



allsaintsworcester

ANNUAL REVIEW 201

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VICAR'S REPORT

The 12 months since our last APCM have been a mix of working with the Diocese on longer term strategic plans as we prepare to become a "resourcing church" (we are expecting a formal redesignation to happen in June/July 2018), seeking to consolidate and strengthen some of our core ministry areas (notably the Pastoral Care Team and small groups), tackle some ongoing structural challenges (fabric and finances in particular) as well as seek to continually create the right environment in which we can all wholeheartedly pursue Jesus and a life of holistic, radical discipleship (through teaching series, midweek groups and events, production of small group material). Alongside all of this has been the great privilege of leading our very gifted, servant-hearted and committed staff team and ministry leaders.

The future for All Saints is an exciting one. We have some challenges to face as we transition into a "resourcing church" as we seek to ensure that our systems, structures and processes are appropriate, robust and serve the growing vision and vocation of the church.

As we go forward my prayer is that we will love one another well, pray big prayers, not allow unresolved issues to hinder our relationships and that we keep the main thing the main thing – namely worshipping God passionately with all that we are and serving the city in every way possible, but particularly those most vulnerable and left behind.

PCC

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) met nine times in 2017-2018. Some of the workload is done in "Project Groups" that meet in between full PCC meetings to investigate options, grapple with challenges and develop proposals to be considered by the PCC. These are currently: Finance & Governance, Buildings Redevelopment, Foodbank Steering Group and Mission Partner Support. We have recognised this year the importance of a dedicated Fundraising Group which will commence after Easter.

The PCC continues to seek to steward our finances well, setting budgets and monitoring giving and cashflow. It works with the staff team to ensure that the right conditions and systems are in place to facilitate mission and ministry, and looks at the redevelopment of our buildings, safeguarding, health and safety, human resources and mission giving beyond the church. In January 2018 it consulted with Bishop Graham and members of the Diocesan staff team on the transition into a resourcing church.

ELECTORAL ROLL UPDATE

At the APCM 2017 the electoral roll stood at 177. During the year 39 names were added and one name was removed. The total now stands at 215.

Rev Dr Rich Johnson
Vicar

SAFEGUARDING

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres (1 Corinthians 13: 6-7)

We want to trust and welcome everyone to become involved in our mission at All Saints, and we would not be the vibrant church that we are today, without this desire.

Safeguarding is never an easy subject to consider. If we see safeguarding as simply a set of inconvenient rules then we could potentially miss the bigger picture. It is only by setting boundaries to keep everyone safe that we can have the confidence and freedom to be fully inclusive. Safeguarding encompasses more than just the protection of children and young people. Adults can also be permanently or temporarily vulnerable and so we also have a responsibility to safeguard them. As we become a resource church, sending teams out to help others, the standards that we set must be of the highest level.

We safeguard because we love.

Current position

All Saints PCC adopted the Safer Recruitment process in 2016. The project to implement it across all areas of All Saints activity is now almost complete. As a reminder, the process is:

Application form → References → 'Interview' → DBS (if appropriate) → Appointment by PCC (by letter) → Review after six months.

During 2017, All Saints became one of the first churches in the diocese to move to a new online system for DBS checks. Volunteers report that it often takes less than ten minutes to complete the DBS online, and the system is cutting 2-3 weeks out of the end-to-end process. Our record for completing a DBS check is now less than 24 hours.

In the last 12 months more than 50 people volunteered for pastoral support roles; there were also new volunteers for Scramblers; Adventurers; Mainly Music; Youth; and the new city-wide initiative, Lightbox, that has started. As a result, the Safeguarding team have been busy. Many people have needed to be Safely Recruited, whilst others have needed a new DBS or DBS upgrade. The All Saints' team rotas are checked on a regular basis and you may have noticed that "Visitor" badges have been created for our children's work, so that parents can be confident in who we are allowing to work with their child. Foodbank has been given responsibility for the Safer Recruitment of their own volunteers. Mr Tim Clack is taking the lead on behalf of the PCC to ensure that this organisation has a visibly transparent conduct and appointments.

All volunteers who hold a DBS are required to undertake C1 Training every 3 years, but places in the diocese are often limited. Therefore, in February, All Saints hosted its own C1 Training

event with approximately 40 attendees. A huge thank you to everyone who took part in this - and if you missed it, please book onto C1 training courses as soon as you are notified of their availability!

What can you do to help us?

Ministry Leaders - Please contact Mark Carrington & Barbara Penney and Tim & Diane Marlowe know ahead of time if you are launching a new ministry, or recruiting additional team members. These individuals will guide you through the Safer Recruitment process. Please note: This also applies to one-off events.

Volunteers - If you have an existing DBS certificate, you may believe that you are qualified to start any new role. Unfortunately, this is not necessarily the case so please do check with the Safeguarding team before you begin. We can advise you as to the suitability of your DBS applicability for your new role. Please note: volunteers should only start in a role when they receive an appointment letter from the PCC.

We all have a responsibility to safeguard young people and the vulnerable in our community. The table(s) below shows what to do if are a volunteer or have a concern:

We all have a responsibility to safeguard the young and the vulnerable. If you have concerns about possible abuse (including allegations):
In an emergency, call emergency services 999
Otherwise, consult your ministry leader
Decide together whether to seek advice or to make an immediate referral to police or care services
Always contact Rich Johnson and Tim & Diane Marlow – we will also contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor
Keep a record of what happened, your concerns and your actions
Only tell others who need to know

Activity	Children	Adults
Lower risk	-- No DBS Required --	
↓	Child DBS	Adult DBS
Higher risk	Child DBS + Barred List Check	Adult DBS + Barred List Check

Tim & Diane Marlow
 Parish Safeguarding Representatives
safeguarding@allsaintsworcester.org.uk

OPERATIONS

Office move to St Helen's Church House

At the start of 2017 we received back the St Helen's Church House from a long-term lease with the city council. The lease of Unicorn Chambers was also due for renewal in August 2017, so the strategic decision was made to move the church office from Unicorn Chambers into St Helen's Church House.

The office move took place in April 2017 after a Schedule of Dilapidations was issued to Worcester City Council in order to make necessary maintenance repairs to St Helen's Church House. Due to the decrease of space, a huge sort out of the office was required, and the team has adjusted accordingly. However, there is general agreement that being next to St Helen's is a far better fit, with us being much more accessible and part of our community.

On the ending of our lease at Unicorn Chambers, All Saints was issued with a Schedule of Dilapidations from Crowngate. What was required of us far exceeded what we had anticipated. However, with the help of Grahame Lucas and members of the Diocese, negotiations meant that the list of works significantly reduced. A request was made to the All Saints community for volunteers to help with painting the three floors of Unicorn Chambers; the response was fantastic and a credit to the community. The majority of works took place throughout August and September.

Repairs, Maintenance and Changes of note

- The repair and smartening up of the St Helen's car park and grounds,
- The repair of a stain glass window in St Helen's after sustaining damage during repairs being carried out to the adjoining property,
- The repair of electrics in All Saints after a failed periodic inspection,
- The repair of the steps in the courtyard at All Saints,
- The repair of the All Saints Portakabin roof after leaks in the toilets,
- The repair of the heater at Foodbank after a breakdown during winter.

Additionally, after negative fire risk assessments in 2016 for both All Saint's and St Helen's, the 2017 inspections passed successfully.

During the summer of 2017, All Saint's was generously gifted 300 chairs from St Paul's Church, Salisbury. The chairs were collected by a team of our volunteers and are now in St Helen's, with more being stored temporarily at Worcester Foodbank.

Events of note

We are keen to see the church buildings opened up more to the community, and 2017 has seen an increase in their use. In addition to the on-going mid week groups of Mainly Music, Revive, and Youth, St Helen's is now open to the public every Friday between 10am-2pm with

volunteer guides able to provide a history of the church, and a cafe to raise funds for CAP. In 2017 we also held events for CAP, Hope for Justice, Home for Good, Foodbank, several day conferences, and Thy Kingdom Come, to name a few.

In May 2017 St Helen's hosted a welcome event for Syrian refugees who have recently moved to Worcester and this was facilitated by Kath Johnson. The event was a success, and the organisers and guests hugely appreciated our generosity and support.

During the summer, All Saint's and St Helen's played host to several of the Three Choirs events taking place in Worcester that year. The events were hugely successful and we will happily host them again in the future.

Over several days in the October half term, we hosted The Noise, an annual youth outreach event that involves several local churches.

During November, St Helen's hosted a Passchendaele Remembrance day, dedicated to the memory of the soldiers who lost their lives during that battle of WW1, a century after the event. During the day, Rev Dr Rich Johnson lead a small service of remembrance. The event was well attended by the general public as well as VIPs, with funds and awareness being raised for Worcester Foodbank and the Royal British Legion.

Our annual Victorian Fayre event took place once again, after having to cancel it the previous year in 2016 due to the St Helen's boiler failing. Our team of volunteers did a fantastic job in creating a warm and restful space in the midst of busyness of the Fayre. The event was well attended by the public, many having made us part of their annual tradition. We were able to raise awareness and funds for the charities we support, and there were many opportunities to share the gospel and pray with people.

Concluding comments

From an operational viewpoint, 2017 saw many challenges and changes take place. The items detailed in this report provide an insight into some of the things taking place behind the scenes. We are expecting an exciting 2018, so watch this space!

Mark Carrington
Operations Coordinator
mark@allsaintsworcester.org.uk

ST HELEN'S HLF PROJECT

“Church isn’t something we go, to it’s a family we belong to and everyone is welcome no matter what”. How amazing to have this amazing invitation projecting on to Worcester’s High Street!

In September 2017 we were awarded the full £250,000 Heritage Lottery Fund grant on St Helen’s Church to tackle the stonework repairs and conservation needed to make the church safe and keep it open. In addition to the HLF grant we have also secured funding from National Churches Trust, Garfield Weston, Church Care, All Churches Trust, Droitwich Preservation Trust, Lasletts and Worcester & Dudley Historic Churches.

Tenders coming back higher than anticipated mean a funding shortfall between the full scope of works specified by Nick Joyce Architects and the revised schedule of works put together to meet the funding available to us. As it currently stands areas of stonework on the south parapet and on the lower levels of the tower have been omitted.

Our appointed contractors, Sally Strachey Historic Conservation, will be on site from 12th March. The stone repairs and conservation works, including stone cutting, will be done by hand on site by a team of four stonemasons. Nick Joyce Architects will be overseeing the restoration and working closely with the contractors to ensure as much as possible of the stonework is repaired. The works are expected to be complete by July 2018.

Alongside the building repair works, the grant funds initiatives to open up the church to our community and further afield, providing opportunities for us to connect with audiences beyond those that are presently using the building and show the community who we are.

The weekly opening up of St Helen’s to the public is now underway and our St Helen’s Guides have welcomed in groups of university students, local historians and passers by seeking prayer, not to mention many curious local residents. Having sufficient volunteers to make these Friday openings sustainable is vital in ensuring we meet our HLF commitments of the church being open an additional 40 days a year outside regular hours of worship, and engaging wider audiences.

To publicise our opening times we have linked up with other churches and heritage sites within the city. We have joined the Worcester Heritage Partnership and Visit Worcestershire and have been included in both the city council and Discover Worcestershire guides.

We have put together a 'St Helen's on the High Street' leaflet and revised our longer 'History of St Helen's' booklet.

A timeline of St Helen's history, taking the form of a piece of artwork has been commissioned and is due to be installed in the church later this year.

We will soon start developing our concept for visiting school children, hopefully building on links with the cathedral to deliver this, and will need volunteers on board to make this a success.

Going forward if you are interested in getting involved in the project, either as a St Helen's Guide or in delivering sessions to school children, I would love to hear from you.

See our website www.sthelensworcester.org.uk or follow us @sthelensworcester on Facebook and Twitter to keep up with to date with the HLF project.

Stella Power
Project Manager
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PRAYER MINISTRY

Prayer ministry is praying with and for another person in the power of the Holy Spirit. As trained team members we bring people to Jesus, exercising care and safety for the individual.

Highlights from 2017

The John Peters conference held in June was well attended and John introduced an improved model for praying for people, which involves helping the individual to pray their own prayers while we are engaging the Holy Spirit on their behalf. We have now adapted the prayer ministry guidelines to include this style as our primary style for any general prayer needs. Prayers specifically for healing continue in the usual way.

We have recently recruited and trained 8 new people onto the team. The Sunday gatherings are growing in numbers and there are more opportunities for people to come forward for prayer so the extra team members have been a welcome addition.

We encourage team members to participate in the pre-gathering prayers and to pray with each other after prayer ministry sessions.

HUNGRY

Hungry has been running as a regular worship and prayer evening in St Helen's since September 2017. It is, in part, an evolution of the previously run 'SEEK' evenings. The re-naming exercise, and the change to half-termly, rather than monthly gatherings, has resulted in a fresh energy and increased attendance, with around 30 - 40 people present at the meetings.

We have run four evenings so far, with the help of a committed host team. This gathering offers extended time of worship and personal prayer ministry in addition to the time dedicated to praying for the church and wider issues. The leaders of Hungry are aiming to encourage a culture of listening to God and responding to what He is saying. So far the events have been powerful times of experiencing God's presence.

As we approach the activity that comes with the responsibility of becoming a resource church, the gathering of people who attend Hungry sense that God is calling our church community to prioritise a simple, loving, intimacy with God.

The biblical context

John 15 - Jesus is the Vine. The only way we can produce any fruit of value is to remain in Jesus.

Matthew 22 - The first and greatest command is to love God, this must come before our 'doing' for God.

Luke 10 - Mary and Martha. Mary, listening at the feet of Jesus, chose correctly over Martha's business.

Psalm 27 –

The one thing I ask of the Lord -

the thing I seek most -

is to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,

delighting in the Lord's perfections

and meditating in his Temple.

Moving forward

We have two more Hungry evenings planned in April and June 2018. We have been helping the Youth team run a similar format of prayer and worship evenings, held at Chapel House.

The Hungry team will meet with Rich and Owen before the summer holidays in order to review Hungry and then make plans for 2018-2019.

Ivanna Giles and Steve O'Rourke
On behalf of the Hungry Team

WORSHIP TEAM

In the last quarter of 2016, as a team, we embarked on a mission to study and critique the vast subject of 'worship'. Continuing into 2017, we met regularly to explore the theme of worship through Scripture, church history and contemporary culture which was coupled with thinking, prayer and reflection. We have kept a journal tracking our key thoughts and the ways in which God was speaking to us. As we step into 2018, we are going to begin to explore the implications of this journey on our current ministry and expression of worship at All Saints Worcester. This will no doubt mean creativity, trial and error, and embracing things that have perhaps long been forgotten, but it is exciting, uncharted territory that we are hoping and praying will be a catalyst for us all.

Outside of this we have added structural elements to worship in order to help to build consistency in how we lead the church in sung worship, something that has seemed necessary considering how blessed we are to have such a large and diverse team.

I'd love to take this opportunity to say another huge thank you to the worship team, sound team and those that help with projection as you all give up so much time, energy and commit so enthusiastically to your teams and the wider church family. Church literally would not work without this kind of devotion and sacrifice, and it is a blessing to serve alongside people who model this so well.

As we step into spring, we encourage you to pray for a refreshed landscape - full of colour, fresh fruit and new life. Your continued prayer and encouragement will be invaluable as we continue as a team to journey together and serve our community at All Saints and St Helen's.

Fraser Oates
Worship Team Leader

WELCOME TEAM

The Welcome team at All Saints' morning service are an awesome group of dedicated people who are prepared, week in and week out, to open doors, greet all who come in with a smile. The team give out plenty of helpful advice and tips about our church and life in our community - all in the space of a few moments of conversation as people arrive at our doors. I know from

the many positive comments I receive that a good welcome is important and appreciated by those on the receiving end.

The make-up of the Welcome Team reflects the church congregation and works well each week to ensure a warm welcome to all. It is often said that when we meet someone - or indeed visit somewhere for the first time - we make up our minds in the first 30 seconds about who and what we like. That's why the role of the Welcome team member is so important; it can make all the difference in terms of how people experience us as a body and place of worship. We aim to be friendly but not familiar, helpful but not too intrusive, and to share the love of Christ with everyone that enters All Saints. We do this in a way that hopes to enhance their visit and encounter with our Christian community.

Over the last year we have had over 40 members of the morning congregation taking part in the Welcome Team. Some people are on duty every month while others choose to volunteer for a couple of gatherings in a 4 month period. It all depends on individual choice and availability. Then there are people such as Chris Betteridge-Barker who are happy to serve pretty much every single week, which is such a great blessing to our community. Being 'on team' is certainly a good opportunity to meet people and know more fully the ways in which we try as a church to create a vibrant community.

If you feel it is something that the Welcome team is something that you would like to take part in, or even just try, I'd be very happy to chat with you about the opportunity. Being a volunteer on the Welcome Team rota is not meant to be a burden, so if you are not able to do a planned session there are always people around willing to cover

Finally I would like to say a very big thank you to Ken, Ailsa and Les for their commitment and willingness each month to be Team Leaders. Thank you to every team member past and present for their invaluable contribution to the life of All Saints - it is so very much appreciated.

John Taylor
Welcome Team Leader

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Adventurers (our Children's Church) meets every Sunday morning. We have Tumblers, (0-1 year olds) who gather in All Saints church and Scramblers (0-2 year olds) who meet in the Portakabin. We also have Explorers (3-5 year olds), Discoverers (School year 1-2) & Trailblazers (School years 3,4 & 5) who all meet together in St Helens for teaching, ministry and fun! Tumblers continues to be a success. With a number of new babies being born within the last year, this has been well utilized.

Adventurers has flourished in the last year. An informal Parenting For Faith course was enjoyed by several of the families in All Saints, and continues to have lasting impact many months later. We have seen a number of children really understanding what it means to follow Jesus and be in a relationship with Him.

Our prayer ministry with children also continues to be a special time. I recently received a story of children got a bit overexcited in the snow and got separated from their mum. When they were finally reunited the children told their mum how they had prayed specifically for a family friend to show up - and the family friend did! It is exciting that our children are learning about their Father who they can trust and rely on.

I have had many wonderful conversations with parents who have relayed stories of their children talking about what they have learnt in Adventurers, and how they are applying what they have learnt, both in school and at home.

Wider children's ministry

We enjoyed many 'one off' events throughout 2017. Some highlights include our summer party which saw St Helen's packed with children - all enjoying messy games, good food and lots of fun. It was a great opportunity to share the gospel with many of our fringe families. Similarly, our Pancake party and Easter Craft morning events were a great success, with different ages gathering together for activities, food and fellowship. In fact, many people who came were from Mainly Music, or were friends from outside the church, which is really exciting.

The Children and Families team organised Christmas activities were a highlight of 2017, with many people gathering for our family carol service. The team organised a family event, Miracle on Fish Street, which was welcomed by all. The Christingle service was a particularly special time, with over 200 people crammed into St Helen's.

The transition of Messy Church has been formed into separate activity events and has worked well. Also, we have launched a half termly disco, which has been wonderful for drawing in the community and offering something for school parents. Lots of the remarks have been around the value of gathering together and letting children just be children.

Please pray for the Children and Families team as we to continue to seek God's heart for Adventurers. Please also pray that God will to continue to use the children and families in our community, in a powerful way, in the wider life of the church.

Rhianne O'Rourke
Children and Families Worker
rhi@allsaintsworcester.org.uk

MAINLY MUSIC

Mainly Music is such a special weekly group and there are just over 40 families who are all regular attenders. When the older children moved up to school in September 2017, the group had an influx of babies and young toddlers which has changed the dynamic and brought in lots of new faces.

Mainly music is an amazing group and many parents cite it as the highlight of their week - I think this is the case for our fabulous volunteers too, despite the mayhem! I took over the leadership of the group from Rachel Colthurst in September 2017.

Already in my short time as leader at the front, we have had some special conversations around faith, baptism, abuse, mental health and the loneliness of parenting. It is a privilege to be a community where people feel that they can be honest and receive genuine love. That is the purpose of Mainly Music, we think, to simply show love; to be a place where parents and carers, no matter how frazzled can turn up and just be accepted. Where families can have a bit of a sing song, dance and have fun - and better still five minutes for a slice of cake, a (hot) cup of tea and a conversation with a friend.

We try to show the Mainly Music values of Creativity, Connection, Honour, Generosity and Celebration on a weekly basis through gifts for the children's birthday's, through regular socials with parents and carers and through opening St Helen's doors every week as a place of regular conversation, acceptance and connection.

As a team of volunteers, we've tried to encourage the families to connect with other All Saints' ministries. Some of the mums have been along to try out Adventurer's discos, craft events and film mornings. At Mainly Music we stock the Good Soil eggs and encourage donations to the Worcester Foodbank. Just recently, we've asked our families to donate stocked-handbags for the homeless or mums-in-need who maybe wouldn't get a gift on Mother's Day. Our brilliant members handed in two dozen handbags, each packed with essentials or treats such as chocolate, sanitary products, lip balm and baby wipes.

I am so thankful for the incredible team of volunteers that turn up each week to make Mainly Music happen. They are the backbone of Mainly and the reason for its success. Their capacity to love, is truly Jesus in action.

Sarah Worth

Mainly Music team leader

mainlymusic@allsaintsworcester.org.uk

YOUTH

With over 50 young people on our 'books', 2017 was a year of trying to engage every young person in something of who God is. I have never known such busy young people, so we had to get creative!

Our term card consisted of twice-monthly small groups, socials once a month, a weekly Sunday morning programme and we initiated a plug-in session for those aged 15-18 on a Sunday evening. As well as this I have been on the core team for setting up 'Lightbox' a drop-in youth café in the centre of Worcester; building bridges between young people across the city and the church. This launched on the 9th March.

Throughout Thursday evenings we have been going through youth Alpha, with the School Years 6-8's and Student Alpha with the Year 9-13's. It has been a wonderful opportunity to explore some of the questions our young people have about faith in Jesus. We were blessed to welcome Steve O'Rourke and Ivanna Giles for an encounter and prayer evening as part of this series. It was exciting to hear the young people ask for more of these across the year! Our young people are hungry to hear from God and to connect with Him in new ways. We aim to hold a number of encounters across 2018.

At the socials we often see around 15-25 young people. This is an opportunity to build community, have fun, invite friends and, often, to share a simple testimony of God at work in our lives. We have had a quiz, been bowling, played lots of wide games, and even played Rounders in the pouring rain!

After following the Year of Biblical literacy teaching on a Sunday morning, we decided to start using existing resources from Premier Youthwork Magazine from October which have proven to be a brilliant resource and guide for the leaders and young people.

We gained 12 new young people in September, as the year 6's moved up, and between September 17 and March 18 we have had over 10 other young people come along regularly to something within the All Saints programme.

Please continue to pray for the team, as we lose a number of them over 2018, that there will be new leaders rising up, excited for all God can do through our young people. And, join us, in praying for every young person to know personally what it means to be in a relationship with our Father God through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Joanne Oates

Youth Leader

youth@allsaintsworcester.org.uk

STUDENTS

We've had a great start to the academic year with a lovely group of new students forming at All Saints over the term, and it's been a great encouragement to see students already inviting housemates and course-mates along to Sunday gatherings and our student group events. We've adopted a bit of a mantra: "Eat, Pray, Love." So we've spent time eating together, praying together, and serving the community together. This has resulted in many lovely mealtimes shared (with belly-felt thanks to those that have hosted us) a good few evenings praying and delving into the Bible together, and involvement in some great projects within Worcester.

On a Sunday night back in May, after the regular 6.30pm gathering, we got in some pizzas and gathered to pray with a circle of students – we were saying goodbye to the class of 2014. These were the students starting in Worcester the same time that Laura and I were new to the city, and they have been quite a group (and we've been so glad that a good number of them have stayed around in Worcester and continue to play their part within All Saints).

The University of Worcester continues to expand, though since Easter 2017 they have been without a chaplain. This has left something of an open door for me (Owen) to be more involved within my Associate Chaplain role, most significantly helping to shape and preach at the University carol service. This access has also enabled our students (with the backing of the Student Union) to extend the Foodbank's Christmas present project to within the university. We have also been getting into halls of residence to wash-up peoples kitchens and engage students, and we went out during freshers week to be a helpful presence among student clubbers. The latest on campus opportunity is an experimental weekly "Lent Prayers" that again has enjoyed the full support of the SU marketing machine.

Pray for further opportunities and favour within the University. Pray for the provision of the next student team. Pray for boldness among our gang of students and pray for the many going through their student years in Worcester without currently any thought to Jesus – we want to see so much more.

Evie Follett and Owen Gallacher
On behalf of the Student Team

REVIVE

Revive is a women's group for all ages. We meet weekly on Wednesdays 10-11.30am, and enjoy lots of fun, laughter, fellowship with plenty of tea and cake.

We follow a theme every half term and began the year with thankfulness; what we have to be thankful for, and what God is doing and saying in our lives.

We have been looking at prophecy too, and Ivanna has been our guest speaker twice to speak about prophecy and encourage all of us. Other guest speakers include Allan from Foodbank, and Fiona from CAP, and we commit to praying for them regularly. We have also looked at how to share Jesus, our testimony, and had fun with a little role play.

Other times we have mornings of worship, prayer, and bible study.

Once a term we do Revive cafe. This helps to raise money for Ubuntu, a charity that supports children with special needs in Uganda (a project Mary is involved with). We hold a second-hand sale and invite people in from the streets of Worcester, offering hospitality.

Once a month we have craft morning (led by Diane). This is for all abilities and is designed for us to bring along our friends and neighbours to.

Lyn Tressider

PASTORAL CARE

Caring for one another at All Saints is a key aspect of who we are.

In 2017 we launched our new Pastoral Care Teams through which we have been able to offer help and support to those in various kinds of need. Our care for one another flows out from the love we ourselves have first encountered with God. Pastoral care is about developing quality relationships and encouraging each other in our discipleship. It includes all aspects of healing in spirit, mind and body, as we reach out to others with God's love.

Of course, all of this is only possible because of those who volunteered to help, so a huge thank you for your contributions so far.

In order to keep up to date with those who have previously volunteered, the Church Office will be in contact with those who registered interest during 2017 to see if who is still happy to be on the list of willing helpers. We are also always happy to hear from new volunteers.

We are currently looking for somebody to be the second Practical Care Co-ordinator. Whilst offering a vital part of our care, this will not require a huge time commitment. The role involves talking to the person in need to determine exactly what practical help is needed. This may typically be offering help such as one-off gardening, decorating, rota for lifts to church or organising hospital visits.

The Practical Care Co-ordinator would then contact volunteers, who have the correct DBS clearance, in order to coordinate the help required. If you would be interested in helping with

this role then please contact Barbara Penney at the All Saint's Office who be happy to give you a Role Description Form and/or please do come and talk to me in person.

Together we can and have made a difference.

Heather Christmas
On behalf of the Pastoral Team

SMALL GROUPS

It has been exciting to see all our existing small group continue to grow and thrive. This is in part due to attempts to provide greater, more targeted and relational support to small group leaders as they have wanted or needed it, as well as the now normal process of providing small group study material to accompany our Sunday teaching series (something we began for the Year of Biblical Literacy in 2016). This takes pressure of small group leaders when groups are keen to delve deeper into the Sunday teaching and frees them up to focus on caring for and discipling one another.

We are excited that four new groups have recently started. This brings the total to 16. This has created much needed capacity for growing numbers of people keen to root themselves in authentic and accountable Christian community, which as we saw in the first round of "Practicing the Way of Jesus" teaching is so essential if we are to become all God has for us.

Rev Dr Rich Johnson
Vicar



CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY DEBT CENTRE

2017 has been an exciting year with new opportunities and challenges. Fiona Jones was appointed as Debt Centre Manager in June and she started seeing clients in September of the same year. Dave Christmas continues in his role as Debt Coach, together with many volunteers who continue to support this community project.

Client outcomes

Debt has a devastating effect on people's lives in so many areas from stress and depression to eviction, relationship breakdown and even suicide. It is an honour to meet face to face with these people, to give them new hope to a life free from debt. During 2017, 25 people called head office to make an appointment. Of these, we saw 22 clients to help them start on their journey out of debt.

Currently, we are supporting 14 clients; three-quarters of these are already paying in to a CAP plan, or are about to start soon. The others are still in the early stages of receiving visits from us in order for us to get the necessary information for our head office to prepare a budget and recommend a route out of debt.

Volunteers

We have a great team of volunteers who continue to support the work of CAP. Thank you all so much. Prayer requests are regularly emailed out and we have a monthly meeting in St Helen's church.

Since July, we have added to the visiting team. Volunteers willingly give up their time to support the debt coach on client visits. Afterwards, they offer on-going contact and support with the client as they journey out of debt. Our team also deliver Christmas hampers, which are supplied by Foodbank, and send birthday cards.

Referral agents and the wider community

CAP has recently started to re-connect with other organisations who can refer clients to us. Such examples include social services, the NHS, housing associations and children's centres to name but a few. As an organisation, we also have a regular presence in Foodbank.

In March 2018, Fiona will meet with church leaders in Worcester in order to develop links with them and to ask if we can communicate with their parish about CAP's work in the city. This in turn, will hopefully lead to possible financial support.

Funding

In January 2018, we applied for the Hopmarket Grant and later in this month to the Kildare Trust. There are also plans for CAP to apply to the Santander Community Fund.

Other activities

The CAP café is now weekly on Fridays. Our volunteers regularly pray with clients, provide information about church services and invite them to events, such as the carol service of Christmas 2017. In January 2018, a CAP Money course was held. The last CAP Job Club ran just before the summer of 2017, but participation remains very limited. In December 2017, Neil Silverthorne and Dave Christmas manned a Job Club stand at the Worcester County Council Supporting Families back to Work event.

We are holding a client event on 28th April 2018. This will be an opportunity for our clients to meet one another. This will be hosted by our head office evangelist Rod Williams who will perform a magic show, share the gospel and give share his testimony.

Prayer request

Our team requests prayer for our CAP clients who are facing their fears, learning to juggle tight budgets and coping with other personal issues. Please prayer for the wisdom, support and guidance to maintain a sustainable debt centre. Also, please ask God for a successful client event. For opportunities and support of the other existing CAP activities; CAP Money and CAP Job Club and for future funding of this very much needed work in our city.

Fiona Jones
CAP debt centre manager
fionajones@capuk.org



FOODBANK

Worcester Foodbank is run by All Saints Church in partnership with local churches in Worcester, and under a franchise from the Trussell Trust.

Poverty is real and all around us in Worcester. Operating Foodbank is not easy. Visiting Foodbank as a client is not easy. Talking about Foodbank is not easy.

Our aim is to provide support to people in crisis. Individuals and families are referred to us from a network of over 120 care professionals who know and understand the needs of their clients. They can give them a Foodbank Voucher to enable them to visit us. We provide food

parcels (to last at least 3 days – 10 nutritionally balanced meals), toiletries, household/cleaning items, toys and clothing for children, and a listening ear to signpost people where needed.

The figures tell a sad story: In the last twelve months we have provided food for over 61,000 meals, feeding 6,100 adults and children, using over 60 tonnes of food. That is 61,000 separate occasions on which someone would have gone hungry were it not for a foodbank parcel that fed them. What would they have done otherwise? We also provided about 600 birthday and Christmas gifts of new toys for children of families who are referred to us.

In fact, we have been so busy, demand has grown so much that we had to move to larger premises in July 2016 and expand our food collection arrangements.

The generosity of Worcester people is amazing. In the last twelve months alone, we have received food donations valued at about £120,000. New toys are donated valued at about £10,000. Volunteers give their time valued at about £65,000 (we don't have any paid staff). Financial donations from charities, churches, businesses and individuals amount to about £30,000 a year. A total of £225,000 worth of donations. This still leaves us with a challenge of raising a further £15,000 per year to ensure we can continue delivering this service.

The stories told us by clients are sad: and there are plenty, and they make your heart ache. But their stories are the real issue:

- How Foodbank makes a difference to people's lives is what it is all about.
- How Foodbank helps to improve our local environment through the wellbeing of individuals is what it is all about.
- How we show those less fortunate that they are loved and someone does care, is what it is all about...

It is over 5 years ago that Worcester Foodbank opened its doors to help those in crisis. It exists thanks to the vision and passion for this work given by God to Ann-Marie and Laurie Ison. This was later carried forward by Colin Whitehead and is now managed by an amazing team of about 70 people who manage and run Worcester Foodbank.

We work in partnership with the Trussell Trust. Their strap line says Challenge Poverty, Meet Needs, Transform Lives. That is what we do.

Foodbank is not just about feeding clients and sending them on their way. It's about restoring their hope of a happier and more sustainable future where they can stand on their own two feet again. Crucially it is about putting them in a better place to enable them to address the root cause of their crisis and food poverty.

People's stories are heart breaking:

- The 10-year-old who gave up her birthday to save her parent some money.
- The young man who lost his business through a defaulting customer, then lost his partner

and his sense of direction.

- Donors saying “you helped me and I want to help you. If it were not for foodbank I would have had to resort to stealing food” or “I would not be here today”
- The family whose Christmas toys and Foodbank food hamper were lost in a burglary less than a week before Christmas
- Person got a job and benefit stopped immediately but won't get paid for several weeks
- The women waiting for her appointment to have PIPs reassessed, benefits stopped in the meantime – appointment will take up to 4 weeks to come through – no income in the meantime.

People tell us their stories and a common theme is food poverty caused by the benefit system and benefit sanctions. Very often the circumstances that lead to a sanction are through no apparent fault of the client. The system seems to assume guilt and give no chance to prove otherwise. We work hard to negate abuse of Foodbank. The Benefit system also has to be carefully controlled to avoid abuse, but sanctions and cuts to benefits seems to be a sledge hammer to crack a nut, and this affects the most vulnerable in our community.

Our aim is to close... because we are no longer needed. We work with the Trussell Trust to lobby those in power and authority both locally and nationally to help decision makers better understand where the system is failing to serve the people we see in crisis.

How can you help? If you want to volunteer speak to Grahame or contact the church office or direct to Foodbank (email and web address below). We would love to see more All Saints people volunteering or watch out for volunteering opportunities at our regular Saturday supermarket collections.

Grahame Lucas
Worcester Foodbank Manager
info@worcester.foodbank.org.uk
01905 780400

WORCESTER ABOLITIONIST GROUP

The Worcester Abolitionist Group supports the anti-modern slavery organisation which many people in our community know to be Hope for Justice. Our aim is to make Worcestershire a hostile place to modern slavery.

An exciting development for our group in early 2018 has been to join with St Georges' Church, among others across the Worcester, to meet and pray together. We meet monthly praying for the fight against slavery in our city, our country and internationally.

Our annual fundraiser, the Hope for Justice Coffee Morning, was last held in May 2017 and was a great success. Our volunteers were able to invite shoppers into St Helen's church from the High Street to join us for coffee. This event was a great fundraising opportunity for Hope for Justice and was pivotal in raising awareness about the issue of modern slavery.

As we look to the year ahead we would like to invest time in raising awareness of the issue of modern slavery among to those in our community. Please join us in prayer as we will consider how best to advocate on behalf of victims in our community across Worcester and beyond.

Steph Joiner & Tom Collins

On behalf of the Worcester Abolitionist group

(Known to our community as: Hope for Justice)

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