

**ALL SAINTS WHITSTABLE**  
**(Whitstable Team Ministry)**  
**ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR**  
**2023**



**THE ALL SAINTS ANNUAL DISTRICT CHURCH  
MEETING IS ON SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024  
at 11.30am in THE CHURCH HALL  
THE AGENDA WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE  
DAY**

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## ALL SAINTS REPORTS

### TEAM VICAR'S REPORT

Dear Friends

2023 has been another challenging year for us as a church as we continue to recover from the pandemic. Our numbers are still significantly down on where they were before the pandemic, although there have been signs of new people joining us in recent months.

Our major decision to spend much of the Quickenden legacies on refurbishing the hall and church was put into place in 2023, and as I write there is still ongoing work in the church. We give thanks to Brenda and Frank Quickenden and Lilian and Frank Quickenden for their great generosity in their wills that have made all of this possible.

Would we have managed to find grant money from other sources if we did not have these large reserves? Ten years ago I would have said yes, but with more and more churches coming across huge financial pressure, and with National Lottery funding no longer being given simply for the fabric of church buildings, I am not at all sure that we would have found the money from other sources. We instead would have had to fundraise a total of £250,000 at least which I think would have been very difficult. So the Quickenden legacies have come at a vital time for us a church, and having the church looking brighter, with much of its crumbling plaster and outer stonework refurbished, and much brighter and cleaner walls, will boost everyone's morale. Meanwhile the hall has a much fresher, cleaner look and it has extremely durable and high quality roofs on it now which should last the next 50 years or so.

In case you are wondering why the church refurbishing took so long, it was mainly because a lot of the plaster had to be replaced layer by layer to bring it to the thickness of the existing plaster that the Victorians had laid down in the 1870s.

Interestingly, about a year or so ago I sensed we needed to find ways for our main 10.30am congregation to get to know each other better. Although there is a large core of people who have been in the church for several decades, in some cases many decades, there have been new people who have joined the church in recent years who were not really getting to know everyone else.

Well, one of the advantages of moving into the church hall in September for our worship is it did allow the congregation to get to know the new members better and for the level of warmth and friendship within the congregation to become even stronger than before. That sense of warmth, friendship and love is very tangible now and we need to find ways to strengthen this as we move back into the church, though retaining our "once a month" Café church service which will be in the hall still.

Christmas and weddings and baptisms were all negatively affected by the closure of the church as one might expect, and it will be good to have the church open so that we can resume this important mission again this spring and summer.

I do not have time to mention all the various aspects of church life here – they are in the coming reports – but I do want to thank Howard and Allan for their hard work as churchwardens over the year and also Malcolm our treasurer who continues to work extremely hard, now also the Lay Chair for the Deanery too as well as Vice-Chair of the PCC. Also a huge thanks to all the unsung heroes, Barbara Tinson who helps in our office in many ways, Carol Sims whose work for the church is always so appreciated, Kirsty Mcnicol who does all the hall bookings (a huge job) ....the list is endless.

I am very conscious that once we have finished all the work with the church and are back at the church our focus must turn fully to how to move forward as a church. We need to continually review our worship, outreach, and consider new ideas to connect with our secular culture around us. Please pray for us as we seek God's will for the way forward.

With every good wish in Christ

Revd Simon Tillotson

### CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT 2023

It is worth noting that the AWA (Average Weekly Attendance) at All Saints in the last pre-covid year (2019) was 118 and that since 2021 it has been constant for the past 3 years at 74/75. This situation is not unique. With a few notable exceptions, this is replicated across most dioceses/churches in the UK – indeed a recent national growth analysis exercise identifies Canterbury Diocese as one of the slowest to experience recovery and still some way off pre-covid levels. All this, of course, presents challenges to individual churches (us included) – reduced giving (financial shortfalls) and less lay members to support services and other activities are two which head the list.

So, against this background, All Saints has managed well to keep attendance numbers steady and Services fully resourced. However, we remain weak in our Children/Young People work and whilst we were not able to recruit a Leader in 2022, we did re-advertise and as a result appointed Elena Markova on a 6 month part-time contract. Further information is elsewhere in this report.

After much discussion, the DCC agreed to explore full re-decoration of the Church Interior which resulted in awarding a contract for the works to John Taylor Green Ltd and they started work at the end of September. During the course of the project, significant additional areas of re-plastering were identified, and it was agreed that these should be completed as part of the on-going works (at extra cost) rather than leave them for a later date. This has delayed re-occupation of the building but at the time of writing this now looks set for the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

Finally, a big thank-you is extended to everybody who helps keep All Saints ticking over week by week. This includes the Treasurer and financial assistants, Readers and Retired Ministers, Flower Arrangers, Social Committee, Cleaners, Caretakers, Hall manager, Grounds persons, Wedding Co-ordinator, Fabric Committee, Choir and Music Group, Graveyard overseers and (of course) Rev. Simon.

Howard Barker & Allan Barrows Churchwardens.

## READER and ANNA CHAPLAINCY MINISTRY

Written by Jayne Edinboro

This year it has been agreed that Denise and I will prepare a joint report of our Reader Ministry over the past year.

As we both said in our reports last year, 2022-2023 was extremely challenging in so many ways, as we moved out of covid. This last year has been no different and perhaps it has in some ways been even more challenging as we have worked at rebuilding our church congregation and our community links after the devastation of the past few years.

We have grappled with the issue of Children and Families ministry, realising that we need to reach out to people and provide a church setting which is unthreatening, friendly and inviting. Trying to lend our support when we can to the very successful workshops, that we are sure Elena will write about.

If you attend church regularly or even just occasionally, you might find the concept of a church building being “threatening” as strange, but if you are unused to attending a service in a church the rituals, formality and language can be barrier to stepping over the threshold. Hence the birth of café church at All Saints in the church Hall, a less formidable building. This was initially brought in for a trial period to see how the congregation felt about it and whether we did succeed in reaching out to new people. The trial was a success, most people (not all) enjoying the informality of being in the church hall, with a less structured service, with time to drink tea and coffee during the service with homemade cakes (always an incentive)! It has been decided by the church council to continue with the service. It has proved to be a good way of drawing people into our church community and equally a challenge for Denise and myself to preach in a different style with two very different sermons having usually already preached at the more formal book of common prayer 8 am service .

We have all been challenged this year but in a different way with the church refurbishment which started last September and as a result we have been worshipping in the hall ever since – but as ever the congregation has risen to the challenge and we have managed well, although still miss our church building.

We have both been busy in other very different areas this year, Denise working four days a week instead of five as a senior social worker (though I strongly suspect it is five days work in four) and taking regular communion in the community. The highlight for Denise was her wedding in June to Howard. The sun shone and the church was filled with family and friends. A wedding is always a time to celebrate but it was a particularly joyous occasion as the bride and

groom were known and loved by the church family who were only too delighted to witness the happy event and drink a toast to the happy couple in the church hall afterwards.

I continue to work part time as a chaplain at Bradbury Grange Care home and work as a volunteer Anna Chaplain in the community taking regular services at Lyndhurst nursing home assisted by Marian Johnson. I occasionally get asked to attend other care homes either to take a special service particularly Remembrance Day services or to visit and take communion. The opportunity to spend time with people in our care homes, many forgotten by relatives, hear their stories and talk about God and life is a great privilege and at times very moving as I sense God's presence in the conversations.

I was also given the opportunity in the summer to join a new initiative called the Dover Pathway – ordination training in one year. After a period of discernment and prayer I started the training in September and assuming I am considered suitable will be ordained deacon in June this year. The training is intense and much is required of one's time and energy (I find academic study does not come so easily these days) but I am by enlarge enjoying the challenge and frequently finding God in what I see and do.

Denise and I both feel very blessed in our ministry and that we have by God's grace been placed at All Saints Church with such wonderful people. We both look forward to the coming year – who knows where God will lead us, but we are sure we will all be up to the challenge and that God will be right there with us.

God bless Jayne Edinboro and Denise Barker

## CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY REPORT

Dear All,

We first and foremost thank God for enabling and guiding the Children & Families ministry provision of our church to our new and existent neighbouring communities.

We currently have two major clubs happening for children and families. ADVENTURERS is our weekly Sunday school club, alongside which we also run Half Term themed workshops as an outreach to our local community.

ADVENTURERS welcomes everyone and is focused on engaging children with the stories of the Bible and Jesus's teaching through art and craft. The group predominantly follows lectionary-based lessons that develop children's curiosity and thinking about the morals and modern day application of what they learn in each session. Due to the refurbishment going on in our church, we are currently based in the hall where we start the Sunday service at 10.30am with the congregation. After the welcoming prayer the officiant and the congregation send the Sunday school to our activities for the day, with a prayer of blessing. Our session lasts for 40-45 minutes. The format of our lessons varies – we use story time, which can be delivered via a video or

through reading/telling the story together. Craft takes a major place in our Sunday School teaching provision – we paint, glue, cut out, colour, make shapes, decorate and much more in order to make a visual connection and sense of the biblical lesson. At the end of our Sunday school session, usually around 11.20am, we collect our craft and return to Church, where we join the congregation for Holy Communion. After the notices, the officiant invites the Sunday school to come forward and ‘show and tell’ the congregation what we have learnt and crafted during our session.

We currently have a small but nonetheless mightily dedicated team of Sunday school leaders (all DBS certified and safeguarding trained) – Sue Stokes, and Virginia Appleton, and Elena Markova, who follow a rota-based organisation for the teaching and craft activities.

Our Half Term themed workshops are our all – inclusive service and outreach to our local community. Since we started in October 2023, we have delivered three majorly successful workshops – ‘Everything Pumpkin’, ‘Everything Christmas’ and ‘Everything Valentine’S’. Our workshops usually have various activities to offer to the children – anything from baking and decorating cookies and biscuits to making amazing paper cards, love bugs, Swedish hearts, giant floor art, paper cup snowmen, hot chocolate kits, pumpkins and so much more. Our workshops are usually advertised on social media and have been very well attended, with the last workshop even exceeding our maximum capacity of children. We started with 31 children for the pumpkin workshop. The number was increased to 37 children for our Christmas workshop and more recently to 45 for the Valentine’s workshop. The feedback forms given to parents to fill-in anonymously at the end of the workshop has been outstanding, which is really encouraging for the whole team of volunteers.

Here we have another mightily dedicated team of volunteers – Kirsty McNicol, Jo Springthorpe, Sue Stokes, Virginia Appleton, Denise Barker, Pauline Newman, Lucy Caterer, Jayne Edinboro, Echo Cheng, Carol Bristow, Karen Washington, Bill Washington, Janet.

We thank God for his provision, guidance, care, dedication and love with which he is enabling us to serve and offer all -inclusive hospitality to everyone. We pray that this amazing outreach will enable us to build strong and lasting relationships with our growing local communities, which will eventually open scope for further growth of All Saints Children & Families ministry provision.

With every good blessing,

Elena Markova Children, Youth & Families Minister

## TREASURER’S REPORT

Firstly, my usual thanks to the whole finance team and everybody involved in Church finance, for your help and support during 2023. Also, a special thanks to everybody for your generous giving and donations throughout 2023.

A year of putting the planning of last year into action – completely redecorating the hall and installing a new fire alarm. Completion of planned work to the Church external stonework and the project for major internal replastering and redecorating work started. Hopefully completed as you read this. All of which has had a significant effect on our finances.

Unrestricted funds – this is now solely the general fund.

This year I must report a deficit of £11K (2022 deficit £7K).

Total income was £116K while total expenditure was £127K.

Planned giving was lower than last year, but donations increased. It was a difficult year for gift aid as the Diocese stopped processing for us in March. We now claim it ourselves, a process that is not yet running smoothly.

A good year for occasional offices and a very good year for hall income even with time out for redecorating. Income from fund raising events also improved – thanks to the social committee and all that helped to set up and take down afterwards.

Unrestricted expenses were similar to last year at £127K. Utility bills were of course very high but the diocesan grant of £8K helped. Parish share amounted to £73K.

Restricted funds – these include the Shirley Hall, the trust funds migrated to the church in 2009 and legacy funds. For 2023 I can report a deficit of £188K (2022 deficit was £44K).

Including legacies, restricted fund income was £10K. Planned expenses amounted to £198K.

Planned work on the Church (completing wall repairs and redecorating) amounted to £103K work on the hall (roof, fire alarm and Decorating), £78K. The remaining work in the Church is expected to cost a further £45K in 2024. Total Legacy funds carried forward into 2024 is £183K so an estimated total of £130K will remain on completion.

Other restricted funds total £37K.

Total Funds - at 31 December 2023, these amounted to £432K.

Excluding fixed assets, (Shirley Hall - £37K) unrestricted funds stood at £8K. The various restricted funds totalled £222K (of which the Shirley Hall = £162K). Year-end liabilities are £2K.

The Trust Funds – the only trust fund remaining at 31 December 2023 is the Sunman Music & Media Endowment trust which has been loaned to All Saints Church since December 2010. This is now held to maintain the Church music and audio systems.

All Saints Whitstable – Reserves' Policy –

It is the policy of this Church to keep two months running costs (25K), a further one-month payroll costs (2K) and two months hall income (3K) in reserve to cover unforeseen emergencies. It is also deemed necessary, because the Church is a listed building requiring regular repairs, to hold a building fund reserve (10K) to cover urgent essential work. The remaining reserves will be used to fund maintenance and development projects for Church and hall. This policy will be reviewed prior to the ADCM held in March 2023.

Malcolm Waller

STEWARDSHIP SCHEME ~ PLANNED GIVING BY ENVELOPE, BANKERS  
ORDER OR OCCASSIONAL CHEQUES. JAN. ~ DEC. 2023

Thank you for your continued financial support over the past year.

2023 proved to be busy with changes to methods of payment and administration. Still recovering from the pandemic and the fact that Diocesan House were stopping Gift Aid and GASDS processing, the church was faced with the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) administered by an external company. Donors can opt to pay by Direct Debit on the first day of the month, Gift Aid & GASDS is processed by them and passed onto the church monthly, a much quicker way.

There was however no provision for envelope donations and those not wishing to join PGS therefore a double system has evolved at All Saints. These donations are processed as before but



Malcolm now deals directly with HMRC for Gift Aid and GASDS claims. This is proving lengthy and sometimes confusing. Hopefully this will improve over time. New boxes of envelopes will be available in May for a June start. Please let me know if you do not want your box or if you wish to join the PGS.

During 2023 planned giving was £42,125.00 compared with £44,194 in 2022 a small drop considering the difficulties people are under. Over the year I have seen the usual ebb and flow of stewardship members some leaving/moving or unfortunately dying. By December we had 95 members giving regularly. Barbara Tinson

### Patterns of Giving during 2023

	<u>Members</u>	<u>per wk.</u>		<u>2022</u>
£0.01 – 1.00	6	<b>gave</b> 2.94	10	<i>gave</i> 7.27
£1.01 – 3.00	19	41.33	23	51.35
£3.01 – 5.00	12	51.28	9	40.19
£5.01 – 10.00	33	236.10	34	263.27
<b>Over 10.00</b>	<u>25</u>	<u>463.16</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>487.78</u>
	95	794.81	102	849.86
		x53 Sundays		x52 Sundays
		<b>42124.93</b>		44192.72

Gift Aid and Tax reclaims.

Gift Aid enables us to reclaim tax already paid by donors which at present stands at 25p/£. This is a vital source of income for our church so please could I encourage anyone who is a tax payer to complete a simple declaration form. Likewise, if you are an existing member and your circumstances change – especially if you become a non tax payer please let me know. In 2023 we received tax reclaim payments of £6057.00 compared with £11,299.98 in 2022. This figure does not reflect the total claimed as we are still waiting for a considerable sum of money outstanding from HMRC for 2023. At the end of 2023 seventy-four of the 95 stewardship members were able to Gift Aid their giving.

### GASDS --- Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme

This scheme allows us to reclaim a limited amount of tax on small donations for which there is no Gift Aid declaration. This includes our weekly plate collections, certain offertory envelopes & certain donations. GASDS stands at 25p/£ and during 2023 we received 4 GASDS payments totalling £576.21 compared with £1781.45 in 2022. Again this does not reflect the total claimed as we are still waiting for outstanding payments from HMRC for 2023.

Thank you once again to those that give so generously to the work of our church both financially and commitment to the many jobs that go on behind the scenes. Barbara Scott and her faithful rota of helpers are one such group working unseen for the Stewardship Department. Without their hard work and dedication life would be difficult & complicated. – a big thank you to you all.

Barbara Tinson -- Stewardship/ Gift Aid secretary. (263288)

All Saints Whitstable, District Church Council  
 Financial Statement for the year ending 31st December 2023 Income and Expenditure  
 Account

	2023 General Fund	2023 Restricted Funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
<b>2023 Income</b>				
1 Tax Efficient Planned Giving	37,048	0	37,048	38,240
2 Other Planned Giving	5,309	0	5,309	5,974
3 Collections at Services	5,051	0	5,051	4,691
4 Donations	6,553	542	7,095	3,301
6 Gift Aid/GASD recovered	8,854	0	8,854	13,081
7 Legacies	0	0	0	119
8 Grants	30	3,548	3,578	8,030
9 Fundraising Activities	7,565	0	7,565	7,042
10 Dividend, Interest, Income from S Hall	5,286	5,212	10,498	7,599
11 Fees from Weddings/Funerals	14,229	410	14,639	12,931
12 Hall income	26,405	233	26,638	17,725
13 Other Income	0	0	0	9,232
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>116,330</b>	<b>9,945</b>	<b>126,275</b>	<b>127,965</b>
<b>2023 Expenditure</b>				
17 Costs of fundraising Activities	1,531	160	1,691	1,613
18 Mission Giving and Donations	0	200	200	6,263
19 Diocesan Parish Share Contribution	72,594	0	72,594	75,500
20 Salaries, Wages & Honoraria	9,891	4,108	13,999	11,984
21 Clergy & Staff Expenses	385	3,381	3,766	4,615
22 Mission& Evangalism Costs	64	273	337	2,228
23 Church Running Costs	9,627	3,243	12,870	15,636
24 Church Utility Bills	9,916	200	10,116	4,970
25 Cost of Trading	22,161	5,218	27,379	16,488
27 Repairs to Church Building	1,196	102,721	103,917	12,806
28 Repairs to Hall/Shirley Hall	0	78,515	78,515	0
29 New Building work to Church,Halls, etc.	0	0	0	0
99 Other Payments	0	0	0	21,050
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>127,365</b>	<b>198,019</b>	<b>325,384</b>	<b>173,153</b>
<b>Balance (Income - Expenditure)</b>	<b>11,035</b>	<b>-188,074</b>	<b>-199,109</b>	<b>-45,188</b>
Fixed Assets (Shirley Hall & Mower)			201,174	201,744
Current Assets			232,543	430,418
Liabilities			-1,931	-2,536
Represented by - Unrestricted Funds			8,009	10,996
Represented by - Designated Funds			37,140	37,140
Represented by - Restricted Funds			386,636	581,490
<b>Total</b>			<b>431,785</b>	<b>629,626</b>

(There may be minor discrepancies in totals as pence are not being shown) (A full set of accounts is available from Malcolm Waller)

## CHOIR REPORT

Another year has sung by in the life of the choir of All Saints. As ever, our faithful members have continued to work incredibly hard at rehearsals and Services leading the congregation in Worship. Throughout the year, we have sung a wonderful variety of music; traditional anthems, plainsong chants sung in Latin, wonderful new compositions from our very own Michael Cooke and a whole host of hymns with beautiful tunes. Around Easter, the choir delved into a famous Red Book - the 1928 Oxford Book of Carols and learnt a selection of beautiful folk-style and traditional Easter Carols and sung these during Communion throughout Eastertide. Carols are for life not just for Christmas!

As usual, after our annual Summer Break, everything began to ramp up quickly in preparation for the Advent and Christmas Carol Services. After hosting the 2022 Team Advent Service ourselves, this year it was held at St Alphege. It was a beautiful candlelit service with moving music and a lovely selection of Readings. As always, it was such a pleasure to come together as a Team Choir and worship together. A mere two weeks later, we embarked upon our own Christmas Carol Service, one of my personal highlights of the Choir's year. This service is such a big musical undertaking with the Choir singing 8 pieces on their own including 2 brand new ones and this is not even including the congregational Carols. I was so proud; the Choir worked incredibly hard and even received a round of applause at the end!

Along with the rest of the church body, this year we have also adjusted to our move to the Church Hall for Sunday Services. It took us a little time to get into this routine, where to sit, where to go and so on but we've settled in well. I close this report by congratulating and thanking the wonderful Choir who continue to dedicate their time and talents to enriching the musical life of All Saints, Jo Piper for her organisation of attendees at Weddings and Funerals, Pauline for her work as the librarian, Barbara for helping with office tasks (and expertise even when the photocopier has a mind of its own) and Simon for his ongoing support. My heartfelt thanks also goes to my friend and colleague, the musical extraordinaire and kind Sir Mike for all of his continued help, talents, beautiful music and kindness in lending his amazing Electric Keyboard/Organ which has really given us the feel and sounds of the Church whilst we reside in the Church Hall. Victoria Hall

## MUSIC GROUP REPORT

Another musical year has sounded in the life of the Music Group at All Saints. Our repertoire has expanded as I have added many, many more new pieces to our collection which have been beautifully played/sung during Communion throughout the year. I have continued to introduce more contemporary worship songs which have been very popular and I have recently embarked in some special 'Communion Edition' arrangements of some of the popular hymns for us to play/sing during Communion. The Music Group provided a selection of instrumental/vocal solos

whilst the Choir were on their break over the Summer and this proved very successful and popular. Cafe church has been a wonderful addition to our monthly routine and we thoroughly enjoy playing some background music as people arrive and then contributing musically to these lovely services (as well as munching on some treats and having a lovely cup of coffee!).

Cafe church services have served us well in preparation for our temporary move to the Church Hall during the Church refurbishment; sitting on the stage has become customary and has worked out very well indeed. I'd like to close our report by thanking Jan, Nick, Pauline and Mike for their amazing musical talents and their continued dedication to our worship and to Simon for his continued support. I'd also like to thank my wonderful husband Chris who continues to regularly gift his time and talents by producing additional wonderful musical orchestrations for us to play.

Victoria Hall

## FABRIC REPORT

It's been a busy year for Fabric. Brett returned in March to finish replacing the old felt on the flat roofs of the hall with a new glass fibre material. This job was not made easy on the main roof due to the 48 Solar panels we have up there!

TLC Decorators also returned in March to complete the painting of the hall exterior. They returned in August to decorate the interior (August is a quiet month for the hall which meant we didn't disrupt to many of the hirers) I think they did a good job.

I also had a fire alarm installed before the hall reopened at the end of August.

A permanent concrete ramp was also built outside the fire doors to replace the temporary wooden one.

Then work started on the Church in September. It started by the removal of the plaster, some being loose and some the wrong type that had been replaced in the 60's when the south aisle was built. Extra plaster was found to be loose up in the west and east eaves which meant extra time and more money.

Next, 14 tons of lime plaster was delivered to the church. It needed to be up to 50mm thick in some places but could only be applied 15mm at a time with several weeks in between each coat.

The paint has now been applied, 3 coats of lime wash which allows the walls to breath, again time between each coat is needed and in some places 4 coats have been needed.

If all goes to plan, we will be back in there for Easter.

I have had the builders replace all the lights with LED ones so hopefully it will be brighter in the church and with a cost saving in power of about 90%.

I hope you all like what's been done when we return to the church.

Howard Barker  
Churchwarden (Fabric)  
Social Committee Report

As usual the social committee were busy last year. In February we held a very successful quiz evening with people with no connection with the church attending as well as church members, we must have got it right in 2022.

In June we held our Summer Fete in the vicarage garden, a lovely afternoon with people enjoying the sunshine whilst touring the stalls and having tea.

At the end of November it was time for the Christmas Fair held in All Saints Hall always a jolly affair from 10am to 2pm which allowed us to do lunches

We are a small committee who often have get their hands dirty and appreciate the people who come alongside us when we do the events.

Two people I am going to mention is first Dave Parry and his family who do the quiz night they do all the questions not an easy thing when you need 80 plus questions and check and add up the points.

The second person is Berit Garsed with Martin alongside who for years has organised the refreshments for the Fete and Christmas Fair. Berit is now retiring from doing this which brings me to the point that we need volunteers to join the social committee to be the catering team. Please think about whether you could help if not there will not be refreshments at the at the Fete or Christmas Fair. It is just a commitment twice a year.

So, thank you Dave and family, keeping going !! And Berit and Martin enjoy the rest.

Also to the rest of the committee and other halves.

Carol Sims - Chair of Social Committee.

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY REPORT

### Introduction

“In 1998, Janet Bristow and Victoria Galo, two graduates of the 1997 Women's Leadership Institute at The Hartford Seminary in Hartford, Connecticut gave birth to a ministry as a result of their study of applied Feminist Spirituality.”

“Care and the love of knitting (and crochet) have been combined into a prayerful ministry that reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace. Many blessings are knitted into every shawl. The knitter begins each shawl with prayers for the recipient. Intentions are continued throughout the creation of the shawl.”

([www.shawlministry.com](http://www.shawlministry.com))

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All Saints prayer shawl ministry, which also includes members from other churches in Whitstable, has grown during the past year. We now have 17 members including two who came to the hall one Wednesday expecting to join singing for fun and health and ended up going away with wool and needles! They have continued to attend and are very welcome. We miss Vivienne and although she has moved to Hampshire, she continues to stay in touch and sends us lovely crocheted shawls.

Our ministry involves prayerfully knitting and crocheting shawls, lap blankets and scarves for folk who are poorly, bereaved or in need of a "hug of love". It is good to know someone is thinking of you and praying for you in a time of need. A happy event such as the birth of a new baby is celebrated with the gift of a pram blanket or shawl.

We also make twiddle muffs for dementia patients which are distributed to care homes in Whitstable by Jayne Edinboro our Anna Chaplain. Hats and scarves for homeless people are taken to the Haven and Catching Lives centres in Whitstable and Canterbury.

Felicity, Mary and Shirley have been very productive knitting babies jumpers, hats and blankets which are regularly sent to a charity in the Kori region of Sierra Leone. Fund raising for transportation is undertaken by the Soroptomists organisation. We have some lovely photos of the babies wearing 'our' jumpers taken by my friend Brenda when she visited the village.

In 2023 we gifted 25 shawls, 11 blankets and 18 scarves, mainly to local people. However this year two were taken to USA where the Prayer Shawl Ministry began, two to Yorkshire and one to Scotland. We aim to spread the word! Two bags of hats and scarves went to The Haven and Catching Lives centres and Jayne continues to take twiddle muffs to care homes in Whitstable.

We have been very fortunate in receiving donations of both wool and money for which we are very grateful.

It is a very rewarding ministry and some of the thank you cards we receive are very moving. We are an informal and friendly group, so if you are interested in knitting or crochet and your family no longer want hand knits why not come and join us? We meet in All Saints church hall from 1.30pm to 3.30pm on the first and fourth Wednesday of each month.

Sue Smith

## REFLECTIVE SCRIPTURE (LECTIO DIVINA) REPORT

The group has been meeting regularly at home, on the first Monday of the month from 8 to 9 pm, in our home.

We first listen to the Gospel reading for the following Sunday, as it is read aloud. We then each read it silently to oneself. After a time of meditating / pondering on the passage, anyone, when and if they wish to, repeat a word or phrase from the reading that might have touched them in some way. There is no obligation to do so, nor is there any commentary or discussion on what a person said. There is usually some sharing at the end over a soft drink.

It is led by the Holy Spirit, in each participant, enabling a prayer "of the imagination or in your heart".

This is very much part of the early Benedictine and later Jesuit traditions and is still an important way of praying across the Christian world.

Participants attend as and when they wish or are able to.

Do think about coming and exploring this unique way of praying "The Word of God". It is sometimes called "Sacred Reading".

Please ask us about it at any time, if you would like to know more, or even better join us.

You are most welcome. The dates are published in the weekly notices.

Martin and Berit Garsed  
Tankerton. Whitstable.

## WEDDING REPORT

If you are thinking of getting married, have you considered All Saints Church as a wedding venue? It is a beautiful church in a lovely location set in delightful grounds, close to Whitstable town centre and within easy access from London.

All couples are invited to a pre-wedding event and you'll have an opportunity to meet with the vicar at All Saints Church, Revd. Simon Tillotson for a personal consultation. Simon will go through all aspects of your wedding including hymns, prayers, music choices, bells, flowers and fees. You'll be invited to a wedding rehearsal as your wedding date approaches and all your wedding details will be finalised at this time.

In 2023 we had 12 weddings taking place from February through to September. I manage the wedding administration, sending the invoices, writing the banns in the banns book to be read in church and circulating the monthly wedding schedule. Many other volunteers are involved too, including the bell ringers, our choir, flower

arrangers, organist and vergers where requested.

Karen Goodwin

Wedding Coordinator- All Saints Church

## BAPTISM REPORT

Nine children were baptized at All Saints in 2023, lower than usual because our church was closed for the popular autumn season.

I am very grateful to Peri Hawkins, Helen Parry and Cherry Moyes who assist me as vergers at the baptism services. We now meet with families at the church for the preparation rather than visit them in their homes so they can understand the service better and this seems to be working well.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to organize a baptism or christening for 2024.

Simon Tillotson

## ARCHIVE REPORT

The Archive is where we retain our Historical Records together with many other items and documents. This enables us to have a picture of church life, events and contacts with our local community in the past.

I had one enquiry this year from a gentleman in New Zealand regarding a burial of a relation in the Churches graveyard. I was able to confirm the dates but unfortunately was unable to send him a photo of the gravestone as it was one removed in the 80's.

I found this in the archives, it's part of a document written by Charles Judd for a talk he did for the Whitstable Historical Society.

1962. South Isle was built and was dedicated on Saturday 1st December 1962 by the Archbishop of Canterbury Dr. Michael Ramsey. The Vicar was Canon C.E. Waynforth.

The cost of the extension was £24000, work was completed in 10 months. The work involved the use of 76,000 bricks, 13,500 roof tiles, 580 cubic feet of timber, 80 cubic yards of concrete,

1217 feet of dressed stone and 800 cubic feet of Kent ragstone.

That part of the church has been more of a problem than the rest of the church in the recent restoration.

If you think you may have something that should be in the archive, please let me know and I shall be happy to discuss it with you.

Howard Barker Church Archivist



## GROUNDSMAN'S REPORT

The growing season of 2023 started early, but was also an extremely wet start to the season. So, April was a really challenge, however once we had caught up the Graveyard was its usual place of peace and rest.

This year we have thankfully seen fewer cases of vandalism and less evidence of anti-social behaviour, hopefully 2024 will see a continuation of this trend.

The new area for burials recently opened up continues to be busy and soon consideration will have to be given to recovering some of the completely overgrown areas in the far corner of that section to offer longevity to the graveyard.

Colin King joined Mike Binks and I to give more depth and coverage to the team, though usually only one or at most two of us work at any one time.

I am pleased that we are still regularly complimented on the condition of the graveyard and there is no doubt that it is a greatly appreciated local asset, a place of peace and tranquillity for the local community.

Jason Tongue – Coastal Gardens  
Grounds maintenance team

## OUTDOOR VERGERS' REPORT

All Saints' Churchyard is the largest open churchyard in the Canterbury Diocese. Many people find visiting the churchyard to attend the grave of a loved one a helpful part of the mourning process.

In 2023 there were 17 burials and 17 interments of ashes.

We have records of burials going back hundreds of years, and sometimes get asked by relatives to help locate the grave of a family member.

Please do contact Simon our Vicar if you would like further information or support.

Helen and David Parry

## SACRISTY REPORT

The sacristy team have continued their work throughout the year. Perhaps we should call ourselves the “below stairs team” as our duties mainly involve polishing silver, laundering and ironing with a bit of furniture refurbishment when we change the altar frontals according to season. During the church refurbishment we have been using the portable altar, frontals and linen that have been in storage for many years! Every

week used linen is washed, ironed and silverware is scalded in preparation for the next Eucharist. Supplies of wine and bread are checked and vestments changed according to season.

We find our work satisfying serving All Saints in this way.

Sacristans – Doreen Austin, Barbara Tinson.

## CAMEO – Come And Meet Each Other – REPORT

We meet at All Saints Church Hall weekly on a Monday afternoon, 2pm to 3.30pm, to chat, drink tea and eat cake with some members bringing craft items to complete and talk about and others playing board games. It is a good opportunity to catch up, make new friends and share experiences of other local activity and luncheon groups, encouraging each other to get out and about. It is very pleasing to have new people visit and join us – no obligation to come every week – just when you feel like it !

We invite local volunteers and representatives to come and tell us about their work. This last year we were very pleased to welcome Brenda Tumber MBE, who is a volunteer for an organisation supporting communities in the Kori region of Sierra Leone, and she told us how the support given helped families in that region. The All Saints Prayer Shawl Ministry Group also support this group, sending knitted blankets and baby clothes. At the end of the year we had a lovely Christmas meal, across the road at The Monument Pub, with a singalong session plus mince pies and chocolates to finish in the church hall

CAMEO only happens every week due to the CAMEO folk who shop for food, set up/clear down, serve drinks, provide lifts and also the friends who, on a weekly rota, put up and take down the heavy tables and chairs ; without their help this group would have a difficult time.

## FILM CLUB REPORT

Meetings are held on Thursday mornings and the film show starts promptly at 11.15am - and ends at around 1.30pm. Members have a break around 12.15am for refreshments and enjoy a friendly social chat etc. Members are asked to make a voluntary Donation of £5 in January and September and a weekly donation of £1 for interval refreshments. All money collected is passed at the end of each meeting to the Treasurer and no funds are held by the Club. Average attendance has been of the order of around twenty people of recent times though it has been lower on some days due to illness, bad weather and other commitments. All films shown are at least three years old from their original Cinema release date. Only films with a Certificate U, PG and 12 are shown. Some 12 Certificate Films may have a limited amount of bad language/ violence/sexual inference & content. Most films are shown with

English Sub-titles and are chosen for being cheerful /feel good entertainment...The year started with Elvis in 'Blue Hawaii' – Peter Cushing in 'The Hound of The Baskervilles' was well received for the local interest in the star. 'The Sound of Music' was shown over two weeks due to its long running time. Other well known films shown last year included the 'Lion King'- 'Some Like it Hot'- 'A Man For All Seasons'- ' Goldiggers of 1933' and the year ended with the musical version of 'Scrooge' and the perennial Christmas favourite of 'Miracle on 34th Street'. The late David Sims was a member and always claimed that his favourite film was Walt Disney's 'Snow White' (1937) which we have shown previously on his suggestion.

In May The Coronation of Charles was screened in the Church Hall's on its 5m (16ft) screen to an audience of over fifty people who brought their own refreshments for the four hour duration. Some of the older members of the audience recalled seeing the Coronation of Elizabeth II on a 12" B&W set ...what a contrast seventy years on! Those present said how much they enjoyed seeing the event on the large screen and especially the communal atmosphere - towards the end the whole audience got up and sung 'God Save The King'.

The Church Hall was re- decorated in August 2023 and the curtains taken down and washed before being put back up. Unfortunately these improvements resulted in the blackout in the hall being far worse than before the redecoration and now is particularly inadequate when the sun shines brightly through the now clean curtains(more transparent?) and this spoils the projected picture so that it looks washed out. There is a need for measures to improve the blackout by possibly attaching thicker/darker lining to the curtains; this would also help to reduce the heat loss from the windows in the in the hall when they are drawn. Alternatively ideally the existing eleven curtains that have seen better days should be replaced to improve the appearance of the hall and blackout and would also improve the insulation of the hall. (Guesstimate Cost of approximately £6000) . Lottery Grant???

The Club breaks for two weeks over Easter and Christmas and then for the Summer Holidays in August starting again in September. The Club is run by Tanya and David Welford and members assist in serving refreshments. The Films are shown on a 4K projector for an enhanced picture quality....most of the films shown come from David's large personal collection of Blu-ray /DVD films at no cost to the Club.  
Tanya and David Welford

## SINGING FOR FUN AND HEALTH REPORT

Pat and Aubrey Holland stepped down from their leadership role of Singing for Fun and Health in 2023 after many years of service. They had done an amazing job.

I took over the leadership though am assisted by a large group of helpers. We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month and have a wonderful time of singing songs. I must say a lot of my job is very serious so it does me a lot of good to have a bit of fun once a month too leading the songs.

Do come along – its on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.

Simon Tillotson

## FLOWER ARRANGERS' REPORT

No report this year but I want to take this opportunity to say a special word of thanks to Margaret Arnold for all her years of dedicated service to the church as the main co-ordinator for the flowers. We send her all the best for the future.

I am very grateful to Malcolm, Kayte, Marian, Berit and all the other people who assist with the flowers when the church is open.

Simon Tillotson

## HALL BOOKINGS REPORT

The good news is that despite raising hall fees for the first time in about 10 years, all hirers continued their bookings. For commercial hirers the charge rose to £24 per hour from £19 per hour, and for other hirers the rise was a little less.

As well, numbers of one-off bookings remained similar to 2022, with 33 bookings for events such as charity quizzes and children's parties. A lower refundable deposit is now charged, which hopefully means that the rise in the fees is more manageable for families and charities.

Two former weekday slots were filled by new weekly bookings. This just leaves one slot available on Thursday afternoons, and a monthly slot on Monday mornings. If you know anyone who would be interested in booking one of these slots, please let me know.

The hall closure for redecoration in August was done at a time when several hirers stop for the summer holidays, so not many bookings had to be cancelled. One group used the church, at a reduced rate due to lack of kitchen facilities. We are grateful to the Scouts for accommodating another group as the church was unavailable for their session.

The redecoration has been much appreciated, and it has been welcomed that the hall is now safer for users with the new concrete ramp outside the emergency doors and brighter emergency lighting.

Thankfully our hirers and groups have been understanding of the need to store items in the hall during the months of church refurbishment, which is much appreciated.

Thanks are due to Simon, Malcolm, Howard, Helen Parry and our cleaner Mandy for all their dedication and support, especially when covering for my long holidays, and to Steve Reith for agreeing to take over the hall finances from Malcolm in 2024.

Kirsty McNicol

## BELLRINGERS' REPORT

2023 commenced with our AGM, chaired and hosted by Simon. Maureen delivered her last Captain Report with cheer and amusement. We later cascaded her with flowers. All agreed to move forward with a co-operative ringing arrangement. Peter felt little need for a Deputy Captain, but would continue organising ringers for weddings and the monthly absent sheets. Julia would write a light, inspiring article on learning bell ringing for Simon. The other officers were re-elected on mass.

The new Café Service commenced in the church hall in February. It seemed odd ringing for a service in an empty church. Our ringing team came 2<sup>nd</sup> at the church quiz. By March our co-operative was organised, Pam checking WhatsApp for attendance. Peter continuing to print attendance sheets, displayed with our personal coloured spots indicating each ones Sunday and following Wednesday Captains role in charge. Thanks to springs edition of "All Saints Community News" delivered locally, our new recruit, Philip Edwards ( Phil ) responded, becoming an enthusiastic learner. This spring saw good practice rings with Ben and Matthew from St Alphege, Felicity from St Peters, Broadstairs. This stretched our ringing repertoire in Steadman, St Clements, Grandsire, Winchendon, Little Bob, Plain Bob Doubles, Call Changes, Reverse Canterbury, Cambridge, St Osmund and probably a few more. May began with "King Charles 111" Coronation. We concluded with "Queen Elizabeths 11 special call changes and lowering to finish with a cheeky, applauded "Pop goes the weasel". Pam had already produced a tower book for everyone to enter methods happy to ring, development, state of safeguarding and C of E DBS check. All in date certificates forwarded to Simon.

As summer heat came with June we rang a new method, Single Court with a cover. At our practice ring on 21<sup>st</sup> we toasted Howard and Denise future marriage. Julia and Maureen surprised all of us appearing in full bridesmaid costumes. We proudly rang for their wedding with all present, continuing with a large gathering of church members, friends and family making cherished memories on a beautiful day. Generally, there were less weddings this year, 5 or 6. Summer turned cold, followed by a heatwave, messing with our ropes.

Sadly, in September Jacky fell off her (Doug's) bike requiring a pin and plate surgery to her hip. Our prayers helped for a good recovery for our longest serving, accomplished bell ringer, secretary and friend. Jacky is now looking for a new lady's bike. 24<sup>th</sup> September was our last limited ring before packing everything away from the ringing chamber to the vestry for church refurbishment and decoration.

30<sup>th</sup> October to 3<sup>rd</sup> November, All Saints Whitstable and Friends Bell ringing outing Berkshire, Oxford. 22 ringers with 8 guests stayed 5 days at Littlecote House, Hungerford. We rang at 10 local towers. Unfortunately, Newbury was a lockout, but we gained another Costa coffee. We enjoyed good ringing, food, laughter and singing!!!! Thank you, Maureen for instigating the event in liaison with Janette and Philip organising ringing with great precision and Jane Huxley organising accommodation. Due to extensive church repairs and decoration into November preventing bellringing, we commenced and continue to enjoy coffee mornings at the Riverside Café, to meet and catch up. Howard, Denise and Pat being encouraged by the positive bellringing outing started regular Tuesday ringing at Thannington Church with Brian. Peter, Maureen and Pam continue to ring regularly at St Alphege Church and at local towers with Coots on Tuesdays venturing to Herne some Wednesdays. It appears the quiz team is on a roll, winning at Herne ringing social in December. Sadly, our bells were quiet this Christmas, and noted by the parish. We feel we contribute to an ancient art to continue, as

observed recently when Ben introduced university students to Thannington. Bright minded, already competent ringers of our future, debating methods. Julia and Phil hopefully will be able to continue their good progress when ringing resumes. Our co-operative has brought many strengths out in all of us.

Pat Miller

## SACRED SPACE REPORT

Before the church was closed for refurbishment Sacred Space took place in the church on a monthly basis usually on a Monday. It involves an hour of silent prayer often with Taize music in the background. A core group of about 10 attend though sometimes more come. Everyone values it tremendously. Please let me know if you would like to be on our email list and receive reminders of this event.

Rev Simon Tillotson

## PASTORAL VISITORS REPORT

A number of the congregation are pastoral visitors and take Home Communion to the sick. This is tremendously appreciated by those they visit.

We lost one of the greatest pastoral visitors Whitstable has probably ever known at the end of December when our dear friend and brother David Sims went to be with the Lord. We pray for Carol and the family as they mourn.

Do let us know if you need a visit. We are here to help you.

Rev Simon Tillotson

## SAFEGUARDING

A safeguarding report will be given at the Annual Meeting itself

## DCC, PCC and DEANERY REPORTS

### DCC REPORT

Matters discussed during the year from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> included many items already mentioned in the above reports as they are from committee and groups over which the DCC has overall responsibility. Here though are a few additional items not mentioned above:-

- We agreed to allow members to join the Parish Giving Scheme as a way of giving to the church
- We approved the installation of new boilers for the church and a new fire alarm for the hall
- We approved the arrival of Café church
- We approved various church policies including social media, risk assessments for various clubs, safeguarding policy, equal opportunities policy and lone worker policy to name but a few.
- We approved the appointment of Elena Markova on a part-time basis as our Children and Families Minister (see separate report).
- We agreed to upgrade our lighting in church during the refurbishment through the provision of LED bulbs which would be lighter and cheaper to run.
- We approved the training of Jayne Edinboro to become an ordained priest in the Church of England

Rev Simon Tillotson

### PCC REPORT

The PCC represents the Team Parish of Whitstable. Rev Rachel Webbley is our Team Rector, and Rachel is also responsible for St Alphege Whitstable and St Peter's Whitstable. Rev Paulette Stubbings is Team Vicar of St Alphege Seasalter which includes Seasalter Old Church. Rev Simon Tillotson is Team Vicar of All Saints and St John the Baptist Swalecliffe, as well as being Area Dean for the Reculver Deanery, which are the Church of England parishes in Whitstable, Herne Bay, Herne, Hoath, and Reculver.

The following items discussed at the PCC may be of interest:

- All PCC and DCC members are asked to complete three units of online Safeguarding training to heighten awareness of this important matter. Safeguarding means protecting an adult or child's health, wellbeing and human rights; enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect. It is an integral part of providing high-quality care to those who come through our doors and who attend our outdoor activities. Safeguarding children, young people and adults is a collective responsibility. Safeguarding training also helps us to be more vigilant in any setting we may find ourselves in, be it

within the church or in a different context altogether.

- Due to employment legislation it is now necessary to have similar roles (ie cleaner, Children and Families minister) within the Whitstable Team on similar payscales although previous commitments with employees will be honoured. Some differentiation is allowed if for example the post involves additional responsibility. Salaries are now increased across the team in January according to the same rate as clergy increases (5% as of January 2024).
- St Andrew's Management committee sought additional help to manage its work and outreach and Malcolm Waller from All Saints agreed to join the committee.
- St John's Swalecliffe were given the use of the Rectory Garden for outreach activities even after Rev Jack Greenhalf moves to his new post after his curacy.
- Each church was asked to demonstrate what its taps (areas of growth) and plugs (ways to stop people quietly leaving the church) were which was a helpful exercise.
- The Whitstable Team managed to cover its entire quota or "parish share" of £272,000 to enable three full time clergy to continue in post in Whitstable.
- A Team Social Media policy was updated, ensuring our use of Facebook and other forms of social media is carefully managed and personal data is protected.
- We continued to receive updates about our two schools, the Endowed School for junior age children and the St Alphege Infant school, both in the centre of Whitstable.
- We welcomed the emergence of a new ministry for 18-30 year olds at St Alphege Seasalter called "Runway".
- A Faculty was agreed to install a new bench in All Saints churchyard in memory of a young lady who tragically died at the beginning of 2023.
- We helped oversee a grant application for central national church funding for a Seasalter Youth Hub project and for further financial support for Jane Myhill's work at Swalecliffe. Both applications are currently awaiting a response from the Diocese.



Other Team News – Daily from Monday to Friday the Whitstable Team prays together on Facebook live at 9am. If you are not sure how to access this please contact Rev Simon Tillotson.

The Team worshipped together on Ascension Day and Advent Sunday, and both were very uplifting events.

All the team churches have been greatly blessed by the ministry of our two Team Curates, Rev Claude Gayle, now in her third year of her curacy, and Rev Jack Greenhalf, now in his fourth year of his curacy. Jack is soon to move to become Team Vicar in the south of the Diocese with a special responsibility for the community of Lydd and the villages near to Lydd. Please pray for Jack, Chrissie and family as they prepare to move. We give God great thanks for their time with us.

Rev Simon Tillotson

## DEANERY REPORT

During 2023, Rev Carol Smith, Vicar of Herne and Area Dean of Reculver, retired from both posts and is now enjoying retirement life living in the Deanery still. We wish Carol well.

Canon Amanda Boucherat our Lay Chair for the Deanery also announced she would be stepping down from her role, now that she is more involved in the Diocesan structures and even in a national capacity.

We thank Carol and Amanda for their leadership of the Deanery in recent years.

So it was that both myself and Malcolm Waller found ourselves unexpectedly as Area Dean and Lay Chair by the middle of 2023.

It has been a steep learning curve. Malcolm and I have to attend various meetings in the Diocese with the Archdeacon and Senior Staff, and also attend meetings with other Area Deans and Lay Chairs. We also are asked to attend an “Action Learning Set” chaired by Canon Steve Coneys regularly where we look at an issue in the life of the Deanery and reflect on it with others. It has been great having Malcolm’s company on these frequent trips to and from Diocesan House.

Within the life of the Deanery two issues have preoccupied the Deanery Ministry and Mission Committee and Deanery Synod in 2023.

The first of these is our Deanery Mission Plan. After many meetings and much consultation we now have the beginnings of a Deanery Mission Plan, and part of its focus is to do with developing a Youth Hub at Seasalter and extending the funding for Jane Myhill’s excellent work at Swalecliffe. To help with both, the Deanery agreed to apply for a grant from the central church authorities in London. We are still to hear how the Diocese will take this forward.

The second area of concern that has occupied the Deanery Synod and the Deanery Ministry and Mission Committee has been the financial issues especially in the eastern side of the Deanery with the under payment of parish share. This may eventually have to lead to pastoral reorganization if it is not effectively solved, with the possible loss of a clergy post even.

On a positive side the process for appointing a new priest-in-charge at Herne began and by the time of the Annual District Church Meeting at All Saints we should be able

to announce the name of the new vicar there.

My huge thanks to Malcolm for all his sacrificial work as Lay chair.  
Rev Simon Tillotson

## ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

A report will be given at the actual meeting itself



**3<sup>rd</sup> Whitstable (All Saints) Scout Group**  
**Registered Charity Number: 1065505**

19<sup>th</sup> February 2024

### 3<sup>rd</sup> WHITSTABLE (ALL SAINTS') SCOUT GROUP

Founded in 1945, the Scout Group at All Saints is open to all young people (regardless of faith) between the ages of 6 and 18 and we have both male and female members in all sections. Attendance at the Group is over 80 young people each week – the largest the Group has been for many years.

Members from all sections of the Group have taken part in numerous activities as well as all the normal Scout training work, aiming for the Chief Scouts Award for the relevant section. Explorer Scouts can also work towards the Duke of Edinburgh awards. The Cubs, Scouts and Explorers all enjoyed camping experiences during 2023.

If you have a young member in your family who would like to join either now or in the future, please get in touch - we currently have a waiting list for all sections, so the earlier their name is on the list the better chance they have of getting a place.

<b>Section</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Day and Time</b>
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Beavers	6-8 years	Monday 17:30 – 18:40
Cubs	8-10 ½ years	Tuesday 18:15 – 19:45
Scouts	10½-14 years	Friday 19:00 – 20:30
Explorer Scouts	14-18 years	Thursday 19:15 – 20:45

It is only the dedication of our Leaders that make the many activities the Group takes part in possible. We desperately need more Adults to join our team to organise and direct these activities such that Scouting can continue here at All Saints. If you would like to help, please get in touch.

***Group Lead Volunteer, Peter Maley, [gsl@3rdwhitstable.org.uk](mailto:gsl@3rdwhitstable.org.uk)***

### 3<sup>rd</sup> WHITSTABLE BROWNIES REPORT

In 2023 Brownie have been busy working on badges, making things, planting bulbs both in pots and the church yard, having fun. Learnt new games/song and revisited old ones.

We completed different badges as a unit along with some completing solo interest badges.

We have welcomed new girls who want to be brownies and said bye to some who have moved on, we have awarded two Gold awards to Brownies who have completed their badge book, some silver awards and bronze awards too. Enrolled quite a few new ones which meant that some of the others made cakes/biscuits, decorated the table and served the new ones families tea or coffee to gain their hostess badge.

We made keyring using nuts and bolts, created pictures, design our dream room. Played bingo, had a quiz night,

We had a movie night in the hall, wearing our pjs, in sleeping bags, drinking hot chocolate and eating popcorn.

We went to the beach where we had hotdogs and played in the sea.

We had a Christmas party wearing festive wear with party games.

An Easter egg hunt in the hall.

Celebrated the Kings coronation with a joint evening with the Guides having fun.

In general fun, games, craft, songs, etc have been created this past year and we are alway open to new girls ages 7-10 who want to join us, as we celebrated our 87th birthday in 2023 we are still going strong.

Sharon Gray

## ALL SAINTS NURSERY REPORT

All Saints Nursery continues to be an integral part of the All Saints Community. During the academic year 2022-2023 we had two Local Authority Annual Conversations whereby both local advisors agreed with our Outstanding OFSTED status in all areas. We currently have 42 children on roll aged 2 and half years to 5 years old.

It has been a difficult year due to staffing shortages and a high level of SEN children in this current cohort.

Two members of staff went on maternity leave including our Special Educational Needs Coordinator and one member of staff went on long term sick. However, we have now been lucky to recruit two members of staff which have proven to be an asset to the team. The staff continue to be extremely committed and have supported each other throughout the year.

As a charity we rely on the loyalty and time of the trustees, and we are lucky enough to have six dedicated trustees who are willing to join us from moving from an Unincorporated Charity to a Charitable incorporated organisation. This process will hopefully be completed by the end of this academic year.

The nursery is part of a highly successful and productive Collaboration of other nurseries in the local area. These nurseries meet regularly to support each other and offer advice about new EYFS regulations which are enforced.

Due to being a charity we have also organised numerous fundraising activities over the year. Our Light Up All Saints and our Christmas Workshop were again very successful. The nursery is part of a community scheme which recycles and provides free children's clothing to those in need.

We feel have a good relationship with the church and continue to utilise the church for celebrations such as Nativities, Harvest Festivals and Easter Services. Our parents donated a considerable amount of food to the food bank for the Harvest service. We are also lucky to have access to the Vicarage Garden for events and are hoping to start up some Forest School sessions in the future.

The nursery and the church have regular meetings with regards to maintenance and upkeep. This year our lighting system has been replaced and the issue with our boiler has been resolved. We are now awaiting a replacement back gate which we hope will be erected by the summer term. We appreciate that the church has been able to rectify these issues quickly.

We continue to try to offer the children a wide range of exciting and stimulating activities as they take those first steps to independence in a supportive and nurturing environment, where each child feels part of the All Saints' family.

Sallie Smith  
Nursery Manager