

2021 Report for the Parochial Church Council

All Saints' Church, Hartford

Aims and Objectives

All Saints Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Geoffrey Boucher, in promoting the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

We are called to be a local church, learning and growing together, rooted in the love of God, and bound up in all sorts of everyday ways with the life of our community. Our mission is to reach open hearts with the love of Christ, and to help all the people of Hartford to find Christ, to be found by Him, and to respond to His love through the life and worship of their Parish Church.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to be part of the parish community at All Saints.

Reaching out to the wider community various activities are held in our Church Room some run by members of our church family and others through the hire of the room by external groups. *(These activities have been severely restricted during the Covid19 Pandemic)*

Worship and Prayer

As of December 2021 the total number on the Electoral Roll was 81 of which 43 were residents and 38 non-residents of the parish.

Covid19 again disrupted church services with no services for most of the first three months of the year. The 11am resumed on the 28th March but the bimonthly 8.30am and the monthly 6pm did not resume until July. For those services which did take place the average Sunday 11am attendance was 32 adults and 1 child, the 8.30am was 9, and the 6pm was 9.

Attendances at special services held during the year were Maundy Thursday –13, All Souls – 8, Christmas Carol service - 48 adults / 5 children, Nativity service - 16 adults / 6 children, Christmas Midnight service - 22 adults and Christmas Day 11am - 21 adults / 2children.

During the year 7 baptisms, 5 weddings, 10 funerals in church, 4 funerals at the crematorium and 3 interments of ashes took place.

Rector's Report

The year began with the continuation of lockdown measures due to the Covid 19 pandemic. This brought many constraints to daily living, including not gathering in church for worship.

Pat and Haleema continued to produce a weekly service on our website to unite us, and many of us were in contact with each other offering care and mutual support. The zoom 'Tea and Chat' on

Sundays and the Lent course, also via zoom, provided opportunity to meet virtually. Later in the year a few of us trialled Clifford's course 'Baggage and Treasures' which the Diocese has adopted as its Lent Course for 2022.

Preparations were made for the return to worship in the church building. The organ which had been taken away and completely repaired and renovated was returned in March, new curtains were hung at the south door and choir vestry, and comfortable cushioning softened the pews. We were able to return to church on Palm Sunday, 28th March in time for Holy Week and the celebration of Easter. It was a great joy not only to return but to hear the sound of the organ beautifully enhanced, and to appreciate the warmth and comfort of the curtains and cushions.

There was much discussion about returning to social activity and we are so grateful to everyone who made this happen. Mike and Daphne's Garden Party was a wonderful beginning; Clifford's walk continued the good work and Sue, Pam and their team put on two particularly special Cream Teas. Pam and Paul organised an evening with Richard Bower which combined music and the story of our organ; The Art Group delighted us again with their exhibition and the Christmas Fayre was a social and fundraising success once more. Thank you to all who contributed to and supported these events in so many ways.

The church building and churchyard were kept as beautiful as ever and were much appreciated by people who visited not only on Sundays but through the week. The flower displays were particularly stunning at the major festivals and the Remembrance Sunday displays honouring and moving. Our thanks to Colin Jones for his work this year in providing us with a Christmas tree and Easter Cross in the churchyard. Thank you too to Pauline and David who are once again opening the church on Friday mornings.

In October we held an 'Away Day' so that we could reflect on 'where we are' and 'where we are going' centred around a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) discussion. Thank you to all who attended and for the many good questions and positive contributions. We identified six priority areas - Communication, Pastoral Care, Social Activity, Worship, Occasional Offices and Discipleship. We will continue to address these through 2022.

Life brings change, it brings endings and beginnings. We have been very blessed in Linda's playing of the organ for 30 years and for her leading, encouraging and inspiring the choir. We were pleased to be able to make a presentation to Linda as her time as organist completed, and also to present Linda, Pauline and David with RSCM medals. It was a delight to welcome Tony as our new organist and to witness the prayerful creativity in the new and changed roles and relationships in the choir.

We have been blessed too in Janet Boston's presence and prayer, wisdom and encouragement as Churchwarden. Janet completed her time in that office, and we offer her our deep gratitude for all that she has brought to us in the role.

Thank you also to Peter Levitt for editing and producing the Hartfordian. The final issue was produced in 2021 and we congratulate Peter on a production that has informed and entertained over many years and helped to bind our community. Amanda Smith generously offered to produce a quarterly newsletter and quickly got to grips with the task. The first issue was produced in October and was much appreciated. The distribution list continues to grow.

The PCC met six times during the year. Pam Fearon, PCC Secretary, unfailingly made sense of our discussions and gave us clear and purposeful minutes which helped us navigate through the year. Paul, as ever, gave us very clear information in the accounts and enabled us to address important questions and decisions not just on finance but our life as church.

We are especially grateful to Elaine and to Mary for leading our worship and to Sue for the dependability of her presence, organisation and wisdom as Churchwarden.

Thank you all for your participation in and contributions to our worship together and the sharing of life. It has been a joy and strength to be together again. - Reverend Geoff Boucher

Deanery Synod and Diocesan Synod

This was another difficult year for both the Deanery and Diocese in regard to Synodical meetings. Both managed meetings to close the three year cycles. Again by zoom. The new Deanery Synod came in after the APCMs in May.

Both Helen Dowzall and Elaine Levitt were returned as representatives.

Huntingdon Deanery has again been fortunate to be in a position to pay the shortfall in parish share from reserves. This gives a rebate, which is less than the amount paid, but means reserves are a little healthier than otherwise, to cover any future shortfalls or possible aid to parishes. (for repairs etc in loans)

The new Diocesan Synod was elected and met in November to complete business as demanded in law.

Elaine Levitt is again representative on this.

The main focus for the Synods has been the future of the Deaneries in the aftermath of the pandemic and planning for the future. Also to be considered at some time will be "Living in Love and Faith"; focussing on being a more inclusive church

It is good to be able to emphasise how well the Diocese has done in 2021 to be able to return only a very small deficit. Praise has been given to all parishes and Deaneries in their efforts to pay Parish Shares and together with careful budgeting elsewhere this has meant the deficit was much less than anticipated. – Elaine Levitt

Churches Together in Huntingdon and Godmanchester

Most of the member churches of CTHG were pre-occupied during 2021 with maintaining the hybrid 'worship on line/worship live'. Most churches reported surviving satisfactorily though some leakage of members was experienced across the spectrum of churches. The standing Committee met four times during the year either by zoom or from July in person. The AGM in November was held in the new Methodist Church Extension.

The regular CTHG sponsored functions continued: Thought for the Day on Huntingdon Community Radio (Elaine Levitt and Clifford Owen do two talks a month) Men's bi-monthly breakfasts have been mainly by Zoom.

HOMELESSNESS was the main topic considered thoroughly during the early part of the year. After much discussion (including an outside speaker) it was decided that the Huntingdon churches lacked the essential resources required to support such a venture.

Nevertheless Christchurch Huntingdon promoted the group offering FURNITURE and HOUSEHOLD ESSENTIALS for NEEDY FAMILIES.

WEBSITE: Lindsay, the Chaplain of the Salvation Army Hostel in Kings Ripton Road, will be revamping the CTHG website which has 'gone cold'.

Our own, Helen Dowzall, came up with ideas about pilgrimage around our churches as a result of the Baggage and Treasures course we did at Hartford in the autumn. This chimes with an idea Clifford had about pilgrimage around the local churches. Helen and Clifford will be working on it!

The Chair for 2022 will be Revd. Elaine Blundell, Baptist Minister at Trinity Church (by the Lord Protector). – Reverend Clifford Owen

Achievements and Activities

Due to Covid-19 our social and fund-raising events only gradually started to reappear as restrictions lightened with refreshments after Sunday morning services beginning again in December.

Events resumed slowly from the end of June and included Daphne and Mike's Garden Party, Clifford's Walk / Cycle, Cream Teas, Organ Recital, Harvest Lunch, Art Exhibition and Christmas Fayre.

Crafty Saints

During the last year a small group of us have continued to meet as often as circumstances have allowed. We have now started meeting again regularly on Monday mornings from 10 am until 12 noon.

We were able to make a significant contribution to the money raised at the Christmas Fayre through our craft stall where we sold various items.

We are all appreciating being able to get together again and as hopefully the situation with Covid19 improves we look forward to welcoming new people and learning new skills. – Mary Adlam

Hartfordian

The Hartfordian magazine ceased publication in paper booklet and electronic formats with the June/July 2021 edition. The P.C.C. was unable to find anyone willing to continue with these magazine formats and an email newsletter has been produced. The archive of copies and materials has been placed at the disposal of the P.C.C. and will be held for 1 year before deletion. All personal data held for subscription and other purposes has been deleted to satisfy general GDPR requirements. Peter Levitt formerly Editor, The Hartfordian

Sincere thanks to Peter for all his hard work and dedication over many years of producing the Hartfordian. - Sue Craven

Financial Review

Please see the Annual Accounts for details.

Structure, governance, and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At All Saints the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent, associated clergy, elected and coopted members drawn from members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll.

The full PCC meets six times a year to discuss and make decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including how church funds are spent. A smaller Standing Committee meets prior to the PCC meeting to collate and prepare information for PCC consideration but it has no powers to make decisions unless specifically instructed by the PCC at a prior meeting.

To facilitate the worship and outreach activities that take place at All Saints it is important that we maintain the fabric of our church and church room. We are very grateful to the small army of unsung heroes who regularly carry out cleaning and maintenance tasks in and around our church and those who look after the church contents and consumable supplies.

Churchwardens' Fabric Report for 2021

January - 22 new cushions for nave pews delivered

February – old curtains and rails from South door and choir vestry removed and new rails fitted

March – organ rebuilt in church; church major clean; inspection visits from organ consultant; new curtains hung; new pew cushions put in place; Fire Alarm serviced

April – leaking cistern in disabled toilet repaired

May – new fire alarms fitted

June – installation of Denon DNF 350 USB/Bluetooth Media Player: organ tuned

July – boiler annual service and safety check; new organ mirror installed

August – Replacement Pressurisation Unit; revarnishing of and repairs to glass fronted notice board in churchyard

September – Smart Water applied to outside metalwork; Fire alarms and Fire extinguishers checked – one extinguisher replaced

October – sound system checked to identify fault with microphones

November — lower gutters cleaned; sound system rechecked to identify persistent fault with microphones; installation of new microphone and stand

December – lock in south door removed, overhauled and replaced; work on south door to ease closing; – lantern seat replaced

The Log Book and the Church Property Register are up to date. They have been checked and signed off as an accurate record. – Sue Craven

Church Flowers

Despite the Covid19 restrictions we have done our best to keep the church looking welcoming and cheerful again this year.

The flowers in church are generally arranged all year round on a rota except during Lent. Special displays at Christmas, Easter and Harvest are part of the cycle when all the arrangers work together. We are once again able to offer special flowers for weddings as we have some experienced flower ladies.

We would be still very pleased if new people joined the current group and if they felt under-confident they could be with one of the established group until they felt ready to work on their own arrangements.

Money is available to pay for flowers but currently few, if any, of the ladies accept payment and this saves the Church a considerable amount of cash. Donations are given by some members of the congregation especially for the lilies in memory of loved ones at Easter. Although we were unable to collect for this this year, hopefully this will happen in 2022. - Pam Clark

Organ and Choir

I became the organist in August and feel very privileged to be playing the newly restored Hill organ and thank everyone for making me feel so welcome and to Linda for helping me feel my way through these early days.

In September Richard Bower came back and gave a recital together with a very informative talk about the history and various aspects of the instrument, even playing Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor – no mean feat on a single manual organ!

The small but dedicated choir are a joy to work with and their singing really adds something to our Sunday worship as well as leading the singing at weddings and other occasional services. I particularly enjoyed the Carol Service when the choir were able to sing two items on their own. It is good that David Brown is still willing to play at Evening Prayer and also that Helen is able to help out in the event of me missing a Sunday morning service. – Tony Humes / Linda Davies.

Health and Safety

I carried out a slightly delayed annual Health and Safety inspection of the church and its grounds in January 2022. Most comments on previous reports had been actioned; outstanding matters were raised in the report following the inspection.

It was noted that the church followed the Government regulations and Church of England guidelines on precautions during the Covid-19 pandemic, and individual risk assessments were raised where appropriate for specific church events and services.

These risk assessments were regularly reviewed following changing regulations and guidance. –
Vaughan Clark

Safeguarding

Due to the difficulty in finding a replacement Safeguarding Officer the Reverend Geoffrey Boucher has taken on the role as interim named officer. Paul Fearon agreed to undertake the role of DBS Administrator to support the Safeguarding Officer.

The Safeguarding Policy 'Promoting a Safer Church' was updated and approved by the PCC in September 2021 and is displayed on the Church Notice Boards and Website. All people including Members of the Ministry Team, Members of the PCC and other members of the congregation requiring a Criminal Record Check (DBS) have a current certificate and all these people have completed the necessary Safeguarding Training for their roles.

Administrative information

All Saints Church is situated at The Hollow, Hartford, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE29 1YF. It is part of the Diocese of Ely within the Church of England.

The Rector, the Reverend Geoffrey Boucher, who is responsible for the benefice of All Saints Hartford and St Mary the Virgin Houghton with Wyton, resides at The Rectory, 3 Rectory Lane, Wyton PE28 2AQ.

PCC members who have served at any time during 2020 are listed below.

Ex-Officio Members:-

The Rector - Reverend Geoffrey Boucher

Associate Ministers – Reverend Clifford Owen, Reverend Catherine Wright

Licensed Lay Minister – Mrs Elaine Levitt

Churchwardens - Mrs Janet Boston (until 23rd October 2021), Mrs Sue Craven

Deanery Synod Representatives – Mrs Elaine Levitt, Mrs Helen Dowzall

Elected Members:-

Mrs Mary Adlam

Mrs Pam Clark

Mrs Nanette Cleghorn (until 20th April 2021)

Mr Derek Colbert (from 20th April 2021)

Mrs Pam Fearon

Mr Paul Fearon

Mr Colin Jones

Mrs Carol King (from 20th April 2021)

Mr Peter King (from 20th April 2021)

Mrs Amanda Smith

Appointed Positions:- Treasurer

–Mr Paul Fearon

PCC Secretary – Mrs Pam Fearon

Fabric Officer –Mr Victor Phillips

Organist and Choirmaster – Mrs Linda Davies (Organist until 19th July 2021 but continuing as Choirmistress)

Organist – Mr Tony Humes (from 1st August 2021)

Health and Safety Officer – Mr Vaughan Clark

Gift Aid Coordinator – Mrs Helen Dowzall

Electoral Roll Officer – Mrs Helen Dowzall

Churches Together Representatives – Mrs Janet Boston (until 23rd October 2021), Reverend Clifford Owen

Safeguarding Officer – Reverend Geoffrey Boucher interim named officer (from 7/9/2021)

DBS Administrator – Mr Paul Fearon

Data Protection Officer – Mr Patrick Hawkins (from December 2021)

Website – Mrs Haleema Hawkins

Flower Arranging Coordinator – Mrs Pam Clark

Independent Examiner - Mr David Ebdale

Authorised Worship Leader – Mary Adlam

Magazine Editor – Mr Peter Levitt (until 31st May 2021)

Newsletter Editor – Mrs Amanda Smith (from 1st September 2021)