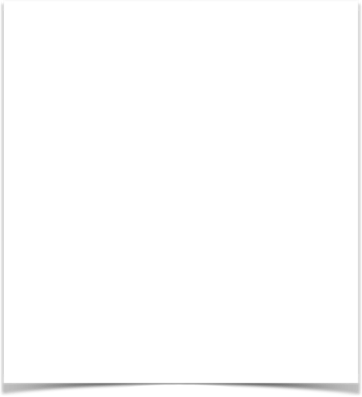


Parish Profile

All Saints Church, Great Saughall Wirral South Deanery

June 2023



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# Welcome to Saughall All Saints graphic (2).JPG

##### The Village

Saughall is a small rural village with a population of approximately 3,000. It is situated 3 miles north west of Chester at the edge of the Wirral. Saughall has excellent access to road, rail and air links. The M56 and the A55 North Wales expressway are very close and the railway station in Chester and the airports at Liverpool and Manchester provide access to the entire country and world beyond.



Village amenities include a general store and post office, doctor’s surgery, pharmacy, two public houses, tea room and other small shops. There is a children’s playground and playing fields which host both cricket and football teams of various ages. There is an extensive network of public footpaths to explore the countryside and woods on our doorstep.



We have a village hall, known as The Vernon Institute. It is used by many groups and various social events are held there. There is also a Scout hut at the playground, which is used for various events.

Saughall All Saints Primary School is Church of England Controlled and is located close to the church. It was rebuilt and reopened in 2010.



Our vicar used to visit the school to lead assemblies and the school holds festival celebrations such as Easter, Ascension, Pentecost, Harvest and Christmas in the church. The current school roll is 269 and is static.

## All Saints graphic (2).JPGIMG_1897.JPGAll Saints Church Saughall

The Team at All Saints

Church Wardens

David Small

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Licensed Lay Minister Rob Brook

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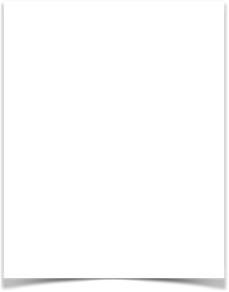
Mob: 077242571044

Email: [pentreberw1@gmail.com](mailto:pentreberw1@gmail.com) Associate Minister (SSM)

Rev’d. Gareth Thomas

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Organists and Keyboard Nancy Brook

Jane Dukes Derek Whatling Tony Harris

### Our Hope and Vision for the Future

The picture below shows something of our primary vision and hope for the future . . . a full and vibrant church.



We realise that our hope and vision isn’t just the responsibility of our new minister, it needs to be a team effort under their guidance. Over the past five years during our previous vicar’s time we made a lot of progress, despite the huge impact of Covid. Our desire is that our new minister will continue the good work started and help it to grow. The Electoral Roll is 65 and average adult Sunday service attendance is 35, predominantly retirees, but nevertheless is holding steady despite the loss of those who have passed away, balanced by new people coming to faith and moving to the village.

For the past five years we were linked to two parishes which were in a united benefice, St. Oswald’s, Backford and Holy Trinity, Capenhurst, each on a 25% basis and both of which also have their own church schools. Together with other obligations, the workload proved to be unsustainable for one minister. We are therefore moving forward in faith by seeking a minister allocated solely to All Saints who will offer Sundays plus three days of ministry per week, in return for 40% of a stipend and the provision of the vicarage. Our vision and prayer is a thriving church able to pay for 100% of our Minister’s time within five to ten years. Proclaiming the Gospel, teaching the Word and believing prayer are all central to this vision.

Our links with our nearby Primary School have begun to develop once again since Covid prevented any real interaction for a long period. During his incumbency, our minister led assemblies and visited classes which we would seek to resume once the new minister is appointed. As mentioned above, their festival celebrations are held in the church building. This year the school held a Pentecost worship service in the church for the first time, with 30 adults

attending as well as 269 children. We aim to encourage those church members who have skills or life experiences that could be used in the school as part of lessons and similar activities.

Central to the vision is encouraging more families and young people to attend church and we are beginning to explore the idea of having a musical club to develop singing and instrumental skills, for which we need people with the right abilities and time. We have the facilities for children’s activities but struggle to attract more than a handful to the Altogther Praise services. Our change to revert to a 10.00 a.m. start is intended to make services more accessible for families.

Visitors to services are welcomed at the door and are encouraged to stay for after-service refreshments in the meeting room so that they can meet and get to know us.

During the Covid pandemic we began to use our Facebook pages a lot more and realised it was playing a big part in reaching out to the community. We have continued to use it and through it aim to keep everyone up to date with services and events and make the teachings of the Bible visible to more people. Our Facebook page has 268 followers. In addition, the Saughall Village Facebook group often re-posts church events on its own pages. The messaging facility of Facebook has been used a number of times by people wanting to arrange baptisms or weddings, and it is becoming a first point of contact for many.

It would help our spiritual growth to develop midweek evening (or daytime) regular fellowship meetings for prayer and Bible study. Over the past five years these have started up then lapsed for various reasons and maybe we need some innovative ideas. We believe there is great power in prayer and a group such as this would be instrumental in people turning to the Lord.

Some of our newest church members have begun to attend services following the death and funeral of their loved ones. A death of someone close is often a time when a person’s faith is challenged. Often this has been due to the pastoral care given by the minister and from the way church members have communicated with them at the funeral, or at our annual Memorial Service or just meeting in the street. Our hope and vision is that our new minister can help us reach out to families attending for baptisms or weddings, to encourage them to continue in fellowship with the church.

The voters' register shows that there are 120 single men over 65 years in the village for whom nothing specific is done by the church. Once we have the appropriate space we would like to explore scope for perhaps a hobbies club, repair shop, walking group, all with spiritual dimensions.



A strength of All Saints is that we are a very active and cohesive church in so many ways, as the photos testify. Alongside this, we seek to become known for being a worshipping community where people from Saughall encounter the living God in their own lives. We believe that music, a love of God’s revelation in the Scriptures and lives of prayer and service are important in

developing this worshipping community, to which people will be drawn.

### Our New Minister

We are looking for a minister who can work with us and lead us all in worship, fellowship, ministry, outreach and growth to the glory of God and his son Jesus Christ and to the extension of the Kingdom of God. This includes:

* Leading our church through prayer, teaching and worship, enabling God’s people to be better disciples of Christ;
* Presiding at Holy Communion, baptisms, weddings, and funerals, walking alongside people in their joy and in their grief;
* Being committed to the mission and practices of the Church of England, working with others to build up the church through recognising where God is at work in the world and in the lives of others;
* Encouraging the congregation in living out our faith in everyday life, Monday to Saturday and not just on a Sunday;
* Providing leadership on safeguarding and encourage all to contribute toward creating a safer church;
* Contributing to the Church of England Primary School and help the church to develop

further the working relationships with the school and with local youth organisations.;

* Having a heart for the village community and become a recognised, respected, involved and accessible member of Saughall.

There are many gifts and abilities which are desirable in a new minister, but if the new appointee can fulfil the attributes listed above, and can lead the church in achieving some of the hopes and visions described, under God and with the enabling and guidance of the Holy Spirit we believe that he will supply all the other necessary gifts and resources for us to represent the Kingdom of God in this community.

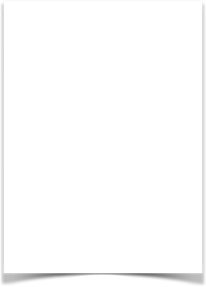
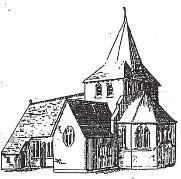
### Fellowship with Nearby Churches

Besides Saughall All Saints, the village also has a Methodist Church which was demolished in 2012 and rebuilt in 2013. It has an open, flexible worship space and kitchen.



Saughall Methodist Church

Over the Welsh border just down the hill from the village, is St. Bartholomew’s Church in Wales in Sealand. It was consecrated in 1867. In 2022 it was extensively reconfigured into an open, flexible worship space and café. The café has proved to be very popular and is open on all weekdays.



St. Bartholomew’s Church, Sealand

Even though the congregations are fairly small, the three churches each hold services every Sunday morning. With effect from the end of July 2023, the three churches will hold joint services on 5th Sundays, rotating around the three venues. The three churches also produce a joint monthly magazine and we issue invitations to each other to join together for major festivals and special events.

### A Brief History Of All Saints Saughall





A Postcard of All Saints Saughall in 1907 and today

All Saints Saughall has been part of the community for 128 years. The foundation stone was laid in 1895. The building started off fairly simply and has been extended over the years.

The Vernon family of Shotwick Park were very generous over the years enabling the additions of a chancel, sanctuary, organ chamber, vestry and spire. The family also played a great part in All Saints becoming a parish church in its own right.

In 2000, a large part of the north side of the church was remodelled providing a meeting room, small kitchen, disabled friendly toilet and storage.

Further improvements have been made more recently. All Saints now has a larger kitchen, purpose built storeroom and a disabled friendly exit.

### Worship at All Saints Saughall

Early during the last incumbency the time of worship was changed from 10.30am to 9.30am as the vicar held another service at one or other of the churches for which he had responsibility. We intend to move to 10.00 am services from August 2023 as we feel the earlier start made it harder for some members to attend, particularly with families. Booklets based on Common Worship relevant to the different seasons of the church’s year are followed. A variety of services and styles is enjoyed. There is a good mix of formal and informal, traditional and modern, evangelistic and ecumenical. Apart from the 3rd Sunday, music is led on the pipe organ. We generally use the Ancient and Modern hymnbook (2013 compilation). In 2018 the church had a large screen TV installed and this has enabled us to learn new songs, play video clips, etc. We are currently investigating the installation of internet access and wi-fi in the church, which will increase our scope. Our services are advertised on our Facebook page and circulated around other village social media groups.

Pattern of services

First Sunday of the month

Holy Communion (Morning Praise during the vacancy, based on Common Worship morning

prayer).

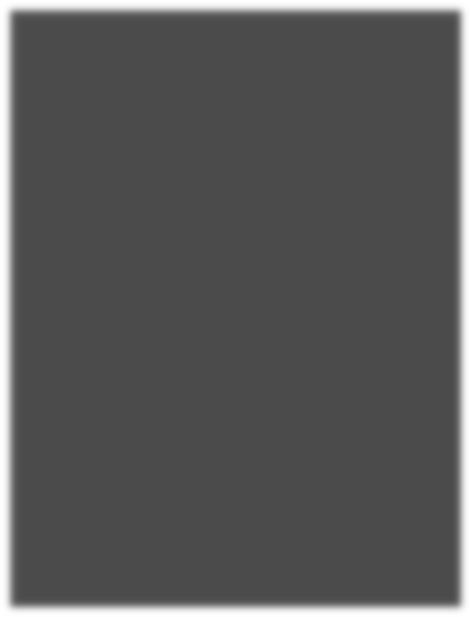
Second Sunday of the month Holy Communion

Third Sunday of the month

Altogether Praise, a more informal non-communion service geared for families. We use contemporary music and visual slides or videos form a greater part in these services. We also have different activities for the children. Having said that, attracting more than handful of children has proved to be very difficult.



Fourth Sunday of the month Holy Communion



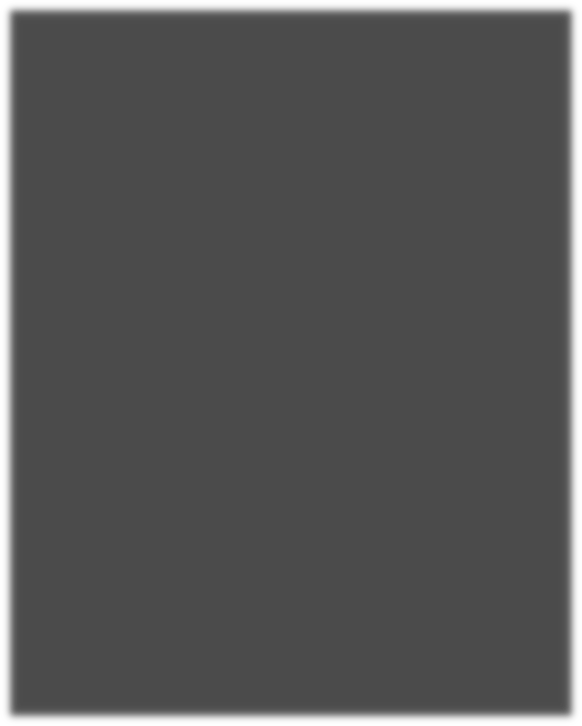
Fifth Sunday of the month

From July onwards we will hold joint services with the Methodist Church and St. Bartholomew’s Church in Wales, Sealand. Venues will rotate around the three churches.

Wednesday mornings 10.30am

Short Holy Communion Service (BCP) twice a month, although in abeyance during the vacancy.

During his incumbency, Holy Communion was led by our vicar. During our vacancy Rev’d Gareth Thomas, our Associate Minister, leads these services once a month. He also officiates at weddings and baptisms, but his other commitments prevent him from doing any more. We invite retired and visiting clergy to officiate at the other Holy Communion services. Non-communion services are led by our LLM with participation by other church members.



The congregation enjoys several different services over the Christmas period such as the Christingle service, and the Nativity service is great fun for everyone as we all act out the story of Jesus’ birth.

For the Lessons and Carols Service the City of Chester Training Band joins us, for which the church is full. Representatives from the other churches in the village and other organisations take part in the readings.

Easter celebrations at All Saints begin with our Palm Sunday Service which in former years we shared with our friends at the Methodist Church. Traditionally the Congregation from one church walked

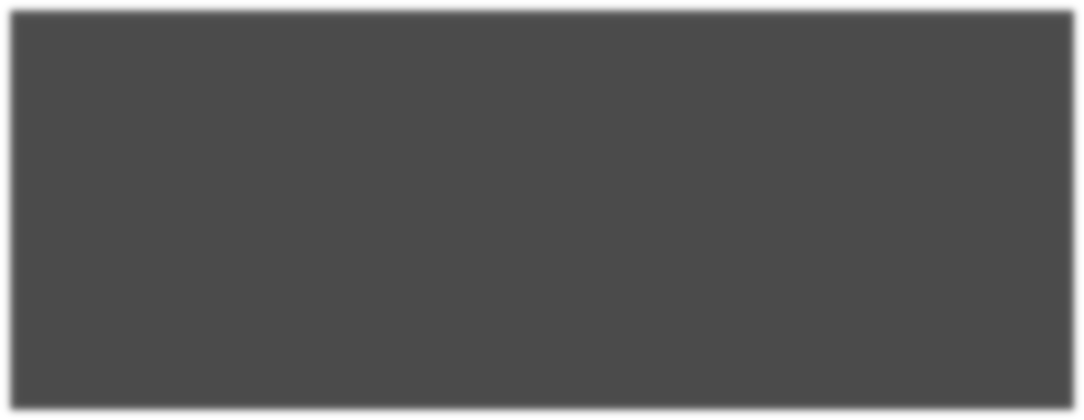
through the village holding palm branches, to the

other church where the service was held jointly.

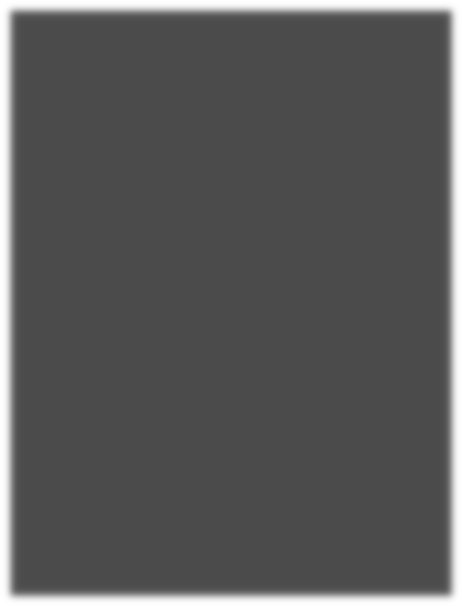
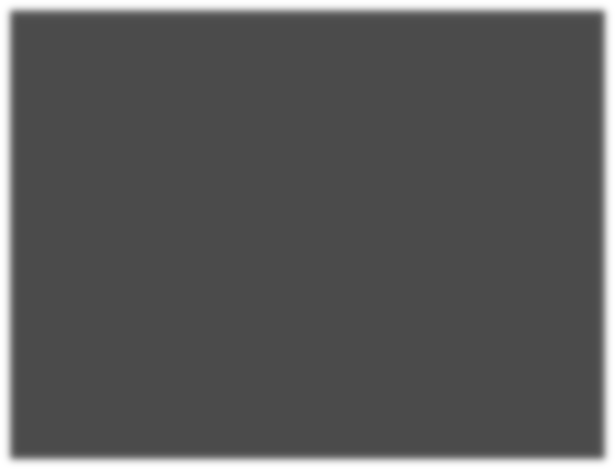
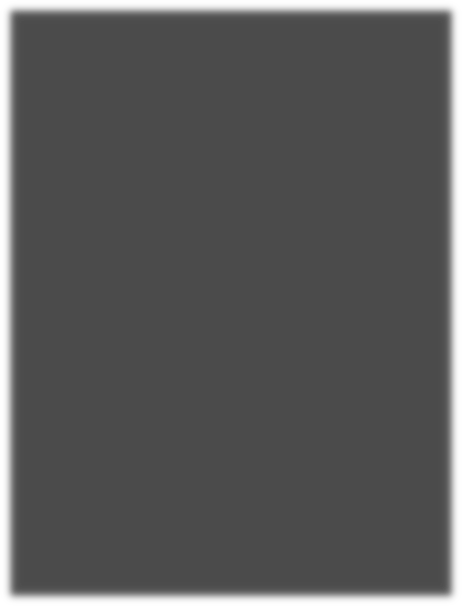
On Maundy Thursday we have a Passover Supper when besides remembering the Exodus from Egypt and our Lord’s Last Supper, we enjoy a tasty lamb hotpot.

After our annual Harvest Festival, the food is taken to a local charity, Save the Family, which provides accommodation and support for vulnerable families. A collection point is available in the church for donations to the food bank during the rest of the year. We also support Kids’ Bank, a Christian charity which provides clothes for families in need in

Chester, and Christian Aid for which we held a breakfast this year.



For Remembrance Sunday, over the last few years our skilled crafters have been busy making poppies as one way of paying respect to the fallen.



After the service in All Saints Church, the Parish Council holds another ceremony at The Vernon Institute later in the day. This is attended by members of all three churches, members of the Parish Council, leaders of youth organisations and members of other groups, as well as villagers.

On the Sunday evening closest to All Souls’ Day, All Saints holds a Memorial Service each year so that family members of those who have died can gather to remember their loved ones. This is very well attended by many people in the village.

Kids’ Ark is a club run monthly during term time after school. Two volunteer mums run it and parents attend with their children, typically around 25 children. The children have some snacks and then do various crafts and activities. Up until his retirement, the vicar led in song, telling a Bible story and prayer.

### Covid pandemic

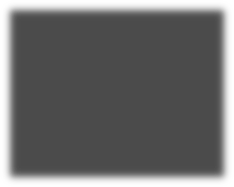
During the pandemic All Saints was very fortunate that our Minister at the time, Canon Steve Mansfield ,had great media skills. He and his wife streamed broadcasts each week on Facebook which could be watched live or later at more convenient times. These really kept the congregations of the three churches in his ministry going. They were watched not just by local people but by friends around the country and even in the USA.

Making phone calls to isolated members of the congregation were also a big part of the church’s ministry during the crisis and also fetching groceries, medicines, etc. The vicar and his wife hosted a mid-week evening fellowship by Zoom, with Bible study and prayer. In the early weeks this was quite popular across the three parishes but over time numbers dwindled.



### All Saints Remembers

All Saints was saddened by the deaths firstly of the Duke of Edinburgh and then of the Queen. Our Flag outside the church was flown at half mast. Special services were held for them both.



All Saints was also privileged to have a Book of Condolence for villagers to sign in remembrance of the Queen. It was very touching to see the genuine sadness and respect everyone had for Queen Elizabeth II, and many meaningful conversations were had with those who visited to sign.

### Births, Marriages and Deaths

Throughout the year the church witnesses the cycle of life, new birth, marriage and death.

Due to Covid, there have been far more funerals at All Saints (about 20 p.a.). than weddings or baptisms. It is recognized that this is a significant ministry to the community, as well over one thousand people a year attend the funerals, the majority of whom would never normally attend a service in church. It is our opportunity to share the love of Jesus Christ with them.

As time has returned to normal we are receiving more request for baptisms and weddings.

### Church grounds

The churchyard is maintained regularly and it is renowned for its tidy appearance.

Research has been done over the past year to verify the number of plots available in the churchyard for burial and interment of ashes. There are still a small number of burial plots available and several for ashes.

Behind the church there is a car park, several mature trees and a large green area known as the Willow Beds, very suitable for church fetes. Due to building waste contamination it is not suitable for building purposes.

Nevertheless, in 2020 we planted 18 fruit trees of various species, the intention being that when mature these will become a community orchard.

#### The Vicarage

The vicarage (called Belmont Cottage) is situated about 300 metres down Church Road from All Saints Church. It was purchased to replace the old vicarage about eight years ago. By any standards the vicarage is a very desirable property in a very convenient location.



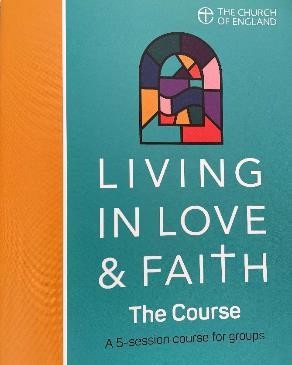
It is a five bedroom detached property incorporating a four bedroom cottage and an attached one bedroom, two storey annexe which the previous incumbent used as an office. The accommodation comprises: porch, sitting room/study, disabled toilet/wet room, inner hallway, cloakroom/WC, extensive breakfast kitchen/dining room with utility room off it, large conservatory, living room, landing, principal bedroom with en-suite bathroom, bedroom two with en-suite shower room, bedrooms three and four, family bathroom and bedroom five with en-suite shower room. The property has UPVC double glazing with the exception of one small window and has gas fired central heating. At the Vacancy Inspection, it was reported as being in a very clean and tidy condition. Viewing is recommended!

Externally there is a block paved driveway to the front and side whilst to the rear is a lawned and well-stocked garden and slate-tiled patio area, with an open aspect across fields and woodland. It occupies a slightly elevated position along Church Road in the centre of Saughall village. The building is in the heart of a conservation area backing on to green belt land.



### Faith Courses

Various courses have been held at All Saints over the last five years, Covid permitting. These have been held either in the meeting room or at the Vicarage, depending on numbers attending. Encouraged by the mid-week Zoom fellowship meetings during the pandemic, face to face mid-week evening meetings have been tried, including 'The Prayer Course' series produced by 24-7 Prayer. Initially 6-8 people attended. That series was interrupted by the necessity to run the 'Living in Love and Faith’ course before Easter 2022. That series attracted 7- 9 people, many being those who did not attend the Prayer Course. This indicates that there is scope for a mid-week evening or daytime fellowship if we can identify the right format, timing and content. Resumption of the Prayer course series was not very successful and it was not completed.



### Team Spirit and Social Fun

Throughout the year at All Saints we have various social and fundraising events plus times when the team gets together to do maintenance. These have proved to be a vital contribution to the cohesiveness of the church fellowship.

Soup & Pud Lunch is held on the second Monday each month. We regularly have 50+ people attending. The lunch provides an opportunity for villagers to come together for companionship with others, and in winter it serves as a warm space. It has drawn numerous people into the church when they hear about our services and other special events being held. Some participants have begun to attend church and many others support our events.

Additionally, the fund-raising provides a very significant income for the church. In the past, this money has enabled a new carpet and chairs for the meeting room to be purchased and in the immediate future for the planned removal of pews and buying new chairs to enable flexible use of our considerable nave space.

A performance by Chester’s ‘A Handbag of Harmonies Choir’ featuring many church members is guaranteed to be a sellout as it is an excellent evening of entertainment.

All Saints holds a Christmas Fair every year. There are various stalls selling Christmas

decorations, toys, cakes, jams, bric-a-brac and refreshments are also available.

For the Queen’s 70th Jubilee celebrations and for the King Charles III Coronation afternoon tea, the meeting room proved too small so we spread out into the church. On each occasion over 80 people from across Saughall attended.

The All Saints team gathers twice a year to cut the hedges around the church. We have cutters, gatherers of clippings and several armed with brushes. Perhaps of most importance, we have a tea maker.

Impact of worship at All Saints

“I felt that the

sermon was directed to me personally!”

“Gosh, that was so

emotional and inspiring”

Some quotes from members of the congregation

“When I come into the Church, I feel a warmth and part of a family”

“What an amazing service!

### All Saints graphic (2).JPGFinances

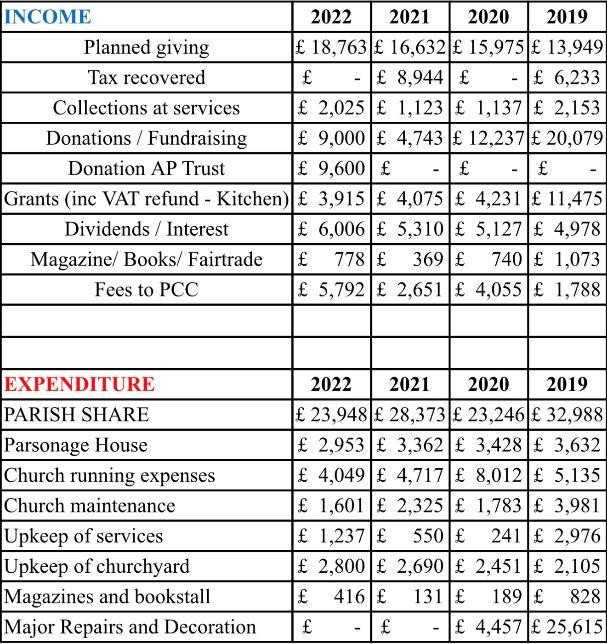
For the last 7 years, Alan Bailey has been Treasurer to the PCC and has managed all financial matters pertaining to the church.

##### Income

This is generated from donations to the church. It includes giving from the congregation and associated Gift Aid claims. Fundraising and dividends from two Trust Funds also contribute. In 2022 our Annual Income was £62,806.

##### Expenditure

In 2022 our annual Expenditure was £42,297. We pay 100% of our Parish Share, which is 50% of that for a full-time vicar. This is sufficient to pay 40% salary plus a vicarage in return for three days plus Sundays.



###### Annual Comparison 2019 - 2022