



Parish of Fleet

All Saints

St Philip & St James

Fleet Parish Annual Report 2022

The PCC

Our Parochial Church Council 2022-2023 comprising of:

Incumbent

Revd Mark Hayton (Chairman)

Curate

Revd Cally Burch

Churchwardens

Antony Jones (Vice Chairman)

Jenny Thorne

Deanery Synod

Mike Ford

Sally Hastings

Jane Jones

PCC Secretary

Nick Doran

Elected Members

- Mike Benham (2)
- Richard Buller (1)
- Amy Canham (1)
- Jean Carr (1)
- Linda Dart (2)
- Jean Hawkins (1)
- Sarah Leedham (3)
- Dawn Ward (3)
- Peter Ward (3)
- Darren Wood (2)
- *NB Elected members for (n) years from April 2022*

Electoral Roll: 160 names on roll, representing 124 households

Forms for membership are available all year round from the Parish Office. New details will be accepted at any time to be included in the 2023 revision of the roll. Please inform Mary Goodson of any change of details.

PCC Highlights

The PCC has met nine times during the year, with six of these being the regular scheduled meetings in January, March, May, July, September and November. A further meeting was held immediately following last year's APCM (primarily to elect the Treasurer, Secretary and Standing Committee).

There was an additional meeting in October held primarily to review the budget situation with the All Saints Rebuild and to approve future payments to the contractors from parish resources (the All Saints Fund) with the insurance budget then running low.

A further additional meeting was held in December to review and approve the 2023 budget.

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PCC Highlights continued

During the year the PCC has discussed and agreed a number of important matters including:

- The PCC approved its Safeguarding Policy in May and subsequent Safeguarding changes and updates during the year.
- On the financial side the PCC approved a budget for 2023-2025, and the 2022 Accounts.
- The PCC had regular updates on the All Saints rebuilding work, with specific discussions on the financial situation, the proposal for a new digital organ and designs for new furniture.
- Mark engaged the PCC in regular discussion on the diocesan-led Parish Needs programme and the parish Church Development Plan that resulted from that. The PCC also discussed various ideas for changes to church services and other aspects of parish life.

Minutes of all PCC meetings are publicly available for reading, and are kept in folders both in the FPCC Office and the P&J Narthex.

Nick Doran

Ministry Team



- The ministry team consists of clergy and readers from the parish – The Vicar (Mark Hayton), the Curate (Cally Burch) and 2 LLM readers (Mary Goodson and Jane Jones.)
- The team meet to pray and to plan every Monday morning in All Saints Church at 9am. (All are welcome to join us for this.)
- The team have led a broad range of worship across the parish this year. They have shared in the preaching and leading of Sunday services and at festivals.
- The team have been involved in reshaping our worship programme this year, including the introduction of Café Church and more All Age and Family Services.
- The team have all been involved in ministry to the bereaved and the taking of funerals.
- The team have held several special services and events including services for baptism families, bereaved families, house group members, and with local schools.
- The team are heavily involved in pastoral care of the whole parish, alongside members of the Pastoral Team.
- Members of the team were involved in preparing 3 adults and 4 juniors for confirmation in November.
- The team worked together on the Lent Course ‘Imagining Hope’

Revd Mark Hayton

Parish Office

- During 2022 the Parish Office was manned by Chantelle and Sam Lord weekdays, 10am-12pm, and operates with the support of many volunteers to ensure that all runs as smoothly as possible.
- The office produces the weekly news sheet, acts as first point of contact for enquiries of all kinds and generates/contributes to many of the parish communications including the parish website.
- A new 3 year lease was negotiated on the existing printer/copier.
- Sam Lord resigned as Halls Manager early in 2023 and a replacement is still being sought. Thanks to Sam for her dedication and hard work in the role, and for her ongoing support of the office with posters, flyers and graphic design.
- A temporary assistant administrator, Shauna van der Spuy, was appointed during April 2023 and will likely remain in post until the end of June.
- Thank you to everyone who supports the office throughout the year – your time, energy and prayers are all appreciated.

Chantelle Gardner



Fleet parish magazine

All Saints • St Philip & St James

- The Parish Magazine continued to be produced for every month through 2022, edited alternately by Nic Evans and Carolyn Ford. We have been delighted to receive many interesting articles, especially the regular reports on the rebuilding of All Saints Church, together with publicity for fundraising events and other events in Fleet.
- We'd like to thank our many regular contributors for all the varied stories, reports and words of inspiration which you have sent in to us. We are especially thankful to all of you who have submitted your lovely photographs to help bring the articles alive to our readers. Our particular thanks go to the Parish Office for continuing to provide the Parish Diary, Registers, Readings and Eco-Tips every month, as well as organising all the advertising which continues to make a contribution to parish funds.
- We must also thank our loyal readers who continue to support our magazine. Do keep your articles, publicity items and stories coming in. The magazine is one of the ways in which we keep communication going in the parish.

Carolyn Ford and Nic Evans

Parish Website & Social Media

- Our Parish Website is updated regularly by the Parish Office.
- We are currently in need of a new (volunteer) webmaster – if you have the skills please speak to Revd Mark Hayton.
- We have a Facebook page for the Parish, www.facebook.com/parishoffleet which is updated by a team of people.
- We also have a Facebook page for **All Saints** a place for everyone fundraising <https://www.facebook.com/All-Saints-Church-Fleet-fundraising-105498214236234> which is updated by Amy Canham.
- Our Twitter feed is mainly fed automatically from the Parish Website.





- The Safeguarding Action Plan for 2023 was approved by the PCC on 20/03/23. This plan is generated from the Parish Dashboard on which our compliance with safeguarding requirements is recorded. These cover a number of criteria i.e. policies, safeguarding procedures, safeguarding roles, learning & development, displayed information, reviews & reports, church & non-church activities, & prevention.
- We were moved to a Level 3 Dashboard on May 2022 and this currently shows 97% compliance.
- Safeguarding is on the agenda at every PCC meeting.
- A major change in legislation this year has been ‘position of trust offences’; this new law raises the age of consent from 16 to 18 for young people in a faith-based activity such that it is now an offence under the Sexual Offences Act for there to be a sexual relationship (even if consensual) between an under-18 and any older person in a position of trust in the church. The PCC were made aware of this in November 2022.
- DBS checks and renewals have continued where appropriate, and all those in relevant roles are encouraged to refresh their training every 3 years. Some face-to-face training is now available for the first time since lockdown for those unable to access training on-line.
- A Modern Slavery Advisor is a new addition to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.
- Potential safeguarding concerns which have arisen during the year have been reported and addressed appropriately. Please continue to report any such concerns to the clergy or PSO as a matter of urgency.
- This will be my last safeguarding report as I am retiring from my role as PSO at the APCM. Thank you all for your cooperation and compliance with the regulation requirements; this enables us to continue to be as confident as possible that our parish is a safe place for the young and vulnerable amongst us.

All Saints Churchwarden Report

- 2022 was the year when our church building finally took shape. Its reconstruction inevitably absorbed most of our attention. Over the first half of the year roofers crawled over the trusses until, in June, as the corrugated iron covering was lowered to the ground, we saw our church whole again for the first time in seven years.
- Inside, conservators made stencils and did colour tests prior to reproducing exactly the painted decorations on the brickwork. Meanwhile the builders installed new wooden panelled ceilings.
- With the end of the build in sight, furniture had to be ordered. The choice of chairs proved a difficult compromise between look, comfort, and practicality. Thanks to the generosity of members of our congregation we were able to choose custom made pieces for the altar, credence table, lectern, and a table and storage for the west end.
- In October our new west window was installed. It exceeded all our expectations.

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All Saints Churchwarden Report continued

- Although the original finish date of July had long gone we expected that we would be back in the church by December. A cluster of missed deadlines meant that our two services in the church over Christmas were held under the protective supervision of Buxton managers. We ended the year still waiting.
- Drainage work by the builders, originally scheduled for the spring, lasted all year and kept being extended to take up more of the churchyard. We lost a Rhododendron and the end of the bank next to our car park.
- Throughout the year the FPCC was our home. We lost our cleaner in the spring but thankfully found a new one after six weeks. Great credit is due to Chantelle Gardner, our administrator, and Sam Lord, her holiday relief and our halls manager, not to mention the coffee bar volunteers, for restoring 'the new normal'. Welcoming hirers and coffee bar users and enabling the smooth running of the parish office.
- At the end of the year we noticed problems with the roof of the FPCC. But that's a problem for 2023.

Jenny Thorne, Churchwarden

St Philip & St James Churchwarden Report

- Happily 2022 saw a return to normal services after the disruption of the COVID pandemic. Live streaming has continued although the on-line congregation has reduced considerably with parishioners returning to church.
- The end of isolation enabled us to carry out our first full inventory check for two years and to meet in committee face to face.
- Brian Meeres' legacy has now been used up with external painting of the church, new doors for the hall, live streaming cameras inside the church as well as expensive additional lead for the roof. We are grateful to Brian and his family for his generosity.
- An unusually heavy downpour after a summer drought led to extensive flooding of the crèche room ceiling. Fortunately the insurers paid for several weeks of drying out and for the electrical re-fit costs although we had to pay for roof repairs ourselves (see paragraph immediately above).
- The processional cross was repaired by local jewellers and the wooden shaft restored. Also thank you to our next-door neighbour in Fernhurst for restoring the church bench.

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St Philip & St James Churchwarden Report continued

- In line with quinquennial review recommendations much of the choir loft has been cleared and we actively discourage parishioners from using it as a storage space. Similarly the crèche does *not* require occasional donations of toys or books from well-meaning people.
- I would like to thank everyone who contributed to P&J church behind the scenes in 2022 from volunteer gardeners, plumbers, cleaners, sacristan, coffee and tea makers, the baptism team, AV operators designers to F&M committee members and the many others who kept everything going. Bravo!

Antony Jones, Churchwarden.

Standing Committee

The Standing committee of the PCC exists to make decisions on behalf of the PCC on urgent matters that occur in between PCC meetings

Your standing committee consists of the Vicar, Curate, Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary, and Chair of Finance.

All decisions are reported back to a full meeting of the PCC for their information and approval.

Some of the things the standing committee agreed on behalf of the PCC included...

- Contract for a new cleaner
- Agreed to allow the storage of new stage blocks and disposal of the old ones (P&J)
- Our involvement in the Jubilee celebrations and the appropriate insurance
- Approval of youth group activity canoeing on Mytchett canal (for insurance purposes)
- Approval of work to leaking roof at FPCC
- Temporary hire of digital organ for All Saints
- Purchase of new portable font for P&J
- Various technical issues relating to completion of rebuilding project.

Mark Hayton

All Saints Fundraising Committee

- During this last year our Fundraising has been achieved in many different ways and all extremely successful. Lots of individual events have taken place, coffee mornings, lunches, tea parties, concerts and raffles, sponsored walks/runs and even a cycle ride from Lands End to John O'Groats – how about that for an amazing event.
- We have also raised large sums from people offering to sponsor leaves and the small round individual windows on the new and wonderful Rose Window. Well over 100 names are inscribed on the window for perpetuity so thank you to everyone who so generously donated funds to achieve this.
- Sponsorship of bricks for the new porch also took place and this was extremely successful. A huge thank you to all who took part in this initiative which was launched at the Christmas tree festival and then to the coffee bar and into the town where people were able to sign their names on individually made wooden replicas. Both the bricks and the window have added hugely to our fundraising efforts.
- The other source of funds has been from people generously making individual donations and many have been involved in sponsoring items of new furniture. Our new Altar, Lectern and Credence table together with the table and two bookcases at the west end of the church have all been sponsored. A large number of the new wooden chairs have also been sponsored and many of them will have individual plaques put on them.

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All Saints Fundraising Committee continued...

- We have had a very generous donation towards the lovely new grand piano, which was previously donated in memory of two people, and also for the new organ which yet has to be installed.
- We have been very successful in obtaining 4 small grants and 1 medium size one and one large one – a lot of hard work has gone into doing this with the very pleasing end result.
- We are overwhelmed by the generosity of so many people who have been involved in any way so a HUGH THANK YOU TO YOU ALL

Elizabeth Waller – Chair of Fundraising Committee

Finance & Administration Committee

- The PCC accounts have become particularly difficult to prepare, interpret and examine given the large increase in the number of transactions, the number of different sources of income and expenditure and their allocation. The workload for the Treasurer and its complexity continue to increase.
- The 2022 accounts show a surplus in net income before losses on investments (unrestricted funds) of about £4.4K if expenditure of about £30K on All Saints Church contents is excluded. This modest surplus should be contrasted with a cash deficit of about £50K forecast for subsequent years. The increase in utility costs is having a major impact on the financial wellbeing of the Parish. Such deficits are clearly not sustainable.
- The PCC decided to write off the asset “20% share in the LEP house on Elvetham Heath”. There is little prospect of any value being realized from this asset in the foreseeable future and is therefore considered impaired. Its carrying value has accordingly been written down to zero.
- The adverse impact of COVID started to ease with modest increases in income from hirers, the magazine and social activities such as the coffee bar.
- There was also a modest but welcome increase in planned giving (£2.5K). Most of our planned giving is now done through the Parish Giving direct debit scheme which offers many benefits, from almost instant tax reclaims (with no admin work for us) to the opportunity to ‘index link’ our giving with optional automatic annual increases following the national RPI inflation index. It is also the scheme which incurs the least costs to us. If you are still on the standing order system you might like to consider switching over. If you donate by any other method you also might like to switch over. *(continues...)*

Finance & Administration Committee continued

- Cash collections fell significantly but were partly compensated for by card giving at services.
- Our disposable cash for general purposes now stands at £173K. We also have an Investment Account (£111K).
- The All Saints Building Fund income grew by about £215K in 2022 mainly due to excellent fund raising, grants and generous donations. Expenditure from the fund increased to over £338K as the PCC started to pay Buxton (contractor) and others directly. The residual amount in the Fund at the end of phase 1 is difficult to predict since Buxton's final account and further increases in the insurance budget are still being negotiated.
- We currently have over £700K in cash, much of it committed to the rebuilding of the church and, to ensure the monies were protected, we had monies spread over 9 deposit accounts in addition to current accounts. Recently however, in anticipation of a major short term requirement to finance significant contractual payments for the All Saints rebuild whilst waiting for final settlement with the insurers and also waiting on significant VAT refunds, the liquid cash is held in short term investment accounts with three banks. The position is kept under constant review.
- We are fortunate to have a first class Treasurer (Mike) and Administrator (Chantelle). Sam Lord did an excellent job as Halls Manager and Assistant Administrator and will be badly missed.
- I should also like to thank Tim Kite for being the Independent Examiner of our accounts which are becoming increasingly complicated. Also thanks to Juliet Worthington for managing the PCC's payroll obligations and to Jean Carr and David Worthington for managing the planned giving arrangements and to other members of the committee Jenny Thorne, Antony Jones, Nick Doran, Cally and Mark.

R.F. Buller April 2023

Social Committee

- To remind myself of all the social events that have taken place, I read through last year's minutes of meeting. As always, I get a surprise at how many different events have taken place bringing our congregations and community together.
- We began with family bingo. Our caller Mike Benham had an emergency operation for appendicitis and our Vicar stepped in doing an excellent job!
- We held a very uplifting Songs of Praise followed by a strawberry tea, Bangers and Mash for Harvest and finishing the year by reintroducing the parish lunch with a Roast Turkey Dinner just before Christmas.
- We started the New Year in 2023 by casting Cally away to her desert island followed by Afternoon Tea.
- Since the New Year there has been a new addition to the role of the social committee and we have been supporting other parish events. A concert by Quintessentially Wind with Hart of Brass and a performance of Pirates of Penzance. Both fundraisers for All Saints. This was followed by the Family Activity Afternoon. This new role will run alongside social events and our aim is to produce smaller sub-groups to serve the tea, coffee and cake.
- The social committee comprises of 10 members, 2 who are very new. We have a lot of fun and are often the first face of welcome. I would like to say a big thank you to all of them for everything they do in this role. If you would be interested in becoming part of a new sub-group or join the social committee please let us know.



Karen Kite

Discipleship Committee

- Housegroups continue to play a special role in the life of the parish in faith sharing and spirituality and in providing fellowship beyond church. Linda Dart has taken over the coordination of house groups from Sally Hastings to whom much thanks is due.
- Jane leads occasional services of Iona morning prayer and 9 folk from the parish are visiting Iona at the end of May.
- A few of us continue to meet up for monthly Forest church with Wellspring in Wellesley woods in Aldershot (more details from Jane or Linda Dart.)
- We had a parish outing to Coventry Cathedral at the end of March 2023 which was much enjoyed. Thanks to Claire Holt for her organisation.

Jane Jones

Housegroups

First please join me in thanking Sally Hastings for coordinating the Housegroups prior to me taking on the role.

Members attended an Evening Prayer Service followed by tea and cake which was held at P & J in January.

The groups continue to meet regularly reading and discussing various theme from the Bible and other religious texts.

Linda Dart

All Saints School & Church Link Group



- We have termly meetings with senior staff from AS school. Mark and Cally help lead assemblies and we have re-started the Breaking Bread together service when we distribute home-made bread and grapes in a spirit of agape.
- We have met with Gill Martin and Gemma Russell, Head of RE, to discuss Christian distinctiveness and prayer spaces; the Easter prayer space was visited by all the children in school and was very reflective.
- The worship team, with children representing all classes visited AS church for the first time in March and were delighted to see round the restored church. We hope to plan a whole school visit soon.
- Three parish members with a heart for children plan to come into school on a regular basis to engage with individual classes and help with reading.

Jane Jones

Children's Ministry

It has been a bit of an interim year in children's ministry, as we recover from the effects of COVID – both in terms of the depletion of core volunteers and reduced child attendance at church. Also, we were somewhat on hold, pending the anticipated appointment of a joint children's and families' worker with Church Crookham. So far, we have been unable to make such an appointment and are therefore about to embark on a new strategy, intending to focus heavily on this area in the coming year as one of our three main vision goals. Despite these setbacks, children's work has continued faithfully over the past year: there are pockets of strong activity and we have a highly valued healthy core of committed children and families.

Children's provision during our regular Sunday services: At most services there is some provision for children, even if that consists of colouring and other activities laid on at the back of church. We endeavour to offer at least one service every Sunday across our two churches which consciously and actively provides for children in some form: by offering Godly Play, by inviting those children who feel comfortable doing so, to participate in some aspect of the service, or by offering a dedicated all-age or family service.

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Children's Ministry continued...

P&J Junior Church: Our Godly Play teams have faithfully continued to provide Godly Play once a month at P&J in the P&J Church Hall, in which the children have explored the Bible in a playful and imaginative way – being encouraged to ask questions and to respond creatively to what they have seen and heard.

We have also continued with Family Worship at P&J – generally once a month at 11.30am, this is an informal non-Eucharistic service dedicated to families, in which all family members participate. In those services we have acted out Bible stories using “Open the Book” scripts, we have done “Lego Church”: telling Bible stories with Lego figures and pieces and enabling families to respond with their own Lego creations and we have enjoyed lots of craft activities, interactive prayer and action songs.

Baby Saints: Baby Saints continues to meet twice a month on Wednesday mornings and has grown a small and faithful following. With its wonderful team of enthusiastic volunteers, it provides 0-5s and their carers with a fun, nurturing environment in which to worship God and explore the Bible – always with lots of play, singing and delicious homemade cake! It is an important bridge for our baptism families into the regular life of the church.

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Children's Ministry continued...

Activity Days: We have revived our Activity Days for families – another bridge between our baptism families, the rest of the church community and the wider community of Fleet. A successful one was held in February 2023 in All Saints church and the community centre with a theme of 'Spring Hope' (many thanks to all who helped with that) and another is planned for October.

Cally Burch

Youth Group

- Youth group continued to meet for the first half of the year at P and J hall on Thursday evenings. We had around 7 regular young aged 12 to 15 years.
- We had discussions, craft, chill out time and shared a meal together.
- Our final get together was a canoeing evening with the Biffins at the Mytchett canal centre which we all enjoyed.
- Two of the young were confirmed in October. From September we agreed that we wouldn't meet regularly but would find ways to meet up occasionally. Many thanks to all who have helped with youth group over the years.
- Cally and Jane have also held meetings with youth leaders from Church on the Heath about sharing our time and resources, eg Youth Alpha which is now being run at Coth. Watch this space!

Jane Jones



Coffee Bar

- Over the last year the coffee bar has been open three days a week, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. We are very appreciative of the volunteers who regularly come forward and fill the roster that Ruth organises each month.
- Several of us continue to bake and donate all the cakes, biscuits and scones that are enjoyed by everyone and a big thank you to all involved.
- The combination of delicious coffee and other hot drinks and mouth watering cakes, scones and biscuits are much enjoyed by all our very loyal customers, many from the Parish but many more from our whole community. It is a wonderful place for people to meet and find a friendly face to chat to.
- Now that our church is open, it would be good to extend our 3 days to 6 as we were before Covid. Plans are in the pipeline for opening on a Saturday morning but this goal can only be achieved if we have more volunteers come forward to offer one or two sessions a month on days convenient to you so please consider this and if you would like to get involved please do leave your name with Chantelle in the office and someone will contact you.
- It would be very good to see more of you supporting this wonderful and important part of our Parish's mission in Fleet.
- Thank you to everyone involved

Ruth, Elizabeth, Lynda

Christian Aid



- Fund-raising suffered during the covid years. In 2022 we were able to resume a more normal pattern. In January we took a church collection of £1,062 for the starving children in Afghanistan, and the next month raised £1,061 for refugees from the Ukraine.
- We made the decision to give up house to house collections in 2020 so our collecting focus was on The Plant and Cake sale and church collections in Christian Aid week in May, and the Christmas concert in December.
- Our Plant and Cake Sale has very happily settled, post covid, into St Philip and St James car park. We are very grateful to Antony and Jane Jones for facilitating this, to all the gardeners and cake makers who make it possible, with a special shout out to Alan Wilson for his tomatoes, and to the selfless ladies who provide refreshments.
- In 2022 we were thrilled to make £1,333. Added onto the collections taken in the different denominational churches in Fleet and Crookham that week, the total we sent to Christian Aid was £3,114.37.

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Christian Aid continued



- As we all remember, singing became particularly problematic during and after covid. So we had two years without a Christmas fund raiser. It gave us time to reconsider what we formerly took for granted. This year we decided to go for a more low-key, home-made entertainment with minimal costs to it. We invited people to come and sing carols and listen to Christmas-themed words - poetry and prose related to the Christmas season, both sacred and secular. Our 'Christmas Miscellany' raised £611.10, an amount we were very happy with. A big thank you to all who supported us.
- Sadly, at the end of the year Jane Clarke, of Christchurch, Crookham, a pillar and inspirer of our group for many years, died. We miss her.

Jenny Thorne

Tuesday Prayer Group

- We are a small group of people, usually about 7, who meet on a Tuesday morning at 11:00am in St Philip and St James Church. We do not meet during the month of August.
- Our worship lasts about half an hour and is based on Contemplative Meditation. The leader chooses a sentence which is repeated and three short readings. After each reading there is a period of silence - about 5 minutes - during which we pray for people in need.
- Those of us who are happy to lead take it in turns.
- After our worship we usually sit and chat informally about the readings and any other topical issues.
- Our doors are always open to anyone who would like to join us for half an hour of peace and calm.

Aline Anscombe



- Afternoon Tea & Chat moved to Wednesday afternoons during 2022.
- Thank you to all who have supported these meetings.

Nancy Dawson



- Our ecumenical team rehearses in P and J and then acts out bible stories from Bob Hartman's 'Lion Storyteller Bible' to children during assembly at Fleet Infants School.
- We tell stories from the Old and New Testament to children from Y1 and Y2 and Reception children join us in the Spring term. The children are always pleased to see us and tell us afterwards what they especially enjoyed in the story.
- We have a good relationship with staff from Fleet Infants and 90 Y1 children came to P and J before Christmas to perform songs for their parents.
- 3 classes of Y2 children from Fleet Infants also visited P and J in October to find out what we do in church, doing craft and hearing about weddings and baptisms.



Jane Jones

Worship & Music

- This has been a very significant year in the growth and development of Worship and Music in the Parish of Fleet.
- Tony Cooper retired as Parish Organist and leader of the Choir at All Saints in the summer. We are very grateful for his many years of service to the parish and wish him every blessing in his retirement.
- Mike Ford has also stepped back from leading the P&J choir to focus on other areas of ministry and service in the life of the parish. Thankfully he continues to lead our Evensong choir to the delight of an ever-growing congregation for that service.
- A new programme of worship began in September providing simultaneous services at both churches at 10 am on most Sundays. This was only made possible due to the commitment and hard work of the ministry team, churchwardens, and those who lead prayers, read, serve, welcome, lead music, operate AV, and otherwise support the programme of worship at both churches.
- The new worship programme saw the introduction of a monthly Café Church service at All Saints. It also provided more informal, all age and family-based worship services, as well as a more frequent 8am BCP communion service.
- A flourishing service for preschool aged children and their carers entitled 'Baby Saints' was introduced bi weekly on Wednesday Mornings at FPCC. Initiated by Cally Burch, this is now led largely by a lay team under Cally's supervision and is a vital part of our mission and outreach.

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Worship & Music continued

- Our Musical worship has enjoyed a complete renaissance over the last year. An initial attempt to appoint a musical director for the whole parish was sadly unsuccessful. However, Robert Smith stepped forward to coordinate the provision of music for our services, and two brand new choirs were formed to serve the whole parish – the Worship Choir under the direction of Dorina Latawska, and the Parish Choir under the direction of Andrew Gray – more details follow in the Parish Music Report section.
- A wide variety of musical worship is currently enjoyed across the parish and across services including both choirs, various organists, pianists and keyboard players, the Parish Orchestra, the Evensong Choir, and various ad hoc ensembles. We are incredibly grateful to all involved for enriching our worship with their musical gifts, particularly to Anne and Robert Smith for coordinating it all!
- All Saints Church reopened for Worship at Christmas for three services and then in February for regular worship and occasional offices.
- As part of the rebuilding of All Saints we received a new grand piano and digital organ, both of which are a valuable addition to our musical resources.
- We give thanks to God for the many blessings received through our worship life together and we pray that he will raise up many more people to take part in helping to lead worship.

Mark Hayton

Parish Music Report

We started 2022 with a rota of organists for P&J (coordinated by Robert Smith) and pianists for FPCC plus monthly appearances of the P&J Band. Tony Cooper retired in July and Mike Ford continued to have oversight of the P&J Music until December, after which a trial period started for a new concept in parish music - an array of different music groups both choral and instrumental, to be used in services as required. The objectives were to offer high quality music to aid our worship and to be inclusive, giving everyone who feels guided to help lead the music a place in a music group. This plan was developed over the summer of 2022 and a job description and advert were publicised for a parish Director of Music to lead this new venture. It was regarded as exciting but a lot of work, and unfortunately no applicant was prepared to take it on for the salary offered. So it was decided in September to establish the new groups and a coordination system prior to deciding on a new job description for a Director of Music. The job was split into three parts: coordination, personnel and musical. Robert Smith became temporary Parish Music Coordinator, Anne Smith took on the personnel aspects of the music groups while the musical leadership of each group was shared between several people: Anne leads the Parish Orchestra, Dorina Latawska the Worship Choir, Andrew Gray the Parish Choir and Mike Ford the Evensong Choir.

A rota of organists, pianists and choirs is put together according to the requirements of the services planned by the ministry team. This has been on trial since the end of December 2022 and will continue until a workable system has been established. After three months, that has yet to happen because every service is still a one-off needing careful consideration.

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Parish Music Report continued

However, the new groups have all been well received by congregations and musicians alike, with several people attracted into the church to sing in the choir - welcome to Sue Hawker and Alan Munro - and others from our established congregations joining our choirs for the first time - welcome to Sally Hastings, Richard Buller, Rodney Williamson, Ruth Waller and Rosemary Goodrich.

To Mike and Tony - on their retirements from responsibility for music at P&J and All Saints respectively, our heartfelt thanks for many decades of service.

We would like to thank our many organists and pianists who have given of their time to play for our services, particularly Samuel Kannemeyer, John Nicholls, Mike Ford, Roy Woodhams, Dorina Latawska, Jean Hawkins, Liril Dexter and Graham Hix.

Choral Evensong has continued to be a most rewarding offering of musical worship and we are very fortunate to have up to 30 choristers in the Evensong Choir, coming from a radius of over 20 miles! Many thanks to Mike Ford for continuing to rehearse and conduct the Evensong Choir. It has been particularly pleasing to return to All Saints church for the first time in nearly 8 years. The acoustic is even better for choral singing than it used to be.

The trial period for the new music scheme will continue for another month or two, until we reach a position where we can assess its effectiveness and make recommendations for the future. There will be an opportunity for both music-group members and congregation to provide feedback and comments.

*Robert Smith, Parish Music Coordinator
Anne Smth, Parish Music Personnel Contact*

Aldershot Deanery Synod Report

- Deanery Synod has met over the year at P & J, St Paul's Tongham and St Peter's Farnborough.
- We have discussed Green shoots and eco-initiatives as well as hearing about Lay Training pathways with John Valentine and Sarah Slater from the diocese.
- Recently we heard from a diocesan speaker on Modern Day slavery and how this impacts every area in the diocese from people trafficking to county lines drugs gangs. At its heart are vulnerable people and we are asked to be vigilant.
- Aldershot deanery was one of the first to engage with the Parish needs process and produce individual parish development plans. These enable vision and growth in key areas and we re-visit these aims periodically.
- At the end of each meeting we gather in our regional clusters of Fleet/Church Crookham, Aldershot, Farnborough and Tongham/Ash to share good practice and encourage each other.

Jane Jones