

Annual Reports for 2025 Rev Sarah Hancock

Vicar's Report:

In 2025 we saw lots of change at All Saints. We had our usual events peppered throughout the year. Our Pancake Party which had a visit from our local MP Tom Morrison and his team. Our summer gathering with Tea at the Vicarage, drinking hot chocolates with over 200 people on Halloween, and our Maker's Market ready for Christmas.

But we had a lot of changes too. We welcomed a new Church Warden, Andrew Hughes, who has been a great addition and help with Janet Ashman. We celebrated many years of service with our Reader Michael Aiers who stepped back to enjoy a slightly more relaxed retirement but continues to help out with services. We celebrated 40 years of service as a Reader with Pat Yates and welcomed Peter Budd onto the worship team as a licensed reader.

The church opened its doors for more open days for people to 'pop in' and see what we are about. The open days were slow to begin with but have gathered some momentum with the addition of a Christmas Tree Festival in December, it was wonderful to see local charities, schools and businesses contribute to the trees displayed.

We continue to build links with our local primary schools with Rev Sarah visiting Thorn Grove Primary School each half term to talk about God and faith and how that relates to the school value that half term. Greenbank Prep School, Hursthead Infant Primary School and Thorn Grove continue to visit our building to learn about what Churches are used for and how Christian worship is conducted. This often involves the children dressing up in Rev Sarah's vestments and the chasubles from the vestry.

One big change in 2025 saw the end of our Charities Committee and we give thanks for all that the team did in putting on events and raising money for local charities as well as church.

We have seen a steady rise in numbers to our Sunday 10am Communion Service. Our Wednesday and Evensong services continue to remain around the same number as they were in 2024. We have seen over our Easter and Christmas Services an increase in people attending. It has been a joy to see the fellowship grow in the congregations that attend our church especially when it has to be mentioned several times at midday on a Sunday for people to perhaps make a move home for lunch.

Our Messy Church service has seen new members come along and in 2025 it was a great joy to celebrate Lewis' baptism who attends our Messy Church. To quote Lewis 'it was the best day of his life!' Since this baptism we have had others enquire about getting baptised too.

In September of 2025 we held another Pet Service in church, it was wonderful to welcome many dogs and one brave cat to our service and the very well behaved humans too. We still host Greenbank Prep School's Carol Service and in 2025 we saw the introduction to a more informal and lively carol service.

The occasional services held at church include baptisms, weddings and funerals. Baptisms in 2025 continued to be popular with the average being one a month for the year. We held one

wedding last year and one wedding blessing of family members of our congregation. We had several funerals at church and at the Crematorium for loved ones to say goodbye to those who had died some of who were dear members of our church who are still greatly missed.

EcoChurch: Our journey to our Bronze Award is nearly there.

In 2025 our Parish Rooms have continued to be used by the community for dance groups, martial arts, Pilates, slimming world and many other events as well as one off celebrations. We have hosted hen parties, birthday parties and a baby shower. Towards the end of the year the kitchen underwent a makeover and now a refreshment breakout area exists in its place. The Rooms also hosted three events from church which were our Bingo and Quiz Night, our Harvest Lunch and Maker's Market.

We continue to be a place where All are Welcome, the life of All Saints Church seems to have got busier and busier as we see numbers through our door increase and we are now sitting in that place of no longer a small village church. We are now consistently what the church of England would call a mid-size church and I want to say thank you to you all that even though our numbers have increased and that lots of new faces have joined us in the past year the culture here is still one where all feel welcomed and at home here.

As part of the growing church here I will be looking to get some admin support as it is now at the point of me not being able to keep up with the demands of the many admin tasks that is asked of me and volunteers at church. This ranges from the usual enquires about baptisms, weddings, funerals as well as coordinating school visits, checking records, diocese requests, deanery chapter, synod and assistant rural dean information, churches together information to share and the list could go on. At this point I have not mentioned the amount of admin that volunteers here do each week to make sure you have all the right notices and to keep us compliant in our safeguarding as well as the Facebook pages and website, posters, flyers etc.

As you know we are an inclusive church but I want to in this next year officially sign us up to the Inclusive Church network, this gives us the opportunity to place posters up with a recognisable logo for people to know that this is a safe church and to be a church which **celebrates and affirms every person** and does not discriminate – something that we already state. To be a church that doesn't discriminate against disability, economic power, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity or sexuality.

To sign up to this network means people can look up for an inclusive church and find us and know that they can come here and be welcomed without judgement.

Another change for our church this year is the arrival of a curate in July – now I confess I am having to Calum represent All Saints Church at the cathedral because the curate is getting ordained the same day, I am at Silverstone so Calum is fulfilling that duty for me. Jo our Curate will be coming here as a part-time curate and will work here for 16 hours a week. This means you may not see her every Sunday morning as she splits her time over the services at church. Jo will be a non-stipendiary curate and we will be covering her travel and ministry expenses. As I know you will make her feel at home here.