

**ALL SAINTS
METHODIST CHURCH
ANNUAL REPORT FOR
2019-2020**

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Introduction

With the restrictions on large gatherings that we are facing at the moment due to social distancing and the concerns of COVID-19 the Annual General Meeting of All Saints Methodist Church has had to be postponed until the World Health Organisation and our government have advised us that it is safe to do so.

This report contains accounts from a variety of groups and organisations that use our premises and are reports on the year as a whole, not just the last two months, so may I commend this report to you and thank those who have contributed to it.

Hopefully reading this will remind us of our 'church family,' friends whose faces we have not seen, many whose voices we have not heard for the last few months. May this report reunite us, even in the isolation of our own homes. It makes exciting reading and reminds us that All Saints is usually a busy, mission minded and an outward, community-looking church. Behind all the words there has always been a great deal of committed hard work, some obvious, some hidden, but all much appreciated. Thank you to everyone for your dedicated work.

We are grateful always for the blessings of our church stewards who are successfully managing us all from a distance, despite being few in number.

Sue Russell

1. Minister's Letter



Dear Friends,

How wonderful to be able to read about the work of All Saints when we are still in lockdown! It reminds us, as if we need reminding, that the church is not shut, but very much alive. To say "Thank you" to all who lead, take part, do the less obvious but still vital things that make All Saints all that it is, is never enough. 'All Saints' is a very good name for our church because the more I read of this report, indeed the more I look around me at the life, mission and ministry of this church I find saints. I find people faithfully playing their part whether by prayer or activity, leading or taking part. I find people offering what they can to the glory of God and the service of others. We are a church richly blessed with gifts and talents and this is an opportunity to celebrate them all.

As I write, we are experiencing church differently. Some are joining the Circuit on Sundays for worship via Zoom, while others are receiving worship material at home. Various people across the Circuit are writing reflections which are being shared. Pastoral Visitors and Pastoral work continues, albeit by phone, Zoom, text, WhatsApp and other means. In a time when 'Social Distancing' is being encouraged and enforced we, like many, are proving that keeping our physical distance has not hindered our social togetherness. Indeed, the lack of our usual gathering has in some cases deepened our friendships.

It has been a great encouragement to me to hear numerous stories about how God has been more visible, or there has been a greater awareness of God because we are not as

frenetically busy as normal. Perhaps this poses a real challenge to how we decide to live post lockdown. Indeed, this lockdown is giving us a chance to hear God and be challenged by God when we would normally crowd him out due to our busyness.

It is fascinating to recall many of the biblical stories that we tell in one easy sitting but actually took days if not years to be lived out. We often say 'God's timing is very different to ours', well yes it is. God always gave his people time to prepare, time to change, time to realise what he was asking of them. Now could be one of those times.

All Saints, as ever, is exceptional in its attention to detail and we can have great confidence in our governance. There are always many people willing to help, but we do need some to hold office in the life of the church. Currently, we are looking for a Lead Treasurer, Worship and Leadership Stewards as well as a new Chair of Property Action. The reason that these posts need filling is because we have to honour the decisions of those who have served for some time but now, for a variety of reasons, need to be step down. Ecclesiastes chapter three is often quoted, 'there is a season for everything under heaven', now may be the time for some to stand down and for others to step up. We need this to be a prayerful process, but one that does not mean we leave people hanging. If you haven't already, do pray about these positions, that God will direct the right people to the right role. There will always be support offered at All Saints and I look forward to being able to appoint people to these positions by the time the Annual Meeting does actually meet. Do speak to me or a steward or those who currently hold the roles to find out what is required.

This report gives us confidence in what God has called us to in past years, just as it points to some of what God has in store for the years to come. I commend this report to you and in so doing ask that you pray for God's leading as we look ahead.

Every Blessing

Rev Ian

2. In Memoriam

We record the names of those members of this church who have passed on in the last year with grateful thanks to God for their lives and service.

Jennie Edmunds
Betty Hallett
Murial Dickson

Sue Russell

3. Church Stewards

3.1 All Saints Administrator

Eluned Hallas took up her position as Administrator on 1st February for a six month period. Since then she has been producing the weekly "All Saints Notices" and other individual notices as needed; taken over the production

and maintenance of the duty rota; also contacting preachers/musicians/readers each week to set up services; and creating PowerPoint slide sequences as required for Morning and Evening Worship, using the Preachers' Orders of Service.

3.2 The recruitment of Church Stewards

Following the appointment of an administrator, and the consequent reduction in Stewards' work load, and the need to increase the number of stewards, job descriptions for Leadership Stewards and Worship Stewards have been drawn up and publicised within the All Saints membership.

3.3 Safer recruiting Policy and Practice

This was also discussed in line with Circuit Safeguarding Policy and with regard to recruitment of church officers.

3.4 Safeguarding

The current position for best practice was reviewed, including Risk Assessments for Church User Groups.

3.5 GDPR.

A paper will be presented to the March Church Council concerning the holding of personal data for "legitimate interest".

3.6 Messy Church

The last Meeting of Messy Church was held on 8th February 2020 and it included a celebratory element to mark and give thanks for ten years of Christian fun and worship for a large number of children and adults.

3.7 Church Music

The current small pool of organists and pianists who play for Services was discussed and a demonstration and trial use of a digital hymn player was arranged. A report together with a recommendation will be presented to the March Church Council.

Postscript

Shortly after this report for Church Council was completed, the Covid19 Lockdown was declared, and all meetings were cancelled until further notice. The Report should also be suitable for the Annual Church Meeting.

***Helen and Martin Appleyard, Ruth and Tim Coward
David Perrow***

4. Church Council

a) Mission Statement

At All Saints, we seek to:

- Share our faith in worship and study;
- Reflect Christ's accepting love in friendship and caring;
- Help each other face any difficulties and doubts;

- Explore together what it means to be God's people in today's world.

b) Report

The Church Council has met twice since the last Annual Church Meeting; in October, January. These meetings were chaired by Rev. Ian Griffiths. In January an Open meeting was held to discuss the churches response to the Marriage and Relationship proposals. This meeting was well attended with written contributions from several mid week groups submitted. The April meeting was postponed due to social distancing but paperwork was duly mailed out and voting on proposals conducted and counted via email to enable certain necessary tasks to move forwards in a timely manner.

As well as the reports from All Saints Church committees and action groups, we noted the continued use of the hall by our uniformed organisations especially as the Scouting group has expanded and is now running two groups.

We have been informed that the fire safety has been inspected and passed by the fire officer. The new toilets work has been completed and in use!

Safeguarding of children and other vulnerable adults on our church premises has been kept under consideration and follows the guidelines given by the Circuit. Creating Safer Spaces and First Aid training has been held for those who needed it.

We are legally bound to state again that the major risks to which our church is exposed as identified by the Church Council as trustees have been reviewed and systems established to mitigate the risks.

Sue Russell

5. REPORT- DIACONAL MINISTRY – WANTAGE AND ABINGDON CIRCUIT – MAY 2020



Dear Friends,

Once again it has been a very full year, and as I write this during the lock-down I reflect that sometimes I do too much, but the sheer variety of things that I am called to, brings me life and great joy so I am definitely not complaining!

WORSHIP

This year marks the change in the Methodist constitution where deacons are officially recognized as preachers in their own right, but I have been gifted plenty of services amongst you all including Parade services at All Saints which are always a great delight to me! I continue to lead to baptism services at Trinity on the first Sunday of the month which are always all age services. These services take a lot of planning, but I hope and pray, that they speak into the hearts of those who come into a church, often for the first time. We developed a welcome card to enable visitors to feel at home in church and are monitoring the usefulness of them.

I also helped out with the World Day of Prayer service at Trinity this year which was a huge privilege as we prayed for the people of Zimbabwe.

I have also taken several marriage services, and sadly some funerals too. In 2019, I was awarded my Licentiate from the Society of Bereavement Practitioners, which holds me to keep to a set of standards in bereavement care, and I have been asked to provide some sessions to a local community group, on death and dying, later in the year.

It was a privilege to plan and lead the reflective service for the 60th anniversary of All Saints church and to be immersed in the weekend of celebration- the weekend was a really joyous time!

CHRISTMAS 2019

Nativity at All Saints with Rush Common Pre-school- it was a delight to be asked to lead this and the children and staff did themselves so proud! A BIG thank you to Jan, Kate and Chris for supporting this!

Blue Christmas at Trinity- whilst well advertised, the attendance was low, but those who came appreciated the space to reflect on the Christmas Story without the worldly pressures of Christmas encroaching upon the space.



Christingle family service at Trinity- I think we had just over 120 people to this service. We certainly ran out of Christingles and we know we prepared over 60 of them for children, plus many glow sticks!

I was most appreciative of the opportunity to plan the Carol service at All Saints church.

MESSY CHURCH

Thank you to the Messy Church team for inviting me to lead the worship at various times. It has been a wonderful experience sharing the word of God in this setting and I am sad that it has finished.

TODDLER GROUP

It has been another busy year at Toddler group, where we have around 120 on the books. My thanks always goes to the extensive team, without whom we could not function. Focusing upon the building of an intentional community, through the building of a register, has enabled a more static community to evolve, where firm friendships have been easier to

establish. It is always a great privilege to be able to offer to parents, a space to talk over their concerns. We are always looking for people to join the team on a rotational basis- to be alongside our families, once or twice a term, to serve refreshments, to hold a baby, or to sit and listen. If you think that person might be you, we would be delighted to hear from you!

At Christmas time, my friend Claire from Tunbridge Wells, brought her puppet family to tell us the story of the first Christmas- (photos above) and we had a visit from Father Christmas himself too! Here are just some of our “anonymous” starry children, receiveing gifts from him!

Sadly we could not do Donkey’s first Easter this year, due to the lock down. We continue to pass on information to parents on our social media page which anyone can access.

SCHOOLS WORK ABINGDON

My ministry in schools consists of weekly visits into a primary school. I provide sessions for children in groups of about 5. These may be children who need some extra pastoral input. I am accountable to inclusion manager/ teacher /safeguarding leads. These sessions are designed to equip children to be more emotionally robust – for some this is a long on-going piece of work and providing stability of provision is important.

The sessions always involve an activity, either making something or playing a game designed for emotional literacy and there is ALWAYS space for each child to talk and express how they are feeling. It is a huge privilege to be welcomed into the school and I have recently been invited on to the governing body.

FURTHERING EMOTIONAL LITERACY- SOME EXAMPLES

Helping children to understand the physical feelings we have when we exhibit our emotions – use of social stories- offering them new vocabulary to describe how they feel

Using affirming language with one another

Practicing techniques to calm after feeling angry or afraid

Peer support and self- awareness is encouraged, and asking questions such as “what can I do to help my friend?” are encouraged and offer self-esteem

I always offer some sessions on the “Rights of the Child,” which they find illuminating.

AN EXAMPLE OF AN ACTIVITY:

CHRISTMAS CRACKER MAKING – “getting through the holidays”

a peg doll which they decorated to remind them to always speak to a safe adult when they are worried

a star to remind them that they are all superstars

a novelty rubber to remind them we all make mistakes and we can learn from them

a medal because as one child pointed out “we are all winners because we tried” (VERY IMPORTANT POINT!)

a pot of bubbles so they can visualize any bad memory or worry going inside the bubble and they can blow it or pop it away. Or to blow away to calm any anger

they decided after looking at the conventions on the rights of the child THEY SHOULD NOT have cracker strips in them, because they had learnt they had a right to live without fear!



SHARKS- “what happens when we use sharp, hurtful words?”



CHAMELEON- “feelings can change.”



TURTLES (with retractable heads) “don’t hide your feelings share them”

EXAMPLES OF BOOKS USED



WIDER CHURCH FAMILY

EVERGREENS at Trinity – I try to go along to Evergreens on the 3rd Monday of the month

THURSDAY FRIENDS- at All Saints – I also try to go along to Thursday Friends when I can, and have offered to do a light lunch on the 1st Thursday in the month.

FISHING FOR PEARLS- I delivered a series of 6 sessions, with the purpose of seeking out the pearls that we find in life as we journey through it. The sessions were “stand alone” sessions and were well attended.

We had some interesting conversations about:

- Memories
- Identity and relationships
- Wisdom
- Forgiveness and reconciliation
- Death and dying
- Celebrating life



My sincere thanks to Anne for her support and advice in delivering this, and to those who attended from All Saints, Trinity and beyond.

PASTORAL

I continue to support individuals in the community pastorally, and have been involved in much greater depth in a piece of pastoral work in the wider circuit, which remains confidential.

RELIGIOUS ORDER

Like so many deacons, I am very disappointed not to be physically going to Convocation this year, but we shall “meet” online from 4th - 7th May and then meet in a slimmed down Convocation in Telford in October provided restrictions are lifted. Our regional gathering in London was also cancelled. I have been to area group meetings as required and will be doing a piece of work with a student deacon soon. I engage in spiritual direction regularly and am blessed to have a wonderful Spiritual Director walking alongside supporting me.

ONGOING LEARNING

I attended the Preaching festival at Christ Church in Oxford last September and was blessed and inspired by the superb speakers including Rachel Mann, Steven Croft, Mark Oakley, Padraog O Tuana, and Ally Barrat and Martyn Percy.



I attended the Methodist Evangelism Conference in London as a representative of the district, the purpose of which was to tighten up the vision for Evangelism across the connexion. I participated in the Saints Alive day and during this period of lock down I have at last begun my piece of work on Judas, which I hope will produce some resources for the church.

CONCLUSION

I am truly grateful to all those within both churches and beyond who enable me in my ministry and support me and my family, and I feel truly blessed to have been invited for a further 3 years. I continue to pray for you all regularly and give thanks to God for the blessings which you bestow. May you all know His peace and love.

Dcn SELINA NISBETT

6. Our Circuit

The Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) comprises
Rev. Keith Underhill (Superintendent) – Wantage, Childrey, Grove
Rev. Ian Griffiths – All Saints, Trinity
Rev. Jocelyn Bennett – Wallingford, Didcot & Milton
Deacon Selina Nisbett
Alan Smith
Anne Matthews
Carolyn
Mary Hancock
Geoffrey Maunder

6.1 Finance

The Circuit's financial position is sound. The Accounts for 2018/19 were approved by the Independent Examiner and a budget for 2019/20 was set which enabled the Circuit to go forward with a range of initiatives.

6.2 Staffing

The Circuit is delighted that Deacon Selina Nisbett has accepted our invitation to serve with us for a further three years. She has an important and inspiring mission with us and we are blessed indeed in her desire to stay in our Circuit. It is, however, with sadness that we record that Revd Jocelyn Bennet, having suffered from intermittent ill health for some months, began a period of extended sick leave early in 2020. Arrangements for the pastoral care of the churches in her charge have been made, and we pray for her recovery and restoration to us.

The year also sees the start of a further stationing process for Revd Keith Underhill and Revd Ian Griffiths, both of whose current appointments end in August 2021. That process was to have begun with a District Briefing Day on 16 May 2020, but see section 5 below for the present position.

6.3 Initiatives

In connection with the 60th Anniversary of All Saints Church, a District one day conference was held at All Saints on 5 October 2019 with the title 'Saints Alive!' The meeting was addressed by Revd Trey Hall, British Methodism's Director of Evangelism and Growth and was a well-attended and successful event.

A second Inspirational Circuit Meeting was held on 24 February 2020 at Didcot Church, and was addressed in a thought-provoking fashion by the Vice-President of the Conference, Professor Clive Marsh, on faith and contemporary culture.

The first event in what is intended to be a programme of activities around mental health was held at Wantage Church on 15 March 2020, and was addressed by Revd Steven Normanton, a Methodist Minister and founder of the mental health charity Peer Talk on the subject 'Breaking the Taboo'. And, although this is not strictly a Circuit initiative, it should be recorded that no less than 17 young people from our Circuit attended the national youth event 3Generate in Southport in November 2019.

The Community Chaplains scheme based at Great Western Park has continued to flourish but it was disappointing that despite two rounds of advertising it did not prove possible to appoint a third employed Chaplain to the project.

6.4 Appointments

It is gratifying to record the appointments of Liz Wood as Circuit Meeting Secretary and of Debbie Adams as Circuit Safeguarding Officer, and to thank their predecessors, Gill Skidmore and Tabitha Griffiths for their outstanding service in recent years.

6.5 The Virus.

And then it all stopped- or at least that is how it seemed at the time. The lockdown was established, our churches were closed, and all meetings cancelled. The reasons for these draconian actions were well understood and wholly accepted, but nevertheless, they posed challenges. What does a church look and feel like when its members can no longer meet together? Our churches set up ways of keeping in contact through the pastoral visitors. The video-conferencing software 'Zoom' was discovered and regular Sunday morning services are offered 'hosted' by our Superintendent Minister. There were 83 participants in the 3 May service, which shows clearly how popular they are. Our people send emails to each other and call on the phone, just to ask 'how are you'?

At the time of writing (early May 2020) it seems that we are surviving, both metaphorically and literally, since we are not aware of any Covid-19-related deaths among the Circuit's membership. But important events have had to be cancelled- for instance, the District Synod at which the major report on Marriage and Relationships was to have been considered, and the event arranged at White Horse Hill for June 2020 to mark the 200th anniversary of Methodism in our area (and in connection with which the ready co-operation of the National Trust, on whose land the event was to have been held, should be recorded with great thanks). Stationing will go ahead, but without the District Briefing, and in unprecedented circumstances.

But the questions crowd our minds. What about contact with those of us who are not part of the digital world? What will the effect on our finances be? When and under what conditions will church services resume? Just what will the 'new normal' look like? How many furloughed workers will have no job to return to? The virus is very far from having gone away: will it return? There are as yet no answers to these questions. Our faith is challenged but remains strong. We believe in the love of God for ourselves and for the communities in which we live. We have no magic wand, but the Circuit is here to serve the churches and their people as best it can, both in the very difficult present, and in the days to come.

Alan Smith
Circuit Steward

7. Church in Abingdon



Although I offered to replace Paul as the representative for All Saints in February and attended their AGM that month, I have yet to have that role formally agreed by a church meeting. In the meantime, we thank Brian and Paul for their contributions to the workings of The Church in Abingdon Governing Body over many years.

The last eighteen months have seen the loss of two much-loved Abingdon clergy – Ruth Baker of the Quakers and Ed Evans of

Abingdon Community Church - both of whom were dedicated to the work of the CiA and the Abingdon Community. They will be greatly missed. Clergy appointments have included Phil and Kath Cooke as permanent assistant ministers at Christ Church, Michael Ivey as Assistant Pastor to Abingdon Community Church and Captain Alexandra Devine to Abingdon Salvation Army.

As pressures on clergy increase, attendance at their regular fellowships has decreased and many of the newer clergy are unaware of the importance of The CiA in Abingdon church life. This has meant that the plans of some individual churches have been allowed to impinge on regular CiA events such as Lent Lectures, while some churches have duplicated community activities. The Chairmanship of CiA currently rotates, making co-ordination even more difficult. Nevertheless, the bond of Christian fellowship in the town has ensured that the life and work of the CiA has continued both in the worship, mission and ministry of our individual congregations and in our life together. Over the last year, activities have included:

- Inter-church communications via monthly clergy meetings, CiA news and Christian Focus
- Free children's activities and church information point at Fun in the Park
- An Alpha launch in September and various Alpha courses across town.
- The Michaelmas Fair Service - attended by over 80 people
- The Annual Bereavement Service at Abingdon Baptist Church
- Children's activities during The Abingdon Bonanza
- Pre-election Hustings (in conjunction with Abingdon Chamber of Commerce)
- Midday Prayers, United Service & Quiz to mark Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- Lent lectures on Matisse, by Revd Charles Miller
- Services for World Day of Prayer, using materials from Zimbabwe.

In addition, members of the churches have work together to represent faith in action through projects including: 35 Ock Street; TAB; Street Pastors; Christian Aid; Church Twinning; Desire; Trinity Learning; Prayer Spaces and APP.

All the member churches have paid into a central fund, which has awarded grants to:

- The Abingdon Bridge £2000 p.a. for their work with disadvantaged young people
- DESIRE youth network £1000 p.a. to help run schools weeks and larger events
- Abingdon Street Pastors £1000 p.a. to fund their ongoing help for people out at night
- Experience Easter £750 p.a. to help schools explore the Easter story
- 35 Ock Street £500 p.a. to support a meeting place for church and town
- Back to 35 £150 p.a. for providing a place for retired people to meet
- Thrive South Abingdon £1000 p.a. for outreach to young people in the community

Action points:

1. The grant round finishes this year and applications/nominations would normally have been taken at Easter 2020.
2. People with financial skills are needed on the Finance Team
3. Please send brief articles for the new Christian Forum column in Round & About to Debra Mcknight.

Rosemary Perrow

8. Church Committees and Action Groups

8.1 Church Family Committee

Members: Anne Matthews, Becky Batey, Kate Jones, Helen Appleyard, Judith Penrose Brown, Maurice Tubb, Rona Quigley, Mike Quigley, Ian Griffiths, Selina Nisbett



Report to Annual General Meeting May 2020

The Church Family Committee continues to meet three times a year to oversee the social life of the church and receive reports from the many and varied groups that make up the friendships and fellowship at All Saints:

The Fellowship	Just Women
Tubb House Group	Youth Forum
Music Fellowship	Pre-School
Men's Group	Messy Church
Junior Church	Sunday Music Group
Crèche	Quest

Outlined below are events the Family Committee have been involved in since the last AGM in June 2019.

Our summer event was a Summer Sizzle held in July whereby the church garden was transformed into the seaside, complete with deckchairs, parasols, pebbles and shells, and sand and water areas and bunting. A picnic tea was served followed by ice-cream 99s! There were quizzes and activities and many happy memories and stories were shared about past seaside trips and holidays.

All Saints' Diamond Anniversary celebrations were enjoyed in the autumn with the whole church and many groups associated with All Saints contributing in some way to make the whole weekend a happy and memory-evoking event.

In January we hosted a Lord Nuffield Winter Supper with local raconteur Robert Harris giving an interesting talk about Lord Nuffield and his life in Oxford.

Family Committee have had many discussions about All Saints' Loneliness initiative and how we can support this in the future by reaching out to people, not only in our church, but in our community too. Before the coronavirus epidemic we had plans to take part in "The Great Get Together" which would have taken the form of a community coffee morning and bake sale. It is hoped that this is something we can do in the future.

There were also plans in place for a Safari Lunch which sadly has also had to be put on hold until a time when we can be together again.

Throughout the year we also oversee church lunches as required and are always very grateful to church members who are frequently willing to provide food and help when requested for these and any other events we oversee. Although we are not primarily a fundraising committee many of the events we host offer the chance to give a donation which is passed on to our current church charities.

We were very pleased to welcome Rona and Mike Quigley on to the committee this year. If anyone else would like to join us on the Family Committee you would be very welcome.

Becky Batey

On behalf of Church Family Committee

8.2 Finance Committee - Charity Registration number 1184115

1. The finance committee has met twice since the last Annual Church Meeting and reported to the Church Council. The next meeting is planned for 11th June 2020. The committee members are Richard Matthews (Chair), Gillian Griffiths (Secretary), Margaret Ellwood (Gift Aid Secretary), David Gray (Envelope Secretary), David Perrow (Chair Property Committee & Charity Commission contact), Mike Brown, Pam Guthrie, Larissa. Richards and Brian Mansfield (Treasurer). If anybody is interested and would like to be involved, will you please speak to either Richard or Gillian.

2. Due to the crisis caused by the spread of the coronavirus, the church premises have had to close which means no Sunday services since 15th March 2020. Consequently there have been no Sunday collections or lettings. We are very fortunate that so many members have responded to this problem and continued to make donations and although our income will drop this year and even though we do not know when the crisis will end, we currently do not think it will create a financial problem. Thank you so much.
3. We summarise below the outcome for each of the last two connexional years to 31st August and for the eight months to 30th April 2020. These figures exclude monies raised from 'special events and appeals' the eight months to 30th April 2020. These figures exclude monies raised from 'special events and appeals'

	Year to 31st August		8 months to 30/4/20.
	2018	2019	
	£	£	£
INCOME			
Sunday collections - envelope scheme	13,144	14,748	11,904
" " - loose cash	4,427	4,856	2,280
" " - bank standing orders	<u>39,441</u>	<u>40,235</u>	<u>26,800</u>
	57,012	59,839	40,984
<i>Weekly average</i>	<i>£1,096</i>	<i>£1,151</i>	<i>£1,171</i>
Gift aid tax recovered	<u>13,551</u>	<u>14,011</u>	<u>14,182</u>
	70,563	73,850	55,166
Lettings	13,905	14,884	9,997
Interest received	358	699	226
Further bequest from Richard F. Cox	0	0	1,992
Other income - gift day	0	6,244	0
" " - donations	180	347	285
" " - Scout donation re storage hut	1,500	0	0
" " - improvement grants	12,250	51,438	1,552
" " - Circuit improvement grants	1,500	1,880	0
" " - Sunday morning coffee	<u>730</u>	<u>664</u>	<u>373</u>
Total income	<u>100,986</u>	<u>150,006</u>	<u>69,591</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Circuit assessment - paragraph 4	38,350	40,377	20,736
Donations - paragraph 5	17,681	17,962	11,078
Church general expenses - paragraph 6	5,059	4,583	5,450
Church property expenses - paragraph 7	<u>19,380</u>	<u>123,754</u>	<u>17,299</u>
Total expenditure	<u>80,470</u>	<u>186,676</u>	<u>54,563</u>
Surplus/(deficit) for year/eight months	20,516	-36,670	15,028
Funds at beginning of year	<u>63,452</u>	<u>83,968</u>	<u>47,298</u>
Funds at end of year	<u>83,968</u>	<u>47,298</u>	<u>61,178</u>

4. Our largest item of expenditure is the circuit assessment and against last years figure of £40,377 the figure for this year will be £41,980 and on the same basis about £44,000 for the following year.
5. We have continued to give annual donations to many recipients out of church funds and last year we gave £17,962 as shown below and the budget for the current year is £17,847. Should our income fall the Church Council has currently agreed to limit these donations to 20% of our income but this does exclude funds and grants received for property projects.

	£	£
Methodist Church Fund (no restrictions on its use)		7,872
World Mission Fund		541
Methodist Women in Britain		374
Mission in Britain		374
Fund for Property		178
All We Can (M.R.D.F.)		388
Methodist Homes - includes £500 surplus from Sunday morning coffee		888
Minister's Housing Society		388
Action for Children		388
Leaders in Worship & Preachers Trust		138
Northampton District Benevolent Fund		<u>81</u>
		11,610
The Abingdon Bridge	4,038	
Trinity Learning	505	
Future Pillars Zambia	505	
The Nasio Trust	505	
Karibuni Children	505	
Archway	100	
Red Box	25	
Cox bequest interest to church charities	<u>169</u>	
		<u>6,352</u>
		<u>£17,962</u>

6. The largest two items in the general church expenses are the Independent Examiner's fee of £1,620 and our contribution of £598 to the Church in Abingdon. In the current year we have incurred expenses of £1,400 in connection with our diamond church anniversary and we are also using the Administrator at Trinity for various administrative services.
7. This year the expenditure on our property has been very heavy and is summarised below:-

	£
Roof repairs - taken several years and now complete	11,800
Refurbishment of the toilets - we also spent £4,185 in the year 2017/18 and	
a further £4,894, mainly retentions, in the current year	87,641
The outside cross and signage	<u>5,955</u>
	105,396
Ongoing maintenance - mainly energy, water, insurance & cleaning	<u>18,358</u>
	<u>123,754</u>

£

8. In addition to the freewill giving shown in paragraph 3 above, the friends at All Saints have continued to respond very generously to many charitable appeals and causes, both locally and around the world. The amounts given are shown below and the figures include the associated gift aid which the church recovers and passes on to the charity concerned.

	Year to 31st August	
	2018	2019
	£	£
The World Mission Fund - collecting boxes & Easter offerings	1,151	1,305
All We Can	50	30
Action for Children Methodist Homes	1,054	1,053
DEC - Myanmar	164	358
- Indonesian Trunami appeal	426	0
- Cyclone Idai Crisis appeal	0	1,069
Christian Aid	0	1,244
Shelter	605	464
Future Pillars Zambia	306	177
The Nasio Trust	1,960	646
Karibuni Children	1,106	450
Maggies Oxford	958	950
The Icolyn Smith Foundation	1,028	505
The Gatehouse	50	0
Farewell gift to Ministers	0	1,051
	<u>344</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>9,202</u>	<u>9,302</u>

Brian Mansfield

8.3 Mission Action

The current membership of Mission Action is; Deacon Selina Nisbett (chair), Martin Appleyard, Richard Matthews, Joanne Phipps, Sue Russell, Rosemary Stanbury, Marion Williams and Paul Williams (Secretary). Ruth Coward and Tim Coward attend meetings when they can as representatives of the Church Stewards.

The highlight of the year was the District meeting 'Saints Alive' that was initiated by Mission Action and held on Saturday 5th October when the principal speakers were Rev'd Trey Hall, the Connexional Director of Evangelism and Growth, and Rev'd Jill Marsh, District Mission Enabler. The meeting was strongly supported by All Saints people and the attendance included many people from the Circuit and District. Mr Hall preached at the morning service on 6th October and afterwards entered into a conversation about outreach with our congregation after a Church Lunch. He challenged All Saints to reach out more energetically to its local community. The preacher at our 60th Church Anniversary on 3rd November was Rev'd Canon Helen Cameron, the Chair of the Northampton District. After the service, the congregation followed the preacher on to the grass at the front of the church where she dedicated our new Cross and Signage. Mission Action sees this as an important contribution to our outreach to the local community and is delighted with it. After the Dedication, the District Chair joined us for a church lunch after which she engaged in conversation about our mission with those present.

Mission Action had another meeting planned for late February 2020 but, unfortunately it had to be postponed due to Deacon Selina being unavailable due to ill health. Then, plans to meet fell foul of the Corona Virus lock-down. Mission action has organised two Mission initiatives for 2020. On Sunday, April 26th our morning service was to have been led by Libby Harkness-Smith, one of the Circuit's community chaplains working on Great Western Park estate, Didcot and on the weekend of 12/13 September, we will welcome Rev'd Gwyneth Owen to lead an Overseas Mission, weekend.

Mission Action strongly supports All Saints' 'Loneliness Initiative' and is concerned to present Thursday Friendship which it sees as a potentially strong contributor to this initiative.

Paul Williams

Secretary of Mission Action

8.4 Pastoral Committee

The introduction of physical distancing brought in as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic has obviously meant that pastoral visitors are unable to visit the people on their lists for the time being but in true All Saints fashion they are remaining vigilant and keeping in contact by phone, text and email. A number of our pastoral visitors are amongst those who have been advised to stay at home because of age or health issues but there are ten visitors who are still willing and able to go shopping or collect prescriptions for anyone who has a need.

Before the suspension of meetings Selina was able to lead five of the six planned conversations on the theme “Fishing for Pearls” and the topics covered were Identity and Relationships, Forgiveness and Reconciliation, Wisdom, Memories and Death and Dying. The sessions included time for prayer, bible study and discussion and were much appreciated by those who attended.

Sue Butler

8.5 Property Action

Property Action: Report to All Saints Annual Church Meeting
Members of Property Action with their responsibilities are:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| • Secretary and administration | Emma Standhaft |
| • Building maintenance interior | Martin Wilson |
| • Building maintenance exterior | Bob Guthrie |
| • Gardens/dishwasher | Alistair Batey |
| • Kitchen liaison | Emma Standhaft |
| • User liaison including key control | Chris Caddy |
| • Furniture and interior decoration | David Perrow |
| • Cleaning | Maurice Tubb |
| • Electrical | David Gray |
| • Heating and energy efficiency | (John Orchard) |
| • Health and safety | David Perrow |

1 Since the last Annual Church Meeting the following work has been done:

- Perry Room Extension and Main Hall toilets have been refurbished
- Concrete ramp repaired at rear of Hall
- External door locks replaced and new keys issued to users
- Outside lights at Perry Room and on path to Church replaced by LEDs on sensor daylight switches (David G)
- Reset/re-concrete setts on small step outside Minister’s vestry: (Bob Guthrie).
- Fence repair in car-park: first panel nearest road was coming away. (Maurice)
- Back step and car park white lines repainted (David P)
- Front low guttering checked and cleared (David P)
- Annual Boiler Servicing done (David P)
- Annual Fire Extinguisher Servicing done (David P)
- OCC Fire Service fire safety audit (David P)
- Property Log Book created covering last 10 years (David P)
- Electrical work – LED lights on proximity and daylight sensor to replace existing outside Church entrance – and bulb replaced when it proved defective (David G)
- Double glazing of windows and vestry door done (David P)
- Replacement expansion vessel for gas boiler (David P)
- Heating timer cupboard lock replaced and keys issued to cleaners and John Orchard only to restrict access to time clocks.
- Toilet light timers re-set (David G)

- Problem with Perry room sockets resolved (David G). Only 2 kettles should be used at the same time in either kitchen.
- Coat hooks/grab bars on rear of 2 toilet doors (David P)
- Fire doors safety reviewed (David P)
- 2 quotes for fire detection system obtained/problem of asbestos in Perry Room extension ceilings (David P). Both too expensive and not needed.
- Meeting re. uniformed organisations sleepovers – “wakeful person” (David P). Risk assessment to be done and approved by insurers and fire brigade.
- Pre-School office door repaired (David P) – needs rehanging?
- Quote for solar panels obtained (David P)
- Replacement water tank and immersion heater

2. - and these works are planned:

- a. Repair to car park bollard and tarmac:
- b. Kitchen lighting upgrade: a quote was received, but needs refreshing
- c. Outside painting: main entrance porch: Aim to do it this year in better weather.
- d. Re-felting the toy shed roof: this came off in the storm. Alastair offered to do this, with Bob and David P. Bob will get materials.
- e. Outside noticeboards: The size of the boards and whether planning permission would be required will need to be looked into.
- f. Redecorate Hall?: this hasn't been done for 3 or 4 years. It would probably cost around £1,000 to be done professionally. As we still have some paint, it was agreed that the lower part could be cleaned down and painted.

3. Fire Detection System

Two quotes have been obtained for an automated fire detection system throughout the premises, but costs would be in the region of £15,000, plus costs of removing asbestos from the Perry extension ceilings. PA has recommended to Church Council that no automated fire detection system be installed at this stage. Uniformed organisations cannot at present organise sleepovers, but after consultation they will prepare an activity Risk Assessment for sleepovers, which will be submitted to our insurers and the fire brigade for approval before sleepovers resume. Other activities in the Church are adequately covered by our existing fire precautions and practices, according to our fire consultant.

4. Pre School Lease

At its October 2019 meeting Church Council asked PA to look at preparing a lease for Pre School, as they had requested one. Under Methodist Church guidance, we are forbidden from granting leases since this gives tenants exclusive rights over the space they use. Methodist guidance is to issue only an annual licence. This is effectively what already exists through the annual issue of our Booking Conditions. However, an annual licence has been issued in the past to Pre School, signed by both parties and including adherence to the Booking Conditions, but this practice lapsed some many years ago. In order to resume we need agreement with the central Methodist Church, and this is being sought with Manchester via Finance Committee.

5. Solar Panel installation

Quotes have been obtained for solar panels to be installed on the Church Hall roof – A paper detailing the costs, benefits and layouts will be discussed at next Church Council

6. New Chairman needed from 2021

David Perrow will chair the next meeting in October 2020, but will not continue as Chair beyond that. Members were asked to give some thought as to whether they could take over, or whether there were others outside the Property Action group who could be approached to join PA and Chair the group.

David Perrow.

PA Chairman

May 2020

8.6 Youth Forum

The Youth Forum, composed of leaders from Rainbows, Beavers, Brownies, Cubs and Scouts, meets to plan the three parade services with whoever is leading the next service. It has met three times, but there have only been two parade services because the third one, scheduled for 29 March, had to be cancelled.

The Uniformed Organisations are an important part of the life of All Saints. Young people, their parents and the leaders appreciate the support given to them through the use of the premises and the gift of a special service at Christmas.

Of course, at the moment there are no meetings, although there are other online activities, which help, but is not quite the same as weekly meetings. We all hope it will not be long before they can come together, and we can hear their laughter and chatter once more in the building.

Judith Penrose Brown

Chair Youth Forum

9. Church Groups

9.1 Bold Walking Group

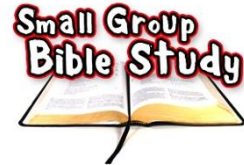
The Bold walks continue to be as popular as ever. In fact they have become so popular that our numbers are sometimes so high that it is not always easy to find a pub that can accommodate us all for lunch. There were so many on the last walk that we did just before the corona virus lockdown that we caused the pub to have to close to any other customers. So possibly we are going to have to consider putting a cap on the number of folk who can join us each month, maybe a “first come first served” system. Even with such large numbers Roger Cox who organises the rota of leaders doesn’t always find it easy to persuade enough people to lead individual walks; leaders are generally only required to lead once per year.

It is splendid that the walks are so popular and ecumenical, and have provided a welcome to newcomers and many new friendships, have shown us countryside previously unexplored and given us all good exercise. These

days we usually walk between 5 and 7 miles, much of it before lunch. Those who no longer feel able to do a long distance often join us at lunch time and may then just do the short afternoon walk. The fact that a few regularly only come for lunch shows how much they value the company, and friendships they made when they were able to do long walks. What an inspired idea Derek and Christine Bold had when they started the group thirty years ago.

Jenny Pooley

9.2 Food for the Journey – Bible Study Group

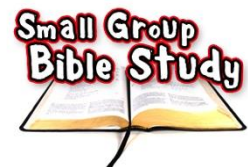


Over the past year we met fortnightly, alternating with the Tubb housegroup. We were studying “At Home in Lent – an exploration of Lent through 46 household objects”. This included things like mobile phones and kettles. Prior to this we studied John Wesley’s prayers. At Christmas we had a get together sharing Christmas readings and reminiscences with mince pies and other festive nibbles. We have been reduced in numbers this year. Myrtle, who has been a stalwart of the group for many years, had a series of health problems and has now moved into a Home in Wantage. Lorraine was on the point of leaving the district and transferring her membership. In view of this and with the Lent courses coming up, we suspended our meetings intending to get together afterwards to discuss what we should do after Easter. Then the lockdown came....., so we can’t say what the future holds for the group.

Margaret Ellwood

9.3 Quest

We are a group of 14 members who meet on the first Wednesday of the month at Valerie and Alan’s home. As the name suggests we are seeking through study and discussion to help one another to a better understanding of our faith.



During the present church year we have been studying and discussing the Letter to the Colossians. During Lent we planned to follow the Sunday morning series Questions of Life and Faith. We were able to discuss Who is Jesus for us ? before the virus lockdown.

We look forward to autumn when we can resume our fellowship together.

Alan and Valerie Grist.

9.4 Uniformed Organisations

8th Abingdon (All Saints) Brownies

This year at Brownies we have completed our communication, aviation, mindfulness, first aid, local history and camp badges. We have celebrated



Diwali, Chinese New Year and the 4th of July. We had a bring and buy sale to raise money for Sobell House. Been out to Wittenham Clumps, Radley Lakes, swimming, Cothill woods and Cumnor park. We had a campfire at Youlbury and lots of family fun days, bingo, games night and rounders.

Nicola Dixey, Wendy Glover

17th Abingdon (All Saints) Brownies

We have an enthusiastic unit of 19 Brownies at the moment meeting regularly on Monday evenings. We are fortunate to have a great team of leaders and are keen to welcome new girls to the unit.



Long term Brown Owl Denise Roberts retired from Girlguiding last summer, and we are now led by Kate Winfield, alongside leaders in training Louise and Rebecca, and Young Leader Phoebe. We are very pleased to have welcomed a new Young Leader Megan and Unit Helper Claire this year.

This year we have started the new Girlguiding programme, where the girls are working towards the Brownie Gold award, through badges and activities on a number of themes.

We have completed the Know Myself and Express Myself theme awards, including the Baking badge and Local History badge. We have also had fun completing the following other badges: Greatest Snowman challenge badge, Go Bananas challenge badge and Future Girl acts on plastic.

We have had outings to the Girlguiding showing of Frozen 2, Abingdon Town Museum and Crocodiles of the World in Brize Norton.

Furthermore, we are still continuing to meet online every week, despite the coronavirus lockdown. This term the girls are completing the Grow Your Own badge, alongside the Chocolate and Superhero challenge badges.

Finally we would like to thank the Church for their continued support and we appreciate being able to regularly use the Church facilities, and look forward to being back when the situation allows.

Kate Winfield, Louise McCaul, Rebecca Venn, Phoebe, Megan, Claire

All Saint's Rainbows

8th Abingdon Rainbows have had an encouraging increase in membership and have been pleased as always to see girls grow in confidence in their time with us and leave ready to continue their adventures with Brownies or Cub scouts.



Jackie and Katharine are well supported by one adult and one young leader each bringing their gifts to the unit, and of course by the enduring hospitality of the All Saints community, at parade services and beyond. We had just started with 2 girls doing their bronze Duke of Edinburgh with us which added another lovely dynamic to work with.

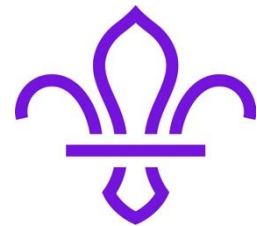
This past year we have embraced the new guiding programme for Rainbows which has given a busy schedule of thoughtful activities along with the usual chance for favourite games like 'hedgehogs' and mosquito tag! We've tackled 'Know myself' in the autumn term and then 'Be Well' after Christmas. This gave us chance to discuss the girl's feelings around the covid 19 epidemic as it emerged and to reinforce the handwashing message with fun activities.

Obviously we miss meeting up for Rainbows and are really looking forward to getting back together as soon as the health situation allows.

Katharine de Villiers

11th Abingdon (All Saints) Scouts Group

We have had another full and challenging year. The young people have earned more badges than ever and the background work that goes on to give them the best Scouting experience we can has seen some changes in leadership too. We always take delight in seeing our young people grow and develop, but this year we have also seen our adult leaders too. We are fortunate to have a team of leaders who truly operate as a team. This has gone a long way to ease the changes in the groups' structure, but there is still a little way to go.



We currently provide Scouting for 167 young people over four nights and six groups: two Beaver Scout Colonies, two Cub Scout Packs and two Scout Troops. There is also a waiting list! We are very grateful that All Saints Church makes the whole building available for us; without the continued support of the Church none of what we do would be possible. Those who are able to join us for the Parade Services value them and are greatly appreciative of the annual Carol Service.

To ensure that all our meetings and activities happen safely many of our leaders are working in more than more than one Section. In addition to this, all the leaders have renewed First Aid and Safeguarding Training this year as well as fulfilling other training requirements that The Scout Association requires of its leaders. This is really demanding and can be challenging. We always say it, but we really do need more adult volunteers to join our leaders and the parent helpers – more hands make light work.



It is always difficult to pinpoint one or two highlights of the year for this report. It is always a privilege to join in the annual Remembrance Parade as it is a joy to see those new to the Group discover smores made over a campfire for the first time. Each Section has had special events over the year, not least camps, and the Winter Challenge of walking up to 18 miles on the Ridgway.

Even the Coronavirus has not stopped Scouting with many joining in the Easter Camp in their back gardens or making blanket tents indoors. Some badgework has also continued at home too. Scouting remains a movement committed to young people and we look forward to another year of fun, activities, learning and challenge.

Ian Griffiths

on behalf of all the Leaders of the All Saints Scout Group.

9.5 Just Women

Just Women has continued to meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays each month in The Perry Room at 7.30pm for the usual mix of speakers and chat evenings with a focus for our conversations. At one point during the year we had more money in the kitty than we would need, so we had an evening discussing various charities and then made donations to four as agreed by voting.

We celebrated the Diamond Anniversary by looking back to what we were doing in 1959, much to the amusement of younger members and we spent some time looking at the Methodist Church Report on Marriage and Relationships: God in love unites us.

Perhaps the evening that had most impact on us was the talk about Bridewell Organic Gardens: a mental health project near Witney. The work done there is outstanding and some of us visited the gardens during one of the open afternoons during the summer.

We look forward to resuming once we can meet again on church premises. Just Women provides fun and friendship and although we are still in contact with phone calls and more modern devices, it's not quite the same as being together. All women are welcome to join us.

Judith Penrose Brown

On behalf of Just Women

9.6 Men's Group

Until the Corona Virus lock-down, the Group continued to meet on the last Friday of each month. Attendance has been between 10 and 15. I am sure that there are men in our congregation that would enjoy our meetings. The food, prepared by a member of the group, is good, the speakers are interesting and the conversation and fellowship round the table is always enjoyable.

When speakers talk to us about charitable causes that they represent, we usually make an ad hoc collection at the table although this is not our primary objective. Food is usually prepared by one of our members unless we have fish and chips – a popular occasional happening. On one Friday in the last session, we had a speaker from Bridewell Gardens who told us about the work of this local charity supporting people with emotional and mental problems. The speaker had previously spoken to 'Just Women' and the encouraging story of the Charity's work resulted in All Saints choosing Bridewell Gardens as its local charity for the year.

The Men's Group sees itself as part of the Social and Spiritual life of All Saints and our Grace before eating includes prayers for members of the Church family that are in need of support.

There is room for more, so we invite all men in our church to join us.

Paul Williams

9.7 Messy Church



In February 2010 All Saints and Peachcroft Christian Centre held the first joint North Abingdon Messy Church. It was the culmination of about 18 months' praying and planning.

We never again had quite as many in our congregation as those who came on that first day. Numbers were always variable, especially when there was some activity on in the Market Place. But there were several occasions when the hall was full to capacity, and the wonderful kitchen team performed the miracle of the five jacket potatoes and two tins of beans. God did some amazing work.

So why have we stopped? Messy Church offered us an opportunity to break down the barriers that young families find around the unfamiliar territory that is church, and made a welcome addition to All Saints' mission. But the planning team had been asking for some time for people to shadow us, to share the job of planning and organisation we'd been doing for ten years, and no one had come forward. There was no one to hand over to. And Future Focus, and the district mission event last October, reminded us that there are different ways of 'doing' mission, and that we need to listen to God to try to discern his will. We felt that it was time to move in new directions. 'To everything there is a season.' (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Fortunately, the Abingdon Baptist Church has taken up the baton. There is still a Messy Church in Abingdon, this time in Ock Street. And the energies that were being used in the service of Messy Church will be available to support whatever course All Saints and PCC are guided to, as we start a new decade. None of the last ten years would have been possible without people

from different churches – often with different views on many topics – coming together to use different gifts in the service of God. We are so thankful for everyone who gave their time and skill to be part of this ministry. And we look forward to whatever God has in mind for us next.

Kate Jones and Jan Greenough

9.8 Music Fellowship



Until we were locked down, the Music Fellowship met regularly, usually on the second Friday of each month, at 8 p.m. in a member's home. Every year, I submit this report and emphasise that The Music Fellowship is not a choir.

Occasionally, we offer to sing at a service, but this is not our aim or objective. The two words of the Group's name, 'Music' and 'Fellowship' say all there is to say about the ethos of the group. We sing together because we enjoy singing and we meet together to enjoy the Fellowship of friends with similar musical interests. We sing music drawn from the best of contemporary music for worship and that enriches our traditional Methodist heritage – sometimes we regress and sing old favourites! The only limit to our numbers is how many people the room where we meet will hold, so we are always keen to welcome new people.

We are indebted to Chris Greenough and Alistair Batey who provide our accompaniment, ideas, exert some measure of control and sing with us.

Paul Williams

9.9 Thursday Fellowship

Until the Corona Virus lock-down, Thursday Friendship was having a very good year. As usual, its weekly

devotional content providing a framework for a wide-ranging programme of talks by visiting speakers and some of our own members.



At the Annual General Meeting on 31st October 2019, members decided that, to underline its rôle in contributing to the Church's focus on loneliness, the Fellowship should take a new name, '**Thursday Friendship**'. It has been good to welcome a number of new faces to our meetings and, following Deacon Selina's offer, we have initiated a new pattern in which the first meeting of each month is preceded by a light lunch. This has proved to be much appreciated by members although the lock-down has not really allowed the pattern to settle down.

Sadly, some of our most regular members have passed away or moved into residential care. Bert Brightwell, Bernard Tingley and Betty Hallett passed away and Myrtle Hodgkins moved to a Care home in Wantage.

We take up a collection at our meetings and, as a result of the great generosity of our members, we have been able to make charitable donations totalling £1450 so far in the current financial year; that is since 1st September 2019.

Paul Williams

9.10 Tubb House Group



During the past year the Group continued to meet fortnightly with an average attendance of twelve people.

Our main area of study has been based on the Methodist document “Talking of God Together.” This publication acknowledges that while Methodist churches are welcoming and friendly, many members are reluctant to share their deeper feelings concerning their faith.

Aspects for discussion were, the presence of God, a listening God and a caring God.

In the future we will be considering “Talking of God with Others”, designed to help in talking about our faith to those outside the Church.

We also used the Methodist study on Colossians, considering Paul’s Christology, the nature of division in the early church, and Paul’s belief that the hope for God’s kingdom at the end of history is now a present reality. We considered aspects of Keith Ward’s book, “Love is His Meaning.” This book looks at the figures of speech and images used by Jesus an understanding of which enables us to have a clearer view of the central message of our Lord.

The publication of “God in Love Unites Us”, saw the Group embark on a detailed study of this document where we shared frank opinions. These opinions were summarised in a brief report to the Church Council.

During 2019 we joined in the C in A Lent Course on the Beatitudes, where the teaching of Jesus was contrasted with the attitudes and ideas of twenty- first century society. We were encouraged to show in our lives what Jesus expects of us, in contrast with many aspects of modern society.

Lent 2020 saw Dr. Charles Miller presenting a series on Matisse, the controversial artist, and his work in relation to his religious beliefs. Sadly, Covid 19 brought the series to an abrupt end.

During the All Saints’ Jubilee we produced a tile showing a photo of the Group in session and reminding people that the Group has continued for over 40 years!

Maurice Tubb

9.11 Junior Church and Creche

We are fortunate to have children and young people in our church family on Sunday mornings. Interesting, varied sessions are developed for a wide age range with the crèche workers helping out; sharing Gods love and helping the young people develop. Recently we extended our sessions to cover most Sundays except for family services, Covenant Sunday and the summer school holiday.

Menna Hull joined the leaders from the crèche team alongside Sue Butler, Anne Matthews, Mike Pearl and Rosemary Perrow. Rona Quigley has joined the crèche team alongside Becky Batey, Helen Appleyard, Beryl Manners and Kate Jones.

Since we suspended meeting at church, Rosemary has provided resources the families where possible.

Trudy Hall

10. Other Church Activities

10.1 Christian Aid



During the Christian Aid accounting year 2018-19, ending in August 2019, the total raised in Abingdon across all activities was £9,507, excluding Gift Aid. This was a little lower than the previous year. Funds raised

in May during Christian Aid Week were down about 23%, on the previous year's total but, thankfully, a number of additional events through the year enabled the loss to be almost recuperated. During the week a total of £5,201 was raised with All Saints contribution to this being £1,584 through house-to-house collecting in Abingdon and Radley. Many thanks, as ever, are due for the efforts of our stalwart group of collectors. The annual New Year sponsored walk raised a total of £1,211 which was down on the previous year. As usual, other events to promote Christian Aid and its work worldwide took place throughout the year including a Lent Lunch at Abbey Baptist

Chapel on Clubs and Societies Day, a Tin Shake outside Tesco Extra and a Summer Concert given by Abingdon Ladies Choirs and Abingdon Gospel Singers. We are always most grateful for the support given to Christian Aid by All Saints members and friends, through attendance at meetings, collecting outside Tesco, singing carols, walking at



New Year and the Market Place Sale. We would especially like to thank all those who made the effort to knock on doors for the House to House Collection during Christian Aid Week.

Needless to say, given the continuing need of the world's poorest people and the growing impact of climate change on these poorest of communities, we shall certainly be seeking your support in the coming year despite and because of the present pandemic. Time will tell what the impact of the current health concerns across the world will be on the poorest countries. It is, however, certain that their health services, basic community hygiene facilities and food supplies will continue to need the support of agencies such as Christian Aid. Please do try to contribute to appeals from Christian Aid as it tries to meet the emergency needs of the poorest as well as continuing its ongoing long-term projects.

You can make a donation here:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

or here

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/coronavirus-emergency-appeal>

Pauline, Cliff and Chris

10.2 Church Flowers

A big thank you to donors and arrangers who made this a year of beautiful flowers for the church.



We had wonderful displays for both our Harvest festival and our Diamond celebrations.

Our Easter cross this year had to be displayed in the foyer and could only be seen through the glass of the front doors. Many thanks go to those who left flowers and to Joanne for decorating it for us. Next year hopefully we can all gather together again and witness

Easter in our church building.

We could always use more donors or arrangers.

Pauline Sykes

01235 537653

Church Flower Coordinator



10.3 Church Twinning



April 2019 was marked by a very successful visit from 18 representatives of Argentan, St Niklaas and Schongau, who watched the Passion Play, as well as being entertained by a barn dance and cheese and wine evening. We were delighted that many CiA members new to twinning joined our activities, providing meals for visitors or joining in the fellowship of the events. The visit concluded with a special service after evening worship at All Saints. Sharing mass is sometimes problematic when visiting our

catholic hosts, so we were delighted when several visitors accepted our invitation to join All Saints' evening communion service. Others shared bread in the twinning service, as they joined in a reflection based on The Remember Me workshop of Experience Easter.

Balancing availability of hosts with that of visitors is often difficult, and the numbers visiting Argentan for their Heritage Weekend in September 2019 were very small. A good time was had by all and a lovely wreath was presented during the morning service, in memory of the suffering experienced by the town in August 1944. Details of the visit were explained in an illustrated talk to All Saints' Friendship Group.



Abingdon's United Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity focussed on the work of Church Twinning and Christian Aid, with the offertory being divided between them. Thanks to this, a small grant from the Town Council, fundraising events and sales of a new Christmas card, we now have some funds to enhance our visitors' experiences. We continue to try to develop links with Lucca and Colmar.

Sadly, COVID-19 has meant an end to visits to St Niklaas Passion Play and Oberammagau, as well as the postponement of an ambitious long June weekend focussing on Christian Stewardship of the Environment. In these days of Lock-Down and Brexit, international links seem very precious and thanks to the internet, we are able to keep in touch with our friends in Europe.



Rosemary Perrow

10.4 Greetings Cards and Magnet Magazine

Card sales have gone very well with the most popular ones being thinking of you and praying for you. The smaller size card is also more popular and the prices are considerably lower than buying in a shop.

Obviously the Easter cards were mainly unsold due to Church being closed from 16th March.



Joanne Phipps

10.5 Future Pillars, Zambia



My 14th visit to Zambia in July was accompanied by 2 trustees and 4 supporters. One of our new trustees, having worked in Education all his life, made a separate visit and is making a huge difference to the progress of our school, Family Future Community School, working with the Headteacher there and almost daily phone calls from here on WhatsApp.

Unfortunately, our planned 2020 visit has been cancelled due to the Virus, but 4 of us plan to go asap.

Our 2019 walk was a huge success. Our walk was around the Isle of Purbeck. We had another beautiful day for the second annual walk in the Isle of Purbeck, nearly 70 walkers from all over the UK walking between 1 and 20 miles and ending with a pasty supper. It was great fun for all. The 2020 walk has become the 2021 walk, a circle of eight around Woolacombe.

I have gladly relinquished the post of Chair but remain a trustee.

FPZ trustees were fortunate to be involved in the London Marathon 2.6. Unable to take part in an exercise sponsorship myself I made 26 face masks in an African fabric which have been eagerly received by Mayott House.

At present the school, Skills Centre, Secondary & Tertiary students have all been suspended. However, the vital feeding programme is being continued by our teachers, taking food parcels to the vulnerable children's home.

The need in Zambia is just as great and probably will be more so when normality returns. FPZ wishes to thank all the people at All Saints who give their support so generously. Please continue to pray for our administrator, cooks, teachers, tutors and learners at this difficult time.



Rosemary Stanbury
Trustee Future Pillars, Zambia.

10.6 The Nasio Trust



The NASIO TRUST has had a very successful year.

Marie Hooper, who is working part time, alongside Nancy, now fills Louise Russell's role when she left to go

on maternity leave in December, giving birth the Arlo in February.

Esther, one of our first 20 children at St Irene's (when the mud hut school opened in 2007) finished her National Examinations for Form 4 secondary and scored high enough grades to be accepted at Medical school in September 2020. Meanwhile, before the COVID school shutdown she has been volunteering to work on Nasio projects.



In 2019 Nasio received a grant towards a project called One Acre Farming. With the closure of the nearby Sugar Factory many farmers lost their livelihood of selling cash crops. The project was to encourage them to farm food for family consumption with a soft loan for fertilizer and weekly training sessions. The project attracted 150 local people using their compounds for food growing. For Nasio the benefit has been less children to feed on the supplementary feeding programme and improved community health. For the start of 2020 the number of applicants exceeded 500.

Another pilot programme in 2019 that has been refunded to continue in 2020 is the Peer Educators programme. Many teenagers were experiencing mental health issues. The culture of silence and repression of feelings did not enable them to discuss emotions felt about their parents deaths and issues like teenage pregnancy or find out about family planning or sexually transmitted disease. I was lucky enough in September to meet Viola, aged 18, who had been on one of the initial these two week courses and had turned her life around and returned to school.

In late November 2019 the Kenyan Government department for Health finally awarded Nasio's George Mudneyo Clinic the hospital status that had been applied for some 18 months earlier. We were thrilled that, through prayer and patience, this had been achieved without the need for a bribe.

Most recently our efforts have been working with the Ministry of Health to educate the poorest communities, especially those living in the Mumias slums, around COVID -19 issues of hygiene. Tippy taps have been erected and following their education gifts of soap have been given. All mothers delivering babies at our medical centre have also received sanitisation instruction before being discharged.



Please continue to pray for the ongoing work with the poorest of communities in rural Western Africa where Nasio operates as it endeavours to extend its support to even more vulnerable and needy children and guardians within the community. The need will be great once schools are allowed to return to normal after the curfew.

Sue Russell
Nasio Trustee

10.7 TrinityLearning



Spring 2019 was spent delivering several of our regular activities at Carswell School. A group of Year 5 pupils met the Abingdon Morris Men and researched Summer activities in Abingdon, before publishing their edition of Hello Abingdon, and Year 6 enjoyed a Peace Zone within their classroom during SATs. In November, our staff and volunteers provided Prayer Spaces for Remembrance, to help

children of military families through difficult times.

Peace is a central concept in our work, so we were delighted to work with Abingdon Peace Group to provide every school in the area with a Peace Pack, with teaching resources and ideas for Peace Week in September. The pack included a competition for students to produce art-work on the theme of Peace, won by All Saints' Junior Church. TrinityLearning's small singing group have become an established part of Kingfisher School's life, featuring in their OFSTED report where inspectors noted "pupils using music and movement to develop their sensory skills, taking part with enjoyment and confidence."

Throughout the year, volunteers have been hard at work at Kingfisher School, renovating a derelict garden area. With funding from Tesco's Bags for Life and the help of Beavers, Adventure Scouts, volunteers from local industry, and a regular group of boys from Radley College, volunteers from All Saints have provided a beautiful sensory garden for staff and pupils. Children attending through the lockdown have enjoyed a delightful space bright with newly planted flowers, shrubs and imaginative decoration. We look forward to the time when all the children are back in school finding peace and pleasure in tranquil, creative settings.



It's also been a year of growth and change, as we developed all the policies required by our new charitable status, and Rosemary spent vital last months before her retirement handing on as much information as possible to our new Education Officer, Nicola Williams. In September we celebrated TrinityLearning's achievements and its newly acquired charitable status at an event in Trinity Church attended by many of our valued volunteers and friends, as well as the Mayor of Abingdon, Councillor Charlie Burke. Rev'd Ian Griffiths made the presentation to Rosemary congratulating her on all that had been achieved in her ten years in post. In September came the appointment of Tamzin Round, the Education and Development Co-Worker to assist Nicola with projects in schools and in January another 'Nicola' joined the team as Administrative Assistant who is giving welcome back-up with the many office tasks required by the new charity. Among these are writing policies and preparing grant applications, all of which are very time consuming.

The expanding team reflects TrinityLearning's desire to develop its much-needed work, offering new projects as well as helping more children. In September the first training session for volunteers interested in Thinking Books took place. Under this scheme emotional support is now provided for some children who lack confidence and who may have other difficulties. It is about more than learning to read. The books are carefully chosen describing characters in situations which offer the reader opportunities to recognise and talk about feelings. It is hoped by this means to develop their emotional development. Conversations with their teachers at this early stage suggest that there is evidence of progress. Nicola is now an approved Safeguarding trainer, enabling volunteers to meet the requirements of the schools we support.

TrinityLearning is immensely grateful for the generous support from both the central Methodist and URC churches, which have contributed to the cost of salaries during our status change, and to ongoing support from local churches. TrinityLearning could not exist without your volunteering, prayers and financial support.

Rosemary Perrow

10.8 Karibuni Trust



This year marks the twenty fifth year in which Karibuni Children (previously Karibuni Trust) has been operating in Kenya, bringing food and education to children who are the "poorest of the poor." Plans to mark this notable milestone ranged from a celebratory meeting of supporters in July to various events centred on the theme of "Twenty Five". Sadly, the arrival of Coronavirus has meant that all those plans have had to be cancelled.

Yet there is still so much to celebrate and the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic has demonstrated what is so special about the charity.

Providing a nutritious lunch to its 700 sponsored children and students is a key priority for Karibuni Children. Their parents or guardians often depend on obtaining day to day casual work without which there may be little or no food to eat. With the closure of Kenyan schools and colleges in the face of the virus, those nutritious lunches were no longer available. At the same time casual work dried up. Within a few days of hearing that news Karibuni Children had provided emergency grants to projects so that they could issue food parcels to parents and guardians and had launched an appeal to its supporters to help to finance the extra costs of providing such assistance in the coming months. The response from supporters was immediate and generous, such that further grants covering subsequent months were made. Throughout Karibuni has worked closely with the excellent project staff in Kenya who have been responsible for distributing the food. George Mwabu, who runs the project at Tharaka, commented: "Congratulations Karibuni Children for bridging this gap. Smile below the masks of the poor and vulnerable".

John Cotton, Chairman of Karibuni Children has added: "We are most grateful to the members of All Saints who both collectively and individually have supported our work over the past year."



Bob and Penny Smith

10.9 Sunday Coffee



We have a brilliant team of coffee makers who provide refreshments after each Sunday morning service. A big thank you to you all. Over the past year three regular members have had to stand down but we have recruited one new volunteer, which is great.

Hopefully things will resume once services at All Saints re-commence and I would ask everyone to keep in mind their forthcoming 'slots' for when we get back to some semblance of normality after Coronavirus. I am always pleased to hear of new volunteers who would like to come onto the rota. It really helps because inevitably there are existing helpers who (owing to illness or changing family commitments) find they can no longer give their services. So if you feel the call please do contact me!

Our small coffee percolator has given up the ghost, so we have been managing by using the larger one and filling to only half capacity. This works

as a short-term measure. I have also replaced one of the kitchen kettles because we experienced problems with the original.

An issue that can occasionally cause me, as the organiser, a problem is when groups use coffee/sugar/biscuits at times other than Sunday mornings without letting me know. This has occasionally resulted in there being no supplies left for after the Sunday service. I'm very happy for people to use the Church stuff – we all pay for it anyway! But I would appreciate a 'heads-up' if you or your group intend to make refreshments for another Church-related meeting during the week. I can then arrange to re-stock the storage boxes so we don't run out.

Thanks again for your continuing help.

Diane Livesley

10.10 Website <http://www.allsaintsabingdon.org.uk/>

Last year I expressed a wish to hand this over to someone else. Therefore, this year I have done very little with it, except upload a few photos. Eluned, our new Administrator, has taken over uploading the weekly Notices, which is the only regular change which happens. I would strongly recommend that after the lockdown ceases and we meet in person again, that the CC looks at updating the website. The technology has moved on quite significantly since David and I designed it ten years ago. We currently use a firm called ChurchEdit, which we have been very satisfied with. They offer a service of re-designing Church websites for a fairly modest fee, which I would recommend that you consider.

Margaret Ellwood

10.11 Communications Group

One outcome from Future Focus was an increased awareness of the need for All Saints to consider how it communicates its message – both internally, between ourselves, and externally, to the wider community.

As a result, Ian convened a small group of people to consider new approaches. We met for the first time in December, and discussed a range of topics. These included:

- the website
- the foyer
- AV issues
- advertising
- a newsletter
- house style/Methodist branding.

Obviously we can't tackle all of these at once!

We made a start by obtaining some large posters displaying our regular service times; these were supplemented by a colourful poster advertising the special sermon topics in Lent.

We have also seen the first few occasional Newsletters, covering topics of more general interest than can be covered in the weekly notice sheet. These have so far been produced entirely by Ian, but other contributors are beginning to come forward.

The biggest change has been in the foyer. The entrance provides people's first impression of All Saints; in the case of parents collecting children from meetings, it may be their only point of contact. It was last revamped around 30 years ago!

There are plans being developed for a reorganisation and change of furniture, but our initial thoughts were to develop the noticeboards. These were already clear and business-like, but organised according to our internal processes and committees. The new version uses a colourful background which looks warm, bright and welcoming. The labels all use the Methodist orb to tie them together, and the labels themselves identify sections in terms of ministry rather than committees: 'Exploring Faith' for housegroups, services and special events; 'Opportunities to Serve' for rotas and vacant posts, etc.

In response to Margaret Ellwood's decision to stand down as Webmaster we discussed the refreshing of the website. Keith Underhill came and demonstrated the Circuit and Grove websites, and explained the importance of regular updates and new content. This is all under consideration, and we hope to be able to move forward soon with a new team to take over from Margaret.

Jan Greenough

10.12 Abingdon Foodbank



All Saints' contributions to the Abingdon Emergency Foodbank are very much appreciated and very generous; so much so that in normal times, I need to transfer donations weekly. The foodbank is still operational, and donations may be left at Christ Church on Tuesday and Friday mornings between 9.30am and 1pm.

In the past year, the foodbank has become part of The Trussell Trust, a national campaigning organisation which gives additional support to the work being done. It's sad that the need for foodbanks is growing. Your continuing support is much appreciated – thank you.

The foodbank is still functioning during these strange times; donations can be left at Christ Church on Tuesday and Friday mornings, 9.30am-1pm. Although the foodbank is fairly well stocked, and people continue to be generous, basic items such as longlife milk, tinned meat or vegetables are always welcome.

Judith Penrose Brown

10.13 Future Focus -

Combatting loneliness and All Saints – why it's about connection and community.

Have you ever felt lonely? Maybe there's been no-one when you've needed to talk, maybe you've felt disconnected from the world, left out or misunderstood. Or maybe a life event has left you with an overwhelming sadness. Whatever the cause, loneliness is everywhere, affecting any and all of us at some point in our lives. Nearly half of all 65+ in the UK report TV or pets as their only company (Age UK, 2015). A startling enough fact, but statistics show that young people (16 to 24 year olds) are the loneliest. Amongst other risk factors for loneliness are losing a partner, having poor health, or having little sense of belonging (Community Life Survey, 2017).

Following the Future Focus Day in March 2018, All Saints committed to doing something about it, and formed a 'Combatting Loneliness' initiative. We recognised that we knew little about how to tackle the issue appropriately, so invited the Archway Foundation to give us training. Having learnt some tips, formed some strategies and established a Review Group, the Church Family and Pastoral Committees set to work.

So far, here's what we've achieved..... We've learnt that a personal approach is the most helpful in making connections. Last year, we organised a Coffee Morning and Book Swap, sending personal invites, and encouraging everyone to bring a friend. This year, we have held a series of Conversations led by Deacon Selina, touching on loneliness, exploring our experience of the second half of life – pastoral visitors sent invites to all. Looking ahead, we are organising a Jo Cox More in Common 'Coffee Morning and Big Bakery' event at All Saints on Saturday June 20th, (but under review due to social distancing.) The idea was inspired by our recognition that the Referendum debate had caused divisions nationally and locally. The Church Family Committee hope to involve the local North East Abingdon community by invitation, to demonstrate that we can come together and help to restore any lost feelings of belonging.

The Combatting Loneliness initiative will ultimately succeed or fail depending on one thing – YOU! Speak to someone you don't know; visit where you know there's a need; get involved in a church activity as a way of connecting; be vigilant for signs of loneliness in anyone. We can only do this together – one church, in the community, making God's love real – once it is safe to do so again!

Anne Matthews

Chair, All Saints Church Family Committee

10.14 Diamond Jubilee Celebrations 1959-2019 60th Anniversary



Given the current circumstances, the Diamond Weekend to mark All Saints 60th Anniversary last November seems ages ago, but as I write, it is not even six months since we had that wonderful weekend:

A quiet meditative service on Friday, All Saints Day marked the start and then there was an almost full day on Saturday with a coffee morning and a great collection of photos taken at memorable occasions to remind us of the many blessings that All Saints has witnessed and shared over the years.

In the evening there was a wonderful three course meal for over 80 people, a string quartet and some reminiscences and what memories they were! Tales of worship, of social events and deep friendships, with more former ministers than ever seen in one place before.

Celebrations continued on Sunday with morning worship led by Rev'd Helen Cameron, Chair of Northampton District and followed by a Bring & Share lunch. Helen then stayed for a Question & Answer session where she responded to all questions with thoughtfulness and encouragement for our future. Finally, there was the Songs of Praise with singing with true Methodist gusto.

Besides all our own personal memories we have some longer lasting ones such as the display of diamonds which will remain in place for a year. As the seasons pass, the colours of the Pulpit Falls designed to go with the seasons of the church year will change. Common to all of them is a diamond and the Methodist Orb and Cross to remind us of the importance of our faith and the roots of our tradition.



Judith Penrose Brown

10.15 Safeguarding

In the last twelve months several of our members have completed the Advanced Module of the Safeguarding Creating Safer Space course.

As yet there are no new dates for the Creating Safer Space Foundation module. However, there are only a small number people who will be required to attend this in the next few months.

We are currently up to date with all DBS checks for those within the church family who require such a check.

We continue to follow good practice in our Church life with safeguarding and follow Safer Recruitment Practice for those taking on certain responsibilities within the church.

The church Safeguarding policy and various contact telephone numbers are up to date and are displayed on the Safeguarding noticeboard in the foyer.

Helen Appleyard

Acknowledgments

I would like to say a BIG 'Thank You' to all the authors of the various reports for providing such an interesting record of the different activities that have taken place at All Saints Church over the last year, despite the COVID lockdown.

Sue Russell

APPENDIX A: MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND GROUPS

Information as at the date of this report Church Stewards

Stewards	David Perrow Martin Appleyard	Ruth Coward Helen Appleyard	Tim Coward
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Communion Stewards

Margaret Hoskins	Colin Bartlett	Marian Orchard	Larissa Richards	Ruth Coward
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Church Council

Minister	Rev. Ian Griffiths	
Deacon	DCN Selina Nisbett	
Treasurer	Brian Mansfield	
Stewards	Helen Appleyard	Martin Appleyard
	Tim Coward	Ruth Coward
		David Perrow
Secretary	Sue Russell	
Family Committee	Judith Penrose Brown	
Pastoral Committee Secretary	Sue Butler	
Circuit Steward	Various reps from Circuit	
Church in Abingdon	Rosemary Perrow	
Junior Church	Trudy Hall	
Property Action	David Perrow	
Finance Committee	Richard Matthews	
Mission Action	Paul Williams	
Safeguarding	Helen Appleyard	
Communion Steward	Margaret Hoskins	
Annual Church Meeting (6 to 15 allowed)	Alistair Batey	Jenny Pooley
	Rosemary Perrow	Joanne Phipps
	Derek Pooley	Margaret Ellwood

Representatives to Circuit Meeting

Sue Butler	Kate Jones
	Ruth Coward
	Anne Mathews

Church Family Committee

Chair	Anne Matthews
Secretary & Crèche Organiser	Becky Batey
Steward Rep	
Members:	Rev. Ian Griffiths
Maurice Tubb	Helen Appleyard
Kate Jones	Judith Penrose Brown
Trudy Hall	Dcn. Selina Nisbett
Rona Quigley	Mike Quigley

Finance Committee

Chair	Richard Matthews	Secretary	Gillian Griffiths
Treasurer	Brian Mansfield		
Steward	David Perrow		
Members	Pam Guthrie	Larissa Richards	David Gray
	Margaret Ellwood	Mike Brown	

Mission Action

Chair	Dcn. Selina Nisbett	Secretary	Paul Williams
Steward	Tim & Ruth Coward		
Members	Rev Ian Griffiths	Marion Williams	Rosemary Stanbury
	Martin Appleyard	Sue Russell	Joanne Phipps
			Finance gp rep.

Pastoral Committee

Chair	Rev. Ian Griffiths		
Secretary	Sue Butler		
Steward	All stewards	Deacon Selina Nisbett	
Visitors	Marion and Paul Williams	Sue Russell	
	Maurice Tubb	Pauline Sykes	
	Kate Jones	Anne and Richard Matthews	
	Helen & Martin Appleyard	Joanne Phipps	
	Trisha Evans	Tina Hearn	
	Jenny Pooley	Beryl Manners	
	John & Marian Orchard	Diane Livesly	

Property Action

Chair & Steward	David Perrow	Secretary	Emma Standhaft
Steward Rep.	Tim Coward		
Members	Bob Guthrie	Chris Caddy	David Gray
	Martin Wilson	Alistair Batey	Jan Malin
	Maurice Tubb		

Junior Church Council

Co-ordinator	Trudy Hall	Secretary	Sue Butler
Leaders	Anne Matthews	Mike Pearl	Rosemary Perrow
Crèche	Helen Appleyard	Becky Batey	Kate Jones
	Menna Hull	Beryl Manners	

The Fellowship

Speaker Secretary	Paul Williams	Secretary	Michael Caton
Treasurer	Marion Williams		