



# All Saints' Church

Croxley Green



**Annual Report and Financial Statements  
of the  
Parochial Church Council**

**For the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025**



# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ALL SAINTS', CROXLEY GREEN IN THE DIOCESE OF ST ALBANS FOR 2025

## 1. PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

Registered Charity No. 1165115

The principal address of All Saints' Parish is The Parish Office, All Saints' Church, The Green, Croxley Green, Hertfordshire WD3 3HJ

Tel. 01923 772109

Website [www.croxleygreenallsaints.org](http://www.croxleygreenallsaints.org)

### Aims and Purposes

To promote the whole mission of the Church of England, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

### Objectives and Activities

The objective of the PCC is to co-operate with the Vicar and parish clergy in promoting, in the parish, the whole mission of the Church.

### Activities

All Saints' activities included:

- regular public worship, open to all, free of charge
- Church open for private worship and contemplation
- pastoral work, including visiting the sick, the housebound and the bereaved
- teaching Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups
- promoting Christianity through staging events and meetings, including activities for senior citizens and young people
- supporting other charities: local, national and international
- maintenance and improvement of Church and Hall and lettings to community and leisure organisations
- holding social and fundraising events.

### Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. It operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure 1956 and is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. All members of the Council are Trustees of the Charity and a Trustees' report for 2025 will be made to the Charity Commission.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees who qualify as baptised members of the Church of England, aged over 16 years, are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and they may stand for election to the PCC.

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners to elect the Churchwardens was held on 27 April 2025, followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting which conducted elections to the Parochial Church Council, appointed the Independent Examiner and received the Annual Report and Accounts with a report on the Accounts by a qualified Independent Examiner.

### Membership of the PCC

Membership during 2025 is shown below.

#### *Ex officio:*

Revd. Canon Miriam Mughan, Vicar and Chair of the PCC (appointed November 2007)

Revd. Paul Palmer, Associate Priest and Revd. Tolu George, Assistant Curate.

Anne Oke and Lyndon Palmer (Churchwardens).

#### *Deanery Synod Representatives*

Fran Bennett and Andrew Nobbs until 2026.

#### *Lay Members*

Jane Bates

Janet Martin

Sam Beard  
Chris Fagan, Secretary  
John Galloway  
Sam Jones

Gillian Main, also Assistant Churchwarden  
Ann Palmer, also Assistant Churchwarden and Vice-Chair  
Wendy Shafe

### **Meetings during 2025**

The PCC held seven ordinary meetings and one extraordinary meeting during 2025, with an average attendance of 76%.

The PCC sets the annual budget, appoints members to committees and groups, receives the minutes of their meetings and takes decisions on recommendations they make, particularly on the adoption and review of policies and major items of expenditure.

One key area is Safeguarding, where the PCC is responsible for adopting, reviewing and updating policies and procedures produced by the Church of England, thereby ensuring that the PCC complies with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure and has due regard to safeguarding guidance issued by the House of Bishops. Regular reports are made to the PCC by the Parish Safeguarding Officer and the Assistant Safeguarding Officer.

Other major matters determined by the PCC in 2025 were the extensive refurbishment of the Hall and the investigation and repairs carried out to the organ following serious damage caused by water leaking into it from the roof above.

Details of the work carried out by the Committees, Groups and Officers during the year are set out in the reports below. A very great deal of the work is carried out by the PCC's committees and working groups, and all the individuals taking part in their activities. The PCC wishes to express its profound gratitude to every one of them for their generous contributions to All Saints' throughout the year.

### **Achievements and Performance**

2025 saw the following achievements at All Saints', namely:

Maintaining a full range of services throughout the year and extending intergenerational participation in our regular Sunday worship, with children reading some lessons and taking other roles during services. Also introducing a new form of interactive family service, 'Alive@AllSaints', combining craft activities and Bible stories which has led to increased attendance of young children and their families.

Preparing five children and young people for Confirmation in November.

Holding events to encourage spiritual exploration, including two Parish Retreats, courses on Christian Hope Explored and six interactive sessions on Big Questions about aspects of faith.

Ensuring that the parish's Safeguarding policies and procedures were fully updated.

Completing the programme of buildings repairs and maintenance set out in the 2022 Quinquennial Review.

Actioning improvements to the Church Hall men's toilets, purchasing curtains for the Committee Room and planning further improvements to the Hall.

Undertaking repairs to the Church organ following serious damage due to water ingress from a leaking roof.

Achieving a financial surplus for the year and thereby increasing parish financial reserves.

### **Advisers**

**Bankers** Barclays Bank PLC

**Independent Examiner** Mrs Dorothea Reynolds

### **Organisation and Structure**

The principal committees and groups are set out below, with memberships appointed mainly by the PCC on 7 May 2025. Most committees include a mixture of PCC and non-PCC members. Chairs of the Committees were either appointed by the PCC or elected at the first meeting of those Committees after the APCM. Congregation members are welcome to join most of these bodies.

The Finance and Standing Committee is a statutory body scheduled to meet in alternate months between scheduled PCC meetings with delegated financial powers and exercises oversight of the management of the Parish. Members: Revd. Canon Miriam Mugan (Chair), Anne Oke and Lyndon Palmer (Churchwardens),

Gillian Main and Ann Palmer (Assistant Wardens), Andrew Nobbs (Treasurer), Janet Martin (Planned Giving Officer), Sam Beard (lay PCC member) and Chris Fagan (Secretary). The Committee did not meet during 2025.

The Buildings Committee The work of the Buildings Committee is guided by the Quinquennial Inspection report, the latest of which was carried out in the middle of 2022. The report is a detailed assessment of the condition of the Church building, undertaken every five years. In the context of church buildings, this inspection is crucial for ensuring proper maintenance and repair of the buildings. The Buildings Committee also oversees and implements general maintenance and improvements of the Church buildings and the surrounding areas. Members: Lyndon Palmer (Chair), Anne Oke, (Secretary), Revd. Canon Miriam, Chris Oke and Ann Palmer.

The Pastoral and Evangelism Group The purpose of the Group is to plan and review all aspects of worship, explore opportunities for running courses, retreats etc. and generally look at how we, as a Church, can support individuals in their journey of faith. Members: Revd. Canon Miriam Muga (Chair), Revd. Paul Palmer, Revd. Tolu George, Jane Bates (Secretary), Sam Beard, Fran Bennett, Pam Evans, Sam Jones, Andrew Nobbs, Anne Oke and Ann Palmer.

The Hall Committee exercises oversight of the use, maintenance and improvement of the Church Hall and Kitchen, which are used both by Church groups and a large number of community groups and external leisure activity operators. It co-operates with the Buildings Committee on major works to the Hall and recommends levels of lettings fees. Members: John Galloway (Chair), Wendy Shafe (Secretary), Jane Bates, Judith Man, Janet Martin, Anne Oke and Peter Rennoldson.

The Music Maintenance and Development Committee provides a forum for planning and discussion concerning the contribution of music for services. It oversees the musical content of services and other matters relating to the Choir and Church music. Members: Revd. Canon Miriam Muga (Chair), Revd. Paul Palmer, Revd. Tolu George, John Galloway, David Heath (Visiting Organist), Sam Beard, Chris Fagan (Secretary), Anne Oke and Ann Palmer.

The Social and Fundraising Committee organises fundraising and social events at All Saints' and provides refreshments following certain services and events. Members: Ann Palmer (Chair), Sue Humphries (Secretary), Kathryn Duffy, Chris Fagan, Anni Lowery, Gillian Main, Judith Man, Janet Martin, Revd. Canon Miriam Muga and Lyndon Palmer.

The Communications Team oversees All Saints' social media platforms on the website, Facebook, Twitter and other forms of internal and external communication. Members: Lyndon Palmer (Chair), Sam Jones, Revd. Canon Miriam Muga and Revd. Paul Palmer.

The Magazine Team produces and organises distribution of the monthly parish magazine which is an important means of communication within the Church community. Members: Wendy Shafe (spokesperson) and Fran Bennett, with assistance from Shelagh and Tony Booth. It is published free of charge and is a very important means of keeping all parishioners in touch with All Saints'.

The Garden Team maintains the Church Garden and the Garden of Remembrance, with help from other congregation members. Members: Janet Martin, Andrew Nobbs, Marjorie Stevenson and Alice Tims.

The Eco Church Group was established in 2021 to run projects to increase recycling and to qualify for a bronze award from the A Rocha Church Eco Charity. Members: Janet Martin, Jane Manning and Revd. Canon Miriam Muga. The Group did not meet during 2025.

## All Saints' Charities

All Saints' has two charities registered with the Charity Commission: the George Gurney Charity for the Sick Poor and the Reverend David Kenneth Williams Trust.

1. The George Gurney Charity for the Sick Poor (registered charity number (212964).

The current objects of the Charity are to help individual cases of hardship as a result of illness, and to provide amenities such as invalid chairs for the use of people in the parishes of All Saints' and St Oswald's. The income from the bequest remains to provide help for special deserving cases as well as enabling Christmas gifts to be given to some elderly and sick persons. The trustees of the Charity are the Vicar and the Churchwardens.

2. The Reverend David Kenneth Williams Trust (registered charity number 803706).

The objects of the Charity are to support such Christian religious and charitable purposes either within or outside the Parish as the Trustees consider proper. The trustees of the Charity are the Vicar and the Churchwardens, with the Clerk to the Trustees, who has been appointed by the Trustees as an additional Trustee of this Charity. Most of the financial assets are invested for capital growth. In recent years, the Trust has relieved individual cases of hardship and has also granted funding to the PCC towards the refurbishment and modernisation of the Church Hall, a vital part of the Church's outreach to the community.

Both charities **are managed by their trustees** and operate independently of the PCC. Applications for assistance can be made in confidence to the trustees or to the Clerk to the Trustees, Christopher Fagan.

*Chris Fagan, PCC Secretary*

## 2. ELECTORAL ROLL

All Saints', like all other Anglican parishes, maintains an Electoral Roll which is revised annually. Inclusion on the Electoral Roll is voluntary, but inclusion is a sign of commitment and entitles those on the Roll to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, to vote in elections of lay members to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and the Deanery Synod and to stand for election to these bodies and to the Diocesan Synod. To qualify for inclusion on the Roll you must be:

- aged 16 or over
- a baptised member of the Church of England and a resident of All Saints' Parish, or
- a non-resident of the Parish who has habitually attended worship at All Saints' during the last six months or
- a member in good standing of another church which believes in the Holy Trinity who declares her/himself a member of the Church of England and who has habitually attended worship at All Saints' during the last six months before enrolment.

Those on the Electoral Roll can ordinarily be expected to attend services and participate in activities of the Church, including giving financial support to defray its costs of operation. Numbers on the Electoral Roll are used as one factor in determining the amount of the annual Parish Share which the parish is expected to contribute towards the expenses of the Diocese.

In every sixth year, a completely new Electoral Roll is prepared, which requires everyone wishing to be enrolled to complete a fresh application form. This occurred in 2025 and resulted in the number enrolled being 98, a reduction of one on the 2024 total. We remember with great affection Jane Colbourne, who died in 2025. Jane was a Church member for many years and was involved in many areas of parish life. A number of people did not re-apply to be on the new roll, but we welcomed 18 new members: Louise Adams, Christine and Jeffrey Coleman, Susan Fenton, Oyeleke George, Laura Gray, Richard Hall, Teresa Kite, Mark Lappage, Thomas Lowery, Judith Man, Anna Mayadeen, Linda Pearce, Robert and Sylvia Plant, Edna Sansom, Judith Turnbull and James Vandy.

In 2026 the Roll will be revised. Everyone not already on the Roll who wishes to be enrolled, will need to complete an application. Forms will be available from February and the new Roll will be published in April 2026. I would ask anyone who qualifies to seriously consider enrolment on the Electoral Roll. Please speak to me or to Revd. Miriam if you wish to obtain further information or an application form.

*Chris Fagan, Electoral Roll Officer*

### **3. CHURCHWARDENS REPORT ON THE FABRIC OF THE CHURCH AND BUILDINGS**

#### **Church Fabric**

We had a Quinquennial Inspection conducted in June 2022. The Quinquennial Inspection report gives an overview of the condition of the Church, what needs doing and what is most important. These five-yearly snapshots show how much, and in what way, a building has changed over time. Quinquennial Inspection reports give a solid, professional basis for making decisions about maintenance, repairs and managing the building. Above all, they are intended to help parishes look after their churches and churchyards. The findings of the report are handed to the Buildings Committee who look at the items from the report and prioritise any work that is required to be carried out.



#### **Quinquennial items progressed by the Buildings Committee during 2025**

- Corrosion to the Church window ferramenta and repairs to the stonework in the eastern wall of the Vestry.
- Replacement of missing Church roof ridge tile and repointing of brick-built chimney stack to the boiler room.
- Open mortar joints to the east and west Vestry walls.
- Updated fire extinguishers plan in the Church.

#### **Other items progressed by the Buildings Committee during 2025**

- Treatment of trees around the grounds.
- Refixing the pigeon netting to one of the windows on the west side of the Church.
- Smart Water marking carried out to roof lead flashing.
- Leaves removed and protective layer of liquid waterproofing put onto the surface of roof valley in the vicinity of the organ loft.
- Light outside the choir vestry door.

Routine maintenance has continued to be carried out inside and outside the Church during 2025 which includes the roof gutters / valleys.

#### **Church Organ**

An insurance claim was settled for water damage to the organ choir soundboard which made many of the notes fail and rendered this section of the organ unplayable. Repairs to the organ soundboard are expected to be undertaken in 2026.

#### **Church Inventory**

No items have been added or removed from the Inventory.

#### **Faculties**

No faculties have been applied for in 2025.

## **Statutory Compliance**

The safety checks for fire extinguishers, electrical/gas appliances, fire alarm system and the lightning conductor were conducted during 2025.

## **Thanks**

A huge thank you to all who help to keep All Saints' Church in such good condition be it inside or outside. There is a large and varied list of jobs undertaken by a very small number of dedicated volunteers such as all kinds of maintenance around the Church and Hall, looking after the garden and grounds. In Church, we appreciate the help welcoming people on Sunday mornings, reading the lesson or leading intercessions, serving, helping prepare or lead activities for the children, arranging flowers, working the projector, helping with refreshments, producing the Parish Magazine, baking cakes and helping at the Friday Café. We do need more helpers. If you would like to be involved in any of these activities in some way, big or small, please speak to us, the Churchwardens.

On behalf of everyone at All Saints', we would like to record our thanks for the excellent and very dedicated Ministry Team we have at All Saints' – Miriam, Paul and Tolu.

*Lyndon Palmer and Anne Oke, Churchwardens*

## **4. ARCHDEACON'S ANNUAL INSPECTION**

The 2025 Archdeacon's annual inspection took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> September and this year Revd. Canon Charles Burch, Vicar of St Lawrence Bovington and Rural Dean of Rickmansworth, visited us.

This year, the focus was primarily on church buildings. There were some other issues briefly addressed and we were given the opportunity to raise issues of concern or discuss new ideas or initiatives that we are working on.

The topics and matters that were discussed during the inspection, were as follows:

- How are things going generally. For example, what's been good, what has been challenging, have you tried anything new and how did it go?
- When did you last complete a Fire Risk Assessment for the Church?
- Is the Safeguarding blue poster displayed in the church?
- Do you have any concerns about the management or practice of safeguarding?
- Has there been and when was it done?:
  - Fire extinguisher servicing/replacement
  - Lightning conductor inspection
  - Electrical testing (wiring of building) and PAT testing (appliances)
  - Quinquennial Inspection
  - Heating system service and Gas Safety inspection where applicable.
- What sort of heating system do you have?
- There was a walk around the outside of the building to look at the condition of the churchyard, and the gutters and drains.
- What training related to your role as Churchwarden have you attend this last year?
- Were there any topics which would be helpful to cover in next year's programme of Churchwardens' training?
- Anything else you would like to raise?

We were able to answer all the above questions to the satisfaction of the Rural Dean. Time was made available for us to raise any matters of concern about the life of the Parish, Deanery or Diocese.

*Lyndon Palmer and Anne Oke, Churchwardens*

## **5. TREASURER'S REPORT**

The year ending 31 December 2025 proved to be an excellent year for our Church finances. The Church made a surplus of £9,658 against day to day income and expenditure. Receipts into the general fund in 2025 were £142,941 with expenditure of £133,284.

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and have been independently examined.

### **Income**

Income in 2025 was universally higher than had been budgeted.

Due to the generosity of our congregation offertory income, and the corresponding Gift Aid, we finished £13,059 ahead of budget. Fundraising also had an excellent year and was £4,738 more than had been anticipated. This was helped by the unbudgeted Quiz Night, but the Christmas Market and Beer Festival also performed strongly.

Hall letting income was £4,159 over budget and after costs the Hall generated £6,667.

### **Expenditure**

The Church and Hall running costs were generally close to budget. Ministry expenses were higher than anticipated due to the additional member of our ministry team. Music costs were over budget by £1,969 due to the works on the restoration of the organ, part of which was covered by an insurance payout following the leak in the roof over the organ. Repairs and Maintenance was over budget due to the creation of a provision for the outstanding works to the area of damp on the Hall wall, a £2,500 provision towards the costs of the impending vacancy and the resulting need to refresh the interior of the Vicarage.

In 2025 the PCC budgeted for a number of one-off projects. These included tree works around the Hall to remove diseased trees, the refurbishment of the men's toilet facilities in the Hall, a contribution towards the Church Redecoration Fund, a survey of the Hall drains and gutter repairs and the cleaning and sealing of the Hall floors.

As the drain survey and works are still pending, a provision has been made into the Quinquennial Fund to carry this forward to 2026.

### **Restricted and Designated Funds**

The Church holds a number of funds where money has either been given for a specific purpose or else the PCC has decided to set money aside for a particular project.

As in previous years, the PCC set aside £2,500 towards the refurbishment of the Hall. This was used to part fund the works to the men's toilets. £1,000 was also set aside against the Church Redecoration Fund to facilitate the future redecoration of the Church interior.

In recent years, the organ had deteriorated with the loss of the choir manual and part of the pedal notes and various stops and issues with the swell box. Part of this was attributable to the ingress of water through the roof above the organ and the costs for this portion of the resulting works was covered by an insurance claim. In 2024, the PCC made a £7,000 provision against the organ and this and £2,723 in the Music Fund helped to defray the costs for the balance of the work to restore the organ.

2025 also saw a number of issues addressed that had been identified by the Church Surveyor in the last Quinquennial Report concerning the fabric of the Church and Hall. Consequently, £5,485 was expended from the Quinquennial Fund on such areas as repointing the Church boiler house chimney, replacing the missing ridge tile and the baffle on the Hall roof ventilation spike.

As mentioned earlier in the report, a £2,500 provision has been created called the Vicarage and Vacancy Fund towards the costs of the impending vacancy and the need to refresh the interior of the Vicarage.

In 2025, the Church received a legacy of £5,502 from the late Isobel Mary Sanders. This is held in the Legacy Fund whilst the PCC considers an appropriate use for it.

### **Employees**

In 2025 the Church employed two members of staff. A pension scheme is available to employees through the NEST Pension Scheme. Contributions are paid by the Church on behalf of one employee.

### **Reserves**

At the end of 2025, the reserves in the General Fund rose by £9,658 to £63,076.

It is incumbent on the PCC, as Trustees of the charity, to maintain a reserves policy and it is the policy of All Saints' to retain three months cash in reserve.

The contract for the telecommunications phone mast, located in the bell turret, is due to expire in 2026. In 2025, the rental income from the phone mast was £22,253. Due to changes in Government regulations, the future anticipated rental income is likely to be much lower under a renewal proposal. It is therefore important to hold our reserves until the picture becomes clearer.

### **Acknowledgements**

I would like to express my gratitude for the work done by Janet Martin each week, in counting and banking the offertory income, and for maintaining the records. I would also thank Judith Man for her management of the Hall bookings.

*Andrew Nobbs, Treasurer*

## **6. DEANERY SYNOD**

We began this year by sharing successful experiences within our churches and the challenges that we have overcome, many of which we all share.

The outreach in all the nine churches in our Deanery is ongoing and has been achieved in many different ways, for example, developing Youth Groups which include children from our own churches as well as those in our non-church going community. Many of us have a café during the week which welcomes young families, dog walkers, friends and relatives of all, making sure there is a warm welcome for anybody new especially if they are on their own. Also, Toddler groups and craft groups are held in many of our churches. Christmas cards and invitations to different services and courses have been delivered by hand, calling at the door to introduce ourselves. We also talked about not being afraid to try new things and, if they don't work, don't worry.

The challenges that we shared are where we don't have enough volunteers or time to achieve all we wish to do to make our churches even more exciting and moving forward.

We discussed the need to find new ways to publicise events as well as the ever changing demands of safeguarding and the financial worries of meeting the quota and the running expenses of our buildings. Although there are new people joining our churches, and our Cafés and Toddler groups are busy, they are not readily bringing many new people into church especially the 30 – 50 year old group.

During one of the Deanery meetings, members broke into groups and with the above information they discussed the themes and patterns that had arisen and possible ideas for collaboration to help solve some

of the challenges. It was suggested that the churches keep each other informed of what they are doing so that collaboration can help with ideas, resources and available volunteers to avoid duplication. It would be good to find ways to reach out to younger people. Maybe this could be done by appointing a Deanery Youth Worker to be shared among the churches.

Our prayers are essential as we reach out to God to ask for his help and to be ready to listen to his answers.

All churches appear to be reaching out into the community. It was suggested that we had an accessible resource where we could share ideas and events to collaborate and invite churches in the Deanery to attend.

It was good news that Mill End had appointed a new Vicar, Revd. Mark Harris, who was commissioned on 1<sup>st</sup> September. St Oswald's have started the process of appointing a new vicar. They were very grateful for all the local ministers who have been helping out during the vacancy.

The Trinity Project, which is run by Charlotte Barton, helps newly transferred children at secondary schools with their mental health. Charlotte visits schools and arranges workshops and she supports individual children. The charity needs a chairperson and they have asked all the churches to help to find a suitable person to fulfil this role.

We had a talk by the Revd. Tim Bull, who is Director of Vocations. It was titled 'Living as a human in an AI world'. Tim set out his guiding principles for the use of AI:

1. Be wise in your use of AI
2. Keep alert for truths
3. Keep using your own physical and mental attributes
4. Don't expect AI to save the world
5. Do uniquely human things to stay fully alive.

It was a really enlightening and entertaining talk explaining the journey to AI, its usefulness in many ways but also the short comings and dangers of unthinking use. Tim made it very accessible to everyone, including people like me who have very little understanding of AI.

We ended the year with a talk from Revd. Mark Rodel on Corporate Spiritual Discernment.

Mark explained that a new Diocesan Ministry strategy is being prepared and he was asking us to share our ideas to help feed into the strategy. The aim is to help with a way forward on discipleship, vocation and discernment and to support lifelong ministry and learning using our resources wisely. He asked us to consider if we are being cared for with inclusion and diversity, how we can channel our efforts and tap into the collective wisdom of all church members.

We considered these three questions:

1. Where have you seen ministry, lay or ordained, make a real difference?
2. What is helping people discover and step into lay and ordained ministry in the Church?
3. What helps ministry, lay or ordained, grow and flourish?

Discussion on these questions and the Diocesan Ministry Strategy will continue next year. We look forward to its outcome.

*Fran Bennett, Parish representative*

## 7. SAFEGUARDING

The PCC held an important additional meeting in June to consider the general wellbeing of All Saints' Church. It was a thought-provoking and interesting meeting as we carried out a 'health check', guided by a set of worksheets 'Promoting a Healthy and Safe Culture' – 'Our Parish', produced by the Church of England Safeguarding Team. It was specifically designed for clergy and PCC members, but we also asked the same questions of the congregation to seek their feedback and gain greater understanding of their perception of our Church as being a healthy and safe environment. A number of outcomes were identified, many positive and a few that we needed to work on. These are gradually being implemented, such as becoming more aware of the absence of regular members of the congregation and being sensitive to their well-being, and how best we can support the needs of any vulnerable people in our congregation. This matter is part of every P and E Committee meeting.

Safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is what safeguarding is about. With this in mind, the safety of children on Sunday mornings has been discussed, and approval for additional helpers to assist in the running of the Youth Group has been given. We have also started updating the procedures for references and role descriptions of volunteers working in our Church groups.

During the year, the following policies were reviewed and presented to the PCC for adoption:

- The Parish's Safeguarding Policy
- Formal statement of adoption of the House of Bishops 'Promoting a Safer Church: safeguarding policy statement for children, young people and adults'
- Reporting of Serious Incidents (SIR) to the Charity Commission
- Safer recruitment policy:
- Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse. Although it is no longer a requirement for members of the PCC to take this training, members voted to continue to carry out this on-line training, renewable every three years. Later in the year, the policy on this matter was reviewed and it was decided that the points should be regarded as guidance, in line with the Church of England's overarching policy.

In September, the list of Church Affiliated Activities (our Church groups) was presented and agreed and the list of Non-affiliated Hall Groups involving children, young people or vulnerable adults was recognised. Checks were made to ensure that such groups hiring the Hall on a regular basis were adhering to the safety guidelines that All Saints' Church promotes.

The Safeguarding Officers continued to use the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard to enable us to address the next stages of development and produce the Safeguarding Action Plan, ensuring that All Saints' Church was keeping up to date with its Safeguarding requirements. We are in the process of using the Safeguarding Hub, which is a further tool to centralise all our Safeguarding Training records, DBS certificates and record-keeping documents in one secure place.

Safeguarding Sunday took place in November, providing the opportunity to thank God for his blessings on our Church and to remind us all of the need to be alert and responsive to any concern or situation that doesn't sound right. Safeguarding, as we all know, is everyone's responsibility, so nothing is ever too small to share. It may not be an obvious shout by someone, but something said in conversation may make you later think – 'hold on, that doesn't sound good'. It's all helpful in gaining a bigger picture of how we can support and care for those in our congregation and community.

Safeguarding cases have arisen during the year and advice was sought from the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor. Thank you to those who have shared a concern in our community with our Church Ministry team, Sam or myself.

If at any time you have any safeguarding anxiety or concern, please report it immediately. Contact the Safeguarding Team – Anne Oke, Sam Jones or the Vicar, Revd. Miriam Mugan, in person or via the secure email address [safeguarding@croxleygreenallsaints.org](mailto:safeguarding@croxleygreenallsaints.org).

*Anne Oke, Parish Safeguarding Officer*

## **8. BUILDINGS COMMITTEE**

The work of the Buildings Committee is guided by the Quinquennial Inspection report that was carried out in the middle of 2022. The report is a detailed assessment of the condition of the church building which is undertaken every five years. In the context of church buildings, this inspection is crucial for ensuring proper maintenance and repair of the building.

The Buildings Committee also oversees and implements general maintenance and improvements of the church building and the surrounding areas.

### **Quinquennial Inspection items actioned by the Committee in 2025**

- Corrosion repairs to the Church window ferramenta.
- The eastern wall of the Vestry repairs to the stonework to prevent further deterioration.
- Replacement of missing church roof ridge tile and repointing of brick-built chimney stack to the boiler room.
- Open mortar joints to the east and west Vestry walls renewed.
- The fire extinguishers plan located in the Church was updated.

### **General Maintenance items actioned by the committee in 2025**

- Treatment of trees. A number of trees around the grounds of the Hall were treated for ash die-back or removed. This work was carried out in February.
- Copper plate repairs to Hall roof spire.
- Pigeon netting to one of the windows on the west side of the Church refixed in place.
- Smart Water marking carried out to roof lead flashing on Church and Hall roofs.
- Blocked roof valley in the vicinity of organ loft. Leaves removed and a protective layer of liquid waterproofing put onto the surface to prevent any further water ingress.
- Light outside the choir vestry door permanently on. Light disconnected.
- Hall front door difficulty opening and shutting - repaired by a carpenter.
- Repointing of the west wall of the Hall carried out.
- The valley in the roof between the Youth Room and Parish Office has been cleared and a split in the lead flashing repaired so this should now remain watertight.



**Roof Repairs**

Special thanks to the Church Architect, Tony Booth, for his guidance and assistance in obtaining quotes and instructing contractors to carry out repairs around the Church and Hall.

We only have five members of the Committee, so if you think you would like to get involved in the valuable work that is carried out by the Buildings Committee please contact me, Anne Oke or Revd. Miriam.

*Lyndon Palmer, Buildings Committee Chair*

## 9. HALL COMMITTEE

When the Church Hall was opened in 1932, its purpose was *a building that would serve in a sense as The Family House of the Congregation, a place where the family's business can be efficiently carried on*. The reason was the mushrooming of Church activities, some sacred, some secular, that the Church building itself could no longer accommodate. Today, although that is still to some extent the case, the Hall has evolved into a major social centre for the village, underpinning much of All Saints' outreach activity and also a key source of Church income. All three functions demand a space that is multifunctional with the necessary high-grade supporting infrastructure, flexible, secure, safe and clean, as well as being attractive and welcoming. And where they exist, subscribing to national standards at the highest levels. It perhaps goes without saying that, having achieved these goals, which the last year fully demonstrates, they have to be maintained; something that requires constant vigilance on the part of the Hall Committee. That vigilance, of course, has to extend to recognising both challenges to its successful functioning and opportunities to extend and improve its range in underpinning both the Church's needs and those of the wider world of the village and beyond.



**The Hall set up for a booking**

Some idea of the range of what the Hall is now able to accommodate is clearly seen first in the number of regular bookings: Jazzercise, Tai Chi, W3RT, Moonglow, Badminton, Activity is Medicine, Bounce Back Exercise, Keep Fit, Ceroc, Rainbows, Parents and Toddlers, Cancer Support Group, Scottish Dancing, U3A, the Friday Café and Centre Stars; they cover exercise, well-being, martial arts, dance groups, strength and balancing classes, Parkinson's support and drama classes. And then in less regular but important activities, for instance hosting the NHS Blood Transfusion Service, other Faith Groups, children's and other parties, concerts and acting as a Polling Station. Overall, in addition to the considerable social value this list contributes to, the Hall last year contributed over £30,000 to the Church's income.

Finally, the Hall continues to support any number of the Church's own events which may use some or all of its facilities: the Christmas Market, The Beer Festival, Quiz Nights, Christingle, Carol, Crib and Easter Services, the Remembrance Service and All Souls' Service, the pop-up café and Afternoon Teas.

Significant improvements of the last year included a complete upgrade of the men's toilets, the sanding and resealing of the Committee Room floor and purchase of new curtains for the Committee Room. Discussion with the Head of Music at Rickmansworth School, Claire Anstey, led to their offering a proper home to the Hall's piano (as well as to the Baby Grand in Church) and to the School's interest in using the stage for occasional functions.

Looking to the future, the Committee began a Five-Year Plan linked into that of the Church as a whole, identifying both what the Hall might be additionally used for and what changes would be needed to realise those changes successfully. The most immediate of those changes, now in hand, is improving the drainage system outside the Office and fire doors to ward off possible flooding of the building, repair to the basement stairs, replacement of the seats in the ladies' toilets and adjustment to the closing of both sets of fire doors so that they can be both opened and closed more efficiently.

I cannot finish this report without thanking the members of my Committee, Secretary Wendy Shafe and Office Administrator Judith (Jude) Man, Anne Oke (Liaison Officer with the Buildings Committee) and the other members; Jane Bates, Janet Martin and Peter Rennoldson for the time and effort they have put into the

creation of a truly successful asset for the Church. And to them I have to add Trevor Lavender, particularly for his sterling work preventing the Hall flooding in these days of almost perpetual rain, and Eddie Stephens as our man-on-hand, truly friends of All Saints'....and not forgetting Church Surveyor Tony Booth who was behind the major repairs.

*John Galloway, Hall Committee Chair*

## **10. PASTORAL AND EVANGELISM (P&E) GROUP**

The P&E group met 6 times during 2025.

The purpose of the P&E Group is to plan and review all aspects of worship, explore opportunities for running Courses, Retreats etc. and generally look at how we, as a Church, can support individuals in their journey of faith. We identified a number of exciting opportunities across the year to encourage, enable and deepen people's personal faith and journey with God. We also reviewed some of the plans that we had carried forward from 2024 to ascertain whether we felt they were still areas where we felt God calling us to develop.

### **Work with Children and Families**

In 2025, we explored the development of a 6-week support group for parents/carers and children aged 6 months and under called 'Nurturing Newborns'. Whilst research, both written and through our discussions with parents, suggests that for many new parents the first few months can be very isolating, especially for first time parents, we found it difficult to engage with this group due in part to the limit in volunteers and time to engage with other professionals. We linked in with the Parish Nurse who was also keen to support us but her time was limited also. As a consequence, this project has not moved forward and a decision will need to be made about the viability of it developing over the coming year.

During August, we ran a Pop-Up Café on Thursday mornings for parents/carers and children aged 5 and under. The model was similar to a Toddler Group. Whilst those who attended were very supportive and grateful that there was an event specifically for this age group, the numbers attending were not very high. It was also led by a very small band of volunteers, two of whom will not be available to help in 2026. The viability of this group is under discussion by the P&E Group.

The P&E Group also supported a recommendation from those who organise and lead the monthly Family Service to change the name, time and frequency of this service. In October it was re-launched as *Alive@AllSaints*, meeting at 4pm on a Sunday afternoon every 6 weeks or so.

We were delighted to prepare 5 young people from our congregation for Confirmation and we then hosted the Deanery Confirmation Service in November with Bishop Jane, Bishop of Hertford, leading it.

The P&E Group continues to oversee and encourage the involvement of children in our Sunday morning services as we continue, as a Church community, to grow and deepen our model of multigenerational worship. A rota for children and young people to have specific roles during the service e.g. reading, serving, carrying the Gospel book, taking the collection to be blessed during the offertory hymn etc. has helped them to feel more involved and engaged. Some of the older children like to sit and sing with the choir.

### **Going Deeper into Faith**

The P&E Group organised a Parish Residential Retreat at Pleshey in May. The title of the retreat was 'Going Deeper' and it was based on the parable of the Prodigal Son. The retreat was led by the Reverend Canon Susanna Gunner who is a very experienced retreat conductor. Fourteen members of our congregation attended, and all felt inspired and spiritually nurtured and encouraged by the weekend.

Following on from the success of this event, the P&E Group supported an Advent Afternoon Retreat this time led by Reverend Vanessa Coles who is also a very experienced retreat conductor. Taking the theme



**Christmas Afternoon  
Tea and Carols**

'Cradled', she helped us to reflect through word, silence and activity on people from the Christmas story. It was lovely to have eight people join us.

Recognising the need to review our Mission Action Plan, the P&E group organised an afternoon of Tea and Conversation for members of our congregation on 17<sup>th</sup> May. We were delighted that 50 people, including 7 children, attended. There was a lot of good conversation relating to the life of All Saints' now and where God might be leading us in the future.

Taking on board some of the comments and suggestions raised, we devised a 6-week course which ran in October/November looking at 6 Big Questions:

In the Beginning...Was it God or was it Science?

Why do bad things happen?

What happens when we die?

Does prayer work?

Why be a Christian?

Why go to church?

The sessions were very well attended and sparked lots of interesting discussion/debate. Given the poor support for the Hope Explored course we ran in May and June, it seems that this more interactive real life challenges/concerns approach is more engaging and informative.

Another idea that arose from the Cake and Conversation event was a series of focussed sermons which the ministry team led during September and October. We explored the faith journeys of some seemingly unlikely characters in the Bible, namely Peter, Rahab, Ruth, Amos, Moses, Judas, the Woman at the Well and Paul. We had lots of very positive feedback on this and we will certainly look to do another series in 2026.

Further comments from this event will support the PCC in developing a new MAP in 2026.

Alongside all of this, the P&E group spent a lot of time reflecting on the various 'other' services we have especially in Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter, identifying what has enabled people to grow and feel enriched spiritually and what has had less of an impact, with a view to revising the service content/style.

I am immensely grateful to the members of the P&E group for their willingness to think creatively about how we can help people experience God's presence and love and also their constructive comments when things need to be reviewed or changed.

*Revd. Canon Miriam Muga, P&E Group Chair*

## **11. FAMILY SERVICE – ALIVE@ALL SAINTS'**

This year has been one of discerning and exploring. I joined the team in December 2024.



The team has prayerfully discerned how to support and grow the numbers of families of children under 11. The monthly Family Service was not well attended due to various factors including families moving out of the parish, children's schedules changing as they grow up and family commitments. After careful consideration, the monthly 11.30am Family service became Alive@AllSaints' – an informal, interactive and creative hour of themed crafts, sung worship and a short talk based on scripture. The intention and purpose of the ministry is to support, teach and nurture faith in families with children under 11. The team recognises the need to sow and tend the seed of faith in the families in the parish. These children will then move on to our Youth Group. The first session in October 2025 was poorly attended – the team reflected and made some changes including targeted and personal invitations. The third session in February 2026 had 10 children and 10 adults – not including the 6 team members.

The team will review its activities in April 2026 – this will inform our plans for the future of this ministry.

*Revd. Tolu George, Assistant Curate*

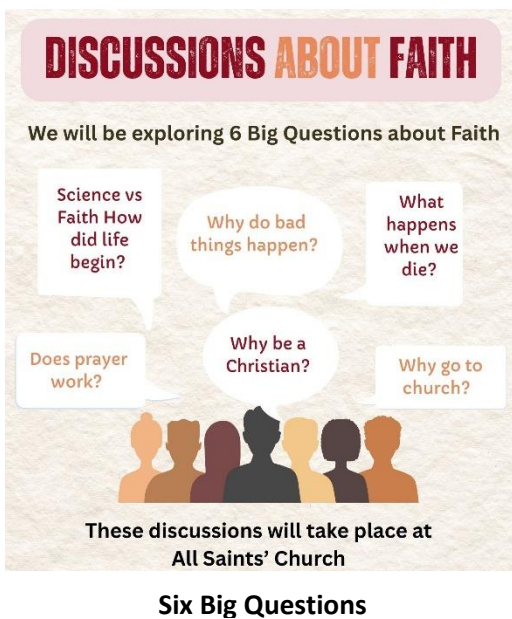
## 12. COURSES AND LEARNING

A wide range of learning opportunities have been available in 2025 and it has been fascinating to see which initiatives have had the most engagement.

Leading up to Easter, Churches Together in Croxley Green arranged a Lent course with participation from members of all five churches. Following Richard Foster's book, 'Streams of Spirituality', we were able to explore ways of experiencing a deeper life with God and taking on the character of Jesus. Afternoon and evening sessions were well attended and all enjoyed exchanging views as well as the fellowship of being with other Christians as we journeyed through the Lenten season.

At the end of June and into early July, we shared the Hope Explored Course. Looking at the themes of Hope, Peace and Purpose, we explored the wider meaning of these themes through a Christian lens. Using videos and Bible readings to guide us, we talked about the wider scope of these topics, often ending with open questions which encouraged people to think about how they could engage with the themes.

Over the weekend of 11-13 July, we undertook a Parish Retreat to the Pleshey Retreat House in Essex. Led by Suzanna Gunner, 14 retreatants explored the parable of the Prodigal Son, also using the book of the same title by Henri Nouwen. All thought that this was a wonderful weekend and came away refreshed and encouraged. We do hope that we can run another retreat in the future.



In September and October, we ran a series of workshops entitled 'Six Big Questions' which looked at topics such as 'Creation or Science?' and 'What Happens When We Die?' Rather than lots of teaching, we broke off into small discussion groups after a short, thought-provoking introduction. It was fantastic to hear deep, encouraging conversations which were so engaging that it sometimes felt difficult to interrupt and end the session. We're thinking of doing something similar in 2026. What do you think?

In November, we were honoured to be able to host a Deanery Confirmation Service and in the weeks leading up to it Revd. Paul and Revd. Miriam had the pleasure of leading five of our young people through a discussion of their faith through fun, interactive activities designed to help them to make their own promises at Confirmation. The input from Ian, Jacob, Emily, Carys and Isabel was really special and we felt privileged to have journeyed with them.

Our online reflections on our Facebook page each Monday, Wednesday and Friday have continued throughout the year. If you haven't discovered these yet, you can view previous reflections up to a month after they are posted. It would be lovely if you could join us.

We have continued to run Quiet Church through the year, offering a quiet, contemplative space where people can just meet with God as they are, with 45 minutes of quiet and peace in Church followed by a simple service of Compline. Numbers are often small at this service, but it is an oasis of peace in busy times. Do join us if you can.

As always, we would love to hear what kind of learning or courses you would like to take part in during the coming year and if you have any ideas on other events we could run, please contact Revd. Miriam, Revd. Paul or Revd. Tolu.

*Revd. Paul Palmer, Associate Priest*

### 13. MUSIC MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Committee comprising of representatives from the clergy, the choir, the organists and the congregation, met four times in 2025.

This year, apart from discussing how music can best enhance our services, much time has been spent on the serious issues with the Church organ and how best to resolve these. A separate report has been written to explain this. The Committee has been most grateful to Simon Dunn and David Heath, our organists, for their input and advice about the organ, and for their skill in making a good sound from it, despite these challenging issues.

Over recent years, the clavinova has been well used to support church music whereas the baby grand piano has not been used, and is in need of repair. A decision was made that, as it is no longer required for our purposes, we would find a new home for this instrument; this is in process.

The Choir has continued to hold an average of 2 practices each month and it is appreciated that David Heath generously volunteers his time to accompany us. We are very grateful to Clare Hearnshaw who has bravely picked up her piano skills to play the clavinova when we have occasionally been without an organist for a main service or a choir practice.



**The Choir at Advent Evening Service**

Because we are a small choir and cannot provide 4-part harmony, the breadth of music we can sing on a Sunday has been restricted. However, we have been pleased to welcome additional singers from our congregation, from St Oswald's Church and other choirs in the Deanery to join us in singing at special services, in particular, The Cross of Christ on Palm Sunday and at the evening Advent and Christmas Carol services.

As happened in the previous year, we invited younger members of the congregation to sing with us for the Mothering Sunday service, at Harvest and at Christmas. They sang on their own, in tune, and with confidence which gave them and everyone listening great pleasure.

*Anne Oke, Committee member*

### 14. 'AN ORGAN MORE WORTHY OF THE CHURCH'

The week beginning 27<sup>th</sup> October saw something in Church not seen for nearly 40 years. The organ opened up and many of its nearly 1700 pipes laid out in the north nave as a programme of restoration was begun by long-established organ builders Cousans of Coalville in Leicestershire. For those of us privileged to be there, the opportunity to see the pipes and 'wind chests' of the opened-up instrument, its 'innards' so to speak, was an experience and an education.

The last time the instrument received serious therapy was in the late 1980s. Since then, the instrument has steadily declined although its increasing loss of stops and notes has been skilfully disguised in recent years by our organists, David and Simon, who have worked round its idiosyncrasies. About a year ago, things made a serious downturn...one of the organ's three keyboards (manuals) -- the choir -- simply stopped working. Investigation by Cousans revealed that the fault was damage caused by water that had, at some point, leaked from a hole in the roof above it. They took the opportunity to carry out a thorough survey of the organ, including the console, and quoted to repair the water



**Organ Pipes Removed**

damage and also to restore the pipework and replace the transmission, now very old, and badly in need of repair.

The Church Insurers asked for a second quote to repair the water-damage and the PCC took an opportunity to carry out a thorough investigation of the options for the future of the Church's organ music. Taking advice from the Diocesan organ adviser, Christopher Muhley, three more pipe organ builders and three suppliers of electronic organs were also asked to advise and quote, the Committee being anxious to cover all the bases, so to speak. The upshot of a considerable amount of work was a decision, for the immediate future, to repair the water damage largely paid for by the insurers and play for time to consider the rather longer term. The cost of a full restoration will be considerable and, while not perfect, we now have a much-improved instrument; one which will greatly extend and enhance the range of the Church's music for some years to come. We also have a breathing space in which to plan for the organ's longer-term future.

Organist David Heath has written about the restored organ...*As an organist, I play many church organs which vary in size and condition. Some are more challenging to play due to various faults and until recently this had been the case at All Saints'. But now the 3 manual (keyboard) instrument is fully working, and playing Toccata by Widor, as the first piece, was a real joy and pleasure. It is now one of the best organs I have played and will play a valuable part in the worship at All Saints' for years to come.*

And organist Simon Dunn, *The restoration undertaken by Cousans on the All Saints organ has had a notably transformative effect on the instrument, despite the relatively limited scope of the works. Although the organ is not generally regarded as a "vintage" instrument, the revitalisation of the Choir Division, the restoration of the swell box mechanism, and numerous meticulous adjustments and repairs have collectively rendered it once again highly playable and musically responsive.*



**Organ Repairs**

*It is now possible to present repertoire that was previously inaccessible and to support congregational singing in a far more assured and uplifting manner. Ian Carter has been a steadfast advocate for the instrument and has provided an effective and affordable means of ensuring that the organ continues to serve and enhance the worshipping life of the church.*

It may be worth taking the chance to say a little about the organ's history. John Norton's design for All Saints' Church back in 1872 did not include an organ, but there was space for an organ 'loft' on the north side of the chancel under the tower. Two years into Astley Roberts' ministry (he was our first vicar), the Church took advantage of Norton's design feature in the north transept and, following a successful public appeal, bought a pipe organ. It was built by the partnership of Bishop & Starr and installed in 1875. It was destroyed by enemy action when two German parachute mines fell close to the Church on the night of 23 September 1940. A replacement was found, though only intended to be a temporary arrangement. It had originally been built in 1895/96 for Christ Church Luton by Nicholson & Co. of Worcester and later enlarged. It was moved to All Saints' in 1943.

In summer 1968, in preparation for the All Saints' centenary in 1972, Robert Slater & Son were asked to report on the state of the instrument and make recommendations to create an organ 'more worthy' of the Church. In the event, a virtually new organ had to be constructed and moved back to the position the first organ had occupied and where it remains, the chamber on the NE side of the 'old' (north) Chancel. In the 1980s, there were moves to further improve the instrument. The work was carried out in 1986/87 by Michael Broom, the organ's tuner and voicer. On 20th September 1987 the newly restored organ was introduced to a standing-room-only audience by the extremely celebrated Nicolas Kynaston, organist of Westminster Catholic Cathedral. Entry was by programme only at £2 a head.

In 1988, Michael made further improvements; he also proposed constructing a new draw stop console with solid-state action and a new pedal board with 50 notes. These latter amounted to rebuilding both the console and the action. There was no appetite for the major fund-raising effort needed. A major review reported to the PCC in 2018 produced no change in the decision of 30 years earlier and the instrument continued its

downward path. That path has now been halted and reversed by Cousans Organs and All Saints' again has an organ 'more worthy of the church'.

*John Galloway*

## 15. FLOWER GROUP



As we've journeyed through the year, we have had a fun time planning, buying, and arranging different displays for the festivals that the Church celebrates.

Easter time found us buying the lovely colourful British tulips. Once upon a time you could only buy them in spring but we can now buy British ones in December. They are a fascinating flower as they keep on growing when you put them in water or oasis and they bend and curl any way that pleases them so they can be quite a challenge to use in an arrangement.

The heat of the summer meant that flowers from our gardens were quite sparse and didn't last too long so, as usual, we relied on the greenery in our gardens and the Church gardens to enhance our displays. The range of colours of green and the different textures of the foliage that we have found is quite amazing.

In June, we bought the most beautiful peonies and roses for a pedestal that we arranged in memory of a loved one whose favourite colour was pink. The flowers just opened up and blossomed each day creating the most beautiful delicate display just like the person who we were thinking of. Then we had fiery red roses and freesia displays for Pentecost.

We've supported other churches with their flower festivals, St Thomas's in July had the theme of 'Celebration'. We made a display celebrating a 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of golden yellow roses in a champagne bottle with gypsophila to represent bubbles and water and hydrangeas in champagne flutes. St Thomas's Church was full of so many different ways of using flowers to show different celebrations. Our Toddlers Group supported the Methodist Church Christmas Tree Festival with a tree about their theme of Journeys. We decorated Paddington Bears and hung them on the tree, thinking of the journey he made from Peru to Paddington Station.

In September, for Harvest, helped by several members of the congregation, the Church was full of colourful pots of flowers, filled with garden flowers and bought flowers, as well as all sorts of food donations that people generously gave to support the foodbank.

In December, Alice came up with the idea of making little floral displays in Christmas mugs to decorate the tables for the Tea Afternoon. She diligently searched charity shops for mugs with Christmas pictures on them and we had a great time one morning filling them with soil, candles, flowers, greenery and baubles. After the tea we placed them around the font in Church for Christmas.

Our challenge for next year is to create all these arrangements without using an oasis as it isn't very environmentally friendly. We have used chicken wire in some of the arrangements. If you know of any other ways we could achieve this please talk to Wendy Shafe or myself – we would love to hear from you.

Thank you to all those ladies who have given their time to come along and help to keep our Church bright and festive on these occasions and a big thank you to all who donated towards the cost of the flowers.



*Fran Bennett, Flower Group Leader*

## 16. GARDEN TEAM

This has been another busy year in the Church Garden. It is a huge job to keep the garden and other areas around the Church looking tidy and colourful and it is thanks to many hours spent by Andrew Nobbs, often in his lunch hour, pruning, weeding and tidying. He battled against the dry weather in the summer to keep plants alive by watering. He has cleared weeds in the Memorial Garden alongside the south side of the Church building, growing and planting new plants to give year-round colour and interest to this area and make it look attractive for relatives who come here to remember loved ones, as well as for visitors to the Church. Hedge cutting around the perimeter and in front of the main door is a year-round job and he has been assisted several times in this by the Parish Council Rangers, which is greatly appreciated.

Andrew has also continued the work started in 2024 to develop the wildlife area between the Hall and the main road. Undergrowth has been cleared to create pathways and patches where plants can come through the brambles and nettles. This is an area we would like to continue to develop next year so, if you'd like to get involved, do talk to us.

Thanks to Marjorie Stevenson who tends the bed alongside the Choir Vestry and keeps it looking tidy. We took part in No-Mow May again this year. This was where the grass in the back garden was left to grow but had pathways cut in it for walking through. This allowed many wild flowers and taller grasses to grow which, in turn, attracted many insects; a small contribution to improving our local environment. Maybe you could do this in your garden next year? Thanks to Alick Burge who, for many years, has cut the grass but is now enjoying a rest from this job.

Alice Tims has continued to look after the birds who visit the garden by filling up feeders in the colder months and water trays during dry spells – thank you Alice, you do a great job and I'm sure it is very much appreciated by our feathered visitors. I have to say, I was very excited a few months ago to see a tiny goldcrest in the garden, the first one I'd ever seen!

If you have a bit of time to spare and would like to get involved with an area of the garden, or have ideas for the garden, please do chat to me or Andrew – we are always happy to welcome new people to the team.

*Janet Martin, Garden Team Leader*

## 17. COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

The Communications Team continues to oversee the main social media platforms used by All Saints' being the website and Facebook. The team also looks after other forms of communication within and outside the Church.

A diary of services and events is maintained throughout the year by the team and is used to identify what is taking place at All Saints'. It helps us to plan the various means of communication to promote the Church, services and events to the congregation and the wider public. These can take the form of noticeboard displays, calendar every two months, service and event posters, information leaflets and information emails. Also, we create displays for the back of the Church and in the Hall to promote services and events at All Saints'.

Our Facebook page continues to be a helpful social media tool for the Church. Our following has grown to over 600 followers. This is a useful way for us to advertise events, courses and services and share beyond the Church congregation.



You can follow what is happening at All Saints' via our Website and Facebook page using the links below: -

**Website** - <http://www.croxleygreenallsaints.org/>

**Facebook** - <http://www.facebook.com/croxleyallsaintschurch>

*Lyndon Palmer, Communication Team Leader*

## 18. SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

2025 has been yet another successful year for fundraising and social events at All Saints'.

We started the year with another Carols and Christmas Cocktails to round off the Christmas season. This was followed in February by a Pub Social Evening, with additional Pub evenings held in June, September and November.

In March, we had a new event of a Bingo Afternoon which proved to be so popular that we decided to hold another again in September.

In May, we were invited by the Parish Council to have a stall at the Community Picnic to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day. This was a lovely event and it was a great pleasure to be a part of it.

Also, in May, we welcomed back the Gilliard Band for another concert of recorder music and readings for which we provided the interval refreshments.

In June, we held another successful Hymns and Pimm's.

The date for Croxley Revels this year clashed with Revd. Tolu's Ordination so we were unable to have our usual stall. The following day, we held a shared lunch for Tolu to celebrate this momentous occasion.

In August, there was a Quiz Night which was expertly organised by Abbie who was ably supported by Josh, Katherine, William and James.

Our annual Christmas Market was, as usual, in November. This was, as always, a wonderful day and we yet again managed to break our record by raising a staggering £7,655.00!

Also, in November, we provided the refreshments for the Deanery Confirmation Service which was held at All Saints'. We also organised the refreshments for the Advent Service at the end of the month.



**VE Day Community Picnic**



**Christmas Market**

December, as always, was a very busy month with events taking place every weekend up to Christmas. We provided refreshments for the Christingle and Carol services. We had our usual stall selling mulled wine at the Parish Council Christmas Market and organised the Parish Christmas Post Box.

Thank you, as always, to the Committee for all their hard work over the year and special thanks go to David Heath for providing the music for Carols and Cocktails and Hymns and Pimm's and to Abbie, Josh, Katherine, William and James for organising the Quiz Night.

We have now become a very small group which is kept very busy over the course of the year. We would dearly love to have some new members to help us to continue to hold a variety of events. If you think you might like to join us (or even find out a bit more about what we do), please speak to either myself or Revd Miriam. We would love to have you on board!

*Ann Palmer, Social and Fundraising Committee Chair*

## **19. CHURCH MAGAZINE**

All Saints' Church Magazine has advertised and reported on the events that have been part of our Church life throughout 2025. It has also provided us with information about the Church's past and is becoming an historical source for the people who come after us.

The articles are varied and include information about courses to help us on our journey of faith as well as advertising social and fundraising events that all can join in with. We try to include photos to enhance the text and I would like to thank all those who have helped by taking photos and sending them in. We also include poems, puzzles, a Children's page, Gospel readings for each month, a Prayer diary, a letter from Miriam, information about Croxley Green Churches Together, reports on PCC meetings, entries from our Church records and anything that will inform readers about what we are doing at All Saints'. I would like to thank the people who have contributed reports, poems and information to help with this process.

During 2025, the number of Magazines printed and distributed each month increased. The Magazine continues to be free of charge as part of our Outreach Programme and is available in Church and at Friday Coffee. It is also delivered by hand locally and by post to those who have moved away but still want to keep in touch with what is happening at All Saints'. Thank you to Fran Bennett who organises the distribution and to all those who help by delivering. The Magazine is also available on our website.

Thank you also to Shelagh and Tony Booth, our proof-readers, who provide a very valuable service by checking the Magazine before it is printed. This is greatly appreciated.

*Wendy Shafe*

## **20. CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CROXLEY GREEN**

All Saints' has always been, and continues to be, an active partner in both the Ecumenical events organised and the meetings held for both the lay members and the Clergy. As ever, there were many events throughout the year and all were well attended. The Civic Service at All Saints' on Remembrance Sunday, followed by observance at the War Memorial, continues to be a particularly popular event with an increased attendance seen again this year. The very successful Lent Course was again run this year and will be repeated next year. We also introduced "Telling the Christmas Story" outside the Library this year, which will also become a regular event. Another addition this year was the Sunrise Service on The Green on Easter Morning, again well attended and to be repeated. We again attended Croxfest open air music festival, where we provided both a "Quiet Space" for those attending this very busy day together with crafts for children. The prominent position we were given this year attracted many participants.

Our participation in the Croxley Green Food Bank continues, both by way of Church donations and active involvement in the running of the weekly drop in. The receipt of donations and the issue of food and hygiene items for those in need continues to be a much-needed facility in our present economic climate. More information regarding donations and the work undertaken can be found at <https://Rickmansworth.foodbank.org.uk>

The Parish Nurse project continues to play a major role within the community, dealing with long-term health conditions, mental health, social isolation and loneliness. There has continued to be a concentration on Dementia and Cancer support this year which has been very well received by those participating. Fund raising for this facility remains a vital role for its successful continuation and this year we ran both a Coffee/Tea & Cake event and Quiz Night to achieve additional funding. Work is carried out alongside other community services including debt agencies, drug, alcohol and domestic abuse services. At present, the Trustees are seeking new members to join them, particularly those with expertise in HR, fund raising, Nursing and communications. Further information can be seen at <https://croxleyparishnurse.org>

*Nik Bennett, Churches Together Treasurer*

## 21. FRIDAY DROP-IN CAFÉ

The Friday Drop-in Café continues to flourish. Every week, the many regulars from All Saints' and other churches, from the local community and beyond, meet up for a good chat. The moment the Café opens there is a queue of people waiting to choose from a delicious selection of cakes before making their favourite drink! We are particularly pleased to have welcomed newcomers, some with their dogs, who have found a friendly welcome and made new friends. Some of these newcomers have chosen to join our band of volunteer helpers which is much appreciated.

Grateful thanks go to the ladies, and one local gentleman, who bake for us – whether it is once in a while or on a regular/weekly basis. The Cafe cannot happen without them or our team of volunteers, including Miriam and Tolu, who prepare in the kitchen, set up the Hall, wash up and clear away. Safety, health and hygiene are an essential aspect of running this Café. In February, we held a Helpers' Cuppa and Chat meeting when we thanked our volunteers and shared best practice with regard to food hygiene. We also shared our annually reviewed risk assessment. In October, we had an Environmental Health Interim Inspection from Watford Council and we are pleased to say that we maintained our Level 5 rating.

As in previous years, we highlighted certain Fridays to raise money for charity and in 2025 we raised over £1,100 for 5 charities which is brilliant.

This Church community outreach could not happen without each and everyone's support. So THANK YOU.

*Anne Oke, Café Organiser*

## 22. YOUTH GROUP



We have had another enjoyable year at the Church's Youth Group, running 8 sessions over the year. We are growing and have had mixed numbers attend with the last few sessions having 12 young people. This is a great number to create a fun atmosphere and for us to organise fun games and activities.

This year, we had a session around glow sticks, playing ten pin bowling in the dark with them, making large glow in the dark pictures from them and creating dance routines/exercises with them attached to our bodies.

We had an Italian evening where the challenge was to make the best Leaning Tower of Pisa out of spaghetti and marshmallows along with being the quickest at finding jigsaw pieces of Italian landmarks in a ball pit and forming the photos. We also made our own pizzas from scratch. We have recreated and played Family Fortunes, our version of "Among Us" as well as other games such as "Smugglers" and "Port & Starboard".

We have been creative and built robots out of recycled materials which included coming up with names for them and 2 interesting facts about them. We had a night of games around cups, from team relay of building towers to the flipping cup challenge and tic tac toe game with them. We have designed and made ice cream sundaes and decorated biscuits. We had a water fight and games around water which is now becoming an annual tradition in the summer.

We still have table tennis, a mini pool table, arcade basketball game, air hockey, badminton, magnetic darts, a version of curling and table football out each week to be played during the evening.

Overall, great fun has been had, with new and old members developing their friendships, being active and having a laugh. It is lovely to work with these young people.



**Glow Sticks**

*Sam Beard and Kelly Buckle, All Saints Youth Group leaders*

### **23. MONDAY TODDLER GROUP**



The Monday Toddler Group had a good year. Numbers did drop earlier in the year which, along with other Toddler groups, seemed reflective on the free nursery extra hours being offered by the Government. However, the group is now nearly full again with many grandparents attending. We also have 3 sets of twins which I think must be a record!

We continue to provide a variety of activities with bikes, ride on toys, slide and rockers, creative construction, and imaginative play. We play until 10.30am, then gather on the mats for a snack. This is a very sociable time followed by a short time of play before gathering as a group for singing. We are keen to include Christian songs; this needs some thought as most children are 2 years and under and concentration is short. A favourite is "The wise man built his house upon the rock " using a parachute and a water spray!

We are fortunate to have wonderful helpers who organise refreshments and are there to chat and support members of the group. This is so important as we are there to love and care for all our members. We have wonderful Shirley and Mya to manage the registration and watch the door for any escapees!

I would really like to thank everyone who helps during the sessions and also the fantastic people who are so brilliant and help set out and put away equipment each week. It would be wonderful if anyone else could help us with this as our backs aren't getting any younger!

*Jane Bates, Toddler Group Organiser*

### **24. ALL SAINTS' BEER FESTIVAL 10-12 OCTOBER 2025**

This was the fourth year of our Beer Festival, held in the Church, and what an amazing event this was. Each year it is growing both in size and in the numbers attending, making it a well-known community event. It is a great opportunity for us to open up our church space to everyone, showing how warm, relaxed and friendly our Church is.

The Church was set up with kegs of beer (a wide variety of ales and lagers) and a bar was set up to sell these along with wine and other drinks for those non-beer drinkers! The Church was decorated, once again, with fairy lights making a lovely warm environment. We sold home-made food throughout the weekend from



**Beer Festival**

sausage rolls, pulled pork baps, chicken goujons in baps and vegetarian options. This year, we had glasses with our Church logo printed on which we sold. We also produced a booklet which contained details of the beers, and it also gave us the opportunity to give information about our Church history, the services we have and our future Church events. It also included adverts from local businesses.

The atmosphere was lively and welcoming and the event was so popular that we ran out of beer on the Saturday!! The Church was packed with people having friendly conversations and discussions with each other over the weekend. It has proved, once again, to be a great event to build relationships

with one another and the community, in our Church, through good beer, drink, food and fellowship with one another.

A big thank you to all those who helped out over the weekend. Thanks too to the Anchor, Tap & Bottle who organised all the beer, drinks and the bar set up; without their valuable knowledge we couldn't pull this off. And thanks to all those in the Church who made the food, served it, sold the glasses and welcomed people over the weekend.

*Sam Beard, Member of the Beer Festival Team*

## **25. ALL SAINTS' CHARITIES – ANNUAL REPORTS**

**THE GEORGE GURNEY CHARITY FOR THE SICK POOR, Registered Charity No. 212964  
(previously registered as The George Gurney Bequest )**

**ALL SAINTS' CROXLEY GREEN CHARITIES BANK ACCOUNTS (current and deposit bank accounts)**

The George Gurney Charity for the Sick Poor was established using a bequest in 1923 following the sale of "The Hawthorns", in order to provide a qualified trained nurse for the benefit of the poor inhabitants of Croxley Green. Following the establishment in 1948 of the National Health Service, the Charity Commission approved a change of object to relieving individual cases of hardship resulting from illness and providing amenities such as invalid chairs to elderly and poor people in All Saints' and St Oswald's Parishes, with Christmas gifts for elderly and sick people.

Until its merger with the George Gurney Charity in 2023, the parish had a second registered charity, the Croxley Green Annuity Fund, established by a bequest in 1920 by the Misses Cameron to provide pensions to three poor and aged residents of Croxley Green or Rickmansworth Parishes. This fund was established in memory of the late Thomas Woods of Durrants.

The All Saints' Croxley Green Charities Bank Accounts were set up in 1990 using later legacies and donations. They receive dividend income from the merged George Gurney Charity by bank transfer and make grant distributions to beneficiaries. They provide health-related equipment and additional financial support to less affluent residents on a one-off or regular basis. Since 2018, grants have also been made to the Charitable Incorporated Organisation set up by Churches Together in Croxley Green to run the Parish Nurse Scheme in Croxley Green and also to the Croxley Green Food Bank.

The Trustees have applied to the Charity Commission to obtain approval for a change in the George Gurney Charity's current charitable purposes to embrace wider and more flexible objects concerning the relief of poverty and support for health-related services in Croxley Green.

The Trustees of the Charities are the Vicar and Churchwardens of All Saints' Church. The current Churchwardens are Lyndon Palmer and Anne Oke. The Charities are administered by Christopher Fagan, Clerk to the Trustees, 75, Windmill Drive, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 3FB.

Anyone living in Croxley Green, or who has a past or current connection, who needs financial help is welcome to contact (in confidence) any of the Trustees who will consider any application for assistance. Details can be obtained from Chris Fagan, Clerk to the Trustees, tel. 01923 720319, Email: [bardwell29@virginmedia.com](mailto:bardwell29@virginmedia.com).

### **THE REVEREND DAVID KENNETH WILLIAMS TRUST, Registered Charity No. 803706**

*The Reverend David Kenneth Williams Trust was established in 1989 in accordance with the wishes of Reverend David Kenneth Williams as expressed in his will dated 4 February 1989. The income from the sale of his house at 36, Winton Crescent, Croxley Green provided the capital, which was invested. The objects of the charity are such Christian religious and charitable purposes whether parochial or outside the Parish of All Saints' Croxley Green as in all respects the Trustees shall from time to time consider proper.*

The focus of the Trust has been to use its assets to support the mission and outreach of All Saints' Parish. In past years, the capital assets of the Trust were used to purchase equipment for church services and youth work, employment of youth workers, support for the church choir, construction of the Parish Office and Youth Room, installation of CCTV and part-funding of an administrative post (now the Parish Administrator) and the purchase and operating costs of a new computer software system to hold relevant data and enable members of the congregation and others with links to All Saints' to be contacted with information about Church services and other activities. In addition to other benefits, this has facilitated the computerisation of the Church Hall bookings and fee collection which has increased Church income.

This spending substantially reduced the capital of the Trust and its income, which consisted of interest on a bank account. Following the recession of 2008 and subsequent years the amount of bank interest paid annually shrank to very little and eventually the Trust was not able to make any financial contribution to parish income. To seek to increase the capital of the Trust, in 2017 the Trustees invested most of the remaining capital in Accumulation shares of the Church of England Central Board of Finance (CBF) Investment Fund, with the aim of growing the capital over time. In recent years the Trust has made grants to the Parochial Church Council towards the cost of new double-glazed windows for the Hall, the Hall refurbishment programme and the purchase of new stackable chairs for the Hall to replace old and deteriorating chairs. These grants were made because the Hall is used by many local organisations and is part of the Parish's outreach to the community. In 2025 a grant was made to reduce the cost to those attending the residential parish retreat. As the Trust's financial year runs from April to April, the year-end accounts for 2025/26 will be prepared in April 2026.

The Vicar and Churchwardens of the Parish of All Saints', Croxley Green, Rickmansworth, Herts. are the ex officio Trustees and have the right to nominate and appoint all new Trustees of the Trust. They appoint the Clerk to the Trustees, who they have appointed as a Trustee of this Charity. During 2025, the Churchwardens were Anne Oke and Lyndon Palmer. The current Clerk to the Trustees is Christopher Fagan of 75, Windmill Drive, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 3FB.

Applications for assistance can be made to the Trustees or the Clerk, Chris Fagan, tel. 01923 29319. Email: [bardwell29@virginmedia.com](mailto:bardwell29@virginmedia.com).

*Chris Fagan, Clerk to the Trustees*

## 26. VICAR'S REPORT

As I read through this report, I am struck by the sheer breadth of what we are doing and the number of people we are reaching. Through our regular and seasonal services, School Carol Services and visits and our social events—including the Beer Festival and Christmas Market—thousands of people come into our Church building each year. That is nothing short of phenomenal.

This doesn't happen by accident. It is your commitment, support, encouragement, prayers, and willingness to help with jobs both large and small that make this possible. Each one of you, in your own way, has contributed to drawing people in to All Saints' and helping them feel welcomed and valued and through your actions they are knowingly or unknowingly experiencing the love of God.

If I attempted to list everyone by name I would inevitably miss someone so, instead, let me say to all of you a huge and heartfelt **thank you**. You are amazing. Our Church is certainly a beacon of God's light, love, presence and welcome.

Every year, the Churchwardens and I are required to submit Annual Statistics to the Church of England. All churches do this, and the information gathered helps build a national picture of trends in attendance, new initiatives and the number of baptisms, weddings, and funerals. When published, these figures offer a useful indication of growth or decline in church attendance and people's formal connections with the Church of England.

However, these statistics only tell part of the story. They do not capture the wider work, presence, and engagement that churches offer in, with, and for their local communities. This is why a detailed report like this one matters. We are not simply a church on Sunday. Being *the church* is far more than a weekly service. It is about meeting people where they are, offering hospitality, and ensuring that our building is open, accessible, welcoming, and safe.

The ministry that happens here at All Saints'—both within our worship and far beyond it—is rich, relational, and often impossible to quantify. Much of what we do sits outside the scope of statistical analysis, yet it is at the heart of who we are and how we serve.

### Worship



One of the joys of our worship in Church is the variety of services, from the traditional to the quirky. Using different liturgies, we are able to ensure that our worship is accessible and engaging so that people of all ages and abilities are able to experience the love and presence of God.

We are a Church that is intentionally multigenerational in our worship, recognising the importance of children bringing new insights and expressions of worship which enhance our overall worshipping experience.

#### Harvest Sunday Service

During 2025, we have seen a growth in the number of families who attend our regular 9.45am Sunday services. We also saw an increase in the number of families who attended our Candlelit Carol Service in 2025 compared to previous years when this would have drawn an adult attendance only.

Looking at the annual statistics that have recently been submitted to the Church of England, our Worshipping Community has increased from 115 in 2024 to 130 in 2025 which is very positive.

Our pattern of worship on Sundays has remained largely unchanged, with one intentional exception. The monthly Family Service has been revised, remodelled, and moved to a new time. It now takes place at 4pm on a Sunday afternoon, approximately every six weeks, and has been relaunched under a new name: Alive@AllSaints'. This shift has allowed us to create a more relaxed, accessible space for families and those who find a later service easier to attend.

The 8am Book of Common Prayer said Holy Communion Service has continued on a monthly basis with an average of 5 people attending.

The main Sunday service at 9.45am continues to attract people of all ages as we build on our model of multigenerational worship. Our weekly average attendance for 2025 is 48 adults and 9 children. The focus of the Church of England, and of this Diocese, is to grow younger and more diverse worshipping communities and it is wonderful to reflect on how this is a reality in our Church, achieved through our ethos of inclusive welcome, generous hospitality and multigenerational worship.

On Thursday morning, at 9.30am, we have a service of Holy Communion which is a said service although, on occasions, we do sing too! This special time of worship and being a community has grown over the last year with an average of 14-16 people attending each week.

### **Occasional Offices**

Over recent years, and especially since Covid, the number of requests for services referred to as Occasional Offices (Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals) has reduced considerably. This is not only an issue at All Saints' but at other churches across the Diocese and the country. In detail, the number of services in each category is as follows:

### **Baptisms**

This year we had only 3 baptism services compared to 2024 when we had 9 child and 2 adult baptisms. Whilst there is clearly work that needs to be done in this area, we should not be downhearted. Instead, we need to look at the wider picture, the numbers of children in Church each Sunday at our 9.45am service and the new families who have recently started to attend this service, and the potential impact of the new Alive@AllSaints' afternoon worship bringing in new families to All Saints'. Children are still very visible and a very important part of our Church worship bringing joy, liveliness and a deep insight into what it is to freely worship God.

### **Confirmations**

It was such a joy to host the Deanery Confirmation Service and welcome the Bishop of Hertford, The Right Reverend Dr. Jane Mainwaring, to lead the service. Five of our young people were confirmed at this service.



**Confirmation in November**

Reverend Paul and I led a course for these young people, the majority of whom have been part of this Church community since they were very young. We were amazed by the depth of the children's thinking—their sense of who God is, their awareness of his presence in worship, their grasp of scripture and the thoughtful questions they asked. To some, it may appear that children are not taking much in during a service, but our experience shows something very different. The Spirit of God is clearly at work in them, filling, shaping, and guiding them on their journey of faith.

When children are welcomed as full participants in worship, rather than passive observers, they begin to internalise the rhythms, language, and mystery of faith. They learn not only about God, but what it feels like

to belong in God's presence. The love, nurture, and acceptance they receive from the community become the soil in which their faith grows.

Children often encounter God with a clarity and openness that adults sometimes lose. Their questions and insights remind us that the Spirit does not wait for adulthood. Our role—through patient listening, gentle guidance, and consistent support—helps create a space where their faith can deepen and flourish.

### **Weddings**

We were delighted to conduct 2 weddings during 2025 which seems to be our average number of weddings each year.

### **Funerals**

During 2025 we conducted 14 funerals, 5 of which were in Church and the remaining 9 were at the Crematorium. This compared to 11 in 2024.

### **Holy Week Services**

There was a range of services during Holy Week as follows:

Palm Sunday, 9.45am Parish Communion with a procession with Palms and an evening service 'The Cross of Christ' where we were joined by choir and congregation members from St Oswald's Church.

Monday evening, we had a service of prayer for healing.



**Holy Week Meal**

Tuesday evening, we had our traditional Holy Week meal which was exceptionally well attended by people of all ages.

Wednesday evening, we had a service of prayer and anointing.

Thursday evening, we had our traditional service of Holy Communion in the evening with the washing of feet, stripping of the altars and vigil. We were delighted to be joined by members of St Oswald's and the Baptist Church.

Friday, we joined with other churches for a Walk of Witness in the morning and then had a service of Reflection and Communion in the afternoon.

On Saturday evening, we had a Vigil Service as we looked forward to celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus.

On Easter Sunday, we joined with members from the other churches in Croxley for a sunrise service on the Green as we celebrated Jesus risen from the dead. We continued our celebrations at our 9.45am service in Church followed by our traditional Easter Egg Hunt for the children.

### **Other Services**

Other services that we celebrated over the course of the year include Carols and Cocktails, Hymns and Pimms, Blessing of Animals, Service of Remembrance for those who have died, Advent Service, Christingle, Carols by Candle-light and a Crib Service.

We were delighted to attend St Albans Cathedral for Revd. Tolu's Ordination as a Priest on 28<sup>th</sup> June. The next day we had a wonderful service when she was Celebrant at our service of Parish Communion for the first time with congregation members, family and friends in attendance.



**Tolu's Ordination**

We also welcomed 5 local schools for their Carol Services during December.

## **Growing Together**

In May 2025, we invited the congregation to an afternoon of Cake and Conversation and were delighted that 50 people came along, including 8 children. As well as enjoying each other's company in a social setting, we also invited conversation about the work and mission of All Saints'- what it looks like now and what it might look like in the future, and we explored what helps people to grow in faith. We took forward some of the ideas from this excellent afternoon straight away.

Traditionally we use the readings from the Church of England Lectionary. People asked whether we could do some themed sermons so, in the autumn, we preached a series of sermons on Biblical people's journeys of faith. These were very well received and very popular.

There was also a desire to discuss the challenges of being a Christian and sharing faith when faced with questions relating to creation, suffering, death, pain etc. The ministry team led a 6-week discussion group looking at these issues and leading discussions. These sessions were really well attended and we had great discussions and feedback.

Earlier in the year we also ran an Exploring Faith course for people new to faith.

We also enjoyed a Parish Residential Retreat which was led by Revd. Canon Susanna Gunner at Pleshey Retreat House, Essex. Entitled 'Coming Home' she led us with reflections, images and music into an exploration of the Parable of the Prodigal Son. It was lovely that 14 people were able to attend, and everyone found it spiritually enriching and fulfilling; it is something they would like to do again.

Building on the success of the Residential Retreat our Ordinand, Sam Jones, organised an Advent half day retreat led by Revd. Vanessa Cole. Entitled 'Cradled' we listened to reflections on the experiences of Mary and Elizabeth in their pregnancies as well as having quiet time to think and/or do various crafts. This retreat was enjoyed by 8 people.

## **Links with Schools**

We have very good links with all of the schools in our Parish. I lead assemblies at York House, Yorke Mead and Revd. Tolu and I alternate in leading assembly at Harvey Road School. This year I have also spoken at assemblies across all year groups at Rickmansworth School.

We have also welcomed visits to the Church from Reception at York House School when we explored the story of Holy Week and Easter. In November, we welcomed Year 7 pupils (around 200 children over the course of a week) from Rickmansworth School as they explored the place and purpose of the church during the war and in community life today.

We have also made our Church available for pupils of Rickmansworth school who are sitting GCSE/A level exams who, for whatever reason, are unable to take them in the school environment.

As already mentioned, we also hosted 5 schools who had their Carol services/concerts in the Church.

With the school visits and Carol Services, we had almost 2,000 school children through our Church doors in 2025 plus their teachers, parents, grandparents etc.

## **Links with Community**

Our links with the community are very important to us and we have had a number of social events and SoFun activities which have taken place both in the Church and the community.

We were delighted when Abbie Guest approached us with the offer to organise a Quiz Night in August 2025 to raise funds for the Church. Abbie is currently at university but used to be a member of our Church and sang in the choir. She teamed up with her brother, Josh, and friends Katherine, William and James, all of whom were in our choir before going to university, and they put together an amazing night which was full of fun and laughter. We are so grateful to them for such a wonderful event and the added bonus of funds raised for the Church. It is always lovely to see them at Church during holiday periods and we are especially grateful for William who, if available, will accompany hymns and carols on his trumpet at the Remembrance Service and Christmas services.



**Quiz Night**

The annual Beer Festival in October was more popular than ever with 1,000 + people attending. There was a significant increase in the number of families attending and thankfully the weather on Saturday afternoon was lovely, so people overflowed into the Church garden. In fact, it was so popular that we ran out of beer on Saturday evening and had to cancel opening on Sunday afternoon. This event is such a wonderful opportunity to get to know people and the have good conversations about faith and the role of the church. We are grateful to Ben and Sarah Guest and Scott from the Anchor Tap & Bottle for organising this event and to Wendy and Janet and their team of helpers for organising and selling food.

The other huge event that draws people from our local community and beyond is the Christmas Market. It is wonderful to welcome external stall holders who set up and sell their wares. There is always a great atmosphere, and we are grateful to Night Train who provide music through most of the day and to the children and staff from Centre Stars, a drama group that uses the Hall every Saturday, who come and sing carols in the afternoon. Thank you to Ann and Lyndon Palmer and the SoFun team and everyone who helped in any way to organise this event.

The Friday Café is flourishing, providing a safe and meaningful environment for the local community to get together and catch up with friends old and new. The majority of people who attend are not regular Church-goers but they do see themselves as being a part of All Saints', ready to help out whenever there is a need. It is wonderful that some attendees have started to attend Church as well. Thank you to Anne Oke and her team of volunteers and the folk who bake the wonderful cakes, they are always greatly appreciated.

Another important link with our local community is the Toddler Group run by Jane Bates and her team of volunteers. It helps to reduce isolation and create community for parents/grandparents/carers who are able to meet and socialise while their children play and engage with the variety of crafts and sensory activities.



**VE Day Community Picnic**

An important part of our work with the community is also about us being present and active outside the walls of the Church. I think that often people are not aware of what we do with and in the local community and so have a mistaken view that we don't do enough. Whilst there is always scope to do more I think it is helpful to recognise what we currently do.

We have built up a very good relationship with the Parish Council, supporting them by running a mulled wine stall at their Christmas Market. We were also invited to provide refreshments and support at the VE Day Community Picnic organised by the Parish Council. We had great fun with our 1940s mocktails stall which was hugely popular as it was a very hot day.

The Parish Council also organises the Remembrance Service which we host at All Saints' Church. Again, this is a huge community event with the Church full of people and an even bigger crowd joining at the Act of Remembrance on The Green.

I was also delighted to be invited to the Parish Council Diwali celebrations in October. It was wonderful to engage with Hindu people from our local community and beyond and join them in their procession of light to the library where the lights on the trees were switched on.

I have continued in my role as Padre to the local Royal British Legion, linking particularly with the Women's Section and also my role as County Padre for the Hertfordshire Women's Section of the Royal British Legion attending meetings and events as requested.

A significant, but perhaps overlooked, link with the local community comes courtesy of my dog Bodie. Walking him each day provides me with countless opportunities to meet local people and engage in conversation. Often the conversations are about challenges people are facing, coping with bereavement, wanting to understand more about faith etc. Through these conversations, people have made contact with the Church for funerals and other services. Letting people know that the Church is open and that they and their dogs are welcome has also meant that people have dropped in for some quiet time whilst out on their walk. It is lovely that people also feel comfortable to bring their dogs along to the Friday Café.

Clarendon Lodge is a local care home that we have great links with. Revd. Tolu and/or I attend every 2 weeks along with Jane Bates, Val Hunt and Sheila Newman to lead a time of worship which is so greatly appreciated by the residents and staff. We also ran a stall for them at their Summer Fete in August and had a great time chatting to residents, families and staff and raising funds for their activities fund.

## **Conclusion**

This is a long report but I hope that it has provided you with a good insight into the life and ministry of All Saints' Church. We are a very active Church and we have seen and experienced God's blessing on all that we have done in His name and for His glory. We continue to seek God's guidance as we move into the future, holding on to the verse of scripture, from Jeremiah, that has inspired and led us over the last 19 years

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*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah chapter 2 verse 11*

I said at the beginning of my report that there are so many people who do so much in so many different ways, seen and unseen, for the good of the work and mission of All Saints' that I could not name everyone for fear of leaving someone out, so please can you be assured that I am so very grateful for all that you do and all that you are. You are a blessing to our Church and I thank God for you.

Having said that, I do want to specifically thank Revd. Ron Hibbert and his wife, Gretel, for their caring and compassionate support to the people of All Saints' and for the lively and thought-provoking sermons that Ron preaches.

I would also like to express thanks to David Heath and Simon Dunn who play the organ/clavinova at our services whenever they are available. Both of them have gone above and beyond with their support of the quality and effectiveness of music in our worship. Their advice and input to the organ refurbishment was invaluable and David's willingness to lead choir practices and play at special fund-raising events is all so greatly appreciated. They have inspired and lead us in such a positive way, musically. I would also like to thank Clare Hearnshaw who has wonderfully accompanied us musically in the services when David or Simon is unavailable, we are so very grateful.

The role of the Churchwarden is wide and varied and I am immensely grateful to Lyndon Palmer and Anne Oke for the time and commitment that they give in fulfilling this role. My thanks also to our Assistant Churchwardens, Ann Palmer and Gill Main, who provide much needed help and support to Anne and Lyndon. I am especially grateful for the support and encouragement they all give to me and the wider ministry team in our work and ministry.

It is wonderful that we have reached the year end with a surplus in our budget. Thank you to everyone who supports the Church financially through weekly giving; without your donations we would not be able to function as a Church and we really do appreciate every penny and pound that you give. Thank you to Andrew for his careful oversight and advice in matters relating to finance and Janet Martin who counts and banks cash collections and keeps records for Gift Aid reclaims.

We are very blessed to have a strong ministry team. I am hugely grateful for the ministry of Revd. Paul, Revd. Tolu and our Ordinand, Sam Jones. Their varied gifts enrich the ministry that we are able to provide to those within our congregation and our local community. Their support and encouragement is such a help to me in my role as vicar.

### **Looking Ahead**

As we journey through 2026 we know that there are changes ahead.

We are excitedly looking forward to our Ordinand, Sam Jones, being ordained as a Deacon at St Albans Cathedral on 5<sup>th</sup> July. It has been a huge privilege and joy to journey with Sam over the last 3 years as she has undertaken her theological training. Watching her grow in confidence as she leads worship, preaches and ministers among us has been a real joy. Once ordained, Sam will take up a post of Assistant Curate at All Saints' Church, Leavesden. We will be sad to see her go but we are proud of all that she has achieved and that we have had such an active role in helping her to move onto the ministry that God is calling her to. Please keep Sam and her family, Simon, Carys and Nerys, in your prayers. Her last day with us will be Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June.

Sadly, we will also be saying goodbye to Simon Dunn who has been such a support with our music and especially with the refurbishment of the organ. Simon will be retiring from his role of Headmaster and moving back to Yorkshire in the summer.

There is a saying that things come in threes, and the third change this year will be that I, too, will be retiring in July after almost 19 years as your vicar. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as your vicar. Together, under the guidance of God, we have re-imagined and re-developed our mission and ministry as a Church in this community making it a vibrant, welcoming and inclusive place of worship and witness. I have always been humbled that you have invited me to draw close to journey with you through times of sadness and times of joy and in doing so we have built such strong bonds. Thank you so much for being the loving, caring people that you are and for your support, encouragement and love throughout my time with you. Thank you for being willing to dream dreams with me as we explored God's will for our Church and for always being willing to try new ways of worship and new ways of being the Church here in Croxley Green.

Saying goodbye is not going to be easy, but we must look to the future. God has so much more that he desires for All Saints'. A new vicar will bring new energy to build on the strong foundation that has been laid not only by me but by previous incumbents. All Saints' will always hold a very special place in my heart and I will continue to hold you all in my prayers.

*Revd. Canon Miriam Mugan, Vicar*