

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ALL SAINTS', THELWALL

England & Wales · Charity number 1135426

Details

Other names PCC ALL SAINTS THELWALL

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2010-04-09

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address All Saints Vicarage
Bell Lane
Thelwall
Warrington
WA4 2SX

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Website www.allsaints.org.uk

Activities

Objects: Promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.

Activities: The church is there for the local community to provide Sunday worship, and baptisms, weddings and funerals. We extend fellowship and support to all members of the community and welcome all to church events. We also reach out to the whole community through our Parish Hall, Parish Magazine and Street Representatives.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Religious Activities, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Warrington

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£208,911	£169,266	-	-
2024-12-31	£167,854	£163,463	-	-
2023-12-31	£168,445	£149,165	-	-
2022-12-31	£153,897	£130,229	-	-
2021-12-31	£145,047	£141,655	-	-
2020-12-31	£212,569	£250,277	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
REV D J BLACK	Chair	
Aimee Laura Mole		2025-04-01
Annette Marie Norman		2025-04-01
Bob Powell		2013-10-03
COLIN HORRABIN		2015-04-29
Caroline Johnstone		2021-04-28
Gail Vaughan Hodgkinson		2026-06-03
Geoffrey Ian Riley		2026-05-21
Ian Richard Hardman		2025-04-01
James Brian Gaffney		2026-06-03
Jon Eric Halliday		2019-01-04
KATH MELLOR		
Linda Hutchinson		2025-04-01
MIKE HORNE		2013-01-27
PIP HORNE		2012-12-03
Rhys Gwennant Davies		2025-04-01
Suzanne Williams		2022-04-27

Accounts

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

THELWALL

ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026



Important

Please bring this report with you to the Annual General Meeting

To be read before the meeting

Charity number 1135426

ALL SAINTS CHURCH THELWALL
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
AND MEETING TO ELECT CHURCHWARDENS
29th APRIL 2026

MEETING TO ELECT CHURCHWARDENS

1. Minutes of the Meeting held in 2025
2. Vote of thanks to the Churchwardens
3. Election of Churchwardens
4. Notice of the Archdeacons Visitation
5. AOB
6. Close of Meeting

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Minutes of the last Meeting

A.

To receive a report on changes to the Electoral Roll since the last Annual Meeting

To receive a report on the proceedings of the PCC and the activities
of the parish generally

To receive a report on the financial affairs of the Parish

To receive the independently examined accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December, 2025

To receive a report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

To receive a report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod

B.

To elect Representatives to the Deanery Synod

To elect Representatives to the PCC

C.

To appoint an Independent Examiner

D.

Any matters of Parochial or general interest

Chairman's Report

Other Reports

E. Close of Meeting

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING TO ELECT CHURCH WARDENS

30th April 2025

1. Minutes of Meeting held on 24th April 2024

Douglas welcomed everyone to the meeting. We opened the meeting with a hymn and short service. Minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record.

2. Vote of thanks to Church Wardens

Julie and Jon have been a great team. Meetings held in the Little Manor. Lots of thoughts/business and fun at the meetings. Jon thanked Julie for all that she had done for the Church over the last 8 years and the help Julie had given him. There was a loud round of applause. Julie was presented with flowers and gift token as Julie had served for eight years as Church Warden.

Julie thanked everyone for the support that she had been given and said that it had been a privilege to be Church Warden.

2. Election of Church Wardens for 2025/2026

Annette Norman Proposed: Alison London; Seconded: Julie French
Jon Halliday: Proposed: Jean Fisher; Seconded: Mike Horne
Everyone was in favour.

3. Sidespeople

Sidespeople are appointed at the first PCC meeting after the APCM.

4. Notice of the Arch Deacons Visitation

The Archdeacons Visitation is Thursday 5th June at 7.30 pm at Whitegate.
Church Wardens have to attend.

5. AOB

None

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

30th April 2025

1. Minutes of Meeting held at AGM 2024

These were accepted as a true record. Proposed: Ray Fisher Seconded: Jon Halliday

2. Report on the Electoral Roll since the last meeting

All people at this meeting must be on the Electoral Roll. A complete revision is required in 2025. The number on the Electoral Roll is 237. There are quite a few people on the Electoral Roll out of the area.

Total at AGM in 2008 = 175
Total at AGM in 2009 = 177
Total at AGM in 2010 = 184
Total at AGM in 2011 = 193
Total at AGM in 2012 = 199
Total at AGM in 2013 = 204 (Full Revision)
Total at AGM in 2014 = 221
Total at AGM in 2015 = 237
Total at AGM in 2016 = 248
Total at AGM in 2017 = 256
Total at AGM in 2018 = 264
Total at AGM in 2019 = 244 (Full Revision)
Total at AGM in 2020 = 246
Total at AGM in 2021 = 241
Total at AGM in 2022 = 237
Total at AGM in 2023 = 231
Total at AGM in 2024 = 235
Total at AGM in 2025 = 128 (Full Revision)

3. Report on the Financial Affairs

Chris Monks retired as Treasurer in 2024 and Ian Hardman took over. Due to the Banking rules it took over six months for Ian to be in full control of the accounts as a signatory.

Thanks to Julia for supporting Ian in the transition. Some paperwork had been lost in the change over of Treasurers.

It was agreed that a support group would be formed to assist Ian with the Accounts.

The Accounts had not been examined but will be done during the next few weeks and will be available in Church and on the website.

Philip Young asked Douglas to comment on the Treasurer's Financial Report which is commented below. Philip also asked did Douglas know if we were, as a parish, able to pay our way going forward, to which he replied that the increases in the parish share would be challenging - soon to be £80,000 and with 3% increases annually.

Our operating costs are high and Jon has spoken to the Diocese re the finances where we have a gap in paying the Parish Share.

We were hoping that the gift aid would be received August/September to enable us to pay the Parish Share. The Parish Share is an enormous burden and it is going up each year.

There have been lots of fund raising during the last year which has helped our accounts. We do get a lot of money from Weddings and Funerals. Jon Halliday has spoken to the Diocese re our finances. When we received the Gift Aid money we were able to pay some of the Parish Share. The Parish Share is going up each year due to inflation.

4. Election to the Deanery Synod

No election this year.

Our members are: Douglas Black, Kath Mellor, Mike Horne and Bob Powell.

5. Election of Representatives to the PCC

Gwennant Davies Proposed: Kath Mellor; Seconded: Felicity Speed

Aimee Mole Proposed: Suz Williams; Seconded: Elaine Whittaker

6. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Walker Begley has been asked.

7. Unseen Unsung Heroes

This year's unsung hero was Alison London. Alison has worked for so many years producing the weekly notice sheet. Her main job has been the lead in the Stewardship Action Group for over 20 years and recently retired. Alison led the Stewardship Service each year with a different and enthusiastic idea to enable the congregation to know how much they are appreciated for all their work. Alison was given a money gift as Alison was going on holiday.

The meeting ended with a Hymn and the Grace

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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

All Saints Church is situated in Thelwall. It is part of the Diocese of Chester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is the Vicarage, Bell Lane, Thelwall, Warrington, Cheshire.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and registered as a charity on 9th April 2010 with the Charity Commission (**Charity number 1135426**).

PCC members during 2025/2026 were as follows

Rev Douglas Black

Annette Norman (Churchwarden)

Jon Halliday (Churchwarden)

Pip Horne (Lay Reader)

Colin Horrabin (Lay Reader)

Deanery Synod Elected Members

Kath Mellor

Bob Powell

Mike Horne

John Alexander

PCC Members 2025

Caroline Johnstone (Safeguarding Officer)

Suzanne Williams

Anne Hague

Linda Hutchinson

James Gaffney

Ian Hardman

Gwennant Davies

Aimiee Mole

Julie French (co-opted)

Church Architect

Tony Barton, RIBA

Donald Insall Architects, 5 Bridge Place, Chester

Bank

NatWest, Warrington Branch, 23 Sankey Street, Warrington, Cheshire, WA1 1XH

Independent Examiner

Juliet Hankey

AIMS and PURPOSES

All Saints' Church, Thelwall Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Douglas Black, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the Parish Hall on Bell Lane Thelwall.

Our mission statement is:-

Growing Up, *in our faith by engaging with the bible, prayer & worship.*

Growing Together, *through team work, encouragement, fellowship & fun!*

Growing Out, *to our local and global community with practical service and generosity.*

Growing More, *by sharing our faith & drawing people into the life of the church.*

We aim to fulfil this in all aspects of church life.

OBJECTIVES and ACTIVITIES

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at All Saints. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- worship and prayer;
- learning about the Gospel;
- developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus;
- providing pastoral care for people living in the parish;
- missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church and the Parish Hall.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE and MANAGEMENT

All Saints' Annual Parochial Meeting is held on the last Wednesday of April and it is at this meeting that church wardens and PCC members are elected. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules 2025. At All Saints the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar), churchwardens, lay readers and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has appointed six permanent action groups, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life:

- Worship (including Nurture and Prayer)
- Parish Hall
- Young People (ages birth to 18 years)
- Social Events and Communications
- Outreach
- Stewardship

PARISH REPORTS – Achievements and Performance

Vicars Report

This is my 24th year as vicar of All Saints. My opal anniversary!



GROWING UP *in our faith by engaging with the bible, prayer and worship.* We have paused the search for a Parish Music Outreach Worker for the time being. This will allow church finances to stabilise and strengthen and give us space to work with the 'new' junior school head teacher to bring the role to fruition, as it was mainly shaped by the previous head teacher. However, there is short term possibility, which I will discuss with the new PCC in the coming months. In the meantime, our musicians and singers continue to do an outstanding job, for which we are deeply grateful. Our Bible study groups remain a place of fellowship and mutual support, and we are encouraging the whole congregation to deepen their personal engagement with prayer and Scripture. Recently, we have used themed 'prayer project' leaflets alongside the prayer cards shared at Christmas and Easter. The diocesan vision speaks of "growing braver, fuller faith". In 2026, how might you help yourself - and others - engage more meaningfully with the Bible, prayer, and worship, and so grow in braver, fuller faith?

2. GROWING TOGETHER *through teamwork, encouragement, fellowship and fun!* Our social, outreach, and fundraising activities offer rich opportunities for teamwork, encouragement, fellowship, and fun. We are also blessed with two excellent buildings - the church and the parish hall - which enable us to strengthen our life together. As noted last year, social inclusion is a key priority for charitable funders, who recognise the serious impact loneliness can have on both mental and physical wellbeing. Our grant applications are often successful because we address this need for inclusion within an ageing village community. Research - and our own experience - also shows that a sense of belonging can often open the way to believing. During 2026, is there someone you might invite to join in our shared life? By helping them belong, you may also help them come to believe. The diocesan vision calls us to be "Together in Christ, sharing hope". Why not grow together and share hope? Your invitation could make a real difference.

3. GROWING OUT *to our local and global community with practical service and generosity.* The cost of living continues to cause economic, physical, and mental challenges for many people, both locally and worldwide. Against this backdrop, it is deeply encouraging to see the range of projects - and the generosity of spirit - flowing from our church. Food and Friendship, held in church on Mondays, has become a vital gathering for older members of our community. Once again, we have seen an outstanding response to appeals for Christian Aid, the Foodbank, The Children's Society, Operation Christmas Child, Fairtrade, Get Warrington Talking, Macmillan, Papyrus, Church Urban Fund, Prison Fellowship and more - the list grows longer each year. Alongside these organised appeals and initiatives, there have also been countless individual acts of kindness and compassion shown to people both near and far. The diocesan vision calls us to "transformative loving service", as we "engage locally and work together in loving generosity". As I said last year - that description fits us perfectly!

4. GROWING MORE *by sharing our faith and drawing people into the life of the church.* Open the Book (OtB) continues to flourish in our local primary schools, with the team also leading a range of sessions and services including Remembrance, Harvest, Leavers' Services, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. Messy Church likewise goes from strength to strength, drawing in new families. Alongside these and other initiatives, research increasingly highlights the value of one-to-one relationships in helping people connect with faith and church. This is echoed in the diocesan vision's call to reach and bless "the 1.5 million in the diocese, one life at a time". The Archbishops' Ascensiontide initiative, Thy Kingdom Come, also encourages us to pray for such one on one opportunities. Is there a neighbour, friend, or family member to whom you might reach out and bless - perhaps by inviting them to a social activity or a service? The Church of England's Everyday Faith initiative further reminds us that faith is lived and shared from Monday to Saturday: at work, at home, and through volunteering. God is at work in all that we do.

Everything above is about developing 'missionary disciples' and a 'culture of invitation'. This is also the vision of the C of E, the diocese and the Bible! And this vision is steadily coming to life for us, too.

In October 2025, we rejoiced as Caroline Johnstone was licensed as a Reader at Chester cathedral. After 3 years of dedicated academic and practical training, she has now begun her valued and appreciated licensed ministry.

So many people contribute to the ministry and mission of this church that it is impossible to name everyone. On behalf of us all, though, I offer sincere thanks to Jon and Nettie (wardens), Ian (treasurer), Kath (secretary), Pip, Colin, Caroline and Bob (Readers), and all our action groups for their commitment and enthusiasm. To everyone who serves: thank you, and well done, good and faithful servants.

Safeguarding Report 2025/26 - Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) Caroline Johnstone

We continue to work our way through the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard – it's a little like Pandora's Box as the more you complete, the more new things to do pop up! – but it's all to the benefit of making sure our church is a place where people feel welcome, secure as part of our church family and in a safe space where they have a voice. We are now at level 3 of the dashboard which means we are working through things connected to the wider embedding of our safeguarding procedures beyond the immediate church community. The PCC discuss an aspect of the dashboard and approve or commission actions at each meeting. They are also presented with regular action plans for our future work to approve. We are currently developing a volunteer handbook and reviewing policies beyond Safeguarding. In June '25 the diocese launched its 'Speak Our Stay Safe' campaign – with the intention of providing branded materials eg Posters, notices, information cards etc. for all the churches to use to raise awareness of the considerable work the diocese and churches are doing in the area of Safeguarding. In July we were delighted to be able to award all those who have completed their level 2 safeguarding training for their work with our children, a pin badge with the 'Speak out' logo to wear, especially when involved in activities, so that parents know who has been trained and add to their confidence in the CAYP team. We will be ordering other items in the near future ... so look out for them around and about. We continue to follow the national training programme with an additional domestic abuse module being undertaken by all the PCC and those who work with children and vulnerable adults and we hope to run an 'In house' session for all involved, in the near future, so that we, as a whole church team, are all 'on the same page' and our good practice is fully embedded.

A highlight of the past year for me, personally, was your response to the question asked on Safeguarding Sunday about how you would describe our church.

It speaks volumes about our Christian family here in Thelwall and our relationships with each other and God....Thank you.



A word cloud of various terms related to church values and community. The words are arranged in a roughly circular shape, with some words being larger and more prominent than others. The words include: precious, kindness, friendship, believe, community, inclusive, ready, lively, caring, strong, love, prayer, god's, relaxing, inviting, express, family, listening, inclusion, respect, social, god, strength, gain, fun, acceptance, responsible, accessible, everyone, generous, moral, togetherness, fellowship, commitment, sundays, church, help, Jesus, giving, need, friendly, just, care, chatty, listen, welcoming, active, centred, quiet, belief, people, and Jesus.

Employment Matters 2026

Employment within Church of England parishes is governed by the Safer Recruitment and People Management protocols. Several members of our church are now Safer Recruitment trained, enabling them to take part in the recruitment of both employees and volunteers. Although we employ only a small number of part-time and occasional staff, we are fully subject to employment law. This includes compliance with the National Living Wage and the requirement to issue contracts of employment for all employees. In certain roles - such as paid choir directors and musicians - employment is also governed by Canon (church) law.

We are very grateful (and relieved!) for the ongoing support of our Diocesan HR Adviser, Liz Geddes, who provides expert guidance when needed.

Each time a payment is made to an employee, we must notify HMRC. This applies not only to regular staff but also to one-off payments to vergers, organists, and gravediggers.

Pensions: At present, none of our employees qualify for automatic pension enrolment, as their earnings fall below the statutory threshold. As an employer we are required to send a report to the Pensions Regulator every 3 years. The last report was sent in 2023 so the next report will be due in 2026

National Insurance: Employer National Insurance becomes payable when earnings exceed £175 per week (Tax Year 2024/25). For Tax Year 2025/26 this is reduced to £96 per week. This would apply, for example, if we were to appoint a Director of Music on increased hours.

Safeguarding remains an increasing and essential responsibility. Safer Recruitment requires that anyone working with children, young people, or vulnerable adults is appropriately vetted, trained, and formally appointed, with processes reviewed and renewed every three years.

Secretary's Report – Kath Mellor

The PCC meets six times a year to discuss Church life and our finances. This year we discussed creating a Finance Group to support the Treasurer, which was agreed. The Wardens would continue to look after the fabric, drawing in expertise when needed. Each meeting we discuss the Finances in detail. All members have done their Safeguarding training. We also agreed on the new portable altar and portable font which was left in a legacy from Viv Dockery and this year Viv's daughter and husband bought candles and candlesticks for the portable altar. Jon spoke at the beginning of the new PCC year about a new audio visual system and this was installed in December 2025, which is working really well. It was also agreed to have a table near the votive candle stand with prayers available for people to take and use.

Electoral Roll Report – Jon Halliday Electoral Roll Officer

At the time of writing this on 1st April 2026, the Electoral Roll has been reviewed in readiness for the annual meeting. At this stage the current new roll contains a total of 141 members. The number of members at the previous AGM was 128 representing an increase of 10% increase on the roll in the past year.

On the current role 92 live within the parish of Thelwall and 49 are outside of the parish.

In line with the previous report and its plan to normalize the reporting period the report is written based on the declared numbers as at the 1st April 2026. The next declaration will be 1st April 2027 unless otherwise mandated.

I will be able to state the current numbers for the coming year at the Annual Meeting as 141 electoral roll members.

Historical Reports and Future Predictions

For transparency I have included numbers for the past few years are below and this does show a trending increase in Electoral Roll.

Total at AGM in 2007 = 155 (Full Revision)
Total at AGM in 2008 = 175
Total at AGM in 2009 = 177
Total at AGM in 2010 = 184
Total at AGM in 2011 = 193
Total at AGM in 2012 = 199
Total at AGM in 2013 = 204 (Full Revision)
Total at AGM in 2014 = 221
Total at AGM in 2015 = 237
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Total at AGM in 2017 = 256
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Total at AGM in 2019 = 244 (Full Revision)
Total at AGM in 2020 = 246
Total at AGM in 2021 = 241
Total at AGM in 2022 = 237
Total at AGM in 2023 = 231
Total at AGM in 2024 = 235
Total at AGM in 2025 = 128 (Full Revision)
Total at AGM in 2026 = 141

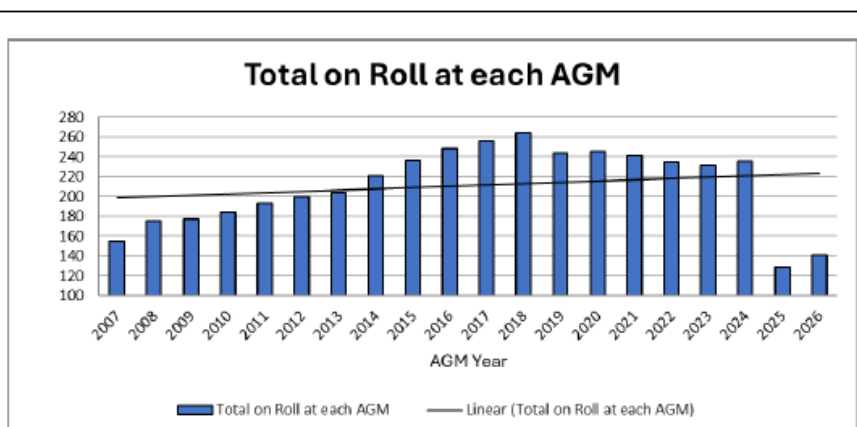


fig a. Visual representation of the electoral roll numbers declared at each AGM

It is anticipated, based on the historical statistics, that the number of members of the Electoral Roll will increase over time to come more in line with previous declarations before the full revision.

As was previously reported Thelwall has continued to see a large number of property sales and is classed as a desirable area within the Warrington area and therefore is seeing an increase in the number of new families moving to the parish.

This change in demographics across the parish has resulted in the introduction of new families, lowering the average age in the parish, and an increase in population density (resulting from an increase in the average number of occupants within a home) and it is hoped we will continue to realise an increase in congregation members as some of these families look to attend a local church on a regular basis.

Deanery Synod Report 2025

In March, we were addressed by Rev'd Emma Speake who is the Diocesan Disability Advisor. Emma talked about inclusion and access to church and worship. Her particular area of expertise is with neurodivergent people (Emma is neurodivergent herself). Emma provides practical advice and resources, to act as a listening ear and advocate, and to help shape policy and practices across the Diocese.

At the July meeting of synod, Ian Arch and the Diocesan Ministry Team from Church House talked about their work of supporting and resourcing people to live out their ministry – lay and ordained e.g. growing vocations, training courses, resourcing and supporting ministry.

This is a challenging job because over 40% of clergy are due to retire in the next few years!

On the 15th October at St Wilfrid's Grappenhall, Synod was involved in a new podcast about 'Everyday Faith'. The discussion was hosted by Ruth Bull from Transforming Lives Together. Ruth interviewed three guests about how they are being and bringing Good News in their workplace, in the community, and through volunteering.

Our final synod of the year was a Zoom meeting, to discuss arrangements for parish vacancies, business matters and the programme for 2026.

Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church (Churchwardens)

At the last Annual Parochial Church meeting Jon Haliday was re-elected for a second year and Nettie Norman was elected to the role of Church Wardens. We wish to give our thanks to our previous Church Warden Julie French for helping us to settle in and continue to assist us and by helping with taking over our roles when we have not been available to attend church services.

Practical aspects of the church.

The Church Audio Visual has now been authorised, purchased and installed at the beginning of Dec 2025. A complete replacement of the major elements was required which included a new sound desk, speakers, wiring and the replacement of projectors with a large TV screen. Church members feedback is they are happy with the clearer picture and improved sound quality.

Last Summer 2025 we received a request from the headteacher at the Junior school, requesting that the compost mound at the back of the church yard be removed. It had increased in height and members of the public were climbing on this to climb over the school's fence to access the school playing fields. Also the school was installing a new higher fencing and so needed to be able to erect this. Philip Young was approached with a view for insight into how this could be done. It was decided that it would be carried out during the school October ½ term when access could be arranged via the school grounds if required and when the new fencing was to start being erected. The Community Pay Back team also helped with some of the removal of the compost. Unfortunately, it was found that there were a lot of large heavy sandstone walling blocks at the bottom that will need to be removed from this area before the remaining compost and rubbish can be removed. This is an action that will be planned to be investigated this Spring. We would like to take the opportunity to thank Philip and the Countrywide team for assisting with this matter, and also for continuing to keep the gutters of the building cleared of debris and leaves throughout the year.

There had been an issue with the small water boiler no longer working and a dripping tap in the vestry office. A local plumber was called in and both replaced. In October we had some volunteers to help clear away the cobwebs in the church, some were very high on the inside of the roof. Thanks were extended at the time to Mike Horne, Malcolm & Anne Hague & Malcolm's friend. Members noticed the following Sunday what a difference this made.

Last summer we were needing a volunteer to look after church memorial garden by the gate. We now have a volunteer to look after this starting this spring, local Barry "Baz" Jolley, who is happy to help the local community.

The church inventory is due and still to be done. Jon and Nettie will need to sort out a time to do this in the very near future.

Also this Spring we plan to be looking to investigate how to trim the overhanging branches and reduce the height of the bushes along Thelwall New Road along the top of the wall that is showing signs of bowing before any potential damage is done to the structure of the wall, although a safety assessment was done in last few years and was considered safe. We need to follow this up soon.

The large main door is still an ongoing project. The door hinges connected to the sandstone wall need to be replaced, and the wood at the base of the door needs repairing. This will be a specialist job and from the July 2024 PCC minutes we had received quotes of £11K + VAT. This is a complex job as the repair of the top hinge will require the removal of significant stone work that forms the door arch. We are looking at ways to fund this, options are fund raising, obtaining grants and any other options of raising money towards this work. Once funding to cover these costs are obtained then three new quotes will need to be carried out. Feedback will be made in the future when there is anything to report.

We are fortunate to have such a beautiful building to welcome people to, for church services, other services and community outreach. We will continue, with the help of the wider church, to keep our church a safe and welcoming building for our church members, visitors and our local community.

Village Green

The 'Village Green' on Thelwall New Road (o/s Gigg Lane) is the property of the church (the diocese & PCC are joint trustees). The vicar and wardens are responsible for the oversight of the land, reporting to PCC when any issues arise. We are grateful to the Grappenhall & Thelwall Parish Council (G&TPC) for including the land in their local grounds maintenance programme, which means that they are paying for the grass to be cut. Every 5 years, we are required by our insurers to employ an arborist to inspect the land, especially the trees, and produce a report for our attention and action. One of the issues we need to keep a regular eye on is 'encroachment' - this is when adjacent home owners try to take our land by moving their boundaries. If we do not challenge the encroachment within ten years, ownership can be transferred to the encroacher.

Worship Action Group (Action Group Chair, Douglas Black)

The brief of the WAGs is to develop worship, nurture and prayer in line with the church's mission statement: growing up, growing together, growing out, growing more.

Portable altar and font: the new portable altar and font are now in frequent use. They have given us lots of flexibility and options. As well as paying for these two items, Sarah Jayne and Martin Lovell also paid for the candles and candlesticks for the portable altar. We are very grateful to the Lovells for their generosity.

Prayer: we continue to adapt the church's prayer life to fit the congregation's hectic lives. Our ideas have needed to be flexible and accessible, so that they can be used wherever people may be at the time:

- Every Harvest, Advent & Lent, we've been publishing Prayer Project leaflets with items for prayer and include seasonal prayers written by members of WAGs.
- At Easter & Christmas, we've been handing out prayer cards published by the Prayer Trust.
- Thy Kingdom Come – we engage with the Archbishops' Ascensiontide prayer initiative that involves praying for family, friends, neighbours & colleagues to come to faith.
- Summer Prayer Project – happens every 3 years for July/August. A folded card with the names of Thelwall streets organised into the days of the week.

Explore Prayer Cards and Display Stand: we have purchased the Explore range of 12 small prayer cards and a display stand to go alongside the votive candle stand: www.cpo.org.uk/explore-resources/prayer-cards.html. WAGs are looking at options for locating the display stand and/or votive stand to improve accessibility.

Caroline Johnstone was licensed as a Reader on Saturday, 11th October 2025 at Chester Cathedral by Bishops Mark, Julie and Sam. It was a joyous occasion and a worthy culmination and celebration of Caroline's three years rigorous practical and academic work. The turn out from All Saints at the service was awesome!

Daily Personal Bible Reflection: wherever possible, we try to encourage people to connect with some form of regular personal bible reflection. 'Our Daily Bread' is very popular in the congregation, especially with our older folk. But there are now so many new resources available - in physical and digital format – that there is something to suit everyone. A good number of our folk use the app: lectio365.com.

Audio-visual: the new system is now installed and in use. It'll take us a little while to adjust to its capabilities and idiosyncrasies. But once we do, it will open up a new vista of possibilities for our worship, ministry and outreach.

Choir, Music Group & Organ: our musicians, choir / music group have risen to the challenges of leading music in our worship, choosing hymns and organising rotas. Trish arranges for the organ to be tuned and serviced every autumn by Jardine's of Manchester.

Parish Music Outreach Worker: We've put the search for a 'Director of Music' (a.k.a. Parish Music Outreach Worker) on hold for now, to give time for church finances to settle and strengthen, and to work with the new junior school head teacher to take the idea forward, as the role was largely shaped by the previous head teacher.

Parish Hall Action Group - Philip Young

In 2025 the main project in the hall was the refurbishment of the Hall toilets. 70% of the £30,000 cost was grant funded and the work was completed on budget in June 2025. At the same time fundamental drainage issues were discovered and rectified resulting in improved hall maintenance.

The equipment installed has provided simple and effective efficiency savings through the elimination of paper hand towels. The toilets themselves were decorated and lighting upgraded to improve the overall customer experience of the hall. Since the installation of the toilets the drainage beyond that from the hall toilets to the manholes outside, namely the 50m to the septic tank has been replaced. This was after an excellent video demonstrated the old drains collapsing in two places. Now much improved materials, access and design will minimise any future issues with hall.

The stage curtains owned by Bridgewater Players were replaced by them at the request of the hall committee as they were showing signs of age. They are part of the ongoing plans to upgrade the hall offering to all those who use it.

One of the outside containers was removed and storage moved inside the hall, this allowed us the opportunity to lose unwanted baggage gathered over too many years!

2025 saw the first full year of the drop down projector screen. The external windows and doors were painted and, internally, foyer and hall areas were redecorated. Outside further bulbs have been planted, following planting in 2024, to improve the external visual appeal.

Richard Speed has taken over the hall maintenance schedule and tracks monthly many areas of the hall maintenance that are unseen but essential to good stewardship.

Commercially the hall again provided a surplus on the year's trading, enabling the committee to plan for further upgrades. The process of improvement is well underway, and positive trading enables us to further this cause.

Carolina has done excellent work in the booking of hall in particular to the Asian and Eastern European communities. Ray and Jean have done great work in building relationships with our hirers and holding them to account when required.

In 2025 Thelwall Rose Queen day, the 1100 year celebrations and the Bonfire were major events which are much enhanced by upgrades in the hall and allow us to project a more positive image of the role All Saints and the hall plays in the life of Thelwall. Indeed, the time capsule from the 1100 yr celebrations has been located in the hall grounds for all to see.

Pastoral Care and Community Outreach

During 2025 there were 3 baptisms, 14 funerals at All Saints and 2 funerals at the crematorium, 0 burials and 10 burials of ashes, and 1 wedding.

Baptism Preparation – A church member visits the family before the baptism to get to know the family and explain what's involved. This person is at the service and the baptised child is given a children's Bible as a baptism gift from the church.

Bereaved families are visited before and after the funeral by the vicar. We have a 'Memorial Service' of remembrance once a year, at all Saints-tide, to which all who have been bereaved during the last year are invited. Judith Biggin sends a card to bereaved families on the first anniversary of their loss.

Our Counselling Referral service has been able to help a good number of people again this year. We are very grateful to the Diocesan Counselling Service and the Lymm Sanctuary Hub for accepting our referrals.

Food Bank Donations are left at the church and then taken to the Warrington Distribution Point by a church member.

Harvest Gifts – the gifts of tinned and packet food are given to the Warrington Food Bank and the gifts of flowers are distributed to the sick, bereaved and elderly of the parish.

Outreach Action Group (Action Group Chair, Kath Mellor)

Our Lunch Group on a Monday has continued with around 22 coming each week. We have four teams and everyone who comes really enjoys their Mondays. We would love to see some new faces who will be most welcome. Friendships have developed and the group are keeping in touch with each other. We have had two lunches this year with over 70 people attending both. The first lunch was a three course dinner and the second was a harvest buffet lunch. When people are ill we send cake to them. A few of us attended Audrey Lester's funeral recently.

We have held our Remembering the Loved Ones and most people bring a flower to the service. After the service, refreshments are served which has proved very worthwhile.

We continue to ensure the Church magazine is delivered to each home and are so grateful to all who deliver them each month.

At our Christmas Monday lunch Father Christmas attended and everyone received a gift.

At our carol service we served mulled wine and mince pies. Lots of people stayed.

Next Christmas Eve we will open our church and serve hot drinks during the day and an opportunity for people to come and pray.

If anyone knows of anyone who would like to come along, please let me know 01925602475 or email kathlmellor@gmail.com and I will contact them.

The Children and Young People Action Group (Action Group Chair, Caroline Johnstone)

We have had another successful year with our Children and Young People. We ran 6 Messy Church sessions and 4 Story Services. Attendance has steadily grown to approx. 30 + children and adults at Messy Church and around 15 -20 at our Story Services and it has been lovely to welcome some new families as well as building on our existing relationships with regular attendees.

Our annual Children and Young People's Celebration Service on 6th July was well attended. The young people all received a book; 'The Story Maker' by Jerry McCorkle and Erin Straza, which reflected the video shown in the service about the life of Jesus. We were able to present all our leaders with a Speak Out Stay Safe pin badge to recognise that they had completed the foundation level of national safeguarding training – which is great ...well done to them!

We have recently updated our role descriptions and risk assessments for all the activities below which feeds into our safer recruitment process and further training both 'in house' and national is planned for the forthcoming year.

We are very conscious that our provision does not extend to our young people of secondary age and as a group we are exploring our next steps in this area. We ask for your prayers, ideas and help for the development of our work in this area.

Praise and Play

We have continued to meet twice a month on the first and third Thursday, apart from our break during August. Our leaders remain the same: Janet Black and Elaine Whittaker with helpers Liz Taylor and Nettie Norman. We have regular attendees with numbers of children averaging about 5. We continue have regular adverts/articles placed in the church magazine. We also take the opportunity to advertise our other family

events such as messy church and story service plus celebrate children's birthdays. We continue to use our 4 year rolling programme drawn from Scripture Union and CPAS 'Bible stuff' resources, including sessions that follow the main church festivals.

Messy Church

We held a super hero Messy Church in May, they made superhero masks, mini figures and considered what their super powers might be, before looking at Jesus as a super hero. One child summed up a super hero 'as an ordinary person who does extraordinary things'. In July we had a Messy Church Summer Sports from an egg and spoon race to welly throwing and we finished with an indoor picnic on rugs on the floor of the Parish Hall.

We opened the new school year with Messy Harvest at the beginning of October, theme was giving thanks and the children explored the story of our food from someone growing it to us eating it. They made junk models of lorries, trains and planes that transport it, printed cogs and made and ate pizza. Janet shared their work at the harvest festival and looked at the word HARVEST and made STARVE – HAVE – SHARE to illustrate the need to give thanks for what we have and to share it with others who don't have as much. Christmas /Advent Messy Church saw the children explore all the people /things that travelled in the Nativity story.

Story Service

We meet almost every month on Sunday in church from 5pm -6pm from November to April. We look at different Christian values through both secular and Bible stories. We have covered Difference, both places and people, journeys, and families, rounding everything off with prayers, a song and very yummy toast and hot chocolate!

Many thanks to the team of folks who make everything happen.

Open the Book – Richard Speed

Church continues to have very good contact with the infant and junior schools. The Open the Book team presents an assembly each half term to each school. This is very well received and many pupils look forward to our visits. To supplement this we have been able to link with the school curriculum rather than the church's year and have presented an Experience Pentecost to years 3 and 4 this half term. This has been complemented by Miracle stories for years 5 and 6. The school were very appreciative of our efforts and felt it met the needs of the pupils well. Church also hosts the Junior School end of term assembly in church which also features an Open the Book story. Thank you to all those who contribute to this project.

If you would like to join us in any capacity, please have a chat.

The Social and Communications Action Group

2025 was another very busy and successful year for social events in our parish. The events have two main aims: both fundraising and engaging with the wider village community, providing a witness that All Saints is very much alive and active in Thelwall. Our motto is "all welcome".

During the year we organised six Coffee Mornings at All Saints after the Thursday morning services, raising funds for Children's Society, Transform Trade, Jump Children's Charity, Christian Aid, Church Urban Fund Lent Appeal, Breast Cancer Now, MacMillan Cancer Support and Sanctuary Café Big Build Project at the Sanctuary Café (which is supported by Lymm and Thelwall Churches Together). In addition, a Coffee Morning specifically for church funds was held in October. These Coffee Mornings attracted between 60 and 70 attendees each time. They provide a wonderful social occasion with a warm and friendly atmosphere, and it is lovely to welcome so many people from the village into our beautiful church. We held a very enjoyable Quiz Evening in January with 70 quizzers attending a really fun evening and in April our annual Easter Egg Hunt took place on Easter Saturday. With around 300 attendees the event is growing each year and attendance from the wider village community is a real blessing. Our annual Wine Tasting took place in May; numbers were again slightly down but those who came really appreciated the evening and made it a memorable night.

Members of SCAG organised the church “walking float” at the annual Thelwall Rose Queen Festival in June and it is felt to be important for the church to be represented at this very popular village event each year.

We began the second half of the year with a new event, a Village Cream Tea, which was very successful it was well attended with a wonderfully warm atmosphere. We aim to repeat this in 2026. Bonfire Night (organised by a separate committee) was its usual fantastic occasion, and the Christmas Fayre was a huge success. Numbers were up, boosted by a lovely performance from the newly formed Thelwall Community Choir, and there was a vibrant mix of stalls, both old and new.

We welcomed Warrington Male Voice Choir back in early December for our now annual hosting of one of their very popular Christmas concerts; it's the start of Christmas for many people and the sound they produce under the arch in church is glorious.

Finally, members of SCAG joined with the All Saints musicians and other parishioners to sing carols in both our village pubs, raising money for the Children's Society. All of the events listed have drawn people into our church community as well as raising a lot of money for both the church and many charities.

In addition to the events which we organise ourselves, we have a fantastic working relationship with the family at our local Laskey Farm Gardens, supporting their participation in the National Open Gardens Scheme by providing tea, cakes and manpower, and also running a number of our own events in the beautiful and popular venue. In 2025 we raised funds for the Creating Adventures, JUMP and Clatterbridge Cancer Charities, a total of almost £3,200. This link is much appreciated by ourselves and Laskey.

Members of the SCAG spent a fair chunk of time last year sorting out the storage of all the glasses and tea sets the church now owns for use at its various events; this was a sizeable task, but the items are now easier to access and keep clean.

Another task tackled was getting on top of the advertising revenue for the Parish News, which is edited by a member of SCAG and distributed free ten months of the year to every house in Thelwall by an army of volunteers. After the difficulties of the previous year the distribution process went smoothly in 2025 using a more local printer. The magazine is very much a Christian publication, with details of all the services and events as well as a Vicar's Article and list of people to contact in church, but many local organisations and initiatives benefit too, including the Rose Queen, the Scouts Christmas Post, the Bridgewater Players, the WI, the Thelwall History Group and the local pubs.

Our website is kept as up to date and relevant as it can be given our resources, along with our social media platforms, but this is an area we know we need to develop.

Thank you to everyone who has supported any of our events in any way at all, from organising to advertising, baking, serving, attending and eating cake! Your support is really appreciated, and we look forward to welcoming you to our future events. Suggestions for new events are always welcome, as are new members of the Group.

SCAG members: Malcolm, Anne, Judy, Trish, Pip, Di, Nettie, Joan, Suzi and Paul.

Fair Trade – Trish Powell

All Saints' is a fully registered Fairtrade church and Fairtrade tea and coffee are used whenever refreshments are served. We hold a Fairtrade stall in church after both morning services every 1st and 3rd Sunday as well as on other ad hoc occasions, including Thelwall's annual Rose Queen Festival and our Christmas Fayre. We held our annual and very well supported Fairtrade Coffee Morning on 6th March 2025, drawing in around 70 people and raising £480 for Transform Trade in addition to selling a lot of Fairtrade goods from our stall. Fairtrade Fortnight moved nationally and permanently from its March slot to September in 2024 and our main Sunday morning service on 21st September was dedicated to Fairtrade to reflect this. Four church members are also regular volunteers at Warrington's own Fairtrade shop, Fair4All.

Choir and Musicians – Trish Powell

All Saints Thelwall is blessed with a group of extremely enthusiastic and dedicated musicians, both instrumentalists and singers, who faithfully lead the worship each week. In the absence of a Musical Director, five of them (Elaine, Trish, Julia, Val and Helen) take it in turns to choose the hymns each month which leads to a good variety of music. Caroline will be taking over from Elaine in 2026, giving Elaine more time to do all the necessary reporting to CCLI regarding licences etc. Trish, Felicity and Julia share the organ/piano duties and Felicity, Julia and Elaine also play guitar when possible, not forgetting Helen on the tambourine. Trish also takes the choir practices most weeks.

We choose hymns mostly from Songs of Fellowship, mixing traditional familiar ones with the more modern ones we love and this past year we again introduced a few new songs. On Easter Sunday the choir sang Three Days as an anthem and there were four choir items at the Christmas Carol Service, including Born in Bethlehem, which was written by Jean Sheppard, a former Lay Reader at All Saints, and the renowned Stephen Hough, her former pupil. Members of the church choir and singers also led the singing of carols in the two village pubs in the run up to Christmas, raising money for the Children's Society. There are a handful of Sundays during the year when no instrumentalists are available and Trish (pianist/organist) and Jon (IT guru) have, with the help of choir members, recorded a variety of hymns which can be played through our sound system. We now have a library of well over 50 of these and continue to add more as needed. This means that there are no services without music.

Our vision for the coming year is to support the PCC, the Worship Action Group and the Children and Young People's Group in their strategies, making more use of Out of the Ark music used by the Junior School, whilst being mindful of retaining well known or easy to learn songs which are familiar from school days, to help congregation members feel included and at ease.

Finally, a huge thank you to all those who contribute to the musical worship in our church in any way - it is very much appreciated.

Eco Church – Mike Horne

In February 2020 General Synod set the Church of England an ambitious challenge: to reach net zero carbon across parish, cathedral, diocesan and school estates by 2030. In order to achieve this, there is a target for 40% of local churches to be registered as Eco-Churches and 30% of local churches to achieve awarded standards, of which at least a third of these awards should be Silver or higher by 2026. The principles are that Eco-Church should be Based in Theology – Treasuring God's Creation; Urgent, relevant and widely understood; Data-driven, focused and transparent, Embedded in all we do; Using less energy, and from cleaner sources; travelling sustainably; Offsetting only what we cannot reduce.

In July 2024, All Saints Church PCC decided that we should apply to become an Eco-Church with a target to achieve Bronze status by the end of 2025. Through 2025 we made great strides towards our target:

- a) We are now on a "Green Tariff" for both Gas and Electricity
- b) We have installed bird boxes, bee hotels, a hedgehog house, and an insect hotel in the churchyard, some of which were installed and constructed by the local guides group, and by Thelwall Mens Shed.
- c) We started "No Mow May" which went on throughout the summer, and is still in place in various 'Conservation Areas' through the churchyard.
- d) There have been several mentions of the Eco-Church project from the pulpit, and encouragement for the congregation to become 'Climate Heroes' using an online climate calculator.

While much has been achieved through 2025, we were unsuccessful in achieving the necessary standards under the "Community & Local Engagement" and the "Lifestyle" categories of the Eco-Church plan. Through 2026, we are planning to put together a specific team to address these areas and look forward to trying again to achieve the Bronze Level in 2026.

Specifically the team will set out to draw up a plan to take action locally and/or nationally / globally, using the Parish News and Church Noticeboards to encourage participation; we will encourage local car sharing initiatives from pulpit and on website etc.; draw up a plan / strategy to promote ethical and environmentally aware consumption patterns by individuals and households, and encouraging the use of Fairtrade goods and materials; and encourage us all to become "Climate Heroes" using this calculator: <https://climate-calculator.climatehero.org/>

Mission Support

During the year we gave grant support to the following charitable organisations direct from church funds: Church Urban Fund; Papyrus; Prison Fellowship and Get Warrington Talking. We are also giving financial support to Christ Church, an adjacent parish to ours.

Transform Trade – £480.05 funds were raised at a coffee morning in March

The Christian Aid = £400.80 funds were raised at a coffee morning

MacMillan Cancer Fund –£502.65 funds were raised at a coffee morning in church

Jump £423.10 funds were raised at a coffee morning in church

Breast Cancer Now £350 raised at a coffee morning in church

Big Build £441.80 raised at a coffee morning in church

Church funds £413.55 raised at a coffee morning in church

Samaritan's Purse was supported through the donation of 170 filled shoes boxes for Operation Christmas Child brought to our "Toy Service" in December.

SureStart was supported with the donation of 76 wrapped gifts given at the Christmas "Toy Service" and taken to SureStart, Halton where the charity distributed them to their local family centres.

The Children's Society is supported with donations at our Christingle service and carol singing at the local pubs. This raised £813 in total.

Warrington Food Bank – we have a collection point in church for donations of food etc. These are taken to the local centre by a volunteer. Food items donated at our Harvest Festival service also go to the food bank.

Ecumenical relationships

All Saints is a member of Lymm and District Churches Together (LDCT). We had our annual prayer breakfast at the end of the week of Christian Unity. A breakfast was held during the week of Christian Aid. On the first Saturday of the month a prayer breakfast is held in the Sanctuary Café at 8am followed by prayers for the area and the Big Build.

The Sanctuary Café is a Community Interest Company that began as an idea developed by CTLD and is supported by them. On April 5th we celebrated 17 years. This year we will have a party and gift day towards the Big Build. We are always looking for volunteers to help, and All Saints have over the years been a great support. Members of our church make cakes for us. We have a great book shop with lots of cards and gifts available.

On Tuesdays we have a "Toomuch Tuesday menu where we use surplus food from Heatley Co-Op". We also offer a home made soup using vegetables and a cooked lunch. People just pay a donation.

When in Lymm please call in and you will be made very welcome.

"Friends" - Jean Fisher

Friends have had two new members during the last twelve months bringing a total of 17 members.

Friends paid for the new bird and bug boxes.

Membership is renewable in April.

Heritage Report

All Saints' history, art and architecture and its digital burial ground featured in two talks and church tours for the Thelwall History Group in February, June and July 2025. Linda Bellars, Mike Horne and Mike and Maggie Taylor were glad to share their research and experience. It is hoped to arrange another tour of the church and churchyard for all comers later this year.

All Saints has played a key role in the three years of the Thelwall 1100 Project, helping us publicise events through All Saints' News and the pew sheet and acknowledging our needs in the various prayer projects. The support of members with catering and service at the Thank You Tea for T1100 volunteers at Laskey Farm in September 2025 and catering for the closing celebrations in October has been greatly appreciated. So too has the support of the Chair of Thelwall Parish Hall Committee, Philip Young, in finally securing a safe and appropriate site for the T1100 Commemorative Stone and time capsule. This will be maintained by Thelwall Guides.

All Saints' Church was the first of five Thelwall sites to install their blue heritage plaque (on the railings beside the lychgate.) This was one of the Thelwall 1100 legacy projects which has seen our local history and heritage made more visible and better explained through publications, walking trails and new heritage signage.

During the year we had an approach from the South Trafford Archaeology Group to try and find evidence of King Edward the Elder's 'burh' or 'cyty'. STAG identified a couple of sites behind Baden Lodge/the Parish Hall and on Chaigeley land. Permissions have been granted for exploratory excavations now planned for the end of April/May. About 20 volunteers have come forward to take part in this community dig.

I am so very grateful for all the help, prayers and practical support you have shown for the Thelwall 1100 Project. All Saints as an institution and as a community has been key to its success.

Maggie Taylor
Thelwall 1100 Festival

Finance Report

The financial position of the church is much improved from last year and is now stable.

A Finance Team was formed in May 2025 to support the Treasurer, and many changes and improvements have been brought in since then, allowing us to much better understand and manage the financial position of the Church and the Parish Hall. Finance Team members are: Ian Hardman (Treasurer), Jon Halliday (Churchwarden), Mike Horne, James Gaffney, and Mike Brewer.

To address the immediate problem of a lack of cash in the Church Bank Account, discussions were held with the Diocese Finance Board, and with their support we suspended payment of the Parish Share for 6 months. We have now returned to paying 100% of the monthly Parish Share and will continue to do that through 2026. We have used the retained cash to allow compliance with our Reserves Policies as stated below, and to maintain sufficient cash at bank to allow us to pay our bills throughout the year even though our biggest fundraisers are in November and December.

Due to much better than expected levels of donations, the Church broke even in the year 2025, and the Parish Hall showed continued success in increasing its earnings, as are shown in the Annual Accounts.

There are going to be struggles ahead as the Parish Share continues to rise, this year at 3% which means that we need to find an additional £2268 in donations in order to support the work of the Diocese, plus there will be increases in Council Tax and Utilities, which everyone is experiencing. Through 2026, we will be carrying out various new initiatives aimed at spreading the financial load to the wider Thelwall community, emphasising that even non-churchgoers may value the presence of the church within their community. We will also encourage setting up of legacies and will maximise our retrieval of money through Gift Aid from UK taxpayers.

We choose to consider the Church and the Parish Hall as separate entities, but in fact they are combined into the one Charity, and from an accounting and reporting point of view, are united. This means that we are showing a good level of overall Receipts, which will be reported to Charity Commission.

RESERVES POLICY

The following Reserves Policies have been approved by PCC this year covering both the church and the Parish Hall. They will be kept under scrutiny and may be revised next year.

- 1) The Treasurer shall maintain a Reserve Fund of £12,000 in Investments and Deposit Accounts to allow the church to continue to function financially for a period of 6 months, in the event that the church has to close.
 - 2) Consequential Loss. A sum of £15,000 shall be made available by the PCC of All Saints Thelwall as Unallocated Reserves for larger long-term projects identified as a result of the Quinquennial Inspection, which cannot be covered by Grants or Insurance Claims.
 - 3) The above Restricted Funds for the Church can only be spent with the recommendation of the Finance Team, and with majority PCC approval. A plan for recovery of the funds shall be made within 3 months, and the funds must be returned to the above levels within 18 months, or by the end of the second Financial Year.
 - 4) The Treasurer shall maintain a Reserve Fund of £16,700 in Investments and Deposit Accounts to allow the Parish Hall to continue to trade for a period of 6 months.
 - 5) Consequential Loss. A sum of £33,000 shall be made available by the PCC of All Saints Thelwall as Unallocated Reserves for project requirements of the Parish Hall, identified by the Parish Hall Management Committee which cannot be covered by Grants or Insurance Claims.
 - 6) Maintenance reserves for the Parish Hall; On an ongoing basis, funds up to a maximum of £100,000 will be held by the Parish Hall Management Committee as unallocated reserves to be used for maintaining or replacing depreciating Parish Hall assets.
 - 7) The above Restricted Funds for the Parish Hall can only be spent with the recommendation of the Finance Team, and with majority PCC approval. A plan for recovery of the funds shall be made within 3 months, and the funds must be returned to the above levels within 18 months, or by the end of the second Financial Year.
- The 200 Club acts as a working reserve for the Parish Hall.

INVESTMENT POLICY

We invest the allocated reserves for Church and Parish Hall in the "COIF Charities Investment Fund", managed by CCLA Investment Management Limited. This is a medium-low risk (Risk Indicator 3 out of 7) investment recommended by the Church of England.

CCLA state about this Fund "We believe that the primary role of responsible investment is to drive positive change and this is best achieved by pushing companies to do more to address the major challenges facing us today. We aim to manage our clients' investments in a way that aligns with their values and to do this we consider environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors in our listed equity investment process and go beyond the boundaries of traditional investor engagement to drive change." And sets its Policy as "The Fund is an actively managed, diversified portfolio of assets designed to help protect both present and future beneficiaries from the effects of inflation. It will have an emphasis on equities but will also include property, bonds and other asset classes, which may be either liquid or illiquid in nature. The Fund follows a set of client-driven, values-based investment restrictions."

Over the past 7 years of investment, the church has benefitted from 5.5% per annum growth.

The Parish Hall investments were made later in 2021 and missed out on some early growth but still show an average of 2.4% growth per annum. Through 2025 though, both funds have shown a loss due to market volatility. The Finance Team will consider alternative investments, and will present these to PCC while maintaining the low risk, ethical Investment policies previously passed at PCC.

All church investments will be revalued at a minimum of once per annum no later than 3 months after the end of the financial year.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

At the APCM in 2025 it was decided that our Independent Examiner should again be Walker Begley. As part of the Finance Team's review, and in order to ensure that a timely and comprehensive review was completed this year so that the Accounts could be presented to APCM in 2026, it was decided to change to Juliet Hankey for the IE Review. This was agreed by PCC. Juliet has done an exceptional job this year, and we would like to propose to APCM that Juliet Hankey is asked to complete the Independent Examination in 2027. We would also like to thank Walker Begley for their support and hard work over the last few years.

Appendix 1 – Safeguarding Policy

All Saints, Thelwall

Safeguarding Policy

Promoting a Safer Church

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on *28th January 2026*:

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health & safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Ensure that all hirers of our buildings, whether church or parish hall, will adopt this policy as part of their hiring agreement or demonstrate that they have their own equivalent policy.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Caroline Johnstone as the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Incumbent 

Churchwarden 

Churchwarden 

Date 12 April 2026

The Parochial Church Council has also complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding & Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding and vulnerable adults).

Appendix 2 – FY2025 Financial Statements

The PCC of All Saints Thelwall
Accounts – Cash Basis
Year ended 31 December 2025

Receipts and Payments Account	2025 (Cash Basis)			2024 Restated (Cash Basis)			2024 (Accruals Basis)	Note
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £		
Voluntary Receipts							£	Note 3
1. Regular Giving								
2000 - Planned giving SO	44,267		44,267	41,511		41,511	41,511	Note 4
2010 - Planned giving by envelopes	8,937		8,937	8,383		8,383	8,455	
Total 1. Regular Giving	53,204		53,204	49,894		49,894	49,966	
3. Collections at Services								
2030 - Collections at services (GASDS)	3,924		3,924	2,694		2,694	2,694	Note 5
2035 - Other collections at services (Votive)	20		20					
Total 3. Collections at Services	3,944		3,944	2,694		2,694	2,694	
4. All other giving and voluntary receipts inc Special Appeals								
2060 - Donations received (Church)	7,533	3,531	11,064	3,699		3,699	3,699	Note 6
2070 - Donations received (Parish Hall)	95		95	61		61	61	
2160 - Miscellaneous Church Receipts	0		0	105		105	105	
2090 - Donations for other charities (In and Out)	0	488	488	(489)		(489)	19	Note 7
Total 4. All other giving and voluntary receipts inc Special Appeals	7,628	4,019	11,647	3,376		3,376	3,884	

I have examined the accounting records of All Saints Church, Thelwall for the year ended 31 December 2025 and confirm that they are in accordance with the books of account and records provided.

Examiner: Juliet Hankey

Date: 9 April 2026

6. Gift Aid recovered																											
2040 - Income tax recovered Gift Aid																	12,259				11,725				11,725		11,725
Total 6. Gift Aid recovered																	12,259				11,725				11,725		11,725
8. Grants (include recurring and one off)																											
2080 - Income from Grants (non-recurring)																	33,659					150		150		150	Note 8
Total 8. Grants (include recurring and one off)																	33,659					150		150		150	
9. Activities for generating funds																											
2100 - Social Committee Fundraising Events Income																	24,827				23,316			23,316		23,471	
2130 - 200 Club																	1,545				1,565			1,565		1,565	
2140 - Friends Member Donations																	490					430		430		430	
Total 9. Activities for generating funds																	26,862				24,881			25,311		25,466	
10. Investment Income																											
2300 - Interest Income																	885				1,053			1,053		5,331	
Total 10. Interest Income																	885				1,053			1,053		5,331	
11. Fees retained by PCC																											
2170 - Fees weddings & funerals																	12,567				10,121			10,121		10,121	
Total 11. Fees retained by PCC																	12,567				10,121			10,121		10,121	
12. Trading Activities																											
2095 - Parish Magazine Sponsorship & Advertising																	6,366				1,855			1,855		1,660	Note 9
2180 - Regular User (Parish Hall)																	36,142				35,250			35,250		42,723	
2190 - Other User (Parish Hall)																	11,376				11,436			11,436		14,154	
Total 12. Trading Activities																	53,884				48,541			48,541		58,537	
Total Voluntary Receipts																	170,743				152,285			152,865		167,874	

I have examined the accounting records of All Saints Church, Thetwall for the year ended 31 December 2025 and confirm that they are in accordance with the books of account and records provided.

Examiner: Juliet Hankey

Date: 9 April 2026

Payments																			
17. Cost of generating funds																			
4630 - Social Committee Events Costs										9,425				10,895				10,895	
4640 - 200 Club Prizes and Costs										560				576				566	
Total 17. Cost of generating funds										9,985				11,471				11,179	
18. Mission giving and donations																			
3560 - Mission giving (grants & donations)										3,030				2,945				2,945	
4800 - Others including charitable donations										121				0				0	
Total 18. Mission giving and donations										3,151				2,945				2,945	
19. Diocesan parish contribution																			
3100 - Diocesan Parish Contribution										38,832				75,344				75,344	Note 10
Total 19. Diocesan parish contribution										38,832				75,344				75,344	
20. Salaries, wages and honoraria																			
4130 - Hall Staff Costs										9,153				8,418				8,132	
Total 20. Salaries, wages and honoraria										9,153				8,418				8,132	
21. Clergy & Staff costs																			
3200 - Clergy & Staffing costs (Church)										2,722				903				903	Note 11
3260 - Clergy Expenses										1,152				1,152				1,152	
Total 21. Clergy & Staff costs										3,874				2,055				2,055	
22. Mission and Evangelism Costs																			
3360 - Outreach										296				392				407	
4750 - Warm Places (Outgoings)										463									
Total 22. Mission and Evangelism Costs										296				392				407	
23. Church running costs																			
3230 - Council tax										3,324				3,163				3,163	
3240 - Insurance Church										3,464				3,404				3,404	

I have examined the accounting records of All Saints Church, Thelwall for the year ended 31 December 2025 and confirm that they are in accordance with the books of account and records provided.

Examiner: Juliet Hankey

Date: 9 April 2026

have examined the accounting records of All Saints Church, Thelwall for the year ended 31 December 2025 and confirm that they are in accordance with the books of account and records provided.

Date: 9 April 2026

	4620 - Parish Magazine Printing	5,390		5,390		2,930		2,930	Note 13
	Total 25. Costs of Trading	18,616		18,616		28,736		28,736	32,582
27. Major repairs to the church building									
	3280 - Church, churchyard, vicarage - Repairs & Maintenance	2,352	950	3,302		1,448	68	1,516	1,515
	Total 27. Major repairs to the church building	2,352	950	3,302		1,448	68	1,516	1,515
28. Major repairs to Parish Hall inc redecoration									
	4115 - Hall Decoration	1,980		1,980		0		0	0
	Total 28. Major repairs to Parish Hall inc redecoration	1,980		1,980		0		0	0
29. New Building work to church or Parish Hall									
	4300 - New building work	18,166	13,000	31,165		0		0	0
	Total 29. New Building work to church or Parish Hall	18,166	13,000	31,165		0		0	0
	Total Payments	133,577	35,689	169,266		159,693	162	159,855	163,464
	Surplus / (Deficit)	37,166	2,479	39,645		(7,408)	418	(6,990)	4,409
	Cash on hand brought forward			84,529				91,519	
	Cash on hand carried forward			124,174				84,529	

Explanatory Notes

- Note 1 The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments (Cash Accounting) basis.
- Note 2 In previous years the Accruals Accounting Basis was used inadvertently. The prior year position has therefore been restated to the Receipts and Payments basis, as is appropriate.
- Note 3 The Structure and Headings used are in line with Chester Diocese wishes and guidelines.
- Note 4 There are now 50 people on Standing Order, compared to 42 in 2024.

I have examined the accounting records of All Saints Church, Thelwall for the year ended 31 December 2025 and confirm that they are in accordance with the books of account and records provided.

Examiner: Juliet Hankey

Date: 9 April 2026

- Note 5 £850 donated in the collection plate over Christmas; £350 at big Remembrance Service.
- Note 6 One-off donations made for Treasurers IT, for Portable Altar, and in support of Youth work and Outreach.
- Note 7 This is money collected as an Agency at an event to be passed on to an external charity. Timing Issues account for the differences between 2024 and 2025. In the filed 2024 Accounts, this was shown under "Other Income" after "Operating Profit" was calculated.
- Note 8 Grants for Church A/V System update, and Parish Hall toilet refurbishment.
- Note 9 Increase in monthly sponsorship, and collection of 2025 and 2026 revenue.
- Note 10 In 2025, All Saints in conjunction with the Chester Diocese Finance Team deferred payment of the Parish Share to the Diocese amounting to £38,802.48. In accordance with advice from the Diocese, this is not shown as a Liability for the year. This cash will be used to ensure that 100% of Parish Share can be paid in 2026.
- Note 11 Additional services have led to increased costs for staff.
- Note 12 Audio Visual Equipment bought and installed.
- Note 13 New Parish Magazine printer had to be found, which was at higher cost.
- Note 14 Stabilisation of Gravestones; Removal of Compost Heap; Tree Removal. Partially funded by money donated by Friends of All Saints Church.
- Note 15 Renewal of Toilets at Parish Hall, partially grant funded.

2. Bank Account Balances

Account	31 Dec 2025	31 Dec 2024
Cash at bank and in hand		
Current Accounts		
Thelwall Church General Purpose	36,112	11,743
Parish Hall Running Account	39,008	36,096
Friends of All Saints	2,149	2,609
Thelwall Parish Hall Supporter	3,889	7,949
Deposit Accounts		
Church Business Reserve Account	16,006	1
Parish Hall 95day Savings Account	27,010	26,130
Total Cash at bank and in hand	124,174	84,529
Investments		
Parish Hall Investment C03049294-001	27,529	28,076
Church Investment 116970001R	18,690	19,062
Total Investments	46,219	47,138

I have examined the accounting records of All Saints Church, Thelwall for the year ended 31 December 2025 and confirm that they are in accordance with the books of account and records provided.

Examiner: Juliet Hankey

Date: 9 April 2026

3. Restricted Funds excluding donations for other charities (included in Cash above)

	Balance b/f	Receipts	Payments	Balance c/f	Note
Friends	£2,609	£490	£950	£2,149	
Youth	£1,516	£1,985	£80	£3,421	
IT	0	£1,396	£387	£1,009	Church A/V Upgrade
Vestments	0	£150	£150	0	Vestments purchased in Dec 2024 Fund Closed
Warm Places	£1,306	0	£463	£843	
Grants (PH Toilets)	0	£13,000	£13,000	0	Fund Closed
Grants (Church AV)	0	£20,659	£20,659	0	Fund Closed
Total Restricted	5,431	37,680	35,689	7,422	

4. Reserves (included in Friends, PH Supporter Club, Deposit Accounts and Investments above)

i)	Church Reserve Fund (held in Deposit A/C)	£12,000
ii)	Church Consequential Loss Fund	£15,000
iii)	Church Maintenance Fund	£9,845
iv)	Hall Reserve Fund (held in 95 Day A/C)	£16,700
v)	Hall Consequential Loss Fund	£33,000
vi)	Hall Maintenance Fund	£8,763

5. Other Monetary Assets / Liabilities (Note only)

Assets	
Gift Aid Recoverable	£3,664
Debtors (inc hall hire)	£17,860
Liabilities	
Charitable Collections (In and Out)	£488
Other sundry creditors	£1,345
Net assets / (liabilities)	£19,691

I have examined the accounting records of All Saints Church, Thelwall for the year ended 31 December 2025 and confirm that they are in accordance with the books of account and records provided.

Examiner: Juliet Hankey

Date: 9 April 2026

6. Charitable Giving (Note only)

Collections (In and Out)		
Children's Society	£645	
Transform Trade	£480	
Jump Children's Charity	£422	
Christian Aid	£401	
Church Urban Fund Lent Appeal	£300	
Breast Cancer Now	£350	
MacMillan Cancer Support	£503	
Sanctuary Café Big Build	£442	
Children's Society	£168	
	£3,711	
Mission Giving		
Church Urban Fund	£570	
Prison Fellowship	£570	
Warrington Speak Up	£570	
Papyrus Suicide Prevention	£570	
Christchurch Latchford	£570	
	£2,850	
Total Church Donations	£6,561	4.5% of church income

I have examined the accounting records of All Saints Church, Thelwall for the year ended 31 December 2025 and confirm that they are in accordance with the books of account and records provided.

Examiner: Juliet Hankey

Date: 9 April 2026

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of All Saints Thelwall ('the Church') for the year ended 31st December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Church you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). I report in respect of my examination of the Church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act, and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Church as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) The accounts do not accord with those records, or
- (3) The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed	<i>Juliet Hankey</i>
Name	Juliet Hankey
Address	Appleton Thorn, Warrington, Cheshire
Date	9 April 2026

have examined the accounting records of All Saints Church, Thelwall for the year ended 31 December 2025 and confirm that they are in accordance with the books of account and records provided.

Examiner: Juliet Hankey
Date: 9 April 2026

Accounts

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

THELWALL

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025



Important

Please bring this report with you to the Annual General Meeting

To be read before the meeting

Charity number 1135426

ALL SAINTS CHURCH THELWALL
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING AND MEETING
TO ELECT CHURCHWARDENS
30th APRIL 2025

MEETING TO ELECT CHURCHWARDENS

1. Minutes of the last Meeting
2. Vote of thanks to the Churchwardens
3. Election of Churchwardens
4. Notice of the Archdeacons Visitation
5. AOB
6. Close of Meeting

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING

Minutes of the last Meeting

A.

To receive a report on changes to the Electoral Roll since the last Annual Meeting

To receive a report on the proceedings of the PCC and the activities
of the parish generally

To receive a report on the financial affairs of the Parish

To receive the independently examined accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December, 2024

To receive a report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

To receive a report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod

B.

To elect Representatives to the Deanery Synod

To elect Representatives to the PCC

C.

To appoint an Independent Examiner

D.

Any matters of Parochial or general interest

Chairman's Report

Other Reports

E. Close of Meeting

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING TO ELECT CHURCH WARDENS

24th APRIL 2024

1. Minutes of Meeting of AGM 2023

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting in April 2023 was agreed,
Proposed: Pip Horne, Seconded: Jon Halliday

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 24th April 2024

2.1 Douglas welcomed everyone to the meeting. We opened the meeting with a hymn and short service.

3. Vote of thanks to Church Wardens

Julie and Jon have been a great team. Meetings held in the Little Manor. Lots of thoughts/business and fun at the meetings. There was a loud round of applause.

4. Election of Church Wardens

Julie French, Proposed: Kath Mellor, Seconded: Jean Fisher
Jon Halliday: Proposed: Elaine Whittaker, Seconded: Ray Fisher
Everyone was in favour.

As Julie had completed her six years, the Arch Deacon is happy to allow Julie to continue for a further year and for Jon to shadow for the year ahead. Jon is a quick learner/

5. Sidespeople

Sidespeople are appointed at the first PCC meeting after the APCM.

6. Notice of the Arch Deacons Visitation

The Archdeacons Visitation is 26th June at 7:30 pm at Great Budworth. Church Wardens have to attend.

7. AOB

None

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

24th APRIL 2024

1. Minutes of Meeting held at AGM 2024

These were accepted as a true record. Proposed: Jon Halliday, Seconded: Maggie Taylor

2. Report on the Electoral Roll since the last meeting

All people at this meeting must be on the Electoral Roll. A complete revision is required in 2025. The number on the electoral roll has increased by five during the year,

3. Report on the Financial Affairs

Whatever you have in your minutes accounts had been prepared by Chris Monks but we are waiting for the audited accounts from Walker Begley. Douglas thanked Chris for his hard work as Treasurer. The accounts look promising.

4. Election to the Deanery Synod

No election this year.

Our members are: Douglas Black, Kath Mellor, Mike Horne and Bob Powell.

5. Election of Representatives to the PCC

Caroline Johnstone as Safeguarding Officer Proposed: Julie French, Seconded: Jon Halliday
Ian Hardman – who attends 8am service. Proposed: Maggie Taylor, Seconded: Mike Taylor.

6. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Walker Begley have been asked.

7. Unseen Unsung Heroes

Julie spoke about Peter and Lynda. Frank had sent a report on the work they have done with Open the Book. It gives great links to the schools and Peter and Lynda also help with the Monday lunches along with other jobs within the church.

The meeting ended with a Hymn and the Grace

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

All Saints Church is situated in Thelwall. It is part of the Diocese of Chester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is the Vicarage, Bell Lane, Thelwall, Warrington, Cheshire.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and registered as a charity on 9th April 2010 with the Charity Commission (**Charity number 1135426**).

PCC members during 2024/2025 were as follows

Rev Douglas Black
Julie French (Churchwarden)
Jon Halliday (Churchwarden)
Pip Horne (Lay Reader)
Colin Horrabin (Lay Reader)

Deanery Synod Elected Members

Douglas Black
Kath Mellor
Bob Powell
Mike Horne
John Alexander

PCC Elected Members 2024

Caroline Johnstone (Safeguarding Officer)
Ingrid Halliday
Suzanne Hopkins
Anne Hague
Linda Hutchinson
James Gaffney
Nettie Norman
Ian Hardman

Church Architect

Tony Barton, RIBA
Donald Insall Architects, 5 Bridge Place, Chester

Bank

NatWest, Warrington Branch, 23 Sankey Street, Warrington, Cheshire, WA1 1XH

Independent Examiner

Walker Begley, Knutsford Road, Grappenhall

AIMS and PURPOSES

All Saints' Church, Thelwall Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Douglas Black, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the Parish Hall on Bell Lane Thelwall.

Our mission statement is:-

Growing Up, in our faith by engaging with the bible, prayer & worship.

Growing Together, through team work, encouragement, fellowship & fun!

Growing Out, to our local and global community with practical service and generosity.

Growing More, by sharing our faith & drawing people into the life of the church.

We aim to fulfil this in all aspects of church life.

OBJECTIVES and ACTIVITIES

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at All Saints. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- worship and prayer;
- learning about the Gospel;
- developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus;
- providing pastoral care for people living in the parish;
- missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church and the Parish Hall.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE and MANAGEMENT

All Saints' Annual Parochial Meeting is held on the last Wednesday of April and it is at this meeting that church wardens and PCC members are elected. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules 2020. At All Saints the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar), churchwardens, lay readers and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has appointed six permanent action groups, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life:

- Worship (including Nurture and Prayer)
- Parish Hall
- Young People (ages birth to 18 years)
- Social Events and Communications
- Outreach
- Stewardship

Employment Matters 2025

Employment in Church of England parishes is now governed by the Safer Recruitment and People Management protocols. A number of our members have attended the safer recruitment training course, which enables them to be involved in the recruitment of employees and volunteers.

Even though we only have a few part time and occasional employees, we are still subject to all the demands of Employment Law, including the National Living Wage and contracts of employment for all employees. In some instances – like paid church choir directors and musicians – employment is also governed by Canon (church) Law. We are grateful (relieved!) that the Diocesan HR Advisor – Liz Geddes - is always on hand to advise us. Also, we must notify the HMRC on each occasion that payment is made to one of our employees. This includes single payments to vergers, organists & gravediggers, as well as the earnings of our part time employees. Pensions: at the moment, none of our employees are eligible for auto-enrolment on a pension scheme because their earnings are below the required threshold.

National Insurance: this becomes payable when our workers earn £242 per week (2025), which would be the case should we employ a new Director of Music on increased hours.

Safeguarding is an ever increasing responsibility for churches. 'Safer recruitment' requires vetting of anyone who works with children, young people and vulnerable adults. They must be screened, trained & appointed every 3 years.

Village Green

The 'Village Green' on Thelwall New Road (o/s Gigg Lane) is the property of the church (the diocese & PCC are joint trustees). The vicar and wardens are responsible for the oversight of the land, reporting to PCC when any issues arise. We are grateful to the Grappenhall & Thelwall Parish Council (G&TPC) for including the land in their local grounds maintenance programme, which means that they are paying for the grass to be cut. Every 5 years, we are required by our insurers to employ an arborist to inspect the land, especially the trees, and produce a report for our attention and action. One of the issues we need to keep a regular eye on is 'encroachment' - this is when adjacent home owners try to take our land by moving their boundaries. If we do not challenge the encroachment within ten years, ownership can be transferred to the encroacher.



Vicar's Report

This is my 23rd year as vicar of All Saints. My 'silver plate' anniversary (so I'm told)!

1. GROWING UP in our faith by engaging with the bible, prayer and worship. We continue to look for a new 'Director of Music' (a.k.a. Parish Music Outreach Worker) to work with adults and children in the church, community and primary schools. A revised job description was agreed by PCC and then advertised in 40 outlets and contacts. There was only one applicant but they were not suitable. The hunt continues. Meanwhile, I'm in awe of our musicians and singers for what they do with the music in our services. They're remarkable! Our Bible groups continue to meet for shared support and encouragement. We also continue to help people engage with prayer and Bible reading. Over the past couple of years, we've been using seasonal 'prayer project' leaflets, to complement the prayer cards we distribute at major festivals. The diocesan vision encourages all of us to "grow braver, fuller faith". In 2025, could you help someone to engage with the Bible, prayer and worship - to grow up in braver, fuller faith?

2. GROWING TOGETHER through teamwork, encouragement, fellowship and fun! The social events, outreach activities, the bonfire, fundraisers, and heritage events present us with great opportunities for teamwork, encouragement, fellowship and fun. As mentioned in previous years, social inclusion has become a significant objective for charitable funders as they seek to lessen isolation and mental health issues. Our applications for grants are often fruitful because we address the need for inclusion in a village with an ageing population. Also, research informs us that 'belonging' can lead to 'believing'. During 2025, could you invite someone to be involved in our 'growing together'? Encourage them to belong and they may just believe, too. The diocesan vision slogan is: "Together in Christ, sharing hope". Let's grow together and share hope.

3. GROWING OUT to our local and global community with practical service and generosity. Life is still economically, physically and emotionally tough for many people - locally and globally. Hence, I'm really heartened by the schemes and generosity that our church produces. Food and Friendship in church on Mondays is now an invaluable gathering for older folk. And, once more, we've seen marvellous responses to appeals for Christian Aid, Foodbank, Children's Society, Operation Christmas Child, FairTrade, Get Warrington Talking, Macmillan, Papyrus, Church Urban Fund and Prison Fellowship. The list expands year on year! As always, our planned appeals and projects are accompanied by excellent individual acts of compassion and kindness to people near and far. The diocesan vision encourages "transformative loving service" whilst "engaging locally, and working together in loving generosity". That's us!

4. GROWING MORE by sharing our faith and drawing people into the life of the church. Open the Book (OtB) is still taking assemblies in the local primary schools but not quite as frequently as previous years. The new head of the junior school is re-evaluating the school's priorities. But, as she becomes more familiar with what we have to offer we believe that she will see the benefit of OtB. Additionally, research continues to show the evolving effectiveness of one-to-one 'faith sharing' in leading people to faith and church. This is reflected in one of the priorities of the diocesan vision: "Reaching out and blessing the 1.5 million (in the diocese) one life at a time". Is there somebody outside the church that you could reach out and bless? Possibly invite them to a fun activity or a service? Moreover, the C of E's 'Everyday

Faith' campaign encourages Christians to share their faith in word and action during the week: at work, in the home, and through volunteering. It's about seeing our God given purpose in all we do.

The goal of all of the aforementioned is to do with developing and growing 'missionary disciples', which is the policy of the C of E, the diocese...and the New Testament!

During 2024-25, the PCC has spent some time engaging with 'eco church' – a church that seeks to care for creation and minimise our carbon footprint. We are following the recommendations provided by a Christian organisation called 'A Rocha'. They award bronze, silver and gold status to churches, depending on how many recommendations they enact.

Considerable meaningful ministry is continually carried out by so many people in our church, which makes it challenging to thank everyone individually. But particularly, I would like to say a big thank you to Julie and Jon (wardens), Ian (treasurer), Kath (secretary), Pip, Colin and Bob (Readers) and Caroline (trainee Reader), and all the action groups for continuing to seize mission opportunities with such vigour and fervour. And, as ever, I say to you all: 'thank you' and 'well done good and faithful servants'. Keep growing up, growing together, growing out and growing more

Safeguarding Report 2024/25 - Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) Caroline Johnstone

This year has been a tumultuous one for the national church in the area of safeguarding and it has brought into focus our very real need to put safeguarding in the spotlight and at the centre of all we do in the church. Safeguarding Sunday's service in November, gave us a great opportunity to share the work we at All Saints are doing to ensure that this is the case. We have welcomed the introduction of the Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard which is an online tool to guide us in good practice as we implement our policy and procedures. It keeps us on track with review dates, provides template documents and links to national policy etc. The progress made in updating the dashboard is reported to the PCC at each meeting. We have detailed records of DBS checks and training for those working with children and vulnerable adults and keep those updated – indeed, the vast majority of them have just completed updated training. But, best of all, we, as a congregation, have really grasped the fact that we all have a responsibility for the safeguarding of each other or "keeping an eye out for each other" - Safeguarding is discussed, procedures clarified and from time-to-time concerns raised and dealt with, which are all indicators of a healthy approach to safeguarding. It is an area of our work which is on-going, we will never have an end point, but I thank you for recognising the need for all the safeguarding procedures that need to be in place and your willingness to engage with them, so that we, at All Saints, are doing all we can to ensure our church is a warm, welcoming, safe space for everyone.

Caroline Johnstone PSO

All Saints, Thelwall

Safeguarding Policy

Promoting a Safer Church

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on *29th January 2025*:

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

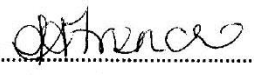
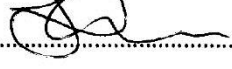
- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health & safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Ensure that all hirers of our buildings, whether church or parish hall, will adopt this policy as part of their hiring agreement or demonstrate that they have their own equivalent policy.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Caroline Johnstone as the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Incumbent  Churchwarden 
Churchwarden  Date 29/1/2025

The Parochial Church Council has also complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding & Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding and vulnerable adults).

PARISH REPORTS – Achievements and Performance

Electoral Roll Report – Jon Halliday

At the time of writing this on 9th April 2025, the Electoral Roll has been cleared in readiness for the 6 yearly Full Revision, as required by the Church of England, at this stage the current new roll contains a total of 128 members. The number of members prior to the start of the full revision was 237 and it is expected that the Electoral Roll will, as each member completes and returns an Electoral Roll form, return to a number representative of the previous years.

Based on the current new Electoral Roll, and its current 128 members, 85 live within the parish of Thelwall and 43 are outside. As this is a new roll all names were removed from the roll pending re-registration.

In line with the previous report and its plan to normalize the reporting period the report is written based on the declared numbers as at the 7th April 2025. The next declaration will be 7th April 2026 unless otherwise mandated.

I will be able to state the current numbers for the coming year at the Annual Meeting as 128 electoral roll members.

Historical Reports and Future Predictions

For transparency I have included numbers for the past few years are below and this does show a trending increase in Electoral Roll. As expected, as in previous years, a decrease in numbers due to the full revision has been exhibited however this will be adjusted in the next report to take into account late submissions.

Total at AGM in 2007 = 155 (Full Revision)
Total at AGM in 2008 = 175
Total at AGM in 2009 = 177
Total at AGM in 2010 = 184
Total at AGM in 2011 = 193
Total at AGM in 2012 = 199
Total at AGM in 2013 = 204 (Full Revision)
Total at AGM in 2014 = 221
Total at AGM in 2015 = 237
Total at AGM in 2016 = 248
Total at AGM in 2017 = 256
Total at AGM in 2018 = 264
Total at AGM in 2019 = 244 (Full Revision)
Total at AGM in 2020 = 246
Total at AGM in 2021 = 241
Total at AGM in 2022 = 237

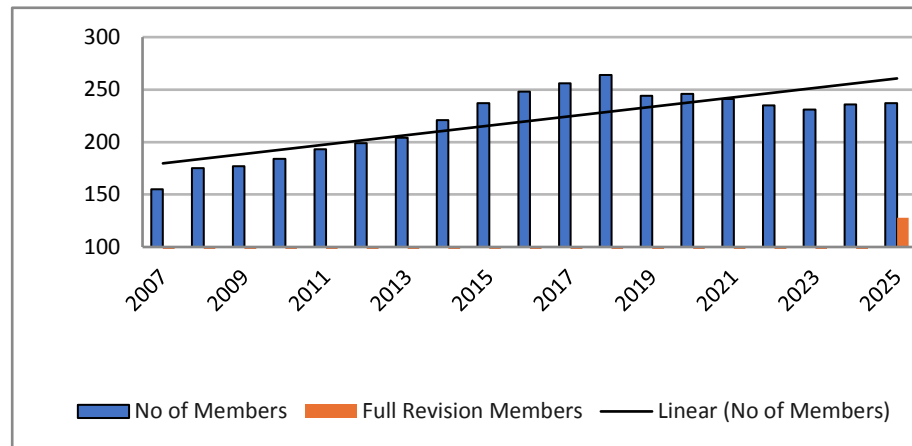


fig a. Visual representation of the electoral roll numbers declared at each AGM

Total at AGM in 2023 = 231	
Total at AGM in 2024 = 235	
Total at AGM in 2025 = 128 (Full Revision)	
Just prior to the Full Revision the number of members was 237	

It is anticipated, based on the historical statistics, that the number of members of the Electoral Roll will increase over time to come more in line with previous declarations.

As was previously reported Thelwall has continued to see a large number of property sales and is classed as a desirable area within the Warrington area and therefore is seeing an increase in the number of new families moving to the parish.

This change in demographics across the parish has resulted in the introduction of new families, lowering the average age in the parish, and an increase in population density (resulting from an increase in the average number of occupants within a home) and it is hoped we will continue to realise an increase in congregation members as some of these families look to attend a local church on a regular basis.



Jon Halliday

Electoral Roll Officer

Secretary's Report – Kath Mellor

The PCC meets six times a year to discuss Church life and our finances. At the first meeting Ian Hardman was elected as our new Treasurer. Ian has settled in great and reports about our finances at each meeting. Each meeting we discuss Safeguarding and there have been lots of changes and Caroline reports everything to the PCC. All members have done their Safeguarding training. We have discussed in full and each member gave their views on Prayers for Love and Faith. We have discussed in full the advertisement for the vacancy for a Parish Music Outreach Worker. We also agreed on the new portable alter and portable font which was left in a legacy from Viv Dockery. We are now in the process of looking at a new Audio visual system. The PCC agreed to become an Eco Church and Mike Horne is now at the helm of this project.

Deanery Synod Report 2024

At the March 2024 meeting, we welcomed Jon Pocock – the Diocesan Strategic Programme Director – who talked about the Diocesan Vision: “Together in Christ, sharing hope”. The main strapline of the vision is: “Reaching out to the 1.5 million people in the diocese one life at a time”. This will be achieved by:

- Growing Missional Health of parishes
- Increasing their Missional Reach
- Planting new Missional Communities
- Developing Missional Leadership

The July meeting of synod focussed on the Creamfield's initiative – a church presence at this electronic dance music festival in Daresbury on August Bank Holiday weekend. Two church marquees are planned at different locations on the site. In the past, festival goers have visited the tents for a listening ear and a prayer. Synod members were asked to donate packets of Jammie Dodgers, which will be handed out to those who come to the church tents seeking help. The feedback about the church presence has been positive and appreciated.

Much of the business at the October meeting was centred on solving the challenge of providing service cover for the many vacant parishes in the deanery: Daresbury, Walton, Grappenhall, Aston, Little Leigh and Lower Whitley. Also cover for St Mary's Lymm during Beverley Jameson's sick leave. Unfortunately, we don't have many retired priests to call upon, which means that some parishes will need to make other arrangements for services e.g. Morning Prayer led by Readers. In addition, the Archdeacon of Chester is on sabbatical until Christmas!

Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church (Churchwardens)

As is usual for our church it has been another busy but productive year for us.

During the Summer and Autumn of 2024 we welcomed a number of guest speakers to the church and grew our church family with new members of the congregation and welcomed some new young members with a number of baptisms and celebrated the various weddings that took place. We continue to open the doors to our church to our surrounding community and beyond and hope that our Church can also become their Church.

This year also became my 2nd and Julie's 7th year as a Church Warden and she continued to guide me in the various responsibilities and obligations of being a Church Warden and has provided me with a great support and wealth of knowledge as I now prepare to pass the same knowledge on to our next incoming warden though I suspect she will never be far away.

The last winter saw a number of severe weather events ranging from severe rain to extremely low temperatures and I'm pleased to say that our Church fared well. Aside from a couple of small spots of water that had blown in through the roof vents there was no major issues with the roof or flooding thanks to the sump installed previously in the boiler room.

The winter also saw a lot of strong winds and this did result in one of the large trees to the rear of the graveyard becoming unsafe and required us to remove it. Thanks to Philip Young and the team at Countrywide the tree was removed quickly before further winds brought it down causing significant damage to the gravestones in its vicinity. Because of its position it did require specialist equipment and while the costs for this were not insignificant it was considerably lower than other companies that quoted almost double and were unable to attend immediately. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Philip and the Countrywide team for a prompt and professional response and ensuring costs were kept to a minimum. Additionally Philip has also ensured that all of the Church gutters have remained clear and this has contributed to ensuring that there have been no unexpected waterfalls or water features in and around the Church.

Whilst we highlighted the challenge we faced with the repairs to the Church main door these have not been completed. The costs for this repair are significantly higher than originally suggested or anticipated and are likely to cost us in excess of £10,000 to complete due to the complexity with the repair of the top hinge which will require the removal of significant stone work that forms the door arch. Whilst we did find a specialist to complete the work the costs are significant and we are currently exploring ways to fund this repair work.

An additional challenge we have faced over the last year is associated with the Church Audio Visual system. As some of you may be aware this system is over 30 years old and has long surpassed its viable lifespan and is standing to degrade in terms of both reliability and performance. Whilst we have continued to replace and upgrade elements of the system over time we are now at the point where a complete replacement of the major elements is required which includes a new sound desk, speakers, wiring and the replacement of projectors with

large fixed display equipment. A funder for this has been located and we have received several quotes from suppliers. This project is expected to commence this coming year and more information will be posted to the Church website at <https://allsaints.org.uk>

We continue to reach out to the people and schools within our parish with a large number of activities that continues to make our Church the centre of our community and we offer our heartfelt thanks to all involved the various members of the congregation and outreach groups that continue to represent and promote our Church within the community.

On behalf of Julie and myself, we wish you all a happy, healthy and peaceful year to come.

Worship Action Group (Action Group Chair, Douglas Black)

The brief of the WAGs is to develop worship, nurture and prayer in line with the church's mission statement: growing up, growing together, growing out, growing more.

Portable altar and font: the new portable altar and font are now in use. They give us flexibility and options. We are very grateful to Sarah Jayne and Martin Lovell for donating these two items in memory of Viv Dockery.

Prayer: we've had to adapt the prayer life of the church to fit congregants' busy lives. Our ideas have needed to be flexible and easy to use, so that they can be of use wherever people may be at the time:

- Every Harvest, Advent & Lent, we've been publishing Prayer Project leaflets with items for prayer and include seasonal prayers written by members of WAGs.
- At Easter & Christmas, we've been handing out prayer cards published by the Prayer Trust.
- Thy Kingdom Come – we engage with the Archbishops' Ascensiontide prayer initiative that involves praying for family, friends, neighbours & colleagues to come to faith.
- Summer Prayer Project – happens every 3 years for July/August. A folded card with the names of Thelwall streets organised into the days of the week.

Caroline Johnstone is now nearing the home strait of her Reader training. Caroline's licensing will take place on Saturday, 11th October 2025 at Chester Cathedral.

Daily Personal Bible Reflection: wherever possible, we try to encourage people to engage with some regular personal bible reflection. 'Our Daily Bread' is very popular, especially with our older folk. But there are many more resources 'out there', in physical and digital format.

Audio-visual: WAGs are pleased that the PCC is actively considering an upgrade to the audio-visual system in church. Improved sound and vision is important, especially in the chancel. Judith Biggin & Val Harper continue to encourage us to take into consideration those members who have visual and hearing challenges.

Choir, Music Group & Organ: our musicians, choir / music group are doing a great job. The growth in skill, involvement and numbers is really encouraging. The organ was tuned and serviced in the autumn by Jardine's of Manchester. Jardine's also amended the organ bench, making it much easier to climb onto.

Parish Music Outreach Worker: The post has been advertised in approx 40 places. No takers yet (apart from one candidate who was considered unsuitable). The PCC is now reworking the job description and advert to encourage applicants with varied musical abilities and backgrounds e.g. other musical instruments and skills (not necessarily piano/organ).

Parish Hall Action Group - Philip Young

In 2024 the hall has continued to focus on improving and maintaining the fabric of the building such that users get a better experience of it.

The main hall skirting boards, heaters and doors were painted. A new industrial floor cleaner and vacuum were purchased. The kitchen drainage was excavated and replaced. A fire alarm was installed with call points. A new music system was purchased and is available with a users' guide. A large drop down screen was installed on the stage for presentations. All the heaters in the hall have been thoroughly overhauled improving their efficiency significantly and in turn comfort of the hall users. The emergency lighting has been overhauled and is now maintained regularly.

Two years ago daffodils and tulips were planted and they are now flowering regularly adding to the hall's appeal. The work done on the septic tank four years ago is now paying dividends and working very efficiently and is isolated securely from vandalism. Finally all the hall regular maintenance has been put on a regular Maintenance schedule to move away from reactive maintenance to proactive maintenance.

The main story for the hall in 2025 is the up and coming refurbishment of the toilets at the hall. All the current installation will be removed and disposed of. The toilets will be replaced with modern cubicles and sanitary ware. The design will allow efficient cleaning and the rooms will be bright well-lit and much more appropriate for a modern hall open to a wide range of users in the 21st century.

The work commences on Monday 21st April and will take 6 weeks. There will always be two toilets with the disabled toilet doubling up as the cover for the one that is being refurbished ie: gents or ladies while work is ongoing. The work will cost £30,000 of which over £16,000 has been grant funded. For this we are grateful for the diligent work of Frank Whittaker, Richard Speed and Linda Hutchinson of the 200 club. The two trusts which have donated are The Garfield Weston Foundation and the Bernard Sunley foundation to whom we are extremely grateful.

On the user side Carolina has continued her excellent work bringing new ad hoc users to the hall.

The latest being a regular user during the week as an exercise class. After meeting the costs of the significant project purchases this year the hall still created a small surplus of approximately £5k which will be set aside for significant future cost of roof repairs/replacement and the hall floor wear and tare.

On the personnel side Dave Mellor supported by his wife Kath has done a great job of opening and shutting the hall including Christmas day! Jean and Ray manage the cleaning team who are in 6 out of every 7 days of the week. Glyn Jones does ad hoc repairs out of user hours and is a great support to the team.

For next year the roof, the hall floor and kitchen are all areas that will require plans to be drawn up.

Pastoral Care and Community Outreach

During 2024 there were 4 baptisms, 7 funerals at All Saints and 8 funerals at the crematorium only, 0 burials and 12 burials of ashes, and 2 weddings.

Baptism Preparation – A church member visits the family before the baptism to get to know the family and explain what's involved. This person is at the service and the baptised child is given a children's Bible as a baptism gift from the church.

Bereaved families are visited before and after the funeral by the vicar. We have a 'Memorial Service' of remembrance once a year, at all Saints-tide, to which all who have been bereaved during the last year are invited. Judith Biggin sends a card to bereaved families on the first anniversary of their loss.

Our Counselling Referral service has been able to help a good number of people again this year. We are very grateful to the Diocesan Counselling Service and the Lymm Sanctuary Hub for accepting our referrals.

Food Bank Donations are left at the church and then taken to the Warrington Distribution Point by a church member.

Harvest Gifts – the gifts of tinned and packet food are given to the Warrington Food Bank and the gifts of flowers are distributed to the sick, bereaved and elderly of the parish.

Outreach Action Group (Action Group Chair, Kath Mellor)

Our Lunch Group on a Monday has continued with around 20 coming each week. We have four teams and everyone who comes really enjoys their Mondays. Friendships have developed and the group are keeping in touch with each other. We have had two lunches this year with over 65 people attending both. The first lunch was a three course dinner and the second was a harvest buffet lunch.

We have held our Remembering the Loved Ones and most people bring a flower to the service. After the service refreshments are served.

We would love to see more people coming especially men on their own.

We continue to ensure the Church magazine is delivered to each home and are so grateful to all who deliver them each month.

At our Christmas Monday lunch Father Christmas attended and everyone received a gift.

If anyone knows of anyone who would like to come along please let me know 01925602475 or email kathlmellor@gmail.com and I will contact them.

The group would like a trip out so we will look into this and again this will be open to anyone in the village.

Next Christmas after the Carol Service we will serve mulled wine and mince pies.

The Children and Young People Action Group (Action Group Chair, Caroline Johnstone)

Praise and Play sessions are led by Janet Black and Elaine Whittaker with Liz Taylor and Nettie Norman. We continue to provide updates on our activities and advertise in the Parish News plus have a poster in the Parish Hall. Our numbers have remained steady this past year, varying from 3 to 7 children and have a mix of mums, grandparents and dads. We continue to follow our topics from a 4 year rolling programme, including the main Christian festivals, with amendments depending on the age mix of our little ones. We hold sessions twice a month on the first and third Thursday from 1.30-2.30pm. We also celebrate children's birthdays by sending cards and at a session if it's close to the birthday. We continue to advertise forthcoming family events and services that take place at the church and at the Parish Hall and some of our families have attended these.

Messy Church continues to thrive and we have seen a gradual increase in attendees to around 40 children and adults at each session. We hold a Messy Church once in each half term, usually on Sunday afternoon 3-5pm in the Parish Hall. We continue to have a strong team of volunteers to run activities and the catering. The children and their parents have six activities to do linked to the theme which can be a Biblical theme, Christian Festival or season of the church's year we then draw things together with a story, song, prayers and food related to the theme.

The team also leads the Harvest Festival talk with the children, helps with the Crib service and other services in church throughout the year.

Story Service - Story services are held in church, in the winter months, from 5 -6 pm – It has remained a relatively small group (we average 18 children and adults) so we now have the children stay as one group and we change the story teller. It has been lovely to see new families coming to these services. The theme for a service is based on a Christian value and we use a mixture of secular and Bible stories to develop on it. We

come together for a final Bible story, song and prayer. The children often come in their onesies and we finish with toast and hot chocolate.

Each July we hold our 'Celebration of our Children and Young People's Service' which is a great opportunity for the children and their families from all our groups to attend a 10am family service. The children all receive a book and last year Jack received a book of prayers for teenagers which he reads a prayer from, at Messy Church or Story Service. It's a lovely opportunity for everyone both young and old to see most of our church together in one place... a reminder that we are all part of God's big family, even though we worship him at different times, in different ways.

Open the Book

We have continued to visit the infant and junior schools to present Bible stories to the pupils and staff using Open The Book produced by The Bible Society. We tend to focus on New Testament stories to develop continuity because we are visiting the schools once each half term this year. The juniors also have an end of term assembly in church with an OTB story. The visits by our team of up to 10 parishioners are very well received and enjoyed by the schools and team members. Thank you to all who help and support this activity.

The Social and Communications Action Group

2024 was another busy and successful year in term of social events in our parish. These events are aimed at both fundraising and at engaging with the wider community within Thelwall, providing a witness to our church being very much alive and active in our village. Our motto is "all welcome".

During the year we organised five Coffee Mornings in All Saints after the Thursday morning services, raising funds for the following charities: MyAware, Transform Trade, Christian Aid, Creating Adventures and MacMillan Cancer Support. These Coffee Mornings raised over £1,800 and remain very popular, providing a wonderful social occasion for all who attend. On average, they attract between 60 and 70 attendees. We held a very enjoyable Quiz Night at the end of January with 70 quizzers attending for a really fun evening. Our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Saturday in March was blessed with glorious weather despite being early in the season and the input and attendance from the wider village community was a real blessing. Our annual Wine Tasting took place in May and although attendance was slightly down this year the event was really appreciated by those who came and it raised a lot of money for the church.

We began the second half of the year with a Parish BBQ Party, a new event which was free and aimed at bringing people together. Unfortunately, the weather was dreadful and perhaps the timing wasn't quite right so attendance was on the low side – but it was thoroughly enjoyed by those who came and we will try again this coming year. Bonfire Night (organised by a separate committee) went off with its usual bang and the Christmas Fayre was a rousing success, with a great mix of all the traditional favourite stalls and a sprinkling of new ones. We welcomed Warrington Male Voice Choir back for our now annual hosting of one of their Christmas concerts at the beginning of December. This is the start of Christmas for many people and it was very well attended despite terrible weather on the night. The sound under the arch in our church is glorious. Finally, members of SCAG joined with the All Saints musicians and other parishioners/villagers to sing carols in both our village pubs, raising money for the Children's Society.

In addition to the events which we organise ourselves, we have a fantastic working relationship with the family at Laskey Farm Gardens, supporting their participation in the National Garden Open Gardens Scheme by providing tea, cakes and manpower! This year funds were raised for both church and the Creating Adventures charity and we were also able to hold a Cream Tea there in aid of the Clatterbridge Cancer Charity. This link with such a popular venue is very much appreciated. One of our members also hosts a Book Club which meets in the community area at the back of church and which brings in non-church members.

The Parish News is edited by a member of SCAG and is distributed free ten months of the year to every house in Thelwall. It continues to be a much needed and appreciated tool for communications within the village, especially for those who are not online. The magazine is very much a Christian publication, with details of all our services and events as well as a Vicar's Article and list of people to contact within the church, but many local organisations and initiatives benefit too, including the Rose Queen, the Scouts Christmas Post, the Bridgewater Players, the WI and the Thelwall 1100 project and its legacy activities. We did encounter some difficulties regarding the printing of the Magazine during the year but have managed to find an alternative printer who is local which should help the distribution process. Our website is kept as up to date and relevant as it can be given our resources, along with our social media platforms.

New members of the group are always welcome. Please do get in touch with one of us if you would like to be involved in ensuring that the church remains at the heart of the village as a witness to our faith. Finally, a huge thank you to everyone who has supported any of our events in any way at all, from organising to advertising, baking to cooking, serving to attending. Your support is really appreciated and we look forward to welcoming you to our future events. Suggestions for new events are always welcome!

SCAG members: Malcolm, Anne, Judy, Trish, Pip, Mike, Di, Nettie, Joan and Suzi.

Fair Trade – Trish Powell

All Saints' is a fully registered Fairtrade church and Fairtrade tea and coffee are used whenever refreshments are served. We hold a Fairtrade stall in church after both morning services every 1st and 3rd Sunday as well as on other ad hoc occasions, including Thelwall's annual Rose Queen Festival and our Christmas Fayre. We held our annual and very well supported Fairtrade Coffee Morning on 7th March 2024, drawing in around 70 people and raising £470 for Transform Trade in addition to selling a lot of Fairtrade goods from our stall.

Fairtrade Fortnight changed nationally from its usual March slot to September in 2024 and our main Sunday morning service on 8th September was dedicated to Fairtrade to reflect this, highlighting the 30th anniversary of the Fairtrade mark. Four church members are also dedicated volunteers at Warrington's own Fairtrade shop, Fair 4 All.

Heritage Report – Maggie and Mike Taylor

All Saints' Church has continued to support the Thelwall 1100 Festival legacy projects and will be the recipient of a heritage plaque to be located on the railings alongside the lychgate.

Church land opposite Gig Lane was offered as a site for a T1100 Commemorative Installation. Representatives from the PCC and a T1100 working group explored various design options but further investigations regarding underground services, concerns about road safety and maintenance prompted a re-think. An alternative location is being explored with the Parish Hall Committee.

The T1100 Festival concludes with celebratory afternoon in the Parish Hall on Saturday 11th October and a special church service on 12th October 2025.

The church is also figuring in the 2025 Thelwall History Group programme with a lecture by Mike Taylor (February), a tour of the church and churchyard (June) and Mike Horne will be contributing to a talk on All Saints' Burial Ground Management System (July).

Choir and Musicians – Trish Powell

All Saints Thelwall is blessed with a group of extremely enthusiastic and dedicated musicians, both instrumentalists and singers, who faithfully lead the worship each week. In the absence of a Musical Director,

five of them (Elaine, Trish, Julia, Val and Helen) take it in turns to choose the hymns each month which leads to a good variety of music. Trish, Felicity and Julia share the organ/piano duties and Felicity, Julia and Elaine also play guitar when possible, not forgetting Helen on the tambourine. Trish also takes the choir practices most weeks.

We mostly choose hymns from Songs of Fellowship, mixing traditional familiar ones with the more modern ones we love and this past year we also introduced eight new songs. On Easter Sunday we sang the beautiful *Write Thy Name Upon My Heart* by American composer Sally De Ford and at the Christmas Carol Service we sang *Light Up The Future*, written and composed by a local lady, Barbara Maddock. Both pieces were much appreciated by the congregation. Members of the church choir and singers also led the singing of carols in the two village pubs in the run up to Christmas, raising money for the Children's Society.

There are a handful of Sundays during the year when no instrumentalists are available and Trish (pianist/organist) and Jon (IT guru) have, with the help of choir members, recorded a variety of hymns which can be played through our sound system. We now have a library of over 50 of these and will add more during the coming year. This means that there will be no services without music.

For many years it has proved quite a struggle to climb onto our organ stool, especially tricky when alternating between piano and organ playing during a service. Brought to a head by Trish's hip surgery, we asked Jardine Church Organs for help and thankfully they were able to adapt our organ stool without too much difficulty – they did a fantastic job. The end result means that the organists can easily slide onto the stool rather than having to perform gymnastics – and we were all left wondering why we had never tackled the issue before!

Finally, a huge thank you all those who contribute to the musical worship in our church in any way - it is very much appreciated.

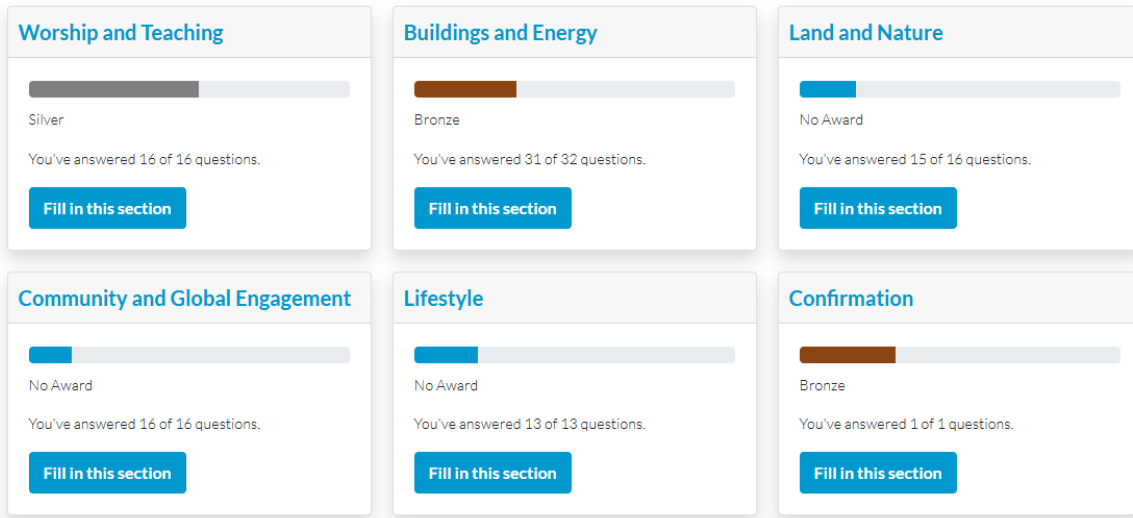
Eco Church – Mike Horne

In February 2020 General Synod set the Church of England an ambitious challenge: to reach net zero carbon across parish, cathedral, diocesan and school estates by 2030.

In order to achieve this, there is a target for 40% of local churches to be registered as Eco-Churches and 30% of local churches to achieve awarded standards, of which at least a third of these awards should be Silver or higher (= Silver Eco Dioceses standard) by 2026.

The principles are that Eco-Church should be Based in Theology – Treasuring God's Creation; Urgent, relevant and widely understood; Data-driven, focused and transparent, Embedded in all we do; Using less energy, and from cleaner sources; travelling sustainably; Offsetting only what we cannot reduce.

All Saints Church PCC decided that we should apply to become an Eco-Church starting in 2025, with a target to achieve Bronze status by the end of the year.



We have done a preliminary audit against the 2025 A Rocha criteria:

- a) Worship & Teaching we scored 170 out of 320 which qualifies us for Silver Award
- b) Buildings & Energy we scored 125 out of 390 which qualifies us for Bronze Award
- c) Land & Nature we scored 78 out of 443, which we need to improve to 110 to achieve Bronze.

This can be addressed by changing the way that we manage parts of the churchyard

We will be getting some bird boxes and bee hotels made by Thelwall Mens Shed, and we will be holding an "Environment Day" when we will encourage these to be set up by the whole community.

- d) Community & Local Engagement we scored 63 out of 470 which needs to improve to 115

This can be addressed by:

- a. Drawing up a plan / strategy to take action locally and/or nationally / globally, using the Parish News and Church Noticeboards to encourage participation.
- b. Encouraging local car sharing initiatives from pulpit and on website etc
- e) Lifestyle we scored 42 out of 209 which needs to rise to at least 53 and can be addressed by:
 - a. Drawing up a plan / strategy to promote ethical and environmentally aware consumption patterns by individuals and households, and encouraging the use of Fairtrade goods and materials
 - b. Encouraging us all to become "Climate Heroes" using this calculator: <https://climate-calculator.climatehero.org/>

Mission Support

During the year we gave grant support to the following charitable organisations direct from church funds: Church Urban Fund; Papyrus; Prison Fellowship and Get Warrington Talking. We are also giving financial support to Christ Church, an adjacent parish to ours.

The Prison Fellowship was our chosen charity for the 2024 Lent Appeal. Through this £388 was raised.

Myaware – a coffee morning in January raised £277.50

Transform Trade – funds were raised at a coffee morning in March

The Christian Aid, a May coffee morning in church raised £340.80

Creating Adventures – an August coffee morning was held in church

MacMillan Cancer Fund – funds were raised at a coffee morning in church

Samaritan's Purse was supported through the donation of 320 filled shoes boxes for Operation Christmas Child brought to our "Toy Service" in December.

SureStart was supported with the donation of 54 wrapped gifts given at the Christmas "Toy Service" and taken to SureStart, Halton where the charity distributed them to their local family centres.

The Children's Society is supported with donations at our Christingle service and carol singing at the local pubs. This raised £745 in total.

Warrington Food Bank – we have a collection point in church for donations of food etc. These are taken to the local centre by a volunteer. Food items donated at our Harvest Festival service also go to the food bank.

Ecumenical relationships

All Saints is a member of Lymm and District Churches Together (LDCT). We had our annual prayer breakfast at the end of the week of Christian Unity.

The Sanctuary Café is a Community Interest Company that began as an idea developed by CTLD and is supported by them. On April 5th we celebrated 16 years. We are always looking for volunteers to help and All Saints have over the years been a great support. Members of our church make cakes and cook hot-pots for us. We have a great book shop with lots of cards and gifts available. When in Lymm please call in and you will be made very welcome.

STEWARDSHIP ACTION GROUP (Action Group Chair Alison London)

We advise on matters referred to us by the PCC and seek to support the treasurer and church wardens. We also seek to encourage giving based on Biblical principles. A draft budget for the coming year is prepared and presented to the PCC for approval. This is based on estimated figures.

Encouraging Stewardship: Our church membership are of considerable importance as they provide the majority of our funding. Those who have committed to regular giving by envelopes or standing order have continued to support us. Unfortunately there has not been any increase in this giving while inflation has had a big impact on our expenditure. This has resulted in having to use savings to meet our outgoings. Our savings are now spent and we face the prospect of not being able to pay our parish share. At the annual Stewardship service we urged church members to continue to give as generously as possible. Increasing giving in line with inflation of 3.5% would be most helpful.

Volunteer help, particularly with fund raising events, has also helped significantly, although funds raised by events has not increased over the last year.

Details of the church bank account are available from myself or the treasurer for those who want to give by standing order or to make a one off donation. A QR code and card reader are available to use at services. We urge people who pay tax to sign a gift aid declaration. Standing order forms and gift aid declaration forms are available at the back of church. **If you are a tax payer please gift aid your donations, whether they are ongoing or just a one off.** We also encourage regular giving by standing order, but our stewardship secretary, Trish, can to give information on weekly envelopes if preferred.

Gas and electricity contracts: Our contracts were due for renewal at the end of 2024. With the help of Joan Boyle and Mike Horne we sourced and recommended new suppliers to the PCC.

Group membership: We have maintained contact by email in order to discuss stewardship issues and have meet together to continue discussions. Documents are shared between group members. We have 5 group members, Ian, Philip, Julie, Mike and myself. Chris the previous church treasurer has been replaced by Ian our current treasurer. Jean, who has been on the group since it started, retired from the group and we thank her for her longstanding commitment and support to the group. Mike joined the group to share his knowledge of gift aided giving but he has also given support to the group in other areas.

Finally I have decided to resign from the group. I was there when it was formed over 20 years ago and during that time I have worked with four church wardens and seven treasurers. It was a difficult decision to make but after much thought and prayer I believe it is the right one.

“Friends” (Jean Fisher)

There are currently 13 “Friends” whose support goes towards the church yard up keep. Last year we had new shelves made for the windows on the south side of the church. They were made by the Men’s Shed group and are a big improvement on the old ones. These shelves are used for festive services (Christmas, Easter, Harvest and Mothering Sunday).

FINANCIAL REVIEW (Treasurer)

As a whole we are currently not doing too well.

Main point to summarise are :

- Our financial commitments have increased
- Planned giving and collections at services have not increased and have not for a number of years.
- Income from social events have helped but generally remained the same.
- Parish Hall bookings and takings have increased.

As a result of the above we have a very small balance in the Church current account. At the end of last year we paid off the large sum that had built up for the Parish share and this resulted in us having such a low balance to start the year.

Planned giving is the Churches main source of income and this will be something that we will need to increase. The Stewardship team have distributed a letter to all Church members providing details of our current situation and provided details of ways to donate or increase donations. Mike Brewer has kindly offered to claim the gift aid on a quarterly basis rather than annually to help the current situation.

Other things that we need to be aware of:

The Church hall continues to be a success and helps increase overall funds but the Church remains constant relying heavily on the Parish Hall. Hopefully the letter sent out from the Stewardship team will help increase income to the Church and we should start to see the difference in the next two to three weeks.

The Parish share has increased and we continue to pay 100% of this but I am not sure with the current balance how long this will continue.

Our gas and electricity utilities providers have changed thanks to the help of Mike Horne and remain competitive with the current market.

INVESTMENT AND RESERVES POLICIES

Unfortunately, at this current time I am unable to provide any up to date information on these policies. The policies below are those reported in last year’s report.

RESERVES POLICY

We now have four reserves policies agreed by PCC. These cover both the church and the Parish Hall. Firstly they set aside a sum of money to enable the church / Parish Hall to continue should income dwindle. Secondly, they reserve monies for larger projects

1. Allocated reserves policy for the Church

"The Treasurer maintains sufficient funds (agreed as £20,000) in an agreed Investment Fund that would allow the church to continue to function financially for a period of 12-18 months assuming unchanged receipts and expenditure."

2. Allocated reserves policy for the Parish Hall

"The Treasurer maintains sufficient funds (£15,000), that would allow the PCC of All Saints Thelwall to continue to manage the Parish Hall for a period of 18 months assuming unchanged receipts and expenditure."

3. Unallocated reserves policy for the Parish Hall

A sum of £10,000 should be made available by the PCC of All Saints Thelwall as unallocated reserves for project requirements of the Parish Hall, identified by the Parish Hall Management Committee and agreed by the PCC of All Saints Thelwall.

4. Unallocated reserves policy for the Church

A sum of £15,000 should be made available by the PCC of All Saints Thelwall as unallocated reserves for larger long-term projects identified as a result of the Quinquennial Inspection.

It was proposed and agreed that the allocated amounts and policies should be reviewed by PCC every 3 years.

The 200 Club acts as a working reserve for the Parish Hall.

INVESTMENT POLICY

We invest the allocated reserves for Church and Parish Hall in COIF funds, a low risk investment that, hopefully, will give a better return than a savings account. Since these funds are unlikely to be required at short notice, the risk is acceptable. The unallocated reserves for the Parish Hall are also in COIF funds, the remainder are in savings or current accounts."

Profit and Loss

All Saints Church

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
Turnover		
200 Club	1,565.00	1,657.00
Church Car Park Restricted Fund (Received)	-	(13,317.95)
Collections at services (GASDS)	2,694.26	4,579.26
Donations received (Church)	3,698.86	5,510.93
Donations received (Parish Hall)	60.80	-
Fees weddings & funerals	10,120.62	16,072.75
Friends Member Donations	430.00	620.00
Income from Grants (non-recurring)	150.00	150.00
Income Tax recovered Gift Aid	11,724.69	10,983.52
Interest Income	5,330.83	3,134.00
Miscellaneous Church Receipts	105.00	532.95
Other User (Parish Hall)	14,154.50	10,108.75
Parish Magazine Sponsorship & Advertising	1,660.00	2,610.00
Planned giving by envelopes	8,454.60	8,697.71
Planned giving SO	41,511.40	41,873.80
Regular User (Parish Hall)	42,722.61	39,418.40
Social Committee Fundraising Events Income	23,471.44	29,769.41
Total Turnover	167,854.61	162,400.53
Cost of Sales		
Clergy & Staffing costs (Church)	903.28	3,371.60
Clergy Expenses	1,152.00	1,152.00
Cost of Services	923.20	748.03
Diocesan Parish Contribution	75,344.40	72,607.70
Total Cost of Sales	78,322.88	77,879.33
Gross Profit	89,531.73	84,521.20
Administrative Costs		
200 Club Prizes and Costs	565.89	579.75
Assigned fees	3,792.00	4,903.00
Church equipment purchases	6,164.08	-
Church, churchyard, vicarage - Repairs & Maintenance	1,515.16	918.31
Council tax	3,163.44	3,003.47
Deanery / LDCT	30.00	30.00
Hall Building Repair and Maintenance	3,948.70	1,048.44
Hall Cleaning materials	912.80	1,465.57
Hall Decoration	-	1,741.70
Hall Electrical/Plumbing Repair	5,405.25	1,180.24
Hall Electricity	2,662.97	1,657.13
Hall Fire Extinguishers	58.20	58.20
Hall Gas	2,820.00	1,820.62

	2024	2023
Hall Grounds Maintenance	1,502.00	3,463.42
Hall Insurance	1,691.76	1,645.49
Hall New Equipment	11,752.86	202.99
Hall Phone Internet	1,907.78	507.89
Hall Septic Tank	185.00	216.00
Hall Staff Costs	8,131.75	9,154.76
Hall Waste Collection	2,047.35	1,938.70
Hall Water	555.70	738.22
Insurance Church	3,403.60	3,438.55
Licence Costs	239.87	108.18
Lottery & copyright Licences	640.37	639.61
Miscellaneous expenses (Hall)	-	5,000.00
Mission giving (grants & donations)	2,945.00	2,755.00
Organ repairs/tuning	-	204.00
Outreach	407.40	519.17
Parish Magazine Printing	2,930.40	2,055.00
Post Phone Copying Stationery	209.79	465.90
Social Committee Events Costs	10,612.86	15,864.48
Utilities	4,826.86	5,580.32
Warm Places (Outgoings)	-	(1,305.99)
Youth groups & Sunday school	113.01	295.70
Total Administrative Costs	85,141.85	71,893.82
Operating Profit	4,389.88	12,627.38
Other Income		
Donations for other charities (In and Out)	19.10	161.40
Total Other Income	19.10	161.40
Profit on Ordinary Activities Before Taxation	4,408.98	12,788.78
Profit after Taxation	4,408.98	12,788.78

Balance Sheet

All Saints Church

As at 31 December 2024

31 DEC 2024

Current Assets

Cash at bank and in hand	
Church Business Reserve Account	0.91
Church Investment 116970001R	19,061.42
Friends of All Saints	2,609.25
Parish Hall 95day Savings Account	26,129.85
Parish Hall Investment C03049294-001	28,076.12
Parish Hall Running Account	36,095.98
Thelwall Church General Purpose	11,743.32
Thelwall Parish Hall Supporter	7,949.32
Total Cash at bank and in hand	131,666.17
Accounts Receivable	18,506.36
Total Current Assets	150,172.53

Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

Accounts Payable	6,549.09
Rounding	(0.30)
VAT	(126.11)
Total Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6,422.68

Net Current Assets (Liabilities)

143,749.85

Total Assets less Current Liabilities

143,749.85

Net Assets

143,749.85

Capital and Reserves

Current Year Earnings	4,408.98
Retained Earnings	139,340.87
Total Capital and Reserves	143,749.85

Independent examiner's report of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of All Saints', Thelwall.

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of All Saints', Thelwall for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the *Charities Act 2011* ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under s. 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under s. 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

(1) Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or

(2) The accounts do not accord with those records; or

(3) The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the *Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008* other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



Name: Kevin Walker

Relevant professional qualification or body: FCA

Address: Walker Begley Limited, 207 Knutsford Road, Grappenhall, Warrington, WA4 2QL

Date: 27/06/2025

Accounts

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

THELWALL

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024



Important

Please bring this report with you to the Annual General Meeting

To be read before the meeting

Charity number 1135426

ALL SAINTS CHURCH THELWALL
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING AND MEETING
TO ELECT CHURCHWARDENS
24th APRIL 2024

MEETING TO ELECT CHURCHWARDENS

1. Minutes of the last Meeting
2. Vote of thanks to the Churchwardens
3. Election of Churchwardens
4. Notice of the Archdeacons Visitation
5. AOB
6. Close of Meeting

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING

Minutes of the last Meeting

A.

To receive a report on changes to the Electoral Roll since the last Annual Meeting

To receive a report on the proceedings of the PCC and the activities
of the parish generally

To receive a report on the financial affairs of the Parish

To receive the independently examined accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December, 2023

To receive a report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

To receive a report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod

B.

To elect Representatives to the Deanery Synod

To elect Representatives to the PCC

C.

To appoint an Independent Examiner

D.

Any matters of Parochial or general interest

Chairman's Report

Other Reports

E. Close of Meeting

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING TO ELECT CHURCH WARDENS

26th APRIL 2023

1. Minutes of Meeting of to Elect Church Wardens 2022

The Minutes of the April 2022 meeting were agreed. Proposed: Pip Horne,
Seconded: Elaine Whittaker.

2. Vote of thanks to Church Wardens

The Church Wardens have been brilliant and very supportive. Meetings with Douglas at the Little Manor have been enjoyable along with dealing with church matters.

Derek Leather has requested to retire as Church Warden after three years service. We are grateful for Derek's three years of service to the Church. The Archdeacon has agreed that Julie could continue for a further year as Church Warden as long as the APCM is in agreement. Julie thanked Derek for his support during the last year.

Derek thanked everyone for supporting him during his time as Church Warden. Work and family commitments have put pressure on him so felt it was right to retire. Douglas on behalf of everyone thanked him and wished him all the best.

3. Election of Church Wardens

Julie French

Jon Halliday

Everyone was in favour so Julie and Jon were appointed.

4. Sidespeople

Sidespeople are appointed at the first PCC meeting after the APCM.

5. Notice of the Arch Deacons Visitation

The Archdeacons Visitation Tuesday 13th June at St John's Church, Over, Winsford at 7.30pm. Church Wardens have to attend.

6. AOB

None

The meeting ended with the Grace

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

26th April, 2023

1. Minutes of Meeting held at AGM 2023

These were accepted as a true record. Proposed: Helen Speed; Seconded: Pip Horne

2. Report on the Electoral Roll since the last meeting

231 members in April 2023. A complete revision is required in 2025

3. Report on the Financial Affairs

The accounts have been prepared by Chris Monks and audited by Walker Begley

We have now got 95% of the funds required for the Church car park.

The work is due to start on 22nd May. There will be no more pot holes. The school and neighbours to be contacted to advise that the car park will be out of use during the week.

Our thanks to Chris for all his hard work. Chris has done a remarkable job with the accounts.

4. Election to the Deanery Synod

John Alexander, Kath Mellor, Bob Powell, Mike Horne,

Proposed: Jon Halliday,

Seconded: Julie French

5. Election of Representatives to the PCC

Thanks to Malcolm, Elaine, Karen and Alison for all their work whilst on the PCC.

New Members to the PCC – Linda Hutchinson, Anne Hague, Nettie Norman, James Gaffney.

6. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Walker Begley

7. Parochial Interest

Director of Music – Felicity stepped down after 24 years. We are looking to recruit for 10 hours work within the Church and 10 hours work within the village schools. The salary will be paid on the scale set down by the Royal School and Church Guidance. The funder asked many questions which have been discussed at PCC Meetings. The position will be a three year contract. We will use Safer Recruitment and People Management guidelines. The funder will pay 75% of the cost.

The choir and music group were given a huge thank you for all the work they do

8. Unsung Hero Award

Jean Fisher was awarded this for all the work that she does. Assists the Church Wardens each week. Sorts flowers out for special occasions, does coffee duties, looks after the graveyard gardeners, helps out at services. Verger. There are other jobs that aren't mentioned as Jean does so much.

Jean thanked everyone.

The meeting closed with prayer

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

All Saints Church is situated in Thelwall. It is part of the Diocese of Chester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is the Vicarage, Bell Lane, Thelwall, Warrington, Cheshire.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and registered as a charity on 9th April 2010 with the Charity Commission (**Charity number 1135426**).

PCC members during 2021/2022 were as follows

Rev Douglas Black
Julie French (Churchwarden)
Derek Leather (Churchwarden)
Pip Horne (Lay Reader)
Colin Horrabin (Lay Reader)

PCC Elected Members

2020

John Alexander
Malcolm Hague
Karen Tipping
Elaine Whittaker

2021

Caroline Johnstone
Chris Monks

2022

Suzanne Williams
Ingrid Halliday
Helen Speed(coopted)

PCC Members 2023

Rev Douglas Black
Julie French (Churchwarden)
Jon Halliday (Churchwarden)
Pip Horne (Lay Reader)
Colin Horrabin (Lay Reader)

Deanery Synod Members

Kath Mellor
Bob Powell
Mike Horne
John Alexander

PCC Members

Derek Leather
Chris Monks (Treasurer)
Caroline Johnstone (Safeguarding Officer)

Ingrid Halliday
Suzanne Hopkins
Anne Hague
Linda Hutchinson
James Gaffney
Nettie Norman

Church Architect

Tony Barton, RIBA
Donald Insall Architects, 5 Bridge Place, Chester

Bank

NatWest, Warrington Branch, 23 Sankey Street, Warrington, Cheshire, WA1 1XH

Independent Examiner

Walker Begley, Knutsford Road, Grappenhall

AIMS and PURPOSES

All Saints' Church, Thelwall Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Douglas Black, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the Parish Hall on Bell Lane Thelwall.

Our mission statement is:-

Growing Up, in our faith by engaging with the bible, prayer & worship.

Growing Together, through team work, encouragement, fellowship & fun!

Growing Out, to our local and global community with practical service and generosity.

Growing More, by sharing our faith & drawing people into the life of the church.

We aim to fulfil this in all aspects of church life.

OBJECTIVES and ACTIVITIES

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at All Saints. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- worship and prayer;
- learning about the Gospel;
- developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus;
- providing pastoral care for people living in the parish;
- missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church and the Parish Hall.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE and MANAGEMENT

All Saints' Annual Parochial Meeting is held on the last Wednesday of April and it is at this meeting that church wardens and PCC members are elected. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules 2022. At All Saints the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar), churchwardens, lay readers and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has appointed six permanent action groups, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life:

- Worship (including Nurture and Prayer)
- Parish Hall
- Young People (ages birth to 18 years)
- Social Events and Communications
- Outreach
- Stewardship

Employment Matters 2024

The parishes of the Chester diocese are committed to a policy adopted by the Dioceses of NW England entitled: "Just Employment – Employing Staff in Faith Based Projects". It contains information on recruitment, documentation, pay and reward, dismissal and redundancy, volunteers and health & safety. Even though we only have a few part time and occasional employees, we are still subject to all the demands of Employment law, including the National Living Wage. In some instances – like paid church choir directors and musicians – employment is also governed by Canon (church) Law. We are grateful that the Diocesan HR Advisor – Liz Geddes - is always on hand to guide us. Also, employers must notify the HMRC on each occasion that payment is made to an employee. This includes single payments to vergers, organists & gravediggers, as well as the earnings of our part time employees. Pensions: at the moment, none of our employees are eligible for auto-enrolment on a pension scheme because their earnings are below the required threshold. National Insurance: this becomes payable when our workers earn £242 per week (2024).

Safeguarding is an ever increasing responsibility for churches. 'Safer recruitment' requires vetting of anyone who works with children, young people and vulnerable adults. This is particularly the case for paid workers in any parish. They must be screened, trained & appointed every 3 years. Also, those involved in recruiting employees (and volunteers) must undergo the C of E's 'safer recruitment' training course.

Village Green

The 'Village Green' on Thelwall New Road (o/s Gigg Lane) is the property of the church (the diocese & PCC are joint trustees). The vicar and wardens are responsible for the oversight of the land, reporting to PCC when any issues arise. We are grateful to the Grappenhall & Thelwall Parish Council (G&TPC) for including the land in their local grounds maintenance programme, which means that they are paying for the grass to be cut. Every 5 years, we are required by our insurers to employ an arborist to inspect the land, especially the trees, and produce a report for our attention and action.

All Saints, Thelwall

Safeguarding Policy

Promoting a Safer Church

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on *31st January 2024*:

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

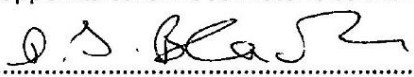
- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Parish will:

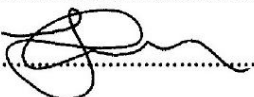
- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health & safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Ensure that all hirers of our buildings, whether church or parish hall, will adopt this policy as part of their hiring agreement or demonstrate that they have their own equivalent policy.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Caroline Johnstone as the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Incumbent 

Churchwarden 

Churchwarden 

Date 31.1.24

The Parochial Church Council has also complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding & Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding and vulnerable adults).

Safeguarding Report 2023/24 - Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) Caroline Johnstone

Our aim at All Saints is to safeguard the wellbeing of everyone who attends our church and prevent situations arising which may compromise this.

What does safeguarding look like at All Saints?

- Firstly, we have a Diocesan Policy which is reviewed and adopted each year by the PCC.
- We are well supported by a Diocesan Safeguarding Team based at Church House, Daresbury
- We have a Parish Safeguarding Officer Caroline Johnstone and the Vicar, Douglas Black, who have overall responsibility for Safeguarding in the Parish.
- All Clergy, Readers, Safeguarding Officer, and PCC members are enhanced DBS checked
- All Clergy, Readers, Safeguarding Officer and PCC members are trained in Safeguarding... its definitions, impacts, and procedures.
- Anyone appointed to a role, either paid or volunteer, has an application form, declaration form and a DBS check completed before taking up that post.
- checked
- All DBS checks are renewed after 3 years. Groups within church are made aware of our policy and our safeguarding practices.
- Information, contact numbers for Douglas and Caroline and contacts for organisations offering support are displayed in the porch at the back of church and in the toilet area.
- We communicate our commitment to Safeguarding with a regular Safeguarding article in the parish magazine.
- The Safeguarding article and links to diocesan articles about safeguarding are updated on our church website.
- We mark Safeguarding Sunday each year to further develop understanding of safeguarding within our church community.

What if you have a concern for yourself or someone else?

- Contact either Caroline Johnstone (Safeguarding Officer) or Rev Douglas Black (Vicar) – they will meet with you and listen to your concerns and help plan a way forward. Whilst they will keep your concerns confidential between yourself and them – they will have to refer the case to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team if they feel they need to gain additional advice or, in more serious cases, involve other agencies to support you.
- The Diocesan Team are very experienced and well trained in supporting churches and their congregations. If you have a concern about either the Vicar or the Safeguarding Officer please contact whichever one you do not have concerns about or one of the church wardens.
- It is important that Safeguarding matters, which are very sensitive, are kept confidential and we expect that those involved or who have knowledge of a matter respect this, whether they are friends, in a house group together etc. Confidential records of meetings, incidents are kept by the Safeguarding Officer and stored securely on a password protected system accessible only to them. These are then archived annually to secure storage at the vicarage.
- The Safeguarding Officer has a dedicated, private email for safeguarding correspondence with the Diocese.
- Hopefully, you will never have to put these procedures to the test but it helps to know the things we do to put Safeguarding at the forefront at All Saints and that you have someone there to help you should you ever need it.

Keeping yourself safe ... safeguarding awareness ...

- If at all possible, avoid lone visits to parishioner's homes, if this cannot be avoided tell someone where you are going, what time and why.
- Don't give a lift to a person under the age of 19 or a vulnerable adult, alone. Avoid situations where you are alone with a child or vulnerable adult ... like at the end of meetings, etc.
- Always have someone with you if you hosting open church events. Always have someone wait with you if you are locking up after an event, especially at night

If you want to know more, please read the Parish Safeguarding Leaflet on the noticeboard in the porch

Vicar's Report

This is my 22nd year as vicar of All Saints. My 'copper' anniversary apparently!



1. GROWING UP in our faith by engaging with the bible, prayer and worship. We continue to search for a new 'Director of Music' to work with adults and children in the church, community and primary schools. A job description has been agreed by PCC and advertising has begun. No takers yet. Meanwhile, I'm indebted to our musicians and singers for planning and delivering the music in our services. They're amazing! Our Bible groups continue to meet for mutual support and encouragement. We also continue to look for accessible ways to help people pray and read the Bible. Over the past year, we've been using seasonal 'prayer project' leaflets, to supplement the prayer cards we hand out at major festivals. The diocesan vision encourages all of us to "grow braver, fuller faith". In 2024, could you help someone to engage with the Bible, prayer and worship - to grow up in faith?

2. GROWING TOGETHER through teamwork, encouragement, fellowship and fun! The social events, outreach activities, the bonfire, fundraisers, heritage events etc hand us wonderful opportunities for teamwork, encouragement, fellowship and fun. As I mentioned last year, social inclusion has become an important goal for charitable funders as they seek to combat loneliness and mental health issues. Our applications for grants are often successful because we address the need for inclusion in an ageing village. Also, we are often informed by researchers that 'belonging' can lead to 'believing'. In the coming year, could you invite someone to be involved in our 'growing together'? Help them belong and they may just believe, too. The diocesan vision strapline is: "Together in Christ, sharing hope". Let's grow together and share hope.

3. GROWING OUT to our local and global community with practical service and generosity. The 'cost of living' crisis continues to make daily life challenging for people - locally and globally. Hence, I'm really encouraged by the initiatives and generosity that our church generates. Food and Friendship in church on Mondays has grown into a valuable meeting place for senior citizens. And, yet again, we've seen amazing responses to appeals for Christian Aid, Foodbank, Children's Society, Operation Christmas Child, FairTrade, Get Warrington Talking, Macmillan, Papyrus, Myaware and Prison Fellowship. The list gets longer every year! As ever, our organised appeals and initiatives are paralleled by wonderful individual acts of kindness and generosity to people near and far. The diocesan vision talks about: "transformative loving service" and "engaging locally, working together in loving generosity". We're on it!

4. GROWING MORE by sharing our faith and drawing people into the life of the church. Open the Book (OtB) is still enthusiastically received in the local primary schools. We are currently praying for more people to join the OtB team. Also, recent research is showing the ever increasing effectiveness of one-to-one 'faith sharing' in bringing people to faith and church. This is mirrored in one of the priorities of the diocesan vision: "Reaching out and blessing the 1.5 million (in the diocese) one life at a time". Is there non-churchgoer you could reach out and bless? Possibly invite them to a social event or service? Moreover, The C of E's 'Growing Faith' campaign

encourages Christians to share their faith in word and action during the week. Thus, in Lent, we will use the "On Purpose" course recommended by the Diocesan Evangelism Dept. These studies aim to help us see God given purpose in everything we do. The aim of all of the above is about developing and growing 'missionary disciples', which is the model the C of E, the diocese and the New Testament are encouraging us to adopt.

The C of E has set the parishes a target of 'carbon net zero' by 2030. An online 'carbon footprint' tool is available, along with advice and guidance on reducing our footprint. PCCs are being encouraged to appoint a 'net zero' officer to keep the church on track. We will do so at the first meeting of the new PCC in May.

We are delighted with the new car park surface at the church. We are very grateful to the funders and the fundraising that made it possible.

So much worthwhile work is undertaken by so many folk at All Saints, which makes it extra difficult to thank everyone by name. But notably, I would like to say thank you to Julie and Jon (wardens), Chris (treasurer), Kath (secretary), Pip, Colin and Bob (Readers), the two Mikes for the church car park, and all the action groups for continuing to adapt to the challenges with such energy and enthusiasm. And, as always, I say to you all: 'thank you and well done good and faithful servants'. Keep growing up, growing together, growing out and growing more.

PARISH REPORTS – Achievements and Performance

Electoral Roll Report – Jon Halliday

At the time of writing this on 9th April 2024, the Electoral Roll had been updated and at that stage the numbers are 236 compared to the previous years declaration of 231 on 15th March 2023

Of these 236 names, 164 live in the parish of Thelwall and 72 outside. There were 10 new names added to the Electoral Roll with 5 names being recorded as deceased and therefore removed from the Electoral Roll.

Of new congregation members seven (7) registering on the Electoral Roll are classed as living outside of the parish and this may possibly be attributed to either the closure of local churches or family and friend relationships attracting new congregation members.

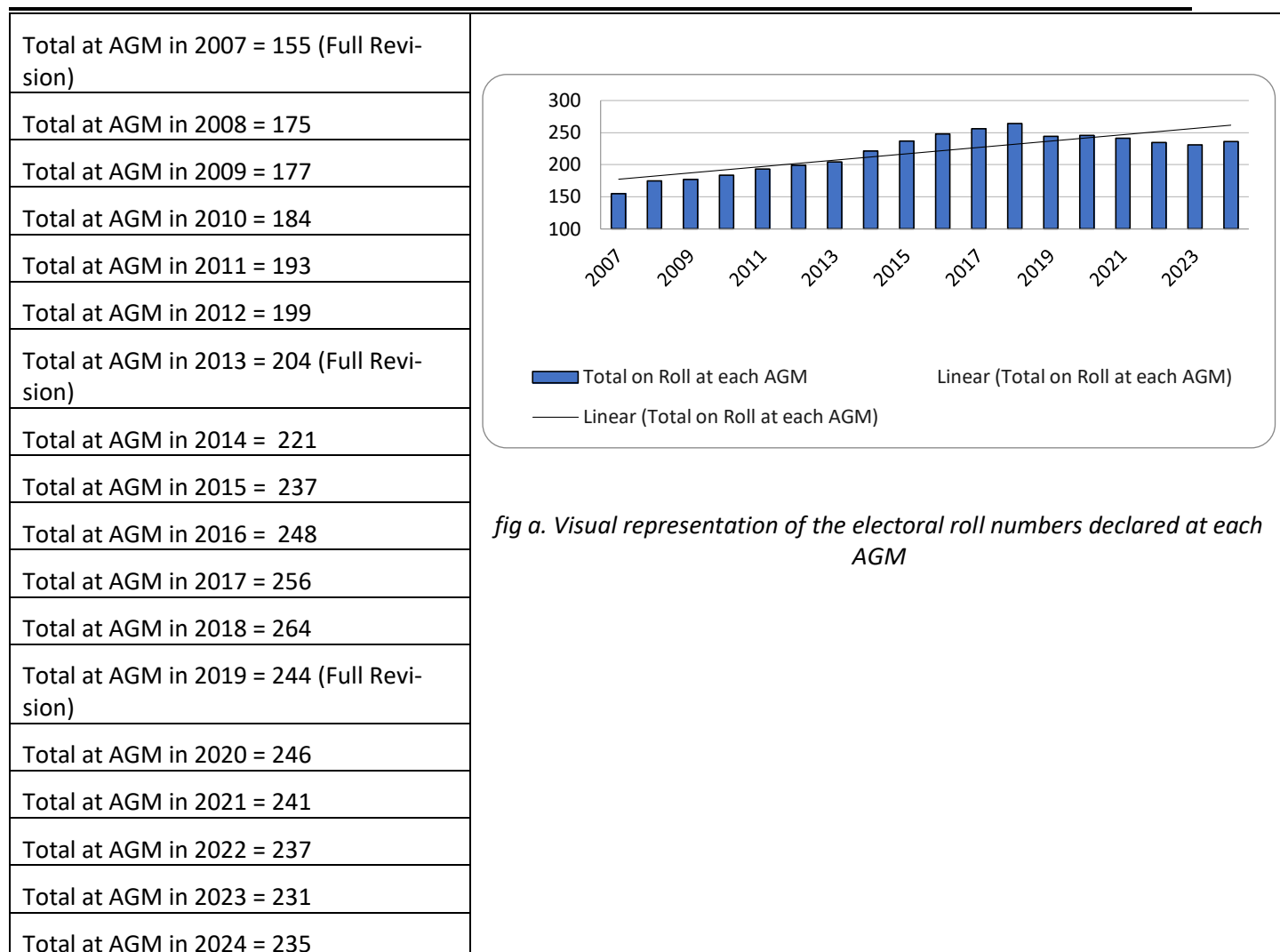
We have therefore, in the period from 15th March 2023, seen an increase of five (5) members on the Electoral Roll equating to a 2.2% increase in members. In order to simplify and normalise the current period declaration the next period will be set to start on 7th April 2024 and continue until the date of the next declaration in 2025. Previous periods have seen new amendments falling between periods and this normalisation will mitigate this in the future.

I will be able to state the current numbers for the coming year at the Annual Meeting as 236 electoral roll members.

Historical Reports and Future Predictions

For transparency I have included numbers for the past few years are below and this does show a trending increase in Electoral Roll numbers where this was expected to be countered by a decrease over the last couple of years this has not been realised and it is expected that the trend will continue. We may however see, as in previous years, a decrease in numbers at the next full revision which is due in 2025.

ALL SAINTS' THELWALL ANNUAL TRUSTEES REPORT 2023/24



A significant drop in 2019 can be attributed to a full revision of the Electoral Roll taking place and a number of records being removed due to members not re-registering.

For the years 2021 and 2022 a decrease in numbers can, as was previously reported, be attributed to the COVID pandemic and a combination of deaths within the congregation and severe reduction in regular services.

It is anticipated, based on the last 5 years, that the number of members of the Electoral Roll will increase over the next 2 years. Whilst it was anticipated that an increase to pre-pandemic levels would be expected before the end of 2024 (targeted at 244 members) a revised estimate for the end of 2024 is likely to be approximately 240 although this does not take into account the number of new families moving into the area.

In the recent months the energy and economic concerns have led to major changes within the country particularly with house prices. Thelwall as a parish has seen a large number of property sales and is classed as a desirable area within the Warrington area and therefore is seeing an increase in the number of new families moving to the parish. This change in demographics across the parish has resulted in the introduction of new families, lowering the average age in the parish, and an increase in population density (resulting from an increase in the average number of occupants within a home) and it is hoped that we may realise an increase in congregation members as some of these families look to attend a local church on a regular basis.



Jon Halliday
Electoral Roll Officer

Secretary's Report

The PCC meets six times a year plus the Annual General Meeting. All meetings start with a short time of devotion. We follow an Agenda each meeting. One of the main items this year has been to discuss the advertising for a new Music Director. We also spent time discussing the car park which was done in May last year and we also discussed the need for white lines. We have also discussed the Church Yard and the need for making certain headstones solid again. The PCC agreed to pay for repairs. We have discussed the Quinquennial inspection which took place in 2023 which went well with only a few jobs that need doing. We are so grateful for members of the congregation who spend so much time keeping our church in good order. We also spend a lot of time discussing our finances.

Deanery Synod Report 2023-24

Most Deanery Synod meetings were taken up with discussions about, and plans for, the Diocesan Vision: Together in Christ, Sharing Hope. Following, a nine month period of consultation around the deanery synods of Chester diocese, the following key themes came to the surface:

- That we believe in the Gospel
- That we believe in the local and seek transformation
- That we care about the environment locally and globally
- That we want to engage young people and the 'disconnected'
- That we want to do bigger/better/bolder things together...simply
- That the 1.6m people in our diocese matter
- That we need to plant new communities of faith

And the vision involves these four priorities:

- Growing, braver, fuller faith
- Reaching and blessing 1.6m lives, one life at a time
- Transformative loving service (in practice)
- Engaged locally, working together in loving generosity

In 2024, deanery synod will discuss the implementation of the vision. Watch this space!

Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church (Churchwardens)

This Church year has a been but productive one, we have now got the new and much needed car park thanks to all the hard work, sweat and tears put in by Mike Brewer and Mike Horne, what would we do without you guys! Thankyou both.

We also had our Quinquennial Inspection in May which we passed with flying colours and received a glowing report from the Archdeacon, if you haven't already seen it then please do.

January this year has seen the installation of a sump pump in the boiler house to stop the ever increasing flooding due to heavy rains. Philip and his team at Countrywide have done an excellent job. Thank you Philip we now won't have to pray for good weather or don our wellies to physically bail the water out.

Our next challenge will be to have the repairs carried out to the main church door, the wood at the bottom has rotted and this will probably entail removing the door (the biggest single door in Cheshire) and at the same time replacing the hinge at the top. We are looking for a specialist to carry out this work and would ideally like it done over the summer.

We continue to reach out to the people in our parish with all the activities we offer and a big thanks to all involved in these from Soup and a roll, Open the Book, Craft club etc.

On behalf of Jon and I, we wish you all a happy healthy and peaceful New Church Year.

God Bless, Julie & Jon

Worship Action Group (Action Group Chair, Douglas Black)

The brief of the WAGs is to develop worship, nurture and prayer in line with the church's mission statement: growing up, growing together, growing out, growing more.

Public worship is almost back to 'normal' or, maybe we should say, 'new normal'. Most Covid restrictions have been lifted and we now offer Holy Communion using the chalice and wafers with a drop of wine on it. Communicants can then choose, depending on their personal circumstances.

We are always thinking of imaginative and flexible ways to help people engage with prayer. The prayer booklets from the Prayer Trust have been well received at Christmas and Easter. Also, we have been compiling home-made prayer project leaflets for Advent, Lent and Harvest, which contain some seasonal prayers and a list of items needing prayer.

This applies to personal Bible reading, too. On certain occasions in the year, we introduce the congregation to personal daily Bible reading notes. For example, we distributed a booklet on New Year's Eve entitled "First Steps – Walking with Jesus". It's an introduction to personal daily bible reading & reflection.

Every year, we sign up for the Archbishops' Ascension-tide initiative: Thy Kingdom Come

(TKC). TKC encourages Christians to pray for - and share their faith with - family, friends and neighbours. They provide prayer journals and other resources, which should arrive in April.

Our Bible study and Lent groups continue to uplift the people who attend and they, in turn, uplift others. Last year's Lent Course was entitled "Fruitfulness on the Frontline" - reflections on how God can and does work through our daily lives. This year, in line with the diocesan vision, the Lent studies are entitled: "On Purpose - discover God given purpose in everything you do." With Jesus, our work, family life, friendships, and interests all serve a higher purpose.

The PCC has agreed a job description for a new Director of Music to work with children and adults in the church and with the two schools in the village. Advertising has been ongoing since the summer. As yet, we haven't received any enquiries but our advisors inform us that it sometimes takes two (or more!) years to catch the interest of a potential candidate. In the meantime, the WAGs are very grateful to the singers and musicians for the zest and commitment they invest in the provision of music for our public worship.

Parish Hall Action Group - Philip Young

During the year Helen Speed after many years of service on the committee resigned and was replaced by Philip Young. Richard Speed and John Halliday also joined the committee during the year.

At the start of the year Alan Marsh resigned and was replaced by a new caretaker for three months. However the role was unfilled and the hall has split the role up giving the hall management greater control at improving outcomes.

The hall is now passed pre pandemic levels of income and is seeking to grow yet further. Our bookings secretary Carolina Curbelo has brought in a wide range of in particular regular weekend bookings adding to the growth.

A £5,000 grant was made by the hall to the church for the car park at church. A surplus on top of the grant to church will still be made enabling the hall to continue its programme of improvements

The septic tank has been safely enclosed with access no longer possible to the general public.

The play area at the rear of the hall was improved with new surfaces and the removal of untidy vegetation, The NEST control system and some very good buying by the treasurer resulted in below budget heating costs. Minor works have been carried out on the decorating front. The outdoor landscape will be awash with colour in the spring with over 400 daffodils and tulips planted. Drainage at the back of the hall was recently excavated and replaced. The old bike shelter was replaced with a bike rack closer to the hall.

Imminently we expect the fire alarm call points to be installed after references have been taken up on the appointed contractor. Also the toilets are due for major refurbishment but we have been unable to secure any grant funding. Increased resource has been applied to the application process and this is now the focus for the next 3-6 months.

During the year Jean and Ray Fisher have continued their long relationship with the running of the hall in particular their close working relationship with the daily cleaning team which ensures the smooth running of the hall.

Pastoral Care and Community Outreach

During 2023 there were 7 baptisms, 15 funerals at All Saints and 6 funerals at the crematorium only, 4 burials and 10 burials of ashes, and 3 weddings.

Baptism Preparation – A church member visits the family before the baptism to get to know the family and explain what's involved. This person is at the service and the baptised child is given a children's Bible as a baptism gift from the church.

Bereaved families are visited before and after the funeral by the vicar. We have a 'Memorial Service' of remembrance once a year, at all Saints-tide, to which all who have been bereaved during the last year are invited.

Our Counselling Referral service has been able to help a good number of people again this year. We are very grateful to the Diocesan Counselling Service for accepting our referrals. In addition, we are now providing one-to-one help for people struggling with 'officialdom' i.e. form filling, bureaucracy, HMRC, benefits etc.

Mike Brewer kindly runs the **"Dealing with Officialdom"**. Help and advice is offered on the following topics:

1. Dealing with deceased persons' estates e.g. completing probate forms and financial matters
2. Completing attendance allowance claims
3. Entitlements to pension credits, housing benefit, council tax support
4. Problems arising from unmarried couples when one is bereaved and the other is not named on the house deeds.
5. Private and state pension entitlements, understanding complex paperwork and decisions needed. But not investment advice.
6. Universal credits entitlements and explaining the complexities of how they are calculated and the consequences of claw back when circumstances change.
7. Completing Power of attorney when one partner suffers serious illness and their affairs need to be managed by family members. There have been several requests for help.
8. Personal Independence Payments dealing with appeals to official decisions on entitlement.
9. Income tax queries and entitlements.
10. Driving licence notification for ill health. All of the above were resolved.
11. This free service is regularly advertised in the parish news and conducted in the privacy of peoples' homes. Contact Douglas Black or Mike Brewer, details can be found in the parish magazine.

Food Bank Donations are left at the church and then taken to the Warrington Distribution Point by a church member.

Harvest Gifts – the gifts of tinned and packet food are given to the Warrington Food Bank and the gifts of flowers are distributed to the sick, bereaved and elderly of the parish.

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Outreach Action Group (Action Group Chair, Kath Mellor)

Our Group is very involved with the Monday Friendship Lunches which started from Warm Spaces. Last March we had our lunch with a name change to Food and Friendship. We had around 60 people enjoying a three course lunch. This year will be held on the 28th April and we look forward to seeing lots of people.

Our Group helped with the 1100 festivities with the refreshments and was able to meet so many different people which was a really good outreach event.

In October we had our Remembering the Loved Ones and so many people came to the service to remember their loved ones.

Our Monday Friendship Lunch has increased over the last twelve months with around 15 regulars coming week by week. At Christmas we had a party and Father Christmas came along to enjoy lunch and give gifts out.

The Children and Young People Action Group (Action Group Chair, Caroline Johnstone)

Praise and Play sessions are led by Janet Black and Elaine Whittaker with Liz Taylor and Nettie Norman. We continue to advertise in the Parish News plus have a poster in the Parish Hall. Our numbers have increased this past year, varying from about 3 to 7 children and have a mix of mums, grandparents and dad. We continue to follow our topics from a 4 year rolling programme, including the main Christian festivals, with amendments depending on the age mix of our little ones. We hold sessions twice a month on the first and third Thursday from 1.30-2.30pm. We also celebrate children's birthdays by sending cards and at a session if it's close to the birthday. We are delighted to hear that our little ones are eager to come into church even when just passing: so encouraging to know that they see church as a great place to be.

Messy Church continues to thrive we generally have around 30 + children and adults at each session, usually 3-5pm on Sundays in the Parish Hall, and we meet at least once each half term. There are 6 core activity leaders who do a great job, with Kath on catering, and we have been really pleased to welcome new members of the congregation to the team especially our young leader, Jack. At each session there is a mixture of around 6 activities related to a Biblical theme, Christian Festival or season of the church's year we then draw things together with a story, song, prayers and food related to the theme – the Harvest fruit cones were yummy!

The team also leads the Harvest Festival talk with the children, helps with the Crib service and other services in church throughout the year.

Story Service We restarted our story services this year at 5 -6 pm in church– so far, the attendance has been down on the numbers before the pandemic but the smaller sessions are more intimate and give us chance to talk more to the children and their families. The theme for a service is based on a Christian value and we use a mixture of secular and Bible stories to develop on it. We come together for a final Bible story, song and prayer. The children often come in their onesies and we finish with toast and hot chocolate.

In early July we held our 'Celebration of our Children and Young People's Service' which was really lovely as families from all our groups attended - the church was bustling! The usual Sunday congregation commented on how lovely it was to see them and how many children and families there are who see All Saints as 'their church' but attend worship other than on a Sunday morning. But that works the other way too, and we would like to invite you, the wider congregation, to drop in and join us at anything we do – you will be made very welcome by all concerned – it's a great opportunity to dust off those story telling skills or come and while away a few hours helping folks make and do, as we are all part of God's big family.

In the year ahead we ask for your prayers as we look to develop our work with the older young people.

Open the Book

A group of around 10-12 people go into the Junior and Infant schools to perform Bible stories for the children. We go fortnightly to the Juniors and twice a term to the Infants. We also do performances at church on special occasions such as Christmas, Easter and Family services. The children enjoy the performances and are eager to participate in the stories being told. The resources we use for 'Open the Book' come from "The Lion Storyteller Bible" by Bob Hartman. Peter and Lynda Jaques who have been leading 'Open the Book' since 2016 have now stepped down from Leadership, but are still involved with the group. Our heartfelt thanks go out to them for all their dedication and commitment they have shown since bringing 'Open the Book' into the schools in Thelwall.

The Social and Communications Action Group

2023 Was a busy and successful year in terms of social events and communications in the parish. Our events included: Quiz nights (January and October), Many coffee mornings in the church for Fairtrade, MacMillan, Foodbank, Christian Aid and Thelwall 1100. The Thelwall 1100 coffee morning included a gallery of photographs of the church and church family at the heart of village life throughout history. The coffee mornings remain very popular and provide a wonderful social occasion for all that attend. We had a bumper Easter Egg Hunt enjoying wonderful weather and input from the wider community in the organising. Wine Tasting was well attended with enthusiastic participation and again members of the community stepping up to support the event. Bonfire Night went off with a bang although this is organised by a separate committee. The Christmas Fayre returned to a single day event and proved popular with a great mix of all the traditional favourite stalls and a sprinkling of new ones that were very well patronised. We were particularly pleased to welcome Thelwall Men's Shed who showcased their terrific carpentry skills and generated a lot of interest. Warrington Male Voice Choir once again performed a very impressive concert in December which is a staple on many people's calendars. Our monthly markets have sadly come to an end this year after disappointing attendance and sales through the spring. We will monitor interest in potentially having these less frequently in the future depending on demand. The team formed the backbone of a walking float, representing the church at the Rose Queen. In addition we supported Laskey Farm's participation in the national open garden scheme by providing tea and cakes and raising funds for church and the foodbank. Laskey Farm also hosted a Cream Tea event for the 1100 project that our team manned. The events continue to generate much needed and appreciated funds, but above and beyond this provide a witness to our church being very much alive and active in the village.

The Parish News continues to be a much needed tool for communicating in the village in particular with our neighbours who don't 'do digital'. It is edited by a member of SCAG and is distributed ten months of the year free to every house in Thelwall. We have continued to provide a platform for the legacy work from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Many local organisations and initiatives benefit from the magazine being able to advertise and update the village as a whole such as the Rose Queen, The Scouts Christmas Post, Bridgewater Players and the Thelwall 1100 project and its legacy activities.

Our website is kept up to date and relevant along with our social media platforms. We continue to explore how this can be grown within the capacity of the team.

We are always grateful to receive any volunteers who would like to get involved in ensuring that the church remains at the heart of what we do as a village, welcoming, supporting and enhancing life in the community as a witness to our faith.

Finally a big thank you to everyone who has supported any of our events in any way at all, organising, advertising, baking, cooking, serving, attending, participating whatever role you played we are so very grateful for your support and look forward to seeing you at future events.

Fair Trade

All Saints' is a fully registered Fairtrade church (our Fairtrade status was renewed in July 2020) and Fairtrade tea and coffee is used whenever refreshments are served. We hold a Fairtrade stall in church after the services every 1st and 3rd Sunday as well as on other ad hoc occasions, including at Thelwall's annual Rose Queen Festival. On 9th March 2023 our morning service was dedicated to Fairtrade and the popular All Saints' Wine Tasting event in May 2023 again featured Fairtrade wines. We also hold a very well supported Fairtrade Coffee Morning during Fairtrade Fortnight each year, drawing in around 70 people and raising funds for Transform Trade. Four church members are dedicated volunteers at Warrington's own Fairtrade shop, Fair 4 All.

Thelwall 1100 Festival

All Saints' Church provided practical and prayerful support to our village community as it celebrated the combined anniversaries of Thelwall's 1100 years 'a cyty', Chaigeley School's 75th and Thelwall Morris Men's 50th.

Thelwall 1100 is a not-for-profit organisation, set up when no existing Thelwall organisation would take on the project. Thelwall 1100 will operate until 30 October 2025. It has a constitution, management committee and bank account that were required in order to bid for funding. The delivery of a programme of community celebrations that ran from 9 – 24 September 2023, was greatly helped by:

- The availability of the Parish Hall that was gifted for the final weekend
- The Thelwall 1100 & Harvest Prayer Project
- Support with all the catering in the Parish Hall and for the Laskey Farm Cream Tea – special thanks to Kath Mellor and Jean Fisher and their helpers as well as all the bakers and food preppers who provided delicious fare
- Furniture shifters, car park stewards, meeters and greeters
- All Saints' News for helping us promote competitions, share news of projects and engage with our community
- Welcoming visitors to an Open Coffee Morning with displays of special events in the lives of our church family as well as the conservation project
- Hosting a Thanksgiving Service that shared images and reflections on the Thelwall 1100 Festival along with a celebration cake and fizz after the service

All Saints PCC has also supported, in principle, proposals for two legacy projects: heritage information plaques and an art installation.

Maggie Taylor

Chair, Thelwall 1100

Mission Support

During the year we gave grant support to the following charitable organisations direct from church funds: Church Urban Fund; Papyrus; Prison Fellowship and Get Warrington Talking. We are also giving financial support to Christ Church, an adjacent parish to ours.

Papyrus was our chosen charity for the 2023 Lent Appeal. Through this £443.70 was raised.

In addition the following funds were raised directly for the following.

Transform Trade a March coffee morning in church raised £400

The Christian Aid, a May coffee morning in church raised £354.60

Breast Cancer Fund – an August coffee morning was held in church

MacMillan Cancer Fund – an October coffee morning in church raised £533.50

Samaritan's Purse was supported through the donation of filled shoes boxes for Operation Christmas Child brought to our "Toy Service" in December.

SureStart was supported through the donation of wrapped gifts given at the Christmas "Toy Service" and taken to SureStart, Halton where the charity distributed them to their local family centres.

The Children's Society is supported with donations from our Christingle service. This amounted to £600 from our 2032 service.

Warrington Food Bank – we have a collection point in church for donations of food etc. These are taken to the local centre by a volunteer. Food items donated at our Harvest Festival service also go to the food bank.

Ecumenical relationships

All Saints is a member of Lymm and District Churches Together (LDCT).

Diane and Gordon O'Connor represent All Saints. Kath Mellor attends all meetings and reports on the Sanctuary Café. Simon Fawcett has taken over this year as Chairman. We look forward to events throughout the year.

The Sanctuary Café is a Community Interest Company that began as an idea developed by CTLD and is supported by them.

The café is very busy from Tuesday to Saturday. We have volunteers from a lot of the Churches but All Saints has the most volunteers. Anyone who would like to help please contact Kath on 602475 or email kathlmellor@gmail.com. We have held special events including Easter Monday and Transport Day. We have held coffee mornings to support Christian Aid and the week of Christian Unity. We also give a percentage to Fair4all during the fortnight. We have a Fair4all stand open and this is becoming more popular. We have a Toddler Café on a Monday morning. On Tuesday we welcome Bumps and Babies. On a Wednesday we provide refreshments for Memory Café twice a month and twice a month we provide drinks for Singing for the Brain, Saturday I work alongside five volunteers who are a great asset to the café turning up each week to help.

The Stewardship Action Group (Action Group Chair Alison London)

We advise on matters referred to us by the PCC and seek to support the treasurer and church wardens. We also seek to encourage giving based on Biblical principles. Since the pandemic we have maintained contact by email in order to discuss stewardship issues and have met together in person after church services to talk and continue discussions. Documents are shared between group members. This has proved a good way to keep in touch as well as fulfil our function.

Encouraging Stewardship: Our church membership are of considerable importance as they provide the majority of our funding. Those who have committed to regular giving by envelopes or standing order have continued to support us. Valuable volunteer help, particularly with fund raising events, has also helped significantly.

At the annual Stewardship service, in 2023 we acknowledged the pressure some household would be feeling due to high cost of living pressures but urged church members to continue to give as generously as possible, not just with monetary contributions but also with volunteering. Our stewardship secretary, Trish, is responsible for the weekly giving envelopes and is available to give more information on these. Details of the church bank account are available from myself or the treasurer for those who want to give by standing order or to make a one off donation. We urge people who pay tax to sign a gift aid declaration. Standing order forms and gift aid declaration forms are available at the back of church.

Church Budget: A budget for the coming year was prepared and presented to the PCC for approval. The PCC have asked for a regular update on the way the budget is being met.

"Friends"

This group was set up to accept donations from those who wish to support the maintenance of the church building and churchyard but may not support the church in any other way. There are currently 9 "Friends". A significant donation was made from the "Friends" funds towards the re-surfacing of the church car park.

FINANCIAL REVIEW (Treasurer)

As a whole, we are doing very well. The main points to take away are:

- Planned giving and collections at services have remained consistent compared to last year,
- There has been a small increase in income from social events, including from the highest takings from a Bonfire we've ever had,
- Takings from Parish Hall bookings have increased significantly,
- Our investments have started to grow again, following a decrease last year.

As a result, this year we have a surplus of nearly £20,000 (not including Gift Aid that we are still to claim) even accounting for the Church car park, which was covered mostly by Grants and other donations. This is a slight reduction from last year, when the surplus was slightly larger.

We have also improved the position on our outstanding liabilities. We have paid off a large portion of the outstanding balance on the Parish Share from 2021, and because we have been paying 100% of our Parish share since the start of 2022, we haven't accrued any more liabilities there.

However, there are some things we need to be aware of:

- While the overall picture is showing an increase in funds, the reality is that the Parish Hall accounts for nearly all of this, and the Church is remaining constant, if not actually operating at a slight loss. There is no need to panic right now, but we do need to consider how we can bring in more funds, and may have to think about how we can manage the two together so that both operate comfortably. Hopefully the new equipment we have to provide options for electronic giving will help increase donations at services.
- Part of this is a function of costs rising across the board. As an example, our income from Social events this year has increased by around £2000 to £28,500, but the costs have more than doubled to £16,000.

-
- The parish share has increased. We continue to pay 100% of this, and I feel it is important that we do, but this does represent an increase in outgoings.
 - Due to being on a fixed tariff for our gas and electricity, utilities costs have remained fairly constant, and the difference seen in the accounts is a function of unusual billing periods in late 2022.

In summary, the church and the parish hall are currently in a good position financially, although most of the money is coming from the Parish Hall. Our liabilities are minimal, money does continue to come in and we are able to pay our parish share.

RESERVES POLICY

We now have four reserves policies agreed by PCC. These cover both the church and the Parish Hall. Firstly they set aside a sum of money to enable the church / Parish Hall to continue should income dwindle. Secondly, they reserve monies for larger projects

1. Allocated reserves policy for the Church

"The Treasurer maintains sufficient funds (agreed as £20,000) in an agreed Investment Fund that would allow the church to continue to function financially for a period of 12-18 months assuming unchanged receipts and expenditure."

2. Allocated reserves policy for the Parish Hall

"The Treasurer maintains sufficient funds (£15,000), that would allow the PCC of All Saints Thelwall to continue to manage the Parish Hall for a period of 18 months assuming unchanged receipts and expenditure."

3. Unallocated reserves policy for the Parish Hall

A sum of £10,000 should be made available by the PCC of All Saints Thelwall as unallocated reserves for project requirements of the Parish Hall, identified by the Parish Hall Management Committee and agreed by the PCC of All Saints Thelwall.

4. Unallocated reserves policy for the Church

A sum of £15,000 should be made available by the PCC of All Saints Thelwall as unallocated reserves for larger long-term projects identified as a result of the Quinquennial Inspection.

It was proposed and agreed that the allocated amounts and policies should be reviewed by PCC every 3 years with the next review taking place in May 2023.

The 200 Club acts as a working reserve for the Parish Hall.

INVESTMENT POLICY

We invest the allocated reserves for Church and Parish Hall in COIF funds, a low risk investment that, hopefully, will give a better return than a savings account. Since these funds are unlikely to be required at short notice, the risk is acceptable. The unallocated reserves for the Parish Hall are also in COIF funds, the remainder are in savings or current accounts."

Financial statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Receipts					
Voluntary Receipts:					
Planned Giving		50,572	0	50,572	49,642
Collections at services		4,579	0	4,579	4,952
Gift Aid recovered		10,984	0	10,984	26,762
All other giving/voluntary receipts	3a)	7,101	(13,318)	(6,217)	5,026
		73,235	(13,318)	59,917	86,383
Activities for generating funds	3b)	33,462	500	33,962	31,119
Investment income		5,131	0	5,131	(3,918)
Church & Parish Hall activities	3c)	69,434	0	69,434	40,313
Total receipts		181,263	(12,818)	168,445	153,897
Payments					
Church activities:					
Diocesan parish contribution (2023)		71,757	0	71,757	67,964
Diocesan parish contribution (2021 Arrears)		851	0	851	2,553
Clergy and staffing costs		3,372	0	3,372	4,923
Church running costs	3e)	20,698	296	20,993	15,343
Hall running costs	3e)	31,106	0	31,106	27,299
Mission giving and donations	3f)	2,755	(670)	2,085	2,638
		130,538	(374)	130,164	120,721
Cost of generating funds	3g)	18,751	250	19,001	9,508
Total payments		149,289	(124)	149,165	130,229
Surplus / (Deficit) before transfers		31,973	(12,694)	19,280	23,668
Transfer between funds		(1,500)	1,500	0	0
Surplus / (Deficit) after transfers		30,473	(11,194)	19,280	23,668
Cash at bank and in hand at 1st January		100,876	16,219	117,095	93,427
Cash at bank and in hand at 31st December		131,349	5,026	136,375	117,095

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Cash Funds				
Bank Current Account	53,635	3,627	57,261	68,622
Savings Account	25,111	0	25,111	0
Deposit Account	4,550	0	4,550	326
Investments	44,856	0	44,856	41,455
Deposit Fund	0	0	0	0
Total	128,152	3,627	131,779	110,403
Other Monetary Assets/Liabilities (Note only)				
Assets				
Gift aid recoverable (estimate)	11,500	0	11,500	10,762
Debtors incl hall hire	3,439	0	3,439	3,839
Recoverable VAT	0	0	0	0
Less liabilities				
Conservation Project Creditors	1,520	0	1,520	1,520
Chester Diocesan Board of Finance	1,702	0	1,702	2,553
Other sundry Creditors	2,836	0	2,836	1,485
net assets / (liabilities)	8,881	0	8,881	9,043

Notes

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the receipts and payments basis.

2. The movements in restricted funds during the year were:

	Bal b/fwd £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Bal c/fwd £
Restricted Funds					
Friends of All Saints	3,127	620	1,500	0	2,247
Youth Work	1,924	28	324	0	1,629
Church Car Park	10,706	29,003	42,299	1,500	(1,090)
Total	15,757	29,651	44,123	1,500	2,785

3. Further analysis of Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Receipts				
a) All other giving/voluntary receipts				
Donations church	5,511	0	5,511	1,920
Donations hall	0	0	0	156
Grants non recurring	1,590	23,500	25,090	150
Church Car Park	0	(36,818)	(36,818)	2,801
	7,101	(13,318)	(6,217)	5,026
b) Activities for generating funds:				
Parish Magazine Sponsorship & Advertising	2,545	0	2,545	2,010
Social Committee Fundraising Events Income	28,619	0	28,619	26,358
200 Club	1,645	0	1,645	1,664
Friends Member Donations	120	500	620	545
Miscellaneous church receipts	533	0	533	542
	33,462	500	33,962	31,119
c) Church & Hall activities				
Fees for weddings and funerals	16,051	0	16,051	7,833
Hall lettings	53,383	0	53,383	32,480
	69,434	0	69,434	40,313
Payments				
e) Church activities				
Church running expenses				
Utilities	4,746	0	4,746	1,833
Council tax	3,003	0	3,003	2,856
Insurance	3,439	0	3,439	3,107
Deanery / LDCT	30	0	30	30
Clergy expenses	1,152	0	1,152	1,152
Cost of Services	712	0	712	645
Building/Churchyard/Vicarage Repairs and Maintenance	1,122	0	1,122	1,800
Youth groups and Sunday school	0	296	296	17
Post Phone Copying and Stationery	516	0	516	311
Lottery & Copyright Licences	640	0	640	517
Assigned Fees	4,684	0	4,684	2,766
Outreach	519	0	519	155
Major repairs and renovations	0	0	0	0
Church Equipment Purchases	0	0	0	155
Total	20,564	296	20,859	15,343
Additional Accounts				
Warm Spaces	134	0	134	0
	20,698	296	20,993	15,343

e) Church activities continued	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Hall running expenses				
Utilities	4,432	0	4,432	3,512
Building/grounds maintenance	6,888	0	6,888	8,122
Staff payments	8,872	0	8,872	8,963
Insurance	1,645	0	1,645	1,542
Other running costs	3,557	0	3,557	2,537
Phone/Internet	508	0	508	536
New equipment	203	0	203	2,087
Miscellaneous	5,000	0	5,000	0
	<u>31,106</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>31,106</u>	<u>27,299</u>
f) Mission giving and donations				
Church Urban Fund	570	0	570	570
Church of England Childrens Society	0	212	212	(212)
Warrington Speak Up	570	0	570	570
Prison Fellowship	570	0	570	570
Papyrus	570	0	570	570
Christ Church Latchford	475	0	475	570
Breast Cancer Now		(373)	(373)	0
Fearnhead Food Bank	0	0	0	0
Macmillan	0	(509)	(509)	0
	<u>2,755</u>	<u>(670)</u>	<u>2,085</u>	<u>2,638</u>
g) Cost of generating funds				
Parish magazine printing	2,313	0	2,313	1,931
Fund raising events social committee	15,859	250	16,109	7,017
200 Club prizes and costs	580	0	580	560
	<u>18,751</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>19,001</u>	<u>9,508</u>

Independent examiner's report of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of All Saints', Thelwall.

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of All Saints', Thelwall. for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the *Charities Act 2011* ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under s. 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under s. 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

(1) Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or

(2) The accounts do not accord with those records; or

(3) The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the *Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008* other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



Name: Kevin Walker

Relevant professional qualification or body: FCA

Address: Walker Begley Limited, 207 Knutsford Road, Grappenhall, Warrington, WA4 2QL

Date: 11/06/2024

Accounts

Independent examiner's report of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of All Saints', Thelwall.

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of All Saints', Thelwall. for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the *Charities Act 2011* ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under s. 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under s. 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

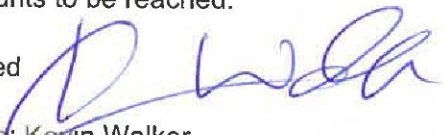
(1) Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or

(2) The accounts do not accord with those records; or

(3) The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the *Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008* other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed


Name: Kevin Walker

Relevant professional qualification or body: FCA

Address: Walker Begley Limited, 207 Knutsford Road, Grappenhall, Warrington, WA4 2QL

Date: 25/04/2023

Financial statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2022

Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Receipts					
Voluntary Receipts:					
Planned Giving		49,642	0	49,642	49,498
Collections at services		4,952	0	4,952	1,850
Gift Aid recovered		25,231	1,531	26,762	0
All other giving/voluntary receipts	3a)	2,225	2,801	5,026	27,726
		82,051	4,332	86,383	79,074
Activities for generating funds	3b)	29,824	1,295	31,119	22,520
Investment income		(3,918)	0	(3,918)	3,721
Church & Parish Hall activities	3c)	40,313	0	40,313	39,732
Total receipts		148,270	5,627	153,897	145,047
Payments					
Church activities:					
Diocesan parish contribution		67,964	0	67,964	64,727
Diocesan parish contribution (2021 Arrears)		2,553	0	2,553	10,144
Clergy and staffing costs		4,923	0	4,923	3,882
Church running costs	3e)	15,327	17	15,343	35,439
Hall running costs	3e)	27,299	0	27,299	17,774
Mission giving and donations	3f)	2,850	(212)	2,638	2,791
		120,916	(195)	120,721	134,756
Cost of generating funds	3g)	9,008	500	9,508	6,899
Total payments		129,924	305	130,229	141,655
Surplus / (Deficit) before transfers		18,346	5,322	23,668	3,392
Transfer between funds		0	0	0	0
Surplus / (Deficit) after transfers		18,346	5,322	23,668	3,392
Cash at bank and in hand at 1st January		82,530	10,897	93,427	90,035
Cash at bank and in hand at 31st December		100,876	16,219	117,095	93,427

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Cash Funds				
Bank Current Account	52,614	16,007	68,622	49,439
Deposit Account	326	0	326	186
Investments	41,455	0	41,455	43,802
Deposit Fund	0	0	0	0
Total	94,396	16,007	110,403	93,427

Other Monetary Assets/Liabilities (Note only)

Assets

Gift aid recoverable (estimate)	10,762	0	10,762	13,221
Debtors incl hall hire	3,839	0	3,839	2,428
Recoverable VAT	0	0	0	0

Less liabilities

Conservation Project Creditors	1,520	0	1,520	1,520
Chester Diocesan Board of Finance	2,553	0	2,553	3,610
Other sundry Creditors	1,485	0	1,485	1,656

Net assets / (liabilities)

9,043	0	9,043	8,863
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Notes

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the receipts and payments basis.

2. The movements in restricted funds during the year were:

	Bal b/fwd £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Bal c/fwd £
Restricted Funds					
Friends of All Saints	2,582	545	0	0	3,127
Youth Work	1,941	50	67	0	1,924
Church Car Park	6,374	4,332	0	0	10,706
Total	10,897	4,927	67	0	15,757

3. Further analysis of Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Receipts				
a) All other giving/voluntary receipts				
Donations church	1,920	0	1,920	7,427
Donations hall	156	0	156	3,522
Grants non recurring	150	0	150	8,329
Church Car Park	0	2,801	2,801	7,500
	<u>2,225</u>	<u>2,801</u>	<u>5,026</u>	<u>27,726</u>
b) Activities for generating funds:				
Parish Magazine Sponsorship & Advertising	2,010	0	2,010	1,625
Social Committee Fundraising Events Income	25,608	750	26,358	18,522
200 Club	1,664	0	1,664	1,764
Friends Member Donations	0	545	545	492
Miscellaneous church receipts	542	0	542	117
	<u>29,824</u>	<u>1,295</u>	<u>31,119</u>	<u>22,520</u>
c) Church & Hall activities				
Fees for weddings and funerals	7,833	0	7,833	12,062
Hall lettings	32,480	0	32,480	27,670
	<u>40,313</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>40,313</u>	<u>39,732</u>
Payments				
e) Church activities				
Church running expenses				
Utilities	1,833	0	1,833	4,045
Council tax	2,856	0	2,856	2,762
Insurance	3,107	0	3,107	2,881
Deanery / LDCT	30	0	30	70
Clergy expenses	1,152	0	1,152	337
Cost of Services	645	0	645	738
Building/Churchyard/Vicarage Repairs and Maintenance	1,800	0	1,800	1,561
Youth groups and Sunday school	0	17	17	72
Post Phone Copying and Stationery	311	0	311	553
Lottery & Copyright Licences	517	0	517	602
Assigned Fees	2,766	0	2,766	3,940
Outreach	155	0	155	1,372
Major repairs and renovations	0	0	0	16,507
Church Equipment Purchases	155	0	155	0
	<u>15,327</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>15,343</u>	<u>35,439</u>

e) Church activities continued	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Hall running expenses				
Utilities	3,512	0	3,512	1,770
Building/grounds maintenance	8,122	0	8,122	4,816
Staff payments	8,963	0	8,963	6,771
Insurance	1,542	0	1,542	1,627
Other running costs	2,537	0	2,537	2,114
Phone/Internet	536	0	536	462
New equipment	2,087	0	2,087	214
	27,299	0	27,299	17,774
f) Mission giving and donations				
Church Urban Fund	570		570	629
Church of England Childrens Society	0	(212)	(212)	0
MacMillan Cancer Raised		(485)	(485)	0
MacMillan Cancer Donated		485	485	
Warrington Speak Up	570		570	95
Prison Fellowship	570		570	95
Papyrus	570		570	95
Christ Church Latchford	570		570	285
	2,850	(212)	2,638	2,791
g) Cost of generating funds				
Parish magazine printing	1,931	0	1,931	740
Fund raising events social committee	6,517	500	7,017	5,565
200 Club prizes and costs	560	0	560	593
	9,008	500	9,508	6,899

Accounts

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

THELWALL

ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022



Important

Please bring this report with you to the Annual General Meeting

To be read before the meeting

Charity number 1135426

ALL SAINTS CHURCH THELWALL
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING AND MEETING
TO ELECT CHURCHWARDENS
27th APRIL 2022

MEETING TO ELECT CHURCHWARDENS

1. Minutes of the last Meeting
2. Vote of thanks to the Churchwardens
3. Election of Churchwardens
4. Notice of the Archdeacons Visitation
5. AOB
6. Close of Meeting

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING

Minutes of the last Meeting

A.

To receive a report on changes to the Electoral Roll since the last Annual Meeting

To receive a report on the proceedings of the PCC and the activities
of the parish generally

To receive a report on the financial affairs of the Parish

To receive the independently examined accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December, 2019

To receive a report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

To receive a report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod

B.

To elect Representatives to the Deanery Synod

To elect Representatives to the PCC

C.

To appoint an Independent Examiner

D.

Any matters of Parochial or general interest

Chairman's Report

Other Reports

E. Close of Meeting

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING TO ELECT CHURCH WARDENS

28th APRIL 2021

Douglas welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for coming in these strange times. Due to guidance from the Church of England, meetings and services have to be kept as brief as possible.

The meeting started with a short service.

1. **The Minutes** were accepted as a true record. Proposed: Mike Horne; Seconded: Julie French

2. **Vote of thanks to Church Wardens**

Douglas thanked Julie and Derek for the fantastic work done during the pandemic. We have been well blessed. Nothing has been too much trouble for them. We held three services on Easter Sunday, requiring logistics that were challenging for the wardens.

3. **Election of Church Wardens**

Julie French – Proposed: Jean Fisher; Seconded: Ray Fisher

Derek Leather – Proposed: Pip Horne; Seconded: Frank Whittaker.

Due to Covid, there will be no archdeacon's visitation service this year. Instead, the wardens will be legally sworn in by the vicar in a morning service.

4. **Election of Deputy Wardens**

Under the new Church Representation Rules 2020, these are now appointed by the PCC at their first meeting.

5. **AOB**

There was no AOB, so the meeting to elect church wardens was closed.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

28th APRIL 2021

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21ST October 2020 were accepted as a true record.

Proposed: Jon Halliday; Seconded: Derek Leather

Electoral Roll – Jon Halliday - Electoral Roll Officer

The process of revising the roll has been severely curtailed by the closing of the church due to the CoronaVirus. Only 4 new names have been added. The number now on our Electoral Roll is 246. The total last year was 244. Of these 246 names, 181 live in the parish of Thelwall and 65 outside. The roll is revised every year, with a full revision taking place every 6 years (2025).

Financial Report – Julia Young – Treasurer

Julia reported on the financial challenges that came with covid and lockdowns. She reminded us that coming out of the pandemic will also come with challenges. We have a number of outstanding liabilities that need to be addressed, as well as annual increases in parish share.

Julia proposed Brian Robinson as our independent accounts examiner for the coming year. The meeting was in agreement.

The vicar thanked Julia for navigating us through the financially stormy waters of the pandemic.

Reports – the meeting also received reports from the wardens, the secretary, a deanery synod rep, and the vicar.

Election of Representatives to the Deanery Synod - No elections this year. Our representatives for 2020-23 are Bob Powell, Mike Horne, Alison London, Kath Mellor

Election Representatives to the PCC:

Caroline Johnstone – Proposed by Elaine Whittaker; Seconded by Karen Tipping.

Christopher Monks – Proposed by Colin Horrabin; Seconded by Helen Speed.

Unseen Unsung Hero

This year's Unseen Unsung Hero was Bob Powell. Julie and Derek thanked Bob for all the help and advice given during the pandemic in risk assessments and for ensuring everyone was kept safe in Church.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

All Saints Church is situated in Thelwall. It is part of the Diocese of Chester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is the Vicarage, Bell Lane, Thelwall, Warrington, Cheshire.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and registered as a charity on 9th April 2010 with the Charity Commission (**Charity number 1135426**).

PCC members during 2020 were as follows

Rev Douglas Black
Julie French (Churchwarden)
Derek Leather (Churchwarden)
Bob Lester (Lay Reader Emeritus)
Pip Horne (Lay Reader and Deputy Chair)
Colin Horrabin (Lay Reader)
Julia Young (Treasurer)
Kath Mellor (Secretary and Deanery Synod Representative)
Bob Powell (Deanery Synod Representative)

PCC Elected Members

(From April 2019)

Julia Young
Jon Holiday
Elaine Whittaker

(From October 2020)

John Alexander
Malcolm Hague
Alison London
Karen Tipping

(From April 2021)

Caroline Johnstone (Safeguarding Officer)
Chris Monks

Church Architect

Tony Barton, RIBA
Donald Insall Architects, 5 Bridge Place, Chester

Bank

NatWest, Warrington Branch, 23 Sankey Street, Warrington, Cheshire, WA1 1XH

Independent Examiner

Brian Robinson

AIMS and PURPOSES

All Saints' Church, Thelwall Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Douglas Black, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the Parish Hall on Bell Lane Thelwall.

Our mission statement is:-

Growing Up, in our faith by engaging with the bible, prayer & worship.

Growing Together, through team work, encouragement, fellowship & fun!

Growing Out, to our local and global community with practical service and generosity.

Growing More, by sharing our faith & drawing people into the life of the church.

We aim to fulfil this in all aspects of church life.

OBJECTIVES and ACTIVITIES

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at All Saints. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- worship and prayer;
- learning about the Gospel;
- developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus;
- providing pastoral care for people living in the parish;
- missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church and the Parish Hall.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE and MANAGEMENT

All Saints' Annual Parochial Meeting is held on the last Wednesday of April and it is at this meeting that church wardens and PCC members are elected. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules 2017. At All Saints the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar), churchwardens, lay readers and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has appointed six permanent action groups, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life:

- Worship (including Nurture and Prayer)
- Parish Hall
- Young People (ages birth to 18 years)
- Social Events and Communications
- Outreach
- Stewardship

All Saints, Thelwall

Safeguarding Policy

Promoting a Safer Church

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 26th January 2022:

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health & safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Ensure that all hirers of our buildings, whether church or parish hall, will adopt this policy as part of their hiring agreement or demonstrate that they have their own equivalent policy.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Caroline Johnstone as the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Incumbent D. S. Black Churchwarden [Signature]
Churchwarden [Signature] Date 26.3.22

The Parochial Church Council has also complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding & Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding and vulnerable adults).

Employment Matters 2022

The PCC employs three part-time employees: a Director of Music, a hall caretaker and a hall cleaner. We also pay organists and a vergers to assist at funerals and weddings. We also pay for a person to dig small graves in the churchyard for cremated remains.

The Chester diocese parishes are committed to best practise as laid out in: "Just Employment – Employing Staff in Faith Based Projects". This policy was compiled by the Church Urban Fund and adopted by the Dioceses of the North West. It contains information on recruitment, documentation, pay and reward, dismissal and redundancy, volunteers and health & safety.

Despite only having a few employees, we are still subject to all the demands of Employment law, including the National Living Wage. In some instances – like paid church choir directors and musicians – employment is also governed by Canon (church) Law. Liz Geddes – the Diocesan HR Advisor – has been an enormous help to us. But legislative demands seem to grow year on year.

Since 2014, employers must notify the HMRC on each occasion that payment is made to an employee. This includes single payments to vergers, organists & gravediggers, as well as the earnings of our part time employees.

Pensions: at the moment, none of our employees are eligible for auto-enrolment on a pension scheme because their earnings are below the required threshold. National Insurance: this becomes payable when our workers earn (currently) £180 per week.

Safeguarding is a major responsibility for churches, for reasons that are all too evident in the media. In May 2021, Elaine Whittaker handed over the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer to Caroline Johnstone.

In spite of the ever increasing demands on us as employers, we are still keeping up with our responsibilities!

Vicar's Report

This is my 20th year as vicar of All Saints. Where did that go?!

1. Growing Up *in our faith by engaging with the bible, prayer & worship.* The last 12 months have seen the church emerge from online to 'in person' worship. Restrictive practices were eased somewhat but still with appropriate covid-safety measures. We tried videoing the 'in person' services for the website but logistics have been challenging. Delivery of prayer and bible reflection resources to church folk of all ages continued until September. Feedback has been appreciative and positive and there is plenty of potential for development. In Lent, our bible groups engaged with (via Zoom!) the C of E's 'Living in Love and Faith' studies on human sexuality. Participants valued the opportunity to discuss the biblical material together.

2. Growing Together *through team work, encouragement, fellowship & fun!* The return of the bonfire, wine tasting and the Christmas Fayre provided welcome opportunities for camaraderie and collaboration (and income!). Despite these wonderful events, I am still concerned about the problem of loneliness in our community, which has been intensified by the pandemic. Mental health issues amongst the elderly and young people have been exacerbated by uncertainty and isolation. How can we include such people in our growing together? The invitation and friendship we offer our neighbours can be life changing. They need us - particularly at the moment. Who could you invite and involve? Let's be an inclusive, open, absorbent fellowship that helps people to belong and believe.

3. Growing Out *to our local and global community with practical service and generosity.* Despite Covid, we managed to sustain – and in some cases increase - our generosity to our adopted charities. Over recent months, the local Foodbank has been under strain, meaning our donations of food items have been very timely. As ever, the response to the Toy Service has been extraordinary. I'm always amazed by the many non-church people who engage with the shoeboxes. It seems to 'work' on so many levels. Recently, the PCC decided



to financially support two mental health charities: 'Get Warrington Talking' and 'Papyrus' (young suicide prevention). Interesting choices but not surprising. As ever, our planned appeals are accompanied by wonderful individual acts of kindness & generosity to neighbours near & far.

4. Growing More *by sharing our faith & drawing people into the life of the church.* Open the Book (OtB) restarted in the infant school in September. And we managed to put together an OtB Christmas service in church for the junior school. Thankfully, 2022 is already presenting us with more opportunity to be in the schools. The latest research indicates an increasing effectiveness of one-to-one evangelism in bringing people to faith and church. Thus, the C of E has been ramping up the 'Growing Faith' campaign, which encourages Christians to share their faith in word and deed during the week. Consequently, in Lent, we will partake of the "Talking Jesus" course, which encourages & equips church members to share their faith with family, friends and colleagues.

In last year's report, I highlighted the importance of discipleship to healthy church life. I mentioned that a 'disciple' is a 'learner'. We're either learning about following Jesus or we're learning about how to help others follow Jesus. Thus we are always learners! The aim is to encourage newer people to fulfil their potential. Our exemplar is Jesus: "Whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these". Hence, your goal is to help your learner or successor to do greater things than you! Who could you develop and disciple?

So much good is done by so many people in this church that it's hard to thank everyone individually. But I would like to pay tribute to Julie & Derek (wardens), Julia (treasurer), Kath (secretary), Pip, Colin & Bob (Readers) and all the action groups for adapting to the transitional phase of the pandemic with energy and focus. Just in case you haven't heard already: Felicity has decided to bring her tenure as our Director of Music to an end this summer, following 24 years in the job. We will express our appreciation to Felicity in due course but, for the moment, we rejoice in her music ministry amongst us. And to one and all I say: 'thank you' and 'well done good and faithful servants'. Keep growing up, growing together, growing out and growing more.

Eco Church

Our new bishop is very keen to encourage churches to become ecologically friendly. At the first PCC in May 2021, we looked at the "Eco Church Survey" produced by the 'A Rocha' organisation. It was helpful and challenging. It was encouraging to see that we have already fulfilled some of the recommendations e.g. LED lighting and repaired windows. But there is still much to do. Hopefully, the next year will be more about 'eco church' and less about 'covid church'!

PARISH REPORTS – Achievements and Performance

All Saints Church, - Revised Electoral Roll 2022 – Jon Halliday & Mike Horne Electoral Roll Officers

At the time of writing this in mid March 2022, the Electoral Roll had been updated and at that stage the numbers were:-

The number on our Electoral Roll was 237.

The total last year was 241 (as declared on 8th May 2021).

Of these 237 names, 175 live in the parish of Thelwall and 62 outside. There are 0 new names.

The Covid pandemic has resulted in no new names have been added on account of the reduced number of services and limited places for attendance. This, compounded with some members passing away, has had a negative effect (2.5% reduction) on the Electoral Roll. The negative effect is now expected to be alleviated now that restrictions are being eased and services are no longer subject to any restrictions on numbers.

I will be able to state the current numbers for the coming year at the Annual Meeting.

Numbers over the past few years are below:-



Jon Halliday - Electoral Roll Officer

Total at AGM in 2007 = 155 full revision
Total at AGM in 2008 = 175
Total at AGM in 2009 = 177
Total at AGM in 2010 = 184
Total at AGM in 2011 = 193
Total at AGM in 2012 = 199
Total at AGM in 2013 = 204 full revision
Total at AGM in 2014 = 221
Total at AGM in 2015 = 237
Total at AGM in 2016 = 248
Total at AGM in 2017 = 256
Total at AGM in 2018 = 264
Total at AGM in 2019 = 244 full revision
Total at AGM in 2020 = 246
Total at AGM in 2021 = 241

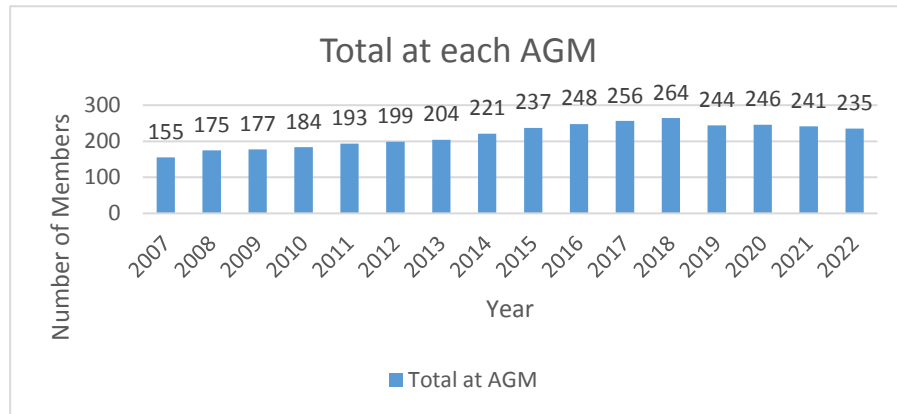


fig a. Visual representation of the electoral roll numbers declared at each AGM

Secretary's Report – Kath Mellor

Since the AGM we have held our meetings in Church well spaced out wearing masks. Our first meeting of the new PCC was to elect officers and Sidespeople. The PCC co-opted Helen Speed on to the PCC as a link to the Parish Hall. Julia went through all the responsibilities with regard to Church Finance and showed how it will be a tough year as we haven't been able to do any fund-raising activities.

At each meeting we discuss our Church building and this year we have spent time looking at our car park. We have also discussed the best ways to keep people safe whilst coming for communion.

We are keeping records secure and minutes are loaded onto infoodle by Jon Halliday. Jon is looking at each member of the PCC given a unique email address.

At present we are looking at the way forward with the Choir and music which we have been privileged for 24 years having Felicity Speed being the Director of Music.

Deanery Synod Report

Like most meetings, Deanery Synod started 2021 on Zoom. Discussions revolved around the Church of England's 'Care of Clergy' report. Synod and the congregations it represents made a commitment to supporting the well-being of their clergy.

At the September meeting, Rev'd Nikki Eastwood, Chair of the Diocesan Advisory Group for Living in Love and Faith, encouraged us to discuss the questions: how do identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage fit within the bigger picture of the good news of Jesus Christ? What does it mean to live in love and faith together as a Church?

Deanery Synod also had the opportunity to meet the new Bishop of Stockport. It should've been the Bishop of Birkenhead but Bishop Julie injured her shoulder and couldn't attend.

In 2022, Synod will begin to focus in on the C of E's initiative 'Everyday Faith'. This initiative seeks to encourage church members to share their faith – in word & deed – between Monday to Saturday, at work, in the club, amongst family and friends, in our voluntary work etc.

To receive a report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church (Churchwardens)

This year has continued to throw up new challenges due to the ever changing Covid 19 rules and once again as a church family, we have risen to that challenge seeing a nearly normal return to our worship and enabling us to open up the kitchen for after services tea, coffee and general fellowship which we are sure has been greatly missed. We have gradually been able to bring back the Thursday morning service, 8am service, Praise and Play, Crafting, Book club. as well as hosting Coffee mornings, other social events and even the large Royal Legion Remembrance Day Service which due to Jon Halliday and Mike Horne's excellent technology skills we were able to hold outside in a marquee as well as inside which meant that we could have many more people from different churches attend. (Grateful thanks to you both).

Douglas has found a way to soak the communion wafers in wine and dry them so that we can enjoy receiving communion without having to share a cup and we can once again enjoy praising God by singing accompanied by our wonderful choir, all be it still wearing masks.

So here at All Saint's Thelwall we feel that God is truly with us supporting and guiding us through the eye of the storm and now hopefully into calmer waters.

Worship Action Group (Action Group Chair, Douglas Black)

The devotional resources we delivered during the pandemic were actually in use well before covid. Jean Pye introduced WAGs to the low cost, high quality prayer cards produced by The Prayer Trust. Pre-covid, we distributed these cards to church members at Easter, Christmas etc. However, during the pandemic we delivered them to 180 households every month, which meant the cards found their way into the spiritual lives of many more people. Post-pandemic, we will look to develop the availability of these and similar resources.

Every year, we engage with the Archbishops' Ascensiontide initiative: Thy Kingdom Come (TKC). TKC encourages Christian to pray for - and share their faith with – family, friends & neighbours. The C of E is now giving plentiful copies of the TKC prayer diary and children's resources free of charge!

Over the year, worship services took small steps towards 'normality'. Booking seats at services finished in September. Hymns & music were reintroduced at the same time. Communion moved from being administered in one kind (wafer) to two kinds (wafer with a drop of wine on it). Risk assessments were still necessary and safe spaces were created for social distancing. Omicron slowed progress somewhat, but we're getting there.

For the first half of the year we managed to video our services and upload them to the website. But the logistics of doing so became complicated and time consuming, and we discontinued it in the autumn. Nevertheless, we will look at this again when the talent and personal capacity becomes available.

We are very grateful to Judith Biggin for coordinating the resources for Operation Forth Bridge i.e. the death of the Duke of Edinburgh. Judith is doing the same for Operation London Bridge, which is the code name for the death of the Queen. Churches have been given specific instructions for the observance of these events.

Bible study groups are up and running again. Some are 'in person' and others are via Zoom. The 'Living in Love and Faith', 'Hope Explored' and 'Talking Jesus' study courses have been used over the year, along with material chosen by individual groups.

Felicity announced that she will be stepping down from her role as Director of Music at the end of August, which will bring to an end her remarkable 24 year tenure. We will celebrate Felicity's ministry later in the summer when we will have the opportunity to express our appreciation for her friendship, faith and fortissimo* (*the only musical word I could think of that begins with 'f'!). WAGs will begin to guide the PCC's thinking and praying about what happens in a post-Felicity world.

Choir & Music Group Report – (Music Director)

A phrase much used recently comes to mind to start this report - what a strange couple of years! However, praise God that we are beginning to see the return of something more like normal. Over this last year we have seen the gradual reintroduction of music and singing within the services and that is continuing. During Covid the piano was moved up into the chancel and close to the choir so at the services where we have reintroduced Music Group style as well there has been no need for any distinction between the musicians which has been greatly welcomed by all.

As always I am very grateful for the support given to me by all the musicians, both singers and instrumentalists, especially during the recent difficult times. We managed to sing a Carol Service last Christmas in person despite many difficulties and atrocious weather but were unable to hold our carol singing in the pubs due to Covid restrictions.

This is my last year as Music Director as I will be retiring from the post later this year so I would like to say how much I have appreciated the privilege of being able to serve the community of All Saints and of Thelwall in helping them to worship our majestic and wonderful God and thank everyone for putting up with, working with and helping me over the past 24 years. May God bless the Church and be loved and worshipped in Spirit and in Truth for many years to come.

Parish Hall Action Group (Action Group Chair, Helen Speed)

As might be expected, given the pandemic, it has been an interesting year for the team at the Parish Hall, with the many changes in rules and the stopping and starting of groups. We have given and received support from our Users and despite the difficulties our account balance has shown a steady increase.

We have been able to continue to maintain the hall, with increased CCTV surveillance, replacement fencing and gates and a new Hive heating control system, plus general repairs including to the car park lights, which had been damaged by cars parking too close to them.

A new cleaning contract was also let after our super cleaning lady left and a number of the actions required following a Fire Risk inspection were completed.

Family illness reduced the numbers in our team, so some items remain outstanding. These include: replacement of the fire alarm system and refurbishment of the bike rack, which was damaged by strong winds.

Car parking by footballers from away teams has been a problem on occasions, which has not yet been resolved. A parking contract has been received for consideration however recent Government reviews on fines raised by car parking companies will affect the profitability of these and may result of amended terms.

Representatives of the Scout Leaders, Action Groups, Chaigley senior staff and a community leader were invited to a second workshop to identify improvements to the Hall and Scout HQ based on workshop one and a community survey. A plan of proposed improvements was agreed and presented to the PCC. Expert advice is now being sought to plan for these improvements prior to grants being sought.

Opportunities have arisen for us to work more closely with Chaigley School to offer further services to Hall Users and the community and over the next year we will begin to explore and develop these as capacity allows.

With God's guidance and the support of the PCC we look forward to continuing to serve our community in 2022/23.

Pastoral Care and Community Outreach

During 2021 there were 2 weddings, 1 baptism, 12 funerals at All Saints and 6 funerals at the crematorium only, 4 burials and 10 interments of ashes.

Church opening on a Saturday morning continued to be cancelled. During Lent 2022 the Church has been open Monday to Thursday at 10am for prayers for Ukraine.

Baptism Preparation – A church member visits the family before the baptism to get to know the family and explain what's involved. This person is at the service and the baptised child is given a children's Bible as a baptism gift from the church.

Bereaved families are visited before and after the funeral by the vicar. We have a 'Memorial Service' of remembrance once a year, at all Saints-tide, to which all who have been bereaved during the last year are invited. We are please this was able to go ahead in 2021.

Our Counselling Referral service has been able to help a good number of people again this year. We are very grateful to the Diocesan Counselling Service for accepting our referrals. In addition, we are now providing one-to-one help for people struggling with 'officialdom' i.e. form filling, bureaucracy, HMRC, benefits etc.

Mike Brewer kindly runs the **"Dealing with Officialdom"**. Help and advice is offered on the following topics:

- Dealing with deceased persons' estates e.g. completing probate forms and financial matters
- Completing attendance allowance claims
- Entitlements to pension credits, housing benefit, council tax support
- Problems arising from unmarried couples when one is bereaved and the other is not named on the house deeds.
- Private and state pension entitlements, understanding complex paperwork and decisions needed. But not investment advice.
- Universal credits entitlements and explaining the complexities of how they are calculated and the consequences of claw back when circumstances change.
- Completing Power of attorney when one partner suffers serious illness and their affairs need to be managed by family members. There have been several requests for help.
- Personal Independence Payments dealing with appeals to official decisions on entitlement.
- Income tax queries and entitlements.
- Driving licence notification for ill health
- All of the above were resolved.

- This free service is regularly advertised in the parish news and conducted in the privacy of peoples' homes. Contact Douglas Black or Mike Brewer, details can be found in the parish magazine.

Food Bank Donations are left at the church and then taken to the Warrington Distribution Point by a church member.

Harvest Gifts – the gifts of tinned and packet food are given to the Warrington Food Bank and the gifts of flowers are distributed to the sick, bereaved and elderly of the parish.

Outreach Action Group (Action Group Chair, Kath Mellor)

We have not been able to hold any meetings this year as a group. We have had a couple of meetings after Church and whilst doing various activities. We put up an Experience Pentecost in the Church Yard where the school children came to see the displays, along with the congregation and visitors to the graves.

During the pandemic lots of people knitted poppies and this was displayed in Church and we decorated the window ledges with greenery and poppies. We had a plaque made for the 100 years of the British Legion which is now on display at the British Legion, for Remembrance Sunday. Also we put crosses around the Yew Tree with information on people who lost their lives during the wars.

Remembering the Loved Ones this year was held in Church and we served refreshments afterwards.

Thanks to our Action Group (Richard, Margaret, Pat, Wendy, Peter and Lynda who have helped and supported me during the last year in making cakes, providing names, providing gifts and delivering the gifts. Also to our Church members who have helped us do this. My thanks to my family also for without them I could not have done these projects.

The Children and Young People Action Group (Action Group Chair, Caroline Johnstone)

We gradually re started activities in the summer months of 2021; Praise and Play met a few times in Elizabeth Park and Messy Church restarted with a Bible story hunt walk around the paths surrounding the Parish Hall ending with a refreshing ice lolly.

Praise and Play began their twice monthly sessions in church in September with a revised risk assessment, however, due to changes in nursery places, illness and routines, there have only been 2-3 children and, on occasion, nobody attended. The sessions are led by Janet Black, Elaine Whittaker with Liz Taylor. Sheila Grainger has not returned after the disruption of the pandemic. The Praise and Play team have decided to continue with their sessions and continue to advertise and invite people. The feedback the team receive from parents/carers is always encouraging.

Messy Church reopened, with Messy Harvest, in the Parish Hall. Following our revised risk assessment, in order to make this work we decided to limit the number of families to 13 (up to 20+ children) and introduce a booking system. Each family stays at their own table, instead of moving from activity to activity, and Messy Church leaders introduce each craft activity which are linked to the theme via a story or talk. Instead of sitting down together to eat at the end of a session, Kath very kindly makes a suitably themed cake all individually wrapped for them to take home. Some families, in their 'bubble' helped share what we had done at the Harvest Festival. Messy Harvest was very well attended as was Messy Christmas and Messy Spring/ Easter. We have also seen some new families come along which is great.

Our core team is made up of Janet Black, Karen Tipping, Linda Hutchinson, Kath Mellor, Jean Fisher, Felicity Speed and Elaine Whittaker with Richard Speed, Frank Whittaker and others helping out too.

In January 2022, we held a Messy family sports afternoon which was great fun and enjoyed by all. We have not restarted our story services as those were less easy to operate allowing for social distancing. Hopefully, they will return in the near future.

The Social and Communications Action Group (Actin Group Member Trish Powell)

2021 began in the same way that 2020 finished, with all our annual social events (including the Jumble Sale, Easter Egg Hunt, Quiz Night, Garden Party and Fairtrade Coffee Morning) sadly cancelled due to the ongoing pandemic. We continued to meet as an Action Group virtually during this time, trying to assess when social events could recommence but it was a difficult period given the continuing uncertainties and restrictions. Practical considerations and prayer were both vital during these deliberations.

Thankfully, in the autumn the situation began to open up and we were finally able to run a number of regular events. These included a Wine Tasting (moved from May to October), Bonfire Night (November), our Christmas Fayre (December), and a Christmas concert by the Warrington Male Voice Choir in our church (December). These all proved very successful, both financially and as a wonderful opportunity to bring people together again after long periods of lockdown and restrictions. They all attracted many people from the village and the wider area as well as regular church attendees. In addition, our first event back was a Macmillan Coffee Morning in church in October which raised £433 for the charity. The Book Club continued to meet on Zoom during the first part of the year and returned to meet in person in the Community Area at the back of church from September.

During the pandemic, the Parish News continued to be a source of communication and company within the village; it is edited by a member of SCAG and is normally distributed monthly free to every house in Thelwall. It ensures that the work and life of All Saints', in relation to worship, fellowship, friendship and social activity, is advertised as widely as possible. At the height of lockdown, the publication went purely online, both because of the very fluid nature of the situation and to protect the army of volunteer distributors and the recipients; the digital version was distributed electronically as widely as possible and a copy was also uploaded onto the church's website. Physical copies were produced when the restrictions eased and it was particularly good to be able to distribute a hard copy of the Christmas edition around the village as it is much appreciated.

The SCAG members would like to thank everyone for their support during the past two difficult years as we have had to cope with cancelling many events and running others at fairly short notice, but we can assure you that we are now back planning our popular and appreciated events and have a full calendar of activities which will hopefully take place in 2022. Suggestions for new events are always welcome!

Mission Support

During the year we gave grant support to the following charitable organisations direct from church funds. Normally the amount given is based on the income of the previous year but in spite of the large reduction in income during 2020 we continued to give the same amount to the church's chosen charities. Our chosen charities changed in at the July PCC meeting. The charities were: Warrington Youth for Christ; Church Urban Fund; Christians Against Poverty and Mayak. They are now: Church Urban Fund; Papyrus; Prison Fellowship and Get Warrington Talking. We are also giving financial support to Christ Church, an adjacent parish to ours.

In addition the following funds were raised directly for the following.

The Christian Aid door to door collection did not go ahead due to the pandemic. However a sponsored run by the vicar raised £3213

Samaritan's Purse was supported through the donation of filled shoes boxes for Operation Christmas Child brought to our "Toy Service" in December.

SureStart was supported through the donation of wrapped gifts given at the Christmas "Toy Service" and taken to SureStart, Halton where the charity distributed them to their local family centres.

The Children's Society is supported with donations from our Christingle service. This amounted to £551.68 from our 2021 service. Personal collection boxes were collected in 2020 but not given out again.

Fairtrade Foundation

All Saints' is a fully registered Fairtrade church (our Fairtrade status was renewed in July 2020) and we use Fairtrade tea and coffee whenever refreshments are served. Whilst the church was closed during the lockdown periods, a member of the congregation continued to deliver Fairtrade goods locally by operating a telephone/email order and doorstep drop service. We are now back to our previous arrangement of holding a Fairtrade stall in church every 1st and 3rd Sunday. Although unable to host our annual Fairtrade Coffee Morning during Fairtrade Fortnight 2021, our online service on 28th February was devoted entirely to Fairtrade and several members of the congregation also took part in the online Fairtrade Festival. In October 2021, the All Saints' Wine Tasting event featured two Fairtrade wines which were very popular. Two church members are dedicated volunteers at Warrington's own Fairtrade shop. Fair 4 All, and were very active in continuing deliveries during the times the shop had to be closed.

Ecumenical relationships

All Saints is a member of Lymm and District Churches Together (LDCT).

During 2021 the LDCT council proposed a constitution which was presented to member churches for approval. The PCC agreed this and also appointed two church members to be lay members of the LDCT council.

The Sanctuary Café is a Community Interest Company that began as an idea developed by CTLD and is supported by them. Events held by the Café are advertised in All Saints' magazine. As the Café doors were closed on the 21st March we were very sad. After three weeks Sue and I decided to do cream teas for VE day. We send over £3k to Warrington Hospital. As soon as this was over we started to do Afternoon Teas and this has been so well appreciated. We had special days – Father's Day and Valentine's Day when we did over 160 teas. We are now planning our Mothering Sunday weekend as I write this. When we haven't been in lockdown we have had the café open with self-distancing in operation and everyone signing in. When the café has been closed we have done take aways. The Sanctuary Hub runs a Memory Café on a Thursday when not in lockdown and we held during the November lockdown a Bumps and Babes. As soon as we can these events will start again. Anyone interested in either of these events please contact kathlmellor@gmail.com.

The Stewardship Action Group (Action Group Chair Alison London)

We advise on matters referred to us by the PCC and seek to support the treasurer and church wardens. We also seek to encourage giving based on Biblical principles. We normally have a few formal meetings during the year when we meet in person but this did not happen due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. We have maintained contact by email in order to deal with situations that require our attention, as they arise,

Encouraging Stewardship: Our membership are of considerable importance as they provide the majority of our funding and give valuable volunteer help, particularly with fund raising events. Those who have committed to regular giving by envelopes or standing order have continued to support us.

When the time came for us to present our annual stewardship service the church was closed. However, with Douglas' help, we put together a service that was available on YouTube via the church web site. We emphasised God's generosity and encouraged people to respond generously in their giving to the church. Information on gift aid and gift aid forms were removed from display because of the ongoing pandemic but details of those from whom forms were available was advertised. Our stewardship secretary, Trish, is responsible for the weekly giving envelopes and is available to give more information on these. Details of the church bank account are available from myself or the treasurer for those who want to give by standing order or to make a one off donation.

Church Budget: A budget for the coming year was prepared and presented to the PCC for approval. It was particularly difficult to prepare given the difficult circumstances and the uncertain future.

Maintenance: The group is responsible for the maintenance of the church yard and supports the church wardens in implementing the church maintenance plan.

Conservation Project: The action group chair represented the group on the committee responsible for delivering this. The project has now been completed successfully.

Christmas Wreaths: The making of Christmas wreaths for sale was cancelled for a second year.

FINANCIAL REVIEW (Treasurer)

Who can believe this is my final financial review as Treasurer for All Saints Thelwall? I am delighted to be able to hand over the responsibility to Chris Monks and hope that you will support him in the way that you have all supported me. I will not be moving too far, retaining responsibility for the Parish Hall and 200 club accounts.

First my thanks to Alison London for her overall support, Trish Powell for coordinating the envelope scheme, Jean Fisher for managing the Friends of All Saints, Linda Hutchinson the 200 club and Mike Brewer for his wisdom, support for large projects and Gift Aid claims. I would also like to acknowledge Helen Speed, Rachel Payne, and Carolina Curbuelo for their support at the Parish Hall. I also salute the counters, bankers, form fillers, and event organisers. It is your help that allows us to prepare accounts to the quality required by the Charities Commission. Lastly I thank Brian Robinson as our independent examiner preparing our annual accounts. Like me, Brian is stepping down after the APCM and his place will be filled by Kevin Walker who I propose as the independent examiner for 2022. Brian has moved us from preparing accounts using Excel spreadsheets to a cloud based system which means the Treasurer and the PCC can review the financial position as they require. I am grateful to him for his patience and eye to detail.

From a financial viewpoint 2021 allowed us to consolidate our position as the world moved from full lockdown to a fragile return to normality. The Church building re-opened, and we welcomed the congregation back to the building, though many were reluctant to attend and our social events were few. Income remained at 2020 levels and as yet, our church collections have not returned to pre-pandemic levels. At the same time our major outgoing, the Parish Share increased. We were very fortunate to be able to hold our Bonfire and Fireworks event – as a fundraiser and opportunity for outreach – this alone makes a substantial difference to our church income, without it the accounts would be very different.

Throughout 2021, as the progress of the recovery from the pandemic became clearer, PCC agreed to increase our Parish Share contribution until by December 2021 we were paying 100% of the required amount. In addition, the arrears from 2020 were repaid and this is captured as a separate line on the accounts. We still have an outstanding liability from 2021, but this repayment can be agreed by PCC when the financial situation is suitable to do so.

The payments for the Conservation project were made in 2021, leaving only an amount set aside for the training of church volunteers. To have completed this project and to have our church looking so beautiful is an achievement and the project team are to be congratulated.

We are very generous in our giving to other causes. The church now gives to five charities on a regular basis (up from 4). These changed from Mayak, Church Urban Fund, Christians against Poverty and Warrington Youth for Christ in 2021 to Christchurch Latchford, Prison Fellowship, Papyrus, Warrington Speak Up and the Church Urban Fund. Several other charities were also supported through the year by collections or donations.

Income from the Parish Hall has increased in 2021, as groups returned to use the Hall. Lettings have not yet returned to the pre-Pandemic levels. Expenditure has been minimised, but will again increase as we use the hall more frequently. The new car park is a real asset, leaving only a faint memory of puddles and potholes!

Our reserves were hit very heavily during the pandemic, as a consequence of our drop in income and the ongoing requirements of 2 capital projects. We have been able to replace the reserves for the Parish Hall, but the church has not had sufficient funds to be able to replace the funds in reserve 4) – unallocated church project reserves.

Over the last 6 years, there has been little change in the planned giving at Church, a steady increase in the Parish Share, and we have moved the Parish Hall to running at a "profit". PCC annually agrees a budget for church and this has been negative whilst I have been in post, meaning we plan to spend more money than we take in. We make no accounting changes to incorporate a depreciation figure, and so have to rely upon our reserves or raise funds to cover any renewal or replacement of equipment, facilities or building repair. In addition we have nearly £11,000 as Restricted funds. Offsetting that, we have a claim of approximately £13,000 due from HMRC which should improve our bank balance in 2022, otherwise we are relying upon the Parish Hall and the fund-raising events to balance the books.

Clearly this makes the priorities for Chris as he takes on the Treasurer role, to increase the income of All Saints, and I will do everything I can from a Parish Hall viewpoint to support him in that.

Thank you all for your support.

I would like to propose Kevin Walker as our independent accounts examiner for 2022.

RESERVES POLICY

We now have four reserves policies agreed by PCC. These cover both the church and the Parish Hall. Firstly they set aside a sum of money to enable the church / Parish Hall to continue should income dwindle. Secondly, they reserve monies for larger projects

1) Allocated reserves policy for the Church

"The Treasurer maintains sufficient funds (agreed as £20,000) in an agreed Investment Fund that would allow the church to continue to function financially for a period of 12-18 months assuming unchanged receipts and expenditure."

2) Allocated reserves policy for the Parish Hall

"The Treasurer maintains sufficient funds (£15,000), that would allow the PCC of All Saints Thelwall to continue to manage the Parish Hall for a period of 18 months assuming unchanged receipts and expenditure."

3) Unallocated reserves policy for the Parish Hall

A sum of £10,000 should be made available by the PCC of All Saints Thelwall as unallocated reserves for project requirements of the Parish Hall, identified by the Parish Hall Management Committee and agreed by the PCC of All Saints Thelwall.

4) Unallocated reserves policy for the Church

A sum of £15,000 should be made available by the PCC of All Saints Thelwall as unallocated reserves for larger long-term projects identified as a result of the Quinquennial Inspection.

It was proposed and agreed that the allocated amounts and policies should be reviewed by PCC every 3 years with the next review taking place in May 2023.

The 200 Club acts as a working reserve for the Parish Hall.

INVESTMENT POLICY

We invest the allocated reserves for Church and Parish Hall in COIF funds, a low risk investment that, hopefully, will give a better return than a savings account. Since these funds are unlikely to be required at short notice, the risk is acceptable. The unallocated reserves for the Parish Hall are also in COIF funds, the remainder are in savings or current accounts.



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of All Saints',
Thelwall.
(PCC All Saints Thelwall)

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 December 2021

**Charity no
(if any)**

1135426

Set out on pages

3-6

**Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent
examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

11/04/2022

Name:

B Robinson

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Associate of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

Address:

31 All Saints Drive, Warrington WA4 2JJ

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

Financial statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Receipts					
Voluntary Receipts:					
Planned Giving		49,498	0	49,498	50,489
Collections at services		1,850	0	1,850	1,342
Gift Aid recovered		0	0	0	13,875
All other giving/voluntary receipts	3a)	16,279	11,447	27,726	116,787
		67,627	11,447	79,074	182,492
Activities for generating funds	3b)	22,028	492	22,520	6,285
Investment income		3,721	0	3,721	1,848
Church & Parish Hall activities	3c)	39,732	0	39,732	21,944
Total receipts		133,107	11,939	145,047	212,569
Payments					
Church activities:					
Diocesan parish contribution		64,727	0	64,727	57,481
Diocesan parish contribution (2020 Arrears)		10,144		10,144	0
Clergy and staffing costs		3,882	0	3,882	2,975
Church running costs	3e)	18,860	16,579	35,439	109,991
Hall running costs	3e)	17,774	0	17,774	71,651
Mission giving and donations	3f)	2,791		2,791	4,039
		118,178	16,579	134,756	246,136
Cost of generating funds	3g)	6,899	0	6,899	4,141
Total payments		125,076	16,579	141,655	250,277
Surplus / (Deficit) before transfers		8,031	(4,640)	3,392	(37,708)
Transfer between funds		(11,183)	11,183	0	0
Surplus / (Deficit) after transfers		(3,152)	6,544	3,392	(37,708)
Cash at bank and in hand at 1st January		85,682	4,353	90,035	127,743
Cash at bank and in hand at 31st December		82,530	10,897	93,427	90,035

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Cash Funds				
Bank Current Account	46,912	2,527	49,439	74,768
Deposit Account	186	0	186	186
Investments	43,802	0	43,802	15,081
Deposit Fund	0	0	0	0
Total	90,900	2,527	93,427	90,035
Other Monetary Assets/Liabilities (Note only)				
Assets				
Gift aid recoverable (estimate)	13,221		13,221	10,000
Debtors incl hall hire	2,428		2,428	3,799
Recoverable VAT			0	947
Less liabilities				
Conservation Project Creditors	1,520		1,520	18,692
Chester Diocesan Board of Finance	3,610		3,610	10,144
Other sundry Creditors	1,656		1,656	3,078
Net assets / (liabilities)	8,863	0	8,863	(17,168)

Notes

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the receipts and payments basis.

2. The movements in restricted funds during the year were:

	Bal b/fwd £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Bal c/fwd £
Restricted Funds					
Friends of All Saints	2,340	492	0	(250)	2,582
Youth Work	2,013	0	72	0	1,941
Conservation Project	0	947	15,381	14,433	0
Parish Hall Car Park*	0	3,000	0	(3,000)	0
Church Car Park	0	7,500	1,126	0	6,374
Total	4,353	11,939	16,579	11,183	10,897

* to be closed

3. Further analysis of Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Receipts				
a) All other giving/voluntary receipts				
Donations church	7,427		7,427	8,348
Donations hall	522	3,000	3,522	21,287
Grants non recurring	8,329	0	8,329	0
Church Car Park	0	7,500	7,500	0
Conservation Fund	0	947	947	87,152
	<u>16,279</u>	<u>11,447</u>	<u>27,726</u>	<u>116,787</u>
b) Activities for generating funds:				
Parish magazine advertising	1,625	0	1,625	1,835
Fund raising events social committee	18,522	0	18,522	1,855
200 Club	1,764	0	1,764	1,727
Member donations Friends		492	492	370
Miscellaneous church receipts	117	0	117	498
	<u>22,028</u>	<u>492</u>	<u>22,520</u>	<u>6,285</u>
c) Church & Hall activities				
Fees for weddings and funerals	12,062	0	12,062	6,025
Hall lettings	27,670	0	27,670	15,919
	<u>39,732</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>39,732</u>	<u>21,944</u>
Payments				
e) Church activities				
Church running expenses				
Utilities	4,045	0	4,045	3,454
Council tax	2,762	0	2,762	2,631
Insurance	2,881	0	2,881	3,225
Deanery / LDCT	70	0	70	130
Clergy expenses	337	0	337	1,440
Cost of Services	738	0	738	453
Building/Churchyard/Vicarage Repairs and Maintenance	1,561	0	1,561	2,556
Youth groups and Sunday school		72	72	149
Post Phone Copying and Stationery	553	0	553	481
Lottery & Copyright Licences	602	0	602	842
Assigned Fees	3,940	0	3,940	2,165
Outreach	1,372	0	1,372	241
Major repairs and renovations		16,507	16,507	92,223
	<u>18,860</u>	<u>16,579</u>	<u>35,439</u>	<u>109,991</u>

e) Church activities continued	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Hall running expenses				
Utilities	1,770	0	1,770	3,332
Building/grounds maintenance	4,816	0	4,816	60,245
Staff payments	6,771	0	6,771	4,568
Insurance	1,627	0	1,627	1,418
Other running costs	2,114	0	2,114	1,667
Phone/Internet	462	0	462	630
New equipment	214	0	214	-209
	<u>17,774</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>17,774</u>	<u>71,651</u>
f) Mission giving and donations				
Church Urban Fund	629		629	713
Mayak Foundation	534		534	817
WYFC	534		534	713
Christians Against Poverty	523		523	713
Fair Trade Foundation	0		0	335
Church of England Childrens Society	0		0	749
Warrington Speak Up	95		95	0
Prison Fellowship	95		95	0
Papyrus	95		95	0
Christ Church Latchford	285		285	0
	<u>2,791</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,791</u>	<u>4,039</u>
g) Cost of generating funds				
Parish magazine printing	740		740	974
Fund raising events social committee	5,565		5,565	2,582
200 Club prizes and costs	593		593	585
	<u>6,899</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6,899</u>	<u>4,141</u>

Approved by the PCC on the 19th April 2022 and signed on their behalf by the
Rev'd Douglas Black (PCC Chairman)



Rev'd Douglas Black - Chairman