



All Saints' Church
Putney Common
London
SW15 1HN

ANNUAL
REPORT
2023

CONTENTS

List of DCC Members 2023–2024 (*p. 3*)

Minutes of the last ACM (*p. 4–5*)

Agenda for the All Saints' Annual Church Meeting 2024 (*p.6*)

Team Vicar's Message (*p. 7*)

Church Reports (*pp. 8–25*)

1. Worship & Discipleship (*pp. 8–9*)
2. Children & Families (*pp.9– 10*)
3. Youth Work (*p. 11*)
4. Music (*p. 12*)
5. Pioneering (*p. 13*)
6. Warden (*p. 14*)
7. Parish Action (*p. 15*)
8. Senior Social (*p. 16*)
9. All Saints' Primary School (*p. 17*)
10. Safeguarding (*p. 18*)
11. Church Building & Grounds (*p. 19*)
12. Deanery Synod (*p. 20*)
13. Churches Together in Putney & Roehampton (*p. 20*)
14. Finances & the Church Accounts (*p. 21–22*)
15. Stewardship (*pp.23–24*)
16. Electoral Roll (*p. 24*)
17. DCC (*p.25*)

All Saints' Church District Church Council 2023–2024

Team Vicar:	Daniel Trott
Other members of the team:	John Whittaker
Assistant Curates:	Jane Andrews
Other Licensed Clergy:	Helena Whittaker
Churchwarden:	Sarah Thomas
Deputy churchwardens:	Alison Fleming Olly Todd
Diocesan Synod members:	Graham Shaw
Laity elected to DCC:	Eve Bradshaw (also Deanery Synod member) Gemma Duncan (DCC Secretary) Clemancy Gordon-Martin Antonio Governale James Herring Paul Jessop James Lewis (DCC Treasurer) Chris McVey Chantry Westwell
Co-opted member:	Catherine Collyer

Minutes from the Annual Church Meeting

Sunday 7th May 2023 at 12pm

All Saints' Church, Putney Common

Present: Team Vicar, the Rev. Dr. Daniel Trot (RvDT), 9 members of the DCC and 20 other members of the church attended the ACM.

Welcome: Rev. Dr. Daniel Trott opened with a prayer and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

05.23.1	Apologies:	Catherine Collyer, Rosie Taylor-Davies, Clemancy Gordon-Martin
05.23.2	Minutes of the ACM 8th May 2022	Graham Shaw proposed and Mike Biddick seconded that we accept and pass the minutes from 8 th May 2022 as a true and accurate representation of the last ACM.
05.23.3	Matters Arising	None were raised from the floor.
05.23.4	Appointment of District Churchwardens	Olly Todd and Alison Fleming were duly appointed as district wardens for the coming year. These appointments were supported unanimously by the congregation by a show of hands. RvDT – thanks Kate Innes for her dedication being Deputy Churchwarden for many years. Sarah Thomas' formal election as Church Warden will take place at the PCC ACM on 10 th May 2023.
05.23.5	Election of DCC and PCC Members	RvDT thanked those members who were stepping down this year from their various roles. Members who sit on AS DCC alone: Paul Jessop, Eve Bradshaw, Antonio Governale, James Herring continue. Gemma Duncan, James Lewis and Chris McVey elected unopposed. Members who sit on AS DCC and also elected to the PCC: Chantry Westwell and Clemancy Gordon Martin continue. PCC Members from AS congregation: Liz Hamilton and Janet Simpson continue. Catherine Collyer elected unopposed. Deanery Synod Reps: Jane Turner and Rosie Taylor Davies continue. Eve Bradshaw Elected unopposed.
05.23.6	Election of the DCC Treasurer	James Lewis has been elected to the DCC and has agreed to stand again as Treasurer and will be appointed by the DCC at the DCC Meeting following the ACM.
05.23.7	Presentation of Church Finances	James Lewis summarised the report on the church finances which were included in the annual report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £10k deficit last year mainly due to higher prices especially energy. Not all deficit has been offset by income. • Nevertheless there has been an increase in income, including: giving using the electronic plate system; central property investments; donations and grants

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will be important to keep giving buoyant to offset inflationary pressure and ensure we are financially stable. • Expenditure is still increasing. Main expenditure is the Parish Support Fund – remained same last year but will reduce as a Parish over the next 3 years. Joint decision with St Mary’s due to rising costs both churches were running deficit. Our contribution is 37% of the total and represents over half of our expenditure. <p>Questions from the floor:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What can we reduce? How can we increase giving? Ideas include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Energy – only heat church when it needs to be. Garden costs are reducing and other expenses are small so it is difficult to know where else we can cut. - Better use of space, hire for events. Church Events have been successful and more are planned. Many thanks to Sarah Thomas for organising these. They have raised money and also got the wider community involved. - Inform community about where our money goes and what it costs to run the church – e.g. people don’t know how much money we contribute to the diocese. <p>RvDT thanks James for being Treasurer and for presenting the reports.</p>
05.23.8	Presentation of Church Reports	RvDT thanked everyone involved in contributing to the contents of and compiling the annual report and invited questions and comments on the contents from the floor. None were forthcoming.
05.23.9	AOB	None RvDT thanked all those who have stepped down from positions this year for their service and welcomed all those newly in post. The congregation thanked RvDT.
05.23.10		The meeting concluded at 12.20pm with the Grace

The DCC convened immediately after the ACM at 12.21pm

The following people were appointed unanimously by the DCC:

- James Lewis as Treasurer
- Gemma Duncan as Secretary
- Catherine Collyer is co-opted onto the DCC

The meeting concluded at 12.36pm.

**Agenda for the Annual Church Meeting
Sunday 21st April 2024**

All Saints' Church, Putney Common

1. Introductory prayers
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the ACM
4. Election of Deputy Churchwardens
5. Election of DCC and PCC members
6. Presentation of the Church Finances
7. Presentation of the Church Reports
8. AOB

Following the Annual Church Meeting there will be a brief DCC meeting for the appointment of the DCC Secretary and DCC Treasurer.

Team Vicar's Message

By contrast with 2022, the last 15 months for All Saints' have largely been a case of 'steady as she goes'. But ministry is a marathon and not a sprint, so we needn't feel that this 'steadiness' is lacking in any way – All Saints' has felt in good heart, a faithful community that knows what it's here for. Getting into a rhythm in the spiritual life is no bad thing, as long as we're open to God shaking us out of it at some point. Speaking personally, a period of stability has been a very welcome background to our 150th anniversary celebrations, which kick off this month.

As I look back on the last 15 months, there is a lot to be thankful for. Attendance at services, social events, and concerts have all been good, and new people continue to step forward to take up roles as our community gradually changes. The first few months of this year have been particularly heartening, with a keen take-up of our evening Eucharists in Lent and of our anniversary birthday list, towards which the congregation and local community have both been very generous. I hope that we can build on both of these in the future, supplementing our Sunday worship with further opportunities to explore spirituality, and building stronger links outside the congregation in our part of Putney.

I hope that you will join us for some of the celebratory events with which we are marking our 150th anniversary – whether concert, garden party, or just the Parish Eucharist, there's something for everyone. Please also consider how you can support your church as we embark on the next 150 years – by volunteering, perhaps, or by generously responding to our appeals for financial help.

I commend to you the reports that follow, which describe the huge variety of activities that have taken place at All Saints' since January 2023. From next year I plan to ask for reports that cover the period from Easter 2024 to Easter 2025, which will hopefully give us a better sense of where we start from as we hold our Annual Church Meeting. (Incidentally, for several decades after the church was built in 1874 the churchwardens' annual report came out at the Dedication Festival in late April, so this reflects an earlier practice.) I am so grateful to everyone who makes All Saints' what it is. The many activities described in the reports here make clear how many people are involved, contributing in a huge variety of ways to our life together. I am very grateful to all of them, and to the teams they coordinate.

Our church committees have relatively little turnover this year. Liz Hamilton is stepping down from the PCC, but she will continue to serve All Saints' in a variety of ways. I thank her for all that she has (and will probably continue!) to do. Our Epiphany Carol Service in January was our last service with Ellie Gant at the organ console, and she is now training to be a police officer. Our new Assistant Director of Music, June Rippon, will start in September.

Our 150th year will be marked by praise of God for his many blessings on this community, as expressed in the words of this hymn which we will sing at evensong on our Dedication Festival:

Our Father, by whose servants
our house was built of old,
whose hand hath crowned her children
with blessings manifold,
for thine unfailing mercies
far-strewn along our way,
with all who passed before us,
we praise thy name today.

The Revd Dr Daniel Trott
Team Vicar

Monday 8th April 2024 (Feast of the Annunciation, transferred)

Church Reports of 2023

1. Worship & Discipleship

Worship takes place in All Saints' six days a week, with an 8.30 Said Eucharist and 10.30 Parish Eucharist on Sundays, 9.15 Morning Prayer Monday to Friday, and 10am Toddler Eucharist on Thursdays in termtime. Choral Evensong takes place approximately monthly at 6pm on a Sunday, Evening Prayer is often said in church Monday to Wednesday, and special services take place for Ash Wednesday, the Annunciation, Holy Week, Ascension Day, All Saints' Sunday, All Souls' Day, and Christmas. The Parish Eucharist is 'All Together' (tailored more to children) about once a month.

In 2023 we marked several special occasions by having guest preachers: for the Dedication Festival in 2023 the Archdeacon of Wandsworth, for All Saints' Sunday the Bishop of Kingston, and for Advent Sunday the Bishop of Southwark. The Parish Festival (formerly Parish Picnic) service was celebrated inside for the first time, improving comfort and audibility, and enabling the choirs of both churches to enhance our worship more effectively. (Naturally, we still went outside for food and games afterwards!) There were relatively few innovations in our worship in 2023, but in early 2024 we had two new ventures. The first was a beautiful Epiphany Carol Service in January, interweaving Bible readings, music, and poetry. Second, in Lent 2024 we celebrated a short Eucharist on Wednesday evenings, with candlelight and meditative music. From 9 to 14 people attended each service, and there was a real feeling of travelling through Lent together, which for many extended into Holy Week and up to Easter itself.

Attendance at Morning Prayer, a short service of readings and prayers, varies from one to seven. Jane Andrews, Graham Shaw, Clemency Gordon-Martin, and (from early 2024) Eve Bradshaw assist me in leading. Most Wednesdays all the parish clergy gather at All Saints' at 4.30pm to say Evening Prayer, at which others are also welcome. Jane and I sometimes say Evening Prayer together at 5pm on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Attendance at the 8.30 Said Eucharist has remained good (often above 20). Numbers at the 10.30 fluctuate, but average around 85. Choral Evensong sees attendance of about 35. At Christmas and Easter we welcome large numbers of people who do not usually attend church (222 in church on Easter Day in 2024!). Special services in Holy Week provided an opportunity for daily worship in the runup to Easter.

Our larger services are supported by a dedicated team of stewards, keyholders, servers and sacristans, acolytes, crucifers, thurifers, lay deacons, readers, leaders of intercessions, communion assistants, musicians (paid and unpaid), flower arrangers, Small Saints leaders, coffee rota volunteers, and others. Special mention must be made of the church administrator (Hannah Deasy) and the head sacristan (Carolyn Biddick), who do a lot behind the scenes. Together we do a very good job of providing services that are dignified yet accessible, high quality yet friendly – opportunities to worship God and build community.

As well as worship, we provide other opportunities for growing as a Christian, usually together with St Mary's. In January 2023 we ran a first communion course, in Lent 2023 an adult confirmation course was also open to anyone as a Lent course, in Advent 2023 our newly formed home groups were open for others to attend as an Advent course, in January 2024 we ran another first communion course, and in Lent 2024 we participated in a Churches Together series of talks on pilgrimage. We



also conducted 45 baptisms (25 at 12 noon and 18 at the Parish Eucharist, 1 at Morning Prayer and another at the 2023 Easter Vigil), 3 weddings and 1 marriage blessing, and 10 funerals and memorials (3 at church and 7 at crematoriums). Four adult members and six teenage members of All Saints' were confirmed in 2023, and over both Februarys 27 children from the church and the school were admitted to communion.

The Revd Dr Daniel Trott, Team Vicar

2. Children & Families

Children and family work remains a priority at All Saints' Church and continues to be healthy.

Small Saints attendance remains steady, with between 15 and 20 children attending per week. Of the 51 children registered we see 39 of these on a regular basis (twice a month). We warmly welcome all children of primary school age.

We continue to support primary-aged children in discovering who God is, what God is like, and what God does, as well as in gaining an age-appropriate understanding of Christian values and beliefs.

We include a gospel or Bible reading that links to that in the church service and then explore what it might tell us about faith and being Christian, aiming to link this to their own experiences of life and the world around us. Reflection and questioning is actively encouraged, giving opportunity to recognise different ideas and perspectives; we believe this allows for a greater foundation of understanding. It also supports the development of the children's understanding that sometimes there is no one 'right' or 'wrong' answer.

Each week we join in collective prayer at the end of Small Saints. This incorporates the themes we have been thinking about and reflects on prayer relevant to themselves and others for the coming week.

A range of methods in our delivery of Small Saints are utilized. These include reading, Godly Play, storytelling, group work and games. We also use craft or other creative activity to aid with thought processing and informal discussion. The wide range of methods provides a broader scope for involvement of children with different learning styles. It also keeps sessions stimulating and fresh for attendees.

We are fortunate to have a dedicated and committed core team of Small Saints 'shepherds'. This year has seen some new volunteers recruited to the team, which is of great importance for our ongoing success. We would however always encourage further members of our congregation at All Saints' to come forward to help with this provision.

All our shepherds continue to work extremely hard to ensure that the children within our congregation have been able to enjoy the benefits of Small Saints; without them delivery of this important aspect of faith would not be possible. As ever, a massive thank you to all of the team who give their time and effort in preparing for and leading Small Saints.

Our monthly All Together services are well attended by children and their followers, alongside wider members of the congregation. They remain an important feature of worship at All Saints', allowing the different generations to come together in worship.

We continue to offer our child-centred Baby and Toddler Eucharist. This relaxed and participative service is aimed at very young children and their carers. We have a core group of consistent attendees who arrive for the Eucharist service, with further children and carers joining for the playgroup afterwards. Here, children can play, enjoy crafting linked to the Bible story, and enjoy a healthy snack, all within a safe and relaxed environment. The playgroup concludes with music and singing.

The parish youth group aimed at children in Years 6 and 7 is now taking place fortnightly. The parish has been able to fund a part time youth worker, Luke Carson, to help support this provision. Please see 'Youth Work' for more detail.

The annual Admission to Communion course took place in January 2023 and January 2024, with services in early February. Thirty-three children from across the Parish of Putney completed the course in 2024, with thirteen of those being from our congregation at All Saints'. The service for the All Saints' was held during the 10.30am Eucharist service and was a great celebration. We continue to remain engaged with and support these children as they move forward in their faith journey.

Further occasions for children and families to engage comes through one-off events, such as building the Easter Garden and the Christingle Service. We continue to have a substantial group of children who participate as readers, crucifers and acolytes during the Sunday Parish Eucharist.

In the coming year, we will continue to nurture and develop our children and families work. There will be a drive to increase the opportunities we provide for child / family engagement, alongside ensuring that we sustain what we already offer.

Jackie Davis, Children and Families Worker

3. Youth Work

Since joining Putney Parish in late August I have been fortunate to have been involved in the many youth groups and events that I will outline in the following. My placement here is founded upon the parish's inclusion in the YMIC project, in which I am split between three churches; this provides support with the current running of youth work, building upon the strong foundation already in place. This allows quite an increase in capacity to run youth projects. I have been involved in the following groups:

Camino

'Camino' is our group for teenagers who wish to talk and think about what faith means to them at their stage in life. This group runs for young people from school year 8 (age 12 upwards) and tends to include more mature discussions around religion, politics, climate and much more (there is a real passion for cheese toasties). This group runs weekly (during term time) and averages numbers of around 8 young people each week. There is a great companionship between the young people which encourages people to attend that may not be heavily involved with the Church at present. Currently, Camino is run by the Revd Jane Andrews and me, but supported greatly by our volunteer leaders and clergy. Each week presents something different and is a great time for all involved.

Youth Group

Youth Group runs for those in school years 6, 7, and 8 (age 10–13), and is an important provision in the transition of youth not only into the church but also their movement from primary to secondary school. It is vital for young people to have the space to be themselves which youth group provides with a range of activities including baking, puzzle rooms, crazy golf and crafts. This is a well-attended group with over 20 young people registered for the group. This is a more traditional youth group and aims to bridge the gap between the community and Church for these young people, essentially getting them in the door. This used to run monthly but has now increased to bi-weekly since the Christmas period. Currently, Youth Group is run by me and Nikki, with help from volunteers.

YMIC

There have been many exciting YMIC events, including the mini-YMIC Christmas party (25 young people attending) and the latest YMIC Lent event aptly named 'Could you be tempted?', with both of these being hosted at St Mary's. These events combine young people across churches with around 80 young people attending and participating in a Taizé style service at the Lent event. Having so many young people gathered alongside members of the congregation was a truly beautiful service to witness, with those gathered stating the same. We can often all feel isolated in our faith, and to have events like this diminishes this for all those involved. The bank robbery escape experience was certainly one to help get people through the door. Last year there were 3 major YMIC events which will be the same this year also. We also will be running a Youth Camp during October half-term.

If you would like to get involved with any of the youth work or find out more please do contact Jane.Andrews@parishofputney.co.uk, nikki.cornfield@parishofputney.co.uk or me at luke@ymic-london.org. We would love to hear from you and hope to expand our youth provision in the coming year!

Luke Carson, Youth Worker

4. Music

Over the course of over 100 musical events at All Saints' over the last year, music has proved itself to be front and centre of our church and worship, and continues to reach more people than ever.

The adult choir has grown in size and in confidence, and we are now averaging a turn-out of 10-12 with a good balance between the parts. The choir are a staple part of celebrations of Christmas and Easter, and can be found lifting our worship most Sundays of the year. My personal thanks for their dedication and talents which have led to some memorable performances: Fauré's Requiem for All Souls, 2023's wonderful Christmas Carol Service, our first Epiphany Carol Service, our joint evensong with St Mary's, Putney, and our trip to Hampton Court to sing evensong to mark 400 years since the death of the composer William Byrd. The choir will visit Southwark, our diocesan cathedral, for evensong in November 2024.

The Treblemakers are now a firm fixture in our musical calendars, after rebuilding post-pandemic. They sing monthly in a range of events during the year, including the hugely popular Christmas concert, and in the Anniversary concert. The group is about 26 strong, but attendance at performances is still sometimes rather patchy, so we will keep working at making the children and their parents/carers feel like valued members of the community. Our 'Big Sings' took a break during 2023, but they will return in May 2024 to support the music-making of our local primary schools.

Our newest venture was to start 'Putney Voices' – a group for 11–16-year-olds to encourage them to keep singing whilst at secondary school. Whilst in its infancy, the group sang really well at the Christmas concert, and will be appearing in the *Messiah* in April 2024. September 2023 also saw the start of our Junior Choral Scholarship scheme for 16-19-year-olds who are keen young musicians and part of our community. It's been fantastic to see the first two scholars develop their musical skills and confidence as part of the welcoming choir. I am delighted that from September 2024 we will have 4 Junior Choral Scholarships, and I am extremely grateful for the donations. With these initiatives, we now offer musical opportunities to those from 7-77+!

Concerts are a key feature of the church's life, and amongst a growing number of external bookings, our recital series ('Tunes at Noon') is really flourishing, with attendance averaging 50+. It's a deliberately wide-ranging programme, including 'Songs from the Shows', Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*, Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* (which featured the Treblemakers, adult choir, and young singers from St Margaret's), and local superstar Robert Bridge. I'm very grateful to all the performers, and I hope we can keep spreading the word of excellent free concerts on the doorstep! The Christmas Concert was another highlight, bringing together all three of All Saints' choirs with the 1885 Singers, raising over £750 for charity. 2023's Anniversary Concert of John Rutter's *Gloria* with Kensington Brass will long stick in our minds as an exuberant celebration of the laying of the foundation stone for our beautiful church.

As ever, I am thankful to the members of the adult choir, the Treblemakers, and Putney Voices (and their parents/carers) for their time and talents this year. Special thanks also need to go to our four Senior Choral Scholars/Section Leaders, Hannah, Lizzy, Jack, and Chris, who are the bedrock for our choral music here. Their musicianship and good humour help to make the group what it is. Sadly we had a fond farewell in January 2024 as we said goodbye to Eleanor Gant who was our Assistant Director of Music for 2.5 years. She is sorely missed, but we wish her very well as she starts her training to be a detective in the Metropolitan Police.

I am also very grateful to those to support the music here at All Saints' in myriad ways; appreciation, financial support and event attendance. It wouldn't happen without you. I have no doubt that in our 150th year that music will continue to flourish in this corner of South West London.

As ever, if anyone would like to get involved with any of our choirs, or more widely, please don't hesitate to contact me: dom.allsaints@parishofputney.co.uk

Alexander Turner, Director of Music

5. Pioneering

I am reaching the end of my third year as a curate and so this is likely to be the last time I report to you in this way. I was ordained priest in September 2022 and have spent the subsequent 18 months growing into the role.

I adore presiding at the Eucharist and value the difference between the contexts where I do this. Services at All Saints' have a lightness of touch about the liturgy which is both grounding and uplifting; St Mary's has a generous openness. It took me a while to appreciate the poetry of the 8.30am service – there are a lot of words to say – but I now enjoy speaking these time-honoured phrases. With its calmness and loyal congregation, this has become one of my favourite places to preach. Similarly I love the end-of-the-day calm of Caritas and the people I meet there.

But, being a priest is about more than the Eucharist and I have also been growing as a pastor. As I have become more embedded in our congregations and communities I have been invited into deeper conversations. I have discovered that I am a skilled listener and (I hope!) I know when to speak and when to stay silent. Walking alongside some of you in the joys and struggles of life is extraordinary for me. I don't wish to sound morbid, but I have particularly valued being with people who are encountering death both those who are dying and those who mourn. I can't quite believe that I have been invited into such a precious ministry.

As I prepare to move on from Putney (at some point in the next year) I will take with me an extraordinary breadth and depth of experience for which I am grateful to John, to Daniel, to the ministerial and operational teams and to you.

These are some of my projects...

Study Space is running for two weeks again this year welcoming school students to St Mary's to revise for their summer exams. At the time of writing we have completed two days and have welcomed over 30 young people on each day, a 30% increase over the same point last year. We have a strong team involved and we are in a good position to continue this project next year whether or not I am here.

Camino is a weekly gathering of teenagers where we explore life, faith, craft and toasties. Some of us joined the Vigil at All Saints' on Easter Eve before staying overnight in the church. Toasted marshmallows taste best when cooked over the Easter fire. There are 9 loyal members of the group aged between 13 and 17. We hope that some of the older Youth Group members will join us in the autumn. I am gradually handing over leadership of this group to Luke, our YMIC youth worker.

Mount Court, semi-sheltered housing across the road from St Mary's, hosts a regular church gathering. A group of us meet there once a month or so to share worship, conversation and cake. I am borne up by the knowledge that they pray for me and my ministry.

The Revd Jane Andrews, Pioneer Curate

6. Warden Report

I am keen that at All Saints' Church, we are seen to be welcoming, inclusive and friendly in our community life as well as in our worship, which is why it is wonderful that we have been able to continue to host fabulous concerts alongside everything from Toddler Eucharists to Senior Socials, sherry after special Evensongs to coffee after our Sunday services. I feel that by socialising together, we can form more of a community and bond together as a supportive congregation.

The second in our series of Concerts to celebrate 150 years of All Saints' Church was held in April 2023 and a detailed report is provided under the Music report, however it was very well attended, with standing room only at the back. As usual, Alex Turner was relentless in his passion and enthusiasm and the choirs all worked incredibly hard to produce the high quality of music that we now expect from ASP.

The Parish Picnic in July was reborn as the 'Parish Festival' and was an integrated Parish event, led for us by Olly Todd. This was an enormous amount of hard work but was very successful and will be repeated again this year in a similar format.

As usual we celebrated our Patronal Festival with fireworks. It was bigger than ever and perhaps has almost become a victim of its own success as the numbers swelled and we struggled to keep up with the demand for tokens to spend at the bar and barbecue. We were really grateful to the people who sponsored fireworks, which was a new innovation in lieu of being able to find a corporate sponsor. This event requires the support of over 40 volunteers, all corralled and led by Alison Fleming, which is no mean feat and we are very grateful to Alison and to everyone who volunteered their time and energy.

All Saints' cannot exist as it does without the dedication and support of so many people. Although it often feels as though there are endless rota requests, without volunteers nothing would be possible and I am so grateful to everyone who gives to our church, in however small a way. It is thanks to the time and efforts of our church community that we are able to enjoy the gardens, the building, the music, the social events and the worship.

Personally, I would like to thank Alison and Olly for being amazingly supportive Deputy Churchwardens, both of whom make my role so much easier and so much more fun. Likewise, our current DCC is a great bunch of people who come to meetings with ideas and enthusiasm and opinions and beliefs, which makes for constructive and thought provoking discussions, hopefully all moving ASP in the right direction, whilst James Lewis tirelessly and assiduously produces our accounts.

I hope that we are able to build on this in the coming year – the 150th Anniversary of All Saints' Putney, when we have many more events and services planned where we can all come together to celebrate our Church life, supporting and being led by Daniel.

Sarah Thomas, Churchwarden

7. Parish Action

Parish Action has gone from strength to strength in 2023, re-establishing itself within the Parish of Putney and striving to coordinate and further the work of the Parish in these areas of the Church of England Marks of Mission:

- TEND - To respond to human need by loving service.
- TRANSFORM - To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation.
- TREASURE - To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Parish Action does this by focusing on a small number of 'mission partners', charitable organisations, and mobilising members of the congregation and wider community to support these mission partners through fundraising, volunteering, and raising awareness. Parish Action also coordinates the Parish's response to the Bishop's Lent Call and the Christmas Charities.

Parish Action is run by the Parish Action Committee, which is a subcommittee of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) constituted in accordance with Rule M32 of the Church Representation Rules.

In 2023 our mission partners were:

- Glass Door Homeless Charity – giving shelter and supporting the homeless of London.
- Regenerate London – supporting local young people and creating opportunities for them to thrive.
- Wandsworth Foodbank at the Yard– supporting the local community with emergency food, advice and support for those going through financial hardship.
- Charlie Waller Trust – supporting the education of mental health in young people.
- Christian Aid – supporting developing nations and challenging poverty.

Parish action raised £12,644 in 2023 for our Mission Partners.

The Christmas Charities we supported were the Archbishop's Joint Appeal for Gaza, Palestine, and Israel, and the Wandsworth Prison Welfare Trust.

In 2023 Parish Action said goodbye to Wandsworth Citizens, having realized that our resources were overstretched. We wish them all the best with their future endeavours.

A huge thank-you to all the people within the Parish who arranged events and supported our mission partners. Thanks to your efforts as we raised money whilst enjoying a splendid Burns Night, an exciting evening of bingo, the splash of the car wash, a lovely picnic with entertainment at the Parish Festival, wine tasting from around the world, the chill of a sleepout and a great firework display.

Further thanks to all the people who both donate food and our steadfast team who take the food to the Foodbank.

Special thanks also to the volunteers on the Parish Action Committee and our mission partner parish representatives who have worked so hard supporting the mission partner charities and organising events – Suzanne Grocott, Charlie Rennick, Heidi Wales, Eve Bradshaw, Sarah Brearley, Clemency Gordon-Martin and Sarah Thomas, and of course, our clergy, without whom none of this would be possible – the Revd John Whittaker, the Revd Dr Daniel Trott, the Revd Jane Andrews and the Revd Helena Whittaker.

A warm welcome to Alice Malcolm Green, who is joining the Parish Action committee in 2024.

Michelle Penn, Chair, Parish Action Chair

8. Senior Social

The Senior Social guest list has continued to grow, notably through new enquiries made via our page on All Saints' website. There are now 16 guests who variously attend our Monday morning coffee group. Half of our guests attend regularly.

The group comprises a mix of men and women who, with a few exceptions, are Putney based. We are open from 10 am to 11.15 every Monday morning (except for Christmas Day) to anyone over the age of 65 for freshly made coffee, tea, cake and fruit.

2023 was notable for the celebration of two of our guests' 90th birthdays and one guest's 80th which were marked with favourite cakes, cards and presents.

I'm indebted to the wonderful and committed band of volunteers who variously host, bake and clear up after the coffee mornings. A special vote of thanks to Beth Willatts, who puts together the rotas and is willing where necessary to host more than the average number of coffee mornings in order to fill the quotas; also to Alison Price for providing much-valued continuity by being present every Monday and for assisting in all aspects of the morning.

In addition to two very successful lunchtime outings to the Toby Carvery in Ewell, our guests were invited to a musical tea hosted by the Revd Daniel Trott at the vicarage in the summer. I'm very grateful to St Mary's parishioner and chorister Sarah Tyler, and her friend, baritone Anthony Scales, both part of Porcupine Productions, for curating and performing in the concert and also to Daniel for accompanying on the piano and to All Saints' administrator, Hannah Deasy, for joining Sarah in a duet.



Finally, many thanks to our guests who are the life and soul of what we do and to the Pest Houses Fund for providing the means to fund the lunchtime outings and treats.

If you're interested in joining this very special group as a guest or volunteer, please email Catherine Collyer at catherine.rice1@btinternet.com or contact All Saints' Church Administrator, Hannah Deasy, at hannah.deasy@parishofputney.co.uk (Tel. 020 8785 3951) to find out more. You will be warmly welcomed.

Catherine Collyer

9. All Saints' Primary School

This year has been one of celebration and new beginnings. We expressed our love and gratitude for our longstanding outgoing Headteacher – Ms Claire Wood – as she departed for her much deserved retirement and then welcomed Mrs Joanne Ghosh to our school community in September. There have been several significant staffing changes to the team over the past year, and so Governors have been active in integrating new joiners into All Saints' and ensuring that our vision and ethos are embedded and thriving. We have continued to support the school through our refreshed committee structures, with each team taking responsibility for a different element of engagement and forward planning. Oversight and scrutiny of the school budget and robust financial planning remain key in this challenging economic environment. The number of primary aged pupils is declining throughout Wandsworth, and it is therefore vital that we continue to effectively monitor and promote our school with the ultimate aim that All Saints' continues to be a highly desirable church school in a competitive local market.

Governors work under the guidance of Pat Ashworth, our Chair of Governors. At Christmas we said thank you and farewell to Chris Slemeck who has served as a Foundation Governor for over eight years. He will be much missed. Other Foundation Governors working alongside Daniel now include Kim Williams, Robert Wilson, Alex Millbrook, Aryan Jogiya and Madeline Knights. We have recently inducted Shelagh Harrison and Kate Innes to the board. Please do come and speak with any of us if you would like to hear more about our school.

Our Christian ethos warmly permeates throughout the school and our inclusive values continue to shine. Daniel regularly visits the school and has been supporting Mrs Ghosh in her induction. He leads collective worship several times a term, and is enjoying visiting each class in rotation to share in their individual Class Worship. Daniel welcomes KS2 into church for a distinctive themed Eucharist each month, meets with the infants for their own special services in school, and hosts the whole school and their families in church for special services such as Easter, Harvest and our Patronal Festival.

Daniel continues to engage regularly with the Pupil Faith Group in planning and leading worship and fostering a Christian ethos throughout the school. We sought to forge deeper links between church and school music, and this ambition continues with the appointment of a new Music teacher who will collaborate with Daniel in leading Praise Worship and further developing our beautiful and resonant music in church and in school. Children will be nurturing and exploring our Church Gardens in a newly invigorated outdoor learning curriculum from the autumn term.

Under the new leadership team, various curriculum reviews and working parties have been established to further integrate and develop a number of key values which are at the heart of our school. One of these is Spirituality and so we expect to dedicate time and energy in exploring our Christian distinctiveness and inclusivity – re-evaluating what makes our wonderful school truly special to all who share in it.

All Foundation Governors enjoy supporting the unique relationship between our church and our school; it is a privilege and a pleasure to see the children grow and flourish in everything they do.

*Madeline Knights, Foundation Governor,
and the Revd Dr Daniel Trott, Team Vicar*

10. Safeguarding

The Safeguarding officers at All Saints Church are Mari Watson (leading on Young People and Vulnerable Adults) and Jackie Davis (leading on Children). Both safeguarding officers keep up to date with the relevant training required for the role.

The safeguarding officers work in partnership with matters that arise, as well as with relevant others where appropriate. Over the past 12 months, we have maintained our role in identifying and responding to concerns appropriately and ensuring that safeguarding is considered an integral part of the Church culture. We strive to make All Saints' a safe, inclusive and accessible place for all.

The Safeguarding Officers responsibility is to give support and advice to any member of the church community regarding issues relating to the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults, as well as respond to safeguarding matters that occur. They also provide a link between the church team and any parishioner who may wish to raise a safeguarding query or concern. The officers work to ensure provision of a confidential and neutral space in which a concern or query can be raised. The Safeguarding Officers can be contacted directly via parish email accounts to ensure that any matters raised can be addressed in a timely, safe and confidential manner. The email addresses are available on the Parish website, on church notice boards and in the weekly service pamphlet. Details of the Diocese Safeguarding Team are also available in these locations.

When concerns are raised, they are addressed in an appropriate manner and in consultation with the Diocese (and other professionals where appropriate) to minimise risks or concerns. All Saints' Church will seek to ensure that the best interests of all involved in such cases are kept at the heart of any action, but within the remit of the safeguarding of the vulnerable person/s being the priority.

We are fortunate that within the church, good safeguarding practice is embedded, and we are in the position that a majority of Church volunteers, as well as those in paid and unpaid positions, have attended the basic training as a minimum. Safeguarding is a standard agenda item at our PCC meeting, as noted by the Diocese as good practice. There is a good awareness of safeguarding and responding to concerns amongst those who volunteer or work in a wide range of roles within our Church community. We continue to adhere to safer recruitment procedures, along with DBS checks and the taking up of references.

We continue to implement the strategy of a core group when appropriate to consider and support safeguarding of particular vulnerable people in the parish. A core group is made up of specific and limited persons within the church network who work collaboratively to seek the best and safest outcomes for all involved. The members of a core group will be chosen specifically in relation to the nature of an incident and relevance to any persons involved. The function of this group is to have a focussed, considered response to safeguarding issues that not only ensures that risks are minimised and managed, but also that the ethos of having a church that is fair and inclusive is acknowledged. Having a small group that can share and discuss information and agree decisions together means that messages and intentions are clear and unified. A core group may be the link to wider agencies where this is required.

The Safeguarding Officers and Pastoral Team remain mindful and vigilant of safeguarding issues. We encourage members of the congregation to feel able to raise any concern or query, however small, to ensure that the All Saints' Church continues to be a safe, caring and nurturing environment.

Mari Watson and Jackie Davis, Safeguarding Officers

11. Church Building

The last year has been less active on the maintenance of the church building, following the major works to the coping stones on the roof gables in 2022. We are up to date with the work recommended in the current Quinquennial Inspection report from our architect, from two years ago.

Some follow-up work from the stonemason was required in the autumn, to rectify an area of the repair which had failed due to frost, to deal with a fallen buttress and to repoint brickwork in several places.

Outside, the gutters were cleaned for the first time in several years. The gutters and downpipes also need repairing to deal with leaks, which we have deferred for this year due to the substantial cost. New noticeboards at the entrance to the garden have been donated through the 150th birthday list and will be installed later in the year.

Inside the church, all six of the red fabric roundels in the nave arch spandrels have now been removed for safety reasons. We are considering replacement with plasterwork versions of the symbols on the roundels, in keeping with the original decorative scheme of the church.

Regular internal maintenance comprises testing and servicing the heaters, electrical appliances, fire alarm system and fire extinguishers. One of the main gas heaters in the nave was replaced, as we are not yet able to switch to a renewable energy heating system. We are looking into replacing light fittings for which LED bulbs are not available, having phased in LED bulbs wherever possible.

Grounds

A dedicated band of volunteers - Tamsin, Julie and Chris plus John Beuren - meet for three hours every three weeks to maintain the garden. We are assisted by several boys who are doing their Duke of Edinburgh awards.

The grass is mowed by Kieran from Putney Cricket Club every 2 to 3 weeks. Chris donated a new hedge cutter to the church so the hedge could be trimmed at the end of last summer and it will get another cut after the birds finish nesting in June.

There was a huge amount of work required over 7 to 8 weeks to clear fallen leaves, because the trees had not been pollarded for six years. As many will have noticed, they are being pollarded as this report is written. No height can be taken off of the trees, as they are in a conservation area, and hence they can only be cut back to the previous pollard point.

Catherine Dando, with the assistance of Tamsin and Julie, has been very helpful in the last few weeks planning the planting of new shrubs, flowers and bushes into the northern border.

Finally, we have been joined recently by a number of new volunteers, who have greatly eased the burden. We would very much welcome anyone else who would like to join us for as little or as long as they can, when we meet.

*Paul Jessop, Chair, Maintenance Committee
and Chris Slemeck, Head Gardener*

12. Deanery Synod

Wandsworth Deanery Synod is a group which represents the churches within the Deanery. The Revd John Whittaker, as Wandsworth Area Dean, chairs the meetings. We meet three times a year and have presentations / talks from very interesting local people and communities. For example in 2023/24 so far we had talks from:

- Wendy Stephens the Chaplain at Wandsworth Prison, talking about her work and how we can support the Prison Chaplaincy;
- The Co-Chairs of the Wandsworth Cost of Living Commission talking about how the Commission came to be after Labour took over Wandsworth Council and identified a need to address the cost of living crisis and the emergence of a state of constant economic crisis for many in Wandsworth. The 15-member Commission has many complementary areas of expertise (food, housing, business, pastoral care, health, benefits counselling, etc.);
- Mutuality in Jewish-Christian relations (and responses to anti-Semitism) led by Rabbi Adrian Schell, Rabbi at Wimbledon Synagogue and Revd Dr Nathan Eddy, Co-Director of National CCJ

The business of Deanery Synod then covers areas such as:

- Deanery Environment Group
- Clergy moves and other clergy news
- GlassDoor Winter Update, Foodbanks and Warm Spaces, GrabSheet (a resource parishes can adapt and use to offer people dropping in to churches for support).

Deanery Synod meetings are a great opportunity to liaise and catch up with other church friends and colleagues across Wandsworth, share news and initiatives, and keep up to date on key local and national communities and initiatives which we at All Saints' can be involved with and support.

Eve Bradshaw, Deanery Synod Representative

13. Churches Together in Putney & Roehampton

Churches Together functioned as normal in 2023, with regular meetings of the main group, consisting of lay and clergy representatives from all the churches: St Mary's, All Saints', St Margaret's, Holy Trinity, St Simon's (RC), St Joseph's (RC), and Putney and Roehampton Methodists. The clergy also met separately several times.

The churches came together multiple times throughout the year. We marked the start of Advent 2023 with an Advent Carol Service held at St Margaret's before celebrating the World Day of Prayer in March. The daytime service was at Holy Trinity Church, Roehampton, and the evening service at St Mary's, Putney. The service was prepared by the Christian Women of Palestine. We were delighted that one of our congregation members was able to read in these services.

During Lent 2024, CTPR provided an excellent set of Lent Talks around the subject of 'Pilgrimage', these took place at Putney Methodist Church. It would be wonderful to see more members of the All Saints' congregation attending and taking part in this group.

Jane Turner, CTPR member

14. Finances & the Church Accounts

Before the use of reserves, the accounts for the year showed a deficit of £5,461. The overall income for the year ending 31 December 2023 was £222,641 (2022: £222,860) and the overall expenses were £228,101 (2022: 271,848). After the use of reserves for a particular maintenance item (see below), the accounts had a surplus of £1,139.

As to income:

- Regular giving (standing order / Parish Giving Scheme) increased by just over 4%.
- In line with year-on-year fluctuations, there was some increased revenue from All Saints' share in central investments, although income from lettings was down a little.
- The many successful events that took place in church were all excellently organised and run, shown by the fact that several have allowed for generous donations to nominated charities while at the same time making a net contribution to the church finances.
 - The Tunes @ Noon series has been increasing well supported, covered its costs in 2023, and has started profitably in 2024.
 - The November Fireworks raise proceeds of £1,300 for Glass Door, and generated a profit of over £2,000 to allow us to have a useful float for next year's event and purchase some useful equipment for all future events.
 - The Christmas carol concert raised £750 for charity and the Christmas services generally allowed for donations of almost £700 to be made to our two nominated charities.

As to expenses:

- The overall level of expenses was lower this year for a few reasons.
- As a parish (i.e. with St Mary's), we make a sizeable (voluntary) contribution to the Diocesan Parish Support Fund (PSF), which helps to provide financial support to other parishes which have less income and reserves. Together with St Mary's, we agreed that, due to rising costs, we would reduce our contribution over the period 2023-25 to allow us to maintain balanced accounts in both churches. All Saints' contribution in 2023 reduced by approximately £10,000.
- There has been some savings on central clergy costs.
- Specific to All Saints' alone, energy prices decreased meaning that light & heat costs in 2023 were almost half of the 2022 costs. We have agreed a new tariff which will give price predictability near this lower price through to 2025. Maintenance costs had low level items (including replacement of one heater). There was expenditure of £6,600 on stone and brickwork, to complete work done in 2022, which was taken out of reserves.

The accounts continue to recover and we aim is to establish (hopefully from 2024) a small annual surplus which will allow us to continually replenish our reserves to cover the recurring items of non-regular expenditure that frequently arise.

Many thanks to all those who have assisted me in running the All Saints' finances in 2023, including the Finance Committee, the event organisers who diligently account for their spend, and a particular thank you to Hannah Deasy for her support and attention to the day-to-day transactions. And a big thank you to all of you who make such a difference with your continuing and generous financial support of All Saints'.

All Saints' Church, Putney	
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT (Unaudited)	
For the 12m period ended 31 December 2023	
	£
INCOME	
Regular giving, Plate	147,912
Investment income	23,330
Grants, Fees, Lettings, Donations	51,398
Total income	222,641
EXPENSES	
Parish Support Fund	(107,876)
Ministry: Clergy, central & AS admin	(51,235)
Music, maintenance, church expenses	(68,990)
Total expenses	(228,101)
Prelim Income less Expenses	(5,461)
Use of funds from maintenance reserve	6,600 ¹
Income less Expenses	1,139

¹ Non-regular maintenance work (stone and brickwork pointing).

James Lewis, Treasurer of All Saints' Church

14. Stewardship

The vast majority of All Saints' income comes from regular giving and this, combined with plate giving and the use of the card machine at services, is hugely appreciated.

The DCC's preferred giving method is by a platform backed by the Diocese of Southwark, the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), which not only removes the need for a parish volunteer to claim Gift Aid but also gives the donor the ability to inflation-link the amount, which is calculated and subject to the donor's approval, yearly. We introduced this scheme in 2022.

Many thanks to the 130 or so parishioners who give regularly including the 50 who have signed up to PGS. The DCC hopes to increase both these numbers during the course of 2023/4.

The 2023 stewardship campaign was initiated at a meeting of the 'Giving Committee' in March comprising the Revd Dr Daniel Trott; James Lewis, All Saints' Treasurer; and Antonio Governale and Catherine Collyer, both members of the DCC.

Having run a comprehensive letter campaign in 2022 aimed both at existing regular givers and those who were not in regular giving, a total of approx. 200 letters, the Giving Committee recognised the disproportionate effect of the few top bands of givers on the total sums given regularly and the labour involved in a personalised door-to-door letter drop.

As a result of the 2022 experience, the Committee decided to run an email campaign to those in the lower giving brackets, and also tried to bring into regular giving those 70 or so parishioners who don't give in this way. This campaign was launched in July and was reinforced by a talk given by our Treasurer to parishioners at a service on 9 July. The Treasurer made the case that if all 200 members of All Saints' family were to start/increase their regular giving by £5-£10 per month, our parishioners would collectively be helping to increase All Saints' regular income by a notional £20,000 which would restore our church's financial health.

All regular givers received a letter in October from Richard Holman, the Parish Treasurer, outlining the Parish finances, thanking them for their regular giving and providing them with a personalised total amount given for the tax year.

The effect of the above was to elicit 14 new sign-ups, 15 increases in regular giving, 2 decreases and 2 losses with a net addition to monthly revenue of nearly £1,200 before Gift Aid.

The next phase of the stewardship campaign, the '150th birthday appeal' went live to All Saints' parishioners in January 2024 with an online invitation to buy All Saints' a birthday present. The birthday present list ranges from small discretionary items such as new dustbins at £25 each through to a 'pipe dream' of a pipe organ, costed at £800,000.

Whilst many items on the birthday wish list have been generously pledged, we're hopeful that there will be an equally generous response to the birthday website's links to sign up to or increase regular giving and to leaving All Saints' a legacy.

The first phase of a 'Red Envelope' campaign was launched before Easter in which 750 letters were mail-dropped to All Saints' neighbours inviting them to All Saints' Easter services, enclosing a leaflet about its 150th birthday events and inviting them to support All Saints' financially with a one-off gift, regular giving or a legacy.

The second phase of the 'Red Envelope' appeal is due to be delivered to its parishioners at All Saints' by the time of the ACM.

The significance of All Saints' 150th birthday invites us to evaluate the importance of our church in our lives and to consider how we can each help to guarantee its next 150 years for the benefit of our community and future generations.

Finally, I'd like to thank Hannah Deasy, All Saints' administrator, for her unfailing patience and professionalism in helping with the stewardship campaign. Many thanks to Richard and Angela Holman for keeping track of All Saints' giving and to Barry Hamilton for taking on the role of legacy co-ordinator and for his professional input into All Saints' new legacy document.

Catherine Collyer

15. Electoral Roll

The Church Electoral Roll for All Saints' Church, which is a list of people entitled to be elected to the PCC/DCC, to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and at the Annual General Meeting of the congregation of St Mary's, currently stands at 220.

We are required to revise the roll every year, removing the names of people who have moved away or who no longer habitually attend who live outside the Parish, ('habitually' taken to mean 'at least monthly') adding new people or updating contact details.

The revision will take place from 14th April and closes on 5th May.

During this period members of the congregation are invited to confirm their details we hold on the Parish Directory and current Church Electoral Roll and inform the Electoral Roll Officer of any changes to their address or contact details during the past 2 years. Please also inform the Electoral Roll Officer if they wish to be removed or if they wish to be included.

The list can be viewed every Sunday in church or contact the Electoral Roll Officer by email electoral.roll.officer@parishofputney.co.uk

The numbers will be ratified at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 22nd May 2024.

Angela Holman, Electoral Roll Officer

16. DCC

All Saints' Church's District Church Council (DCC) is responsible for the daily running of All Saints' Church, including finances, the maintenance of the building, and social events, although more detailed discussions are often delegated to subcommittees. It currently comprises all licensed clergy, our churchwarden and two deputy churchwardens, one of our Deanery Synod representatives, any Diocesan Synod representatives, nine elected laity, and up to two co-opted members. The Team Vicar is the chair, and a secretary and treasurer are appointed, who may or may not be members. The DCC has met five times since the last ACM.

All members of the DCC contribute to our work, but I would especially like to thank Gemma Duncan (DCC Secretary), Sarah Thomas, Alison Fleming, and Olly Todd (wardens), James Lewis (DCC Treasurer), Catherine Collyer (Giving Committee), and Paul Jessop (Maintenance Committee) for their commitment and hard work. Although safeguarding comes under the remit of the PCC, not the DCC, I would also like to thank our two safeguarding officers at All Saints', Marigold Hayes and Jackie Davis, whose work is usually confidential and therefore hidden from view.

With very few changes of personnel at this year's ACM, I look forward to the DCC continuing as a group of people committed to the flourishing of our church.

The Revd Dr Daniel Trott, Team Vicar