



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH HIGHER WALTON ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Aim and purposes

All Saints` Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Simon John Hunt, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the Church of All Saints' Higher Walton and the free-standing modular building located in the vicarage grounds.

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'. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Church Commission's guidance on public benefit. We try to 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

To facilitate this work it is important we maintain the fabric of the Church of All Saints' and, for the time being, the separate modular building - known to all as the Greenhouse.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling.

The services covering the four (occasionally five) Sundays in each month are varied in style to reflect Contemporary All-Age Worship at 9.15am (involving music from the band, dancing and at times puppetry, with the songs, prayers and responses shown via a computer onto the overhead screen), Modern (Series One Common Worship) and Traditional (Book of Common Prayer), both at 11.00am (now permanently moved from 10.45am).

One service every Sunday is a celebration of Holy Communion. Twice a month, where neither 9.15am nor 11.00am services include Holy Communion, there is a traditional Holy Communion at 8.00am, one of these being on the first Sunday, where there is also a single "Good News at Ten" service at 10.00am which aims to strike a balance between contemporary and modern Common Worship.

In September we incorporated the Discipleship Explored Course (about what it really means to live a christian life) into the 9.15am service, with refreshments afterwards in church to facilitate discussion about the relevant topic. This linked into our mid-week fellowship groups who studied the same material.

We are grateful to all members of our Ministry Team who have led services and preached during the year, and all visiting preachers who have enriched our worship. The Ministry Team meet regularly to plan worship and the spiritual life of the church and facilitate the aims of our Vision Statement.

We are grateful to our organist Harry Duckworth for playing at the 11.00 am service and Robin Stopford who plays most often at funerals.

We currently have two evening Fellowship Groups and two afternoon Groups meeting regularly to develop discipleship through Bible study or sharing DVD study courses. The Fellowship Groups enable us to grow in faith and enjoy true Christian fellowship.

On Friday mornings in church from 9.00am for about 40 minutes, Simon and Margaret lead a time of prayer and reflection known as 'Sanctuary'. Open to all for prayer for the parish, the community and individuals and to uphold our hopes and aspirations for Vision 2026.

The Lent series this year which again was shared with our cluster partners, focussed on the Pilgrim course about the Lord's Prayer and was held at five different venues and times including All Saints' Vicarage.

The Church Electoral Roll as at 31 December 2017 reflects that we have 93 parishioners registered, of whom 21 are not resident within the parish.

The average weekly attendance during the year was 49 adults (61 in 2016, 59 in 2015, 69 in 2014, 83 in 2013), 14 children and youth (20 in 2016, 20 in 2015, 24 in 2014, 28 in 2013), but this number increases at festivals and other special services e.g. Education Sunday

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey 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 friends and family

express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping.

We have celebrated 10 baptisms.

We held 3 weddings.

Sadly we held 11 funerals in our Church.

The Church has previously been awarded Child Friendly Status and certificates are on display in Church and in the Greenhouse.

Deanery Synod

The members of the PCC now on the Leyland Deanery Synod are Janet Blackledge and Marcus Nelson. Margaret Arton kindly attended a meeting when the others were unavailable. Their attendance is an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the Church.

The Church and its buildings

We have a good working relationship with the church architects Cowan & Co and paid them £1170 early in the year towards the amount of time and advice they have provided in preparing our latest Quinquennial report and ongoing church premises matters.

The major expenditure has been the installation of the new heating system and we have paid CPL Heating and Plumbing Ltd £38344 to date for this essential work. They will return in the new year to finalise the job. All the pews have now been removed. Many donations were received from those parishioners who wanted to retain a pew for their own use.

The Reordering Committee meets on a regular basis to plan and co-ordinate major works and refurbishments and ongoing repairs to the fabric of the church.

February saw a good Spring Clean of the Church. Thanks to all who helped, it made a big difference.

Due to insurance requirements we have had to mark a large number of gravestones as unsafe. This will require an ongoing effort to rectify as some of the graves will not have family members still in the parish.

The Greenhouse continues to be very well used. However on Sundays, refreshments are now served at the back of church rather than in the Greenhouse.

The Hoghton Players have continued to use the Greenhouse for their rehearsals and again made generous donations in appreciation of this facility

Youth and Children

Those children (year 5 and below) continue to use the Greenhouse as part of Sunday Club and Saturday Club meet there.

Saturday Club is led by Dawn Hindley, June Westby, and Joyce Butterworth.

Activities focus around a Bible theme and include stories, drama, craft, songs and games. Even though numbers have fallen, it still meets a real need for those attending.

Sunday Club is led by Karen Boyes and supported by Stephen Niven and a dedicated and enthusiastic team of leaders and helpers. Thanks also to June Westby in her role as under 18's co-ordinator.

Numbers in pre-school and infant children remain small and a concern. However, the youth (from year 6 i.e. last year of primary school upwards) remains very strong.

The remaining children (years 5 and below) have joined together for leadership in the Greenhouse/Whittle vestry and have been following our usual Scripture Union syllabus which is more suited to their age group.

We decided on a traditional Nativity Service in December and this was led and performed by all the children and youth of All Saints' who all volunteered to take part without hesitation.

Numbers of children attending Sunday Club varies from week to week as you would expect with family commitments and school holidays also have a bearing on attendance.

Future Youth - from Margaret Hunt

Started in Autumn 2016 as a meeting for Y6 age upwards to do Youth Alpha concurrently with Alpha in Church. We came out of the 9.15am service at about 9.40am until 10.20am approximately and met separately in the Vicarage lounge. We watched the Alpha DVD and had a discussion and refreshments afterwards. This went well. Karen Boyes, Joanne Ingham & Margaret Hunt shared the leadership. We would average 10-12 young people in the group. We don't meet on GNAT weeks, so we can all be in church together. When Youth Alpha finished we liked the way the Group had gone and decided to continue it using DVDs and our own discussion points. The youth were wanting to stay together and called themselves "Future Youth".

We chose DVDs from Life Church (America) and developed our questions & discussion around them. Each unit of the course had a few sessions. We've covered Down to Earth, The Ballad of Beau Woodrow, My Big Kid Brother, Witness; The Rise of the Way, Worship, FLLY DVTD (6-12TH Grade in America), A-Ha!, Bethlehem Star (I&I) and have just started Witness; journey into faith. During this time we have had a group of 15 regulars, with a pool of 14 occasional others, we've had 7 visitors and five guest helpers.

As things have developed in church, we've started coming back to share in drinks with everyone else. Jo has moved on to develop the youth & worship side of things, thanks to her for her help. We are looking for ways to share in the services, recently writing a psalm & some prayers for the Nativity. There is some overlap with Elevate & Ignite from the group. Many of them have shown growth in their Christian life which is so encouraging and we want to see them mature and maintain a lively interest as we look to the future. We would welcome other leaders to join in leading them. It is a strong & lively group and encouraging to be a part of.

Steps to Heaven Dance Group practices every Friday night with their numbers growing - many thanks to their leaders Hannah Westby and Faith Hiles. June Westby and Dawn Hindley oversee and provide refreshments.

Puppet Group led by Simon Hunt meet regularly and enhance our worship as well as performing at some of our fundraising events

Youth Club - 'Ignite' -

Ignite, our Friday night youth night, continued to run throughout 2017 attracting on average approximately 30 young people each week.

In addition to our usual Friday evenings we held a trip to Laser Land in Whittle-le-Woods, Energi trampoline park in Preston and hosted a Christmas disco.

During June twelve of our Ignite members also attended the Diocesan Youth Camp at Hothersall Lodge just outside Longridge which was a huge success and enjoyed by all.

December 2017 saw the launch of a new style worship night, Elevate, in place of one of our usual Ignite evenings. Helped by the Diocesan youth team this evening was a great mix of contemporary style worship using newly acquired software. Our worship team led by Joanne Ingham was made up of band members from Ignite. We hope to hold another Elevate worship night soon!

Our leaders received a youth training day during 2017 from Nate & Megan Turner (Preston Youth for Christ). The training was useful and well received.

We were also very fortunate during 2017 to receive £500 grant funding from Lancashire County Council from both the boroughs of Chorley via councillor Kim Snape and South Ribble via councillor Barry Yates. This will allow us to continue to fund trips and equipment for the future.

Huge thanks go to our team of volunteers who give up their time freely to help out each Friday evening!

A special mention to one of the team - Luke Nuttall who was commended for the Young Citizen Award

Holiday Club

The fifth Summer Holiday Club was held on 31 July to 2 August, the first two days at Higher Walton Primary School (to whom we are again grateful and to Sue Rourke for opening and closing the school each day), with the away day at Janet Blackledge's house, Eagle's Nest Brindle.

Attendance was again good, with an average of 29 children, with a good split between boys and girls and from a variety of local primary schools.

This year's theme was 'Having a Whale of a Time' with a Bible theme of 'God changes lives' using the Bible stories of Zacchaeus the tax collector and Jonah and the whale to illustrate this.

Reverends David Woodhouse and Simon Hunt together with Margaret Hunt helped us in different ways and which were much appreciated.

Over the two days in school we had a good variety of events including craft activities, treasure hunt, quiz, games, a bouncy castle and of course lots of fun.

Our art lady Dianne Williams showed the children how colours can change when mixed together

James Niven and Craig Wright ran games and sports events which the children really enjoyed (they were designed to tire them out!)

On day 2 we were entertained by 'Scruff', who showed the children how to make some amazing things with balloons.

All the activities were about having fun, team work, respecting and helping each other and learning that the Bible is indeed God's living word and God really does change lives.

Each child received a book, again kindly donated by David Dunn, as a reminder of their time at Holiday Club.

Thanks to Janet and John Blackledge for allowing us to use Eagle's Nest for our away day. We had a great time with raft building, a scavenger hunt and den building. It was wet and muddy and we nearly lost the Church Treasurer in the 'Swamp of Death', but what a great day we had!

Many thanks to our wonderful team of leaders who started planning the event in June and gave so much in the actual running of the Club. Thanks also to our junior leaders for their enthusiasm and energy. Thanks to all who supported us in any way and of course the children who again made it all worthwhile.

Thanks to Stephen Houghton for acting as our 'official photographer' over the three days.

And a special thank you again for the generous donation of £100 which enabled us to do so much without worrying about the cost and for the PCC for your support and blessing in enabling the Club to go ahead for the fifth year running.

We can say that again we had a very successful Summer Holiday Club. We are indeed blessed at All Saints' with willing leaders and a children's and youth ministry that continues to grow and helps disciple all who are privileged to be involved.

Leaders: Joyce Butterworth, David Dunn, Dawn Hindley, Lillian Orrell, Angela Price, Joanne Wright, Barbara and Stephen Niven.

Junior Leaders : Finn Price, Abigail Hindley, James Orrell, Lauren and Evie Smith.

Pastoral Care

Marilyn Woods and Irene Ingham continue to celebrate communion with those people who cannot attend Church, either at their homes or in the care homes.

Marilyn Woods has instigated a team of volunteers to visit all who are sick or unable to get out for any other reason to keep them in touch with Church life.

Thanks to all for co-ordinating distribution of the Harvest Bounty and all those who helped with the deliveries. The Bishops Harvest Appeal was for Tree Aid and Christian Aid

Social and Fundraising

The Garden Party held on 1st July was officially opened by Margaret Arton.

Rachel Hiles was crowned Rose Queen. Her attending rosebuds were Lily Illingworth, Lola Peters, Libby Nelmes, Lola Findlay, and Ellie May Allonby. The crown bearer was Alfred Wright.

Entertainment was provided by the KTB music concert band and the children enjoyed a magic show and balloon sculpting presented by 'Scruff'.

The event was again kindly sponsored by Ian Wilde Funeral Directors.

The fair was well supported and raised £1591 and thanks to all who organised the day.

The Christmas Fair was held in Higher Walton Primary School on the last Saturday in November. The event went well and despite some regular faces not managing to attend we raised £1286

The fair featured a wide variety of stalls. Excellent refreshments with lunch of soup or hotpot and home-made cakes were very popular.

Entertainment was provided by Malcolm Milner, Higher Walton School Choir and Steps to Heaven.

Father Christmas was able to provide a small gift for all the children.

Friends of Higher Walton School had a stall and the money raised went to their funds.

We are as ever very grateful for the support of local businesses including

Barton Grange Garden Centre - £20 voucher

Martin Mere Wetland Centre – Family ticket

Morrisons (Bamber Bridge) – Wine and Chocolates

Novello (Ladies Fashions) - £30 voucher

The Café at Holland House Nurseries – Voucher for Afternoon Tea

Jeff Arton - plants

Cuckoo Gin of Brindle – Gin distillery tour

Two Quiz Nights were held at Net's Bar. They were a huge success. The pie and peas supper and Irene Ingham's hotpot were well received. Thanks to Stephen Niven the quizmaster and Stephen Houghton the question setter. And thanks to all who attended to be put through their paces.

Janet Blackledge continued to host her very popular fundraising events with the proceeds allocated between All Saints' and Tearfund. Thanks Janet.

In April we thoroughly enjoyed the singing of the One Voice Community Choir, who provided a memorable evening's entertainment.

In October it was the return of the 2nd Rossendale Scout Band who gave us a night to remember. Refreshments including wine and soft drinks were provided.

Thanks to everyone who supported these events and with very grateful thanks to the members of the Social Committee who do the hard work behind the scenes.

March saw a visit to the National Football Museum in Manchester and particularly the 1966 World Cup Exhibition which was well attended and informative. Thanks to Peter Holme for leading this. In November, the Men's Group also enjoyed a breakfast and walking tour of Brockholes Nature Reserve, and thanks to Stephen Niven for arranging this.

Not to be left out, the Ladies enjoyed a meal at the Little Hong Kong Restaurant in Chorley.

Mission and Outreach

July saw the launch of the twice monthly Coffee & Cake mornings in church. These are held on the first and third Wednesdays. There is a regular group of helpers to make the tea and coffee and serve the cakes, biscuits and very popular toast. There are a similar regular group of attendees and hopefully this will increase as time goes by.

We have also introduced a small library which has an excellent range of books for a variety of interests. These are available to borrow or buy for a minimal donation .

A major highlight of the year was the presentation organised by Blackburn Diocese of 'Brothers in Arms' which told the story of the Chavasse brothers in WWI, Noel Chavasse being one of only a few individuals to receive two Victoria Crosses before he was killed. The presentation was written and produced by our good friend Revd Canon Dave Bradbury.

There was the opportunity to chat informally with the actors afterwards and the evening was a tremendous success. We were pleased to see many attendees from outside our church community.

Thanks to the team behind the scenes who made it all happen.

In August a small group of volunteers manned the balloon stall at the Gregson Green Gala. This was raising funds for their community centre.

Thy Kingdom Come - was a 10 day event between Ascension and Pentecost organised by Margaret Hunt. The Church was open for two hours each day for visitors to look and think and pray at the various prayer stations, as well as giving them the opportunity to leave a message in our bowl of prayers. Years 2 and 3 pupils from Higher Walton School enjoyed a visit to the event together with their teachers.

For the fifth year running we took part in the Crossgate Church (formerly Longton Community Church) Christmas in a Box hampers initiative which involves taking an empty hamper and filling it with food and gifts for distribution to those families who are in need.

This year we provided 17 well-filled hampers and some extra goodies which wouldn't fit in them, as a result of the excellent response from the groups and families taking part. This effort by our Church was much appreciated by Crossgate Church and of course the recipients when they were delivered in early December.

This is an initiative we shall repeat in 2018 and perhaps yet again increase the number of hampers we fill!

For the whole of the year we have been supporting the Food Bank in Preston, run by the Salvation Army, and a delivery of the food collected in Church has been made every month. Special thanks to Keith Houston for managing this initiative.

Our Newsletter is produced twice each month. This is distributed online via the church newsletter and a paper version is available in Church. Our thanks to David Quick for the work he puts in to make this an excellent and informative read.

The relaunched Church website is fully operational. Thanks to Jill Smith for her continuing contribution in administering this very useful source of information about our Church and what's going on. We do have our own active Facebook page which currently has 68 members and is used to promote, invite and inform about all kinds of Church activities.

Mothering Sunday again featured the 'mums' receiving individual primula plants instead of daffodils. These were well received. Thanks to Cornalls who provided the plants on a sale or return basis.

As part of our work to tangibly help the community we continue to be part of the Christians Against Poverty Money Management Initiative. Janet Blackledge, David Quick and Stephen Houghton are all qualified training coaches. To date we have held 9 CAP courses helping 35 people with their budgeting and money management. All attendees comment positively on the content of the course

Acts 435 continues to help local people with pressing financial needs. Thanks to everyone who has supported this charitable work. This is something we want to build on.

Carol Singing was supported by the same hardy group of individuals, plus a couple of new voices. Total raised £515 over the two nights which was divided equally between The Children's Society and Tearfund.

Thanks to Margaret Hunt and all who contributed to provide us with a wonderful supper each night which was most welcome.

Combined with the Christingle Service and the Children's Society Candles, we were able to send charitable donations of £672 to the Children's Society and £265 to Tearfund (this included some donations received post Christmas)

Well done to all concerned, but it would be good to have more people from the parish involved next year as we are spreading the Christmas Message around the village.

In January, Eddie Carr was confirmed to the full order of Anglican Priest at St Paul's Adlington. A small number of parishioners attended to support and congratulate him.

Vision 2026 -

From Jill Smith - our Vision 2026 Champion -

Further work was undertaken this year as part of the Diocesan Vision 2026. Our own Vision Statement was communicated "All Saints' will be a church maturing in faith, growing in fellowship and serving our community".

In line with our vision statement we ran a church wide study 'Discipleship Explored' during the Autumn and encouraged people to join a house group as part of the study. The course saw new house groups and members added to existing ones. We hope to continue this throughout 2018 with new courses already planned for Lent.

An away day for the PCC and Ministry team was organised which was run by Bishop Geoff in Lancaster. This allowed our leadership team a time of refreshment and fellowship.

We also ran the Diocesan 'Brothers In Arms' evangelism event in November which was successful in attracting new people from outside our church community.

Our youth work also progressed with the start of a new youth worship night Elevate (see section on Ignite).

We continued to serve refreshments at the back of church allowing us to meet part of our vision by growing in fellowship.

Further Diocesan Vision Champions meetings were held during 2017 where Vision Champions from different parishes were given the opportunity to meet together and share ideas. These will continue throughout 2018

School Relationship

We continue to enjoy a strong relationship with Higher Walton Church of England Primary School.

Reverend Simon Hunt has regularly contributed to school assemblies.

The school have been to All Saints' Church for their Education Sunday, the School Leavers' service, their entertaining Christmas Service, and Thy Kingdom Come prayer initiative.

Our Foundation Governors are now Geoff Woods who was appointed Chair of Governors from September (term of office to 31 March 2018) and Brenda Newton (term of office to 31 August 2019). Additionally, Denise Sanderson, who had been the School Adviser to our school, joined as our third Foundation Governor (term of office to 31 August 2019).

Stephen Houghton continues as the LEA Governor and he has moved to the role as Chair of the Resources Committee from September.

We continue to develop our relationship with Coupe Green school, who also featured at our Education Sunday service.

Cluster Relationship

Our cluster includes Holy Trinity Hoghton and Brindle St. James.

We again joined with St. James and Holy Trinity for the annual Good Friday Walk.

The Advent Cluster was held at Brindle St James

Thanks to Jill Smith for being our Cluster Group representative.

Financial Review

As we have stated before, the church has for the past few years been unable to meet its Parish Share commitment, our cumulative deficit is £26422.50. Given we were facing a Parish Share payment of £57531 in 2017, we asked for a meeting with the Diocese to discuss the way forward.

Several members of the PCC attended an informal but businesslike meeting, the outcome of which was that if we could guarantee payment of £40000, the Diocese would waive the remaining £17531 i.e. not add it to our deficit.

With continued generous giving, over target results from the Summer and Christmas Fairs, and tight control of spending, we made the full £40000 payment. Thanks to all.

One small request - our task would be made easier if we maximised the gift aid element available on contributions. If you are an eligible taxpayer, please gift aid your giving to enable us to claim an extra 25% on what you donate.

The major spending is detailed above under the Church and Buildings heading.

Barclays Bank accounts and cash in hand totalled general funds as at 31 December 2017 £1374 and restricted funds £30937 for various projects, including Project Transform launched in October.

This is to build new toilet/kitchen/storage facilities inside church on the south side where there are no longer any pews or chairs. A plan of the proposed development has been displayed in church since the launch.

Gift Day 2017 was held over two Sundays 29 October and 5 November. This has raised an excellent £9164 including gift aid and has been allocated to Project Transform.

The PCC aim for an unrestricted reserves policy of a minimum of £2500 which was breached as we paid as much available cash to the Diocese as affordable.

We are a Registered Charity no.1153190 and each PCC member has been individually registered as a trustee. Our Final Accounts to 31 December 2016 have been registered with the Charity Commission within the statutory timescale.

The Church Team

We would like to thank all those who work so hard to make our Church what it is. In particular we must mention our Churchwardens Keith Houston and Janet Blackledge who have worked so tirelessly on our behalf.

Keith Houston stepped down as Churchwarden at the AGM and in recognition of his service a presentation was made by the vicar.

A small number of us attended the Archdeacon's Visitation at St James Leyland when Janet Blackledge was admitted as Churchwarden

We also thank Stephen Houghton who has helped us all to understand the Church's Accounts and its finances. We must also thank Lillian Orrell for continuing to handle all the counting and banking of the cash.

Thanks to Denise Kennedy in her role as Gift Aid coordinator.

Thanks to Janet Blackledge and the team for putting together and operating the visuals for the 915 and GNAT services.

Thanks to Geoff Woods, Warden Emeritus, who has provided significant support as Vice Chair of the PCC.

We must also thank the teams of licensed communion assistants and the sides persons.

Again thanks to those people who continue to contribute to the flowers in church, and to Irene Ingham and her occasional helpers for the beautiful arrangements and displays which add so much to the ambience of the church.

Again our thanks to the team of volunteer gardeners, including new recruit James Maddock, who keep the vicarage and church grounds in such good condition under the Adopt a Plot scheme.

We always need more volunteers for this role. We have benefitted considerably from the work undertaken by the Community Workers under the guidance of the Community Service.

We continue to enjoy a range of activities and provide the following summary:

Tuesday Group - from Janet Bradley

We were approached earlier in the year by the committee of the Higher Walton Community Centre asking us to change the evening when we meet.

They stated that hiring the centre out one Tuesday per month to our group was not viable in the longer term as it did not produce enough income to maintain the running costs as they were unable to hire the centre for the remaining Tuesdays. This was put to the ladies of the group but realistically we felt that we had no choice but to change the day we met.

From the September 2017 meeting we have met on the third Monday in the month. Unfortunately this has meant that we have lost three of our members who have other commitments on a Monday. We have said that our meals out in January and July would be on a Tuesday so that these members can meet with us. Should we change our venue at some future time then we would consider going back to a Tuesday. The name of the group has subsequently changed to 'Monday Group' and the bank account has been amended.

We have had some interesting and varied speakers this year. This has included talks on: Hoghton Tower, Brockholes Nature Reserve, Chorley in Bloom, Astronomy, Rivington, local history through postcards and a musician singing her favourite songs. Our meals in July and September were at Pinocchios and were pleased that some non-members were able to join us.

We have continued to support both the Garden Party and Christmas Fair by providing assistance with catering and fund raising for Church funds through the chocolate stall. The ladies also have been willing to bake for events held in Church during the year.

Our finances continue to be stable. Annual membership continues to be £10 and £2 each time we meet. The outgoings are the cost of hiring of the hall and cost of our speakers which vary from £40 to £60 per talk. As at the 31 December 2017 the bank account was in credit by £314.69. Linda Lamb and Janet Bradley continue to act as Treasurers.

We have around 25 attending each month and membership is open to all ladies and we would welcome new members.

Should any lady wish to join then they should contact June Hart who continues to run the group, on 01254 854000.

Handbells / Tower Bells - We have a very supportive team of 9, who meet fairly regularly on Thursday evenings. We would welcome new recruits. Sadly the Church Tower Bells are no longer rung due to a lack of bell ringers, although we have had guest bellringers practising from time to time.

Thanks also to Andrew and Shirley Rayner-Porter who wind our clock up each week and generally look after it.

Over 80's Parties - now in it's 31st year! Summer entertainment was provided by the KTB Concert Band and a good time was had by all.

At the Christmas Party each guest received a card and a present. The entertainment was provided by Tony James and friends and despite snow and ice we had 25 of our over 80's attending.

A donation of £50 was received towards the Christmas Party for which we are so grateful.

Malcom and Alison Milner hosted an Open Day in July to raise much needed funds for the over 80's events. Plants and books were available to buy and a huge range of cakes was available. The event had good weather and was well attended raising £562 towards future over 80's parties. Thanks again to Malcolm and Alison for opening up their home and garden and organising this fundraising event. (Malcom himself becomes eligible to attend the parties this year!!!)

Thanks to everyone who helped with the parties.

Fairtrade and Tearfund - from Stephen Niven. All Saints' Church is a designated Fairtrade Church which means we support and promote the Fairtrade Movement and use Fairtrade products whenever possible in our church activities and events.

Barbara and Stephen Niven run a Fairtrade stall on the first Sunday of each month at the back of church and sell food and gifts from Traidcraft catalogues in the run up to Christmas and Easter.

Sales for the year have again fallen and all we ask is that more people will at least come and have a look at the products on offer. If anyone wants something specific, just ask.

Barbara Niven is the Tearfund representative for our Church and any profits from the operation of the Fairtrade stall are donated towards the work of Tearfund.

"When did you last buy a Fairtrade product" "Fairtrade really does make a difference to peoples' lives"

Our Band - from Joanne Ingham

Once again my ever grateful thanks must go to the same handful of people who turn up week in and week out.

This past year has seen Sarah Boyes leave us to go to University in Sheffield. My ever grateful thanks must go to her for all her support, dedication and patience over the years.

Her shoes on keyboard have been filled by Evie Smith who is doing a very good job so far. She received a lot of compliments at the Christingle Service for her wonderful keyboard playing.

The year has also seen a few new faces join us thanks to the Youth Band from Ignite leading worship at our Elevate Youth event in December (more of these to come soon to which all ages are welcome to join us). Katie Hiles, Lauren Smith, Grace Hindley, Abigail Hindley and Evie Smith led the worship using our new backing tracks for the first time. Hopefully we shall get all these youngsters and the backing tracks into our 915 services in the near future!

The new backing tracks system allows us to fill in the missing instruments and “fill out” the sound. Many many thanks to those who donated a laptop and money to buy the extra equipment needed, and to Alistair Milner in giving up his free time and knowledge to advise and assist with installing it.

However, if you play an instrument and want to join please do! You will be more than welcome.

The Children’s Society - from Barbara Niven. All Saints’ Church is part of the ‘Walton le Dale Fund Raising Committee’ along with St. Aidan’s, St. Saviour’s, and St. Leonard’s. Barbara Niven is the secretary of that committee, and the All Saints’ representative. Stephen Niven is Treasurer.

The committee organise four or five events during the year and together with the other churches and including money from the Christingle Services it raised £5125 during 2017.

The committee are very grateful to all who help in any way with the events, especially the Christingle Service! We would like to offer a very big thank you to all who helped with making up the sticks and putting together the Christingle oranges.

We are always on the lookout for new members on the committee, and look forward to continued support from the parish for our fundraising events. A few parishioners attended our May walk and supper but more support for all events would be much appreciated. “Your support changes lives”

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 our vicar, churchwardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the Electoral Roll of the church. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members have the opportunity to receive initial training as to the workings of the PCC.

The full PCC met seven times during the year with an average attendance level of 70% (81.4% 2016, 69.6% 2015, 69.7% 2014, 74% 2013). Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of groups each dealing with a particular aspect of the parish life.

These groups, which include mission and outreach, social, finance and capital projects, are all responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly for further discussion as necessary.

Administrative Information

All Saints’ Church is situated on Blackburn Road, Higher Walton, Preston. It is part of the Leyland Deanery within the Diocese of Blackburn of the Church of England. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and a registered charity with the Charity Commission.

All PCC members have been individually registered as Trustees of the Charity

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2017 until the date this report was approved are:

Rev Simon Hunt - Chairman (ex-officio)

Mr Geoff Woods - Vice Chairman

Mr Stephen Houghton - Treasurer

Mr David Quick - Secretary

Mr Keith Houston - resigned as Vicar's Warden 4/2017 after completing six years service but remains on committee

Mrs Janet Blackledge - People's Warden who has now completed four years of office

Mr David van Boyd - Verger

Mrs Valerie Burke resigned 4/2017

Mrs June Hart

Mrs Iris Harvey

Mrs Sandra Houghton

Miss Olive Hull

Mr Stewart Kennedy

Mr Marcus Nelson

Mrs Irene Ingham

Mrs Margaret Arton from April 2017