

allsaintsworcester

The Parish of St Nicholas and All Saints with St Helen



Mission & Ministry Review 2014 – 2015

Vicar: Rev Dr Rich Johnson
Registered Charity No. 1128121
All Saints Church Centre, Unicorn Chambers, Chapel Walk, Worcester, WR1 3LD
01905 734625

Contents

Introduction	2
Vicar's Report	3
Electoral Roll Update	4
Summary of PCC Activity 2014-2015	4
Fabric Report	5
Mission Support	6
Worship Gatherings	7
Operations	9
Worship Team	10
Sound Team	11
Welcome Team	11
Prayer	12
Small Groups	14
Children's & Families Work	14
Youth	17
Students	18
Mainly Music	19
Men's Ministries	20
Women's Ministries	21
Mentoring	22
Alpha	24
Parenting Children Course	24
Foodbank	25
CAP	26
CAP Money	27
PhotoFit	28
Hope for Justice	29
Worcester City Centre Chaplaincy	30
Bellringing	31
Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	31

Introduction

Welcome to the Mission and Ministry Review 2014-2015! This is one part of a two-part annual review seeking to offer a summary and overview of our shared mission and ministry life; the other part being the legal accounts and financial reporting.

As always, trying to capture what it is to be “All Saints” is hard. Words and reports only go so far. But we trust that these pages will give the reader a sense of what we have been up to for and with God over the last 12 months!

Rev Dr Rich Johnson

Vicar of the Parish of St Nicholas & All Saints with St Helen

March 2015

Vicar's Report

This has been a big year for All Saints, with some big changes, some highs, some lows, some breakthroughs and some ongoing challenges. There have been miracles of grace, and times of loss. There have been “welcomes” and “goodbyes”. There have been holy moments, and “what-just-happened-there?” moments. This is the church. Beautiful, messy, glorious, broken, hopeful, helpful, joyful. It's family.

2014-2105 began with the loss of three precious women, all to the ravages of cancer. We miss Gwenda, Norma and Denise and pray on for those left behind.

In June we welcome Owen, Laura & Carys Gallacher to the staff team. We celebrated with Owen as he was ordained a deacon, and with Peter Davies as he was ordained a priest. And then in July we said goodbye to Eoghan, Becky, Rachel, Abby and Evie Heaslip. We sent them out with our prayers, support and encouragement as they returned to Dublin to plant Icon Community.

In September we welcomed Rhi O'Rourke to the staff team as our Children & Families Worker. As the autumn term progressed we said a huge thank you to Christine Haig as she ended her employment on the staff team. And then in February of 2015, we welcomed Philippa Barton to the team.

Throughout these times of loss and change, we've seen a constancy in the life of the church; the faithfulness of God in our corporate life, the ongoing love demonstrated to one another, people joining the church, fruit in our mission and ministry initiatives and continued discipleship growth in the lives of many.

As I look back, I honestly think God has used all of the last year to make us a more holy, loving and outward looking church. We are more united, more committed, more determined!

Highlights of the past year must include (in no particular order):

- creative, fun and full Christmas carol services
- a brilliant week at New Wine in August
- the provision of new staff members to key roles
- growth of our student ministry and the 6.30pm gathering
- some important teaching series that have helped our discipleship
- the growth and development of both Foodbank, CAP and Hope for Justice
- people coming to faith on our Alpha course
- fun Thank You party for our many volunteers
- biggest and best yet Firework Party

I will say more at the APCM on what lies ahead, but wish to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all for the huge contributions you make to the life of our church family. And on a more personal note, thank you also to

those of you who pray for us as a family, serve and help us practically and who bless us in unexpected and undeserving ways. We value you and your kindness hugely!

*Rev Dr Rich Johnson
Vicar of the Parish of St Nicholas & All Saints with St Helen
February 2015*

Electoral Roll update

At the Annual Church Meeting in 2014 there were 176 names on the Electoral Roll. During the year twelve names were added and seven removed, bringing the total at March 2nd to 181.

*Jeanette Martin
Electoral Roll Officer
February 2015*

Summary of PCC activity 2014-2015

The PCC met 10 times in the last year and has worked hard as always! The Standing Committee of the PCC also met twice.

The main areas of discussion and achievements have been:

- Discerning how best to ensure good financial planning and monitoring (see Finance Report and the Annual Report 2014)
- Ongoing development of support for mission partners
- Deliberations over how best to tackle our fabric challenges
- CRB checks
- Health and Safety
- HR matters
- Fabric matters
- Deanery Synod involvement

Further details of these things are available in the PCC Minutes which are available from the PCC Secretary upon request.

The Project Groups (sub-committees) approach to tackling the larger workload of the PCC has once again been valuable. They were organised as follows: Finance & Governance (led by Grahame Lucas) and Buildings Redevelopment (led by Anita Marles).

We are grateful for the work of Andy Sheppard, Ken Couper, Joanna Harper and Grahame Lucas whose terms of office come to an end at the APCM.

*Paul Wilcox & Anita Marles
Church Wardens
February 2015*

Fabric report

This has been a productive year on the fabric front, with plans now gathering momentum for the repair and redevelopment of our buildings. As always, there is a tension between remedial repairs and funding those, and the longer term redevelopment of the buildings, and the PCC continues to prayerfully discern this.

All Saints building:

- Annual tests have been conducted on the organ, clock, heating, PAT testing, gutters, fire checks
- Quinquennial Inspection is due to be undertaken in 2015
- Repairs to the clock have been approved including making safe the clock face. Replacement of the mechanism is deferred until funds become available.

St Helen's building:

- Annual tests have been conducted on heating, PAT testing, gutters, fire checks
- Quinquennial Inspection is due to be undertaken in 2015
- Dilapidations settlement received from the Diocese in the amount of £132,000.00
- Discussions with BT over legality of BT broadband box installation outside are ongoing

Planned remedial works and improvements funded by dilapidations funds include:

- Urgent QI items
- Secure storage solution
- Installation of a commercial dishwasher and heating cupboard
- Improvements to toilets
- Lighting Design
- Audio Visual equipment replacement and enhancement

*Anita Marles
Church Warden
February 2015*

Mission Support

During the year those involved in Mission Support, along with the wider PCC, have continued to think through and develop this area of church life. As well the agencies or people that each of us in church choose to give to individually, we continue to value our corporate giving to a range of different Mission Partners. Our Mission Partners this year have been:

Local:

Good Soil Project (£1145)

Tolladine Project (£1145)

National:

CPAS (£1000)

CAP (£1000)

International:

Stephen & Diki Hawkins – Word of Life Trust – India (£2000)

Wim & Bertha Schoonbee – CMS – Rwanda (£2000),

James & Emily Roe – YWAM – East Asia (£2000)

Jonathan & Carita McCririe – LIV Village – South Africa (£2000)

Money was also set aside as part of:

Vicar's Discretionary Missionary Support Fund – this allows for focused, one-off giving to those engaged in missionary work here or overseas when there is a need for financial assistance

Church Link Fund – there is an ongoing discussion around establishing a link with a parish church in the Diocese of Morogoro (Tanzania) as part of the Worcester Diocesan partnership, which the PCC is prayerfully considering

A new website page and noticeboard at the back of All Saints have helped to raise awareness about the different mission partners and share their updates to us. Those who act as 'Champions' or links for the different international partners continue to play a vital role in helping the rest of the church to connect with and support the partners in appropriate ways.

It was great to be able to welcome the Schoonbees and for those who wanted to, to be able to meet over lunch to hear more about their work. During the Roes time back in the UK, it has and will be great to hear about their work in a variety of different settings.

There is an ongoing need to continue to develop this area of church life and there are lots of opportunities for those keen to support and encourage as well as learn from our mission partners. The hope going forward is that others will be able to get involved with Mission Support and that as a church we will continue to prayerfully consider our corporate giving and partnerships.

Laura Handy

Ordinand

February 2015

Worship Gatherings

(i) 10.30am Gathering

The 10.30am gathering continues to be the primary gathering context of much of our church family, although increasingly we see attendance overlap between the 10.30am and 6.30pm gatherings, particularly with students and young adults helping serve in the morning.

We have seen some move on to other churches or away from Worcester, and many others join us. The noticeable change in attendance patterns over the last few years, with people coming on average twice a month now, means there are some significant challenges to address on how to ensure people feel connected and integrated, and on how best to teach and invest in the community.

We have worked hard to make the most of the current pattern of gathering formats, which include All-Age, Communion and Celebrations. All-Age has changed hands from Carla Lavarack and Louise Harris to Rhi O'Rourke and we are experimenting with a slightly different approach to these gatherings. We have sought to create a range for formats for the Sundays we celebrate communion, with some more liturgical than others and seeking always to integrate communion well into the overall flow of the gathering.

We have enjoyed and appreciated some great guest speakers over the last 12 months, including James Lawrence (CPAS), Gavin Calver (YFC) and Caroline Phelps.

The worship team have grown significantly in the last 6-8 months and this has been most noticeable at the 10.30am gathering where our sung worship has been more consistent and of a higher standard.

The incredible effort of the Welcome Team and gathering hosts as well as the willingness of small groups to facilitate hospitality is hugely appreciated and vital!

Rev Dr Rich Johnson

Vicar

February 2015

(ii) 6.30pm Gathering

Sunday evening gatherings continue to punctuate the week in a special way as the St Helen's building plays host to a pleasingly mixed crowd; younger adults, retirees, YMCA residents, youth, students, off-duty parents, visitors, and curious wanderers have all regularly found their place among us.

The rhythm of worship spans a wide range from full liturgical communion services (complete with live-soundscape) to spacious 'soak' evenings, but somehow it all seems to hang together coherently, based around a strong sense of people meeting with God and each other.

Since September we've looked to further enhance the sense of people coming together by having an earlier start time and setting up the space sideways. Judging by the heckling that the more intimate set up seems to have afforded and the numbers joining the post-gathering pub trip each week, both efforts can be judged to have pulled us in the right direction.

The teaching echoes the morning gathering about half of the time, which leaves some space for the 6.30 gathering to do its own thing. In the autumn this was a series reading through Colossians, which heard the gospel invitation to live out lives "subverting the empire" and explored what it might mean for us to defy today's 'empire' of a globalised Western consumerism.

To this end, it must be happily noted that we enjoy a large core of 'non-consumers'. The whole gathering is made possible by all those committed to serving with host teams and in the band, etc. It's the homemade cakes, the smiling hosts stood outside in the cold, the innovative musicianship, the countless above and beyond, that make the 6.30 gathering a real treat to be a part of.

Owen Gallacher
Curate
February 2015

(iii) Thursday Gathering

The Thursday Parish Communion, which is celebrated at 10.30am in All Saints Church, is a weekly gathering with a Eucharistic focus using modern Common Worship liturgy. The fellowship of this gathering, meeting in a simple circle around the Lord's Table in the Chancel, is marked by many long-standing church friendships some spanning several decades of the life of All Saints. Whilst the Service is 'said' we do sing a hymn a cappella and the teaching programme follows the Lectionary readings for the day and the season. Prayer for healing with anointing and the laying on of hands is routinely offered and prophetic words of scripture are received for the strengthening of those facing illness and life's challenges. This group is especially marked by its prayerful support for one another and for those now frail and less able to venture out with safety and ease. Our God is a God of surprises, and one of the surprises of Thursday mornings is that 'strangers' see the North door open, the lights on and come in to join us ... the gentleman waiting for his car to be serviced ... the woman seeking the miraculous ... or the students on the building and construction course at the College, next door ... and the Dean from an American cathedral!

Rev Peter Davies
Curate
February 2015

Operations

At the core of my role as Operations Manager is my desire is to facilitate people serving and ministering in their God given callings. This involves creating systems, coordinating events and regular activities and facilitating people engaging in mission and ministry and overseeing the upkeep and use of the buildings. In the past year this has expressed itself in the following.

Many people have continued to volunteer to join various teams to make events happen. This year we once again held a Bonfire and Fireworks Party at Top Barn Farm, which saw 300 people enjoying the evening together.

We have also been able to organise Gifts for Mothers Day, Fathers Day, enjoy a church lunch together and seen us decorating the church for special events such as Easter and Christmas. These have seen a team of creative volunteers engaging in cutting, sticking, wrapping, holding cellotape, encouraging, cleaning and making regular visits to the Worcester Recycling Centre. Thank you to everyone for the part you have played.

The Thank You Party was once again a time when we were able to express thanks to all who serve in ministry areas in the church. None of the above would have happened without the help of volunteers, whether their contribution was seen or unseen. I would like to thank everyone who has helped to make things happen in various ways.

Keeping All Saints and St Helen's clean and ready for use saw a change in staff this year. Veronica Andrews who previously served in the role of Cleaner was greatly missed and my heart felt thanks goes out to her for her commitment and attention to detail when she served in this role. Stella Power has now replaced Veronica and she has quickly settled into the role, which can be a repetitive and lonely job. Her commitment and attention to detail has enabled gatherings and groups to use the buildings to their full potential, and I want to thank her for all she has achieved in the short time she has been with us.

In November we were able to acknowledge and thank Christine Haig as she due to ill health saw her finish in her role as administrator. This was a big change for the office, as Christine has served in this role for 7.5 years. She has been greatly missed not only in terms of the job function she fulfilled but also for her sense of fun and laughter and I have missed my daily contact as a friend.

There has also been an increase in the use of the Church Centre as we have continued to realise and experience the versatility of the available spaces. Various groups have been enabled to meet. Weekly groups such as Tribe and Clan, Revive, Adventurers, and also courses such as CAP Money Course, Connect, Ministry Leaders Training Days and a Regional New Wine leaders day, Foodbank, to name but a few have been held.

The Centre also provides a working space for all the team, including Laura Tiffney and Tim O'Leary who joined as Interns last September along with

Philippa Barton who joined the team in February. We have been able to continue creating and developing administrative systems in the office to facilitate all the various aspects of ministry, and to coordinate all aspects of the various weekly gatherings.

Maintenance of the buildings and heating systems, keeping calendars up to date, planning and coordinating the terms events and adjusting to various situations and maintenance issues that unexpectedly arise week on week, are all part of the day to day tasks. This year I have appreciated all who have supported me by volunteering their time in severing in various roles. It has been an honour and a blessing to work with them. Thank you to you all!

Jeanette Martin
Church Operations Manager
February 2015

Worship Team

The worship team is in great health, and this is in large part down to the hard work of the whole team who have been seeking to develop our sung worship. The appointment of Tim O'Leary as a worship intern for 2014-2015 has had a huge catalysing effect on much of that work and we are thankful for his leading and work to facilitate others and increase team collaboration.

The band are now rehearsing more regularly and enjoying whole band development nights, which have been a great way to integrate new worship leaders and musicians and to learn new songs together.

The band have worked hard to provide exceptional sung worship at our Christmas services and to improve our sung worship on Sundays. The majority of the team were able to attend the New Wine Worship School in Gloucester in the autumn which was hugely helpful.

Going forward we are looking to recruit more musicians, train and raise up younger musicians and to continue the development trend currently being experienced and enjoyed.

Rich Johnson
February 2015

Sound Team

We assist in making sure that at each meeting the leaders and speakers can be heard comfortably. There is a hearing aid loop system in both buildings. We also work closely with the Bands of musicians who lead us so well in times of musical worship.

Having digitally recorded the meeting we provide CD copies to anyone who asks for one after the service in All Saints, and post copies to those who we know are absent through illness or have previously asked for copies to be sent to them. The talks are also put up on our website.

There are more midweek meetings starting up and, when needed, we provide PA for these. If the midweek meetings are for groups with specific interests, then we try to train up PA operators from those attending, just for those groups.

We are looking forward to developing the PA facilities in St Helen's, with the possibility of adding some digital equipment and other possible improvements.

The musicians and PA team members have been faithful in their service and we appreciate their time commitment in preparation, setting up the equipment, rehearsing, and packing up. I want to say a big thank you to Andrea, Paul, Mark and Andy, the hard working and loyal team who have provided our PA Ministry over the past year.

Peter Belham
February 2015

Welcome Team

There is a fairly well known saying that it is everybody's job to be a welcomer in church, and in particular to help newcomers and visitors feel at home when they come into All Saints. While this is an important truth, it is also key that we have a dedicated group of folk who are committed to being that first contact point when people arrive in the building for the Morning Service. The 'Red Badge' Team are an amazing group of individuals who go out of their way to reach out to regulars and new alike.

The Welcome Team seems like a pretty good place to start in terms of getting to know more about life at All Saints, and quite a few people fairly new to the church have volunteered to help out with this ministry. It should never be a chore, but rather something that folk are willing to try out so that they can get to know others, and also find out about other aspects and opportunities for becoming involved. Some folk serve for a few months, while others love doing it so much it becomes a regular commitment.

Generally individuals will be 'on team' about once a month (more or less depending on their choice), though some enjoy welcoming so much that they are available far more frequently, which is a real blessing for all concerned.

We try to ensure that there are around 6 people available each week. This provides plenty of flexibility, so that if it doesn't suit a team member to be on duty on a particular week then it should never be problematic.

In the last few months there have been a number of comings and goings, with people getting involved in other ministries, moving on to other things or taking a break from the rota. There are currently around 30 people available to be on the Welcome Team, but there is always room for more! It is an important element of church life and we are incredibly blessed by, and grateful for, everyone who has been and is a part of the team - thank you to each one of you who has given of your time and yourself in this way.

John Taylor
February 2015

Prayer

(i) SEEK

Our monthly "SEEK" prayer gatherings (usually on the 1st Wednesday of each month) are hugely important to the life of All Saints.

SEEK has a very simple ethos: we gather to seek God together. We have a very loose agenda, basing the evening around sung worship, prayer ministry and Spirit-led intercession. This creates a healthy blend of encounter and intimacy with God, and effective praying for the church and our city. It also allows us to teach into prayer and ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Rev Dr Rich Johnson
Vicar
February 2015

(ii) ePrayer Chain

The ePrayer chain came into being several years ago so that everyone who wanted to be involved in intercessory prayer could find out about urgent prayer needs more quickly than would happen through announcements and prayer in church. Email has helped us to reach across the inevitable gaps that arise in our gathered and eclectic church and complements the wide variety of prayer ministry and prayerful lives of the All Saints community.

One-hundred and fifty-nine ePrayers were sent out in 2014 to about one-hundred and twenty email addresses many of whom worship at All Saints but also to others worshipping at other Worcester churches and beyond. This ministry not only addresses urgent pain and sorrow but also the joy and thanksgiving for answered prayer.

Would you like to join this ministry? The ePrayer address book is confidential; ePrayers are sent 'Bcc' so that others, and more importantly spammers, do not get to know who else receives them. To start receiving ePrayers, send an

email to peter@allsaintsworcester.org.uk marking the subject line 'Subscribe ePrayers'.

*Rev Peter Davies
Curate
February 2015*

(iii) Prayer ministry

The Prayer Ministry team have continued to serve during both Sunday morning and evening gatherings. As we remain committed at All Saints to being led by the Spirit and seek to be empowered to serve God in our lives, standing with others as God ministers continues to be an important part of this.

During this year more people have been responding and asking for prayer, which has been brilliant to see. There have been many occasions when the Prayer Ministry team have had the privilege of standing with someone and praying as God has been doing very significant things in people's lives. It has been particularly great to see many come forward for ministry for the first time and having fresh encounters with God in a variety of different ways.

The team continues to be identified by yellow badges, in order to create a safe environment where people can come for prayer during and after gatherings.

Although a few more people have joined the team, the hope is that across the church people will increasingly become confident and comfortable to minister to others in this way. We would love to hear from anyone who feels that they would be able to be available at times on a Sunday to stand with others.

We would also like to encourage people to ask the team to pray after any Sunday gathering, as well as during specific ministry times.

Alan and Barbara Penney have recently taken over oversight of this area of ministry and are looking forward to developing the team as well as helping people and groups across the church to grow in this area.

*Laura Handy
Ordinand
February 2015*

Small groups

The small group life of All Saints is key to our health as a church. There are currently 12 groups with three new ones starting after Easter 2015. Small groups remain the core place of belonging and care for members of the church. Each group has its own pattern of meeting and particular emphasis, but all are committed to discipleship, the scriptures, caring for one another and prayer.

We are so thankful for the huge amount of time and energy that small group leaders give to their groups.

As we go forward we are going to be increasing the level of training and support for small group leaders and integrating a holistic strategy across all ages in the church.

*Rich and Kath Johnson
February 2015*

Children & Families work

(i) Children's Church

When I started the job of Children & Families worker in September 2014 I initiated a survey about what parents and children thought of the children's ministry we were offering at All Saints. Much of the feedback was very positive, with great appreciation for those that lead and run groups, and high praise for the people involved in All Age services and the monthly Children's Celebration. A common thread that ran through these surveys, however, was that there was a lack of continuity and cohesiveness, especially during our Sunday morning age groups.

As a result we decided to rebrand all of Children's Church, and have ended up with the following.

Adventurers (overarching name for all our Children's Ministry), made up of the following groups:

Scramblers (0–2's) – led by Joy & Tom Pollock, supported by Philippa Barton
Explorers (3–5's) – led by Kath Johnson, Andy & Ruth Shepherd, Alice Pirrie, Rose Collins & Carla Lavarack
Discoverers (Years 1–2) – led by Zoe Silvester, Chris & Ivanna Giles, Steve O'Rourke, Laura Tiffney & Louise Tindall
Trailblazers (Years 3–5) – led by Anita & Kwesi Marles, Mark Seyler & Kate Rimell

Scramblers

Scramblers meet in the cabin, which is conveniently situated next to the loos and close to the church building. In the summer we make use of the courtyard space with water play and outside toys. In the cabin, we have endeavoured to provide a home like environment that is often commented on. Parents

appreciate the homely feel and are welcome to stay with their child although there is provision to leave them. We recognise that scramblers offers an opportunity to serve parents and carers as well as their children with real coffee and real conversation.

It offers a welcoming bridge into church for new people. There are often opportunities for conversation, prayer and support. We have radio link up so we can hear the service.

With the children, we offer free play, singing, snack time, age appropriate games and occasional seasonal crafts, for example, an Easter or valentine's card.

Our heart is to serve children and their parents to enable parents to enjoy the service and feel supported this season with pre school children. Our team provides overlap with the mainly music team which offers continuity. We signpost people to All Saint's from Mainly Music and people do respond.

Joy Pollock

Explorers, Discoverers & Trailblazers

We have trialled several ways of structuring these groups and their activities on a Sunday morning in the church centre, to learn what works best for our team and children, and are now settling into a good, consistent format.

The team meet for breakfast & prayer at 10am, this is an opportunity to give the morning to God, and to lift up in prayer any needs or concerns we may have as a team, as well as pray for our families.

The format of the morning was altered slightly to reflect some of the feedback from the surveys. We now gather together all the age groups at the start of the session, we then watch a DVD together from a series called 'Friends & Heroes', and then split off into age appropriate groups. The children then engage in material related to the DVD, it's a great opportunity for the children to explore faith, and gives them a chance to develop their own personal relationships with God.

We gather back at the end of the session for a time of prayer and worship. This has been such a valuable, during which we have seen kids actively engage in prayer for healing, meeting with the Holy Spirit and worshipping wholeheartedly. It has been very encouraging for me to witness and I'm very grateful to all who help with Adventurers for enabling Sunday mornings to run so well.

Another addition has been the introduction of T-shirts and Hoodies for our leaders. It's been a great way to show the families who are leading their sessions for that morning and it also creates an atmosphere of fun. We also wear lanyards with the logo of the group we are leading so that children know specifically who is leading their age group.

Children's Celebration

Children's Celebration meets on the 3rd Sunday of month and is for those children aged 3+. The team consists of Emma Pettifer, Ed and Mel Parsonage and Rhi O'Rourke. During each session we start off altogether with some worship and liturgy, then we hear the word of the day. We then split into 4 zones; prayer, craft, going deeper, games. Each group of children moves through each zone learning about going deeper in Christ so we can grow in Him more in our daily lives. We all come together again in worship and praying for each other, ending our session with a short piece of liturgy. We use different material for each celebration and this term we have been looking at hanging out with Jesus, doing "Experience Christmas" and now we are using "Experiencing God" through the Old Testament.

It has been brilliant seeing the youth helping lead: Nat Colthurst, Gabriel Ison, Asher and Judah Wood and Tim Burgess, along with Orianna Colthurst and Matilda Amess who have begun to help. They are increasingly confident leaders and have been leading different aspects of the Celebration, from the teaching to craft etc... They are fantastic at set up and take down and have fun with the children. It is brilliant seeing the young children develop their passion for leadership and be able to guide them in this with the help of the other leaders. They are very much a part of the team contributing to the planning as well.

Emma Pettifer
March 2015

(ii) Messy Church

Messy Church continues to provide a space for families to enjoy quality time together, doing craft, getting messy, sharing a meal and learning more about God. We have been going 6 years, and we meet in St Helens Church.

Messy Church is continuing to use social media to advertise and create an online community. We have a dedicated Facebook page and an email system to keep our families updated with all of the monthly news and upcoming events.

We are at an interesting time in Messy Church at the moment. We have seen our numbers fluctuate and some of the team decide to retire. We do, however, have a very strong and continuing community. One of the challenges we face going into the next term is how we take this community into a deeper relationship with God, and how best to encourage them into the wider life of the church.

The team are really excited about how we can explore this area, and are very willing to adapt and change to work with what God is doing amongst us. I am very blessed to work alongside such a dedicated team and am eager to see what God has in store for us at Messy Church.

(iii) Other events

Other exciting events that have happened in the life of Children's ministry this term have included:

Light Party

Lots of fun was had at this year's Light Party. We invited Christian magician Adrian Ward to come and entertain us, which he did with much success. We had a fantastic mixture of church kids and other children from our various outreaches such as Mainly Music and Messy Church. It's exciting to see these ministries encouraging people further into the life of the church, and it's these small points of contact that make all the difference. We added in messy games, food and a dance off, and all had a fantastic time that we hope to replicate in 2015.

Film Mornings

We have hosted a couple of family film mornings in St Helen's that have been fairly well attended. It is an opportunity for families to spend some time together in a nice environment and provides more points of contact with them. I plan to continue to develop these as the year progresses.

Nativity

One of the highlights of this year was the Christmas nativity inspired by Frozen. I'd like to take this opportunity to again thank those who were involved, I'm sure those who were there can agree everyone was fantastic and I am looking forward to planning for this Christmas.

Rhi O'Rourke

Children & Families Worker

February 2015

Youth

This year has been such an exciting year in the life of Youth ministry. We have seen both Tribe and Clan continue to grow and it has been fantastic to see that happen

In Tribe we have been exploring various topics such as the "I am" statements in John and looking at the gospel according to the Simpsons. It has been great to continue going to the evening services and seeing many of young people getting prayed for and enjoying the times of worship. I know that Miriam Swaffield was a particular favourite.

Clan have also had a great year finishing off the youth alpha course and exploring topics of prayer, and also looking at the Gospel According the Simpsons. It has been great that some of them have joined Emma Pettifer on the children's council and I know many of them did a great job in serving at an event last Saturday

It is brilliant to see many of the young people continue to play a key role serving at Children Celebrations. It was also great to have the young people serve at the Christmas carols service

Two of my personal highlights from this year were the trip down to Soul Survivor Watford which was a fantastic day of fun and enjoying great time of worship and a fantastic talk. The other was the Christmas meal at Benedicto's Italian Restaurant

I would like to thank all of the team, Emma Pettifer, Philippa Barton, Jenny Prigg, Steph Joiner, Joe Sherwin, Mark Pirrie, Jean George and Laura Tiffney for all the hard work, love and guidance they give to the young people. Thanks also to the parents for all their support this year.

Giles Joiner
February 2015

Students

Up until the summer, the university students in our midst had been invited to join in with the young adults for discipleship and belonging. For this academic year, however, we've aimed at creating a dedicated student community. This began with the memorable visit of Fusion's Miriam Swaffield in her bright orange camper van. We parked it up on campus for the Sunday afternoon engaging all passers by before she spoke to our evening gathering. The day was rounded off with a cocktail party and encouraging numbers from the university were present.

Then began our Wednesday night gatherings, always starting with a meal. Momentum hasn't been easy to find with numbers ranging from 1-18 across the first term, yet a core of around 8-10 is emerging with some valuable relationships developing. Students have joined in with the church Alpha course for the second term.

Highlights so far have included an impressive Sunday lunch up at Chapel House Hallow and a couple of sizeable dinner parties at Bath Road either side of Christmas. Don't hesitate to be in touch if you fancied having a handful (or more) of us over for a big Sunday lunch sometime!

Relationships are developing across the churches, with the Christian Union and with the university chaplaincy. We hope this will result in significant missional engagement and an increased presence on campus in the near future. The plan is also to encourage Regents (Elim) students of Malvern to add their vitality to the student culture in All Saints and out into the wider university.

Owen and Laura Gallacher
February 2015

Mainly Music

Mainly Music meets weekly during term time in St Helen's and provides a fun and good quality music session for pre-school children to enjoy with their parents, grandparents or caregiver. During the first half hour, the children are led in a variety of songs that stimulate their imagination, improve coordination and promote musicality using actions and props such as parachutes, scarves and shakers. The remainder of the morning allows the adults to socialize over coffee and homemade cakes whilst the children play together.

Mainly Music continues to be hosted by a very committed team who ensure that families are welcomed and cared for. We were sad to lose Karen Nichol, a long-standing and valued team member, in July but also delighted to welcome three new members – Helen Knight, Jamie Knight & Jenny Prigg over the following months who, like the rest of the team, value highly the relationships we seek to establish with all those who attend and earnestly desire to see Jesus revealed through love in action.

Changes made last year to enrich the sessions such as the story time slot over snack time and the introduction of a drawing table continue to work well and add a richness to the sessions. We have also sought to create a sense of family at Mainly Music. This has seen us increase our celebration of birthdays by the giving of a small gift to each child, welcoming new babies & marking the departure of every child moving on from Mainly Music by giving them a bible & praying for them during the session.

We have also had great fun with some of the mothers and carers attending a Pimms & Planting evening as well as a cookery evening hosted by one of the mum's who attends Mainly Music. These evenings have added to the sense of relationship we seek to create.

We determine to look for opportunities to link who we are with our faith and our All Saints roots. We have continued to promote church courses and events such as The Parenting Course, Alpha and Christmas and Easter services both from the front and on our term card. We have also been hugely encouraged that our teapot, used to collect prayer requests which we introduced last year, is being used by those who attend & has been asked for when we have occasionally forgotten to put it out! We had a strong sense in December that each family should read the Christmas story for themselves and so gave a Christmas storybook to each child - which was well received. We are thrilled that several families have attended services and the Alpha Course at All Saints over the course of this year.

We have continued to encourage the families who attend to support local charities. The weekly sale of eggs from The Good Soil project, based at Top Barn remains incredibly popular and we also held a very successful coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer.

We are thrilled to be hosting a one day conference in April for five Mainly Music teams from central England where Jo Hood, founder of the Mainly Music movement will be the speaker.

We are currently at the maximum number the nature of a Mainly Music session allows, and have had a significant number on the waiting list for several months with very little movement. Whilst this is a 'nice' problem to have, we are feeling the need to address, both prayerfully & practically what we might do about this issue.

As ever, it is the team at Mainly Music who are the key to its success. I would like to say thank you again to each one of you for your faithful, prayerful commitment, enthusiasm & general loveliness!

Rachel Colthurst
February 2015

Men's Ministries

(i) All Saints Men

Over the last year the focus of men's ministry at All Saints has been to connect men in the church with each other in order to enable deepening friendships and fellowship, as well as being an opportunity for fun with social events men will find it easy to invite friends along to.

Each term there has been a fun social event and a more explicitly 'ministry' oriented event. The socials have been great fun, including a tour of a cider farm in Herefordshire, tenpin bowling and a hike up Snowdon. These times have been so valuable in creating space and time for men to relax, have fun and an opportunity to talk to each other.

In the spring two of our own men led a powerful evening discussing and praying about sexual purity and temptation. In the summer we had the pleasure of welcoming a group of 8 men from Hope Community Church in Bristol who gave testimony about discovering God's 'original design' for our lives and helped us learn how to listen to God for each other. In the autumn we had an evening of stories about living Godly lives in the workplace with a time of worship and prayer for each other.

'Dads in the park' happens each month on a Saturday morning and is a fun time for dads with younger children to play together and give mothers a break! Although the turnout was low for a while, more dads are attending now and it seems worthwhile continuing although the format may change slightly next winter.

Having spent some time strengthening relationships within the church family and encouraging men to meet up to pray together it now feels right to take a more outward looking approach to this ministry area. I hope that in 2015 we will strike up relationships with many men not currently engaged with church.

Paul Barton
February 2015

(ii) Men's Football

Some things come and go but its good to know that All Saints 5-a-side is now 9 years old and still going strong. OK, some of its founder members may have substituted a little of their pace with a little more wisdom but we are also constantly being regenerated with new players and renewed spirit. We continue to play every Tuesday evening from 8-9pm at St Johns YMCA and all are welcome to turn up and play on any evening, so long as your enthusiasm exceeds your skills. Please talk to any of our current crop of regulars for further information, including Owen Gallacher, Chris Giles, Andy Sheppard, Joe Sherwin and Charlie Wort. Please also talk to Owen if you can't come on Tuesdays but would still like a taste of the glory in one of our occasional 11-a-side fixtures.

Andy Sheppard

February 2015

Women's Ministries

(i) Converge

Converge is the termly women's gathering at All Saints, giving women the opportunity to gather and meet with one another and with God. Converge has gathered a wide group of All Saints women, and seems to provide a safe first step towards church for those on a faith journey.

We have been excited as a team to see how Converge has created opportunities for women from All Saints to be released into areas of gifting, including hospitality, speaking and worship.

Each year we have 3 gatherings. In 2014, Jules Woodbridge, worship leader at Trinity Cheltenham came to speak and lead worship for us, a wonderful evening where many of us experienced a powerful encounter with God. We also had an encouraging evening of testimonies, when we heard stories of how people came to faith as adults, which is always incredibly faith building!

This year we have also developed a link with Asha Women's Centre, a charity which supports vulnerable women. We enjoyed hearing about their work in more detail when one of the staff came to speak at Converge, and we were able to offer a small amount of support to their work by making button hearts at our annual Christmas Craft evening.

We are looking forward to welcoming Margaret Bristow to our women's breakfast. Margaret is a trained and experienced counsellor, who is going to be offering practical advice on dealing with anxiety. We're also really looking forward to welcoming a team from Hope Church in Bristol, to our May gathering. They will be praying and prophesying over us, which is always cause for excitement as we look forward to hearing what God will say to us as individuals and as a group!

Kath Johnson

February 2015

(ii) Revive

Revive is a women's group that serves a range, from students, mothers with babies and pre-school children, those who work, grandmothers and those who are retired - and everything in between. We thrive on being an inter-generational group and as a result there is a great deal of support, expertise, encouragement, experience, love, tears and laughter that is shared. Our format varies from term to term. We try to be responsive and reflective to the needs of the group and God's prompting. This term we have been encouraged to have the very gifted teacher and storyteller, Laura Gallacher takes us through a study of John's gospel. As well as teaching series we also have one off sessions like one on mentoring led by Paul Wilcox and one led by my one of our Mission partners in Asia - sharing her experiences living and working there.

At the end of a term or teaching series we ask for feedback which often informs what we do next and helps us continually appraise how we shape each session. Whilst it's not done weekly we provide space for testimony and worship, soaking and reflections. Content covered has included 'Future Family' by Andy Stanley, a teaching series on the prodigal son by Paul Swann and Emotionally Healthy Women.

The format of the morning normally takes the form of coffee and refreshments before 10am. A prompt start (we try!) with content led from the front followed by break out groups to facilitate discussion and prayer. We aim to end promptly at 11.30 for those who have other commitments, although there is opportunity to stay beyond that time for further chat and coffee.

We offer crèche facilities in the adjoining room for all pre-school children.

Some words from one member of our group: I come to Revive..

- because I can - previously working meant no daytime fellowship between Sundays
- fellowship and friendship with other women
- heart to heart discussion
- learning and remembering how much God cares about us through the word

Joy Pollock
February 2015

Mentoring

I am writing this report the day after an excellent and very encouraging morning with the women at 'Revive'. I was leading a session on Mentoring for them and they were so responsive and enthusiastic. This is just the kind of opportunity that I love at All Saints. I had a very similar experience on the evening of Sunday 4 January when I was also speaking about Mentoring and basing my thoughts on Isaiah 54:3 where we read, 'All your children will have God for their teacher - what a mentor for your children!'

(<http://www.allsaintsworcester.org.uk/talks/the-ancient-meets-the-contemporary-mentoring/>) I called the talk 'The Ancient meets the Contemporary' because I believe that Mentoring is all about drawing on the past and learning from our experiences and Biblical examples, but also looking to the future and how we can keep in step with the Spirit, so that the grace of God will be maximised in our lives. I encourage you to have a listen if you are curious about what mentoring is all about, or if you need some fresh input!

Mentoring is a 'below the radar' aspect of life at All Saints, but it is extremely valuable and we encourage everyone to think about having one, not just people in recognised leadership. Jane and I are the people to speak to if you would like a mentor, but you don't know who to ask. There have been quite a few people over the last few weeks who have approached us and we are currently in the process of matching people up (I can't think of a better way of putting it).

Someone said recently that what folk need these days is not so much a 'sage on the stage, but a guide on the side'. I love that. What it means is that, whilst there is obviously a very important place for upfront preaching and teaching, there is an even more pressing need for someone to accompany us on the journey of life and provide encouragement and intentional accountability, which will actually help us to experience what it means to be a part of the Body of Christ, rather than simply know it as a concept in our heads.

Here are some comments from real life mentees at All Saints who have discovered the value of being mentored:

"Mentoring continues to be a brilliant way of intentionally journeying together in a way that encourages discipleship, honesty and community."

"Mentoring gives me an opportunity to refine the areas God is challenging me in, in a safe environment in which I can ask questions, make mistakes and deepen my relationship with Him."

"Mentoring is probably the most important and influential part of my discipleship. Although the amount of input seems small, it cuts to the heart of what really drives my life and actions, and provides me with the accountability and energy I need to keep pushing in and on. Mentoring is absolutely vital to my growth and for me to fulfil my calling."

"Mentoring is a great growth experience. It not only forges a lasting relationship between mentor and mentee, it helps to strengthen a persons relationship with the people around them. It is an on-going transformational commitment that can naturally lead to a blossoming and deepening culture. It's invaluable to me."

"The relationship I have with my mentor is among the most treasured in my life. The wisdom, encouragement and accountability he has invested has

enabled me to grow as a husband, father and man of God. I've witnessed this impact repeated in the lives of many others at All Saints."

I look forward to chatting with you if you'd like a mentor!

*Paul Wilcox
Mentoring Co-ordinator
February 2015*

Alpha

This year we have changed our approach to Alpha, in light of Worcester Alpha (an initiative of the Diocese that we have supported) not happening. Rich felt led by God to take on the oversight and development of Alpha as part of his commitment to leading out on evangelism

The first Alpha course in St Helen's ran in the spring term of 2015 over 8 weeks with four groups and approximately 40 guests.

A brilliant team worked hard to make the course a huge success. Barry & Joan Collier, Laura Tiffney, Laura Handy, Steve O'Rourke and Joanna Harper worked to make the evenings happen on the hospitality front. Sue & Mark Stone, Russ & Kerry West, Owen & Laura Gallacher and Neil Silverthorne & Lisa Gosling led the discussion groups. Andy Sheppard and Nikki Groarke assisted me in the delivery of the talks which was a great help.

Wonderfully, six of the guests have come to faith in Jesus! We have offered a "post-Alpha" group for those who wish to continue their faith journey in a similar format, and others have joined small groups within the church.

*Rev Dr Rich Johnson
Vicar
March 2015*

Parenting Children Course

Rich & Kath & myself & Pete ran the HTB 'Parenting Children' course at All Saints last term. The 'Parenting Children' course is aimed at all carers of children from 0-10. It covers topics such as Building Strong Foundations, Meeting our Children's needs, Teaching Healthy Relationships and Boundary Setting.

We certainly found the material incredibly helpful in parenting our 3 children. We had around 15 people taking part on the course and the evening was structured using the HTB DVD and provided manuals (not forgetting wine and chocolate!). The feedback has been extremely positive and it has been a joy to see several people 'join in' with the life of our church as a result of the course.

These courses are wonderful ways of serving our communities and I look forward to seeing them run regularly in the future.

*Rosie Amess
February 2015*

Worcester Foodbank

Worcester Foodbank is part of the Trussell Trust; we provide three days' emergency food (10 nutritionally balanced meals) is provided to men, women and children in crisis locally. People in need are able to access this food at our foodbank centre located at Carden Court. As well as receiving a food parcel, people will also have access to other services such as a listening ear, signposting to further support, and prayer. Other essential supplies provided to clients include toiletries, tin openers, cutlery, plates and cups. We have food donation drop off points at the foodbank centre, in Churches, in three Supermarkets and at the Guildhall.

The highlights since the project began in 2012 have been:

- Fed over 10,000 people since opening in June 2012 (one third are children)
- Given away over 80 tonnes of food, and collected over 100 tonnes
- During 2014-15 we fed 4,100 people with 34.5 tonnes of food
- Recruited, trained and supported 140+ volunteers who have given an estimated 6,500 voluntary hours – they are amazing and we thank every one of them!
- Worked with 65 local agencies who help assess people in crisis and distribute Foodbank Vouchers
- Benefitted from the efforts of 105 partner organisations, plus countless individuals, that have collected and donated over 24 tonnes of food
- Developed working relationships with Worcester Warriors, Sainsbury's local store, the Guildhall, Worcester Police, and Worcester Volunteer Centre
- Foodbank regularly supports St Paul's Hostel, Maggs Day Centre, YMCA night shelter, Street Pastors, and the City Mission Soup Kitchen project
- Finances: raised £18K from local charities, churches and supporters, and received almost £4K from Trussell Trust in Tesco top up grants
- Success in bidding for pallet loads of toys and goodies
- Kept running costs down to £11K (budget £30K); budgets for manager's salary, warehouse equipment and food purchase not needed, leaving the accumulated fund of £27K. This represents an operational reserve of £16K, and £11K as a development reserve

Our future plans are:

- Volunteers including those with management skills are still required and a recruitment process is underway with 10 new volunteers in the pipeline

- The lease on the premises expires on 28th February 2015. A rolling monthly lease has been agreed while research is carried out to improve access and facilities
- The PCC is looking to develop the service to include clothing, interview clothing and haircuts, baby basics supplies, job club to assist people back into successful employment, internet cafe for job club and clients needing to research how to use their personal care budgets, and toys form Christmas project, and space for CAP.

Grahame Lucas
February 2015

Worcester CAP (“Christians Against Poverty”)

This has been a year of change and transition for Worcester CAP. Saying Goodbye and heartfelt thanks to Ted & Ginny Duckett from All Saints and all those clients that they travelled alongside, and thanks for their initial vision and for getting it all started.

Saying Hello in June to Dave Christmas who has built on the foundations already laid by completing his CAP training and encouraging others to be more actively involved. Dave has seen 20 new clients of whom two have already become debt free and others progressing towards that goal. For 2015 there are already 7 new clients waiting to start the journey.

Due to the endeavours of Tim Joesbury-Clarke and his PR skills the profile of CAP has been increased in Worcester through regular relevant articles in the press.

Thanks go to Barry and John Collier for organising monthly prayer meetings (we would love to see you there) – the whole organisation is upheld powerfully in prayer.

Another new appointment is Mark Stone who will be responsible for organising client events and overseeing volunteers to support Dave on each visit, which is a requirement of CAP. If you have a few hours to spare Dave or Mark would like to chat with you about it.

Paul Harris and Guy Lavarack have continued to promote and run the CAP money course and the vision is to encourage clients to now be part of that.

Clients have been amazed and brought to tears that they have not had to pay for the debt support service and add to their debt problem. This has created many opportunities to pray with clients who have never been prayed for before and opened up many conversations about the Christian walk and why people should want to help. T

his is possible because of regularly giving to CAP by 'Livechangers' no amount is too small – please join us in our ministry in supporting and encouraging the vulnerable people we get to help.

Dave Christmas
February 2015

CAP Money

In the year April 2014 to March 2015, All Saints has retained its two registered CAP Money Coaches, Guy Lavarack and Paul Harris. One course was successfully run in the period primarily for the benefit of the All Saints congregation.

The course was once again very well received and it is clear that it has the potential to significantly improve the lives of people struggling to manage their finances and to be an effective outreach tool for the Church.

The current plans are to run another course in the autumn of 2015, but this time targeted specifically at the student population within the All Saints congregation which will involve delivering a slightly more tailored course.

Longer-term plans are to; hold courses more frequently; to target people outside of the immediate All Saints congregation; and to potentially recruit more members of the congregation who would like to become CAP Money Coaches. The main limitations at present are 1) being able to resource courses held more frequently and 2) putting more thought and effort into the marketing campaign required to effectively recruit potential course participants from outside of the immediate Church congregation.

The potential of this ministry as an outreach tool is large and really it is up to the All Saints PCC and the designated Money Coaches to decide how ambitious we want to be or should be with it. The ministry goes hand in hand with the CAP Debt Centre and should be considered an essential outreach tool working alongside Foodbank and in time, a CAP Job Centre as the issues of employment, money and food are clearly all inter-linked. Therefore, in time there will be an integrated management approach within the church to the organising and running of all of these ministries.

Guy Lavarack
February 2015

Photofit

As we approach the end of another ecclesiastical year - measured by the arrival of the annual PCC Meeting, I find myself looking back over our year together as Photofit and reflecting on the places we have visited. Our times together have generated some great times of fun, friendship and 'fotographs'...I mean 'photographs'!

In January we visited the opening of the Photographers' Wall in the new Birmingham Library...and also took in some parts around the Gas Basin. In February, some of us went to the Falconry Centre at Newent where we really enjoyed a great opportunity to capture some exciting shots of some magnificent birds. In March, we had a day out in Worcester, and some of us took the opportunity to spend some time photographing the delights of Worcester Cathedral from the inside.)

In April we went to Puzzlewood in the Forest of Dean. This was a really interesting location with some opportunities for several atmospheric shots. In May, we found ourselves in Waterfall Country as we travelled to South Wales...what a day this proved to be. The scenery and the landscape was stunning, breathtaking...and the waterfalls themselves did not disappoint.

In July, we had another wonderful day as far as the weather was concerned and went to Broadway Tower and Chipping Campden. One of the highlights of 2014 was to be the exhibition of work known as 'Art in the Garden' held at our home...and raising around £325.00 in aid of Cancer Research. This was a real social event and a wonderful opportunity to show the work of nine different photographers. This work currently forms the basis of the semi permanent exhibition at the Church Offices in Crowngate.

In September, a few of us went to Eckington Wharf and did the circular walk along the river and back through the village. This was really peaceful and provided some good subject matter to photograph.

In October we found ourselves in the delightful Cotswold villages of Arlington and Bibury. Here, the Arlington Row was the focus of our attention along with the Trout Farm. The tiled floor in the Bistro at the Swan Inn was stunning...and lunch at the Wagon Wheel was another one to remember. In November, we visited Wellsworth Hall in Gloucester - the home of 'Nature in Art', and on this occasion hosting the winning entries to the British Wildlife Photographers' Exhibition. In the afternoon we spent time exploring The City and the Quays...all in all, another wonderful year with some great images to show for it all.

My thanks to all those who have been involved in one-way or another for making this another successful year. If you know anyone who would like to join the group (whether they are members of All Saints or not) in 2015 do contact me directly or email the Church Office for more information. It's a great way to improve your camera skills whilst getting to know others.

Check out photographs taken by members of the group this year by entering this link (<https://www.flickr.com/groups/photofit/>) into your browser.

Paul Long
February 2015

Hope for Justice

In May last year we enjoyed our first fundraising event; a cheese and wine evening held in St Helen's. The evening was very enjoyable with top-notch cheese supplied by Top Barn and wines from the local Rose Bank vineyard. This was a great opportunity for the church to rally and re-assert ourselves in the cause of ending human trafficking. The event was even more exciting as it fell on the same week that Hope for Justice opened their second regional investigation and rescue hub, which (in part thanks to our lobbying work since 2012) covers West Mercia. Hope for Justice is a charity which rescues people caught in human trafficking, and now, having joined with two other organisations to create a world-wide model for combating human trafficking, also rehabilitates survivors.

Most of our work is in support of Hope for Justice, and our year is marked by their annual Hope conference, which a group from All Saints attended in November. This was a great weekend, perhaps surprisingly given the subject matter, but the whole event is marked by hope in God's work to not only to rescue, but truly restore and renew survivors of trafficking, and a sense that we are joining in His mission, rather than striving alone.

For the first time we met late last year to jointly develop a long-term strategy for our group. Since forming in 2012, we have understood that our operations have had to be somewhat limited, as there has not been an effective policing response to human trafficking in our region. For us to activate front line agencies too soon could be counterproductive. However, with the opening of the new regional investigation hub covering our area, this situation has changed. We asked Hope for Justice's Operations Director whether we should now push on generating awareness and delivering training, and he said "go". We intend to.

As such, in the coming year we are planning several areas of work to position ourselves amongst professional organisations working directly against, or coming into contact with, human trafficking. Hope for Justice are considering developing training packages which we could deliver, our aim is to have an established network of professional relationships in place when this becomes available. Our strategic aim is to make Worcestershire a hostile environment for human trafficking.

In May we plan to organise a sponsored walk (with distances to suit all abilities and stride lengths!) to raise money for Hope for Justice. This promises to be good fun for all so please get involved! Also, please pray.

This is God's battle and we participate through prayer and worship. If you would like to get more involved, please contact Tom Collins or Steph Joiner.

Tom Collins
February 2015

Worcester City Centre Chaplaincy

The Worcester City Centre Chaplaincy is an ecumenical workplace chaplaincy under the umbrella of Faith at Work in Worcestershire (<http://www.faithatwork.org.uk/>). At the present, the Chaplains are drawn from St Andrew's Methodist Church, Worcester, St Stephen's, Barbourne, and All Saints. The Team is presently led by The Rev'd Dick Johnson, Industrial Chaplain serving Faith at Work in Worcestershire.

The Chaplaincy serves the 'daytime' aspects of the church's ministry to the economy and daily life in Worcester City Centre. This ministry seeks to bring Christ-centred values of love and concern for justice principally to the retail sector and to inform the church so that it can respond prophetically, prayerfully and practically. The retail business environment varies year by year and whilst some shops prosper, in most of our regular prayerful conversations with staff, shop managers and proprietors we hear of pressure to meet harder sales objectives. Several businesses are all too aware that they live on the edge of a financial precipice. Some staff are employed on zero-hours contracts with little prospect of terms of permanent employment. Many look back wistfully to when a city centre High Street environment was the 'go to' location, rather than losing customers to the prospect of another green-field, out-of-town site competing with better parking and accessibility. And retail premises continue to seek how to engage with the ease and attractiveness of e-buying.

Chaplaincy is mission through pastoral ministry. Chaplains hear the life experiences, both positive and less so, of those working in retail, so many of whom gain great fulfilment in their work of serving customers. Of course, we pray for them, and at times, are honoured to pray with them on the shop floor or as they take a moment from clearing tables in their café. As Chaplains, we endeavour to help retail staff find that God is present in their lives and daily work—ours in an immense privilege to be alongside people as they make these discoveries. For us, the discovery is to encounter with them the Kingdom of God, the God who often was long at work before we arrived on the scene!

The Chaplaincy's original work started in Cathedral Plaza, much of which is awaiting redevelopment and will take on a new commercial emphasis as some businesses close or move. We will continue to serve that area as well as New Street, Friar Street, parts of the High Street and CrownGate and making introductory calls on new shops as they open. The trend towards shopping malls has led to the privatisation of public space; nevertheless we are so very appreciative of those who quietly enable this ministry: the

commercial centre managers, their security teams and the many others who give their wisdom, encouragement and support.

The City Centre Chaplaincy is always listening for others interested to explore whether God is calling them to this ministry. It's great fun, a huge privilege and honouring of God to serve in this way; so, if you sense God may be 'nudging' you, do contact me or the chaplaincy team on 01905 755037 or by email at citychaplaincy@faithatwork.org.uk

*Rev Peter Davies
Curate
February 2015*

Bellringing

It was the author Dorothy L. Sayers (1893-1957) who described the ringing of church bells as "The one loud noise made to the Glory of God". (As well as writing detective stories she also wrote Christian works including the much-acclaimed play "The Son of Man".) At All Saints we see our "loud noise" as being part of the church's Ministry of Welcome and we are grateful for the appreciative comments that we receive from those who enjoy hearing the sound of the bells as they walk towards the church on a Sunday morning. However, we do struggle to maintain this tradition because we are so few in number and there is a real danger that it will cease unless we can find some more people from the All Saints Community who would be willing to join us. Training is necessary first of course and this would be arranged at times that would best suit both you and us. If you would like to know more about what is involved, then please pick up one of our leaflets from the table near the main door.

*David Beacham
February 2015*

Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults

The PCC has a legal duty of care towards all children, young people and vulnerable adults during worship and all church activities. All Saints, as part of the Church of England, places the highest priority on safeguarding and the PCC, as is required, actively ensures compliance with policy and procedures. All Saints' Policy, which is revised annually by Resolution, is in accordance with that given by the House of Bishops and Diocese of Worcester.

*Rev Peter Davies
Curate
Safeguarding Co-ordinator
February 2015*