

Churchwardens report 2014 APCM

Fabric We have been ticking over rather than having any large scale projects. We are still thinking about improving the lighting in the memorial Chapel, but in a year when we thought that we would have a large deficit we decided to put it on hold for a while. We did however replace all the bulbs in the chancel in time for Christmas which has made a tremendous difference. We have not got any further with our faculty to remove pews at the back of the church, but the PCC and many others in the church agree that our present kitchen facilities are not really sufficient for our needs and we are hoping to organise a visit from the DAC to discuss what might be possible in the future as far as making the space in the church more usable.

We had yet another incidence of vandalism when the window in the memorial chapel was broken. As usual Chapel Studios dealt with the repair with as little delay as possible and our Insurers paid up. However we have recently had a visit from Ecclesiastical and they are about to reassess our insured sums so it is quite likely that our Insurance premium will be going up.

We purchased a new carpet for the vicar's vestry and also a rug for the Meeting room to make it cosier and better for young children to play and crawl on, and with the left over carpet we now have a couple of small rugs available if we need them.

After discussion between the PCC and with the Diocesan advisory group and investigation of the areas involved, it was agreed that we would not pursue the question of Chancel repair liability relating to land around the Rush Green roundabout and on the Pinehurst estate and a PCC motion was agreed to that effect and a copy of it will be kept in the Terrier for future generations to see that we made the decision after consultation and discussion and in good faith.

As has been the case for many years we have been amazed by the tremendous work of Derek and his work parties. They save the church an absolute fortune and do many jobs which most of us know nothing about – but would soon notice if they were left undone! Thanks to all and please keep up the good work.

Pastoral During the last year we have had a number of very special moments at All Saints. As well as all our normal services Messy church has continued to thrive along with Prayers and Bears. Last summer we were thrilled to welcome Ginni to All Saints and she really did seem to hit the ground running, bringing new ideas and generally wearing us all out. Any of you who were lucky enough to have been part of our recent Easter journey will I'm sure agree that you can't help but be motivated by her enthusiasm- no matter how hard you might try! Last Christmas we had our stupendously successful Christmas Tree festival for which many thanks to everyone but most especially to Dorothy, Richard and Wendell, as well as my team of cooks and helpers and Diana the dishwasher- which brought in so many people from around the town and beyond as well as helping to allow our treasurer to sleep nights rather than staying awake worrying about the deficit.

We had some lovely social occasions as well as welcoming the Bishop of Hertford and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Westminster to various services. At Christmas we held a number of carol services for local school children and also for the Fire brigade. There were the usual weddings, baptisms and of course funerals, including that of dear Stan Mansfield, but I like to think that the one thing that is true of all these events is that everybody attending is made to feel welcome. At the recent service to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the ordination of women the one comment that I heard time and again was thank you for making us all so welcome. We have a number of events already planned for this year and look forward to having your continued support at the coffee morning and plant sale in May and at the posy festival in July.

Throughout all that has been happening during the year our worship has been underpinned by the wonderful music. We are so lucky to have Martin as our Director of music, as well being our Parish administrator and magazine editor, so ably supported by Mary and James and all the choir members. It is a joy to hear how Michael's organ playing is getting better and better and we look forward to hearing more from him in the years to come.

Last but most definitely not least we are especially blessed at All Saints to have our lovely Vicar – soon to be Canon Jo, supported by Doug and Gerry, our crazy curate Ginni and so many other people who make up the winning Team All Saints. Thank you to each and every one of you.