

All Saints

CHURCH, RISELEY

Church Lane, Riseley, Bedford, MK44 1ER
www.allsaintsriseley.com



Annual Church Report
2020

Contents

Rector's Report	3	ABC.....	24
Agendas and Minutes	5	All Dads & Me	24
Agenda for Meeting of Parishioners	5	All Saints Youth Club	25
Parish of All Saints Riseley.....	5	Fellowship	26
Agenda for Annual Parochial Church Meeting.....	5	Prayer Meeting	26
Parish of All Saints Riseley.....	5	Housegroups.....	26
Minutes of Annual Meeting of Parishioners ...	6	Music Group.....	27
Parish of All Saints Riseley	6	Midweek Services	27
Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting 7		Lunch Service	27
Parish of All Saints Riseley	7	Tea Service	28
Churchwardens report.....	10	Brook House Service	28
Parochial Church Council (PCC) Report 2019/20.....	11	The Riseley Net	28
Building and Fabric report	12	World Day of Prayer	29
Financial Review.....	13	All Saints All Together - Church at home 2019	29
All Saints Church Riseley – Accounts for 2019	14	Serving one another	30
Electoral Roll as reported for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2020.....	17	Training and Development	31
Administrative Information	18	Christianity Explored.....	31
Church information.....	18	Mission Support.....	32
Key personnel	18	Milsons.....	32
PCC members.....	18	Shoobox Appeal - Samaritans Purse	32
Sharnbrook Deanery Synod Report 2019	19	The Stables Christian Centre.....	33
Safeguarding	20	Festive	33
Website Development	21	Asha and Sangster.....	34
Schools	22	Links with the Wider Community	35
Riseley Primary School - School Profile 2020	22	News from the Belfry!.....	35
Aslan Club.....	22	Riseley Men's Group.....	35
Young People	23	The Riseley Village Show.....	36
Cypecs	23	Church family away from home.....	37
CYFA	23	Bible by the Beach	37
		Spring Harvest.....	37
		CPAS Ventures	38

Rector's Report



Isaacs family

Dear Friends,

Where do I begin? I am writing this report at the beginning of May on the 50th day of the COVID-19 Lockdown and I think I feel as disoriented now as I have at any stage of the Covid-19 epidemic. I suspect I am not the only one. Our world has changed in an incomprehensible way in a very short space of time and looking forward we can only guess at what the immediate future may or may not hold, which I know has left many feeling worried.

Yet our recent sermon series in 1 Peter has reminded us that Christians are anything but lost and ultimately we have no reason to be anxious or afraid. This is because we have already been found by the God of grace who seeks the lost and we have a glorious future secured for us by the blood of Jesus. It is wonderful news that should give us an inner peace in this life, no matter what our present circumstances.

However, there remains the tension in the Christian life of the 'now' and 'not yet'. Peter writes, "In this living hope you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials." (1 Peter 1:6)

As I write, I don't know what the future holds, either how long the situation will go on, what the outcome will be or what the life of our church will look like this time next year.

But as I look back on the past year, I rejoice at God's faithful and sustaining hand so clearly at work at All Saints, which helps me to keep trusting in his sovereign goodness looking forward. If God has been good to us in the past, because he is unchanging and faithful, he continues to be good to us now, and will be good to us in the future (Hebrews 13:8; James 1:17; Malachi 3:6). This means we can continue to trust that God is working out his plans and purposes for the good of those who love him and the sake of his church (Romans 8:28), and this should fill us with great confidence.

And wow, has God been good to us over the past year!

One of the things the lockdown has taught me to appreciate even more, is the freedom we enjoy to be able to gather together week by week to offer our praise and thanksgiving to God, as we grow together in our faith in Jesus and love of one another. Of course we do not always find church easy, and there are no doubt things that we would all like to change, and sometimes we might have misunderstandings with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, but I think the old saying, 'you don't know what you've got until it's gone' rings truer than ever at this time. We have a wonderful church family, and I miss terribly not being able to meet with you currently.

At least until the Lockdown began, our regular Sunday meetings had continued to be my highlight of the week, as we have gathered week by week praising Jesus together and encouraging and spurring one another on to love and good works. It seems a long time ago, but wasn't it wonderful when the Bishop of Bedford joined us to celebrate the Confirmations of Katie Nicholls, Helen Minter, Loreen Tarbard and Jackie Slater?

There have been a number of other joyous moments this past year as we have gathered together, including: The Maundy Thursday Supper we enjoyed in the Chancel; Easter Services (both 2019 and

Rector's Report

2020); Pimms & Puddings; The Men's Shooting morning; our wonderful Weekend at Home; The Church Stall at the Village Show; The Light Party; our Christmas Services – and I could go on...

The various midweek groups have continued to offer both fellowship and a point of connection for those not yet part of church life. The Home Groups, ADAM, ABC, Monday Bible Study for Mums, Prayer Meetings and the Friday night Youth Group have continued to be a blessing to many, bringing joy and bearing fruit in various different ways. What rich and exciting gospel partnership we enjoy!

However, the year has not been without sadness too. We have lost some dear brothers in Richard Slater and Richard White who for a little while we no longer see each week. We give thanks to God for their lives, their faith, and their service of the gospel and thank God that we do not grieve without hope. Others too have had ups and downs, changes and challenges, sorrows and troubles, and whilst life can be hard, isn't it wonderful to be able to support and encourage each other in the messiness of life.

We were delighted to be able to appoint Sam Toseland as our Children and Families Worker halfway through the year, and we have greatly benefitted from her ministry and service already. This is a joint appointment in partnership with Sharnbrook Evangelical Church, with Sam working 12 hours a week for each. Please continue to pray for Sam in this role.

We also give great thanks to God for the ongoing generosity of the church family. You will see from the Finance report that planned giving has increased substantially this year, which is a wonderful answer to prayer. Yet, despite seeking to be prudent in our stewardship of the resources God has entrusted to us, we are not quite 'out of the woods yet' and continue to operate at a deficit. Please keep praying for this issue, especially as we anticipate the situation with Coronavirus having a further impact on our finances.

Finally, can I say a big thank you to everybody who has been involved in church life over the past year. As you will see as you read the rest of this report, **there** is so much hard work by so many people, much of it behind the scenes, that goes on to serve one another and the work of the gospel. Can I thank you for all that you have done and continue to do as we work together to hold out the word of truth and hope that we profess to our community, as we look "to know Christ and make him known". We, no doubt, will continue to face many challenges over the coming months and maybe even years, but we do so as God's chosen people, united by the saving death of our Lord Jesus Christ, trusting in his power and strength. To him be the glory, now and forever, Amen.

With love in our risen Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,

James Isaacs

P.S. Can I say a very big thank you to everybody who has been involved in contributing to this document, and especially to Karen Houck for compiling it.

Agendas and Minutes

Agenda for Meeting of Parishioners

Parish of All Saints Riseley

Date and time to be advised

A joint meeting of:

- (a) The persons whose names are entered on the Church Electoral Roll of the Parish; and
- (b) The persons resident in the Parish whose names are entered on a Register of Local Government Electors by reason of such residence:

For the election of Church Wardens.

Agenda for Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Parish of All Saints Riseley

Immediately following the Meeting of Parishioners in All Saints Church on ***date and time to be advised***

1. For the election of parochial representatives of the laity to the Deanery Synod
2. For the election of parochial representatives of the laity to the Parochial Church Council
3. For the appointment of the Independent Examiner
4. For the consideration of:
 - (a) A report on changes in the roll since the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting;
 - (b) An annual report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council;
 - (c) The financial statements of the Council for the year ending 31st December 2019;
 - (d) A report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the Church of the Parish;
 - (e) A report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod; and
 - (f) Reports on other matters of parochial or general church interest.

Notes:

1. All persons whose names are entered upon the Church Electoral Roll of the Parish (and such persons only) are entitled to vote at the election of parochial representatives of the laity.
2. Subject to the provisions of rule 14(3)(c), a person is qualified to be elected a parochial representative of the laity if:
 - (a) Their name is entered on the Church Electoral Roll of the Parish;
 - (b) They are an actual communicant which means that they have received communion according to the use of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with the Church of England at least three times during the twelve months preceding the date of the election; and
 - (c) They are of eighteen years or upwards (for election to the Deanery Synod) or of sixteen years or upwards (for election to the Parochial Church Council).

Minutes of Annual Meeting of Parishioners

Parish of All Saints Riseley

Held at All Saints Church, Riseley on Sunday 7th April 2019 following the 11.00 am service

Revd James Isaacs welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened with prayer.

Present: Revd James Isaacs (Chair), Alison Blanchard, Sarah-Louise Cakebread, Richard Carter, Katy Carter, Mark Eddon, Sally Eddon, Susan Elks, David Foster, Val Foster, Roger Gray, Penny Gray, Judy Green, Sue Hargreaves, Martin Hargreaves, Dianne Jones, Helen Minter, Jo Nicholls, Jonathan Nicholls, Margaret Nicholls, Phillip Nicholls, Verena Pentlow, Julia Pullin, Jane Rhodes, David Shaw, Jill Shaw, Heather Shelton, Brian Simister (Treasurer), Lynda Simister, Rebecca Simister, John Skevington, Richard Slater, Jackie Slater, Catherine Smith, Diane Sollars (Secretary), Graham Sollars, Hugh Staniforth, Kathryn Staniforth, Trevor Staniforth, Philip Surridge, Robert Toseland, Samantha Toseland, Catherine Veitch, John Walker, Sue Walker, Bill Wallis, Lynne Wallis, Richard White, Rachel White, Keith Williams and Sue Williams.

Apologies for Absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Dave and Zoe Sheffield, Dudley and Janet Ferdinando, Karen Houck, Jacqui and Cliff Turner, Monica Isaacs, Roline Hargreaves and Jemma Sollars.

Minutes from the Previous Meeting: 22/04/2018

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved with an amendment to include Richard White as present and signed by James Isaacs. There were no matters arising.

Election of Church Wardens

Mark Eddon and Richard Carter both agreed that they would be willing to stand again as Church Wardens. The nomination of Richard Carter was proposed by Rachel White and seconded by Jemma Sollars, the appointment was unanimously agreed by the meeting. The nomination of Mark Eddon was proposed by Diane Sollars and seconded by Graham Sollars, the appointment was unanimously agreed by the meeting.

James thanked Mark and Richard for their work throughout the year and for the welcome and help he and his family had received with settling into church life, both from Church Wardens and the church as a whole.

The Meeting of the Parishioners was closed and followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Parish of All Saints Riseley

Held at All Saints Church, Riseley on Sunday 7th April 2019 following the Annual Meeting of Parishioners

Election of parochial representatives of the laity to the Deanery Synod

James thanked Keith Williams for his work as Lay Chair for the Deanery Synod. As Keith was willing to stand for another year in this post, he had been proposed by Richard Carter and seconded by Katy Carter, the meeting unanimously agreed his re-election.

There are currently 2 vacancies for PCC members to serve on the Deanery Synod and Brian and Lynda Simister had agreed to stand. The appointment of Brian Simister was proposed by Katy Carter and seconded Richard Carter. The appointment of Lynda Simister was proposed by Diane Sollars and seconded by Katy Carter. Both appointments were unanimously agreed by the meeting. Revd Isaacs thanks Brian and Lynda Simister for their willingness to stand for this role.

Election of parochial representatives of the laity to the Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Sue Williams, Martin Hargreaves and Dave Sheffield have come to the end of their 3 year term on the PCC. Sue Williams has made the decision to step down after 13 years service, Revd Isaacs thanked Sue for her work during that time.

Martin Hargreaves and Dave Sheffield had both agreed to re-elected. The nomination of Martin Hargreaves was proposed by Diane Sollars and seconded by Graham Sollars, the appointment was unanimously agreed by the meeting. The nomination of Dave Sheffield was proposed by Rachel White and seconded by Jemma Sollars, the appointment was unanimously agreed by the meeting.

James thanked everyone who served on the PCC.

Appointment of the Independent Examiner

Brian Simister, on behalf of the PCC confirmed that Malcolm Rowland has agreed to continue as the Independent Examiner for the accounts.

Vicar's Summary

Revd Isaacs directed everyone to the reports which had been distributed before the meeting – PCC Report including the update on the new Electoral Roll, Sharnbrook Deanery Synod Report, Finance Report, Fabric Report and the Vicar's Report.

Revd Isaacs highlighted the finance report and explained that the financial situation had been running at a deficit, however he was pleased to report that following the congregations reflection, the response has been encouraging and the church should break even next year. Revd Isaacs thanked God for this provision and the congregation for their response. Sufficient pledges have also been made to appoint a part-time Children and Families Worker and the hope is that this appointment will be made in September.

Church Wardens Report

Mark Eddon presented the following verbal report to the meeting:

A year ago in terms of our church life here at All Saints seems an absolute age ago. This time last year, we had no vicar, one Churchwarden yet we had a church family of people pulling together. Richard White and Lynda Simister were leading us skilfully through the maze of process required to get to the point of trying to secure a Vicar, Karen Houck was singlehandedly keeping us

Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting

all on the straight and narrow with her tireless efforts from the extension office; Dudley Ferdinando was masterminding the taking forward of the biggest building project in the church for years; David Foster was overseeing the upgrading of the Vicarage; Lynda and Karen were ensuring a regular guest list of visiting vicars intermingled with many of our own congregation preaching; the PCC were so committed and supportive; and you all were chipping in with all manner of unheralded commitments

The equivalent APCM at this time last year was significant for two things, firstly that it was the fastest meeting in history and secondly that in the blur that Richard Carter was sworn in as a second churchwarden (before he could change his mind!)

Since last April, there was the continuation of the interregnum (which lasted only 8 months in total) and most importantly God's wonderful hand in bringing James, Monica and the family to us, appointed in May, moved in during July and in action from September. Looking back, God's hand was so evident at every single step of the way. Our Church family while 'stretched; when without a Vicar, also grew and appreciated each other in a wonderful way during that time, and were being prepared together to be ready for a new and exciting chapter under James.

The last 7 months have been James very much get his 'feet under the table' at church and the family settling into Riseley life. As a church, we sought a Bible-based, Holy Spirit led man of God to lead us, so that we can all be challenged to know Christ more and to make Him known to others. We as Churchwardens, like you as members, are here simply to help facilitate our Lord getting a hold of us more and using us. None of us are perfect and there will be bumps in the road ahead for all of us individually and for us as a church, but together we will serve our Lord!

Revd Isaacs thanks Mark Eddon and Richard Carter for their report.

Summary of the Church Year

With the formal part of the meeting concluded Revd Isaacs encouraged everyone to step back and reflect on the life of our church family and invited the following people to provide a snapshot of their involvement in church life:

Martin Hargreaves – All Dads and Me (ADAM)

Martin explained the premise of the group as an informal meeting of Dads and their children on Saturday morning once a month. Breakfast is provided followed by games, a Bible story and a craft. The current theme is "God keeps His promises", the group are looking at Bible stories with characters relating to this theme. Numbers attending vary from 8 to 23 and the group has moved from the Church Room to the main Church building to provide more space. The main aim of the group is to provide an introduction to the Church and to progress to other groups and services. Martin would welcome more volunteer leaders. James Isaacs thanked everyone involved in the group.

Kathryn Staniforth – CYPECS Co-ordinator

Kathryn spoke about the new material which was introduced in January this year. The material is used across all the ages and is adapted according to the abilities of each group. Each week has a different teaching aim with focus on a different Bible passage. The teaching involves stories, games, prayer and craft activity appropriate to each age group. The main aim of the groups is to have fun as they learn about Jesus. The main prayer point is for more children to come so that the groups have greater numbers overall, this makes games and activities easier as well as encouraging more children to know Jesus. James said a prayer of thanks for all the leaders and the time they give, he also encouraged everyone to invite more children and families to all the groups.

Sue Walker – Church Cleaning

Sue and John Walker are regularly on the cleaning rota. Sue spoke about the role and how important it is to make the church a welcoming environment. Sue admitted that although there are sometimes practical problems with the work that needed doing, she is grateful for a church which has Bibles available and is clean and tidy. Sometimes there are visitors to the building while the church is in the process of being cleaned and this provides an opportunity to welcome people into the building and talk about the life of the church. James thanked Sue and John for their work and everyone else on the rota, he encouraged more people to join the rota to share the workload.

The verbal reports were followed by a slideshow of the Church activities throughout the year. James thanked Dave Sheffield for putting the slideshow together and thanked God for all the activities, and everyone for everything we do to hold out the love of Christ and gave thanks to the Lord in whose power we do all these things.

Richard White closed the meeting with a prayer of thanks.

Churchwardens report

Another year has 'flown' past - although probably a bit slower in these last strange weeks.....

A year ago, James, Monica and family were still finding their feet, settling in to village life and still going through the annual church cycle for the first time. In the last year though, they have become well and truly settled in, with James setting out his stall as he seeks to lead us all into a deeper relationship with Jesus.

Some changes have come our way - from a different 'forming up' for receiving communion, new Christianity Explored groups, a PCC vision day, some new evangelistic events (Shooting Targets, Pimms and Pudding) etc. Also, October saw another successful and uplifting Riseley/Bletsoe 'away day' at Kimbolton with Matthew Mason.

During the course of the last year we 'lost' (for now) our dear friend Richard White and also have been without the leadership of Lynda Simister (thankfully very much on the mend now), which has meant more on the shoulders of James. On the other hand, it has been a real blessing to have Sam Toseland getting stuck in as our part-time family and children's worker, taking on varied roles at church and at the school.

With your two wardens of little practical use(!) and both very busy at work, we very much want to go on record to thank EVERY member of the congregation who contribute in so many crucial ways - some seen upfront and some in the background - to the wonderful 'togetherness' within our church family. Those that maintain our church, who preach, who clean, who sit on the PCC, who develop the logo/website, who lead us in worship, who arrange the flowers, who lead CYPECS/youth group/ABC/ADAM, Housegroup leaders, who make coffee, who produce the rotas, who ring the bells, etc etc - you know who you are! - THANKS.

In these recent lockdown weeks, it's been great to 'meet' together online. The encouragement of so many 'attending' our services (242 'hits' on YouTube for our VE Sunday service surely equates to over 350 viewers!), the increasing numbers at our more frequent Zoom prayer meetings including Asha/Sangster and Julian/Nicky from abroad, plus families meeting, after-service 'coffee' meets, etc and Horlicks and crackers...?!

We are somewhat estranged right now, but let's continue to encourage each other remembering the wondrous truth of our Saviour's plan for His people:

'I lift my eyes to the mountains - where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip..... The Lord watches over you..... The Lord will keep you from all harm - He will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and for evermore.'

Psalm 121

Mark Eddon and Richard Carter

Parochial Church Council (PCC) Report 2019/20

The PCC consists of James Isaacs as Chair, Mark Eddon and Richard Carter as Church Wardens, Brian Simister is responsible for finance, Keith Williams and Lynda Simister are Deanery Synod representatives and Lynda is also responsible for safeguarding, Dudley Ferdinando oversees the upkeep of the church building and I serve as Secretary. Sam Toseland also attends meetings as the Children and Families Worker. The other members of the congregation currently serving on the PCC are Dave Sheffield, Jonathan Nicholls, Martin Hargreaves and Verena Pentlow.

The PCC meets every other month, except this year the March meeting was cancelled due to the coronavirus. Meetings always start with a reading and prayer and often a topical theological discussion.

This has been a very busy year with the PCC planning and overseeing many activities including, the appointment of Sam as Children and Families Worker, renewal of the church website, re-ordering of the church for All Age Services, planning evangelistic events – the women's Pimms and Pudding evening and the men's clay pigeon shooting event, Christmas services and celebrations for VE Day to name but a few.

The regular items on the agenda include safeguarding, finance, the Deanery Synod report, the building report and a report from the Children and Families Worker but perhaps the most important part of the meeting is prayer.

Please pray for the PCC, that they would make wise decisions based on sound biblical principles in order to glorify God in Riseley.

Diane Sollars

Building and Fabric report



All Saints Church, Riseley

During the past year we have again been successful in keeping our 800 year old church building a warm and welcoming place for people to meet with God and enjoy different types of fellowship together. The building is used for many events during the week in addition to our normal Sunday services including ABC, ADAM, Youth Club, Cubs & Scouts, midweek services, weddings, funerals, bell ringing etc. We obviously have a responsibility to keep the building warm, dry and maintained. Simply keeping the building in good condition requires continual maintenance and minor repairs that are quite costly

each year. The past year has seen no major repairs apart from the installation of the roof alarm (to comply with insurance requirements) but there are always small ongoing bits and pieces of maintenance, testing and replacement. Spending money on some maintenance projects can seem frustrating but timely repairs will prevent much bigger repairs further down the line.

Currently our ageing heating system is requiring some repairs that could be expensive and parts of our copper roofing that flaps in the wind is also living on borrowed time!

2020 will see another quinquennial inspection of our building and we can expect some issues to be flagged up as requiring urgent repair or attention.

We are blessed at All Saints to have many willing helpers who faithfully keep the inside of the building sparkling and tidy on a weekly basis, others who help around the churchyard or come along to the DIY cleaning and maintenance mornings twice a year to tackle some bigger jobs. A big thank you to all who joyfully give their time for this!

We hope and pray that the building will be a focus for Christians to worship for generations to come so we pray for the continued enthusiasm of our current congregation to keep our building a vibrant place of worship by financial support and practical help. We will also be exploring whether there might be opportunities for a wider base of financial support across the village and we access any potential grants to help offset costs.

Dudley Ferdinando

Financial Review

Accounts for the calendar year 2019 are shown below. There was a substantial increase in planned giving for general expenditure of about £8,000 year on year, and there had been three anonymous donations, each of £5,000, to be used exclusively for children's and families work, currently carried out by the North Bedfordshire Christian Youth Trust in conjunction with Sharnbrook Evangelical Church. General expenditure of the PCC (excluding children's/families funds) was £7,487 greater than the year's general income.

The end of year balances held by the PCC were £10,596 for general purposes, together with £14,100 to be used exclusively for children's and families work."

Brian Simister

All Saints Church Riseley – Accounts for 2019

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

INCOME	2019		2018
	UNRESTRICTED	DESIGNATED	
GIVING	53,263	15,000	45,035
FEES	3,186		1,655
TAX RECLAIM	10,983	2,500	9,913
INTEREST ETC	46		156
TOTAL INCOME	67,478	17,500	56,759
EXPENDITURE			
PARISH SHARE	52,248		48,118
VICARS EXP	1,957		579
INSUR/UTILITIES	3,160		4,350
CYPECS	101		134
OUTREACH	1,241		545
DONATIONS	7,613	3,400	8,595
BUILDING MAINT	5,908		39,478
MUSIC	995		560
SECRETARIAL	396		414
MISC	859		594
EQUIPMENT	487		217
INTERREGNUM			2,193
MARTIN BAILEY GIFT			1,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	74,965	3,400	106,777
SURPLUS FOR YEAR	(7,487)	14,100	(50,018)

ALL SAINTS CHURCH RISELEY

	2019	2018
Surplus for the period (unrestricted funds)	(7,487)	(50,018)
Surplus for the period (designated funds)	14,100	
Balance brought forward	18,083	68,101
	<hr/>	
PCC Funds 31 Dec	24,696	18,083

BALANCE SHEET 31 DECEMBER 2019

ASSETS/LIABILITIES	2019	2018
ASSETS		
CASH AT NATWEST BANK	24,696	18,083
	<hr/>	
TOTAL ASSETS	24,696	18,083

Unrestricted Funds are £10,596

Designated Funds are £14,100 and can be used only to fund children's and families work, currently through North Beds Christian Youth Trust.

Agreed by PCC on 10 February 2020

Rector of All Saints Church

James Isaacs

Honorary Treasurer

Brian Simister

Honorary Examiner

Malcolm Rowland

ALL SAINTS CHURCH RISELEY

Notes

- 1) These accounts have been produced on a cash basis
- 2) In addition to the assets shown in the balance sheet, the Diocese held assets on behalf of the PCC to the value of £1,683.09 being 88 shares in Diocese Deposit Fund and a further £1,237.76 in a bank deposit account.
- 3) Donations totalling £7,613 shown in the accounts was made up as follows

Crosslinks/Mara	£2,304	(includes one off £300 for computer purchase)
CPAS	£600	
Children's Society	£160	
Festive	£1,500	
Church Society	£200	
Stables	£500	
Asha/Sangster	£1,500	
Food Bank	£300	
St Albans	£89	
Open Doors	£320	
Beds & Herts Trust	£40	
Royal Brit Legion	£100	
	<hr/>	
	£7,613	

A donation of £3,400 was paid to North Beds Christian Youth Trust from our Designated Funds.

Electoral Roll as reported for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2020

Electoral Roll as reported for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2020

The number on the Electoral Roll is 87. The latest revision includes 3 deletions and 0 additions.

Hugh Staniforth is the Electoral Roll Officer and an application for membership can be made at any time.

Hugh Staniforth

Administrative Information

This section provides the administrative information for All Saints Church, Riseley which together with St Mary's Church, Bletsoe form the Benefice of Riseley with Bletsoe.

Church information

Church address	All Saints Church Riseley Church Lane Riseley Bedford MK44 1ER
Correspondence address	16 Church Lane Riseley Bedford MK44 1ER Tel: 01234 708234 email: allsaintsriseley@gmail.com

Key personnel

Vicar	Revd James Isaacs
Readers:	Lynda Simister
Church Wardens:	Mark Eddon elected 2010 Richard Carter elected 2018
Treasurer:	Brian Simister
PCC Secretary:	Diane Sollars elected 2018
Children and Families Worker	Sam Toseland
Deanery Synod	Keith Williams (Lay Chair) Brian Simister elected 2019 Lynda Simister elected 2019
Administrator	Karen Houck
Honorary Examiner	Malcolm Rowland
Banker	National Westminster Bank plc

PCC members

Dave Sheffield	2019 - 2022
Martin Hargreaves	2019 - 2022
Dudley Ferdinando	2017 - 2020
Graham Sollars	2017 - 2020
Verena Pentlow	2017 - 2020
Jonathan Nicholls	2018 - 2021

Sharnbrook Deanery Synod Report 2019

Sharnbrook Deanery consists of 30 churches covering an area in North Bedfordshire with a population of 30,000 people. The Deanery Synod meets 4 times a year and consists of all members of the clergy and lay representatives from the 30 parishes in the Deanery, elected for a 3 year term. During 2019, All Saints Church was represented by Lynda and Brian Simister, and Keith Williams, who is Lay Co-chair of the Deanery.

The main areas of focus in the Deanery last year were:

- Delivering the Listening to Young People project – running monthly Our Voice events for young people from across the Deanery in different parishes– please pray for guidance on how we take this work forward.
- Reviewing the Parish Share contributions made by each parish in the Deanery towards the costs of ministry and mission paid by the Diocese – please pray for God’s continuing provision for His work and wisdom when considering how to deal with the financial pressures.
- Canon Dave Middlebrook, the new Archdeacon of Bedford, addressed the Synod meeting in September and challenged us to re-imagine our model of church – please pray for inspiration, direction and passion to convert ideas to action.

In 2020 we need to build on the foundations created and start to implement the necessary changes. We will also participate fully in Diocesan initiatives to help us focus our efforts and develop our resources, in particular:

- The ‘Big Conversation’ – to develop the Living God’s Love strategy for 2025 with a focus on Growing Younger.
- Reaching New People – delivering a localised Missional Leadership training programme for 10 to 20 people in Sharnbrook Deanery.

There are opportunities for individuals to participate in Deanery initiatives - please pray about putting yourself forward for election to Deanery Synod.

If you would like more information, the Sharnbrook Deanery Mission Support Plan can be viewed at www.sharnbrookdeanery.co.uk or talk to our representatives

Keith Williams

Safeguarding

Safeguarding

The Parish of All Saints, Riseley is committed to Safeguarding Children, Young People, Victims/perpetrators of Domestic Abuse and Vulnerable Adults.

This year The PCC has adopted the Church of England's policies and best practice on safeguarding which may be found on the Church of England's website by using the following link <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/safeguarding>

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer is Lynda Simister, who may be contacted at church or by email lynda.simister@gmail.com, phone 01234 708341

Safeguarding is a standing item on the PCC agenda. There have been no incidents reported this year.

We continue to take safeguarding very seriously, our children's group leaders are DBS checked and we actively participate in the online training programme provided by the Diocese of St Albans.

Please pray for this important area of church life for the year ahead, that our church would be a safe space for everybody.

Lynda Simister

Website Development



New All Saints website – coming soon

In today's culture a website is so often the first point of contact that somebody has with any company or organisation. And so for many people who have never been to our church, our website acts as the front door, not to just our building, but our church family as it communicates a lot about us and who we are. Many people will make their mind up whether to come and visit us or not, just by looking at our

website alone. It's therefore important that the website reflects who we are and communicates that we are a friendly, welcoming group of people who know and love Christ and want to make him known.

This has led the PCC to commissioning a team of people from amongst the church family, who have been busily working away behind the scenes in order to develop a new website for our church which we hope will be inviting and informative for those both inside and out of the church. We also hope it will be a resource for our church, with sermons being available to download from the website, along with relevant documents amongst other things. Work on this new website is making steady progress and we hope to be able to go live with it soon. Please watch this space and please pray for those working hard behind the scenes on this project!

James Isaacs

Schools

Riseley Primary School - School Profile 2020



We are thanking God for another year at Riseley Primary school where the children and staff are now settled on the new school site. The Governing body has continued with regular meetings with lots of discussions and liaison with the local authority and Diocese to progress Phase two of the building works on the new site. We are pleased that all is in place now for Phase two to continue. We are thankful for the fact that as a church we have such a close link and affiliation with a Church School.

We have plenty of opportunity to be sharing Bible truths and support children's spiritual development, not just in assemblies and clubs but other areas as well. We are grateful to have a big presence on the Governing body and to have lots of good relationships with staff and parents. We are also grateful for the Parents and Teachers Association who really do an amazing job of events and fundraising alongside a village that supports and cares for the school in many ways.

The school has faced many challenges over the last few months with staff changes and illness. Catherine Veitch has taken over from Lynda Simister as chair of the Governing Body and at present the school has to manage school closure and the impact of COVID 19. Despite this all involved has worked really hard to keep the welfare of the children as their focus.

Please pray for the progression of phase 2 building works at the right time, for the school to keep getting used to the transition, for our involvement as governors (to be a good witness and gracious and generous with time etc.). Pray for year 6's especially as the school help them prepare for starting Secondary. Pray for the curriculum to still be true to the authority of scripture. Please pray for Catherine Veitch for strength and wisdom as she leads the Governing body and regularly liaise with school staff and governors during this time. Please remember in your prayers head teacher, Vicki Morrall who is currently standing in for Mr Dyson, but also managing her own school in Bedford.

Roline Hargreaves

Aslan Club

Since changing the Club to lunchtime from afterschool, we have seen a lot more children at Aslan Club. We are very thankful for the chance to share with so many children the Bible Message. We are also very grateful for the opportunity to be a presence at the School with staff support and encouragement. Please do join us in praising God for this. With half an hour it's been great to develop the club and condense our discussion time and fun game time. So far, this academic year we have gone through some New Testament passages and from Christmas we have begun a Bible overview. The children love to watch a short DVD and then talk about Gods character, plans and love for us afterwards. Last weeks discussion was all about God's omnipotence 😊 so please pray for Kathryn, James, Keith, Val, Lynda and myself, as we meet with these children week by week and explain God's Word and show the love of Christ through our actions.

Sam Toseland

Young People

Cypcs



Climbers

There are 3 children's groups that meet on Sunday mornings - Scramblers (below reception age), Climbers (reception to year 4) and Pathfinders (year 5 to year 9).

We are really thankful for the team of leaders who prepare fun and varied sessions and, with the assistance of great helpers, enthusiastically teach the bible.

A particular challenge is the "Climbers and Pathfinders together" session, held once a month, as the age range is from reception to year 9 and meeting all the children's needs is quite challenging.

Our prayer would be for growth. It would be great to see more children in these groups learning about God's love for them and encouraging one another. Of course, this would mean we would need more leaders and helpers so we need to pray for that too.

Kathryn Staniforth

CYFA



CYFA

Our young people are an important part of the church family. We have a group – CYFA – that traditionally meets on a Sunday evening 7.30 – 9.00 pm at our home in Yelden. I say usually because we have learnt to be flexible over the years, depending on the timetable of those in the group. We are currently meeting at 9.30 am on a Sunday morning except for the third Sunday in the month when we meet in the evening.

What do we do? We start with a game, and a catch-up about the previous week – usually over a juice and a snack. We then move to a bible study. Sometimes we

follow the sermon series and other times we might discuss a topic of particular interest – What does the bible say about dating? How relevant is my being a Christian to my career/university choice? Why is my friend ill? We then end with a short prayer time.

We would love to see you come along if you think this group is for you. Whilst it is aimed at 6th formers (Years 12 and 13) as part of a small church we are very flexible.

One of our traditions is a CYFA Christmas meal and games evening. This is a 3 course sit down affair where we can all catch up – particularly with the members of the group who have moved on past school.

Please contact us for further information

Katy Carter

ABC



ABC enjoying time with friends

Once a month, friendly team, and gospel opportunity. This is a great outreach for new mums, parents and carers of pre-schoolers. From a mums' perspective it is wonderful to pass the baby around for a cuddle whilst tucking into a bacon sandwich and fresh coffee! From a child's perspective, a friendly and safe atmosphere to play, interact with other toddlers and adults, have fun with crafts, enjoy a snack, story from the Bible, sing and pray. It is a chance for us to witness in our daily lives and share the Good News of Jesus through a creative story time. We have future hopes of perhaps increasing the frequency of our meetings. Please pray for those plans

and for our witness and relationship building with parents and carers. Please give thanks for the team, who make it possible to run, the contacts and relationships we have already made, and for the resources we have at All Saints for this work.

Sam Toseland

All Dads & Me



All Dads & Me playing a game

All Dads and me is a monthly Saturday breakfast club for dads and children up to primary ages. ADAM has been a great opportunity to get to know dads and children who are on the fringe of our church family and as a first step to invite to other church events.

We have continued to meet over the last year with lots of fun, games, bible stories, conversations and very tasty bacon rolls!

In addition to our Saturday breakfast, some of the dads (with no 'me!') have also joined us for an evening or two down the pub and an eventful evening of crazy golf at Rushden Lakes (amazingly with no balls lost).

Please do be letting people know about ADAM and inviting dads and children you meet to come along. It would also be great if any of you blokes who have a spare 1.5 hours free once every few months to please join us in helping out when you can, if that's you please do give me a shout. As well as being a great way to get to know folk from our village, it is also a richly well paid opportunity - with bacon rolls and coffee!

I think it's right to say we have had some challenges over the last year and possibly the year ahead, therefore we would really welcome your prayers. Please pray especially for opportunities to invite others along and for other men to help out, cooking, setting up etc., to encourage those at ADAM to come along to church or perhaps a Christianity Explored course and invitations to other events, for those who already come to ADAM and some who have attended our Sunday services and please give thanks for being able to run ADAM and the year ahead.

Thank you for your continued support with ADAM.

Martin Hargreaves

All Saints Youth Club



Dropping eggs off the balcony

The youth club runs for school years 4, 5 and 6, every other Friday in the church between 7 and 8pm. We begin with a starter activity followed by “Thinking Time” where we focus on parts of the bible. Last term we followed the 2 Ways To Live, looking at big questions such as Creation, Sin, Judgement, Forgiveness and Heaven. This term we are focussing on Jesus through the eyes of different people who met him such as Zacchaeus, Nicodemus, Pilate and Thomas. The rest of the evening is spent doing an activity such as crafts, outdoor games, circus, treasure hunts, dropping eggs off the balcony, clearing eggs off the floor, etc.

We are thankful for the 10 to 12 young people who regularly attend, the wonderful team of faithful volunteers (Dave, Trev, Keith, Sarah and Roline) who put in the time and effort to run the club, and the huge opportunity we have to share the gospel message so easily with these young people. We would like prayer for the young people to develop their relationship with God, for more leaders (could this be you?) especially as we are hoping to start a group for years 7, 8 and 9 which will only happen with more help.

Dave Sheffield

Fellowship

Prayer Meeting



Prayer meeting

The prayer meeting is perhaps the most important meeting of the month in the life of our church. The psalmist tells us that unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain (*Psalm 127*). It is a reminder that we cannot achieve anything in our own strength but that the Lord can perform great things through us in our weakness - we need to be people of prayer! And so it has been tremendously encouraging to gather together on the first Wednesday of each month in the Vicarage Extension to pray for the church, our village, each other and the world – as we commit to God our hopes, dreams, wants and needs.

It has been wonderful to hear the buzz of prayer going on during these meetings as we spur one another on in dependence on the Lord, and if you have not yet been to a prayer meeting, why not make it a priority to come and try it out this coming year?

James Isaacs

Housegroups



Housegroup - one of the Wednesday groups

It seems like an age ago since we were able to sit (usually) in the Sollars house and meet, chat, pray, study and laugh together. How times have changed but the gospel and bible hasn't.

Our Thursday Housegroup or as we like to call it THG continues and we have had overall a good year. Some challenges as we welcomed Richard White into the group to then see his cancer progress. But what a blessing to be in a group that was alive with his wisdom and faith and we pray we were able to sustain him too.

As we entered into the Easter period we stumbled to the end (ish) of a really great series on Gospel Shaped Living. More of a video short sermon led session, but challenging and encouraging in equal measure.

Recently we have reached out to some newer members and keep out THG group speaking, praying and sharing through WhatsApp. We also have had an after service virtual coffee session with Zoom and had 14 of us enjoying reflections in the service and catching up.

In these strained times the housegroups are a vital connection for us all to help us centre our lives and bring balance in our Christian walk together.

Katy Carter

Fellowship

Music Group



The Music group during Advent

Worship has been described as the highest calling and privilege in the Christian life. When we come together it is an opportunity to celebrate all that God is and all He has done for us. It's an opportunity to deepen our relationship with Him and one another, to experience His love afresh, and to be changed by the power of His Holy Spirit. We bring our heartfelt praise and worship to our amazing God through music and songs, with these being firmly rooted in the knowledge and obedience to the Word of God.

We are so blessed and thankful to God that we have such a passionate, committed and talented music group at All Saints. We really enjoy getting together for our weekly rehearsals and services, as well as those other occasions that come up during the year. First and foremost, however, is that we see being part of the band as our calling in service to Him. It is a privilege to serve God and the Church in leading the music in worship, driven by our faith, hope and love of our heavenly Father.

This past year has had its challenges in terms of physical health problems for some of the group, but we are prayerful and supportive of each member of the team.

A great deal of time and effort is spent in planning and preparing the songs and words for our services. We give thanks to God for the fantastic wealth of songs that is out there and the songs chosen are prayerfully considered so as to fit the theme of the service to proclaim the Gospel Truth, declare God's glory and offer a personal response to God. We try hard to include a balance and variety of styles from modern songs, traditional hymns, seasonal favourites, songs for the children as well as keeping our fellowship up to date with so many talented current Christian songwriters.

We are always appreciative of the support and help we receive from the church family and welcome constructive feedback that helps us all to keep moving forward together in our walk with Christ.

"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful; I know that full well" (Psalm 139:14).

Jo Nicholls and Sally Eddon

Midweek Services

Lunch Service



This is held on the first Thursday of the month. The service starts at 11.30am, and is a morning service followed by a glass of sherry or orange juice then a lunch of soup, pudding, cheese and biscuits with tea and coffee. This is organised by a dedicated team of church members. There is very loyal and regular attendance of mainly older people some of whom are from the regular congregation but for others this is their only church involvement. The average attendance is 20-25.

Fellowship

Tea Service

This is held on the third Thursday at 3.00pm. It is an informal service of a hymn, Bible reading, talk, prayers and a closing hymn. The service is followed by tea, plenty of homemade cake and lots of chat. Those who attend are a similar to those who attend the Lunch service.

Phillip Nicholls

Brook House Service



The Brook house service continues to be held on the third Thursday of the month unless it's inconvenient with them. We have a lovely service with some well-known traditional hymns that most of the residents recognise and enjoy singing. We have a short reading and talk which often relates to the resident's daily lives or times they can remember. James prays with us all and before and after the service we have a chance to say hello to friends old and new.

It's quite an uplifting time especially when the residents say they have enjoyed the service and made better when we have lots of people from our congregation as well as residents. Do come and join us if you can.

Please give thanks for the chance to reach out to the residents of Brook house and for fellowship with them. Please also give thanks for the carers and their dedication and pray that God will give them strength in trying times.

Alison Blanchard

The Riseley Net



Well, the whole world, let alone Riseley has become a very different place. I don't think even the net used to catch that huge number of fish that Jesus helped his disciples to catch would hold the whole world at the moment.

So, with everyone looking out for each other, since Covid 19 struck, I see Riseley, as evolving from a very caring community, into a caring and doing one. We are learning lessons from this truly awful pandemic, which we must never forget, about loving our neighbour.

So the net has a hole, too large to be repaired!! Let's bury it and move forward in this enhanced vision of community. Praying, caring and doing, individually and with God's help, let's make sure that there is some good coming out of COVID-19.

With love and prayers

Judy Green

World Day of Prayer



World Day of Prayer

This is an annual worldwide event when churches throughout the world gather for a service, which has been written by a different country each year. This year it was written by the ladies in Zimbabwe.

The aim is that there is a 24 hr period of prayer and praise encompassing the world. Historically we hold this service at All Saints in the afternoon on the first Friday in March. Sadly, we have yet to come up with a good time, which doesn't preclude parents collecting children from school or people not wanting to come out in the dark. Perhaps we should hold it in the morning. Suggestions would be welcome

Judy Green and Catherine Harries

All Saints All Together - Church at home 2019



Worshipping together

On Saturday 19th October 2019, jointly with Bletsoe, we had day 1 of our Weekend at Home at Kimbolton School. The day started at 9.30am and finished at 5.00pm. Matthew Mason gave three very helpful talks on the subject of prayer and encouraged us to pray bold prayers. He also gave us some practical tips to help us improve our prayer life. There were separate sessions for the children led by Karen and Gavin Jones (all the children had a brilliant time).

There was also time available to just enjoy one another's company - over a coffee, doing a quiz, having a walk or touring the castle.

We are thankful for everyone involved in arranging the day and particularly to those leading all the sessions and to the musicians. We pray for more opportunities to meet together in this way - for good teaching, great children's sessions and time spent together.

Kathryn Staniforth



Children enjoying time together

The All Saints All Together weekend was very enjoyable. The venue, food and organisation were all excellent. It was really good for our fellowship, bringing together the church families of Riseley and Bletsoe. Please give thanks for our church and pray for continued growth.

Heather Shelton

Fellowship

Serving one another



Harvest Flowers

We are thankful for the thoughtful leadership during intercessions, the clear reading from the bible and the delivery of communion bread and wine.

We are also thankful for clean brass, beautiful flower arrangements and decorations in the church, for cups of tea and coffee, cakes and biscuits, for time spent together at refreshment time and for clean and tidy surroundings in which we are able meet to worship together as part of Gods family.

Please give thanks for each person able to be on a list for Cleaning, Refreshments or Flowers and Brass and for Prayers, Reading and assistance with Holy Communion. Please pray that others may feel able to join one or more of these voluntary lists to share the load with one another.

Karen Houck

Training and Development

Christianity Explored



Since the start of 2019, 23 people have undertaken the Christianity Explored Course run at All Saints Church. These have been a mixture of people, some long time Christians who have enjoyed going back over the basics and having the opportunity to ask long held questions, whilst others have been completely new to Christian things. Whatever their stage of the Christian life, it has been really exciting to see people reading Mark's gospel and getting to know what the Bible has to say about Jesus: who he is; why he came; and what it means to follow him.

There are more courses planned for the future, and it would be great to think about if there is anybody you could invite to come along and find out about the most exciting news in the world.

Please pray for those who have done Christianity Explored in the past year that they will continue to grow in their knowledge and love of Jesus and that more from the surrounding area would want to come on the course.

James Isaacs

Mission Support

Milsons



Milson family visit to Riseley

Julian and Nicky Milson are passionate about sharing the good news of Jesus with Spanish people and training up disciples who can advance the gospel for generations to come. They live and work in Valencia (Spain's third largest city) where Julian is seconded to the IERE (Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church).

Julian leads Iglesia de Jesucristo in Valencia whilst Nicky's primary ministry is supporting Julian and look after their children, Jemima and Theo. As Nicky becomes more fluent in Spanish she will serve the church family wherever her gifts can be used.

It was great to have the whole Milson family join us for an evening in August to share how things have been going in their lives and ministry over the past year. Whilst we enjoy regularly praying for them throughout the year, and especially at our prayer gatherings, it was a joy to be able to pray with them in person (as well as enjoy a variety of Spanish delicacies...!)

Please keep praying for the Milson family, that God would bless them and use them to bring many Spanish people into his eternal kingdom.



James Isaacs

An evening with The Milsons

Shoebbox Appeal - Samaritans Purse



Shoebboxes packed and ready to go

One of the charities that we have been involved with for many years is the Shoe Box Appeal. Filling a shoebox for a child at Christmas is something that is now a church family tradition for many in our congregation and in the wider community.

The boxes are distributed via local churches in a variety of locations including: Albania, Belarus, Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Serbia, Romania, Bosnia, Kenya, Rwanda, Russia, Romania, Armenia, Bulgaria, Crimea Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Honduras.

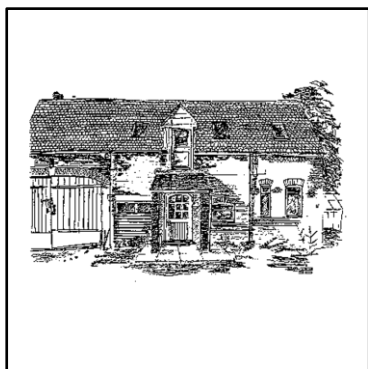
We take empty shoeboxes, wrap them in Christmas paper, fill them with gifts (guidance provided), make a donation to cover costs, pray for the child who will receive the box and drop the filled boxes off at one of the collection points.

To me the filling of the boxes is a small way of sharing in the good things God has given us.



Katy Carter

The Stables Christian Centre



The Stables Christian Centre

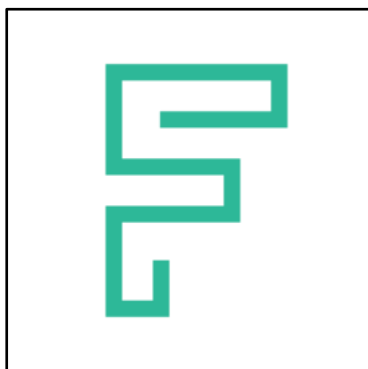
We are grateful once again for support and involvement from All Saints Church, and as we currently have one staff member, one trustee and two volunteers who are church members the links over many years happily continue.

The main work of the Stables is to offer friendship and support to adults with special needs in the context of working together to grow, make and cook items for sale. We retain an overt Christian modus operandi which includes a specific Christian “thought for the day” presented at coffee break. This sometimes sparks interesting discussions and we pray that our clients, who are of all faiths or none, will be drawn to the living Lord Jesus.

It has been a very busy year, with our numbers full on each of the two days per week we operate, and with many sales and events, including our popular monthly coffee shop. A new manager was appointed in the Autumn and she has been a great blessing, not least to me as I can start to take more of a back seat. We have seen some great changes in clients and a real growth in friendships and team spirit over both days. As I write this in March we have had to close our doors for the first time in over 30 years and are facing – as is everyone – huge challenges in maintaining those relationships, and indeed the whole Charity, into whatever the post-COVID-19 era will bring. Our confidence is in God, the Master-builder, and we pray that we can continue to be used to bring knowledge of “hope and a future” to those we serve. (*Jeremiah 29:11*)

Alison Wood (The Stables Christian Centre)

Festive



Festive

Festive works to inspire and support Christians in Further Education Colleges and Sixth Forms to live for Jesus and to equip them as they share their faith through their words and actions. We do this through personalised support, prayer and producing free resources for students, chaplains and Christian Unions. Our vision is to see an ongoing vibrant witness of Jesus in every FE College and Sixth Form in the UK.

We are so thankful for all the stories and testimonies we have received from students in our network over the last year. Stories of students boldly sharing Jesus with their friends, starting up Christian unions, running outreach events in their colleges and seeing friends encounter Jesus and the good news of the Gospel!

Please pray for students we support, particularly during the current Lock-down. That they would know that whilst many things may be grinding to a halt, the Gospel isn't. That they would be inspired to keep praying for their friends, keep meeting digitally as CU's and keep seeking to share Jesus with those they know at college through social media and in conversation. Also. Please pray for Festive as we seek to secure ongoing and consistent funding for our work.

Pete Carrington (Director- Festive)

Asha and Sangster

The church supports Asha, who spent a year with us as a care-force worker about 18 years ago, and her husband Sangster. They live in Bangalore with their children, Timothy and Ruth, and are involved in a number of Christian mission activities in Southern India:’



Asha and Sangster

- Running Stars Cafe near the university in Bangalore as an outreach to international students, who are staff and customers - through Bible studies, retreats and special events. They just finished going through Ecclesiastes, Romans and two ways to live – pray for their work with the students and that they will be able to make ends meet, because road works in front of the cafe over the last 3 months have stopped some people coming. Pray for new staff and to have a vision to reach young people.
- Working with outreach programmes of Bangalore Bible Church – pray thanks to God for a great church team which encourages them and helps them in their cafe mission.
- Helping Sangster’s parents to run Neerekshe Trust, which provides a school and also medical services in 6 villages. Last year they organised 200 medical camps to deliver dental, eye and other general medical services – pray that this mission will be a light house for many people who are in darkness.
- Owning a goat farm which suffered a loss due to regular theft, about 35 goats – pray that enough fodder can be grown during the dry season before the monsoon and that the goat farm will go through a new phase.

Asha also helps her parents in the Good Shepherd School in Kerala, and home schools Timothy and Ruth. This is exhausting for her. Pray that God will protect them on their travels and keep them in good health. They were looking forward to visiting the UK in April/May 2020 but this has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic – pray that they will be able to come in 2021.

Keith Williams

Links with the Wider Community

News from the Belfry!



Ringers Christmas party - trying the hand bells

We have managed to keep the bells ringing on a regular basis on the first and third Sunday mornings of each month as well as for weddings and special occasions in the Church year. Sadly we have been unable to ring during the "coronavirus" lockdown,

We are a band of six regular ringers and are pleased that we have had half a dozen people who have come forward to learn the art of ringing. There are three who are progressing well and will be joining in with our Sunday ringing. The others were unable to continue for various reasons

We were to ring at some weddings this year but with the present situation with the "coronavirus" we await to see what new arrangements the parties make.

We were sorry to lose our previous bell captain Tony Cerasale during the last year, but we gave him a good send off at his funeral, which was appreciated by many who knew Tony and his many years service to All Saints Church.

We are always looking for more people to come forward to try the art of "campanology" and join our merry band of ringers and enjoy the gentle workout that goes with skill. Anyone wishing give it a try, our practice night is Tuesday evening, either just turn up when you hear us ringing or give me a ring on 01234 708204 to make arrangements or to find out more.

David R Shaw
Tower Captain

Riseley Men's Group



Sporting Targets visit

The Men's Group has continued to meet regularly over the past year seeking to build genuine friendships between men in the village both inside and outside of All Saints Church. The group is a great forum for people to get to know each other in a caring and authentic way.

We continue to meet about once a month either in our homes or sometimes in Dudley's Hobbit Hut which is a nice size to promote good conversation around a warming fire! We try to cover a mix of social meetings and

community outreach including helping with many practical jobs around the village associated with the Riseley Show, Village Litter Picks, All Saints DIY days etc. This practical outreach of the group with a variety of skills and gifts is something that hopefully will continue to grow as we look for people and situations where we can help in practical ways both in Riseley and beyond. Several of the group helped in a 'DIY SOS' style large shed building job for somebody in the village last year!

We have grown in number of men during the past year and several of the group attended the 'Christianity Explored' course last autumn. We are now exploring follow up to this.

Links with the Wider Community

In addition last year we helped to plan and run a 'Sporting Targets' taster session with food and a 'Thought for the day' style talk by a friend of James that was very successful and thought provoking. We are planning a similar golf taster session this June which hopefully will also be very fruitful and well attended.

We are also planning to provide some manpower to help with some practical jobs needed at the Stables Christian Centre in Bolnhurst this summer.

Richard White and I set up the group many years ago he was such a key part of us. We were all very saddened by his death last year but everyone in the group was inspired by his clear, unwavering faith in Christ right to the end and the way he communicated this via his updates. The group still very much feels as though there is a large hole in it without him.

In 2020 we would continue to ask for prayer to continue to run a programme that is attractive to men and also provides clear opportunities and encouragement for folk to ask questions about what it means to live as a Christian.

Dudley Ferdinando

The Riseley Village Show



Trying new skills at the Village Show

What an opportunity it is being part of the Riseley Show, especially when it's not raining!

I think it's true to say, the Riseley Show is the biggest village get together with lots of stalls and fun activities that attracts many, young and old from the village and some further away too. Therefore, it was great to have a church presence again in 2019, with lots of opportunities to talk to people outside or on the fringe of our church family and give them a taster of what All Saints is all about and our passion for the gospel.

2019 saw the return of the ever popular circus skills set up and run by Dave Sheffield and this time we also ran an 'All Dads & Me' treasure hunt, which many got involved in.

We had an array of books out for children, teenagers and adults. Some we were able to give away but again it provided an opportunity to chat to people.

We also ran a craft table for some of the village school children to enjoy, this was a good chance for them to perhaps show their friends some of the things we used to do in Aslan school club.

Please do be praying for the future of this annual event and the opportunities we have as a church to be involved. If you have a spare hour on show day, please do join us.

Martin Hargreaves

Church family away from home

Bible by the Beach



As you read this, in a “normal” year, you would have had somebody standing at the front of church talking about their weekend at Eastbourne where they enjoyed great fellowship, some outstanding Christian teaching and time to think, talk and mull over their walk with Christ.

But this is not a “normal” year is it? So in 2019 we had our largest group from All Saints and St Mary’s spend the 1st bank holiday weekend in May in Eastbourne doing all those things I mentioned above. It was great.

We were planning a slightly smaller group to attend this year too. So let me tell you why I go, and am planning to in 2021. It’s a time to step away from the routine and allow yourself to listen to great Christian speakers (sometimes they can be not so great but not often), enjoy time to reflect on all that teaching with others from the church, relax, get some great book recommendations, get to know people who perhaps you haven’t got to know very well with yet and challenge yourself or rather let God challenge you to what He wants you to do or not do, whatever the case may be.

I come back refreshed, taught, perhaps admonished, knowing people in the congregation a little better and always challenged.

Let me know if you would like to go too and if we get a good number we get a group discount. The cost is usually around £80 per adult and you’ll need to book your own accommodation, there are loads of all kinds of places available in Eastbourne.

Richard Carter

Spring Harvest



Once again the Sheffield family (along with Julia Pullin as nanny for Lisa and Ruth) served on the 8-11’s team at Spring Harvest in April 2019. This year they went to Harrogate (Spring Harvest’s northern experiment) and had a fantastic time teaching the kids on the theme of unlimited prayer

(“There are no rules and no limits in prayer”). Zoe was responsible for the registration process and Dave was a team leader!

Dave Sheffield

CPAS Ventures



The Foremarke3 cooks celebrating 'working' ovens

Last August found me heading out for my third-year as a cook on a Venture, my second one at Foremarke3. This CPAS Venture holiday for young people (members) aged 14-18 was held at Foremarke Hall home of Repton school – the school building is a mix of high-tech new and manorial old set in beautiful grounds close to the Peak district. Our venture theme this year was a Superhero journey through the bible from start to finish.

2019 was an unexpectedly challenging camp for the cooks (“Aunt May” in Superhero speak)... looking forward to arriving at Foremarke3, to a brand new kitchen, we found out the night before that none of the ovens or hobs were working and wouldn't be fixed straight away – with parts needing to be flown in from Germany. So, with a quick overnight rearrange of menus and orders, I set out with a car full of cereals (bought on offer in the weeks prior), a pair

of very comfy shoes, my favourite knife and peeler and my cooks survival bag.

Our menu kept us pretty busy...in the kitchen by 6:45am and finishing for the night at about 9.30pm as the helpers prepared cocoa and snacks... each day was full, tiring and fun. Throughout the week, we served a mixture of cooked and continental breakfasts, hot and cold lunches, afternoon tea with scrummy cakes and dinner with pud to 112 members with double digit 'special' diets. Risk assessment, safety and allergens were on my to-do list, so trekking between schools with cooks and hot foods definitely made for an interesting week for me and lots of late night form filling.

The members enjoyed a full-on programme - activities, games, workshops, sports, and swimming – with bigger offsite activities too, 2019 included outings to Zorb football, climbing and bouldering, an escape room and a trampoline park. Each morning and evening the whole camp got together for Touch Down and Blast Off, which included great worship singing, informative talks (I learn so much each year) and prayers too. The youngsters had chance to ask questions and explore topics in smaller groups and we cooks we enjoyed a daily bible study from Ruth – she was amazing and sitting down for a bit was a treat too!

If you have a youngster I can really recommend the Venture programme – and if they are in the Foremarke3 age group – talk to me maybe they can join me next time. If you have ever thought about helping on a venture – do it! Yes, it is exhausting but the fellowship and the opportunity to learn about and get closer to Jesus is incredible - you can always sleep when you get home.

I have recently heard that Foremarke3 is cancelled in 2020 and that CPAS are working on a Virtual Venture. Please give thanks to God for the members that applied to come this year, pray that they will consider joining the Virtual Venture, pray that they will reapply next year, pray that others will join them and that they will all use venture as opportunity to come to know more about Jesus. Please give thanks for the leaders and helpers that volunteer and for the unity in Christ that we have in the gospel, pray that this unity would flourish, be a witness to members and be a joy to us.

I hope to be there again in August 2021.... we will see!

Karen Houck

Church family away from home

***“TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO
MAKE HIM KNOWN”***