

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH YELVERTOFT

All for Jesus



ANNUAL REPORTS

2022 - 2023

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH YELVERTOFT ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE RECTOR

This APCM has come round so fast, and I wonder why. For me it is because so much has happened. I am tempted to list everything that I can remember but will refrain. It is better to write in a more general way regarding this past year.

I know that it can sound a bit weird, but we can too easily get caught up in the busyness of our own personal lives, or in church work, that we can forget what we are here for. We are put on this Earth by God to bring honour and glory to Him, and to receive all that He has for us. We are here to grow in our relationship with our Lord and others, especially Christians.

When I look back over the past year I can see that is the case for so many of us. We are tighter, closer, more loving in our relationships with God and each other. Have we achieved things? Yes! Are we seeing our finances in the black? Yes! (Thank you, by the way). Are we seeing church growth in numbers and character growth? Yes! I am rejoicing about that. But what I am rejoicing about even more are the acts of kindness and sacrifice that I see; the depth of prayers that clearly come from a growing relationship with our Lord; the changes within some people's character that I know come from difficult and vulnerable decisions that they are making with God's help. That warms my heart, and I want to say from God, a huge "well done". I know from experience that it is not easy, but God sees all, and others are seeing God through you.

I would like to draw particular attention to our Churchwardens, Reader and clergy. They are stars, and it is especially wonderful to see them all rooting for each other. It is an expression of their growing love for each other, and I would continue to encourage everyone to support, uphold and honour them. I see them doing things so much better than I could, and it is a sign of God working powerfully amongst us.

There are still areas of our church life that need to be renewed, and it can be easy (at least for me) to only focus on what needs to change. We need to work together and be brave to address areas of concern. But we need to do it whilst not forgetting what our amazing Lord has done, and is doing great things right now.

So finally remember these words from the Bible "By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Always with love and respect,

Rev. Graeme.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH YELVERTOFT ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE PCC SECRETARY

The PCC continues to meet regularly, and in person meetings have re-commenced following the pandemic restrictions. Each meeting is preceded by Evening Prayer which enables us a quiet reflective time to prepare for the meeting ahead and pray for God's guidance in the work that we do. The PCC will continue to meet regularly over the coming year.

The meeting follows a regular agenda with members of the PCC presenting updates detailing the varied work that is required to keep the Church open for the whole community. Any major initiatives/repair work needs the approval of the PCC to proceed. As well as looking to the fabric of the building the PCC supports the rector in ensuring that mission and outreach is relevant and will allow our Church to thrive and grow.

Regular agenda items discussed at the meeting are:

- The work of the local Ministry Team.
- Reports from the Deanery Synod.
- Our current forms of worship and a review of our services and Church events to ensure that whilst maintaining traditions they are relevant and appropriate for today, enabling an active living Church. Services have been revised in some areas over the past year, which have been well received, with further changes planned.
- Mission and outreach initiatives for our Church to thrive and grow.
- Planning of Church events and Church fund raising.
- Remedial work to the fabric of the building, including arrangements for the maintenance of the church fabric and the churchyard and the payments required to carry these out. The work of the outreach project has been particularly helpful in maintaining the churchyard this year.
- Church management and finance.
- Safeguarding. A self audit is regularly undertaken and we get an update from the safeguarding officer but safeguarding remains our collective responsibility, including ongoing training on safeguarding matters as provided by the Diocese.
- Children's work. The need to inspire the future generation and welcome them in to the Church family is very important. Various events have been held this year, including those at the village school, and across the benefice.

We have enjoyed another busy year. As well as supporting the usual Sunday services, the Churchyard has been maintained and kept tidy and the church has remained open for everyone in the community, every day, during daylight hours. We are making plans for the return of the Church fete, and the Ladies' Fashion Show has also returned and was very successful.

The PCC would like to thank everyone who has supported the Church and its events over the past year, contributing their time and money to make them a success.

Our Church is a very important part of our community, allowing us to grow together in fellowship and strengthen our living faith. We encourage everyone to join us in celebrating God's unfailing love for us all and the joy, strength and peace of mind that comes from knowing Jesus.

Jenny Dymond - PCC Secretary

5 April 2023

CHURCHWARDENS REPORT

- The joint Benefice walk took place on Saturday 17th June starting in Crick with coffee, picnic lunch in Lilbourne followed by an open-air Holy Communion Service in brilliant sunshine, walk to Claycoton and then to Yelvertoft for tea and prayer reflection. Some 20 people attended and completed part or whole of the walk and it was felt that this should be an annual event. Big thanks to everyone who helped at all the Churches and for John Rogers in planning the route and walking it the week before to ensure everywhere was accessible.
- Aileen and myself attended the annual Churchwardens Admission Service at Holy Cross in Daventry on the 22nd June.
- Barsby Electrical have completed the Annual Test & Inspection of the Lightning Conductor at a cost of £160.00 on the 4th of July.
- Simon Barsby has commenced work on the repairs and decoration to the ceiling and masonry work and to repair the lead flashing joint to the South aisle roof.
- The Wakeford family have had the Sycamore trees and suckers removed on boundary hedge on the Church drive at their own expense and have offered to replace with a native tree at a later date. This was approved by Archdeacon Ricard and did not require a faculty.
- Church drive Tom Wakeford is looking into repairs to be made.
- CPBS workers continue with the Churchyard maintenance and we are thankful for their attendance.
- Still waiting for Harvey White to replace the heating elements in the Church.

Michael Larder

17 July 2023

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES REPORT

CRAFTS & CROPS/CROSS

We have had 2 of these seasonal craft afternoons, held in the local Primary School at Yelvertoft.

One at Harvest last September 2022, and another at Easter 2023.

The volunteers came armed with various different crafts suitable for the age groups and season.

They enjoyed the interaction with the children.

There were 4/5 activities followed by games and Bible story.

We sang a couple of songs and prayed.

The Crafts & Cross at Easter were particularly good as we had a good turnout of families.

Both Jo and I have enjoyed these afternoons and look forward to continuing them.

SCARF (3rd Sunday of the month @ Yelvertoft All Saints)

Cathy and Hayley have continued to offer this Sunday Craft activity, however the numbers are dropping and we never seem to get any new interest; despite extensive advertising locally.

Unfortunately, Cathy has decided to give up this activity after 10 years at the Helm.

We wish her well and thank her greatly for the superb service she has given to Jesus through these Sunday Scarf Sessions.

I know that across the years the children that did attend have really enjoyed the extensive craft she has offered.

SCHOOL BLESSINGS

This was a new initiative suggested by Jo in September 2022 and we have been regularly sending blessings to the school once a month via a Rota that Lorna set up.

The PC representative for that month then sends into the school something to cheer up the staff room, for example, Cakes, Cheese scones, sweeties and a card wishing blessings from the Church at All Saints Yelvertoft.

This has been a very nice thing to do and is well received.

Lorna Taylor

21 April 2023