas appliances, these are checked annually with regard to their safe operation, and certificates issued.

The church and hall have been surveyed in the last twelve months by our insurance company to ensure that we were not falling short on any of their requirements. As a result we have installed some extra signage and insulated some exposed pipe work. In general however the report was positive.

b. A 'Green Church'

The Diocese actively encourages churches to be as 'green' as possible. However, a building such as ours is inevitably costly to heat and light – even more so now following the unprecedented rise in the cost of fuel. The 'energy footprint' that the Diocese requires us to complete each year unsurprisingly reveals that our energy consumption is high and our efficiency low. However, all lighting has now been converted to L.E.D. which should help to reduce our electricity usage, and we are restricting the use of gas as much as possible despite the challenges faced in trying to heat the building to a comfortable temperature. At all times the council seeks to get the best available energy deals and, as you will see from our Building Plan, we are actively pursuing improvement to the insulation of the buildings, the provision of more efficient heating and the installation of photo-voltaic cells to the roof slopes.

As part of our service to the community a defibrillator is installed in the hall passageway so that it is available to users of both church and hall.

c. 'Seating'

The chairs in the church are probably original to the building and an increasing number are showing signs of instability. The 'church working party' aims to keep them repaired and stable, but those with the most serious defects have had to be removed. Fortunately the installation of pews in the chapel has released more chairs for use in the main body of the church. The council has set aside funds for the eventual replacement of some of the seating, and already a number of lightweight benches have been purchased for use by the children when the school visit. To date various forms of seating have been appraised, and some designs considered, but no decision has been reached. We hope to forward this in the future.

3. 'The Benefice'

The Diocese wrote in September 2021 to confirm that the 'Benefice' of All Saints' was to be suspended for a further five years, citing possible 'pastoral re-organisation' as the reason behind their decision. The P.C.C. made a considered response to the letter, but the situation is not likely to change.

Subsequently the P.C.C. met and discussed the situation with the Bishop of Fulham, the Area Dean and the Archdeacon of Lambeth. Following these deliberations the decision was made that, although Father Christopher would no longer be able to continue as Priest-in-Charge when his licence expired in early March 2023, he was given 'Permission to Officiate' by the Bishop of Southwark and thereby continues to exercise his ministry at All Saints'. This will be reviewed after eighteen months. Although the P.C.C. and congregation are very pleased that Father Christopher will stay with us, the parish will still be in interregnum and forward-planning is a necessary concern for the parish.

Building for the Future

You will have read earlier in this report of the ongoing concerns regarding certain aspects of the main church building and of the structural integrity of the church hall. For some time now we have been trying to save some of the money from our hall lettings to build a fund for reconstruction of the hall, but progress has been slow. Similarly we have struggled to find money for increasingly urgent repairs to the church itself.

However, as I said in my last report, the church was in receipt of a very generous legacy from the estate of the late Gwen Watts – a lifelong worshipper and supporter of All Saints'. This has enabled us to embark on an ambitious plan of refurbishment and rebuilding that we hope will secure the future of our church and hall.

In conjunction with our architect, Marcus Beale, plans have now been drawn up detailing various options for both the church and hall.

In all cases essential work would be carried out to the church building itself, including repairs to (or complete replacement of) the roof and repairs to the stonework. With regard to the hall there were effectively three options: -

- a) To retain and re-furbish the existing building.
- b) To demolish the existing building and rebuild a slightly larger single-storey hall.
- c) To demolish the existing building and rebuild a three-storey hall with lifts and two hall areas.

In addition to these fundamental plans there are options to install solar panels, under-floor heating in the church, a new disabled entrance to the north, a tea and coffee point at the back of the church, new vestries, a roof terrace, new kitchens and dedicated meeting rooms.

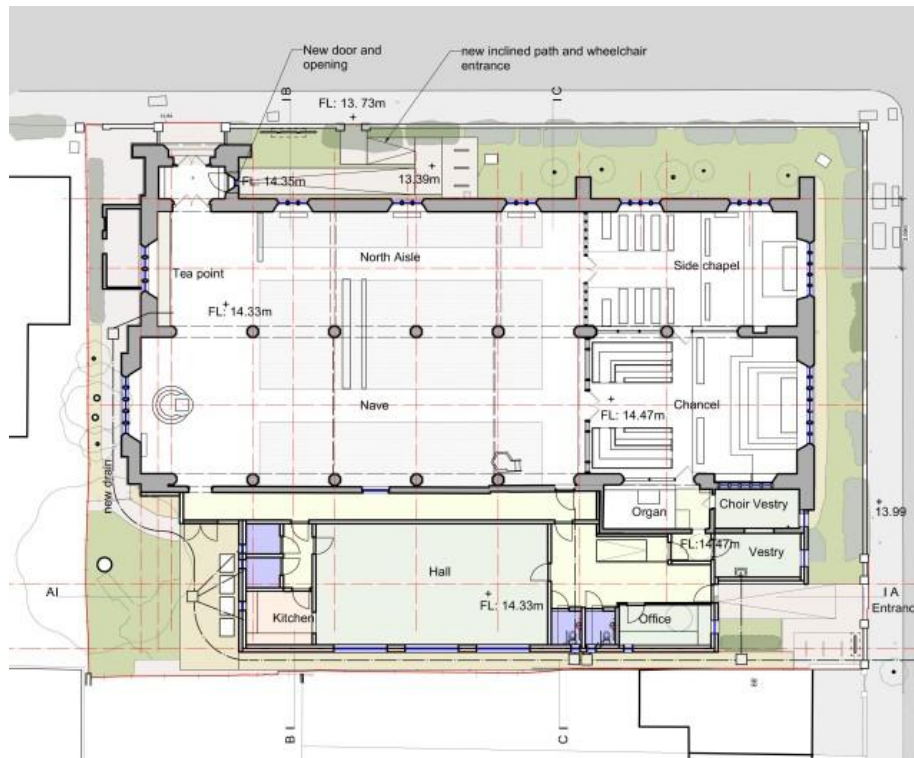
After much discussion and consultation it was decided that we should proceed with option b) – that is to carry out repairs to the church - hopefully including underfloor heating, solar panels and other improvements – and to demolish and replace the church hall with a modern single storey building on a slightly larger footprint. To this end we invested in detailed drawings and costings in preparation for submitting bids for grant funding.

A model of the proposed new complex and a draft floor plan are shown below:-

Scale model showing the proposed new hall building



Floor plan detailing the proposed re-development of both church and hall



In late 2023 we submitted an 'Expression of Interest' form to the Heritage Lottery Fund which was sadly rejected. However, together with our architect, we have now carefully examined the criteria for grant applications and are hopeful that a further application will meet with more success.

The Heritage Lottery Fund's guidance for applications has recently been revised and there are now four principles that guide their entire decision making.

They are:-

- **Saving heritage** - *Conserving and valuing heritage, for now and the future.*
- **Protecting the environment** - *Supporting nature recovery and environmental sustainability.*
- **Inclusion, access and participation** - *Supporting greater inclusion, diversity, access and participation in heritage.*
- **Organisational sustainability** - *Strengthening heritage to be adaptive and financially resilient, contributing to communities and economies.*

We welcome any input that might help us to formulate a new application which meets all these criteria.

Overall this is a very exciting project for All Saints' which when completed, will secure its future for generations to come and comprehensively fulfil the terms of the legacy that made it all possible.

Finance



The Parochial Church Council has overall responsibility for the finances of the parish. The church treasurer is appointed at the first meeting of the council following the A.P.C.M., and we also have a secretary who deals specifically with our Covenanted Giving and 'Gift Aid' returns. The finances of the parish are an agenda item for every meeting of the council and, in conjunction with the treasurer's report, the council will discuss and decide our money management going forward. It will also consider the administration of the Reserve Account, with regard to both 'restricted' and 'unrestricted' funds, and how these might be used for future projects, or to meet unexpected expenditure.

Every year the council is required to determine the sum of money to be set aside for 'The Parish Support Fund.' This is an annual payment to the Diocese of Southwark – sent in monthly instalments - which helps to pay for the centralised support given to parishes. Careful consideration has to be given to this with due regard to our actual and expected income and the council is always mindful of the fact that this sum has to be affordable.

As last year the potential cost of fuel had a large bearing on our decision making with regard to the P.S.F., especially as there would no longer be any government support. Early in the autumn Allison - our Treasurer - provided an update on our Budget, detailing the current financial situation, and providing projections with regard to the expected state of our finances by the end of the year. The Diocese had asked for an increase of 3.3% which equated to an additional £297 in our case. It was decided by the P.C.C. that we increase our P.S.F by £500 and that consequently our pledge for 2024 would be £9,500.



I mentioned earlier our 'Energy Footprint' return. By submitting details of our energy usage in conjunction with the size and construction of the building an estimate of energy efficiency can be ascertained. Unsurprisingly, given the nature of construction of the building and general lack of insulation, All Saints' does not score well! However, our L.E.D. lighting is saving us money and going some way towards reducing our carbon footprint. On a more positive note our plans for the refurbishment of the church and construction of a new church hall would render All Saints' carbon zero! A goal worth aiming for!

With regard to the overall financial position of the parish, the Parochial Church Council will approve the accounts prior to the A.P.C.M. These accounts are examined by our Independent Examiner.

A full financial report will be given by the Treasurer at the Annual Meeting and all the accounts will be available for inspection.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England and operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The P.C.C. is a Charity and its members are appointed as set out in the Church Representation Rules.

At All Saints' the membership of the P.C.C. comprises the Parish Priest, churchwardens, ex-officio members of Diocesan and Deanery Synods, and members elected by persons recorded as being on the electoral roll of the church. The Council also has the power to co-opt additional members as it sees fit. All those who are eligible are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and stand for election to the P.C.C.

The P.C.C. has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.) The Council has also voted to adopt both the 'House of Bishop's 2017 Statement on Safeguarding' and the 'Diocesan Safeguarding Policy.' Council members are encouraged to complete safeguarding training and any other training pertinent to posts held.

To date the Council has met four times since the last A.P.C.M. with an average attendance of 14 members (88%). A fifth meeting will be held before the A.P.C.M. to approve the accounts and this report.

At the first meeting of the council following the A.P.C.M., the Vice Chair, Treasurer, Electoral Roll Officer and Secretary are elected. A list of those wishing to serve as sidespersons will also be approved. At various times, and as appropriate, the P.C.C. will appoint two 'Safeguarding' Officers, two 'Serious Incident Reporting' Officers and P.C.C. governors to the school.

The council also normally appoints two committees: - The Standing Committee and The Social Committee. The Standing Committee has the power to transact the business of the Council between P.C.C. meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. The Standing Committee's role is therefore subservient to the P.C.C. The Social Committee is primarily charged with the planning and delivery of all social events that may be held throughout the year and has the power to co-opt additional members as and when it sees fit. As we are currently pursuing a major building project the Council has also appointed a Building Committee to oversee this undertaking.

Administrative Information

1. Contact Details

- a. All Saints Church, All Saints Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 1BU.
- b. Church Telephone number: - 0208 542 5514
- c. E-mail: - allsaintschurchsw19@gmail.com
- d. Website: - <https://allsaintschurchsouthwimbledon.com/>
- e. Facebook: - [All Saints South Wimbledon | Facebook](#)

2. Parochial Church Council

P.C.C members who have served at any time from the date of the last A.P.C.M until the date this report was approved are:-

a. Ex Officio members: -

Mr. Roger Stanley.....	Churchwarden & Vice Chair
Mr. Christopher Maurice	Churchwarden.
Mr. Patrick Wood.....	Diocesan Synod Representative.
Miss Jenny Hardy.....	Deanery Synod Representative.
Mrs. Linda Maurice.....	Deanery Synod Representative.
Mrs. Shirley Walker-Grant.....	Deanery Synod Representative.

All Saints' Annual Report 2024

b. Elected members: -

Mr. David Coram. Mr. Malcolm Ford.
Mr. Nigel Grinsted. Mrs. Elizabeth Hayter.
Mr. Martin Kelly. (Deputy Churchwarden & Deputy Vice Chair of the P.C.C.)
Mr. Danny Robinson. Mrs. Allison Scandrett.
Mr. Peter Scandrett. Ms. Eileen Walker.

c. Co-opted member: - Fr. Christopher Noke (Parish Priest)

d. Officers of the P.C.C.: -

Parish Secretary.....Mrs. Linda Maurice
Church Treasurer.....Mrs. Allison Scandrett
Free-Will Offering/Gift Aid..... Mrs. Allison Scandrett
Electoral Roll Officer.....Miss. Jenny Hardy
Safeguarding Officers.....Mr. Peter Scandrett, Mrs. Linda Maurice
Serious Incident Reporting Officers...Fr. Christopher Noke, Mr. Martin Kelly
P.C.C. School Governors.....Mr. Martin Kelly, Mrs. Allison Scandrett,
Mr. David Coram.

e. Committees of the P.C.C.: -

Standing Committee:-

Ex Officio: - Fr. Christopher Noke (Chair), Mr. Roger Stanley, Mr. Christopher Maurice, Mrs. Allison Scandrett, Miss Jenny Hardy, Mrs. Linda Maurice.
Elected Members: - Mr. Martin Kelly, Mr. Nigel Grinsted

Social Committee: -

Mrs. Elizabeth Hayter (Chair). (Other members of this committee were appointed by the Chair.)

Building Committee: - Fr. Christopher Noke, Mr. Roger Stanley, Mr. Christopher Maurice, Miss. Jenny Hardy, Mrs. Linda Maurice, Mr. Martin Kelly, Mr. Danny Robinson, Ms. Eileen Walker, Mrs. Elizabeth Hayter

f. Business of the P.C.C.: -

The business of the council is based on a standard agenda with supplementary items added as necessary. The council will discuss and accept the previous meeting's minutes, receive any notices from the chair and note any recent correspondence. There will be updates on our finances, the church fabric and reports from the safeguarding and serious incident reporting teams. If the council agrees other items may be considered at the end of each meeting.

g. Parish Administrator: - Miss. Jenny Hardy

h. Independent Examiner: - Mr. John Helm (Tandem Accounting) N19 3AL

All Saints' Annual Report 2024

4. Elections 2024

a. **Merton Deanery Synod:-**

No elections to be held this year

b. **All Saints' Parochial Church Council: -** Three persons to be elected. (to hold office for three years)

The terms of office of the current elected members are as follows:-

To stand down in 2026: - Mrs. Elizabeth Hayter, Mr. Malcolm Ford, Mr. Danny Robinson.

To stand down in 2025: - Mrs. Allison Scandrett, Mr. Martin Kelly, Mr. David Coram.

To stand down in 2024: - Mr. Nigel Grinsted, Mr. Peter Scandrett, Ms. Eileen Walker

c. **Southwark Diocesan Synod: -**

Diocesan Synod Election this year.

Secretary's Concluding Remarks

In late March 2023 the parish entered an interregnum; although we are immensely grateful that Fr. Christopher has been granted 'Permission to Officiate' by the Bishop of Southwark and is continuing to minister to us as our Parish Priest. We owe him a great debt of gratitude.

Our building plans are still very much a reality and, although our first Grant Application was turned down, there is every reason to suppose that, with the support and help of our architect and the enthusiasm of our Building Committee, grant funding will become available. We should continue to feel optimistic for the future.

During the past year our Safeguarding Officers have been updating our D.B.S returns (Disclosure and Barring Service) which are a requirement for officers of the church and members of the P.C.C. This process is now almost complete.

The P.C.C. also reviewed the number of Eucharistic Ministers - those lay members who are authorised to administer the chalice - that had been appointed, and it was decided that it would be good to increase the number from four to six. To date we have appointed one new Eucharistic Minister – Martin Kelly – who joins Chris Maurice, Andrew Dimon, Roger Stanley and Patrick Wood.

With regard to our school, Allison Scandrett has stood down as chair of the Governing Body and Roger Stanley has resigned. However, Allison continues to be very much involved with the school, and Roger has agreed to continue to serve on the Faith Group and will continue to run the 'after school' Wildlife Club. I am also glad to report that the vacant position of governor has been taken up by David Coram and we wish him well in this new post..

The P.C.C. also approved the purchase of new cassocks for the choir and servers. These were paid for out of money raised by last year's Sponsored Walk and from a grant of £500 from the Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary. We are most grateful to them for this generous gift.

Roger has continued to lead our Mission-Action-Planning team which has been working through the 'Five Marks of Mission.' He is hoping that we can work towards involving more children through contacts with the school and the local Scout Group as well as pursuing other initiatives including a possible 'You Tube' video.

I mentioned earlier in my report the discussions held by the P.C.C. with regard to the Parish Support Fund. I must also say that there was a suggestion from the Diocese that we increase it in the light of Mrs. Watts' legacy. The P.C.C. however informed the Bishop that the money was given "*absolutely to be used for such religious and other charitable purposes in the Parish as the PCC in its absolute discretion think fit,*" and that accordingly it would contravene the terms of the legacy to use it for purposes other than furthering the work of the parish. This was accepted.

All Saints' Annual Report 2024

Also on money matters, the P.C.C. has been exploring the introduction of 'contactless giving' at All Saints', but to date no final decision has been made

On a different note I am pleased to say that James and Christian Hayter are now regular members of our serving team, and it is very encouraging to see our young people taking an active part in the life of All Saints'.

I can also report that Mr. Tom Wrench has been appointed by the P.C.C. as our Assistant Organist. Tom chanced to come along to All Saints' for the first time on a Sunday when David was away and offered to play for us. The rest is history and we are delighted to welcome him, both as a musician and as part of our worshipping community.

Congratulations are also due to David, our Organist and Choirmaster, who celebrated forty years in the post this past year. We thank him for his continued devotion and service.



Tom (Assistant Organist) & David (Organist & Choirmaster)

I would also like to put on record my thanks to the Social Committee for their dedication and enthusiasm in arranging such a wide variety of fund-raising events during the past year. They have proved very enjoyable occasions and have not only benefited the church financially, but have also reached out to people who might not otherwise have come to join us. Long may they continue!



On a sadder note I have to report that Pauline Lewis died during 2023. Her Funeral Service was held at All Saints' and many came along to pay their respects.

She was a regular helper at our Christmas and Summer Fairs and, along with her late husband George, she gave many years of service to All Saints. Her devotion to, and love for, this church and parish was unwavering.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Finally, to our present congregation I express my thanks for their ongoing support and generosity that is shown in so many ways. Thank you too to the P.C.C., its officers and committees who give so much of their time and commitment to the work of All Saints'. But most of all I thank Fr. Christopher, who gives us his love, his support, and his care every day of the year.

As we plan for the future we should thank God for all the benefits bestowed upon us both as a parish and congregation, and pray that He will guide us along the right path in the months and years to come.

Linda Maurice

Secretary to the P.C.C. – April 2024

Approved by the P.C.C and signed on their behalf by:- _____

Date: _____