

# **ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HERTFORD**

## **REPORTS TO APCM – 2014**

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## **Safeguarding Report**

One more person has been checked through the Disclosure and Barring Service via CCPAS (Churches Child Protection and Advisory Service) since last year.

As from January this year, all forms need to be filled in online through the CCPAS website. It is very secure, quite simple to use, completely confidential, and much easier and faster for administration and clearance with the DBS.

St Albans Diocese requested that all churches should use this online service. It means that Chris Lees, the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer can see applications, and if there are any problems he is alerted instantly and is able to deal with them quickly.

If anyone needing to be checked is not very competent with going online, I am able to complete the forms with them. Also any new person being checked can register themselves for a small fee and will not need to be checked again if working or applying to work with a different organisation.

Helen Harvey-Wright  
Lead Recruiter for Safeguarding

## **All Saints' Hertford Mothers' Union Annual Report 2013**

**We have had another successful year and our members continue to be involved in many aspects of the worship and life at All Saints. We have another new branch member, who was previously a Diocesan member and worships at another Church.**

**Our programme in 2013 was varied and interesting and included talks about various topics. John Earle gave us a fascinating insight into stained glass windows and Future+Hope came to explain about the valuable work they are carrying out locally. Especially popular was the talk given by Don Graves about his time as Mayor of the Borough Council, Don has kept all the invitations, photos and invoices and we were surprised at how much he managed to accomplish during that year, we were impressed by his talk and particularly the photos of his glamorous wife. We also now know who is to blame for the Gascoyne Way car park.**

**In Lent Alan Stewart led a calm and peaceful evening about St Patrick and the Celtic Church, ending in a spoken Compline service. Later in the year Margaret Cramphorn came to talk about world faiths.**

**Our Deanery events included our annual coffee morning and a Deanery meeting on the MU theme "Breaking New Ground" led by Diocesan President Susan Roberts, as well as our Wave of Prayer and Lady Day Services. We also hosted a very successful Faith Event in September with members from across the Diocese attending.**

**We made Advent wreaths for sale at the Christmas Tree Festival and managed to fit in some lovely social events.**

**For 2014 we have another varied programme of events and would be delighted to welcome you to attend any or all of our meetings – you do not have to be a member to come!. This year we have already had an interesting talk about Nepal and our Lent Meditation was led by Ginni Dear.**

**Our popular Deanery Coffee Morning will be held at 39 Fordwich Rise, Hertford on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April from 10am to 12 noon with the proceeds going to MU fund supporting work in the UK and overseas. You are warmly invited to attend.**

**Please pick up a programme at the back of Church or talk to me.  
Please come and join us anytime! We look forward to  
welcoming you.**

*Rosemary Bolton*

## **Report for All Saints Art for 2013 – 2014**

All Saints Art has had a good year. We continue to have new members joining and have 14 people on our list, usually getting about 8 to each meeting.

In the summer we visited Waterford Church to see the Morris and Burne – Jones windows to photograph and sketch. We also had two enjoyable evenings drawing and painting in members' gardens.

We have tried several new things this year - recently seed pictures - and we have repeated others that we enjoyed, especially our mosaic tiles in the autumn. We made corn stars to decorate our tree for the Xmas tree festival.

We had several tutors during the year; Sybil Hammond guiding us in the making of Lotus flowers with rice paper, Lyn Bruce coaching us in tone and composition and Dr Roger Aubery showing us pictures of Italian Religious Art.

We meet on Thursdays 7.30 – 9.30 pm in the church meeting room. We have a printed programme for each term. We always welcome new members. We continue to pay £2 each week towards the cost of speakers, tuition and craft materials. We also make donations towards church heating costs.

My thanks especially go to Pauline Geering and Nick Hoyle for all their help.

Gillian Harman  
Co-ordinator

## **FLOWER CLUB REPORT 2013 - 2014**

The Flower Club has managed well over the last year in its new format. Each of the 4 'Flower Teams' now has 3 members each and we welcome Janet Laroude and Jan Gregory who have joined us over the year. We also have another team of ad hoc helpers who are available to assist at Festival times which helps to ease the workload of everyone. There is a Team 'on duty' each month sorting the flowers and co-ordinating with the wedding couples, except in December where we all assist during Advent and leading up to Christmas. This enables the Teams to move on a month each year so we all work with different seasons.

We aim to continue to provide flowers for the church throughout the year, and have been creative using plants on occasions, which last a little longer than cut flowers and do not need arranging. We have all worked together to decorate All Saints' for the major Festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas so a huge thank you to everyone involved in these events – and the clearing away afterwards which is often more work than decorating originally and can get easily forgotten.

There were just 2 weddings during 2013 where All Saints Flowers were used. Unfortunately at a time of recession Church Flowers are one of the cut backs at weddings – especially when All Saints has a reputation for its excellent flowers, which is good to know, but not helpful when looking at weddings to finance our funds! This year we have offered candles for weddings, either with or without flowers, and one couple took the former option which raised £50 for the Flower Club.

Income and expenditure has been broken down further to give greater detail of both. Unfortunately there was a deficit again of £175 for the year, but significantly better than that of £780 last year. Donations were up significantly on last year. General donations were up by £100 and those for Funerals, Baptisms etc were also £150. Expenditure was down by over £300 and I would like to thank all the Team leaders for being so prudent with their monthly expenditure, and as a result of this the Club remains solvent with £130 in the bank. It does not sound much compared to our balance of a few years ago, but we aim to continue during 2014 with increased wedding potential and continued donations.

We face 2014 with tight finances and the PCC have contributed £100 to assist us. We do have income coming in memory of my late father, Frank Clow, at the request of friends who wanted their flower memorials to be used for All Saints rather than just at the funeral. I personally am most touched by their generous offer.

Anyone interested in arranging flowers is welcome to join us – no experience required!. Thank you to all in the Flower Club who work so hard to make All Saints look so lovely, and comments that come back to us show that all the effort is appreciated

**Dorothy Toyn**  
**All Saints Flower Club Administrator**

## **DEANERY SYNOD**

### **REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2013-2014**

Four Deanery Synod meetings have been held at various locations within the Hertford and Ware Deanery since the last review, which went up to the Synod in January of 2013. Deanery Synod Representatives come from each Parish. The Synod consists of a House of Clergy and House of Laity. The Deanery Synod is part of the governmental process of the Church of England.

Our first Deanery Synod meeting was held **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013** at Wilshere Hall, Stanstead Abbots. Our speaker was Revd Sister Judith from the Sisters of Saint Margarets who gave us some history of her community and talked about the life and work of the community now. She went on to talk about community life in a broader sense and how this was changing. Her talk was very interesting and she answered many questions from Deanery Members afterwards.

During the remainder of the Synod meetings of various groups were reported on and issues discussed at the Diocesan Synod in March 2013 were reported. Rod Higham reported that the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee were in the process of creating a Deanery Mission Action Plan from all the parish MAPs; the point of which was how we see ministry going forward over our Deanery in the next 5 years. Once the MAP had been created it would be posted on the Deanery Blog and we were invited to look at it and send in their comments. An extraordinary Synod meeting was arranged specifically to look at this before our Deanery Review on 4<sup>th</sup> July.

The next meeting, held on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013** at Essendon Village Hall, Essendon was the extraordinary meeting arranged to discuss the

Deanery Mission Action Plan. Nick Sharp gave a presentation of the MAP as far as he and Rod had currently created it. We then split off into small groups for discussion. After this there was a whole-group discussion which resulted in various suggestions Nick Sharp and Rod Higham to consider when finalising our MAP.

The third Deanery Synod meeting was held **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2013** at St Mary's church, Stapleford. Our topic was Street Pastors and our first speaker was Alison Church, who spoke to us about what being a Street Pastor is like in Hertford and Ware. Following her talk and Nick Sharp gave a presentation on the history and work of Street Pastors.

Following this Rod Higham reported on the MAP and Deanery Review – the Deanery Review had taken place early in July and Rod and Nick had presented the Deanery MAP to the Diocesan Pastoral and Mission Committee. The Deanery Mission Action Plan can be found on the Deanery blog. The feedback from the Diocesan Pastoral and Mission Committee was generally positive. The MAP should be regarded as a working document – it will need to be reviewed regularly.

After reports on several meetings, including General Synod, Pauline Higham welcomed Revd Jenny Grey to Stapleford, Waterford, Bramfield and Watton at Stone and also invited us to the licensing service for Revd Myrtle Cook – in High Cross on 9<sup>th</sup> September at 8 pm.

The last Synod of 2013 was held on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2013** at St Mary's, Ware. Our speaker at this meeting was Dean Pusey, Diocesan Youth Officer gave an inspiring talk about the work we can all do with young people – mentoring and sharing with young people in our lives and churches and how to be a significant person in their lives. He reminded us that we all have people in our lives who influenced us in a profound way and

it is something that we can all do – it’s a ministry for us all. We can be there to help parents in good times and more challenging moments. Following his presentation, Dean answered several questions on the differences between rural and urban areas and the resources that the Diocese has to help us.

### Junior Church Report for the Annual Parish Meeting

Junior Church continues to meet on the second, fourth and fifth Sundays of the month, with the children in church for the whole service on the first and third Sundays, attending the Family Service and the Family Eucharist.

Since Easter 2013 we have had only have one Junior Church group which consists of primary school children. Seven children have attended the group at some point, but usual attendance at any given session is two. The group is taught by Marion Hassell and myself, using Scripture Union materials, and we now meet in the meeting room at the back of church rather than St John's Hall.

Martin Bird continues to provide a monthly group for the teenagers in the church.

Messy Church meets on the third Sunday of the month in the afternoon in St John's Hall. Numbers continue to grow and we now have up to 25 children and their parents attending each session. As well as making crafts to take home, the children have also made collages and pictures for the church. Our special Messy Church session with a fireworks display still sees our largest attendance of the year with many families bringing friends along with them. We are fortunate in having a large number of committed helpers without whom Messy Church could not take place each month.

Thank you to everyone who helps us in our work with the young people of the church. We appreciate your support and encouragement very much.

Kath Oates

# Music in 2013

*Martin Penny*

2013 was another year of achievements, progress, welcomes and sad farewells. Much positive feedback from you all is highly encouraging - thank you – please tell us where you think we can improve too!

Ben Wilson won a well-deserved promotion to the newly created full-time post of Director of Music at Holy Trinity, Stratford-upon-Avon. He also secured his Associate-ship of the RCO in July, winning two prizes – continuing another All Saints 'tradition'.

After an exhaustive (and exhausting) process we were fortunate to secure the services of James Gough MA FRCO as his replacement. He has brought some wry Welsh humour, a relaxed but skilled approach, and upped the average height of our organists by at least a foot! You can read more about him on our website at [www.allsaintshertford.org/adom.php](http://www.allsaintshertford.org/adom.php)

Sam Chadwick has continued to put much energy and ingenuity into providing instrumental arrangements for the All the Family Service. Congratulations too on her marriage to Dan in August!

## Membership

At our July AGM/BBQ we said farewells (at least as front-row choristers) to Patrick and Eleanor Mackay and Michael Stephens-Jones. All were given music gift vouchers and leaving certificates – presented at their final service on 21<sup>st</sup> July. Michael moved immediately to the back row as a tenor and is already singing solos. Thanks to Nicola and Mac for allowing us to use their house and garden. James was able to join us and so meet nearly all the choir 'family'.

Chris Oates left to study at York University- it was good to have him back with us at Christmas – and to hear of much musical activity planned for 2014 both at York and here. Tom Oates decided to concentrate on Music Theatre and the OTC and Nick Hoyle felt the call to ring – we wish them both well.

Having said goodbye to one set of twins in July we welcomed a new pair, Michael and Kasia Bates in the Autumn, along with mum Marlana and dad Jonathan. We now boast five tenors when Mark is able to join us!

Michael joined as a treble and sang the opening solo at the 9L&C with great aplomb. He has now joined Kasia in the altos.

Our portfolio of regular deputies also grew.

The instrumental group that plays at the Family Service is also growing with the addition of Trixie (Violin), Kasia (Clarinet) and (hopefully) Michael (Guitar). Sam is extremely skilled at producing parts of a suitable level of difficulty (or ease) so we are happy to welcome players of any age/skill.

## Team Work/Special Events

The year began with choral services on 6<sup>th</sup> Jan and an Epiphany Carol Service a week later (one rehearsal only!). Chris Oates did a super job as soloist in Cornelius' *Three Kings* showing a fine flexible baritone voice in the making.

In February we took all the young chorister for an afternoon on the slopes at Goslings. A great time was had by all (see photos in vestry) and the younger ones proved by far the most adept!

We ran a 'Bring & Sing' Messiah Pt2 in March, attracting over 60 singers, including a number of members of the Haileybury Junior Chamber Choir (and a 'fledgling' chorister from Kings, Cambridge). We were delighted to be able to invite Natasha Page back to sing the Soprano arias, which she did with great style and panache.

In April, Michael Stephens-Jones attended a three-day taster course at Oundle. Here he had expert tuition from a variety of experienced teachers and performers – and met 20 like-minded contemporaries from across the UK (and beyond). There is a full report in the May 2013 magazine [www.allsaintshertford.org/2013/may13pots.pdf](http://www.allsaintshertford.org/2013/may13pots.pdf)

On Trinity Sunday we joined with Hertford Heath to sing a special Choral Evensong to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the building of Holy Trinity. As it was his 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we revived the great *Te Deum in C* by Britten – and Hazel sang the extensive solo in the middle section brilliantly.

In July we said 'goodbye' to Ben and presented him with a music voucher which he used to buy the complete organ works of J.S.Bach.

Over the summer, Mary and I catalogued the entire Music Library using a 'beta test' (ie pre-release) of new specialist professional Choral Library software being developed by Sam Hudson. We are lucky enough to be doing this alongside Blackburn, Guildford and Wells Cathedrals.

We counted/repaired/re-boxed some 950 sets of music – finding a few 'missing' sets and individual copies along the way. Subsequently I have entered data on all our performances since January 2010. This gives me a rich resource to plan music knowing exactly who has/hasn't sung it (and hence likely rehearsal time) and also to highlight what we have 'in stock' that can be used.

In September we marked Petertide by reviving one of Michael Frith's anthems (*Bless the Lord all his angels*) and learning Dering's masterpiece *Factum est silentium* featuring dragons and war in heaven.

We hosted choirs from across the team at the Team Eucharist for All Saints Sunday. The music was chosen by the St Andrew's team and we managed to fit everyone (and a 'joint' music group) in somehow!

December had the largest number of Carol Services/concerts ever (I first played "Once in Royal David's City" the day before Advent Sunday!) with some 5500 people attending services.

As well as delivering the two major Carol Services we provided a number of soloists for Mini Concerts and a Soiree during the Christmas Tree Festival. Special thanks to Brian Bromley, Hazel Ford, Michael Stephens-Jones, Ciera McClean, the Parlour of Singers (our loyal 'back rows'), James Gough, Mary Penny and guest soloist Janet Bird.

## **Repertoire**

I have tried to continue to keep our music making alive by refreshing the familiar with new material, often sourced at little or no cost from the web (in particular the extensive collections of Tudor and European Renaissance polyphony available on CPDL).

In addition we are adding a small amount of contemporary material in both 'traditional' and modern guises. Particular thanks are due to Rachel Morgan for financing the purchase of Morten Lauridsen's *O Nata Lux* (which we first sang at the 9 L&C), in memory of her mother.

## **Concerts**

Chris Benham pulled together three more great series of 'Soundbites' concerts and, aided and abetted by Ann, an equally skilled catering team. The income from this is a key part of the whole All Saints economy. Thank you to you all.

We also further increased the number and nature of customers who hire the building for (mostly musical) events.

## **Thank You's**

I would like to finish with thanks; firstly to the choir for:

- Delivering week in week out – come hail, shine, snow, ice or whatever
- The music for Epiphany Holy Week/Easter 2013 and Advent/Christmas.
- Turning out in force for Remembrance Day and all the other occasional services
- Learning even more new anthems/carols from all ages and styles.
- Working together as a large family – encouraging and supporting each other
- Putting up with me!

and also to

- Ben, James and Sam for their skill, support and constant good humour
- Jo, Ginni & Janet for their support and encouragement of all we do
- Nicola, Julia, and all the committee for their hard work in pulling things together
- Mary and Rachel for the weekly work with the folders
- all the adults, young adults and choristers who make such wonderful music and their parents who do so much fetching & carrying
- all of you for your comments and suggestions
- and, finally, to Mary who keeps me sane – and firmly grounded in reality!

Love, Martin