

**ALL SAINTS
METHODIST CHURCH
ANNUAL REPORT FOR
2020-2021**

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Introduction

Due to current social distancing restrictions on large gatherings because of concerns of COVID-19 the Annual General Meeting of All Saints Methodist Church has been planned as a Zoom meeting at 7pm on Thursday 22nd April.

This report contains some accounts from a variety of groups and organisations that have continued to meet via Zoom or by social distancing during the COVID pandemic.

Hopefully reading this will report will remind us of our 'church family.' Friends whose faces we have not seen, many whose voices we have not heard for most of the last year. May this report reunite us, even in the isolation of our own homes.

May the reading of this report, such as it is, bring us hope that soon All Saints can return to its usually busy, mission minded business. Despite all the difficulties the stewards have continued to meet via Zoom and diligently prepared a safe worshipping environment for the few weeks that services were able, socially distanced of course, to be held. We are grateful always for the blessings of our church stewards who have successfully managed us all from a distance.

Sue Russell

1. Minister's Letter

Dear friends,

To say it has been an unusual year would be something of an understatement! Yet it has been a joy to share with the church many of our anniversary diamonds and the stories behind them. It has also been wonderful to be connected in worship, either by joining the rest of the Wantage and Abingdon Methodist Circuit on Zoom for worship week by week or by making use of the material for Worship at Home.

When we felt we were able to come back into the church building for worship, at first it felt a bit odd with no singing, everyone in masks and not much allowed by way of conversation and fellowship. Yet there was something quite profound in being able to worship together and it was a joy to celebrate Christmas Day before we went into a higher tier of Covid restrictions.

I have been encouraged by all the stories I have heard of the friendship and fellowship that has been extended to people throughout this pandemic. Since the first lockdown, All Saints have seen seven people 'promoted to glory' as Salvationists would say. For all those people and families, we know that the Church would have been full for their funerals, and even though we could have no more than thirty mourners present, at each we could sense the church full, such was the extent of the love and prayer that surrounded each family.

While we have not been able to meet physically, it does not mean that All Saints has not been busy. There has been a huge amount of work that has gone on in the background. Perhaps not least because we started to realise just how much Brian Mansfield did for us. That it has taken a lot of work for a team of people to pick up is testament to that, and we

are grateful for the expertise and dedication that is offered at All Saints. There have also been large administrative and governance tasks that we have had to complete. All of which would have been easier in non-Covid times.

As we approach our annual meeting this year, we do so on the government's roadmap to the lifting of restrictions. We do so with hope and apprehension. Our hope remains steadfast in Jesus Christ, our apprehension lies in the knowledge that life post-Covid will not be exactly the same as it was before and we do not know quite where that will take us.

We do know that there will be challenges ahead, but we are not alone. The Circuit as a whole faces challenges and so we face them together, always seeking the guidance of God as we pray that we will be a church fit to serve the present age. This might sound unsettling, but I do think of it as a very exciting time because we are being called to something new, yet something familiar. The Methodist Way of Life, for example, reminds us of our Methodist heritage at the same time as equipping us to be God's church today. The continued growth of the 'Thy Kingdom Come' initiative reminds us that part of our task is to pray for people to come to know God. Those two things alone get me very excited about the future of the Church, its ministry and its mission today.

The first year I became aware of 'Thy Kingdom Come', Cornish Methodism struck up a new song, 'Thy will be done'. Partly because we are a church that is excellent at doing things on the ground, where we are, maybe we too can take a lead from Cornwall and pray the same.

Finally, I want to repeat the words of Isaiah where he wrote in chapter 43 the Lord God saying: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." I firmly believe that God is saying the same to us today.

Every blessing



2. In Memoriam

We record the names of those members of this church who have passed on in the last year with grateful thanks to God for their lives and service.

Les Oliver
Murial Dickson
Brian Mansfield
Geoff Symons
Rosemary Perrow
Robert Guthrie

Sue Russell

3. Church Stewards

Since the last Annual Church Meeting in September 20th 2020, the Covid 19 pandemic has significantly changed the pattern of church life at All Saints. A national lockdown was imposed on 26th March 2020 and Church Services were cancelled from that date. The ACM scheduled for that March was deferred until 24th September 2020 when it was held by Zoom.

The pandemic continued to throw up issues resulting from Government and Methodist Covid Guidelines and the safety of the church premises and its users. David continued to monitor any regulatory changes and draft the resultant decisions. These have been acted upon by the stewards in conjunction with Ian, Selina, and Keith.

Stewards aided by a small team of ushers, worked hard to re-introduce Covid-safe services from 20th September. Thanks to Helen, Martin, and the Ushers for organising the safe keeping of Worshipers at these services.

There was a full programme of Advent and Christmas services, with a necessarily reduced size of congregation, and a beautifully decorated Christmas tree. Services have not yet resumed; meanwhile services and meetings have been regularly held by Zoom, within All Saints, and the Circuit.

The stewards have had more business than usual to deal with during this time as they and the Finance Group, are the only All Saints discussion and decision-making groups that have been meeting during the lockdown – albeit remotely.

All Saints Administrator

Eluned Hallas took up her position as Administrator on 1st February 2020 for a six-month period. Since then she has been producing the weekly “All Saints Notices” and other individual notices as needed; taken over the production and maintenance of the duty rota; also contacting preachers/musicians/readers each week to set up services; and creating PowerPoint slide sequences as required for Morning and Evening Worship, using the Preachers’ Orders of Service. We are delighted to report that Eluned’s position was confirmed in July 2020.

The recruitment of Church Stewards

Although the appointment of an administrator reduced the Stewards’ workload as intended, there remained the need to increase the number of stewards. Job descriptions for Leadership Stewards and Worship Stewards were drawn up and publicised within the All Saints membership. Unfortunately, this did not result in any new appointments. Ruth Coward stood down as a steward at the last Annual Meeting, in order to concentrate on her call to preach, as agreed with the Superintendent Minister and our own Minister; this inevitably reduced the Stewards Team in number.

The Stewards team

Following the very sad death of Rosemary, the stewards team has again been further reduced in number.

The continuing increase in the Stewards’ workload during the recent extended lockdown, makes it necessary to remind the Church Council that the stewards’ team still needs new members.

The Church Council meeting in January 2021 discussed the role of Ushers and it is felt that this experience might offer something to a future consideration of stewarding and related responsibilities.

Church Music

A decision on whether to purchase a digital hymn player was left in abeyance, partly due to the effect of the lock-down and closure of the church for worship.

Ushers

We have been indebted to a number of our congregation who have agreed to be ushers since the re-opening of All Saints for worship in September. It had been agreed that we should try to ask several people who did not fall in any of the vulnerable categories to take on this role. Apart from welcoming the congregation on a Sunday morning they are ensuring the safety and well being of our congregation before, during and after the service by making sure the building is well ventilated and that people are entering and leaving the building in accordance with our COVID risk assessment, alongside other tasks to make each service run smoothly. We must therefore thank the following for agreeing to be ushers at this time; Alistair and Becky Batey, Anne and Richard Matthews, Sue Butler, Joanne Phipps, Menna Hull, Emma Standhaft, Beryl Manners, Diane Livesley, Helen Appleyard, and Martin Appleyard.

AV Operators

Derek Pooley assembled a group of people who were prepared to operate the AV desk during Covid-safe services. Grateful thanks to Derek, Martin Wilson, Michael Quigley, Paul Williams, and John Orchard.

Return to Worship

The Stewards agreed that for a Return to Worship, All Saints should appoint a lead Health and Safety Officer. David Perrow was proposed, and he accepted the role. He will form a small team from Property Action and let the Stewards know who has been appointed to this team. Risk assessments have been completed in anticipation of the return of Pre-School, and some PPE is ready to be in place if required.

In August 2020 a survey of members on “Return to Worship” was carried out, to test the water and to provide direction to any programme for return. The outcomes were enlightening but have now been overtaken by the extended periods of lockdown. It could be worth repeating at an appropriate time.

All Saints after Covid-19

The Communications Group has been developing a new website which anticipates the much more digital environment experienced during the pandemic and likely to be a characteristic of the post Covid-19 future. It will relate to other websites in the Circuit and access some of the same suite of information.

If we could recruit more Service Stewards this would enable the Leadership Stewards to focus on the way forward, and how to communicate the Gospel in 21st Century Britain.

Helen and Martin Appleyard, Tim Coward, David Perrow

4. Church Council

a) Mission Statement

At All Saints, we seek to:

- Share our faith in worship and study;
- Reflect Christ's accepting love in friendship and caring;
- Help each other face any difficulties and doubts;
- Explore together what it means to be God's people in today's world.

b) Report

All Saints Church Council has met once, in January, via Zoom, since the last Annual Church Meeting that had been postponed and finally was held via Zoom on 24th September. Zoom meetings have been chaired by Rev. Ian Griffiths.

As well as reports from All Saints Church committees and action groups we are pleased to hear about other groups which continue to stay connected and provide contact via Zoom.

We have been informed that the fire safety has been inspected and passed by the fire officer.

Safeguarding of children and other vulnerable adults on our church premises has been kept under consideration and follows the guidelines given by the Circuit.

We are legally bound to state again that the major risks to which our church is exposed as identified by the Church Council as trustees have been reviewed and systems established to mitigate the risks.

Sue Russell

5. REPORT- DIACONAL MINISTRY – WANTAGE AND ABINGDON CIRCUIT – MAY 2020

Dear Friends,

This past year, the Methodist Diaconal Order have been asked by Conference to reflect upon the Rule of Life and to consider the matter of accountability, and a report on my ministry, gives me an annual opportunity to hold myself accountable before you all, and so it is in this spirit that I offer my report.

The pandemic certainly has impacted my ministry, and has inevitably called me in new directions, as previous activities, such as work in schools and toddler group, have been put on hold, due to the necessary restrictions. I have also like many of you, needed to consider my own health needs and to follow medical advice which has caused me some further restrictions and plenty of frustration! However, the Methodist covenant prayer has eased my sense of frustration in the many troughs and furrows in the landscape of this strange world, and I am mightily thankful to God for that. I have called my report "*changes, challenges and celebration!*" and I hope you will find these three themes emerging through the words of my report!

CHANGES, CHALLENGES AND CELEBRATION!

RESOURCING OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

As we were unable to meet in churches at the beginning of the pandemic, and parents were understandably tentative about bringing their children to church, when they reopened, the children's work that I am involved in at Trinity had to go online, but it was not long before it was being passed on to a network of people across the circuit twice a month and also to children of another denomination in Abingdon.

Following a meeting with the JaM group at Trinity, it was decided to produce the work to be sent out by email, but which is printed, and hand delivered for those without the facility to print. Originally resources were going out weekly but this changed to the 2nd and 4th Sundays, in order that additional material could be produced for our young people across the circuit. The production of these takes many hours of enjoyable work. There is always a general encouragement for parents to participate in this work with their children, and discussion points and prayers are used regularly throughout. The sacred stories are either in word format or through online links to suitable resources, and crafts; cooking simple things and outdoor activities also feature at various times, so there is hopefully something for a wide range of abilities and ages.

The resource for the young people is focussed around issues in the world, and to date this is the subject matter that has been covered, all of which is rooted firmly in scripture:

- The environment, creativity and innovation
- Friendship and difficult relationships
- Remembrance and war
- Preparation and waiting
- A pandemic Christmas – unrecognized yet transformative people
- Judging others and racism
- Authority and serving
- Standing up for justice
- Random acts of kindness
- Sacrifice and the cross of Christ

I have offered an example from each of the groups from Lent to Easter for your perusal in Appendix B to this report.

RESOURCING WORSHIP AND OCCASIONAL SERVICES

Worship services have taken on a different format, with the paper copies that Ian and myself have been producing, which go out across the circuit. There has also been the occasional opportunity to preach on zoom, something which I have found to be a challenge to say the least!! Whilst the restrictions have caused challenges, it has also opened the doors to new experiences and opportunities which have been a real joy too.

It was wonderful to be able to lead the harvest service at All Saints, the theme of which was “Harvesting peace” based upon a painting by Norberto, a contemporary artist from Assisi, and gifts were brought and delivered to the food bank and Helen had made such a beautiful display for the service too!



Christmas day, although very different too, was also a joy to me as I led a service based on a children’s story “Father and Son” by Geraldine Mac Caughrean, which considers Joseph’s perspective. Through it we thought of and prayed for the many “hidden” and unknown people who have kept our communities buoyant, during lockdown and we listened to John Rutter’s newly written carol “Joseph’s carol” dedicated to the Oxford vaccine



team. We were all really in need of some hope to hold on to, and so for each person in the congregation I crocheted “covid free babies” to take home, with the message in John 1 “***The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.***”

The pandemic has also enabled “a toe in the water” exploring digital services, which have been posted onto the Wantage and Abingdon YouTube channel. Both services were joint between All Saints and Trinity, the first of which was the annual CIA bereavement service, followed by the Blue Christmas Service, both of which were also posted onto the Abingdon Facebook page, and in total, these services have had around 300 engagements.

All Saints then ran with this idea, and so services have been produced jointly with Trinity which include Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday, and it is with sincere thanks to Chris and Jan for enabling these and doing the technical “magic” to turn them into accessible services. What has been a real challenge has been finding music, images and short films that are legally available to us to use, even with a CCLI licence, but I have found that when approached directly, most people are exceedingly generous in allowing their material to be used. I have to offer a note of thanks to Deacon Joy in the Canterbury circuit for recording so many hymns which have been sung beautifully by her wife Ruth, and it has certainly helped as we have journeyed through this “warbling wilderness!”

Very sadly there have also been funerals at Trinity and one for an All Saints member for me to officiate at, which have proved to be difficult for the families, when they would have, under normal circumstances, had a church filled with people to “carry” them through, but once again with the use of technology, people have been able to be present, even if not in the same location and that has been a blessing. Bereavement bags have continued to go out to people and Trinity Learning has continued to be supplied with my crocheted bears for their bereavement bags for children.

The inevitable wedding postponements have also kept coming which have caused great disappointment to couples, but it is in a spirit of hopefulness, that those who have had to postpone several times or more, will finally be able to have the services they had originally planned this summer, God willing.

RESOURCING COMMUNITY

Towards the end of the summer and fearing a further lockdown, I felt it was important, for everyone, and particularly for those who live alone, to be given an opportunity to reconnect safely. Following advice from the police, and permission from the superintendent minister,

and Northampton District Office, we had several gatherings in Albert Park which were called “We’ll meet again!” People from both churches brought their own chairs and drinks and chatted under the trees, and new friendships were made between the two churches which felt like a real blessing. On reflection it was a very precious opportunity to be together again and we all formed memories to draw upon as we entered further restrictions in the winter months.



During Advent, I participated in the Fitzharry’s Christmas advent windows display. It was a good opportunity to remind passers by of the real meaning of Christmas, as Mary and Joseph and the donkey plodded on to Bethlehem and I have just put up the Easter window! What will be next I’m wondering.....!



Earlier in the year I was invited to an international multi-faith conference for LGBTQI+ people and their allies, organized by the Ozanne Foundation in Oxford. I was glad of the opportunity as it has greatly enlightened me to the horrendous suffering that so many of our brothers and sisters endure because of who they are, or because of who they love. It has greatly opened my eyes to the unbearable distress that has led to people taking their own lives, such is the pressure from their faith communities. This is surely a matter of social justice for those who suffer in this way. I was greatly heartened to see our former President of Methodist Conference, Rev’d Michaela Youngson, taking a leading role in this alongside other faith leaders, and it has been wonderful to learn more specifically about the open church network and the churches that are unashamedly part of this life giving “inclusive church” movement which seeks to consciously welcome people regardless of **disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexuality, learning disability, mental health or neurodiversity.** Their strap line is **“We believe in a Church which welcomes and serves all people.”** You can learn more about this movement at <https://www.inclusive-church.org/>

I have engaged with several EXCELLENT Connexional webinars, one of which was raising awareness of domestic abuse in the community, which the pandemic has highlighted as a continuing major societal evil. That led me on further to doing the preparation training to join a Domestic Abuse Champions for “Reducing the Risk,” Oxfordshire. The training enables

Champions to point victims to appropriate help and advice in the area. This is something that "Restored", a Christian organization that raises awareness of this crime, has long campaigned for churches to be involved in.

Lockdown has given plenty of reflection time, especially when I've had to self-isolate myself, and that has made me feel a bit despondent at times, so imagine my surprise when I saw an email titled "Your sabbatical" pop into my box! It was not that I'm longing for my sabbatical, but it meant there was going to be a future that I could make plans for! It seems unbelievable that I'm in my 7th year of "travel" and that meant that plans would need to be made and submitted by a date in Feb 2021. I had had some offers of overseas travel, but under the current circumstances, this seemed rather dicey, and so I have opted to stay at home for my sabbatical, most likely from January- March 2022. It will be a project focusing upon funereal rites and children. My proposal was accepted, and my support group has been set up ready for the end of 2021 and the beginning of 2022.

I have continued to engage in spiritual direction, supervision and the diaconal area group, all of which have been soul sustaining. Sadly convocation this year will, for me, probably be on line again as I won't have had my second covid jab by May, but I look forward to going to Conference at the end June which will be in Birmingham more or less as planned.

I have done much reflecting on the impact of the pandemic on our churches, and it is clear to me that almost all churches have been dented badly by the restrictions, but not being someone who is given to "hand-wringing", I felt called to join the Connexional course entitled "Evangelism for leaders." It was a weekly commitment to the course, which has evolved from the Evangelism and



Growth team, and which really helped us to tie down the rubrics of Evangelism. I am glad that the E&G team and the connexion have highlighted Evangelism as an absolute priority if we are to make new disciples and grow our churches into flourishing communities as we journey together in faith. As I write I have begun a report on Evangelism, which will be circulated at a later date as it pertains to the Methodist Way of Life. The course and its contents really lifted my spirits and it was truly wonderful to be part of the first cohort taking this forward. (Oh.... I don't think I mentioned that our new addition, Lizzie, joined the course too- mostly snoring!) One of the other highlights of the past year, when we were permitted to travel, was a trip to the shingle beach at Worthing, followed by a visit to the Roman Catholic Church of the English Martyrs in Worthing. It was a place I was taken to by the deacon in Worthing whilst I was candidating. It is an unremarkable building from the outside, but inside it is more than remarkable, as it has a two thirds sized replica of the Sistine chapel ceiling painted on its ceiling! The guide spoke movingly of the vibrant community of some 300 in number, and just



above the entrance is a painting of the last supper, but with the faces of some of the parishioners instead of the

usual depictions of the disciples. It prompted me to call to mind the faithful of our own number, and how we too gather around Christ's table as family. Some time ago, I read an excerpt from a book "The Table" by the Paul Bayes, Bishop of Liverpool, which begins with a table. You can read it in full at this link paragraphs 1-7:

<http://dartonlongmanandtodd.blogspot.com/2019/01/so-theres-this-table.html?m=1>

It speaks of a poor man's table that *"started in one place but now it can stretch down every street, and it can go into every home....."* it goes on to identify the poor man as Jesus, and his *"table [is] like a table at a wedding. You sit with guests you never knew, and you find out about them, and they become your friends."*

I conclude by leaving one question to reflect upon.....

In the year that stretches out before us, how do we **plan** on extending Christ's table to reach out into the streets, so that we may sit with others who become friends?

I offer this report up to God in thanksgiving for all that has been, for all that has been challenging, and for all that is yet to come and continuing to hold you all in prayer.

Dcn SELINA NISBETT

6. Our Circuit

The Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) comprises

Rev. Keith Underhill (Superintendent) – Wantage, Childrey, Grove

Rev. Ian Griffiths – All Saints, Trinity

Rev. Jocelyn Bennett – Wallingford, Didcot & Milton

Deacon Selina Nisbett

Carolyn Roach

Anne Matthews

Mary Hancock

Geoffrey Maunder

Alan Smith

It has been a very busy time for the Circuit as it has sought to support and serve our nine churches through this very challenging year. The CLT are very aware of the concerns and difficulties that the churches are facing at this time, some more than others, and how they are looking for ways forward in a post-pandemic future. The CLT are very grateful for all the hard work being done in individual churches to keep their congregations still feeling part of a community.

The Circuit staff have worked incredibly hard to enable us to continue with worship. Keith has provided Sunday Zoom services for those able and willing to join in and Ian and Selina have provided weekly reflective services that people can use at home. There are also resources available on the Circuit YouTube. The Zoom services see about 108 devices joining each Sunday which equates to around 150 people taking part. It has given participants a great opportunity to meet more people from around the Circuit.

Keith and Ian successfully completed the re-invitation process. We are very pleased that Keith will be with the Circuit for a further 4 years, until 2025 and Ian will be with us for a further 3 years, until 2024.

Unfortunately, Keith was unable to take his Sabbatical as planned but, hopefully this will occur later in 2021 and in 2022.

It is good that Rev Jocelyn Bennett is now on a phased return to work and is gradually doing more in the churches at Didcot, Wallingford and Milton. She has also written hymns that we have used and contributed to or led Advent, Lent and Easter services.

Our thanks are due to the Circuit Treasurer, Geoffrey Maunder and to the Circuit Property Steward, Mary Hancock for overseeing the Circuit finances and making sure that the churches have their necessary inspections and that the Circuit staff have safe homes in which to live and work.

The Circuit Leadership team currently consists of the Circuit Staff, the Treasurer, the Property Steward and four Circuit Stewards. Alan Smith stepped down from being Senior Circuit Steward in August 2020 and we thank him for all his hard work while in this role. He will finish as a Circuit Steward in August 2021 so we have opportunities for more people to join the team as a Circuit Steward. We are also looking for a Treasurer. Maybe this is you! Please pray for our Circuit and that we have people willing to take up this important work.

The chaplaincy work at Great Western Park continues with one lead chaplain, Libby Hawkness-Smith. She has had to work mainly on line. In December she managed to create an interactive Advent calendar that was available on the Circuit web-site using contributions from the groups she works with. Sarah Ifil stepped down as a lead chaplain in May and as yet we have not been able to appoint a replacement. We pray that we will be able to do this later this year.

Unfortunately, the June celebration of 200 years of Methodism in the Vale, which was to be held on White Horse Hill with the West Oxfordshire Circuit, had to be cancelled. Other things, such as the Circuit initiative on mental health have just had to be postponed.

We now look forward to exploring more about the Methodist Way of Life and how it can help us develop as churches and as a Circuit. Keith has already written and preached about this and on April 14, Michael Wadsworth, a Learning and Development Officer in the Eastern Region, will be giving a presentation. Due to current restrictions, this will still have to be a Zoom meeting.

I end the report by thanking Keith for all his dedicated work for the Circuit. In a very challenging year he has continued to encourage and inspire us.

Carolyn Roache
Circuit Steward

7. Church in Abingdon



The Church in Abingdon has not met for the past year but email communications from the last few months have now gone to Ruth Coward who has volunteered to step in as All Saints CIA representative following the recent death of Rosemary Perrow who had previously carried out this role. Grateful thanks go to both ladies.

8. Church Committees and Action Groups

8.1 Church Family Committee

Members: Anne Matthews, Becky Batey, Kate Jones, Helen Appleyard, Judith Penrose Brown, Maurice Tubb, Rona Quigley, Mike Quigley, Ian Griffiths, Selina Nisbett



The Church Family Committee oversees the social life of the church and receives reports from the many and varied groups that make up the friendships and fellowship at All Saints:

The Fellowship	Just Women
Tubb House Group	Youth Forum
Music Fellowship	Pre-School
Men's Group	Sunday Music Group
Junior Church	Quest
Crèche	

Unfortunately, I'm afraid I don't have anything to report from church family committee as we have not been able to meet since last January. Hopefully before too long we will be able to resume our meetings.

Becky Batey

On behalf of Church Family Committee

8.2 Finance Committee - Charity Registration number 1184115

This is the first occasion for many years that we have not had the benefit of the help and support of Brian Mansfield in the management of the finances of our church. Tributes have been paid to Brian at the time of his passing and at his funeral and also a wonderful obituary in the Methodist Recorder.

The Finance Committee are truly grateful for Brian's friendship, dedication, hard work and good humour and he is sadly missed. It is a reflection of his enormous contribution that it is simply not possible for one person to undertake the full breadth of the financial work involved and there is a team of four dividing up the workload. We continue to pray for Gillian, Alison and family.

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT YEAR END ON 31ST AUGUST 2021

Attached hereto are the examined accounts in receipts and payments format as approved by the independent examiner and at the latest church council meeting.

A summary of the salient points is set out below -

Following the crisis caused by the spread of the coronavirus, the church premises had to close which meant no Sunday services from 15 March 2020 to the end of the financial year.

Consequently, there were no Sunday collections throughout this period. All Saints reopened with restricted numbers on 20 September 2020 but closed for the period of the second lockdown, reopening again on 6 December 2020 but closed again from 3 January 2021.

The main ongoing source of income is through offerings, which include Sunday collections, donations through regular bank standing orders and donations made while the church was closed. All Saints are very fortunate and grateful that so many members have responded and continued to make donations while the Church was closed, particularly as the Church faces largely fixed costs. Indeed, collections for the year remained stable, totalling £59,787 (2019 £59,839). In addition, some members have moved their giving from envelopes to bank standing orders while the Church was closed. The annual amount recovered through gift aid on the Sunday collections is £14,182 (2019 £14,011) and the total for these donations and the associated gift aid is £73,969 (2019 £73,850).

All Saints also received a generous £10,000 donation which is restricted for specific use, to support and enrich the worship life of the church (and not for recurrent expenditure and maintenance). A further donation of £1,992 was received by the Richard Cox Bequest and £1,552 (that was previously withdrawn from the bequest but not needed, due to receipt of a grant for the refurbishment of the toilets) was refunded to the bequest. Consequently, the amounts available in the Richard Cox bequest total £8,544.

The Church Council has decided that £5,000 should be retained for future Mission Initiatives. Interest income from the Richard Cox bequest is donated to the Church charities. The other main source of income is lettings which include Rush Common Pre-school and until March 2020 many regular users. Lettings income totalled £9,997 (2019 £14,884). This amount has fallen significantly as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Currently, the only ongoing lettings are to Rush Common Pre-school, with an annual rent of £9,997 under a licence agreement made with the pre-school (assuming that the pre-school, temporarily closed in January 2021, continue to operate throughout the year).

The main operational expenditure was the Circuit assessment of £41,980 (2019 £40,377). Other operational expenditure totalled £7,666 (2019 £4,583). The most significant costs included the independent examination fee of £1,740 (2019 £1,620), costs relating to the Diamond anniversary £1,400 (2019 £nil) and the costs of an administrator to support the small stewardship team and to email out or post worship resources and communications, which totalled £2,112 (2019 £nil), including postage and photocopying costs.

Repairs and maintenance expenditure of £14,526 (2019 £118,313) was significantly lower due to the completion of the toilet refurbishment project. The year spend to 31st August 2020 included £2,696 (2019 £87,642) relating to the toilet refurbishment project. In the prior period, £17,755 was also spent on roof repairs and the replacement cross. The main project in 2020 was £3,402 relating to replacement of the vestry door and UPVC windows.

Utilities expenditure remained stable at £5,458 (2019 £5,441).

The level of ongoing income enabled All Saints to sustain for another year ongoing donations to central Methodist funds and other charities. However, the amounts were restricted to 20%

of income (excluding funds for property projects), as agreed by Church Council. Giving was therefore £16,562 (2019 £17,962).

In addition to these donations, £3,160 was raised and £2,645 disbursed for external organisations through appeals and events.

After several years all the current major property projects have now been completed. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, work on the property has been limited to necessary maintenance while the church was closed.

The Church achieved a surplus of £12,608 including £10,009 of one-off restricted donations. The Church organisations made a deficit of £696, largely due to donations being made from brought forward funds. Church funds of £59,906 (2019 £47,298) together with funds of Church organisations of £433 (2019 £1,129) total £60,339 (2019 £48,427). These are held in bank accounts or in deposits at Central Finance Board or Trustees for Methodist Church purposes.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic meant that the Church has been closed for periods. The effect of the COVID-19 pandemic has also led to a loss of approximately £5,000 annual rental income. Church members have been generous in continuing giving throughout 2019/20. However, the effects of the pandemic (given restricted numbers at services and the potential for future lockdowns) combined with an older congregation that may not be able to attend Church, means that there is unpredictability over the level of future giving.

POSITION AS AT 28TH FEBRUARY 2021

The second attachment is a draft budget prepared following the bank reconciliation at the end of February 2021.

Having provided a summary of the position as at 31st August 2020, it is pleasing to be able to continue to give grateful thanks for the generosity of giving of our members but the necessity to be cautious remains as we continue in untested waters with the church as at the date of this report not yet having resumed Sunday morning worship in our premises. We look forward so keenly to being able to be together in normal circumstances once more.

The team of four of Richard Matthews, Mike Brown, Margaret Ellwood and Larissa Richards continue to work to manage the heavy workload which had been undertaken by Brian Mansfield on his own for so many years. The main effort has been to try and open up a new bank account with the HSBC giro being terminated but this has proved to be a very frustrating process and there are still procedural steps that need to be completed and a resolution is being placed before the church council on 27th April 2021 seeking authority for four named signatories to provide the necessary instructions to National Westminster Bank Plc. namely Richard Matthews Mike Brown Margaret Ellwood and Trudy Hall.

As to the current financial position and the draft revised budget attached, we are able to confirm that the wish of the last church council to be able to make charitable

donations is now possible in accordance with the budget by paying half of the 10% annual budgeted figure to the following beneficiaries:

Methodist Church Fund, World Mission Fund, Methodist Women in Britain, Mission in Britain, Fund for Property, All We Can, Methodist Homes, Ministers Housing Society, Action for Children and L.W. and P.T a total sum of £2,133, plus our designated charities of Abingdon Bridge, Trinity Learning, Future Pillars Zambia, the Nasio Trust and Karibuni Children being a further sum of £1,520.

If the position continues for the rest of this financial year in a similar manner, we hope to be able to disperse the second half of the 10% before 31st August 2021.

The following points are worthy of note

1 The level of giving has remained consistent from our members and reassuringly so. Thank you.

2 As a result of using Liberty accounts software it has proved to be much easier to claim Gift Aid and this is something that can be undertaken therefore with greater frequency to avoid delay and this is reflected in a higher budgeted Gift Aid figure for this financial year.

3 Outgoings in respect of cleaning are marginally down as a result of less use of the cleaner during the period after the latest lockdown began, although cleaning is still required to support the continued use of the premises by pre school even if we are not able to worship together in church.

4 Property projects are not anticipated to exceed the budget as far as can be judged at present.

As of 28 February 2021 our net assets total £72,580 consisting of a current account at £36,250, Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church holding £27,760.00 and Trustees for Methodist Church purposes of £8,569. This £8,569 is the balance held in respect of the Cox bequest.

Of the £72,580, £13,098 consists of restricted funds and £59,482 unrestricted funds.

We remain within our reserves policy approved by the Church Council in that retained funds (unrestricted reserves), excluding the Richard Cox Bequest (currently £8,569), should not exceed nine months expenditure and that there should be a minimum reserves level of £30,000.

Richard Matthews

ACTING TREASURER

On behalf of the Finance Committee

8.3 Mission Action

The current membership of Mission Action is; Deacon Selina Nisbett (chair), Martin Appleyard, Richard Matthews, Joanne Phipps, Sue Russell, Rosemary Stanbury, Marion Williams and Paul Williams (Secretary). Tim Coward attends meetings as a representative of the Church Stewards.

Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions the Mission Action group have been unable to meet this year.

Paul Williams

Secretary of Mission Action

8.4 Pastoral Committee

The restrictions that continue to be in place because of the Covid-19 pandemic mean that pastoral visitors are still not able to visit the people on their lists but contact is maintained by phone, email and text. Rather than members receiving their Annual Membership Tickets for 2020/2021 from their pastoral visitor Ian sent them out by post and included with them a booklet and a card produced by the Methodist Church which provide a set of commitments to encourage us in leading a Methodist way of life.

During December, January and early February Rev'd Eileen Appleyard used Zoom to lead an Introductory Course of Guided Meditations which was sponsored by All Saints but was open to the Circuit and beyond. For those who took part the opportunity to be led through the meditations was very valuable and in April Eileen leads a follow up course based on some of the Easter stories.

Sue Butler

8.5 Property Action

The church building has remained closed for most of the past year and there are no property matters to report

David Perrow.

PA Chairman

April 2021

8.6 Youth Forum

There really is nothing to report as the Youth Forum has not meet at all since lockdown because the Parade Services were cancelled due to coronavirus restrictions. Scouting and Guiding have continued virtually via zoom; both organisations have lost members (Leaders and young people) but are looking forward to resuming face to face activities when allowed.

Judith Penrose Brown

Chair Youth Forum

9. Church Groups

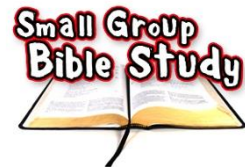
9.1 Bold Walking Group

The Bold walks have not taken place this year due to social distancing Covid rule of 6.

Jenny Pooley

9.2 Food for the Journey – Bible Study Group

This Bible Study group has not been able to meet face to face for over a year now. We await expectantly for better news following the lifting of Covid 19 restrictions

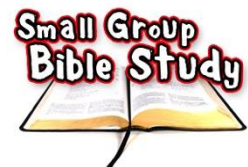


Margaret Ellwood

9.3 Quest

At the time of writing it is over one year since we were able to meet as a group.

As our name suggests we together seek to support and encourage each other in our faith journey. During the past year we have kept in touch each week by sending a reflection via email to each member of the group.



We hope that come summer we will be able to begin to meet together again as a group.

Like the whole church family we were saddened by Rosemary's death. We benefitted by her being a member of our group

Alan and Valerie Grist.

9.4 Uniformed Organisations

8th Abingdon (All Saints) Brownies

We have been doing regular zoom meetings playing games like bingo, fetch me game and others. We have also had craft evenings painting and junk modelling. We were able to meet up at times unfortunately we weren't able to use the church so we went on walks.



Sadly through the pandemic we have lost more than half our brownies and now only have seven left. They found it very difficult not meeting face to face so decided to leave. It would be interesting to see if any other groups had this problem.

Nicola Dixey

17th Abingdon (All Saints) Brownies

We have an enthusiastic unit of 19 Brownies at the moment meeting regularly on Monday evenings. We are fortunate to have a great team of leaders and are keen to welcome new girls to the unit.



Kate Winfield, Louise McCaul, Rebecca Venn, Phoebe, Megan, Claire

8th Abingdon Rainbows

We meet on Wednesday afternoons in term time and currently have 9 girls on our register. Although we did not meet for the Summer Term 2020, since Autumn 2020 we have met weekly on Zoom and produce weekly craft videos and activity packs.



We have completed the Theme badges of Have Adventures (explore), Make Change (take action) and Express Myself (innovate). This year, the girls have completed 20 interest badges between them and four girls have achieved their Rainbow Silver Award.

Jackie Walker

11th Abingdon (All Saints) Scouts Group



This year has been a challenging year for all Sections due to the global pandemic. All Sections have continued to meet via Zoom. Initially this was welcomed by many, but as lockdown continued a number of our members were getting screen tired with schooling and so many other activities taking place online. However, we have maintained core groups within all Sections and have moved Zoomers between Sections both appropriately and successfully. We have also enabled those who are with us online to work towards and achieve the top awards in their Sections. We are aiming to meet face to face safely as soon as regulations allow, starting with those who have engaged online to give them continuity and a reward for their support and indeed the support of their parents.

The parents of the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are always significant part of what we do, but this year, however virtually, they have let us into their homes and given us space to bake, camp, create, learn, explore, join in scavenger hunts and play hide & seek. We have asked them to enable the Scout Expedition Challenge during this Easter as families by letting their children take them on two, day long, hikes and we know that, if they can, they will do that- or find something else that works to achieve the same thing. They are awesome.

Our Leaders are also awesome, and this period has given us a little more flexibility to achieve more aspects of training. JPB has been an absolute rock and the commitment of our most of Leaders remains as strong as ever. Sadly, some of our

Leaders have had to stand down for personal reasons which leaves us needing to recruit new Leaders as soon as we can return face to face.

We continue to be extremely thankful to All Saints Church for all the ways you continue to support us. We were particularly delighted this year to see that Tabitha and Rev Ian were rewarded with the Award for Merit. This gives testament to their dedication to our Group and elsewhere above and beyond the call of duty and we would like to take this opportunity to extend once more our congratulations to them both.



Vanessa Case

Chair 11th Abingdon (All Saints) Scout Group Executive

9.5 Just Women

It has been a strange year. We decided to get with the times and go virtual, so since May we have had had 17 Just Women meetings via Zoom. We have mastered unmuting ourselves and generally had much laughter and, surprisingly, we have had more people attend than when we met in the Perry Room. We've even gained new people but do miss those who are unable to join us for whatever reason. In these weird times, sometimes this has been one of the week's highlights.

We look forward to whatever form Just Women takes in the future. Just Women provides fun and friendship and although we are still in contact with phone calls and more modern devices, it's not quite the same as being together. All women are welcome to join us.

Judith Penrose Brown

On behalf of Just Women

9.6 Men's Group

During the restrictions of the Covid-19 Pandemic lock-downs, the men's Group has continued to meet by ZOOM on or near the last Friday in each month. We are very grateful to Derek Pooley who has acted as 'host' and made and controlled the technical arrangements and has also been one of our speakers.

The topics that have been covered in a wide-ranging set of six meetings beginning on 6th June have include a stimulating 'Letter from America' by Rev'd Bud Tillinghast, which triggered Derek to lead a discussion meeting in August on 'Living with Laws of Oppression'. We had three talks about world charities; the Gates' Foundation bid to eradicate Malaria in Africa; the work of the Leprosy Mission; and Programmes to help people in low-wage countries to deal with Eye Disease, this last talk was given by former member of All Saints, Dr John Sloper. John Orchard talked about a visit that Marion and he had made to Costa Rica and showed wonderful photographs of the scenery and wildlife of the country. Attendance has been at about the same level as our normal Friday evenings in the Hall but we have missed the fellowship of a shared supper. A feature of our meetings has continued to be a short devotional time when we remember people in the All Saints' congregation in our prayers.

We were deeply saddened by the deaths of Brian Mansfield and Bob Guthrie and have missed Michael Caton who has not been well enough to join us. We send our sincere sympathy to David and Abigail Perrow on the death of Rosemary. We encourage all the men in our Church to join in these stimulating and supportive meetings. When the rules allow, we look forward to meeting together again for supper and speaker but, until then will continue to meet via ZOOM..

Paul Williams

9.7 Music Fellowship

The Music Fellowship has not met for at least a year. We hope that it will resume when life becomes more normal.



Paul Williams

9.8 Thursday Fellowship

Thursday Friendship has not met for a year. We recently, very sadly, suffered the loss of Brian Mansfield, one of our most regular members, and Rosemary Perrow, who attended our meetings when she was able. Our secretary, Michael Caton is unwell and Margaret is occupied caring for him. We were sad to hear of the death of Nicola Price who attended our meetings when she could and the very regular Myrtle Hodgkins, our prize tea brewer, moved into residential care in Wantage.



Marion and I are both feeling our age, we are in our 88th year and feel unable to take the organisational and leadership roles that we have held for some time and so, subject to the consideration of the Church Stewards and this AGM, I feel that I have to recommend that, unless new energetic leaders can be found, Thursday Friendship, formerly The Fellowship, after more than 60 years of service in All Saints, should be wound up. It has a great record and particularly in being a regular place of friendship for many people who live alone. Some of Thursday Friendship's raison d'être is now filled by 'Just Women' and 'Men's Night'.

Thursday Friendship holds restricted funds in the Church accounts arising from its weekly collections. If it is to cease to meet, I suggest that, as would be the case at a its Annual General Meeting, the existing members should be asked how the funds should be used – the current balance in the Church accounts is about £430.00. One possibility would be to support some charities that have not enjoyed the usual level of financial support from All Saints as a result of the financial perturbations resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Paul Williams

9.9 Tubb House Group



We have not met during the time of lockdown and have not met using Zoom.

During this period we have been saddened by the death of Brian Mansfield a regular and thoughtful member of our Group. When we resume we shall miss his contributions to our discussions.

Myrtle Hodgkins will no longer be able to join us as she has transferred to a Care Home in Wantage and Michael Caton is unwell and may not be able to attend future sessions

Hopefully other people may like to join the Group on resumption and contribute their ideas in our informal and relaxed sessions.

Maurice Tubb

9.10 Junior Church and Creche

We had no face-to-face Junior Church sessions this year due to the Covid-19 precautions even when a service was possible. Selina produced interesting and varied thought-provoking handouts relating to the days theme with various suggested activities. Rosemary Perrow and latterly Mike Pearl have extended and tailored the handouts for our young people and distributed them to the families.

Sadly Rosemary died. She contributed a lot of love and great ideas for our young people and will be missed by children and leaders.

Trudy Hall

10. Other Church Activities

10.1 Christian Aid



During the Christian Aid accounting year 2019-20, ending in August 2020, the total raised in Abingdon across all activities was £3,353, excluding Gift Aid. This was considerably lower than the previous year's total of £9,507. Unfortunately, owing to the pandemic, no Abingdon-based activities were possible during Christian

Aid Week. It was possible to hold a successful online quiz but the donations this generated went direct to Christian Aid. Nationally, Christian Aid was gratified that the Christian Aid Week funds raised came to about £4 million, rather than the normal £7 million, despite there not being any House to House collections. Thankfully, the Abingdon 2020 New Year sponsored walk was possible and raised a total of £1,199 and other local events to promote Christian Aid and its work worldwide were able to take place before everything came to a lockdown halt. A Garden Tea Party, at St Ethelwold's, the first Abingdon Crumble Championships and the usual Christmas events were generously supported and raised £1,044 between them. As ever, we are most grateful for the support given to Christian Aid by All

Saints members and friends, through attendance at meetings, singing carols, walking at New Year, etc



Needless to say, given the continuing need of the world's poorest people and the growing impact of climate change on these poorest of communities, we shall certainly be continuing to seek your support in the coming year despite and because of the ongoing pandemic. Time will tell what the impact of the current health concerns across the world will be on the poorest countries. It is, however, certain that their health services, basic community hygiene facilities and food supplies will continue to need the support of agencies such as Christian Aid. Please do try to contribute to appeals from Christian Aid nationally as it tries to meet the emergency needs of the poorest as well as continuing its ongoing long-term projects. During the coming Christian Aid Week we shall be holding a kind of House to House collection in Abingdon and also providing a virtual collecting envelope for congregations to use in order to make their donations to the work of Christian Aid.

Alternatively, you can make a donation here:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

or here

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/coronavirus-emergency-appeal>

Thank you

Pauline, Cliff and Chris

April 2021

10.2 Church Flowers

Due to COVID restrictions the church has been closed for services during most of the past year. I did make an advent wreath that sat on the font but with Christmas services all online unfortunately we weren't able to use it for its designed purpose.

Our Easter cross this year had to be displayed in the steward's vestry window and could only be seen through the glass. Many thanks go to Helen Appleyard who decorated it weekly for us including the flowers on Easter Sunday morning. Next year when hopefully we can all gather together again we could always use more donors or arrangers.

Pauline Sykes

01235 537653

Church Flower Coordinator

10.3 Card Sales

With the restrictions for worship in Church when we were open and the many weeks of being closed, sadly card sales are nil. However when we can re open there will be an assortment available.

Joanne Phipps

10.4 Church Twinning

This ecumenical group has met briefly on Zoom where several members paid tribute to the work of Rosemary Perrow on our Committee. She, with another member of the Committee, had been instrumental in working out a programme on eco church which would be shared with visitors from our twin towns when they came to Abingdon. Sadly, all the arrangements for the programme had to be cancelled due to Covid restrictions

Rosemary also contributed a virtual tour of Abingdon sent to our friends in the twin towns

The "Tour" was set up by Rosemary even though she was unwell.

After Rosemary's passing, messages of condolence were received from friends in all the twin towns in France, Germany and Belgium.

We also said farewell to another valued member, Angela Waterhouse, who has gone to live in Cumbria.

We hope to have visitors to Abingdon and make visits ourselves in 2022.



Maurice Tubb

10.5 Future Pillars, Zambia

Firstly, I want to thank everyone who has continued to support FPZ over the last year. We have no idea when we shall be able to go to Zambia again, it will be as soon as it is safe and sensible. Both the Zambians and UKians feel the loss of personal meetings, but we thank God for the technology that allows us to have video and zoom calls almost daily.

Due to the pandemic the school is working even longer hours. To accommodate the 2metre rule each class has been divided into two groups. Masks and hand sanitising are compulsory so the teachers & cooks are vigilant in overseeing this. Fortunately, the Skills rooms/practical areas are large enough to house the 10 students per 7 courses.



Our main project over the next 2/3 years is the building of a small Upper Secondary School, (1 class per year group) so that our Grade 9 leavers can continue their

education in a stimulating and encouraging environment with dedicated and caring teachers. This has long been our objective and thanks to 2 generous bequests we have decided to go forward in Faith believing that the rest of the money will come. (Most Government Schools do not consider Community school children worth bothering about. We have only been able to sponsor our 10 best achievers pa into them, partly because of our limited finances but mostly because lower achievers will be ignored. Previously, I have built up a relationship with the schools so that they knew that FPZ children were being watched and Reports scrutinized and questioned.) We have had to build a 'dining shelter' for use during the 4 month rainy season as the hall is too small for all the 1,000 children to eat, even in the three sittings. It is also being used as a waiting/homework place for the learners instead of loitering, before and after classes, on the campus thus disturbing the learners in their classes. An unforeseen sudden expense, but a permanently useful asset.

Of course, our fundraising has had to take on a new form. Mostly viral. (1) We have had 2 successful zoom quizzes and another planned for Saturday 8th May. If you would like to make up a team of 6 please let me know.



2) "The Trustees Tackle the Thames" Walk. Phew! Our Treasurer accompanied by other Trustees – with me and my (John's) car being Support Vehicle Operative (food/drinks/plasters/encouragement) walked from the source of the Thames to Caversham Bridge in Reading, mostly in rain and floods, - see Facebook photos – in 6 days, using my house as Base Camp. The last leg(!) is planned for 17th – 22nd May finishing at the Thames Barrier. Anyone wishing to walk a few miles with Peter or sponsor him will be more than welcome. I'll be SVO again.

(3) The 3rd Annual Walk – postponed from 2020 – is planned for Saturday 19th June. A figure of 8 walk around Woolacombe, North Devon. Easy (Tortoises), Longer (Hares) and a beach walk – very gentle. All ending in a pasty supper and optional visit to a nearby hostelry.

(4) 'Feed 5' continues. Singly or in a group of folk pledge £20 per month to feed 5 children. This works out at 25p a day to feed a child a very good meal 5 days a week. At present we have 2 doctors, 2 teachers, 1 prison Officer trained and working and 3 nurses and 2 Environmental Health Students in training, as well as almost all of the Skills 'graduates' finding work. Amazing!

For more information please talk to me or visit the website/facebook.

Again, thank you for helping these children who would otherwise flounder in the compounds.

Rosemary Stanbury Trustee Future Pillars, Zambia.

10.6 The Nasio Trust



The NASIO TRUST has, like all charities, had a difficult year due to COVID-19. All the UK office staff have been working from home, which has been difficult as two of them are new. Julia Cleverley has taken over from Chantelle as Child Sponsor and administrator and Nik Imrie is working on fundraising and marketing. Income shrunk considerably as Nasio had no volunteers visiting the projects in Kenya, nor any income from Kili climbers. All face-to-face events were cancelled too.

Kenyan schools closed in March and many communities were left with no communication about keeping safe during the pandemic. Nasio worked hard to engage the children in skills activities; the most popular being cooking, debating, young farmers club, drawing, board games, chess, soap making, tailoring and bike repair and riding. In all the projects offered reached 1420 children.

Nasio's Peer Education Programme has proved valuable in keeping teenage girls safe during lockdown. Rizikki has been acknowledged as one of the best educators and was selected to be a speaker at a National Conference which took part virtually via Zoom.

With the One Acre Farmer's project ongoing over 514 farmers have benefitted from improved seeds to plant.

Following the floods from the River Nyzia last April, that left 400 families homeless Nasio has planted 6848 trees to combat soil erosion as well as turning this into a sustainable small business for our guardians.



The fishponds, originally dug by an Exit 7 youth group, had been empty for a few years so were restocked and guardians and children have volunteered to feed and tend the fry and these are now ready to harvest. A market has been found in Kakamega as well as the local market and for Secondary schools for biology dissection.

The medical clinic has been busy with a footfall of 11,052 patients and 465 babies delivered. During the national strike by nursing staff the clinician saw over 90 patients in one day! Nasio, led by the Social Work team, worked closely with the Government's Ministry of Health with door-to-door covid sensitising over 50000 community members. Due to improved hand hygiene water borne diseases have reduced by 90%.



We sadly lost our tailor teacher to Covid. Gaudencia left behind two children who have now been relocated with other relatives.

Working with East Africa Play 5 new play areas have been erected for the children to use and play co-ordinators trained as learning through play is a new concept to these children.



With food prices rising Nasio has continued to feed over 200 children on a daily basis as well as provide each family with food parcels as well as an Xmas gift of a wind-up radio so they can hear COVID news.



If you would like to read more about the work that Nasio has been doing during the pandemic issue 13 of our Newsletter can be found from this link <https://www.thenasiotrust.org/nasio-news-issue-13/>

Please continue to pray for the ongoing work with the poorest of communities in rural Western Africa where Nasio operates alone as an NGO as it endeavours to extend its support to even more vulnerable and needy children and guardians within the community.

Sue Russell
Nasio Trustee

10.7 TrinityLearning



Here at TrinityLearning, we are extremely grateful for the kind financial support we receive from All Saints Methodist Church and are very pleased to be able to give you an overview of our work over the last 12 months. This time last year, at the start of the first lockdown in March 2020 and with staff and volunteers unable to continue delivering school-based projects, we had to look at new ways of supporting schools and children during changing times. Since then, we have designed and used a

wide-range of online and pack-based activities to continue to meet the needs of local children, their families and schools. New packs developed include Peaceful Activity Packs for the school children we would usually work with or those identified by headteachers as being particularly affected by isolation during lockdown; sensory singing packs for Kingfisher School, and Bereavement Packs for those working with children who have suffered a death in the family. Online projects include a singing hub (used together with the packs) for Kingfisher School that is accessible through a dedicated section on our website; Wildlife Safari walks encouraging children to look for nature in their local areas; a virtual Advent and, our most recent project, Experience Easter 2021 where volunteers from many different churches in Abingdon created short videos sharing the Easter story and related simple mindfulness activities and over 500 Experience Easter packs were sent to local school children. Children and families can also take part in the Experience Easter from home, even if they don't have a resource pack.

More detailed information about some of our projects can be found in our first Annual Report which can be read/downloaded from our website at <https://bit.ly/2Mz9GU2> and our Facebook page is updated regularly so is a great place to keep up to date with our news – you can find us at www.facebook.com/TrinityLearning-108933674177652

See also Appendix C

10.8 Guided Meditation

First special thanks to All Saints for being willing to sponsor the Guided Meditation Group.

The group has met via Zoom for 7 occasions 2 before Christmas and the other meetings in January and February. There has been an average of 10 people joining in each time.

There have been a number of gremlins which have crept in because I don't find Zoom an easy method to use, and especially that is noticeable in a fellowship kind of context. Meeting face to face in a room means that there are many nuances which are communicated all of which are missing when operating on-line. That being the case I admire the faithfulness of those who have struggled alongside me!

Despite the problems many have shared their reactions in finding that the time of Relaxation has been especially welcome during this time of anxiety and stress due to lockdown etc. Also some have found that in the Meditation period the living Jesus has come alongside them and has spoken very personally and intimately. Others have found that the experience of being simply being alongside one another has been extremely supportive.

The second series is due to start as I write this report and in this After Easter period we will be focussing on the Resurrection stories. We meet on Thursday nights at 7.30 during April and May and each evening is a separate entity so it's not too late to send me your email address if you'd like to join in and see if it would be helpful to you!

Rev Eileen Appleyard

10.10 Communication Group <http://www.allsaintsabingdon.org.uk/>

By this time last year the Communications Group had achieved one of its early aims: reorganising the noticeboards to be a warmer colour (red) and to focus on the spiritual life of the church rather than its organisational structure. We had also produced the first two Newsletters, aimed at keeping people in touch with events and ideas in a more discursive way than the weekly notices. We had started discussing reworking the website. And then, as we all know, came Lockdown.

Now we are emerging from our third lockdown in a year, to find that church communications have changed unrecognisably!

Our notice sheet is now being put together and emailed/posted out by Eluned Hallas, who is our paid Administrator, removing part of the burden from the Stewards. Ian or Selina also writes a short opening paragraph each week, to share some brief thoughts with everyone.

Services have taken on new forms: Worship at Home is a written service sheet, emailed or posted to everyone who wants it. There was a brief period between lockdowns when the church was open and small congregations were able to gather in a socially distanced way, with no singing. However, many people could not attend (through caution or the limit on numbers) and they used the Worship at Home services, or joined in the Sunday Zoom services run by Keith Underhill for the whole Circuit, or watched Keith's YouTube services on the Circuit YouTube channel.

In terms of worship, we have recently added to this repertoire with four services for Holy Week (Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday by Selina, and Good Friday and Easter Sunday by Ian), featuring video and pictures as well as music, also available on the circuit YouTube channel.

During Lent, the Stewards continued the All Saints tradition of dressing the Lenten Cross, which was displayed in the church window, and pictures and words were published in the notices each week.

Probably the most major change, however, has been the reworked website. The old one was managed very ably by Margaret Ellwood for many years. When she expressed an interest in standing down, the Communications Group agreed to change to a format which linked us more closely with the rest of the Circuit. This has now been completed, and the new website can be seen at <https://www.allsaintsabingdon.org.uk/> It is updated regularly and as well as useful information about the church, it includes calendar dates for events (currently all via Zoom). More importantly, it is the home of a series of Lent Reflections by Deacon

Selina, a regular monthly feature called 'View from the Manse', and a series of articles on faith topics.

We do not know what the future holds, but there is every sign that All Saints is preparing to keep communicating with those within the church and beyond, in every way we can.

Jan Greenough

10.11 Abingdon Foodbank

All Saints members have continued to support the Abingdon Foodbank despite lockdown; this was particularly noticeable at the Harvest and Advent Gift Sunday services. Unsurprisingly, the foodbank has given out more food parcels in the past year, but donations have increased as well. Donations can still be taken to Christ Church on Tuesday and Friday mornings, 9am-1pm. Although the foodbank is fairly well stocked with food, and people continue to be generous with both goods and money, there is often a need for toiletries and cleaning items. At present longlife full cream milk is welcome as the foodbank is supporting more families with young children. Our friends at Christ Church are grateful for all the support and express their thanks to all those who have contributed either money or food items.



Judith Penrose Brown

10.12 Safeguarding

We continue to follow good practice in our Church life with safeguarding and follow Safer Recruitment Practice for those taking on certain responsibilities within the church.

We are currently up to date with all DBS checks for those within the church family who require such a check.

The church Safeguarding policy and various contact telephone numbers are up to date and are displayed on the Safeguarding noticeboard in the foyer.

Although the Church Safeguarding Policy is usually reviewed at the Autumn Church Council it has been agreed by the Church Stewards to now move this to be reviewed annually at the Spring Church Council.

Helen Appleyard

Acknowledgments

I would like to say 'Thank You' to all the authors of the various reports. Despite Covid lockdowns many All Saints members has been busy learning how to Zoom to keep in touch.

Sue Russell

APPENDIX A: MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND GROUPS

Information as at the date of this report

Church Stewards

Stewards	David Perrow	Tim Coward
	Martin Appleyard	Helen Appleyard

Communion Stewards

Margaret Hoskins	Colin Bartlett	Marian Orchard	Larissa Richards	Ruth Coward
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Church Council

Minister	Rev. Ian Griffiths	
Deacon	DCN Selina Nisbett	
Acting Treasurer	Richard Matthews	
Stewards	Helen Appleyard	Martin Appleyard
	Tim Coward	David Perrow

Secretary	Sue Russell
Family Committee	Judith Penrose Brown
Pastoral Committee Secretary	Sue Butler
Circuit Steward	Various reps from Circuit
Church in Abingdon	Ruth Coward
Junior Church	Trudy Hall
Property Action	David Perrow
Finance Committee	Richard Matthews
Mission Action	Paul Williams
Safeguarding	Helen Appleyard
Communion Steward	Margaret Hoskins

Annual Church Meeting (6 to 15 allowed)	Alistair Batey	Jenny Pooley
	Margaret Ellwood	Joanne Phipps
	Derek Pooley	

Representatives to Circuit Meeting

Sue Butler

Church Family Committee

Chair	Anne Matthews
Secretary & Crèche Organiser	Becky Batey
Steward Rep	
Members:	Rev. Ian Griffiths
Maurice Tubb	Helen Appleyard
Kate Jones	Judith Penrose Brown
Trudy Hall	Dcn. Selina Nisbett
Rona Quigley	Mike Quigley

Finance Committee

Chair	Richard Matthews	Secretary	Gillian Griffiths
Acting	Richard Matthews		
Treasurer			
Steward	David Perrow		
Members	Pam Guthrie	Larissa Richards	David Gray
	Margaret Ellwood	Mike Brown	

Mission Action

<i>Chair</i>	Dcn. Selina Nisbett	<i>Secretary</i>	Paul Williams
<i>Steward</i>	Tim Coward		
<i>Members</i>	Rev Ian Griffiths	Marion Williams	Rosemary Stanbury
	Martin Appleyard	Sue Russell	Joanne Phipps
			Finance gp rep.

Pastoral Committee

Chair	Rev. Ian Griffiths	
Secretary	Sue Butler	
Steward	All stewards	Deacon Selina Nisbett
Visitors	Marion and Paul Williams	Sue Russell
	Maurice Tubb	Pauline Sykes
	Kate Jones	Anne and Richard Matthews
	Helen & Martin Appleyard	Joanne Phipps
	Trisha Evans	Tina Hearn
	Jenny Pooley	Beryl Manners
	John & Marian Orchard	Diane Livesly

Property Action

Chair & Steward	David Perrow	Secretary	Emma Standhaft
Steward Rep.	Tim Coward		
Members	David Gray	Chris Caddy	Maurice Tubb
	Martin Wilson	Alistair Batey	Jan Malin

Junior Church Council

**Co-ordinator
Leaders**

**Trudy Hall
Anne Matthews**

**Secretary
Mike Pearl**

Sue Butler

Crèche

**Helen Appleyard
Menna Hull**

**Becky Batey
Beryl Manners**

Kate Jones

The Fellowship

**Speaker Secretary
Treasurer**

**Paul Williams
Marion Williams**

Secretary

Michael Caton

APPENDIX B: RESOURCING OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE, Deacon Selina

TRINITY at HOME and TOGETHER

Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday 2021

THE LINK FOR THE PRE RECORDED ALL AGE PALM SUNDAY SERVICE ON LINE IS:
YOU CAN ACCESS IT BY CLICKING THIS LINK <https://youtu.be/cYcqJeTWdIg>

Matthew 21 v 1-11

The Easter story begins on Palm Sunday, when we remember Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. People were so excited to see him, and they waved palm branches and shouted out "Hosanna!" They recognised that Jesus was the special Messiah they had been waiting for.

TO DO TOGETHER - First read the Palm Sunday story in your bible .

- How do you think the people felt when Jesus came into the city?
- How did they praise him?
- How can we praise Jesus today?




Hosanna!

The Last Supper

- Have you ever had a special meal with friends or family?
- If so what was special about it?
- Do you have a photo to remember it by?
- Jesus didn't have a camera to take a photo for his friends to remember him by, so he did something a bit different.....

Read Matthew 26 v 17-30

The night before he died, Jesus and his friends gathered around a table for a special meal. He took the bread on the table and broke it into little pieces and he shared it with his friends and told them it represented his body that would be broken for them. He took a cup of wine and shared it with his friends; he said that represented his blood that would be spilt for them. When we share in communion we have bread and wine, just like they did, and remember the sacrifice that Jesus made for us and the promise he made that he would return one day.



- Who would you like to invite to share a meal with Jesus?
- Draw them and yourself at the table.

TO TALK ABOUT TOGETHER

What are some other ways of remembering people or happy memories?

Draw in the box a happy memory or someone you want to remember today.

Jesus washes the disciples' feet

Jesus did something a bit strange when he was with his friends that night. He filled up a bowl with water and tied a towel around himself and then washed their dirty feet! You can read the story here.....

This story comes from John chapter 13

Jesus wanted to teach his helpers how a real leader should act towards others, by serving and helping them.

Jesus and his helpers had a special meal together. Then Jesus wanted to teach them that a leader looks after others.

He got a bowl of water and a towel. "I am going to wash your feet," Jesus said. His friends were surprised.

Jesus knelt down and began to gently wash their dirty feet and dry them on a towel.

Peter was upset. "Why are you doing a servant's job? You are our important leader!" he said.

But Jesus was showing them that a good leader isn't too important to do anything for other people.

It was Peter's turn. "You will NEVER wash MY dirty feet," said Peter. "But I am being your true friend," said Jesus.

"Then wash my face and hands as well! I want to learn how to look after other people, they way you do," said Peter.

Jesus washes the disciples' feet

Why were Jesus' friends surprised that he wanted to wash their feet?

What did Jesus want to teach his friends by washing their feet?

How can we be more like Jesus and serve one another?

Maybe you could wash someone's hands or feet at home.

WORD SEARCH

bowl feet important meal serve table wash bread friends Jesus Peter special community gathered leader remember supper waist wine water towel

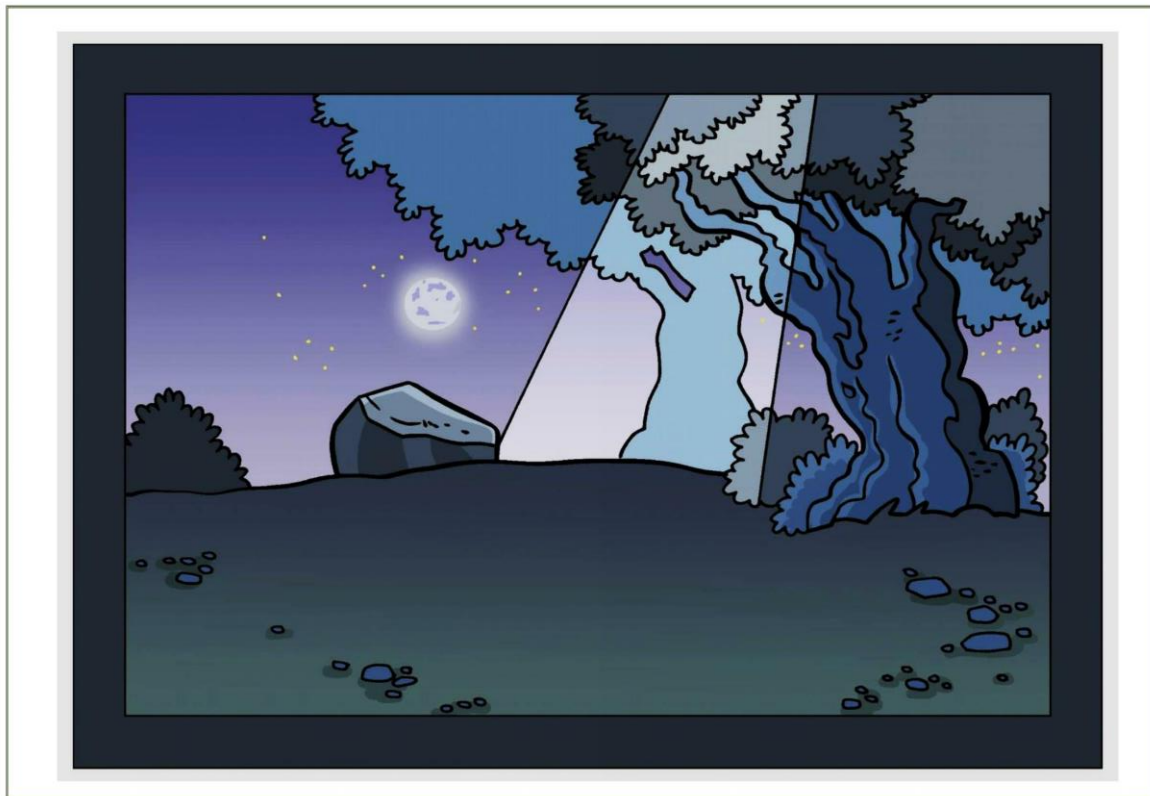
A PRAYER TO SHARE TOGETHER

Dear God

We are sorry for the times when we don't help other people, and instead think of ourselves.

We are sorry for the times when we have thought too much of ourselves and thought ourselves too important to do what you ask us to do.

Forgive us and wash our sins away, so that we can have clean hearts and remain close to you. Amen



READ TOGETHER Mark 14:32-43

After their meal together Jesus and his friends went out to the garden of Gethsemane. Jesus wanted to pray for strength for the challenge he knew he was going to face, and he really wanted his friends to stay awake and to pray with him, to support him, but they all fell asleep. It was in that garden that his friend Judas came to betray Jesus. There were people who did not like Jesus and wanted him killed, and it was Judas who showed the soldiers where Jesus was, and they came and arrested him.



Make a 2 D Garden of Gethsemane

1/Use your BEST cutting out to cut out: Jesus, and the tree stump.

2/Find some small pieces of cardboard and stick them together to put behind Jesus and the tree stump so that they stand AWAY from the background.

3/When you have stuck the cardboard to the back of the pieces, stick them both to the background.

4/ As you look at it, think about how Jesus felt:

as he knelt and prayed

as his friends slept and didn't support him
as he felt when his friend Judas came with the soldiers to arrest him

TO DO TOGETHER

Pray for people who are afraid because they are alone or have something very difficult to do.

Pray that God will give them courage.



GOOD FRIDAY IN THE PARK - why not follow the steps from 1-8 to help you think more about Good Friday.

Watch the story "The Garden, the curtain and the cross" here:

<https://youtu.be/zRGfWAcw8q4>



1/ Find a dark place on your walk.

Good Friday was a "dark" day because it was when Jesus died. He had been betrayed by his friend Judas, and people cried out for him to die, even though he had done nothing wrong.



2/Find a rough piece of bark on a tree to touch.

As you touch it remember how Jesus was treated very roughly before he died.

3/ Find something sharp (but be careful not to hurt yourself!)

As you touch it think about the prickly crown of thorns that Jesus was forced to wear and the nails used to put him on the cross.



4/Lean up against a big tree.

As you feel its strength, imagine the weight of the wooden cross that Jesus was made to carry.

5/ Find something that is broken.

Think about the friends of Jesus and how their hearts were broken that day.



8/ Find something that looks dead but has new life breaking through.

Think about how we wait for the world to wake up again in the spring and how Jesus was given new life!



6/ Find some water.

As you look at it, remember the tears that the friends of Jesus must have cried.



7/ Find a stone.

As you hold it remember the HUGE stone that was put at the front of the tomb of Jesus



Jesus has risen from the dead, just as he had told his friends, but they didn't understand. The Bible tells us what happened in John 20.

When Mary went to Jesus' grave tomb, three days after he had died, she had seen the tomb was empty. She went straight to tell Peter and John.

Peter and John had to see for themselves. They both ran to the tomb. They saw the empty clothes, but it was true - Jesus was gone!

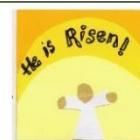
Mary sat outside the tomb, crying. "Why are you crying?" two angels asked her. "They have taken Jesus away," she said, "and I don't know where have they put him."

Someone said, "Mary, why are you crying?" Mary thought it was the gardener. "Where have you taken Jesus?" she asked. He called her name, "Mary."

Mary was so happy! Jesus was dead, but now he was alive! Jesus told her to go and find his friends and tell them the good news!

Mary ran to find Jesus' friends. "I have seen Jesus! He is alive," she told them all. At Easter we remember Jesus is alive!

Today is a **JOYFUL** day because we remember the day that Jesus was given **NEW LIFE!** Some people have Easter eggs to remind them of the empty tomb! Will you have one?



AN ACTIVITY TO DO TOGETHER

Why not make an Easter garden during Holy week together.

You can make it as big or small as you like. I have even made one in a muller corner yogurt pot before!

Maybe collect some of the things you will need during your daily exercise or on Good Friday.

You will need

- Some soil
- Some pebbles or grass cuttings or moss
- A pot
- A stone
- Some twigs for the cross
- Some string to tie the cross together.
- A large stone that will cover the "tomb" up with until Easter day!



WATCH "God's wonderful surprise!" here:

<https://youtu.be/Nfnhv5hOk4M>



FAITH IN THE WORLD-14

RANDON ACTS OF KINDNESS!

Benny, David, and James shared a passion-KINDNESS! In 2008 they formed a movement called "The Kindness Offensive". They asked members of the public in Hampstead what "random acts of kindness" they would like done for them. They received many requests from the public, and the group attempted to meet some of them by contacting companies and persuading them to donate the required goods for free. As well as this they gave away hundreds of tickets for concerts, gigs, and sports events. Their movement has grown, and their rallying cry is:

"PRACTISE RANDOM KINDNESS AND SENSELESS ACTS OF BEAUTY!"

They have captured the imagination of thousands of Londoners and the movement shows no sign of slowing down, spreading into communities, workplaces, and schools.

Check out their website by clicking on the link and be inspired!

[Random Acts of Kindness | Welcome](http://RandomActsOfKindness.com)

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS FOUNDATION

THE GOLDEN RULE

Matthew 7 v 12

"So, in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."



What do you think drives the Kindness Offensive?

What kind of reactions do you think the members of TKO receive when they are kind?

What do you think the phrase "senseless acts of beauty" means?

How does it make you feel when you are kind to someone?

How does it feel when someone is kind to you? What effect does it have on you?

Can acts of kindness change the way a community feels? If so how?

Are there any drawbacks to kindness?

Chris Tomlin wrote a song about God's outpouring of kindness for us:

As you meditate on his reflection, consider God's outpouring of kindness to you. How is this evident in your life?

<https://youtu.be/SidOp4dmj6k>

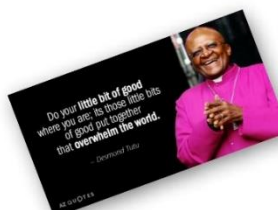
JESUS EXPERIENCES A RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS.

John 12 v 1-8

12 Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honour. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. 3 Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

4 But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, 5 "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." 6 He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

7 "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. 8 You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."



Why is Matthew 7 v 12 (page 1) referred to as the golden rule?

In an ideal world how would you like others to treat you?

How do random acts of kindness help us to answer Jesus' command here?

Think of one random act of kindness you could do for someone this week.

Watch Mark's TED talk!

Reflecting on the passage above from John-

We hear in the passage a very valid objection to this random act of kindness. In the light of the monetary cost of the perfume, was Judas right to object?

What does this say to you about your priorities when it comes to others?

Should giving always be costly to be meaningful?



make kindness the norm.

APPENDIX C: TRINITY LEARNING

