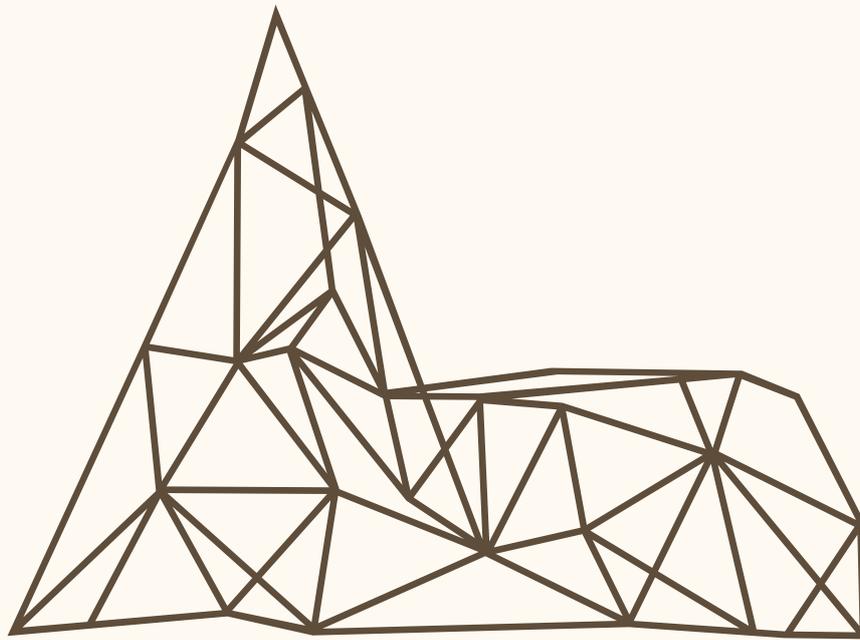


ANNUAL REPORT



ALLSAINTS HOOLE

An overview
of All Saints Church
2016/2017

Registered Charity No. 1131968

ANNUAL REPORT INDEX

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INTRODUCTION

One of the passages in the Bible to which we keep returning is Ezekiel 47:1-12 and the vision of the river of God flowing from the Temple to bring life to the Dead Sea. It's a picture which is taken up in various places in the New Testament and applied to the work of the Holy Spirit. Where the Spirit is at work he brings life to what until then was dead; he brings fruitfulness to barren lives; he brings healing. In Revelation the vision is brought to its fulfilment in the New Heaven and the New Earth – see Revelation 22:1-5.

I believe that God keeps reminding us of this truth because it tells us what kind of church he wants us to be. A church where the Holy Spirit is powerfully at work and people experience the life of God; a church whose members are bearing fruit of many different kinds on their frontlines; a church where people are discovering healing and wholeness from Jesus.

One of the expressions of that life which we have seen growing in the last year has been the missional communities – often defined as 'family on mission together'. For example, we are encouraged by the way the community which Sam and Katy lead has flourished on the Groves estate and begun to build relationships with others who live there. We are encouraged too by the start of the Garden Gate Community – the group working an allotment in Hoole and seeking to get to know others who work alongside them. Following on from the Vision Evening last autumn there are other groups beginning to meet – the Carers' Group for those with elderly relatives, the Celebrating Recovery Group for those who need to know that Jesus is the one who sets the captives free, and the group who are seeking to welcome newcomers into Hoole.

We rejoice too in Rhiannon Cooke's appointment as Café Manager and her desire that the café team should function as a missional community, knowing Jesus, being filled with the Spirit and enabled to serve those who come in to the café

We also see the life of God at work among us in the work which Helen Ellis and Tabitha Heathcote are doing with children and families, and I've been thrilled and challenged by Tabitha's reminder that it's the responsibility of the whole church to nurture the faith of our children. I know she wants to explore with parents how they can model and teach the Christian faith to their children, and how we as a church can help them do that, but she also wants to help us see that, even if we aren't part of the team who lead the children and young people's groups, we can still encourage the young people by the way we value their ministry, talk with them and pray for them.

We are also looking to appoint a new Youth Pastor in the coming months. As you know, Sam DH has led the work with 11-18s for some years now, but he will become an Ordinand (a trainee Vicar) in the autumn. His focus at All Saints will be on his work with the missional communities, in the church school, and leading services and preaching, and we are looking to appoint someone to take over the work with the teenagers from September. Please pray for Sam and his family and for the right appointment.

Come, Holy Spirit.

John Kirkland

ALL AGE WORSHIP

All Age Worship happens on the first Sunday of each month. It is a more informal service, where everyone is in the church and worshipping together. More recently we have looked at the parable of Jesus and are currently in our Jesus is series. It has been great to welcome Tabitha onto the team this year.

Tabitha is spearheading our commitment to growing our All Age Worship culture. To this end in Sunday morning worship, we have created space at the front of church where the children can come forward, sit on cushions and colourful rugs, wave flags and be at the forefront with others to help aid their growth in worship.

Sam Durdant-Hollamby

ALL SAINTS MINIS AND DINKIES



Since September, it has been a joy to welcome Tabitha Heathcote who helps out on Fridays and we take it in turns to do the talk at the beginning of the session as well as helping Katy D-H and myself with the planning. Our 'rolling' Waiting List, which I introduced a year ago, has been so helpful in keeping the register up to date as well as keeping the waiting list down to a manageable number. Parents/Carers know that they must come at least once a month to keep their place at Minis.

The "Minis Support and Pray" group continues to meet once a term, aims 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 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 in the ups and downs of parenting pre-school children.



All Saints Dinkies is the group specifically aimed at parents and their babies (i.e. those not yet walking). We currently have about 20 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 Andrea Wood and myself (front of house) and Hilary Shergold (kitchen) with occasional help from Jackie Sears.

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.

Helen Ellis

ALPHA

In 2016, we provided Alpha, Christianity Explored and Freedom in Christ, and our thanks go to all concerned, but especially to Andy for providing the catering and all our leaders and helpers, without whom these courses would not have run.

Because of the high commitment of resources for relatively few people, we decided to change the way we do Alpha etc. from September by attempting to make provision more bespoke. Courses on DVD or Flash drive, and leaders if needed would be provided so courses could be offered in homes or the Church Centre at times to suit guests.

Take up has been slow. Two Alpha courses have run, each with one guest (others dropped out for various reasons).

Freedom-in-Christ course is currently running in the Church Centre.

At the fortnightly prayer breakfast we pray that God will use and bless these activities and the people involved.

Ron Glenn



B-IT THEATRE COMPANY

Another exciting year at the B-it Theatre Company! God's faithfulness and blessing continues to pour out on us. Here are a few highlights:

We had a change of director! Sam Durdant-Hollamby stepped down and Peri Nightingale took up the mantle. Her debut show as director, Shakespeare's 'Much Ado About Nothing', was a huge success. The Youth Theatre outdid themselves once again!

The Juniors and Drama Bits joined together once again for an old classic, 'Around the World in 80 Days'. It was such fun even though there was no hot air balloon. It was time for more devising for our 2016 Christmas show. We presented 'Christmas Hits Hemsworth... Hard'. Once again, they did an excellent job working together and everyone had a brilliant time.

We were blessed to have Matt Henshaw as our intern for 2015/16 and what an asset he was! Harry Warrell and Peri Nightingale continue to teach with the addition of Emma Holt, a university student who joined us in September.

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!

God has blessed B-It so richly with leaders who are talented and generous with their gifts, and wonderful kids who are growing in confidence, community and skill and we pray that Jesus increases his power and presence amongst us.

Peri Nightingale

BUILDING COMMITTEE

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 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 done in February 2016 and as we expected, no major issues were found. We are working through a number of smaller jobs, some of which we had already got on our list of ongoing maintenance works, like renewing some guttering and downspouts. The rest of the jobs required for the Quinquennial have been put into a program of work that we are

doing over a period of time. Our lightning conductor failed its inspection last year and we have now had the work done to rectify it. We have just in the last week upgraded the lighting in Eagle, utilising the latest LED technology.

We have inspected Westminster Road Community Centre and are pleased to report that the Hoole Community Development Trust are keeping this in good order and have an ongoing maintenance and improvement program.

Storm Doris did do some damage breaking off one of the finials from above the altar area; this in turn damaged several slates. A temporary repair has been carried out to the roof but we have just invested in a tonne of reclaimed green Westmoreland Slate for ongoing repair jobs, as this is getting harder to find these days. Our stonemason has quoted to remake the finial and we are now waiting the insurance company's approval to get the work done.

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.

The Building Committee are (at the moment)

Ken Wood (Chair) Kathryn Jones (Secretary) Steve Tynegate, Roy Greenwood, Christina Beveridge and Ian Speechley

Ken Wood

CARE GROUP

The Care Group continues to provide support 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.

Visiting members in their own homes/care homes or hospital have also been undertaken. More long term regular requests for shopping and appointments are also being accommodated.

3 new volunteers have joined our team, whilst 3 members are no longer available due to health/family commitments.

Many thanks to all the Volunteers who continue to give their help so freely ensuring the Care Group continues to assist the Church family when needed. Thanks again to those not officially on the care group but whose support ensures all requests are met, which mostly involves lifts to Church on Sundays.

Care Group leaflets with details of support offered is available in Church, the list is not exhaustive and we will do our best to carry out all reasonable requests.

For any further information regarding requests for help or if you are interested in volunteering please contact Dawne on the number above.

Dawne Rendell
Care Group Contact no: 07711 425 366

CHURCH CENTRE

A spectacular year again. Our God is so faithful in all the work in our buildings, and we have seen our centre income increase dramatically this year.

New centre users include: After Adoption, Stroke Therapy, Chester Family History Society, Alateen (supporting teenagers in families with an alcohol dependent parent), ICU Steps (support group for people who have experienced Intensive Care), Magic Voices Choir, Chester Independent Living groups, Smoking Clinic, and Bach Singers. As always some have finished:- Arabic Dance, AA Wednesday evening and Chester Music Society.

Great thanks goes out to an amazing bunch of people:-

Our receptionists: Ann Chester, Pat Pawson, Helen Glenn, Michaela Barnfather and Hilary Shergold, all so very faithful in giving of their time, a heartfelt thanks to you all.

The admin team: Helen Dymond, Chantal Proctor and Elaine Hemmings.

Administrative/IT Support: John Chester, Rick Hemmings and Christopher Wilkinson.

Thanks also to Sarah Fletcher for her dedication in cleaning regularly every week.

Thanks to the Building Committee.

Thanks to everyone who supports Andy and I in prayer and encouragement. Andy has been an absolute Godsend to the work in the church centre enabling the building to be in more use and

helping to keep the high standards we value. I personally am so very, very grateful to him and Paula for their support.

Lastly, to my loving family for all the ways they support me in my role here.

Among our most regular users of the church centre (non church groups) are:- Splat Messy Play, Quit 51 Smoking clinic, CWAC Weight loss support, Pilates, Chester Philharmonic Orchestra, Slimming World, The Learning Hub, Rainbows, AA, Al-anon, Alateen, RASAC (RAPE and Sexual abuse Counselling), Class Fitness, Magic Voices Choir, SANDS (Stillbirth and Neo natal Society), Jo Jingles, Hoole Veterans Association, Deva Miniatures, Chester Family History Society, A Star Sports, U3A, Stroke Association, After Adoption, Adoption Matters, Labour Party, Chester Male Voice Choir, Chester Ladies Choir, Bach Singers, The Chester Link, Macmillan, ICU Steps.

Christina Beveridge



CHURCH WEEKEND

Our weekend away last year in Cloverley Hall was in October when the Rev Steve McGanity from Liverpool was our speaker. He spoke on 'A life of Encountering God' and it was a very encouraging time, and significant for our Church. We were pleased to share God-given insights from a number of people who were there in one of our Sunday services when we got back.

As usual it was a very happy time too with the opportunity to get to know one another better and to deepen friendships.

Our 2017 weekend away is from **November 17th-19th**. Do join us this year whether or not you've been before. I promise a good time!

Vicki Bulgin

CINEMA AFTERNOON AND NIGHT

We've enjoyed another year of amazing films and fun with the cinema afternoons and nights. The cinema afternoon always goes down well with all those we serve, enjoying the afternoon tea especially after the film. For £1.50 they enjoy sandwiches and a fine selection of mostly homemade cakes, as well as popcorn and ice cream during the interval.

If you've not experienced it, then please do talk to those who have.

Some of the many amazing words from those who come.....

"I'd rather come here for afternoon tea than The Grosvenor"

"This is better than any afternoon tea I've ever had!"

Comments like that really encourage us as a team in what we do. People have opportunities to talk with someone they haven't seen for ages, friendships made and strengthened.

The evening cinema is just as well received. We start with pizza, burgers or hotdogs, usually leftover cake as well as popcorn and ice cream and then sit back and enjoy a film for all ages. An absolute bargain and a great way to bring non-church friends into

the building and into our church family. Most people who haven't been before really enjoy the atmosphere (and the food!). It's a real blessing to all involved!

The Christmas Fair was once again successful, opening us up to our frontline community, encouraging many people who haven't been here before, many of the prayer requests really touched our hearts and all were offered up to God. Really encouraging!!

With a BBQ and other occasional events, we can end up being very busy. If you believe that God is wanting you to be involved in encouraging our church family in social activities and opening up to the community around us, we would love to welcome you to the team.

Blessings Christina, Stephen, Eve, Harrison, Patience, Elaine, Cath, Andy and Paula, and others

COSTA DEL HOLIDAYS

Costa del Holidays is All Saints' 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 recreate all the elements of a real holiday in the Church Centre and make believe for 3 days that we are in 5 star accommodation, with 5 star activities, 5 star food and 5 star service.

Last August saw us meandering along the canals of Costa del Canal Ways on our own unique narrow boats: the Knot so Fast, Knot a Clue and Knot Bovered. Our guests were able to enjoy the usual Costa activities - workshops, indoor and outdoor games,

flight simulator, films, as well as afternoon trips, or simply relax by the Peace Pool or in the lounge of the Lock Keepers Cottage.

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

Last year was the last Costa for Sheila Greenwood and Nicky Pickering, who feel that is the right time to step down from the organising team. We are very sad to see them go but are immensely thankful for all they have done since our first Costa in 2008. We have particularly appreciated their creative skills and eye for detail which have enabled us to recreate an authentic holiday in every way for our guests.

A new organising team has now formed and we are very pleased to welcome Anita Benson, Gill Brown, Vicki Bulgin, Dawn Rendell and Maria Wilkinson with all their God given gifts and talents.

This year's holiday will be 16th – 18th August and details will be available soon. Do consider joining us as either a guest or a helper. We guarantee that there is no holiday quite like a Costa del Holiday.

Elaine Hemmings

CRAFT CLUB

We have been venturing out this year. In June we enjoyed a trip to the annual Exhibition at Gresford Church and also visited Abakan at Queensferry where we had lunch and indulged in a bit of craft shopping. September began with a celebration for Jessie's wedding and then it was down to work in preparation for the

Christmas Fair when the Craft Stall raised over £450 for Life NoW. To end 2016 we had Christmas lunch together at Old Hall Farm.

More recently we have enjoyed blowing out candles with Samuel when we celebrated his first birthday and on the same day were able to link up with Paula by FaceTime whilst in hospital, we love and miss her and look forward to her return. This month we have been inspired by a speaker from the dementia friendly scheme to use our creative skills to help those living with this debilitating condition.

With all of this going on and with God's blessing and guidance and the encouragement of others we have had a very productive year as we craft our way towards our next exhibition on 21 June. So if you feel inspired and would like to join us, we meet on Friday afternoons at the back of Church at 1:30 and any and everyone is welcome, regardless of ability.

Sheila Greenwood



CRECHE

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.

Thanks go to Peter and Miriam Fitzpatrick who have been running the rota for a good part of this year and have now handed over to Tabitha.

Helen Ellis



CRIB SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS EVE 2016

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, was:

"Oh I wish it could be Christmas every day" ...That's the whole point!

As each person walked through the door they were given a little knitted stocking complete with a chocolate and a picture of baby Jesus with the words on the back "Jesus – God's gift to us". This helped us to 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, sound and visual people, welcomers, knitters and crocheters who make the Crib Service THE place to be on Christmas Eve.

Helen Ellis

FLOWERS

Katherine Perkins has very kindly taken on the role of flower co-ordinator. You can either contact her in church on a Sunday or leave a message with any of the office team or receptionists.

We have continued to make memorial arrangements on request for various members of church – if you would like a flower arrangement made in memory of a loved one, on an anniversary or even in celebration of a special birthday or wedding anniversary, then please let Katherine know the date, colours and types of flowers required, along with a donation of at least £30 and she will be happy to help.

I will still be around to take messages and no doubt do some flowers still, but as my job role increases it is important for me to encourage others to use their gifts!

Katherine has already caught the imagination of a couple of trainees so hopefully the team will grow. I'm so very pleased to have someone who is so very able to take the reins.

Christina Beveridge

FRANKS

It was a pleasure once again to be involved with the discipleship and growth of our young people this year. We finished the academic year by all going to New Wine, with our young people all serving on team. The new academic year bought new Franks. Since September we have studied Revelation Ch 1-7, Thessalonians along with the church and are currently in the book of Acts looking at the work of the Holy Spirit. We ran Encounter again this year, which was attended by young people from 8 different churches across Chester. Fun was had by all and we had the pleasure of seeing young people meet with Jesus for the first time.

Sam Durdant-Hollamby



HEART AND SOUL CAFE

Conversation - Connecting - Community

The Heart & Soul Café (formerly C Café) re-opened under new management in February, after being closed for 6 months. There was a lot of cleaning and organising to do to get it open again, but our team of willing volunteers have been a great help and are now working hard serving in the café, blessing our customers and being blessed as they find fellowship and fun working together.

Our major achievement this year has been to re-open and welcome back the mums from St Martin's School, amongst other regular customers. We are open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday (8.45am – 2pm) and on Wednesday for the ladies at BSF. My prayer is that as people enter the café they will sense a distinct and different atmosphere of love and acceptance, and find not only food for the

body, but food for the heart and soul as we engage in conversation, connect with people and develop community.

We have just launched *Bored Games Morning* on Tuesday 10-11.30am as an opportunity for people to get together and have fun playing Scrabble etc. My vision is also to put on some evening music events throughout the year and perhaps some other activities linked to the café on a Friday. If anyone shares this vision it would be great to talk to you as I will need a team of people to make it happen. I'm looking forward to seeing what God will do through the café.

Please Pray:

- for the word to spread and more people from the community to visit us
- for more volunteers to serve in the cafe
- for a deepening of relationships and good conversations as we get to know new customers

Rhiannon Cooke

HOUSEGROUPS

During this last twelve months we have been looking at the role of the housegroup leader in more detail. In many ways they are the key leaders within the church and it is their responsibility to nurture and disciple the members of their groups so that we all grow as followers of Christ. To help the leaders fulfil that task we have given them greater freedom to choose material which they believe will help their members to grow as disciples – although we will all do the same material in some terms, groups have already begun to do different material at other times. We are also exploring ways in which we can help housegroup members to support one another

more on their frontlines – one possibility is for us to find two or three other church members with whom we meet regularly to share and pray for each other, and we hope to say more about that in due course.

John Kirkland

LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Leadership Team is made up of Vicki Bulgin, Steve Tynegate, Helen Ellis, Sam DH and me and we meet most Tuesday afternoons to pray for the church, listen to God and to talk through different areas of the church's life. Where the Parochial Church Council is concerned with the governance of the church – things like finance, buildings and legal responsibilities – the Leadership Team is called to discern God's will for All Saints and to lead the church forward. We are eager to hear the ideas which God may be giving to other members of the congregation – so please do come and share those with us – and we are grateful to all those who pray for us. We also give thanks that we were able to attend the New Wine Leadership Conference in Manchester this year, which was a good time of spiritual refreshment and encounter with God.

John Kirkland



LITTLE ACORNS

Little Acorns has become a twice a month group for families who are fostering or adopting pre-school children. The needs of those families are specific and it has become such a wonderful group of mums who share a common life journey with their little ones.

We have gone through lots of ups and downs over the past year and it has been a privilege to share with them in this.

The group is still quite small and so we are able to use 'Sparrow' room and have the benefit of the crèche toys to hand. The team is myself and Debbie Wood with input from Chantal Proctor with James in tow.

Helen Ellis

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Using its new formula of three consecutive Wednesday evenings, marriage prep has continued to run smoothly and successfully. The first night is spent in the pub getting to know each other, the next two are at church. With us all leading such busy lives the aim of the course is to create an informal and relaxed environment where couples can take time to be together and talk about the things they would probably like to, but life doesn't give them much of a chance to. To help them, the couples are given exercises to aid dialogue on different areas of life, relationships and marriage. The conversations are private and led by the couples. The best compliment this year of the course has been "I genuinely thought this was going to be rubbish, and it's been brilliant." All the couples agreed they would recommend the course to others.

Sam Durdant-Hollamby

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church has continued to meet on the 3rd Sunday of each month from 4-6pm. The team has particularly welcomed Tabitha, who has brought along lots of fresh new ideas and enthusiasm into the planning and running of Messy Church. The sports stream usually has one activity that reflects the theme and we are now using the church for our time of Celebration as well as having a short time at the beginning to tell the story that we are learning about that month.

Over the past year we have learned together about Easter and the coming of the Holy Spirit, the story of Abraham and Sarah, 'Caching' on prayer topics (Messy Church's alternative to Pokémon Go!), the Prodigal Son, Salt and Light, Trust (23rd Psalm), the Angel Gabriel's message to Mary, Listening to God and Forgiveness.

The kitchen team, headed up by Debbie, continues to serve a wonderful cooked meal which, I know, is very much appreciated.

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.

Helen Ellis

MUSIC GROUP

Forming part of the WAMM team (Worship and Multi-Media) the music group is there for our Church Family to provide the music for our sung worship.

Our current team for the 10.45 service are:

On Keyboard: Sarah Mason, Cathy Batchelor, Michael Heathcote

On Guitar/Bass Guitar: Mike Walker, Jean Harrison, Paul Reeve, Harry Warrell, Rob Collier

On Flute/Violin/Clarinet: Lis Treby, Rosy Smith, Sophie Mason

On Vocals: Nicky Pickering, Jackie Sears, Rachel Collier

The 9 o' clock keyboard and organ team are:

David Pawson, Martin & Doreen Leech, Vicki Bulgin, Sarah Cornes

It is great to have welcomed Michael, who joined us for the first time in September as well as Rob and Rachel, who are now back after their break last year.

Tim Pilcher and Jim Ellis are currently taking a break from Music Group. Sadly, we will also soon be losing Paul Reeve as he moves to support Gill in her placement at St. James' Church in Elton. We are very thankful for all their contributions over the years.

Occasionally we are also joined by some of the younger members of our Church family and it is great to have them play alongside us.

Our wonderful team of Easyworship operators continue to ensure that the words and other visuals appear on the screen: Rachel

Kirkland, Vicky Pattison, Carole Frost, Matt Wilkinson and Harrison Beveridge and we are very grateful for their ministry. Since the last report, Mark Edwards has stood down as one of our operators and we thank him too for all his service over the years.

As a church family we are very blessed to have such a great group of gifted musicians supported by our Easyworship operators and sound crew, all of whom are committed to serving our church family Sunday by Sunday. Give thanks for them and continue to pray for their ministry among us.

Elaine Hemmings

OPEN TO GOD

Open to God is the time when, once a month, the church comes together to praise God, wait on him and pray for All Saints, the local community and the world. We try to spend some time praying as a group, some time praying in threes and fours, and some time praying in silence, although no-one need feel they must pray aloud during the meeting. During the last year people have shared pictures and words which they believe the Spirit has given them and we have been encouraged and challenged by those – we want to be open to what the Holy Spirit is doing in our midst today and Open to God is a 'safe space' in which to practice spiritual gifts, knowing that we all make mistakes and that no-one will think less of us if we get it wrong. In the coming months we are going to hold a special meeting as part of our involvement in the Archbishop's initiative 'Your kingdom come' (May 31st) and we will have Anne de Reybekill, recently retired as our Mission Partner in Pakistan, on June 28th.

John Kirkland

PATHFINDERS

The year started with 2:42, our city-wide 11-14s weekend away. It was a fantastic weekend and a privilege to help run. In September we welcomed Matt Henshaw and Missy Johnson to the team, as they took over the running of our 11-14s work at All Saints. They have done a fantastic job. Matt is leaving us this year to go and study and we thank him for all he's done. Together they have run Youth Alpha and done lots of work to help our Pathfinders understand services which they attend on a semi-regular basis. They have created a culture of fun, where questions are welcome as they explore a life of faith together.

Sam Durdant-Hollamby

P O S ★ D A
MAKING ROOM FOR JESUS THIS CHRISTMAS



POSADA

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 or a meal 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 on Christmas Day, complete with a small baby Jesus. This year each Posada host household and also those who came to the Crib Service received a knitted stocking made lovingly by many people from the Church family - many thanks!

Helen Ellis

PREACHING TEAM

In his second letter to Timothy, a young church leader, Paul writes of Scripture being inspired by God ('God-breathed'), 'useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness', and able to equip 'the servant of God... for every good work'. As someone who shares that conviction, I am keen that our preaching team bring that word to us in the power of the Spirit. To do so, they need to study the Scriptures carefully and prayerfully, seeking to understand them in their original context and as God's word for today, and then teach them faithfully, seeking to apply them

practically to our different situations. This is no easy task and we ask for your prayers as we try to do this more and more, in order that God will bring growth to All Saints by his word and his Spirit.

John Kirkland

SCHOOL LINK

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 me – have been joined by Tabitha Heathcote and we have looked at themes like the miracles of Jesus, Ruth, the life of Abraham, Esther, Parables and Creation.

We are also grateful to those from All Saints who serve as Foundation Governors – Steve Tynegate, Carole Frost and me. As well as several full Governors' meetings each term, we all serve on at least one committee and, in these challenging times for schools, and when Ofsted judge a school in part on the performance of its Governors, we value prayer for God's wisdom for the governing body. We are keen to see the whole school community flourish for the good of our children and the people of Hoole.

John Kirkland

SENIOR RESIDENTS' FELLOWSHIP

Senior Residents' Fellowship meet at our new regular time of 2-3.30pm on a Thursday afternoon.

During 2016 we have had many interesting speakers and have enjoyed a quiz at our tea and chat weeks. This past year, due to

the age of members and present numbers, we have been unable to arrange any outings.

During the year several members have moved away and we have lost Edna Lloyd, a faithful member who is sadly missed.

Very many thanks to Andy, Paula and all who gave their time to provide us with a fantastic Christmas lunch, enjoyed and appreciated by all. Thanks also go to the church centre staff for their continued help.

Our membership is very depleted and some younger members and younger leaders are needed.

Rene Peters

SUNDAY CLUB

Sunday Club consists of 3 groups, Scramblers (age 3 to reception), Climbers (year 1 to 3), Explorers (year 4 to 6) that meet during the 10:45 service on the 2nd to 5th Sunday of the month. Over the year the Explorers have worked their way through the whole Bible. Scramblers and Climbers have continued delving into scriptures and learning about God's love for us and how we can be disciples through story, craft, games and prayer.

A key highlight was the Nativity Service, a beautiful service where the Scramblers and Climbers recreated the Christmas story and the Explorers created a wonderful skit about what it meant to live and dance with Jesus.

In September 2016, Tabitha joined us as All Saints Children and Families Worker and in January we changed our name to

Footsteps. Our vision is to see children following in the footsteps of Christ.



In our groups, we have begun journaling and are following the teaching plan in the main service, to help families grow together. Each week we have also been adding our thanks and praise to our prayer tree (See below).



Stephen Batchelor and Tabitha Heathcote

STUDENTS

We think students are great! Having said goodbye in the summer to a number of students who had completed their courses, we were joined in September by a wonderful group of first years.

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 Gomersall, Rachel & Rob Collier, Sheila & Roy Greenwood, Yvonne Heath, Steve & Jules Tynegate, Vicki Bulgin, Rick & Jackie, Lis & Paul Treby, The Wilkinson family 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. Great fun was had on each occasion!

Student Alpha followed the Chester University Christian Union Mission Events Week at the beginning of March, and once again Yvonne and her wonderful team of cooks, along with other local churches, are providing the food for these sessions.

Once a term the University Christian Union, Chaplaincy, Catholic Society and local churches meet together to share, pray and support what is happening on campus. It is both exciting and a privilege to be a part of this.

Elaine Hemmings

THE GARDEN GATE COMMUNITY

The Garden Gate Community is a team of Christians working together with the aim of reaching out to the wider community through allotment gardening.

We have taken an allotment on the Canadian Avenue site. Work started on the project with the clearing of the allotment from weeds, brambles and other rubbish. Much digging has been done and potatoes and onions have been planted. More will be planted as the months and the digging allows.

The Lord has been good to us and we continue to trust him as we take this small community forward with His help and guidance

Paul Treby



TODDLER PRAISE

Toddler Praise meets on the 3rd Thursday morning of each month in the sofa area at the back of church. We start with 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 do fluctuate from month to month but I know that, for those who come, they very much enjoy meeting together and having time to spend with their child/ren as we learn together something with a specifically Christian message.

Helen Ellis

WELCOMERS: MEETING AND GREETING

We are very grateful to our faithful team of Welcomers on Sunday mornings. They do a great job and some have done so for many years. Thank you.

There is a real need for more people to join the team so if this is something YOU could do, perhaps fortnightly, please let us know.

We would again like to stress that 'Welcoming' is something for everybody in the Church to do, and we want to encourage us all to look out for any new people sitting near us. Please speak to them; this could make the difference between people joining us or looking for another church!

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

Vicki Bulgin
Steve Tynegate



WHO LET THE DADS OUT?

....is a group for dads and their small(ish) children and babies. It takes place on the 1st Saturday morning of each month, from 10am-12pm at Hoole Lighthouse Centre. We serve tea and filter coffee for the dads, soft drinks for the toddlers, plus biscuits and bacon butties, which are very popular!

Prayer needs: Please pray for Mark Chester and Tony Sharp from HBC who lead the group. We could also do with more dads coming from All Saints!

Helen Ellis

WIDER CHURCH – INTO ALL THE WORLD

Despite everything we read in our papers or hear in the news, God is calling many people throughout the world into His Kingdom. Recently I was encouraged to hear that in Asia and Africa the Church is growing rapidly, in fact they see Europe and the UK as a mission field. Things are changing but God is not.

Give thanks and prayers for:

- Anne de Reybekill has now returned from Pakistan and is seeking God's guidance for her future.
- Sarah Dale spent time in Uganda and Mary Smalley spent time with a mission to Native Americans this summer.
- Ben and Lucy Waugh, with their children, are shortly off to a Gulf State for language study prior to working in a country in the region.
- We are exploring a link with a rural church in South India.
- We have a regular feature in Grapevine to encourage us to pray for the Persecuted Church.
- New ventures of our loving God.

Bill Holt

AN OVERVIEW AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH 2016/17

April

'Cinema Afternoon' and 'Cinema Night'
APCM

May

Your Kingdom Come Call for Prayer

June

Church Family Barbeque
Deo Gratias Concert

July

B-It Performances
'Cinema Afternoon'

August

Costa del Canalways

September

MacMillan Coffee Morning

October

'Cinema Afternoon' and 'Cinema Night'
Church Weekend
Freshers' Fair at Chester University
Harvest Supper and Barn Dance
Launch of Operaton Christmas Child
First Student Lunch of the new academic year

November

Shoe Boxes collected

Christmas Fair
Deo Gratias Concert
Vision Evening

December

Youth Sleep Over
'Cinema Afternoon' and 'Cinema Night'
Posada
Local school carol services
Senior Residents Christmas Lunch
B-It Performances
Nativity Treasure Hunt

January

Heart and Soul Cafe Opened

February

Christingle Service
Marriage Preparation

March

B-It Performances
Lent Suppers begin