



All Saints' Church, Banstead

REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES IN 2019

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ANNUAL REPORT on the WORK of the PCC, and the ACTIVITIES of the parish generally - for 2019

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH is based in the High Street, Banstead, and is part of the Diocese of Guildford within the Church of England. It is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission under registration number 1133791, and its long history of service to the local community is manifest in its Grade II* listed building. A new Electoral Roll was drawn up in 2019, and stood at 139 at the time of the APCM in April 2019.

AIMS AND PURPOSES

Together with the incumbent, the Reverend Maria Pallis, All Saints' Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of promoting in the ecclesiastical parish of Banstead the whole mission of the Church of England, in all its pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical dimensions.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at All Saints', and at the end of 2019 voted to pledge ourselves to being an 'Inclusive Church'. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. Our outreach work tries in various ways to support and help people outside our congregation.

When planning our activities throughout the year, the incumbent and the PCC have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to support and enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work, supporting social action initiatives for people in many sorts of need.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church Complex, that is All Saints' Church, the Churchyard and Orchard, the Church Institute, and the house at 14 Glenfield Road (used by curates).

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Everyone is welcome to attend the wide range of services on offer at All Saints'.

On Sunday mornings we celebrate together at 8.00am and 9.30am using the modern Common Worship Communion services, with the service according to the Book of Common Prayer used at 8.00am once a month. Visitors and newcomers are welcomed and encouraged, and at festivals we are pleased to welcome many more worshippers, especially at Easter and Christmas services, when the Crib Service and Carol Service draw a wide congregation. The wide range of Easter services, from Thursday's Watch of Prayer, through Good Friday's Three Hours' Devotion, to the dawn Service of Light on Sunday, the celebratory mid-morning service and festal Evensong provide a powerfully moving experience at this central part of the Christian year. In addition we welcome several schools to hold

their own Christmas Carol services, as do the local Scouts who also arrange their St George's Day service at All Saints.

Sunday T Time, an afternoon service for young families, with tea, which takes place monthly, has settled down and steadily becomes more popular - the steel pans have seen good use by some older children, and smaller ones love Dan the Puppet's contributions. Also monthly, in a different style, our Choir demonstrate their talents at the beautiful traditional Choral Evensong, which attracts interest from visitors as well as our own congregation. On Palm Sunday in 2019 they produced a lovely rendition of Fauré's Requiem, attended by many non-churchgoers. Sadly illness in the team meant we were able to hold only one of our occasional Celtic Evening Services. We also offer morning and evening prayer daily on weekdays.

Special prayer opportunities were offered by a Labyrinth Day at Roehampton and a visit to Westminster Abbey for the celebration at St Edward's shrine. In Banstead a new ecumenical initiative which bridges prayer and mission has been named Deepwell, and may be best described as a New Monastic community centred on prayer and meditation whose fruits are social action.

The aim as always is to provide a wide range of services and opportunities at which people can worship, understanding that one style cannot fulfil every one's needs. Our prayer space, with a votive stand and 'prayer tree' is well used out of service times, and a regular monthly pattern of prayer for the intentions offered on the 'tree' has developed.

Established house groups meeting regularly include a Celtic Spirituality Group, an 'Exploring the Faith' reading and discussion group, Bible Study group, and Meditation. New in 2019 is a discussion group called 'Tranquility Base'. All these groups are organised and led by dedicated individuals and attended regularly by members of All Saints' and other local churches.

As well as our regular services All Saints' enables our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services family and friends express their grief, give thanks, and commend the person into God's keeping. In 2019 we celebrated 17 baptisms (including one adult) and 4 weddings, as well as rejoicing at 4 confirmations. We also supported families with 9 funerals in church and in addition 10 crematoria funerals, as well as numerous burials of ashes in the churchyard conducted by All Saints' ministry team.

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2019

We continue to try to make our physical surroundings more welcoming. When an electrical inspection showed the church needed complete rewiring we saw this also as an opportunity to redesign the lighting, the sound system and the projection equipment, and are delighted with the results. To enable the work to be carried out, however, the church was shut on weekdays for about two months, but the local United Reformed Church kindly welcomed us to their premises for our Wednesday service and we appreciated again the value of friendship with other Christians.

No sooner was the electrical work complete than we embarked on two new projects: installing a great glass screen at the entrance to the Tower to reduce sound transmission. The plan was to enable the children to meet there more freely during services, but we find it also incidentally helps the bell-ringers by cutting out congregational noise when they ring. Our other innovation was a discreet but handsome kitchenette in oak, with sink, fridge and storage hidden beneath worktops when not in use.

The clock, high in the Tower, was overhauled and now strikes the right number at the right time, and the quarters too when so desired.

A highlight of 2019 was the Christmas Tree festival in December, when local schools, care homes and a number of community organisations came together with church groups to decorate more than 20 trees, which drew many visitors to the church.

Communications need constant effort. Our website www.bansteadallsaints.com is our shop-window for the world and regularly updated, while our long-established magazine *The Steeple* works to inform and entertain the local community. We also contribute to some local free magazines, and some activities have a social media presence (usually in closed groups). Banners on the stands facing the High Street are increasing in number and variety to advertise church events and services, and the use of name-badges and photographs identifying people with significant roles has proved useful.

MISSION AND OUTREACH

We continue to support the local community as well as the church congregation. In particular we seek to find additional ways of engaging those who are on the fringes of church.

At 'Big Teds' children from Banstead Infant School are encouraged to learn more about Jesus, in a free after-school club through story, craft and song. Twice a term they have a 'pilgrimage' to church. Visits to some local schools are undertaken by Clergy and the Children's Worker to lead Collective Worship. To extend our range of family activities a monthly film show suitable for little ones has been developed.

A volunteer team has run 'Sing for Joy' on the 3rd Wednesday of each month since 2015, and in 2019 it continued to flourish, assisted by the new Wi-Fi-based projection system. At this a selection of songs designed to 'stir the memories' are sung by all-comers, with linking talk and refreshments; it appeals particularly to people developing dementia and their friends, but has developed a wide and loyal following of people who do not come to services.

In its second year Banstead Friends, designed to provide support and social engagement for older people, grew in popularity in 2019. Of the activities on offer at the monthly meetings in the Church Institute, tea and chat have proved the most popular. Likewise gaining ground is a contrasting monthly initiative, 'Beer & Banter' - evening discussion sessions at the local pub (thanks to the manager's permission) or at the cricket club while the pub was refurbished.

Since 2015 we have been operating a Foodbank, a branch of the Epsom & Ewell Foodbank under the Trussell Trust umbrella, and we shall continue this as long as there is a need in the local area; sadly, usage has shown a marked increase. Our Foodbank operates weekly in the Church institute, and is manned by volunteers from All Saints and other churches.

We continue to provide regular financial support for a hospital in Lesotho, in addition to our occasional charitable fund-raising, for example for Seafarers' charities, the Royal Marsden Hospital, and Christian Aid. House-to-house collections for the latter are dwindling so in 2019 fund-raising also included a 'Big Breakfast' event.

PASTORAL CARE

In many areas pastoral care overlaps considerably with the activities described above, when people needing extra care may be identified and this can be provided. We are also very fortunate to have an active Mothers' Union, and MU members support families, backing up our Pastoral Assistants' work, and provide refreshments at the pre-school group every Wednesday, as well as providing 'comfort' bags for hospital patients and caring for the bereaved. In addition to their local work members contribute to the MU's international work for literacy and women's projects.

A team from All Saints' visits the seven local Care Homes regularly, taking time to get to know residents and staff. We have two dedicated Pastoral Assistants and they, with the ordained and lay ministers, continue to visit the housebound and support in any way we can. Holy Communion is taken to any who are unable to attend church services for whatever reason.

In 2019 some 'Death Café' sessions were held in cooperation with the Princess Alice Hospice as a helpful, informal and reassuring way to talk about death.

The PCC continues to look at our provision for children, families and teenagers at All Saints, where we seek to build on the positive and encouraging work already taking place.

The Children's Worker facilitates teaching at the 9.30am Sunday services through craft and other activities for children, gathered in the Tower where they remain in touch with the service, but are less constrained than before thanks to the new glass screen. For pre-schoolers Teddies' 10 Minutes is a weekly session of story and song on Wednesdays, and Sunday T Time (see above) feeds slightly older minds, as does the after-school group, Big Teds.

ASY (All Saints Youth) meets twice a month with a greater focus on faith and daily life, and has been developing an energetic range of interests with the help of Revd Ian, our curate. In 2019 they slept out in the Church Orchard one night in solidarity with homeless people, and enjoyed an exciting weekend away in the autumn. Children are also active members of the Choir which, as well as providing a musical education, functions as a pastoral and social support for them. We continue to look at how to encourage more young families to join our supportive community.

Safeguarding is always a high priority and all personnel in relevant roles undergo DBS checks and training as required. The Church of England published a new **Parish Safeguarding Handbook** in 2019, and we pay due regard to the guidance issued by the House of Bishops. Our Safeguarding Officer, Mrs Tina Douglas, has now familiarised herself with the range of activities, and regularly checks procedures and training needs as recommended by the Diocese. We continue to carry out Health & Safety Risk Assessments on many church activities, helping to raise awareness of our guidelines.

THE CHURCH COMPLEX

The Church Complex provides a valuable resource for the community, both inside the buildings and in the surrounding grounds. We are pleased that the church is open every day for private prayer, and to enable visitors to enjoy the heritage it represents. The Institute provides facilities for the Open Door Café, a friendly place where everyone is made welcome and there is an opportunity to sit and chat with the volunteers who run it, who come from All Saints', other local churches, and local friends. Any profits are used to support Christian projects locally. The Institute also hosts a Pre-School, many community groups and meetings, in addition to church activities. It is the venue for the Foodbank and other agencies serving demonstrable local need - no charge is made for these. A rolling system of maintenance (including in 2019 repair and repainting of the frontage) helps keep the building going.

Between the church building and the High Street lies a green area called the Church Orchard, belonging to the church and treated as a village green by local people, so the local Rotary Club planted hundreds of crocuses to brighten the spring. Here are held the May Fair (the biggest event of Banstead's year), the Village Fair for local charities in July, and the Community Christmas Event run by the local Business Guild, to which we contributed a Prayer Stall. Just before Christmas the Banstead Five Churches again sang Christmas carols round a bonfire in the Orchard, attracting some passers-by and smiles. The church itself is also used as a venue for some recitals organised by Banstead Arts Festival in May, and in September we again took part in the national Heritage Open Days scheme, offering talks, a ringing demonstrations, music and an exploration of the historic churchyard, which attracted over 100 visitors - one described the 2019 Open Day as 'the best yet'.

Local people have a keen interest in the extensive churchyard, as a place to remember loved ones, to find peace in green tranquillity, or, since it is criss-crossed by well used public footpaths, to use as a through route to the High Street. Maintenance, however, falls largely on a few loyal volunteers, but in 2019 a local voluntary organisation, Banstead Village in Bloom, generously provided regular gardening help which has proved very beneficial (not least with litter collection). At the beginning of

the year the fungus *Kretzschmaria deusta* compelled us to remove two large limes on the High Street frontage; subsequently, expensive but essential work was also required to 17 of the numerous churchyard trees. We also implemented a permit system in the car park in an effort to restrict parking to those on church business.

Volunteers from the national 'Bats in Churches' project spent a few days inspecting the church and churchyard, leaving monitoring equipment overnight, but found only a few bats passing through the churchyard. Bird and bat boxes have been installed to encourage wildlife, but squirrels and foxes remain dominant.

DEANERY SYNOD

The two members of Deanery Synod elected from this church provided the PCC with an important link between the parish and the activities and wider structures of the Church.

ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS

We are fully committed to our Covenant as a member of the Banstead Five Churches (our Local Ecumenical Partnership), which calls for increasing fellowship, joint worship and prayer, and development of Christian education for both children and adults. In 2019, however, joint services had dwindled, though individual churches welcomed each other to events they put on. Still going strong, with participants from all the churches, were the annual Pantomime, which brings adults and children together on a common footing, and Holiday Fun Week. This event was again a happy time of sharing, which reached children who are not closely connected to any of the local churches.

In 2019 we joined with our sister churches for Lent courses, and for a united Procession of Witness on Good Friday, as a public sign of our commitment. We also supported 'Praise in the Park', an outdoor ecumenical event including many schoolchildren. Easter and Christmas cards were delivered to homes in Banstead and Nork.

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

We would like to thank all those who have worked so hard in our ministry and to keep the church running.

Despite an absence through illness early in the year, Reverend Maria provided exemplary leadership, demonstrating the importance of teamwork in keeping all our many fields of work on track. She was assisted by the curate, Revd Ian Whitley, whose energy and enthusiasm have contributed greatly, and by our two loyal and hard-working Licensed Lay Ministers, Rosemary Whipp and George Harcourt-Vernon, as well as the Pastoral Assistants Donna Taylor and Dennis Brown.

Our employed staff include our Children's Worker, Sofia Welsby, who is responsible for the Sunday morning group (ASK), Big Teds at the Infant School, and liaison with the other schools, where we hope to develop more input. A diocesan course at Guildford is developing her skills, and her ability to connect with and encourage the children is delightful.

The Parish Office is a busy nerve-centre, ably run by Janice Povey who deals with everything from graves to service sheets to answering numerous enquiries of every sort, while the work of Parish Clerk and Verger is done by George Harcourt-Vernon.

Our Director of Music, Mr Jan Pringle, continues to develop the Choir's technical skills, particularly noticeable in some lovely Choral Evensongs and Carol Services, which have attracted some from beyond our normal congregation. A great strength of the Choir is its inclusion of several children who benefit greatly from this disciplined and thoughtful work in cooperation with adults.

But it is largely on volunteers that all kinds of hospitality and outreach depend, as well as all the vital and demanding financial responsibilities which enable all the rest. In addition to running or helping with the numerous activities mentioned earlier, volunteers also serve the altar, organise house groups, keep the church beautiful with flowers, ring the bells, care for the linens and silver, and above all quietly demonstrate the love of God and neighbour in visiting, helping and caring for people in any sort of need.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

All Saints' is a busy parish where many and varied activities are undertaken. But we are always aware that we must respond to new needs and adapt our efforts to our resources of people and money. Our church membership is still made up mainly of the older generations, but we are steadily developing ways to better reflect the age balance of the wider community, and to find more ways to engage with and support that wider community.

We very much hope that in the coming year we will continue to provide support to our local community in many and varied ways, being open and flexible to needs as they arise.

INVESTMENT POLICY

Funds are deposited with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund and various deposit takers. Endowment and other longer-term funds are invested with the CBF Church of England Investment fund.

RESERVES POLICY

The PCC aims to hold in reserves sufficient funds for the ongoing maintenance on the Church, to cover the cyclical highs and lows historically experienced in planned giving levels and to undertake improvements in the Church buildings that are considered desirable.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The results for the year are summarised in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 8. Total income amounted to £175,389 (2018: £193,181) a decrease compared to the prior year, mostly due to the absence of legacy income in 2019.

Total resources expended amounted to £223,167 (2018: £194,356) an increase on the prior year. This was mostly due to an increased depreciation charge resulting from continued capital expenditure on the church building during 2019, and one-off costs for churchyard maintenance.

Net income movement before unrealised gains was £47,778 outflow (2018: £1,175 outflow), funded by accumulated reserves.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The powers and duties of PCCs are laid down by the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. Members can be co-opted to the Council when occasional vacancies arise.

The PCC operates through a number of committees, which convene between full meetings of the PCC. These committees which include worship, premises, outreach and finance, are all responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly.

The PCC has a programme of identifying major risks to which it is exposed. The PCC has a safeguarding policy in place that follows the Diocesan safeguarding procedures. Financial procedures, mainly comprising segregation of duties and budgetary controls, have been reviewed and are considered sufficient.

MEMBERS of the PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 2019

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| <i>Incumbent</i> | Reverend Maria Pallis | Chairman |
| <i>Churchwardens</i> | Alan Clarke (<i>to May 2019</i>) Susan Major Geoff Chant (<i>from May 2019</i>) | Vice-Chairman (<i>to May 2019</i>) Vice-Chairman (<i>from May 2019</i>) |
| <i>Elected Members</i> | Philip Batten (<i>from 14 April 2019</i>) Sally Clarke (<i>to 14 April 2019</i>) Lin Dunford Dennis Fox Roy Gordon Robert Harris (<i>from 14 April 2019</i>) Susan Hassanein Emma Jobson Terrence Lewis (<i>to 14 April 2019</i>) Laurence Mascarenhas Hazel Richardson (<i>from 14 April 2019</i>) Vail Sale Natalie Thomas Rosemary Whipp | |
| <i>Ex-Officio Members</i> | Patricia Clarke Elizabeth Samuels Revd Ian Whitley | Deanery Synod Deanery Synod Curate |
| <i>PCC Secretary</i> | Jennifer Batten | |

The Annual Vestry Meeting 2019 and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) were held on 14th April 2019.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

| | Note | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Endowment funds | 2019 | 2018 |
|---------------------------------|----------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS | | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 2a | 108,466 | 1,732 | - | 110,198 | 125,495 |
| Charitable activities | 2b | 58,657 | - | - | 58,657 | 62,142 |
| Investments | 2c | 4,801 | 1,733 | - | 6,534 | 5,544 |
| | | <u>171,924</u> | <u>3,465</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>175,389</u> | <u>193,181</u> |
| TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED | 3 | <u>200,461</u> | <u>22,706</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>223,167</u> | <u>194,356</u> |
| Net income movement | | (28,537) | (19,241) | - | (47,778) | (1,175) |
| Unrealised gains on investments | 11 | 8,151 | - | 9,393 | 17,544 | (1,191) |
| Transfer between funds | 11 | (180,756) | 180,756 | - | - | - |
| Net movement in funds | | <u>(201,142)</u> | <u>161,515</u> | <u>9,393</u> | <u>(30,234)</u> | <u>(2,366)</u> |
| Total Funds at 1 January | 8 | 585,887 | 64,330 | 50,222 | 700,439 | 702,805 |
| Total Funds at 31 December | 8 | <u>£ 384,745</u> | <u>£ 225,845</u> | <u>£ 59,615</u> | <u>£ 670,205</u> | <u>£ 700,439</u> |

The full FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

are available on request from Roger Fairhead, Treasurer, who will report on them and take questions at the APCM

SAFEGUARDING

I must begin by thanking my PCC colleague and churchwarden Susan Major and Janice Povey for their expertise and help in keeping our young people and vulnerable adults safe from exploitation. In addition I acknowledge the extensive support I receive from the safeguarding team in Guildford.

It is a matter of importance to me that there is a high awareness of our collective safeguarding responsibilities and I am pleased that that seems to be the case. Leaders of groups both paid and voluntary make sure that the sometimes tedious administration is completed and are open in asking what they need to do and what should be avoided. Sometimes the problem is not directly a safeguarding matter but might affect our children indirectly. We had such a problem concerning people coming into the Church when children were present. We had to balance the public's right to enter the church as against the rights of children not to be frightened by any unexpected surprises. We solved that dilemma by asking volunteers to man the doors and talk to people as they come in thereby reassuring any children present that everything was fine.

I have now visited all the children and youth groups and should like to pay tribute to the volunteers who help and organise them so lovingly. They are a very impressive group of people I shall visit the groups again when we are back to normal.

I have attended the groups for the older members but would like to visit them in due course in their homes, with the authorised visitors, of course, if that was considered appropriate.

There was emphasis on training as always. I reported back to the PCC about the diocesan training which adopted a novel approach. It featured a talk given by a mature lady who had been abused by her brother and uncle when she was a child. The very sad part of the story was that her church welcomed into their family a man who had been sent to prison for child abuse and the memory of her abuse came back. Her church was so intent on forgiving him that they failed to support her. She left the church and never went back. Then we heard from Ian Berry head of the safeguarding team in Guildford who said that this error was his fault.

The last speaker gave a talk about how forgiveness was not always possible. It was most illuminating. All in all, the conference left us all realising that the problems which abuse of any sort creates has no simple answers.

The other area of training that I realised that we has not undertaken was recognising domestic abuse. I have booked six of us to go to Epsom this summer to attend this seminar.

Tina Douglas
Safeguarding Officer

ELECTORAL ROLL at 31 December 2019

In 2019 we were required to draw up a completely new Electoral Roll. As a result by the end of the year we now have 147 people on the Electoral Roll and eligible to vote.

There have been some changes. We now have 83 people on the roll who are resident within the parish and 64 who are non-resident.

Ros Young
Electoral Roll Officer

THE FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

Following on from the preparations in 2018 a considerable amount of planned works and changes in the church have now taken place. All the electrical works relating to the lighting, rewiring and audio/visual system were successfully carried out.

In terms of the lighting we now have several easily selected options as well as being more eco-friendly. Lighting in the steeple needed to be altered to assist the bell ringers but this was done and now works well. The outside lights were also changed to LED operation. The glass screen was fitted in August which blends in nicely and has been most effective.

The kitchenette is also in place and the two or three coffee sessions run after the 9.30 service have proved what a benefit this facility is. Sincere thanks to Alan Clarke for project managing all these complex works.

The repair work on the clock was finally completed and it is good to hear the hours and quarters chiming again. My grateful thanks to Mike Pallis who has worked hard with the contractor to get our clock back into operation.

The Executors of the late Geoffrey and Avis Stevens generously donated in their memory a silver ciborium, suitable for large wafers and made to our design by the silversmith Julian Hart, which is a beautiful addition to our altar silver.

We have also purchased some new plastic tables for use at the children's and other events held in the church.

The church has been maintained to a very good standard throughout the year. As usual our thanks go to George Harcourt Vernon, Sandra our regular cleaner and the premises team for their continuing efforts.

As has been done in previous years I would like to express my thanks to the army of volunteers for the considerable amount of work they do shining the brass, polishing the silverware, washing and ironing the linens and many other housekeeping matters. Often unnoticed they quietly carry out this work which keeps the church in such good order.

Geoff Chant, Churchwarden



THE WORK OF DEANERY SYNOD 2019

The Deanery Synod met three times during 2019.

The main speaker at the first meeting in February was Revd Martin Wainwright who had recently taken on the role of an Army Chaplain. He gave a short resumé of the Mental Health First Aid Course he had recently attended. He explained that the current understanding is that everyone has to look after both their physical and mental health. It is very important to normalise talking about Mental Health too. He gave us some suggestions that could support those in need.

It was suggested that The Samaritans was a good contact. Two books written by Dr Steve Peters were mentioned. In the video shown by Martin depression was depicted as 'black dog' and in Dr Peters' books he talks about depression being a 'chimp'. It is vital we talk about mental health on a community basis.

The main speaker at the June meeting was Mr Jonathan Lees, from the Food Bank. He explained that he had initiated a meeting in 2012 with a view to opening a food bank having seen the need for one. It opened in October 2012 and fed 18,000 people. There are now food banks in Epsom, Ewell, Banstead and Ruxley Lane. The need for food banks has increased dramatically, and one reason for this is the introduction of Universal Credit and the 5-week wait to receive it. He explained that The East Surrey Poverty Truth Commission was set up so personal stories could be shared and

reasons for poverty could be better understood, e.g. income not covering essential costs, benefit delays and benefit changes. Finally, how can we change the culture of the Authorities to help those in poverty?

In October the main topic of the meeting was an Open discussion on Funeral Ministry, which was led by Revd Russell Dewhurst.

He gave us details concerning C. of E. statistics. In 2007 there were 190,000 C. of E. funerals, which had dropped to 133,000 ten years later. Revd Russell then talked about Humanist and secular funerals. Nowadays more people are requesting these funeral ceremonies. It is still important that the clergy support families who do want a church funeral with the funeral planning. There can often be time pressures on making arrangements and making contact with the parish clergy who can be very busy.

Several members of the meeting made comments on this. Revd Russell concluded by saying: 'Do we want our clergy and LLMs to be doing more funerals? If there is a will, I am sure that it is possible to increase the percentage of funerals that we do. However, it may be that the most urgent priorities lie elsewhere.'

*Trish Clarke & Liz Samuels
Deanery Synod Representatives*

MISSION COMMITTEE

1. BEER & BANTER

Beer and Banter is our monthly pub-based group where we discuss all things spiritual. We meet in the Woolpack on the last Thursday of the month. We have finished using the Dave Tomlinson Book *Black Sheep and Prodigals - an antidote to black and white religion* as inspiration for our discussions and are now using another of his books *How to be a Bad Christian*. The discussions continue to be very lively and not everyone around the table always agrees with each other. However, this is always done with grace and kindness and opposite views are always listened too. Beer and Banter has quickly become a place where people have felt safe to express views that maybe they wouldn't on a Sunday morning. This isn't because the views are wrong or bad in any way but just that sometimes they are a bit outside mainstream Christian doctrine. What the group isn't is a men's group as the name and venue might suggest, and we do have some regular women attendees.

What has been wonderful in the last few months is we are starting to see one or two people join us who are not regular members of our church congregation, and would not claim to have a faith, or a belief in God which has always been the aim. It would be great to build on this in the coming year so if you know someone that might be interested in chatting about spiritual stuff whilst partaking in a pint, or any other liquid refreshment that may take their fancy, but wouldn't come to church, then please invite them. It might mean you have to come along as well but who knows you might enjoy it.

Ian Whitley, Assistant Curate

2. PARTNERSHIP

We are now working closely with both The Mary Frances Trust and The Princess Alice Hospice on a number of activities.

We run a book club with jointly with both that meets monthly and has 10 members - none of whom are members of All Saints. We run a monthly Community Cricket session for The Mary Francis Trust for men with mental health issues and have held three more Death Cafes with The Princess Alice Hospice which continue to be very popular. We already booked three more the coming year.

We have also set up a Banstead Partnership Meeting pulling together a number of different groups who are active in Banstead serving our village. The groups involved include local family centres, charities, local government and councillors. The idea is to see how we can support each other, advertise what we do to reach more people who need our help and also identify where the gaps are so we can see if we can fill them. The first meeting saw 16 different groups represented. We spent time introducing ourselves and sharing what each of us did locally. It was really well received, and the plan is it will meet four times a year and also be a forum where we can share online what we are doing through the year.

The mission team continues to take a leading role in Eco-Church and Inclusive Church both of which are areas we will be working on in the coming year.

Ian Whitley, Assistant Curate

3. THE DEEP WELL COMMUNITY - A Community Of Refreshment, Renewal And Reconciliation

The Deep Well Community is an emerging New Monastic Community based in Banstead. It started as conversation 2 years ago between two people over a cup of coffee. It is a small locally dispersed group that is committed to social action and believes this comes out of building a community that eats together, prays together, relaxes together and then works together.

We believe that this world is God-breathed and sustained and is beautiful and we have each been created in the image of God and, although we acknowledge that we are not perfect and get so much wrong, we trust we all start from a place of original blessing and are all firmly loved by God. We are committed to exploring ways to positively affect the physical, environmental, spiritual mental wellbeing of the community of Banstead in which we live and globally.

Although it currently has strong links to All Saints and Banstead URC the community seeks to explore and journey with other spiritual seekers, those of any faith or no faith, who wish to work for the wellbeing of Banstead Village.

Although we meet unofficially on several occasions during the week, and we are always looking for excuses to go for a coffee, we currently meet twice a month in a more structured way.

Deep Well meets at 8.00pm on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at All Saints. At present at 8.15 pm we move into a time of silent Contemplative Prayer. This is a time where we try to find stillness amid the rush of life, to find silence amid the noise and to search for and spend time with God. We plan, going forward, to make this a more open and inclusive gathering, being open to anyone who wishes to come along for a time of silence, contemplation and refectio. We are not sure exactly what that will look like yet.

Contemplation has been described as the ultimate meditation and if prayer isn't your thing then this time can be used as a time for meditation, or mindfulness to give it another title, or just to be quiet. As I have already said you don't have to have a faith to come and join us. We believe that these times of silence are essential as it is from a contemplative stance to life, a place of inner strength, grace and peace, or to use my favourite Hebrew word *Shalom*, that we begin to see ideas for compassionate action emerge. The time of silence finishes with a very short night prayer. Don't worry if praying isn't for you, it is just a way of marking the end of that section of our gathering. We then retire to the pub where we allow these ideas for social action, that have started to flow from the time of contemplation, to take shape. This time is just as important for us as we firmly believe that contemplation and action are two sides of the same coin and one is always feeding the other.

If anything that we are trying to do has grabbed your attention please contact Ian on either 0796138229 or ian.bansteadcurate@outlook.com. As I said I'm always looking for an excuse to go for a coffee (or a pint) and chat about how we make this world a better place for all of us to live in.

Ian Whitley, Assistant Curate

4. BANSTEAD FRIENDS

Banstead Friends meets on the second Tuesday of the month in the Institute. It was initiated to help older and more vulnerable people, in our community and in the wider community, to socialise with each other with support from a team of volunteers. There is no charge for this activity and we are very blessed to have cakes donated by helpers and members of the congregation. We are now in our second year.

Numbers vary from 7 to 20 and we have an army of volunteers to call on. We started to offer puzzles and games, appropriate to our members, but soon discovered that they really like to come for a natter and tea and homemade cake! They also enjoy hand massage and fingernail painting. We have introduced help with cleaning hearing aids and changing batteries. (Ian Whitley is a 'Hearing aid champion' so fully able to help with this.)

At Christmas time we held a Christmas Lunch in the Institute. We served a fully traditional Christmas meal with all the trimmings, including crackers and silly hats, and there were approximately thirty of us. It was very well received and we hope to be able to repeat this this next Christmas.

Our last meeting was held on 10th March. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 virus, we have had to close this for the time being but hope that we can resume later this year.

Vail Sale

PRAYER GROUP

This small group set up following the development of the Parish Mission Action Plan continued to meet during 2019, reporting with regular updates back to the PCC. A further programme of 'events' during the year which included the following:-

- A sermon 'series' was held on consecutive Sundays during January on 13th, 20th and 27th which focussed on 'the nuts and bolts of how we pray' and promoted a variety of opportunities for some of us to use to develop and explore what best suits us.
- In June a group from All Saints attended a Labyrinth Quiet Day lead by Sheila Farmer at the Kairos Centre in Roehampton. Labyrinths date back thousands of years. They were designed as a single winding path leading to a centre. Unlike a maze, which leads to dead ends, a labyrinth plays no tricks. With its twists and turns, it is often seen as a metaphor for life's journey. It provides a meditative experience, a place in which to step away from a hectic world into a space of quiet contemplation. The day was very much enjoyed by all who attended.
- As we have done in previous years a number of people attended the National Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Edward the Confessor at Westminster Abbey. This year the guest preacher at the Eucharist was the Archbishop of Canterbury. This day is always enjoyable and provides the opportunity to pray at the shrine of Edward the Confessor, and attend both the morning Eucharist and Evensong in the afternoon. The Abbey is open to pilgrims only on the day who can explore the history and spirituality of this great Benedictine church. The day always has a fantastic festival atmosphere.
- At the end of October a small group spent a Saturday at The House of Prayer in East Molesey for a day of retreat led by Margaret Silf. Margaret is a popular retreat leader and author of bestselling guides to the spiritual journey. During the day Margaret drew upon her book *Born to Fly* to help explore what it would mean for each of us to be an 'emerging butterfly' – to be an agent of spiritual transformation in our own lives and in the world around us. It was a wonderful day and Margaret is certainly worth going to listen to should the opportunity arise again.

- We again had a Prayer Tent in the Church Orchard at the end of November for the Banstead Christmas Community Event and despite the very wet weather a number of prayers were written by people from the village and beyond. These were made into a paper 'chain' of prayers and placed in the church next to the Prayer Tree.
- A day of reflection and prayer at All Saints to help prepare for the coming season of Advent was led by Revd Ian which started with Morning Prayer over breakfast in Café Italia. A reflection for Advent followed in church. A quiet lunch was catered for in the Lady/Memorial Chapel thanks to help from the Open Door staff. Ian concluded the day with a 'contemplative' Eucharist in the afternoon.

As we continue into 2020 the group will publicise further organised retreat and prayer days so everyone is made aware and hopefully can attend, if they wish, with those they know. We are blessed with a number of places that offer excellent programmes throughout the year i.e. House Of Prayer (East Molesey), Kairos Centre (Roehampton), St Paul's Cathedral etc. The Kairos Centre can provide space and lunch facilities if we wish to run our own quiet days there.

It is also encouraging to note that a small number of people from All Saints, together with others from outside our church, are involved in the formation of the Deep Well new monastic community. It is currently forming a Rhythm of Life and we hope that this community will flourish in future years.

As a sub group of the PCC formed after the Mission Action Plan a number of years ago we constantly review how we can support the mission of All Saints and once a new Vicar has been appointed some suggest that the Prayer Group should be joined with the Mission Group.

Phil Batten

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee met three times in 2019. Revd Maria chaired this small group of laypeople, each with different viewpoints on worship: representing the servers, the choir, the sidespeople, young people, the 8.00am service.

In April the focus was on the new church lighting and the new sound facilities, and how best we can use them, including the new remote projection system (no more clumsy projector blocking up the nave). The organist is pleased to be able now to see the door and the chancel with the aid of CCTV.

Through the year, leading topics were the ordered and smooth handling of services, coordination and communications where many people are involved in various roles, and the management of revisions to original plans.

Our role is to reflect on past services, identifying effective aspects (and those less helpful), and trying to disseminate good practice. The development of children's worship is a particular



concern. This feeds into plans for future services, and we also prepare a timetable for the year, so that occasional services such as 'Pink Sunday' are planned well ahead, and fixed ones like Sea Sunday are factored in.

Occasionally we also discuss more general subjects, including 'What is Worship?', to help clarify our thoughts on particular topics.

Susan Major

CHILDREN AT ALL SAINTS'

I joined the All Saints Church team in November 2018, so in November 2019 I had my first anniversary. I have now experienced a full year at the church. I am still really enjoying it. Below is a report of the things that I have been involved with. In addition to these I am responsible for the craft activities at the monthly **Sunday T Time** and in the summer helped with the planning and running of **Banstead Five Churches' Holiday Fun Week**.

1. ASK (ALL SAINTS KIDS) – SUNDAY SCHOOL

After the summer of 2019, the church has had some glass doors put in to close off the bell tower from the main church. That has been a great improvement. As they are see-through, when we hold Sunday school, we still see the congregation and feel part of the church family, but it helps with the sound a lot. We don't disturb the congregation as much and vice versa.

ASK is still a small group, but it is slowly growing. We aim towards primary school aged children, but anyone is welcome, we do not turn anyone away. We have one very loyal boy, a couple of other local children that comes on and off, and we have started to get a group of 3 to 5 toddlers, who come on a regular basis with their parents. The toddlers have also been to Teddies' 10 Minutes and Sunday T Time before, so it is nice to see how they progress their faith journey and now come to ASK too!

There are also a number of other children, that comes frequently, when they are visiting family in Banstead. It is great to see them when they do come.



I am often leading on my own, but I will try and find someone that wants to help on a regular basis. (There should be minimum two people to run a group - the youngest helper should be at least 5 years older than the oldest child in the group, according to the guidelines.) I had a teenager helping in the spring which was helpful, and it is fine when toddlers are there with their parents, but something a bit more reliable would be desirable. Our sessions are relaxed and enjoyable. We have some good discussions and a few laughs. We recap what we have talked about in the last few sessions, we read a story, normally from the children's bible, talk about it, pray and then do a craft that relates to the story. If we have some time left at the end, we often play a game of some sort.

Our topics

I like to base our sessions on seasonal and biblical timelines. In 2019 we started the year with the three wise men and their journey to Judaea and how everyone later had to flee Bethlehem, to escape King Herod. It followed on with the story of Jesus in the temple, John the Baptist and him meeting Jesus and baptizing him. We then took a three-week break and looked at the Lord's Prayer, before we continued with the story about his 40 days in the desert and us remembering that through Lent. We thought about us doing 40 Acts of Kindness, rather than trying to give something up.

We talked about Jesus's first friends he had met with John the Baptist and how no one wanted to listen to him in his hometown, the wedding in Cana and his first miracle. We talked about how Jesus started to become very popular and how he chose his 12 special friends, the disciples.

We moved on to Palm Sunday and the Easter story including the Last Supper and the Resurrection. This followed on with the road to Emmaus, the disciples seeing Jesus again, Thomas the doubter and the amazing catch, Jesus's Ascension and later Pentecost.

During the Summer holiday there were not many children attending. When I was away, I had pre-prepared packs of stories and crafts to do if anyone did turn up. I had volunteers lined up to deliver the lessons if required.

After the summer we first did Jonah and the Whale for Sea Sunday and then the story of Daniel and the Lions. Following that, I then decided that we were going to look a bit more at the Old

Testament. We started at the very beginning with the creation and Adam and Eve, Noah's Ark, the tower of Babel, Abraham and Lot, Abraham and the test, Isaac, and the story of Jacob. We were then back to Advent, Mary and Gabriel and the Christmas story. The year ended!

2. BIG TEDS

At Banstead Infant School, we run an after-school club on Thursday afternoons, from 3.15-4.30pm. The sessions run in 4-week blocks, finishing with a Pilgrim walk to All Saints church on the 4th session. Parents are also invited to attend on that afternoon. In March 2019, the church was closed for repairs, and the 4th session that term was held in the Orchard. The children had a picnic, an interactive recap of the Holy Week story and an Easter egg hunt. The children appeared to be happy with the substitute venue. During a normal session, we start with a drink and a snack, a bible story, the Lord's prayer, a game and a craft.

I am responsible for the running of the club, but I have a wonderful team of volunteers, some are fairly new additions, but all a tremendous help! I am very grateful to them.

This is a very popular club at the Infant School, and it is always oversubscribed. During the first 6 month the numbers kept growing, so in the summer term we had 27 children on the register! After that the school has now capped the number to 20, but there are always a couple of extras. So all volunteers are very valued and needed to run the club!

The club is free to the children, so a few of the children might be there because it is 'free childcare', rather than how wonderful Big Teds club is. We don't mind, though; they still get the chance to learn more about our amazing God and his son Jesus. A few of the children have had previous exposure to Christianity, whereas most have not. The themes at Big Ted's often follows what we are doing at ASK, as there is no overlap so far.

3. BANSTEAD INFANT SCHOOL

The staff at the local Infant School are very friendly, welcoming and pro church, despite being a normal state school. Apart from our Big Teds after school club, we also have a 'Quiet Space' in their library. There we have a different theme for reflection, every 6 weeks approximately. In connection with the change of the Quiet Space, we are invited to hold a morning assembly, introducing the new space.

4. BANSTEAD JUNIOR SCHOOL

I am always made to feel very welcome when I visit this school and I am starting to build a relationship with two key people here. They currently don't feel the need for anything apart from assemblies and a nativity service at the church at Christmas. However, the assemblies are more frequent now and relates to Christian festivals or topics. I am grateful for the opportunity to come and visit.

5. FAMILY FLICKS

After the summer we launched 'Family Flicks'. It is a free monthly film club for (primary-aged) children and their parents/carers. We meet on the 3rd or 4th Saturday of the month (depending on when STT is on), at 2.30. We are in the church and I play a family friendly DVD, whilst the children have popcorn and a drink, and the adults can enjoy a hot drink and a biscuit. We have not had any big audiences yet, but I will give it a bit longer before I decide to pack up.

This was started in order to attract some new families to come to church, as a first entry point, and then try out some other activities that we do. We have had some new people visiting as a result.

6. CHRISTMAS FUN AFTERNOON

During the school holiday, before Christmas, this year I put on a Christmas fun afternoon. The idea was that parents would drop off their primary aged children for a few hours of craft and games, whilst they could go and finish off their last bit of Christmas shopping or a last coffee with their friends, before being home with the children for the holiday.

The attendance was low, but the children really enjoyed it and they have been back to STT since. I am hoping to do more of these in the future around the Christmas and Easter holidays and maybe half terms.

Sofia Welsby, Children's Worker

SUNDAY T TIME

Sunday Tea Time is our monthly service aimed at families with young children. We gather from 3.00 pm on a Sunday afternoon starting with a craft led by our Children's Worker Sofia. Around 3.15 pm a bell is rung, and we come together for worship. This always includes a discussion with Dan our puppet, singing and interactive prayers. The aim is to have fun whilst still sharing the Gospel. After the worship the children sit down for a tea together whilst the adults have coffee and cake. Recently we added a notices section so we develop a sense amongst the congregation that they are members of the whole church, not just a once a month congregation.

STT has seen wonderful growth in the last year and has become a well-established congregation in its own right. We continue to look at how we develop this service and integrate into the fuller life of All Saints, making sure that those who come know that they are part of the church not just STT. In the last year we have two baptisms within the service which has been great fun, particularly working out how you include a puppet in a christening.

One of the great strengths and joys of this congregation is the wide age range that mix - from 80 down to just a few months. Many of those helping to provide the tea etc. are retired. Several of the youth group come along to assist with the craft, the puppet, and most importantly spend time with the kids after the tea, giving space for the adults to chat. One of our young people is also part of the team that meets to plan these services. We are looking how we can use this to develop leadership skills in our young people so they can lead more of the service and hopefully take a more active role in other services as well

Another area we will be developing over the next year is what we provide for those children who are starting to grow out of what we do at STT but whose families aren't necessarily going to start coming to the 9.30 Eucharist. It is important that this congregation isn't just seen as a feeder for other services but can grow and develop itself in ways that disciple both the children who come along and their parents and, often, grandparents.

Ian Whitley

ASY - ALL SAINTS YOUTH

We have had a great year. The group has grown, and we now have 14 young people as members. They don't all come every week, but most sessions are in double figures. Games and food both continue to be important to our young people particularly playing hide and seek! In the last year we have looked at issues such as climate change and a speaker visited from Christian Climate Action which was great. We are working on making our meals eco-friendlier, moving away from single-use plastic, for example. We continue to have a session each term that is just fun - so we have been bowling, crazy golf, trampolining and laser tag.

The group had their first weekend away last September. They raised most of the money themselves by having a sleep-out in the Orchard which also raised £200 for a homeless charity in Sutton. Over the week we had a liquid eucharist where we split the eucharist up in several sections looking at readings, prayer, and the young people built their own labyrinth and we ended with a multimedia Eucharistic Prayer. We also had lots of fun including a rather soggy BBQ.

Three of our young people were confirmed and many of them play an active role in the church, being involved in the choir, reading on a Sunday, helping lead at ASK and several of them help at Sunday T Time.

Ian Whitley

SING FOR JOY

Sing For Joy is held monthly in church for those who enjoy singing, and is ideal for 'Reviving the memories and lifting the spirits' - in the words of our motto.

It is a relaxed and chatty morning of music (one lady joining in with her maracas), when we sing songs and hymns organised into themes. Our team of helpers each plays their part, making this a happy morning for everyone. We enjoy refreshments, and celebrate birthdays and anniversaries.

About 35 to 40 people come regularly, some in wheelchairs, and some from Care Homes, and we are grateful for the support of our church friends who will chat to visitors, or offer help in any way.

The morning ends with a final song 'Be Back Soon', and a Blessing.

Veronica Lansdown

CHURCH MUSIC



This year's Christmas card - thanks to the Choir

All Saints' choristers have, as ever, been working incredibly hard to deliver service music week by week. While their achievements during the services are apparent to anyone present, what is not revealed through hearing the choristers is the tremendous effort they devote to rehearsal. Our Juniors spend every Friday from 6.00 to 8.00pm both singing and gaining a better understanding of music theory; adults join from 7.00-8.00pm. Such devotion to the preparation of music to enhance the worship of Our Lord is incredible, especially when one

remembers that during some seasons the rehearsal space is more than a 'bit chilly'.

Thanks are due to Martin Ford, Ian Le Grice, Phillip Bell and Kevin Shears who have been willing helpers, playing in my absence, with Phillip also conducting at Evensong and directing the

Fauré Requiem last Easter. Francesca has also been such an encouraging guide at many services of Choral Evensong.

I have been delighted that you, the congregation, have been willing to learn, or in some cases re-learn, hymns that have not recently, or perhaps ever, been employed at All Saints. A good hymn, fine poetry of praise combined with an appropriately crafted melody, sung lustily by choir and congregation is an outstanding way of offering praise. I hope that we might gradually continue to expand our repertoire with what is worthy.

Of course, the choir needs more than singing to succeed; music must be gathered, provided for everyone and filed away after use, robes selected, washed and adjusted, Juniors watched over, hymn and psalm numbers displayed for all to see... These are not one-off activities but continue week by week. Don't assume that they happen by magic or a 'choir fairy'; they require dedication.

As Director of Music I would like to record my tremendous gratitude to all those who work tirelessly to ensure the success of our choir. It is something living and precious, not a relic of some previous age. Choirs have vanished completely from so many of our churches or become an occasional feature in others; I urge all of you to treasure what you have, week by week.

Jan Pringle, Director of Music

CHURCHYARD & CHURCH INSTITUTE

The Institute is now running at maximum capacity with groups using the Hall and Gable Room on every weekday from early morning until late evening while Sunday sees it as a home for ASY and increasingly for post-baptism gatherings and children's parties. The financial contribution towards church funds is gratifying as is the fact that the building has become an essential focus of many village activities.

The hall and lobbies have been redecorated as have the east doorway and steps up to the gable room. Modern notice boards have made this area very attractive along with new coloured blinds upstairs. The Gable Room is now used every day and hirers are taking much better care of the furniture and fabric. Our teenage helper sorts out everything each weekend so that hirers always find an orderly and cared-for



environment. The rare occasions where the hall is not swept following a late night session can be very easily identified and email contact ensures that there is no repeat.

We continue to enjoy the presence of the Orchard Pre-School children in the mornings and some of our other hirers have expanded their activities into extra sessions so that the number of casual hirers has been reduced. With no caretaker on site the organisation depends on the close cooperation

of everyone involved and we feel that we enjoy a very good relationship with our hirers, which of course include the snooker club. Daytime hirers benefit from the existence of the Open Door café and their patronage enables friendships to develop between class members in a very natural way over a coffee after class. This in turn feeds into an increasing awareness of the potential of the building for social occasions.

The Banstead in Bloom volunteers have become more and more valued as they care for our churchyard each Friday. They meet in the café where others get to overhear what they do and are attracted by their energy and enthusiasm. We have been impressed by their care for the needs of bereaved visitors and for the commitment they demonstrate in suggesting how the church's physical environment might be improved. They have fenced and covered the area where cut materials awaiting a bonfire are stored so that not only does everything stay dry but also out of sight with the result that fly tipping appears to be diminishing at last. Their rapid removal of litter means that everywhere looks more cared for and the new seat in the Garden of Remembrance has been remarkably free from cigarette ends and discarded beer cans on warm summer evenings.

As the pattern of regular activities has stabilised so we have really got to know our hirers and this has made running the Institute very much easier. The Orchard Pre-School staff have become real friends. Our Parish Administrator Janice and the team of volunteers who combine to run the place work closely together. Although there are the inevitable frustrations caused by an old building with inefficient and out of date systems, there is a feeling that the activities are all worthwhile in their own right and that perhaps we are not doing too badly!

The Institute hosts church celebrations, funeral wakes, friendship groups for the old and very young, yoga, Pilates, karate, modern dance and ballet, stage stars, singing, musical appreciation, a book club, an annual pantomime, regular organ and keyboard concerts and a monthly cinema. It is home to the snooker club, the Open Door café and the May Queen and Village fetes and offers a welcome to all who enter its doors. It is a secular building but has a big heart!

Sue Hassanein

SERVERS' REPORT for 2019

As usual, I would like to thank all the members of the serving team for their continuing support during the past year. It is greatly appreciated not only by me as head server but also by the whole of the Worship Team and the congregation.

We are always on the look-out for new recruits so if you would like to join us please do not hesitate to contact me.

We have provided a serving team for all the appropriate services during the year.

Some of the team also joined the All Saints procession through Banstead for the May Queen event and led the annual procession to the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday.

Continuing in the tradition we ended the year with a pre-Christmas evening with mulled wine and mince pies.

The Serving Team continues to support our worship with enthusiasm and dedication.

Alan Clarke



CHURCH FLOWERS



It gives the flower arrangers great pleasure to provide the weekly pedestal arrangements and create the displays for the church's major festivals. Eastertide is always a very special time when we work with flowers, including 80 lilies, generously donated by so many parishioners in memory of their loved ones.

A Christmas Tree Festival took place in the church during December. Local schools and organisations from the community joined with groups from the church in decorating twenty two trees. Each group chose a theme for their tree. We left the choice very open. So there were themes with titles as diverse as 'Christmas Crackers', 'Opening at Christmas' and 'What goes around comes around'. The flower arrangers added garlands and the choir a 'choir of angels' to the screens.

The church looked wonderful and the decorations were much admired. I would like to thank Pam Freeman and Gill Gordon for their help and support in organising the festival.

During the festival the church flower arrangers held two workshops, led by Pam Freeman, to make Christmas swags and table decorations. These raised £300 for the flower fund.

I would like to express enormous thanks to all who give so generously to the flower fund and express your appreciation of what we do.

Margaret McFarlane



MOTHERS' UNION



The Mothers' Union theme for 2019 was 'Listen, observe, act - in step with God'. We sincerely hope that as a branch here at All Saints' we do indeed listen, observe and act, with God's help, to the very best of our ability with the resources we are lucky enough to have, remembering our local members but also those in the rest of the UK and Worldwide.

At the end of 2019 our membership was 32 plus 1 indoor and 2 twilight members.

It was with great sadness that we learnt during the year of the deaths of four of our much loved members. Gladys Woollatt died in January aged 99 years. She was a Branch Leader and committee member for many years, during which time she made an enormous contribution to our Branch. She was a talented needlewoman and calligrapher. We were pleased that she was able to be at the 60th Anniversary of the restart of our All Saints' branch. Joan Harris, who came to Banstead from St James', New Malden, died in March. Joan had been an active MU member in her previous branch but was in poor health when she arrived in Banstead. Dorothy Clarke and Anne Preece both died in October. Anne joined the MU in 1983 and was a very active member serving on the committee and contributing in so many ways. She was also a leading figure in the Link Group. Dorothy with her warm personality was a talented and knowledgeable needlewoman who loved flowers and gardens. They will all be greatly missed.

Our afternoon meetings were diverse and interesting. At our AGM, in February, we enjoyed a delicious lunch given in memory of our dear Jean Hosken. In April Donna Taylor led us in 'Easter Reflections', which was, as always, well received. In June we once again visited Elisabeth Rogers' beautiful garden. It is inspirational, a real oasis of calm and tranquillity in the heart of Banstead. The afternoon raised £195 for MU funds.



At our July meeting we enjoyed a strawberry tea whilst being challenged by Claire Petrie's interesting quiz. In September we had a fascinating talk by Veronica about her trip to Qatar to visit her son and family. It was interesting to hear about life in a country with a very different culture and climate from ours.

In October and November we made Christmas tree decorations under the expert guidance of Claire Petrie. They hung on a tree in the Lady Chapel as part of the church's Christmas Tree Festival in December and were much admired by the many visitors.



In May members enjoyed a lunch outing to Denbies Wine Estate following Corporate Communion. We also shared food and fellowship at our pre-Christmas 'Bring and Share' supper at the evening meeting in December.

Our Lent service was led by Rosemary Whipp and the Advent service by Revd Maria. Both were most thought provoking and a welcome opportunity for quiet reflection. At the Lent service Rosemary enrolled Janice Gunn as member. As always it was a pleasure to be joined at the Advent service by members from neighbouring branches. Corporate communion was celebrated on the fourth Wednesday of every month except December.



Once again it gave us great pleasure to construct the Garden of Gethsemane. It was inspirational and much appreciated by the parish.

Several members attended the Lady Day Service at Guildford Cathedral, when Margaret McFarlane carried the banner, and then enjoyed lunch in the Cathedral cafe afterwards. On the 3rd September at the Pilgrimage of Prayer in Guildford Cathedral Lady Chapel we entered the names of Gladys Woollatt, Audrey Roberts and Joan Harris in the Book of Remembrance. It was lovely to be joined by members of their families.

At the end of July we hosted the Deanery Eucharist and Summer Lunch which was much enjoyed by all who attended. Banstead has continued to host the Deanery committee meetings. Members have represented the branch at the twice yearly Diocesan Members Meetings. We regularly contribute articles to the MU diocesan magazine, *The Angel*. The branch was represented at the Women's World Day of Prayer at the Methodist Church.

Members continue to help with Teddies' Ten Minutes, Sing for Joy and church flower arranging. Donna Taylor and Elisabeth Rogers deliver Baptism Anniversary cards in the parish.

MU members and other parishioners place flowers in the Lady Chapel each week and we thank Trish Clarke for organising this rota. Donna Taylor continues to sell MU cards and books both in the Open Door café, at meetings and on the stall at Village Day. We thank her for her hard work with this, which is an excellent form of outreach.

It gave us great pleasure to provide refreshments at the funerals of members and friends during the course of the year. In recent months we have received very generous thanksgiving donations in memory of Joan Harris and Dorothy Clarke. Both spouses asked that the money goes to projects in this country. We are delighted to have made contributions to AFIA, the women's refuges, literacy and financial education and work in prisons.

As part of our outreach to the wider community we were pleased to help (wearing our MU sashes), on the Cake Stall at the May Queen Fayre, with the proceeds going to the Beck Foundation. Our 'Mother's Market' stall on Village Day raised £280 for the MU 'Summer of Hope' Appeal.

We have contributed items for the Women's Refuge, have assembled 30 Comfort Bags for use at Epsom Hospital and in November we collected toys (7 bin bags!) which were sent to Lyne Branch, a deprived area of Sheffield.



All Saints' Banstead MU Committee

The BELLRINGERS



It has been a mixed year for the bellringers and life in the tower. Numbers diminished in the spring when our newest recruits succumbed to some health issues and they have both decided not to continue ringing in the foreseeable future. However bells were rung for all services, even with less numbers occasionally, and for four weddings, Christmas and new year.

We have had a few visiting bands who all seem to like our bells (one group even visited twice). When a band from West Sussex included our tower on their day's outing, we were delighted to renew acquaintance with Mike Chapman, who was in our band for many years

until he moved away. The consequence of this was that he invited us to his area to ring at Findon and Angmering, followed by a sumptuous tea which his wife Mary prepared for us at their new home. It

was very good to have a day out together because although we have tea and scones after practice night about once a month, there is never a great deal of time to chat.

We missed a couple of practice nights to accommodate the work on the church lighting and the installation of the glass screen, but these have been to our benefit in the long run. There were some teething problems getting the lighting at a comfortable level without too much reflection with rope movement etc especially when the screen went up, but that was overcome, and the screen gives us great benefit by cutting out congregation noise before services and dimming the organ sound at the end of a wedding service!

We are very fortunate to have Anne and Richard Anthony in the band giving us the benefit of their considerable ringing expertise and are hoping to recruit some new ringers in the new year. Also grateful to Mike Pallis for patient tussling with the church clock and liaising with a professional expert to right all its wrongs!

Liz Grover

‘EXPLORING THE FAITH’ GROUP

The group now known as ‘Exploring the Faith’ continues to meet fortnightly on Tuesday mornings, under the skilled leadership of Rosemary Whipp. We read through a book together, but pause frequently for lively discussion on topics, questions and ideas that arise.

We like variety in our reading: 2019 explorations included C. S. Lewis’s *The Screwtape Letters* and a biography of St Teresa of Avila.

The group includes not only All Saints’ members but also two Roman Catholics, a Methodist and for much of 2019 a member of St Paul’s, Nork, so we are not only ecumenical but greatly benefit from our variety of worship experience and theological emphases.

Susan Major

DRAMA GROUP

This small group of friends still met every Monday evening during the year, a habit formed since the group’s inception over 50 years ago! Monday evening was "rehearsal time" for the many productions - pantomimes, plays, musical presentations and some religious offerings in church; all were played to faithful and receptive audiences, who paid good money to come! So as age and general movement of members occurred numbers dwindled, but ten ladies can still occupy two hours with puzzles, quizzes, DVDs at a member’s house, eating out and plenty of chat, tea, and biscuits.

During the year they ran a stall at Village Day and raised £200, giving £100 each to The Royal Marsden Hospital and to Surrey/Sussex Air Ambulance service.

There is a huge friendship and loyal support of each other, with continued contact taking place with members who have moved away and also with the offspring of members who have died over the years. May it all long continue - we believe it to be quite unique.

Liz Grover

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Through 2019 the Bible group had nine regular members, and we met fortnightly, except in Lent. Meeting in one another's houses, we read the text and consider it from many aspects, led in rotation by members. Always we close with a short service of said Compline. In 2019 the group also enjoyed two talks organised by Christians in Science at Christchurch, Purley, on DNA and on the Eco-emergency.

Early in the year we finished Genesis, which we had been reading with the aid of John Goldingay's *Genesis for Everyone*, supported by other commentaries, Bible atlases, etc. But Genesis ends with a cliff-hanger: the sons of Israel are in Egypt, but with the promise of a land of their own. So then we needed to read Exodus, and again Goldingay provided a basic *Exodus for Everyone*, which we supplemented with a range of other explanatory material, especially Richard Fretheim's *Exodus*.



Exodus flows with barely a break into Leviticus. It must be admitted we lightly skimmed over some passages here, but this rebarbative text proved illuminating on central ideas such as sacrifice and holiness which are so significant also for Christianity and NT texts such as the Letter to the Hebrews.

But we decided that in 2020 we should move to an utterly different book: St Mark's Gospel, the first text the Bible group studied, led by Vivien Turner in 2002. There is always more to learn, fresh thoughts to explore, and each other's company to enjoy.

Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Susan Major

CHURCH MAGAZINE

Yet again we produced 400 (plus 3 large-print) copies of *The Steeple* every month in 2019, and still the price remains at 40p. Again we deposited the twelve issues of *The Steeple* for 2019 at the British Library (Serials Division) under the Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003, and will continue to do so annually.

The magazine is designed for the 'family' of All Saints - to keep people in touch, whether or not they come to services, to provide something to think about, perhaps something to pray about, and to raise a smile now and then.

Advertising holds up, and the magazine not only pays for itself but provides a modest profit for the church. For this we are as ever grateful to those who enable this, and especially to Veronica and Alan Lansdown who organise distribution (and deliver a great many themselves), and to all the individuals who take their bundles from the church to people's houses, month after month with quiet faithfulness. We are still looking for a Treasurer, and meanwhile I try to keep track of the money - volunteers (who can handle Excel) welcome!

Thank you also to our contributors and readers, who make it all worthwhile.

Susan Major, editor

CHURCH WEBSITE

The ‘new-look’ website www.bansteadallsaints.com is now three years old. This version enables new posts to be regularly added and updates made in-house, which gives speed and flexibility though our technical skills are decidedly limited. Happily, when need be, David Fernando, who set it up, is always willing to help out, for which we thank him warmly.

It would be really helpful to have more pictures, so if you hold events do please send photos (having checked with people pictured, of course).

Analysis of 2019 shows that 4729 users visited the website some 6088 times with a big spike at Christmas, and looked at a total of 16,825 pages, with an average ‘bounce rate’ of 48%. The pages most visited were the Home page, by a long margin, then the Church Institute, followed by the Event Calendar, Services, Contact and Ministry.

The website is All Saints’ most public face. Our task is to keep it fresh, to keep it a true reflection of our faith, and to keep it accurate: only thus can it be useful.

Susan Major

TRANQUILITY BASE

Tranquility Base is a small group that meets at my house fortnightly. It is made up of people who were starting to ask me questions about church and faith, that needed more time than coffee after church. However rather than me write a report about it I thought I would use the words of one of the members (with her permission, of course). This was written after we had been going for a little while and when I asked the group to think of a name.

Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed.

A few months ago my husband came home and said that we were signed up to attend a regular faith group being initiated by Ian, the curate from our church. My reaction was a little short of positive. We lead busy lives – how were we going to fit this in?

I reflected and I am so glad I did, because the group has been a huge inspiration to me. It has inspired me to think differently about faith; to question traditional teachings; to explore ideas knowing we will not find all the answers, but maybe get a little closer.

- What is heaven?
- Is it a place you go to?
- Is it here on earth?
- Is it now or in the future?

- What is redemption?
- Is everyone redeemed?
- Is there a hell?
- Do we create hell here on earth?

- Did Jesus die on the cross to save us from all our sins, or was there some other purpose; some other message?

- What does God want of us?
- What does God want for us?

Ian asked the participants to think of a name for the group. One evening my husband and I bounced some ideas off each other. With the impending 50th anniversary of the first man on the moon we thought it would be a good idea to think of a name related to the Apollo 11 landing.

And we came up with 'Tranquility Base' Yes! That was it!

- An opportunity to view the earth and the universe from a different perspective
- A place of quiet reflection
- A chance to find an inner calm
- An out-of-the-ordinary place; a very special place.

Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed indeed!

I believe that small groups/home groups are vital for discipleship, for the spiritual growth of a church and would be more than happy to help get more off the ground. Maybe they could all be named after the moon landings of which there were six. Six groups plus what we already have would mean that most of our congregation would be meeting during the week which be awesome. With all that we are going through at the moment the next one could be named after the second moon landing site – Ocean of Storms.

Ian Whitley