



All Saints Turvey
Newsletter

June 2016

www.allsaintsturvey.org.uk

Dear Friends

I have just witnessed two very beautiful sights. The first was as I drove along the back road from Olney towards Yardley Hastings. The sun was shining from a clear blue sky dotted with the occasional fluffy white cloud - just what an early summer's day should look like. The hedgerows were drenched with white May blossom tumbling over itself to meet the cow parsley growing high along the verges. It was one of those times when it felt good to be alive and I knew I was happy.

The second beautiful sight was shortly afterwards when I opened the church door at All Saints. I was met by a cry of 'Walk on the grating please!' But it was what I saw that made my heart rejoice even more than when I was driving through the countryside. The church is wrapped in polythene; it is fenced off with corrugated iron and wooden boards - two days ago it was under a layer of thick dust and grime - decorated here and there with small pieces of rubble. Now it is spotless! As I walked through the door I saw an army of church members - men and women - armed with mops and buckets and drying cloths; with vacuum cleaners and polishing cloths - outside they had sweeping brushes and grass cutters. They were laughing and joking and threatening to photograph each other, particularly the men, to show what could be done. In the middle of all this the florist was arranging flowers for a wedding and the couple arrived for their rehearsal.

I could have wept with happiness, pride - and humility! I have always known that church families are special. I have always been of the rather biased opinion that the church family at Turvey is extra special - and here was proof.

It is not easy for a church to keep going when there is a long vacancy and no sign of a new 'vicar' being appointed. All Saints has not only 'kept going' it seems to me to be thriving. - that is why I am proud. I am proud to be attached, however loosely, to a Christian

Community for whom worship of God and support of the whole village family is at the centre. Services are held regularly and properly. Two members of the congregation have trained to lead worship. Another member of the congregation keeps all the linen in tip top condition - and makes sure such things as candles, wine and wafers are ordered on time. Others use their skills and talents to keep the children's work alive and well - and growing. Music goes from strength to strength. The fabric is kept clean and in good repair - and to apply for and receive a grant for repairs in a vacancy is an amazing achievement. But what is so glorious is the way that no-one is too proud to pick up a mop or a duster, whatever else they may do besides, and there are many other ways in which church members are 'keeping the show on the road'. This is real service of God and to see this in action makes me rejoice!

Why the humility? Sometimes priests are tempted to think they are invaluable! This just shows how wrong they can be.

Yours in Christ
Jo Spray

Notices for June

Coffee Morning

The next coffee morning will be on **Saturday, 11th June** from 10.30a.m. to 12 noon at Chantry House Turvey, by kind invitation of Sheila and Anthony Ormerod. There will be a raffle and bring-and-buy stall for which contributions, especially of cakes and produce, will be much appreciated. All welcome

Last month's coffee morning raised £122.70 for church funds. A huge thank you to Charlotte and Stuart Lucas for a very enjoyable morning.

Open Church Sunday 22nd June

At the time of going to press we cannot yet confirm that we will have Cream Teas as last year, particularly as we have the Queen's Birthday celebrations earlier in the month. Please check the noticeboard and website for updates. Apologies – we will let you know as soon as details are confirmed. The church will of course be open all day as usual.

Church Roof – our church may not look as beautiful as usual as we have started repairs to the roof – but it's **business as usual!**

Lunch Club

June lunch Club will take place on **Friday 3rd June** at 12.30pm in the Village Hall. All ages welcome.

Cream Teas

Join us at the church – outside if the weather is fine – from 3.30pm to 5.30pm on Bank Holiday Monday 30th May for a delicious Cream Tea.

In Our Prayers:

If you know someone whom you would like us to pray for, or remember, please contact Heather Whelbourn or a Church Warden.

Confirmation

Laurence, Emma and Nicole Nichols Cook are to be confirmed at St Owen's Church, Bromham, on Tuesday 14th June. They are all regular members of our church choir and Laurence and Emma are also bell ringers. Please pray for them and, if you can, go along to support them on 14th.

There will be a Deanery Confirmation later in the year, if anyone else is interested in preparing for confirmation, please let Rod, our Churchwarden, know or contact Jo Spray.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting:

Elections 2016 - the following positions have been elected:

Church Wardens: Rod Petty, second Church Warden: vacancy

Treasurer: Bill Litter

Deanery Synod Representatives: Mike Marshall; (second representative vacancy).

Secretary: Vacancy: (Heather Whelbourn has agreed to fill the vacancy until another Secretary is found).

Administrator: Heather Whelbourn

Parochial Church Council elected members:

David Allender

Tim Brewster

Rosemary Gentry

Mike Marshall

Heather Whelbourn

Sharon Tew

David Nightingale

The Sharnbrook Deanery Prayer 2016

Loving God, make our lives a sign of your love.

Help us to share the good news that we have received
from you,

that we may draw others to you through the power of
your Holy Spirit

Bless our churches and enable them to grow in faith and
numbers.

May your Kingdom flourish through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

A letter from The Times - April 2016

One Bat in Belfry

Sir,

Andrew Sells, the Chairman of Natural England, seeks affection for bats as among our most distinctive of animals (letter March 29th).

He would not know the experience of our tiny Somerset church, whose congregation, faced with re-roofing and before work could begin, had to find much more than the service collection for a year to pay the fees of an ecologist, whose singular achievement was the siting of one bat.

Small wonder then that rural church wardens and their congregations, have a hard time but, unlike their church mice have little prospect of becoming protected species

Signed Brian Tipping

Wyke Champflower, Somerset.



The following article is from the Annual Report of the proceedings and happenings of the P.C.C and Church, over the past year. .which I have been asked to share ...

Reflecting on this year....being still in 'Interregnum' has brought its challenges and this year in particular as we all know, has also been particularly sad in that we have lost Terry, Jacqui's husband Les and Sandra amongst others dear to us .

Last year I remember saying we had met our challenges with 'cheerful resilience'. This year I would say with resilience but perhaps not always feeling so 'cheerful'.

The P.C.C. has continued to meet with slightly reduced numbers,

and we still have three vacancies plus a Church Warden and that of Secretary. The PCC met 10 times last year plus joint meetings with Stevington to discuss the vacancy and parish profile; and then with Bishop of St Albans to discuss the proposal for the vacancies in the diocese plus the proposed Team Ministry.

We have revisited our parish profile; looked at what we want from our Priest and what is important to us as a church. So it has been a time of much discussion in reflecting on and understanding this.

A great deal of time and effort has also been focused on the Roof grant, the project and the various activities around it which will truly celebrate and enhance our church.

In terms of All Saints and the P.C.C's main objectives for the year; Some of these flow from year to year, in particular work on our church for instance the roof project, the church clock and so on.....

The P.C.C's brief is also to promote the *mission* of the Church in the parish, and **we have continued with our activities in terms of those areas we have come to understand are most important to us and which we rejoice in** such as:

Music; Fellowship; the Church as part of the community; Outreach; Children in Church and Charity.

It is important that we continue to promote All Saints as a welcoming church at the heart of our community.....and I'd like to give a flavour of so many activities which have in fact increased throughout the past year...which ensure outreach to the community and those on the fringes of our congregation...I will attempt to give you highlights but forgive me if I miss anything or anyone:

Our Church has continued to open all day every day

The monthly Lunch Club: thanks to Katie Knowles and the team.

Coffee Mornings every month – thanks to all those who held coffee mornings – great fundraisers.

Bank Holiday Cream teas (also on Open Church Sunday) – thanks to Gill Betts and her team.

Bell Ringing – including 3 of our bell ringers being in the winning team in the District striking cup.

Bike n Hike September where we welcome visitors from around the area and beyond

We have continued the specially written services for when we don't have a priest and at key times such as Mothering Sunday, Harvest Festival and Christmas Eve, which encourage fellowship – these continue to be very well received and well attended.

Events and activities involving the wider community include:

Around our Musical Tradition: Mystery Plays / the Choir – continuing this musical tradition for which we are becoming quite well known in the diocese; The CD produced from the 'Christmas service in summer' and attendance at weddings and special events.

In June the Olney Brass band played in the churchyard on what turned out to be beautiful evening and was well attended – a FAST event.

In July we held Cantamus in church.

We hope to do more of this in the future - using our beautiful church as a venue for events.

We delivered Christmas Plants to the elderly:

Arranged flowers in memory of loved ones

Held our annual Christmas Bazaar

Held Carols round the tree and Carol Singing

We have continued the 'Together at 10' services with Stevington; held Open Church Sunday; and in April 10 of our congregation went on the Pilgrimage to St Albans.

We would like to hold events which attract new visitors and reciprocate in welcoming congregations from other churches to All Saints in the future.

We launched our new website on 13th November and are now getting around 80 unique visitors per month of which approx. 2/3 are new visitors. Most are from the U.K, but we get a small number most commonly from the US and quite a few hits from Brazil, Italy with one or two a week from other countries –huge thanks to Jane Brewster for setting up and continuing to run the new website.

Initiatives and Activities for our children in church are a key part of our mission and have continued to grow thanks in particular to Rosemary, Jacqui and Glen and all who supported them particularly at the workshops:

We also held:

Activities at the back of the church during services and special activities at larger services; Little Lights club; continued the Little Lights and Bright Sparks successful workshop format e.g. Easter, Summer and Harvest; Pool party; Follow the Donkey Nativity; Travelling Crib; and we have plans for the Children's area in the Church about to start.

Charity - we continued our usual charitable donations from particular events or services e.g. the Children's Society; the Shoe Box Appeal, and the Bishop's Appeal.

This past year we also decided to support one local charity and chose **BeCHaR**. We donated produce from the Harvest Festival; took regular boxes of food particularly for breakfasts and donated £200 to their Christmas appeal. The food boxes will continue at the back of the church.

Thanks for your support in the past year to this worthy charity.

Our chosen charity for this coming year is the Salvation Army Bedford – the most popular vote. Details are at the back on the charity board and more will follow.

It is at this point we should say thanks to **all those who ensure the day to day running of the church and help us meet our mission goals**, especially Rod and David our Church Wardens, who this year have had so much to do; to the servers, sides-persons, readers, Gill the Sacristan, the flower team led by Jacqui, the cream teas team; all those who held coffee mornings; the lunch club team; those who provided coffee, tea and yummys after the services in church; Jane who runs the website; Liz who helps at PC.C. meets taking the minutes; Tim our choirmaster and musical director in all things musical and fabulous; those who organise our big events such as Jacqui and the Christmas Bazaar... The list goes on, and we continue to work to be at the heart of the community, welcoming existing and new visitors. We cannot underestimate the work of the many who contribute so much to keep the

Church running smoothly, looking beautiful and who run and support the outreach projects, clubs and events throughout the year. .

So last year I finished by reflecting that, although challenging, the interregnum has in fact helped us to: *'adapt to change and recognise what is important to us'*

I would say this still stands – even more so in what is ahead, except to add maybe one more thought:

That we are one All Saints team..

..It's not always easy devoting extra time in our busy lives, but even the smallest act of support, that smallest extra thing, giving just that bit of our time; it helps us as one team to keep All Saints, its congregation and community going as the wonderful church that it is.

We hope that we can count on your ongoing support.

Thank you all!

Heather Whelbourn, April 2016



Gift Aid giving: Are you regularly giving

to the church through writing cheques and placing monies in a Gift Aid envelope? If so please consider asking to **sign a Gift Aid Form** (just once) and ask for a **numbered envelope**. This number is specific to you and can be placed in the collection pouch as usual but you do not need to fill in your details on to the envelope each week. Monies donated through Gift aid envelopes - if you are a tax payer – means we can claim the gift aid on them! Any donation, no matter how small, is gratefully received. If you would like to give by regular direct debit, please ask for a form from a Church Warden or Chris Knell. Thank you.

Services for June at All Saints Church

Date		Time	Service
Sunday 5th June	2nd Sunday after Trinity	11am 6pm	Parish Eucharist Celebrant Revd. Jo Spray Evensong
Sunday 12th June	3rd Sunday after Trinity	11am 6pm	Morning Prayer – Lay Leader. Celebrating H.M the Queen’s Birthday No Evening Service
Sunday 19th June	4th Sunday after Trinity	11am 6pm	Family Service Celebrant Revd. Jo Spray Evensong
Wednesday 22nd June		10.30am	Holy Communion at Barton Royle Homes – non-residents welcome
Sunday 26th June	5th Sunday after Trinity	11am 6pm	Parish Eucharist Celebrant Revd. Jo Spray No Evening Service

Coffee is served after each service – all welcome.

All dates and services are correct at time of going to press but may be subject to change during Interregnum. Thank you for your continued support.

Newsletter / Website - If you would like to make an entry into the Newsletter or the website, please contact Heather Whelbourn on 881728. The deadline for the July News Sheet is 21st June and - due to printer holidays, August and September issues will be together.

If you would like to receive the Newsletter by email please let Heather know.

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