

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL AGM **2018**

In 2017 we reviewed our pattern of worship at All Saints and have a service every Sunday. These services offer a variety of worship, with Morning Holy Communion, Evening Holy Communion, 11am Family Worship and Evening non-Eucharistic Worship held each month. In months with 5 Sundays, we have a United Benefice Service held in one of the Draycote Benefice Churches on a rotational basis. Whilst this new pattern of worship has taken a little time to 'bed in' attendance has remained steady at all our different forms of worship. Thanks are due to our very committed lay team who support the vicar in offering regular worship at All Saints.

A planning team has been put in place to oversee our family worship on the second Sunday, and much effort has been put into tailoring worship to appeal to all ages in an informal atmosphere. Adult attendance seems to indicate that this is popular, and we have a small core group of families with children that attend on a regular basis. We are hoping to encourage more families to attend this type of worship together, but understand there are many other calls on family time on Sundays.

A number of special services were held at All Saints during the year including a Plough Service, Women's World Day of Prayer, a Songs of Praise, a Taize Evening, Remembering Service and a Christingle Service.

The Home Worship groups continued to meet throughout the year, with a Pilgrim Course offered during Lent.

The Festival Choir, continued throughout the year, thanks go to Amanda Ross, and the Choir for supporting our worship at special services.

The Church maintained its commitment to Knightlow Primary School with termly Eucharist, Harvest and Carol services being held in the church and a church team offering a worship assembly every Wednesday at school throughout the year. Special services were held to welcome the new Reception Class children and to bless the Year 6 children as they continue their journey in education at secondary school. We also spent a whole day in school, during Reverence Week, concentrating on the Lord's Prayer, and offered a Year 6 retreat day in church to reflect on the transition between primary and secondary education.

2017 was a popular year for weddings at All Saints, with seven weddings and 2 wedding blessings. We are grateful to Margaret Pinder for organising the teams of bell ringers who ring the bells at weddings and to Peter Lewis for organising visiting bell ringers to ring the church bells which keeps the bells in good order and adds to the village ambience.

In September a section of the ceiling near to the organ collapsed. With permission from the DAC the adjacent pews were put to one side and temporary propping was introduced to stabilise the roof structure. Repair works will be undertaken during 2018.

The Book of Remembrance in the Church continues to be updated and maintained by the Stretton Ladies Fellowship.

We are also blessed with many volunteers who clean the church and provide beautiful floral decorations.

The churchyard was kept in good order throughout the year and we thank Stretton Parish Council for their donation towards the upkeep of the churchyard, making it a pleasant and peaceful place for both churchgoers and visitors. We also are very grateful to the Parish Council for their generous donation to the repair of the Church clock, which is now repaired and keeping time for the village.

Ministry outside the church took many forms, including the successful Men's Breakfast held on the second Saturday of the month at the 3 Horseshoes Pub in Princethorpe. We also support an informal all age worship called 'Celebrate @ 4' which is held on the 4th Saturday of the month alternately in Stretton & Bourton with Frankton Village Halls. We also ran a successful Holiday Bible Club in August at Knightlow School which provided a week of Bible themed activities for primary school age children.

We have also supported a number of different charities during the year, such as The Children's Society, The Royal British Legion and others, as well as taking an active part in the Benefice's commitment to a relationship with a local charity Global Care donating to their Shack School Project in the Bekaa Valley.

Social events included supporting The Christmas Fair and Village Lights switch on in December, Pudding Club in January, Supper with Friends, a showing of the 1996 production of Godspell by SOS Second Generation and an Evening of Nostalgia with music and dancing from the 1950s.

2017 was a very busy year for All Saints, but God willing, we will continue to serve Stretton on Dunsmore by meeting the many and varied spiritual and pastoral needs of the community.

Thank you