



The Parish of All Saints' Church, Kenton with St Thomas' Church, Mamhead

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Of the Parochial Church Council

for the year ended
31st December 2023

Rector
The Reverend John Williams

Minister in Charge
The Reverend Julia Hocking

Bankers:
Santander, Bootle, Merseyside, L30 4GB

Independent Examiner:
Mr David Guthrie
Jayd
Mamhead Road
Kenton EX6 8LX

Our web site:
www.allsaintskenton.org.uk
www.achurchnearyou.com

**The Parochial Church Council of All Saints' Church Kenton
with
St Thomas' Church, Mamhead**

**Annual Report
for the year ended 31st December 2023**

Aim and Purpose

All Saints' Kenton and St Thomas' Mamhead Parochial Church Council (the PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the Incumbent, the Reverend John Williams, and the Minister in Charge, the Reverend Patrick Parkes in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical as well as the churches themselves, of which All Saints' is a Grade I listed building and St Thomas a Grade II listed building.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our Churches, and to become part of our parish family. When planning our activities, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and in particular the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. We try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish family, through:

- Worship and prayer: learning about the Gospel, and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus;
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish; and
- Mission and outreach work.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer All Saints Church

With the departure of the Interim Minister in January, the services at All Saints Kenton reverted to starting at 10am. A service was held every Sunday and most were Holy Communions. Until October Sunday services were covered by Rev John Williams once a month and retired clergy on the other Sundays. Rev Julia Hocking was appointed mid-October as Assistant Curate to the Five Red Churches Benefice with responsibility for Kenton and Mamhead and she led all services for the rest of the year.

The average attendance at All Saints Church on a Sunday morning was in the mid to low twenties, but the Carol and Crib services at Christmas were well attended by the village and we had a full church.

After revision of the electoral Roll, 44 names were on the list for the parish. 25 for All Saints and 19 for St Thomas.

Deanery Synod

The parish is situated in the Kenn Deanery and is allowed 3 Deanery Synod members – 2 for All Saints' and 1 for St Thomas. 1 member from St Thomas Mamhead represented the parish at Deanery Synod meetings, and Rev. Hocking was the clergy member of Synod at the last meeting of the year. There were two unfilled vacancies for lay representatives for All Saints Kenton.

The Deanery Synod provides the PCC with a link with the churches around us, and also with the Diocese as a whole. It also receives reports from the General Synod. Most meetings have a guest speaker to inform us about various movements and ministries in the larger church. In November, we had a speaker from Anna Chaplaincy to older people, for example.

Church Fabric All Saints Church

Outstanding work on the Rood Screen Tower roof and leadwork in the gulleys, identified in the 2019 Quinquennial, was completed by Barley Manor Builders in March.

In early July while attempting to clear a cast iron drainpipe, a section collapsed due to weak fixings. A local builder, Kevin Alford, re-fixed it securely.

This raised concern about the state of the tower drainpipe which is partly cast iron, and also blocked. An emergency meeting resolved to tape off the pathway from the west gate to the south side of the tower, until remedial work could be done.

A plastic drainpipe on the north west side of the church was found to be split and estimates obtained for replacement. A small water leak has developed in the clock chamber although the tower roof appears to be well sealed. It was stated in the quinquennial that sub-standard lead work replacement should be included in future maintenance plans.

In September the village suffered sudden very heavy rain and strong winds that caused flooding of around twenty houses. At the same time a ceiling panel in the church, at the East end of the south aisle, fell and water ingress was observed inside the south wall. Williams and Burrows the contractors who repaired previous ceiling panel falls, were requested to prepare an estimate for the work. The insurance loss adjuster visited the church and agreed that the insurance policy would cover repairs. An estimate was awaited at the end of the year.

An electrical fault which caused localized overheating of wiring in the Vicar's Vestry required repair. An estimate from Stewert Cole electrician was accepted and the work was completed in December. The Vestry wiring is additionally protected against a future wiring fault in this area with a residual circuit breaker.

During the investigation of the roof after the flood a crack was observed at the base of a castellation block, above the south entrance. An assessment of the cause and repair required is awaited from Williams and Burrows.

Churchyard maintenance has continued to reveal overgrown gravestones and keep ground gulleys and drains clear. A further seat has been provided in the west end of the churchyard.

A grant from the Church of England for their net zero campaign was offered to churches that identified projects that would reduce their carbon footprint. An application was made for repair of the stained glass windows which have many missing panes. This was successful and estimates for the work were provided by Andrew Johnson.

Mission and Evangelism

The Fellowship Room has been used for activities such as Lent lunches and Welcome Wednesdays. These events provide a sense of fellowship and a point of contact with the wider village community. Kenton experienced a bad flood in September causing several homes to be evacuated. The Welcome Wednesday leaders provided lunches and a warm space (and a toilet) for 10 days afterwards for those who were mopping up. It was also appreciated as a space for victims to compare notes and feel cared for.

Other Activities

Various organizations and groups, secular or part of our Church family have continued to use the church or fellowship room throughout the year.

VIVE LA MUSIQUE! A series of varied music concerts organized by Rachael Shearmur throughout the year continues to be popular with villagers and visitors alike. The money raised is shared between the church and the charity 'Vive La Musique!'.

HOLY DUSTERS – We are a team of seven ladies, who aim to go in every 4-6 weeks keep the church reasonably clean.

Sandra Laslett

Flower Report 2023

Throughout the year, the All Saints flower team has continued to provide weekly flowers in church and, as has been customary for a number of years, we were pleased to provide 40 posies for distribution at the Mothering Sunday service.

At Easter, we were grateful to those who supported the Flower Team by bringing Easter baskets for the window sills and to Alma Harding for doing the Easter garden.

In May, we were delighted to have been chosen to provide floral arrangements to celebrate the joyous occasion of the wedding of Mandy and Andrew. **At Harvest Festival**, the windowsills were again adorned with baskets heralding the change of the Season to Autumn.

At Christmas, we enjoyed decorating the church after the comparative darkness of the Advent season and windowsills were adorned with candles and poinsettias in readiness for the Christmas services.

I would like to express my thanks to Chris and Sharon Britton who regularly and, so kindly, provide us with foliage from their lovely garden and also to the team who generously donate the weekly flowers and give of their time in producing such lovely arrangements. We enjoy flower arranging in All Saints and always welcome new members to the team.

2023 has been a particularly difficult year for us as we were both shocked and sad to lose Sarah, our dearly loved member of the team, after an illness so bravely borne. She is greatly missed.

Liz Hicks

WELCOME WEDNESDAYS - This is a community initiative which happens every 1st and 3rd Wednesday morning from 10-12am. We started in May 2023. The aim is to provide somewhere in the centre of the village for those who were unable, or didn't wish, to go up to the Farm Shop for a drink and a chat. It has proved very successful and there is always a pleasant atmosphere. The Community Police drop in once a month to discuss any concerns people may have.

At the outset, we agreed that any profit would go to help community causes. At the end of 2023 we had been able to make the following donations:

Church General Fund (towards heating) - £170

Kenton Newsletter- £40

Kenton Flood Victims - £100

Sandra Laslett

ASK Friends Report 2023

During the year, the ASK Friends group arranged a number of events in the church which raised funds to support the maintenance and development of the church building. These included our popular Pub Quizzes, Art History talks, and a nature talk by Kelvin Boot: Kenton Churchyard; An Oasis in Time.

In May 2023, ASK Friends was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO) (Charity No: 1203305) and was subsequently recognized by HMRC for gift aid on personal donations. We registered with SumUp and GiveALittle to enable digital donations. A website donation option will soon be available.

The devastating flood in September with many homes flooded and damage to the church, caused great hardship. We were fortunate that Revd. Julia Hocking, the potential new minister for Kenton and Mamhead who was subsequently appointed, was actively involved with those affected. With Julia now in place, a very positive relationship is well established between the PCC and ASK Friends.

We are pleased to note the repair to the Rood Screen roof and repairs to the electrical wiring of the Vicar's Vestry, funded from PCC restricted fabric funds is now complete.

The CofE target of net zero by 2030 was welcomed, and the opportunity in the autumn to bid for a grant in the pilot scheme of "Give to Go Green", to repair broken and decaying stained glass windows, was enthusiastically supported.

Churchyard

The planned grass cutting and maintenance continues to be managed by John Perkins and Cliff Tubb with volunteers who can be called upon for work parties. The overhanging hedge at the northern boundary of the churchyard was cut back at the start of March and an additional seat was placed in the SW churchyard.

John constructed a secure waterproof display box for the "Devon's Best Churchyard 2022" prize plaque to be displayed within the churchyard. With some of the prize money from the award, snowdrop and bluebell bulbs were planted in the woodland area.

Summary

We are delighted with the progress at All Saints Church during 2023 and the part that ASK Friends have played to preserve and develop the building for future generations. We are keen to identify ways in which this beautiful church can be further developed to the benefit of church members and the wider community of Kenton.

Jane Perkins

Financial Review of All Saints Church

Total receipts on the unrestricted General Fund were £26,771 The payments from this fund totalled £30,751, thus giving a deficit of £3,980.

Income to General Fund from the Parish Giving Scheme, standing orders and weekly envelopes ('Planned Giving') decreased by over 7%. Collections, donations and other giving unfortunately decreased by just under 12%.

The Common Fund request for 2023 was set at £12,937 which was paid in full. The figure for 2024 is £13,346 an increase of 8.5%.

Reserves Policy

The PCC Reserves Policy (stated in the 2020 Report and Accounts) requires retention of a balance in the General Fund to meet anticipated church expenditure. It

is normal to have at least six months expenditure in reserve which for Kenton is just over £15,000. The general fund balance at the year end meets this criteria.

Safeguarding

The PCC are aware of the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults). There has been no Safeguarding officer in position since November 4th 2020. As a consequence the diocese has taken responsibility for being the point of contact if matters of concern need to be raised.

Volunteers

The members of the PCC would like to say A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who has helped in any way to make our church safe, clean, spiritual, caring, and inviting to visitors during 2023. We wish to express our gratitude to all the retired clergy who assisted us this year. Thank you, as well, to all who support our fundraising efforts.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The Council comprises the Incumbent, the Churchwardens, those elected to the Deanery Synod, and other members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting by those on the Electoral Roll. Members of the congregation are always encouraged to join the Electoral Roll, and to consider standing for election to the PCC. At All Saints' this year we managed to appoint three new members to the PCC, along with a churchwarden and lay vice chair. The position of PCC secretary remains vacant, but we would like to thank Mandy Hendley and Sandra Laslett for taking PCC minutes throughout the year.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, and for all financial matters. The PCC met on a by-monthly basis in person throughout the year.

Administrative Information

The Church is situated on Church Street, Kenton EX6 8LU and is part of the Deanery of Kenn, in the Diocese of Exeter.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, and the Church Representation Rules 2020) and a Charity exempted from registration with the Charity Commission.

All Saints' Church is insured by Trinitas Church Insurance Services.

This is a trading name of Arthur J. Gallagher Insurance Brokers Limited. Registered Office: Spectrum Building, 7th Floor, 55 Blythswood Street, Glasgow, G2 7AT.

Annual Report for St Thomas' Church Mamhead

2023 has been another steady year for St Thomas. We have hosted a wedding and two concerts given by the Gallery singers in addition to our regular 4th Sunday services.

We were very pleased to welcome the Reverend Julia Hocking who has taken up the role of assistant curate in the benefice and has brought a refreshing new voice to Kenton and Mamhead. We look forward to many services with her and hope to build a new and positive relationship with her and All Saints in the years to come.

2023 saw services at Mamhead taken by Mark Bate, Nick Pearkes and we were very pleased to welcome Ken Parry back to take our carol service.

One of the innovations Julia has set in place is to move the fourth Sunday service at Kenton to the afternoon so that members of the All saints congregation are encouraged to attend the Mamhead 11.15 service where we hope Julia will be able to take several of the services.

Our quinquennial inspection was carried out by Mark Ledgard in December, we still await the report, but it seems we may have to undertake some repair works to the tower. We also had a visit from Ruth of McNeilage conservation to assess the state of the ceiling decoration in the nave.

Parking still remains something of an issue though we have had some preliminary discussions with Michael Gauss at Mamhead house which will hopefully lead to an improved situation.

St Thomas, Mamhead. Financial report 2023.

2023 proved a steady year for the finances of the church.

Following advice given by Patrick Parkes and the subsequent change to a more realistic figure for participation numbers our common fund has been reduced to an amount where we feel we can afford to pay the monthly amount asked for. We have set up a standing order which began in January.

We are also in receipt of a stable monthly sum through the Parish Giving scheme which has made our finances more robust and has allowed us to commit to paying the common fund.

In December we had our quinquennial inspection and although we have not as yet received the report itself we have been informally told that there is some fairly serious work to be done on the tower. The electrical inspection revealed some areas where remedial work needs to be carried out.

We have engaged Kevin Alford to carry out regular maintenance work on the gutters and downpipes.

In addition to income from giving we have again this year enjoyed funds generated from concerts given by the Gallery singers.

Ian Shields, Treasurer, St Thomas, Mamhead. April 2024

Reserves Policy

Under normal circumstances St Thomas' has tried to maintain a balance of a little in excess of our annual insurance costs plus three months of our energy bills. This makes a total of approximately £1900 (2021).

With the combined effects of the pandemic reducing our income and the current uncertainty associated with ongoing legal fees it is felt that reserves must be substantially increased, albeit hopefully only in the short term until the situation regarding access via Mamhead House is resolved.

Ian Shields

Treasurer- St Thomas' Church

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2023 until the date this report was approved were:

Ex Officio

The Incumbent

The Rev'd John Williams

Minister in Charge

Rev. Patrick Parkes until 28 Feb, 2023

Rev Julia Hocking from 28 Oct 2023

Churchwarden

Mr Peter Bilby

Deanery Synod Rep.
Verger

2 positions vacant
Mr Peter Bilby

Elected Members

Electoral Roll Officer
Safeguarding Officer

Mrs Linda Bilby
Position vacant (Covered by Diocese)
Prof. Tim Quine
Mrs Ali Langmead
Mrs Alma Harding

Representing St Thomas'
Mamhead
Deanery Synod Rep.

Mrs Rosie Pajovic
Mr Norman Warne
Mr Ian Shields

Deputy Churchwarden
Deputy Churchwarden

Approved by the PCC on

and signed on its behalf by:

28th April 2024



Rev'd Julia Hocking (Chair)