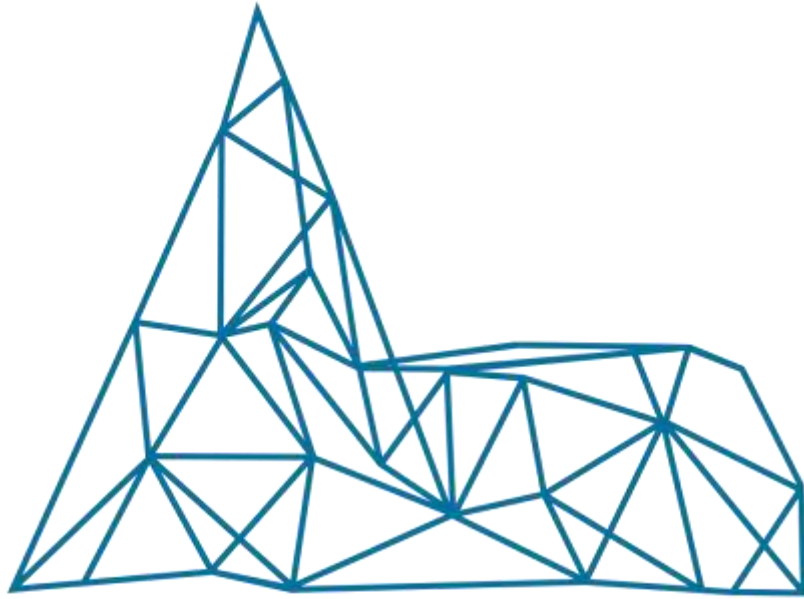


# ANNUAL REPORT



## ALLSAINTS HOOLE

**an overview of  
All Saints Church  
2015/2016**

*Registered Charity No. 1131968*

# Introduction

Throughout this last twelve months we have continued to explore God's will for us as a church and we have tried to work that out day by day. We believe that our calling is to bring glory to Jesus because of who he is and what he's done for us, and so our first priority is to know him better, to be open to experience his presence among us by his Spirit and to listen faithfully to his word to us. Our worship, when we come together as God's people and through the offering of our lives, is always a response to what God has done and is doing.

We work out our calling to bring glory to God by seeking to make disciples who make disciples. If Jesus really is Lord of all the earth, as we claim, we want to see all people worshipping at his throne. One of the main emphases throughout this last year, therefore, has been 'fruitfulness on the frontline' – the desire to make Jesus known by our words and actions to the people we meet naturally in our daily lives. Our aim is to bless them in any way we can and, therefore, we **b**egin by praying for God's opportunities, **l**isten to others' stories, **e**at and drink with them, **s**erve them in ways that are appropriate and then share our **s**tory of faith with them.

We also work out our calling by growing more like Jesus ourselves, and we are currently reviewing the way we do that through our small groups. I am very grateful to Rick Hemmings, who has been our housegroup coordinator for the last 10 years, for his zeal for small groups in the church's life. Members clearly value the groups greatly – in at least one case, it is the support of the group which has meant they are still part of All Saints. As well as being accountable to one another for the way we grow as Christians, we want to support one another on our frontlines through the groups.

I hope that, as you read this snapshot of the last twelve months at All Saints, you will catch a sense of God's purposes for us being worked out in different ways, and I hope that you will feel encouraged to give yourself afresh to the work to which he has called all of us.

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# Church Activities

## Alpha (Beta and Beta Plus)

Contacts: Ron & Helen Glenn



The Alpha (Beta and Beta Plus) ministry has continued to see people exploring faith in Christ and learning to read the Bible and deepening their faith. However, there were occasions when there were more people cooking and helping than the number of leaders and guests, and we thought about how to simplify the structure. One of the problems was trying to fit courses in for those for whom Thursday evening was not a possibility. To that end we ran an Alpha Team Training Evening, hoping to recruit people who would host and/or lead an Alpha course at other times. A number of people stepped up to the mark, but this time no one came forward asking to do Alpha at any other time.

In September 2015, we joined with Northgate and Freedom Church to hold an Alpha Taster event held at Northgate with Andy Kind (a Christian, professional stand-up comedian who has performed at Spring Harvest). It was a good evening and 5 people signed up with us to do Alpha and they completed the course. Meanwhile, Ron trialled Freedom in Christ as a Beta/Beta Plus with those who had completed Christianity Explored in June.

We also wanted to find a simpler arrangement for catering. Two suggestions were made:- soup, cheese and cake after the style of Lent Suppers and One Pot Meals. Once again we were blessed by people providing meals in either style, whilst Helen G. and Stephen B. looked after the hard work in the kitchen. All the meals were enjoyed but there was a mixed feeling about what was best.

In January, the Freedom in Christ course continued, the Alpha group moved on to Christianity Explored and Stephen and Helen were going

to be leading the new Alpha. We needed a catering co-ordinator. Yvonne offered to recruit helpers, whilst Andy Warren offered to do the catering. Alpha food has been transformed with dishes like South African Babouti, Moroccan Meatballs and Sausage Gnocci appearing on the menu. Donations from the guests and leaders have partly met the cost, which Andy has kept in check, and housegroups have blessed us by sending a couple of folks (organised by Yvonne) to help in the kitchen each evening. Andy has agreed to lead the catering for the next term, for which we are very grateful.

In the meantime, Sam set up an Alpha for men on a Monday night at The Piper, and saw a number of men go through the Alpha course. He is recommending the downloaded talks for future use but we will need computers and the HDMI leads to connect to the TVs in order to use these in All Saints.

All the courses have now completed and we are looking forward to the start of the next term on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Freedom in Christ will run again and we look to see more people signing up for Alpha, as Church members boldly invite those on their frontlines.

Ron & Helen Glenn

[r.glenn@btinternet.com](mailto:r.glenn@btinternet.com)  
[alpha@allsaints.church](mailto:alpha@allsaints.church)

## All-Age Worship

Having said goodbye to Ruth last year it has been great to welcome Peri, Matt and Lily to the All Age Worship team alongside Elaine, Sam and Harry.

All Age Worship services are one expression of the all age nature of All Saints church family. Taking place on the first Sunday of each month it is a time for the whole church family to come together to worship and witness.

Witness is a particular focus of our All Age Worship services as these are times when we are frequently joined by those outside the church who bring their children for baptism or thanksgiving. We aim to reach out to these baptism/thanksgiving families and their friends as we share the love of God through our welcome and through our corporate worship as a whole church family. In order to fulfil this vision we endeavour to plan All Age Services which are accessible to all ages and enable all those present to engage and to see something new about the God who loves them.

Please pray for the team as they seek to do this. It can often be a challenge planning services with something for all ages, all levels of faith and a wide range of expectations. Please pray for wisdom and sensitivity as well as creativity when we plan.

## **All Saints Minis and Dinkies**

**Contact: Helen Ellis**



Since September, it has been a joy to welcome Lily Baird to work alongside me as an 'Intern' for this year. She is enthusiastic and a real encouragement to me especially when I am flagging! Being able to share the work load is great and Lily has recently stepped up to leading activities and even doing some of the talks. Lily loves working alongside the families that we work with during the week and so it is important that she is encouraged in this for the future. Watch this space to see where she goes from here!

Not only Lily but Katy D-H has begun to help with the leadership at Minis. Katy is a primary teacher and so she is very able and gifted in leading. She has encouraged me to set up a "Minis Support and Pray" group which meets every term and is aimed at getting the Christian mums from Minis together to support each other not only in being a mum but in being a Christian mum at Minis, gently sharing our faith to their friends at Minis.

I am also grateful to Paula Warren, who, from her background working with babies and children in a day Nursery, has thrown herself into helping both on Mondays and Fridays either in the kitchen or on the craft table where she chats to the children and their parents/carers so easily.

What a wonderful team has come together this year!

I also have to mention the other parents who help at Minis – some come early to finalise preparations for the morning, others tidy away at the end, there are those who help at our 'altogether time' by leading the Blessing song for each child or running our song time 'finale'.

I believe that, between us, we continue to provide a lovely welcoming group for the families who come as well as a support for those who are finding parenting difficult at times.



**Dinkies** is the group specifically aimed at parents and their babies (i.e. those not yet walking). We currently have about 30 mums and their babies on the Register. Dinkies is not as structured as Minis – we offer refreshments during the course of the afternoon and end the time with 15 minutes of singing nursery rhymes

and other songs.

The team at the moment includes Lily, Hilary Shergold (kitchen) and the long-standing Andrea Wood.

### **PLEASE PRAY:**

- ❖ That we continue to make friends with and support those who come to Minis and Dinkies week by week.
- ❖ That we "make a difference", by being Christ through what Minis and Dinkies offers and by our love and care.
- ❖ For freshness of ideas week by week.

# **B-it Theatre Company and Schools Work**

**Contact: Peri Nightingale, B-it schools worker**



Another fantastic year for B-it! And we got a shiny new logo! God's faithfulness and blessings continue to be seen. Let's have a look at some of the highlights:

## **Performance Groups:**

The Junior Company performed Treasure Island in July of 2015 which presented a whole new set of challenges including stage fighting and pirate lingo but they rose to the challenge displaying excellent team work and theatre skills. They did such a brilliant job in fact we thought it was time for them to devise their own piece of theatre for the Christmas show of 2015, and what a fantastic job they did! They worked exceptionally well as a team and created fun characters and many humorous moments in A Tale of Two Toy Shops, which I (Peri) directed with Harry Warrell. All who came to watch were amazed that they had devised the show themselves and I am very proud of them.

Harry Warrell became Drama Bits leader in January of 2015 and took the group to new heights with 'The Witches' in summer of 2015. His passion for drama, love for the kids and directing skills helped this group put on one of the most epic shows they have ever performed and the kids absolutely loved it!

Just 4Fun continued to be a great space for kids to have fun and grow in confidence, however numbers were low and in December of 2015 we decided to suspend the club for a time and ask God for fresh vision and direction.

## **Schools Groups**

B-it continues to be doing great work in schools. We are well established within the school communities and have built relationships with staff, parents and kids. We continue to help children at St. Werburghs and Hoole Primary grow in confidence and drama skills through Just4fun workshops and the performance of sketches. God is moving and we love being a part of it!



As always B-it cannot run without volunteers and although we have said a heartfelt farewell to Hannah James and Audra Bolton, we have said hello to Matt Henshaw who is our drama and youth intern. We are so grateful for the work they do and how they so generously share their time and gifts with us.

## Big Time Tuesday Café

Contact: Sam Durdant-Hollamby

The youth café is still open and providing a space for any young people to come and hang out every Tuesday. We have games consoles, board games and a new excellent café manager in Debbie Wood. It continues to be a great space to build relationships with young people and helps us to pastorally care for them.

Please pray for the vision of the café and that we are still doing what God wants to do with it. Also that it will be a place of peace and rest for our young people in the midst of hard situations and lots of demanding school work.

## Building Committee

**Chairperson: Ken Wood**

The Building Committee is a sub-committee of the PCC, made up of PCC members and others with an interest in the buildings and fabric of the church and other properties. It is both our privilege and responsibility to look after all of the PCC's building portfolio. To this end, we all consider our role is to ensure that the Church and other buildings are kept in the best possible condition for the current and future needs of God's people here in Hoole, to use to his praise and glory.

Over the last year we have not had any major projects to report on but we have continued with numerous day-to-day repairs and redecoration jobs that are done on an ad-hoc basis and we regularly have smaller projects running.

Our Quinquennial inspection was due in 2015, but as I write we are still waiting for a date from the architect for this. Our lightning conductor failed its inspection this year and we have appointed a contractor to do the necessary repairs and alterations. This work was due to be done first week in March but due to staff shortages caused by illness it was delayed but the work is imminent. We could not find a suitable LED light for the inside of the Church but will continue to look as LED technology develops.

The urgent items highlighted by the survey of the old Westminster Road School, have been completed by our tenant (CWaC) and we are waiting for them to produce a schedule for the less important items.

As always, if you would like more information about the work of the committee, just ask one of its members, and if you have an idea as to how we can improve the buildings, please let us know and we will look at it.

Ken Wood

The Building Committee are (at the moment)  
*Ken Wood (Chair) Kathryn Jones (Secretary) Steve Tynegate,  
Roy Greenwood, Christina Beveridge and Ian Speechley*



# C Café with a mission

Contacts: Penny Pallet, Sheila Greenwood and  
Laura Walker



As we enter our third year of operation it's amazing to see the changes that have taken place since we launched for a six-week trial in the spring of 2013.

Long gone are the days when we had to set up and take down each day, had access only to a tiny counter-top fridge and a plug-in cool box and the only storage space available to us was in the bowels of the church boiler room.

Despite the initial trials and tribulations Craft Café continues to grow and provide a much-needed service to its users. Among our regulars are a large number of mums from St Martins, Minis and Dinkies mums, residents from Gosforth Place and our 'Bingo Ladies' (Hoole Veterans) and our many, many church family customers. We also have many customers who are visitors to Chester and staying in the nearby hotels and B&Bs and even returning guests from all over the country who call in when they're in Chester.

Of course we also welcome the lost, the lonely and the broken and work hard to build up relationships with people in need of comfort and support and provide a space where they feel welcome and can see God's love in action throughout the community.

From only opening three days a week, we now operate five days a week (although Wednesdays are only for BSF) and our accounts clearly show not only our growing turnover but also demonstrate how seriously we regard financial management so we can continue to provide this essential frontline service without becoming a financial burden on the church.

Of course, none of this would be possible without our incredible team of hardworking volunteers whose relentless enthusiasm, grace and commitment has turned the café into the haven it is today. Thank you all!

Penny, Sheila and Laura

# Care Group

Contact: Dawne Rendell

Care Group Contact no: 07711 425 366



The Care Group continues to operate to provide support mostly of a practical nature to members of the church family.

We undertake regular transport to Church on Sundays, church activities and ad-hoc requests for appointments to visit the doctor, dentist, hospital and shopping trips. This year meals were provided for a month to assist a church member to remain in their own home for as long as possible. A few more of our senior residents have moved accommodation and support has been given to help this transition. Visiting members in their own homes/care homes or hospital have also been undertaken. The list of help we offer is on the updated Care Group leaflets available in Church.

Some of our volunteers remain unavailable due to family/or other commitments. 1 new volunteer has joined our team.

I should like to give my thanks to all the Volunteers who continue to give their help so freely over the years and enabled the Care Group to continue to assist the Church family when needed. Thanks also to those not officially on the care group 'books' but whose support ensures all requests are met, which mostly involves lifts to Church on Sundays. I should particularly like to remember and thank Anne Simkiss who was a valued member of the Care Group. For many years Anne gave her time so willingly, taking over as Co-ordinator when required, even changing her work days at times to meet requests of church family. A truly remarkable lady.

We are always looking for new volunteers to join the Care Group. Support can be from just a few times a year to more regular volunteering, depending on your availability and which services you would like to take on.

Our mission for next year is to continue to support our church family and pray that no request is refused due to lack of availability of volunteers.

# Church Centre

## Centre Manager: Christina Beveridge

Year on year we continue to be busier and busier!

Praise our God! We have seen an influx of new users coming and appreciating this space that God has provided.

New users include – AA (Alcoholics Anonymous), EA (Emotions Anonymous), Al-anon (support for family and friends of those who suffer with addictions), End of Life Partnership (dealing with death, with families and professionals), Samaritans, Messy Splat Play, Dynamics (fitness), Spanish, SANDS ( Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society), Deva Miniatures and Macmillan.

There have also been a few changes including our long standing Slimming World representative Katie Jacks handing over the reins of the Tuesday group to Debbie Perks. It was a sad moment when she told me she was leaving this group to have more time to herself, as we've shared a lot over the last 9 years. However getting to know Debbie is a new privilege, and I pray that Katie enjoys her new space in life and that Debbie and I can become good friends too. Why Weight has changed supplier so is now called – Cheshire West and Chester Weight Loss Programme! Not as catchy a title! Nurture group now also call themselves the Learning Hub. Rosemary Conley fitness is now called Dee Class Fitness

Our Christmas Fair in Nov 15 was another reason to celebrate. It brings new people here each time we do it! It also shows All Saints really shining Jesus' light in the community, a chance to get to know those on our frontline too.

None of the work that I do would be achieved if it weren't for the wonderful team around me!

**The receptionists** - Ann Chester, Pat Pawson, Helen Glenn, Michaela Barnfather, Hilary Shergold; all of them helping on the Reception in the centre. Thank you doesn't seem enough but Thank You ladies very much!!!

**The office team** - Elaine Hemmings, Helen Dymond, Chantal Proctor, John Chester and Rick Hemmings/Chris Wilkinson.

**Our newly appointed caretaker** - Andy Warren what an amazing blessing this man is!!!

**The cleaners** - a big thank you to Sarah Fletcher (staff) and Kirsty Mueller (contracted) who between them do an amazing behind the scenes role.

**To the CCSG and Building Committee** for their continued support and prayer.

**A big thank you to everyone who prays for me and the Centre**, for the cups of tea and the general support and words of encouragement throughout the year. It is so, so, so appreciated!

**And an especially big thank you to Stephen, Eve, Harrison and Patience** who also do an amazing amount both physically but practically to help support me in my role as Church Centre Manager xxxxx

*Groups (non church) using the centre regularly are:*

*Pilates, Splat Messy Play, RASAC (Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling) Chester Philharmonic Orchestra, Slimming World, Cheshire West and Chester Weight loss Programme, Rainbows, The Learning Hub, Arabic Dance, Dee Class Fitness, Jo Jingles, Hoole Veterans Association, A Star Sports, U3A, AA (Alcoholics Anonymous), EA (Emotions Anonymous), Al-anon (support for those living/looking after people with addictions), Dynamics, Chester Music Society, Chester Male Voice Choir.*

## **Church Weekend**

**Contact: Vicki Bulgin**



Our weekend away last year in Cloverley Hall was in April when Rob Whittaker, Principal of Capenwray Bible School, was our speaker. He spoke on 'So what's so great about the love of God?' - and we all learnt a new word - 'splagnidzomai' [the compassion of Jesus].

A decision was taken while we were away to move the Church Weekend from April to October. Consequently our next weekend away is October 14th - 16th this year. Do plan to come - I promise you a great weekend!

# Cinema Nights and much more.....

We have had another busy year of Cinema Afternoons with Afternoon Tea, Cinema Nights with Pizza's/Burgers and Hotdogs, BBQ with All Saints Race Day - what fun! Harvest Lunch and an amazing Christmas Fair! Events you can get involved with, events you can bring your family and friends along to. So many lovely comments regarding the cinema events especially, it's a wonderful time of fun, laughter (usually) and food! £1.50 per person towards the food and a wonderful afternoon or evening of entertainment, with popcorn, ice cream and refreshments too! If you've not been, do ask around, I'm sure those that have been would love to share their experiences with you!



A big thank you to all those who come and help in various ways; baking, serving, cleaning, tidying away.

Your love for one another is overwhelming! Bless you all!

Elaine, Christina, Stephen





# **Costa del Holidays**

**Contacts: Elaine Hemmings, Sheila Greenwood,  
Nicky Pickering and Pam Male**

Last August Costa del Holidays set off on a 3 day safari within the unique Hoolerobi National Park. As well as tracking the big 5, our 69 guests were able to enjoy a variety of other activities around the game reserve. These included craft workshops, target practice, shopping, cinema, afternoon trips out, games and taking to the sky on the flight simulator as well as enjoying fine cuisine in the Dining Tent and relaxing in the luxury of the Sundowner Sanctuary.

Looking after our guests were our wonderful team of 40 helpers. We are very grateful for all their hard work over the 3 days to make the holiday so enjoyable for our guests.

This was our 8<sup>th</sup> Costa holiday. Beginning in 2008 Costa del Holidays is our annual holiday at home for the senior members of our Church Family and local community who for lots of reasons find it difficult or are no longer able to get a break.

God inspired, Jesus blessed, Spirit led - we aim to provide a 5\* holiday in the comfort of the Church Centre. If you have not been before we would highly recommend that you come along either as a guest if you are in the age group we cater for or as a much needed helper.

Look out for details of this year's holiday coming soon.







**Contact: Sheila Greenwood**

All Saints Craft Club meets together on Friday afternoons in the Church Centre to enjoy an afternoon of craftwork chatting over a cup of tea and supporting each other in a variety of ways. We are a Christian group of women and start our craft sessions with prayer and a short thought for the day. We help one another and share our expertise and run small work shops covering a variety of crafts from quilting to paper flower making. In October we held a very successful exhibition of our work entitled 'A Family Affair' to celebrate God's gifts and to raise funds for the charity 'Life NoW'.



The highlight of the year was the birth of baby Arthur and more recently the arrival of Samuel. As a group we recognise how blessed we are in our creativity and our numbers have increased throughout the year. We are always able to welcome more people and are open to new members, no skill level is necessary, just come along. If you would like to join us we'd love to see you at 1:30 on Friday

afternoons during term time. For more details contact Sheila or Christina in the office.

# Crèche

**Contact: Helen Ellis**

All Saints is able to offer parents of children under the age of three a place to play during the morning service.

Crèche is located in Sparrow room in the Church Centre where the service is relayed on a screen so that parents who have children who won't let them leave, can still see and hear what is going on in the service.



We have an open door policy, so children can be dropped off at any time and parents are welcome to stay with their children for all or part of the service.

We have a dedicated team of volunteers and parents who help to run the crèche but we are always keen to have new people join the team, so if you wish to help out as well, that would be much appreciated.

# Crib Service on Christmas Eve 2015

**Contact: Helen Ellis** We were once again awed at the number of people who came to the Crib Service last Christmas. We know that, for many, this is seen as the time that families 'kick start' their Christmas celebrations and what better place to do it than in church!

This year's theme, apart from the obvious, used the little knitted sheep that each family received as they came through the door, to help us tell the story of the Saviour's birth. We again used grown-up members of our church family to dress up in the nativity characters which seems to be well received. We estimate that there were over 300 people attending this service!



Many thanks to Stephen Batchelor who leads this service so ably and to all of our 'cast', band, welcomers and knitters who make the Crib Service THE place to be on Christmas Eve.



## Flower Report

**Contact: Christina Beveridge**

We are generally a group of 1 or 2, who cover doing flowers throughout the year in church. If you have a gift of flower arranging and would like to get involved, please come and talk to Christina, generally found in the church centre Monday to Friday most weeks or in church at the 10.45am service.



Many thanks to Katherine Perkins who has been my rock throughout the last 12 months in doing our flowers here at All Saints. She is a qualified florist but enjoys working here and at Chester Cathedral, using her gift of floristry.

We continue to gratefully receive financial gifts towards the main festivals Easter, Harvest and Christmas. We also continue to do celebration flowers in memory of loved ones, birthdays or anniversaries and a contribution of £30 helps towards covering the costs.

Thank you to all those who regularly contribute to this ministry, I'm sure people enjoy seeing fresh flowers in church week on week.

**F**ranks (Years 10-13) &

**P**athfinders (Years 11-14)

**Contact: Sam Durdant-Hollamby**



We have had another wonderful year in Pathfinders and Franks with some really great series and great times away. Last May we took the Pathfinders away for the second time. It was a fantastic weekend in Wales which included photo hunts, games and teaching from Acts. It culminated in a trip to 'Bounce Below' which although a little scary to begin with was fantastic fun.

Last summer saw Peri, Sam and Hanna Ellis travel to New Wine to serve on the team. Later in the summer we all travelled back to Shepton Mallet for Soul Survivor. It was really exciting to meet with Jesus and see lives touched by his love.

We had a great fireworks night which went off with a very safe and risk-assessed bang. We accompanied the night with worship, bringing 70+ young people together from across the city to sing God's praise.

January was our *Encounter* weekend and this year seven churches from Chester joined us. Our theme was 'the storms of life' and we looked at how Jesus is our constant in hard times and good. It was amazing to see lives changed and we received some encouraging testimonies of what God had done.

February saw us put on *Engage*, which is four days of mission, worship, word and ministry. We had 70+ young people and leaders from across the city come together to serve Hoole. We hosted it at All Saints and it was a real pleasure to see young people going out and spreading the love of Jesus.

We had a couple of notable series studies this year which have really made an impact. 'Current Affairs' was a look at things that the church wrestles with and what the young people wanted to study in more depth. In Pathfinders we have done both 'Youth Alpha' and 'Freedom in Christ' courses. 'Fruitfulness on the Frontline' was really helpful in showing how easy mission is, what it is and where it happens. We had some amazing



feedback from our young people on that one. Finally, we are currently in a series called '*Friends with God*' looking very practically at spiritual disciplines and how we can grow in our relationship with God. We had an exciting development in Pathfinders this year as we now meet two to three times a month in café.com in Hoole. We have also more recently spent time watching films about how God is moving around the world, to inspire our faith and encourage us to go for it.

My thanks go to my amazing team, Peri and this year Matt and Lily (our interns), also to Rachel, Matt and Becs for all they've done. Finally, to the youth workers of Chester for the amazing linked-up work that has happened this year.

Prayer:

- Please pray for our young people who are leaving to go to university. That they will find great churches and good friends.
- Please pray for those moving up, that they would feel welcomed and settle quickly.
- Please pray for God's vision for what we are doing and that we would be faithful in following it.

## Housegroups

**Contact: John Kirkland ([vicar@allsaints.church](mailto:vicar@allsaints.church))**

The housegroups exist to provide a place where we can develop as disciples of Jesus by meeting together in small groups. They provide a vitally important opportunity to learn and grow together as we study the Bible, pray and worship. They are also a place where we can provide pastoral care for one another, which is particularly important in a large church like All Saints.

We have continued this year to study the same themes and passages as we look at in our morning services, with the exception of the autumn term at the end of last year. Over the past 12 months we have explored some very varied material. In the summer of 2015 we did a series on 'Who is my neighbour – disciplines for life'

looking at spiritual disciplines such as prayer and giving. In the autumn, we departed from the usual link between sermons and studies, and did the LICC course 'Fruitfulness on the Frontline', which was a mix of DVD and studies. In this spring term we are now looking at a series from John 13 to 16 entitled 'Jesus and his friends' as we move towards Easter. We have continued our approach of producing a course booklet for each term for each person attending, which has been a great success and thank you again to Anita Benson who has prepared these for us.

We currently have 12 groups, the same as last year, although one group, now led by Christina and Stephen Beveridge has changed from being a daytime group to meeting on Tuesday evening and is currently recruiting! Of the 12 groups, nine meet on various days in the evening (two on Tuesday, five on Wednesday and two on Thursday), and three meet during the day.

After a 10 year stint as housegroup coordinator, I decided it was time to stand down at the end of last year, so if you are not in a group already and would like to be, please see John Kirkland [for the time being].

**Rick Hemmings**  
**March 2016**

## **L**eadership Team

Our new Leadership Team, made up of Vicki Bulgin, Steve Tynegate, Helen Ellis, Sam DH and me, has been meeting most weeks since September to pray together and to seek God's vision for the church. We had a very profitable day in February during which we prayed and thought a lot about the church's mission – how we can be a church which makes disciples who make disciples. We are particularly keen to encourage every member of All Saints to dream their dreams for mission and we are eager to listen to those dreams. Whilst it may be that God will give individuals a dream which they need to take forward themselves, rather than the church as a whole being involved in

it, we will explore ways in which we can support vision, offer accountability and hold regular reviews. We also want to develop a culture in which we are confident to invite people to All Saints' events and services and offer a high-quality welcome when people come for the first time.

## Little Acorns

Contact-Helen Ellis



A new venture for 2015 onwards!

It was recognised that there are a growing number of families who are coming to Minis or known by people who are fostering or adopting. The needs of those families are specific and I thought it would be a good idea to offer a group especially for them.

So, 'Little Acorns' was started in October and meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month. As the group is still quite small, we are able to use 'Sparrow' room and have the benefit of the crèche toys to hand. It has been lovely to share the highs and lows with these lovely 'for ever' families. The team is myself, Lily and Jo Baird.



Contact: Helen Ellis



Until January this year, Messy Church continued to meet on the 1st Thursday of every month. I had a growing sense that we weren't meeting the needs of the whole family as working parents were unable to come after school time. Following our hugely successful Messy Camping in June, we wanted to see more dads coming to Messy Church so from January we have begun meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month from 4-6pm. Added to that, we now have a

sports stream running alongside the usual MC crafts and activities. This is ably led by Neil Jones and John Lewis, both of whom have a sporty background. The new style MC has got off to a great start as we have welcomed a number of new families as well as those from the Thursday congregation.

We continue with a theme each month and run a variety of activities based on the theme and that is followed by our Celebration which gathers together the theme of the afternoon and we finish with a hot meal, served by our kitchen team, led by Debbie Wood. I have been overwhelmed by a raft of new volunteers, some of whom are helping me to run the Celebration time.

**Prayer:** I am very grateful to all who make Messy Church possible - it is definitely a Team thing! As well as the wonderful helpers, I am very grateful to God for his leading and presence of our Messy Church and so we ask for your continuing prayers for those who come, that they may discover for themselves faith in Christ and for us as we lead Messy Church and how to disciple those who come.

## **M**usic Group

**Contact: Elaine Hemmings**

Forming part of the WAMM team (Worship and Multi-Media) the music group is currently a small band of musicians who provide music for our sung worship. At the 10.45 service we are delighted to have a variety of instruments (violin, flute, saxophone and trumpet) alongside the keyboard and guitars.



Since the last Annual Report we have welcomed Lis Treby and Rosy Smith onto the team, while Rob and Rachel Collier are taking a break having recently become new parents to Samuel James.



Other members of the 10.45 team include Sarah Mason, Cathy Batchelor, Mike Walker, Jim Ellis, Jean Harrison, Paul Reeve, Jackie Sears, Harry Warrell and Tim Pilcher. In addition it was great to have some of the younger members of our Church Family joining us for some of the Christmas services and we look forward to them playing with us more often.

At the 9am service David Pawson, Martin & Doreen Leech, and Vicki Bulgin lead the sung worship on the keyboard and organ.

We also have a wonderful team of Easyworship operators projecting the words and other visuals onto the screen. Up in Mission Control are Rachel Kirkland, Vicky Pattison, Carole Frost, Mark Edwards, Matt Wilkinson and Harrison Beveridge who do a brilliant job and are becoming increasingly skilled in working out which verse or chorus we are going to play next!

Thank God for our team and pray for us as we endeavour to lead sung worship in a way with which all the Church family can engage.

## Open to God

### **Contact: John Kirkland**

Open to God meets on a Wednesday evening early in the month, to fit in with the fortnightly housegroup programme, and a small but faithful group come together to pray for the church, the local community and the world. We usually start the term with a specific focus on the housegroups, introducing the new sermon and housegroup material, and we have been holding one meeting each term in housegroups with the hope that more members of the church will come together in prayer. Although a Wednesday evening doesn't suit everyone, and there are other opportunities for prayer during the month, we are convinced that it is only through devoting ourselves to prayer that we shall see the church renewed and people come to know Christ for themselves. We want to be open to what God wants to say and do as we meet, but we also believe that, apart from Christ, we can do nothing [John 15:5].

# P O S ★ D A

MAKING ROOM FOR JESUS THIS CHRISTMAS

Posada literally means "shelter" or "inn". It is the name given to an old Mexican tradition where, in the weeks leading up to Christmas, young people dressed as Mary and Joseph travelled from house to house asking for a room for the night and telling people about the imminent arrival of Jesus. On Christmas Eve they would visit the local church to re-enact the nativity and place figures of Mary and Joseph in a crib scene.



Modern day Posada uses nativity figures of Mary, Joseph and the donkey, who travel from place to place. This gives each 'host' the chance to create their own celebration in their home, worshipping, with the real message of Christmas and making room for Jesus in their lives.



During Advent last year the Posada was welcomed into over 25 homes of people from All Saints. The Posada basket not only contained knitted figures of Mary, Joseph and the donkey but there was also the Posada prayer, Christmas story book and a journey log. I know that a number of those involved enjoyed having a cup of tea and chat together whilst handing over the Posada on the next part of its journey and it was a joy to celebrate the end of the Posada Journey when it arrived and was displayed at the Crib Service on Christmas Eve. Each Posada host household and also those who came to the Crib Service, received a knitted sheep made lovingly by many people from the Church family - many thanks!

# Preaching Team

Co-ordinator: John Kirkland

We continue to be grateful to all those who share in leading public worship and preaching at All Saints and, although one or two of our preachers are doing less now, it's been good to welcome new speakers like James Baird (who is exploring Reader ministry at the moment) to the team. Others have joined the speaking rota at All-Age Worship and Sunday@6, and it's been encouraging to see gifts being identified and developed. Following a discussion at the regular 'Preachers' meeting' we have tried to be more accessible to those with different preferred learning styles – we have been using powerpoint in sermons at 10.45 and, on occasion, we have used video clips or pictures to illustrate the point. One highlight of the past year was the series leading up to the General Election, *Who is my neighbour?*, when we tried to explore a Christian response to some of the big social issues of our day like poverty, immigration and caring for creation.

## Preparing for Marriage

Marriage Prep has continued in its pub-based format, with couples meeting together with the course leaders in the Oaklands for the first of three meetings. The subsequent meetings take place at the back of church during the following two weeks, utilising the comfortable café venue and vast quantities of tea and cake. Couples have reported that friends and relations have been surprised, amused and impressed with the choice of venues, which we hope has made it less daunting for them to attend.



The material is presented in a range of formats, including card games, quizzes and discussion exercises. Café at the back of

church is proving to be an ideal setting, as the couples are able to find quiet places to work on the activities as a pair, before returning to the sofas for more tea and cake, and in many cases offering insights to the amusement of the other participants.

This term we are particularly grateful to John and Kate for stepping in to cover for illness with 5 minutes notice. The guests were delighted to see them knuckling down to the exercises (which they had never seen before) and joining in with the reflections, as well as offering hospitality and wisdom.

As we did last year, we highly recommend Gary Chapman's book "Love Languages" which remains a favourite with Marriage Prep guests.

Please pray that we are able to reach couples through this course and demonstrate God's love in the centre of marriage.

## **Schools Link**

**Contact: John Kirkland**



The church team continue to take assemblies each Wednesday in Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6) and in one of the year groups in KS1 (Years R-2). This year the team – Sam DH, Peri Nightingale and myself – have been joined by our two interns, Lily Baird and Matt Henshaw, and it's been good to see them grow in confidence in leading assemblies. As well as welcoming the school for their Easter, Harvest and Christmas services – although sadly one had to be cancelled last December due to a bug which went round the school – we also enjoy Christingle in early February when we celebrate Jesus as the Light of the World. The moment when all the church lights are switched off and the church is illuminated by the light from the Christingles is one we all find very powerful. Thank you to all those who help

with that by making the Christingles or acting as fire wardens. The Foundation Governors – Carole Frost, Steve Tynegate and me – are actively involved in the various committees and in linking with subject co-ordinators in school.



## Senior Residents' Fellowship

**Contact: Rene Peters**

Senior Residents' Fellowship meets on a Thursday afternoon for companionship and social activities.

We try to provide interesting speakers, quizzes etc. This past year we have enjoyed visits from several members of All Saints who have given interesting talks for which we are most appreciative. We also try to include at least two trips out for lunch and a tour of the countryside, although this is more difficult due to the age of our members.

Our annual birthday tea, provided by Penny and team, was a great success.

Unfortunately, we have lost two long-serving members, Nora Payne and Pam Jones, who led the group for a number of years.



Our Christmas lunch was provided by Penny and team together with Andy Warren, the chef. A big thank-you for making this a most joyous occasion.

During 2016 we look forward to welcoming new members. Any support in assisting to run this fellowship would be appreciated.

# Students

**Contact: Rick & Elaine Hemmings**

We are really blessed to have a brilliant group of students who worship with us. This year every student returned after the summer break as those who had completed their studies came back to do further courses. They contribute to our church family life in many different ways – in Sunday Club, Music Group, leading prayers as well as simply by being there.

Student lunches continue to be a great time of eating, sharing stories of life on campus, assignment deadlines as well as various theological debates! Thank you to our student lunch hosts who open up their homes each Sunday - Jim & Helen Ellis, Carole & Pete Frost, Rachel Gommersall, Rachel & Rob Collier, Sheila & Roy Greenwood, Yvonne Heath, Steve & Jules Tynegate, Vicki Bulgin and Rick & Elaine Hemmings.

The usual annual student events also took place once again – handing out our All Saints rock at Freshers' Fair, trip to the Ice Cream Farm and our end of term barbeque at Roy and Sheila's house. Great fun was had on each occasion!

At the time of writing the Christian Union with the support of Chaplaincy and the Catholic Society have just completed an 'Events Week' with a number of events to share the Gospel across the campus of Chester University. Like last year this has been followed by Student Alpha and once again Yvonne and her





wonderful team of cooks, along with other local churches, are providing the food for one of the sessions.

This coming together of the university Christian Union, Chaplaincy, Catholic Society and local churches also happens once a term when we meet to share, pray and support what is happening on campus. It is both exciting and a privilege to be a part of this.



**Contact: Fiona Jones**

Sunday at 6 is held (mainly) on the last Sunday of the month and lasts for approximately 50 minutes. The congregation meets in a relaxed atmosphere to explore current topics, pray for each other and have the opportunity to use gifts in different ministries.

Speakers and leaders have included John Patterson, Anita, James, Kate, David and Rachel and topics have ranged from the migrant crisis to personal journeys of faith and questions about healing. The prayer ministry team is faithful and the congregation has engaged with different styles of prayer.

In recent months the physical layout has changed, with the service moving out of the pews and into the café area and plans are afoot for a re-launch in the autumn, led by James. Matt, Harry, Sophie and Mike have continued to do a wonderful job leading in worship.

Please pray for the team planning and making changes to Sunday at 6, and pray too that those who would find this style of worship and teaching useful would find their way to the Service.

# Sunday Club Report

**Co-ordinators: Stephen and Cathy Batchelor**

**Sunday Club** runs on the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month for children aged 3 up to year 6 (last year of junior school) during the 10:45 service. We are divided into 3 groups based on age, Scramblers, Climbers and Explorers and meet in various rooms in the Church Centre. We do lots of fun things....

## **Praying and Learning about God**

We don't claim to do all the stories in the Bible, but we do learn about a lot of people in the Bible who had faith in God and did amazing things. We also pray together in lots of different age appropriate ways from pray bear to the push up prayer (do a push up and when you have only your nose, toes and hands touching the ground we pray).

Sometimes we sing praise to God together too.



## **Fellowship & Games**

It is really important to share fun times with friends in faith and we play some great games together: Stuck in the Mud; Simon Says; Tag; Traffic lights; What's the time Mr Wolf, to name just a few.



## **Art & Craft**

Translating what we have learned about into an art form is a weekly occurrence.

Gluing, cutting, colouring, painting, sticking, drawing are all happening and we hope you can match the craft to the Bible story we have been learning about.



## All Welcome

All children are welcome to come to Sunday Club, just turn up and if it is your first time please fill in a parental permission form (the leaders have them!). We take a register of all children who attend and all leaders have a DBS (formerly CRB) check. At least 2 leaders are present in each group. If your child has any special needs, please come and talk to us. Looking forward to seeing you all.

# Toddler Praise

Contact: Helen Ellis

TODDLER PRAISE meets on the 3rd Thursday morning of each month at the front of church for refreshments followed by a short time of worship in the chancel – welcome songs, a Bible story, prayer and finishing with our special song “Thank you Lord for loving me” accompanied by flag waving as we dance down the aisle to start our craft activity based on the theme.

Numbers at Toddler Praise fluctuate greatly but, for those who come, we will continue to meet. Please pray that new families will come to join us. It has been great to share the leading with Lily, who has shown lots of enthusiasm to make Toddler Praise a lovely place to be once a month.



# **Welcomers: Meeting & Greeting**

**Contacts: Vicki Bulgin and Steve Tynegate**

In January we invited a 'mystery worshipper' to come to All Saints at 10.45 to help us assess how good our welcome is to new people. We're pleased that his experience was positive - mainly thanks to two people who took time to talk to him before, during and after the service.

We would again like to stress though that 'Welcoming' is something for everybody in the Church to do. Are you ever sitting next to someone you don't know /know well? Please chat to them, and if possible, take them for a drink at the end and introduce them to others. The end of the service is a great time for us all to look out for people on their own. Please speak to them.

We are grateful as always for our Sunday teams, many of whom have been faithful in this for many years. We need more people though so if you think this is something you can do or would like to talk more about it, please chat to Vicki, Steve or one of the team leaders - Yvonne Heath or Ian Percival.

We are also grateful to Charles Simkiss, Ian Speechley and Julie Tynegate, for their faithful work as Assistant Wardens.



# Who Let The Dads Out?

**Contact: Helen Ellis**

Is a Toddler Group for dads on the 1st Saturday morning and another group on the 3rd Saturday for dads with older children. Both groups run from 10am-12noon at Hoole Lighthouse Centre.

We serve tea and filter coffee plus biscuits and drinks for the toddlers and also bacon butties, which are very popular! Lily and I help out at the pre-school group where I am in the kitchen and Lily runs the craft activity that is enjoyed by the children (and some of the dads too!).



**Prayer needs:** Please pray for Ben Waugh who leads the dad and toddler group and for the team who run WLTD0 2.

## Wider Church Committee

### “Into all the World”

**Contact: Bill Holt**

As a Church we have been encouraged to realise we are all on a mission. Our frontlines, where we meet people, may be our place of work, our neighbours or the local shop. As a Church we have the privilege of supporting various people and organisations who have different frontlines and opportunities to live out God’s love.

This year Pam and Bob Toan have returned to Chester from abroad. Since leaving Newton we have supported them in prayer and financially. We continue to support Anne deReybekill who is due to return to UK sometime this year. We also support Lynne Masterton in Pakistan. Our overseas partners are getting fewer, could God be calling you to serve?

In Grapevine each month I hope you have read and used for prayer the feature about the persecuted church around the world. Please do pray as many Christians are not free to worship or even talk of their faith without risk to their lives.

It is wonderful that year by year we have been able to support one of our young people in their desire to serve God overseas. This year Harry Warrell spent time in Durban South Africa in some of the poor townships.

Thinking of students, we value their contribution to the life and work of All Saint's and so we rejoice when we can help them in mission to their fellow students. This year we have supported them in Nottingham and Chester Universities Christian Union Missions.

In Chester we continue to support financially and perhaps more importantly with feet on the ground the work of Night Church and Street Pastors.

Remember Jesus' final words on earth were "Go and make disciples"



**All Saints' Church 2015/16**  
**An overview of some of the things we have done**

**April**

APCM

Farewell lunch for Ruth Ackroyd

Church Weekend

Easter Egg Hunt

**May**

'Cinema Afternoon' and 'Cinema Night'

**June**

Church Family Barbeque

Messy Camping

Deo Gratias Concert

**July**

B-It Performances

Youth Sleepover

**August**

Costa del Safari

**September**

'Cinema Afternoon' and 'Cinema Night'

**October**

Freshers' Fair at Chester University

Quilting Exhibition

Harvest Lunch

Launch of Operaton Christmas Child

First Student Lunch of the new academic year

## **November**

Shoe Boxes collected  
Christmas Fair  
Deo Gratias Concert

## **December**

'Cinema Afternoon' and 'Cinema Night'  
Posada  
Carol singing around the parish  
Local school carol services  
Senior Residents Christmas Lunch  
B-It Performances

## **January**

Cafe extends opening hours to include Fridays

## **February**

Christingle Service  
'Cinema Afternoon' and 'Cinema Night'  
Lent Suppers begin

## **March**

Marriage Preparation  
City Passion Play  
B-It Performances



If you would like any more information about any of the activities you've read about, please feel free to contact the persons named, our Centre Manager on 01244 345649 or the Church Office on 01244 322056

TO LIVE  
LIKE  
WITH  
FOR

**JESUS**

**ALLSAINTS** HOOLE