



allsaintsworcester

ANNUAL REVIEW 2015



Clockwise from top left: Converge women's breakfast at St Helen's; student lunch; Easter Sunday Celebration at All Saints; Evening gathering at St Helen's

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27 February 2016

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INTRODUCTION & VICAR'S REPORT

2015 was a good year in the life of All Saints, with much to be encouraged and excited by. The real measure of how a church is doing is not Sunday attendance figures or how nice it's buildings are, important though they are. It's simply about health - is it a healthy church? Healthy churches are those that can point to *spiritual fruit* - are people coming to faith, are people being transformed into the likeness of Christ, are the poor being served, are initiatives to help us connect with people being developed, is there a growing depth to our spiritual lives, are we living out more faithfully and radically the teachings of Jesus Christ?

I can honestly say, as I look across our church community, that the answer is yes. YES!

And so I want to begin this short report by saying "thank you" to the very many of you who serve in the life of our church in so many wonderful ways. Without your time, effort, wisdom, energy, faith, vision, grace, tenacity, patience, humour and determination we would not be where we are as a church.

Highlight of the last year for me include:

- the introduction of half-termly "Leadership Community" worship and training evenings for all those in some form of leadership within the life of the church
- the introduction of the permanent PrayerSpace
- the strong development of Adventurers
- the growth in numbers and coherence of our student ministry
- the development and consolidation of our youth ministry
- the expansion of the Foodbank's vision to serve the poor
- stable giving in a time of economic austerity
- the introduction of "whole church celebrations" at key times in the church year
- 6 people coming to faith on Alpha last year
- wonderful Christmas services again

There is so much more I could list, but I trust this gives you a flavour of our church. The reality now is that even I hear about things that are going on in the life and/or name of All Saints that I wasn't aware of - this is a good thing! We have so much to be thankful for.

So put your feet up, read on... for 16 pages of pure encouragement.

And well done Saints - faithful ones!

With my love and prayers,

Rich

PCC

As always, the PCC has been busy serving the wider church and attending to the matters entrusted to it by the congregation and the diocese, including HR matters, finance, governance, mission partner support, fabric repairs and redevelopment challenges and working collaboratively with the Vicar to ensure the health and vitality of the church. It met nine times in the last cycle as well as in “project groups” (committees) which currently are: Finance and Governance, Mission Partner support, fabric and Foodbank support.

Electoral Roll update

At the APCM in March 2015 there were 181 names on the electoral roll. During the year, seven names were added and 15 removed, bringing the total to 172.

Safeguarding

The PCC is currently undertaking a further review of our safeguarding practices in light of an ongoing review at Diocesan level due to conclude in 2016. We are in the process of appointing new Safeguarding Officers to ensure the protection of both children and vulnerable adults in our care. Paul Wilcox is currently holding this brief in the interim.

Rich Johnson

Fabric

We have two strategically placed substantial church buildings both of which are Grade II* listed, recognising their importance to the City: both buildings are in substantial disrepair and are under used being locked and inaccessible to the public on most days.

A recent inspection by the Churches architect has shown St Helen's to be slipping into the “at risk” category needing urgent attention.

The PCC have charged the Buildings Group to plan to rectify this situation and substantial progress, as yet unseen, has begun.

- A dilapidations settlement has been reached resulting in a payment to the PCC of approximately £118,000 for St Helen's
- The lengthy legal process of gaining permission to carry out work at St. Helen's is now almost complete.
- A consultant designed lighting system is to be installed; the toilets totally refurbished, and disabled access and baby changing facilities installed. Substantial storage units will be built and improved audio/visual equipment provided. Work is scheduled for spring/summer 2016.
- A Heritage Lottery Fund grant amounting to around £200,000 has been applied for with a first round decision expected in June 2016. This grant will deal with essential high level stonework and roof repairs.
- As a condition of the grant the Heritage of the building will need to be researched and the building and heritage made accessible to the public. This has led to the investigation of a whole series of partnerships, web site designs, art exhibitions, job clubs, lunch-time outreach events and many more exciting opportunities – more of this in due course!
- We would like to move the Church Centre offices to a “pod” within All Saints.
- The opening of All Saints on a regular basis would allow us to seek grant funding for the substantial restoration needed.

Thanks to a grant from The Bransford Trust, a contribution from the PCC, generously topped up by David Beacham and the Bell Ringers, one development that can be seen is that All Saints church clock is now lit!

Bev Dickens

CORPORATE PRAYER

'e-prayer' is a quick and easy way to share prayer concerns within our church family. Last year over a hundred prayer requests were sent out to those who signed up to receive them. They ranged from personal and wider concerns, to church events. It's good, if you are having a challenging time, to know that Christian friends are praying for and with you. 'E-prayer' seeks to facilitate this.

SEEK:prayer for the wider church helps to keep us aware and engage with the wider Christian community. This has included small groups praying for our church partners and for persecuted Christians; a 'drop in' at the church centre, to hear news, pray and write a Christmas card to Christians in prison for their faith; and a few of us went to the 'Open Doors' national conference and met some fantastic believers from N. Korea, Nigeria and China. Our news sheet also now contains a regular feature of prayer points for the wider church.

Hazel Catton

SEEK:central is an evening of worship and prayer specifically for the needs of All Saints church. Over the past year, leaders in the church have heard God calling us to pray and one of the ways we are facilitating this is by establishing a dedicated prayer space on the top floor of the church centre and inviting the church to a daily prayer gathering during January. We've begun decorating and resourcing the space and plan to continue this in 2016. So far, we have seen:

- Many of our small groups using the prayer space during January.
- Students and youth engaging with God in new ways.
- People finding peace and encouragement through difficult times.

Please pray that each of us would catch a vision for prayer and be drawn into a deeper relationship with God. We are now looking to establish more prayer gatherings and are encouraging people to use of the space individually or in prayer groups.

Steve O'Rourke

PRAYER MINISTRY

is praying with and for another person in the power of the Holy Spirit. As trained team members we bring people to Jesus, exercising care and safety for the individual.

Highlights from 2015:

- We have recruited and trained five new people on the team
- We have revised the guidelines into a handy booklet
- Prayer ministry has now been established at every Sunday gathering, and we have seen more people coming forward for prayer, with encouraging feedback

Please pray for more people to join the team, and that more people would be moved to receive prayer as a normal part of gatherings.

Barbara & Alan Penney

WORSHIP GATHERINGS

Sunday gatherings provide a focal point for the wider community. It's the space in which we remember who we are again as we meet with God and each other. So it's about breathing in grace, celebrating God's goodness, restoring identity, affirming togetherness, glimpsing kingdom vocation, that sort of thing.

Without exaggeration, there seems to be at least 6 distinct rotas in operation on any given Sunday! That is to so many people contribute, in ways seen and unseen, to make Sundays happen. In fact, every time someone simply shows up with an encouraging smile and a prayerful presence the contribution made is profound.

With a note of relief the morning gathering seems to have seen the back of "batman" as the monthly pattern of All Age worship has evolved into occasional all-together family celebrations to mark significant moments (e.g. All Saints Day). New voices have also been given air-time at the 6.30pm via 'ignite' talks (5 minute mini-preaches at the beginning of the gathering) which are always a treat regardless of whether it's a youth, a student or a grown-up speaking.

Sunday teaching in 2015 explored 'The big promises of God' and who 'Jesus is__' before a 'Summer in the Psalms'. Then we tackled some 'Barriers' enjoyed 'Love-ology' and got distinctively involved with 'Daniel'. God has blessed us with plenty of moments that have mattered, not least those facilitated by our musicians. On that note, we said goodbye to Tim O'Leary in the summer (despite his brilliant Christmas Carols comeback) but the very able Fraser Oates has plugged in brilliantly as our lead-lead-worshipper.

We continue to offer a weekly midweek communion service on Thursday mornings which is informal and liturgical in format, usually attended by an average of 10 people. This service continues to be an important community and pastoral gathering point for this congregation.

Pray that God graces us as we gather with his presence, his voice, his comfort/challenge, and his perspective to know that it's not all about Sundays.

Owen Gallacher

WORSHIP TEAM

Our purpose is primarily facilitating times of sung worship during Sunday Gatherings and other mid-week meetings as and when required. We serve the leadership and the body of the church as a whole, and along with other ministries in the church we aim to collaboratively serve God and His agenda.

It feels like I have only just taken the reins from Tim O'Leary in Autumn 2015, where there was already established a healthy, genuine and well-oiled worship team full of members who were skilled and passionate about their service.



My desire for worship at All Saints would be the following:

- We would establish a genuine culture of worship that is bespoke to our community at All Saints, not guided by a worship 'pop' culture, but expressed through a unified expression of our lives, discipleship and circumstances.
- For our understanding of worship to expand so that we could worship God in true fullness; transcending songs and the constraints of our gatherings; that we would understand that our true and proper worship is the laying down of our lives for the sake of Him and his kingdom. A rediscovery of 'worship' together, our collective musical expression becoming secondary to our personal discipleship and mission-driven lives.
- For our gatherings to continue being places of sincere offering and encounter with God, but evidently not the *only* place this is happening.
- Clearly God is moving in our ranks and there has been a stirring in prayer and I want to see the Worship Team being at the forefront, and enthusiastically investing into these movements of the Spirit.
- To see the very talented young people of All Saints involved in music as part of their belonging to the church and their discovery of God.

Do pray for us as we lead worship, particularly in the following areas:

- that the Worship Team, before anything else, will remain grounded in the Word and be continually falling in love with God, individually and in community.
- that God will form his agenda in and through us as a team for the benefit of the church; *His* kingdom and *His* will.
- for wisdom, that we will be able to serve the needs of the church and the leadership and also that we will be able to discern and surrender to the Holy Spirit.

Fraser Oates

SOUND TEAM (PA)

I am grateful to all the PA team for the ministry they have provided in All Saints and St Helens. It has been good to welcome and work with Fraser as he leads the worship groups into a refreshed ministry.

We are looking forward to getting a digital desk and some new PA equipment in St Helen's, this will provide an opportunity for some combined musicians and PA team training.

Mark Taylor has given 16 years working on the various PA set ups in All Saints and I am very grateful for all his help, but he has now decided the time has come to step down from this ministry. We will miss him, but be aware that he and Sam may be listening to what we are doing from their place in the congregation! We are glad to welcome Mark Carwardine to the team, Andy Hodgkiss joined us just over 12 months ago, and is providing sterling service. Andrea Burton has continued to organise us very well, and Paul Barton has also helped maintain the PA ministry amongst his many other activities.

If you are interested in what we do and would like to help us in this area of service please come and talk with us after any meeting.

Peter Belham

WELCOME TEAM

The Welcome Team on a Sunday morning in All Saints is the first point of contact for people entering the church and we try hard to make everyone (newcomers and regulars) feel at home, and let them be themselves.

As always there has been a healthy turnover with the team over the last year. We have been grateful for the opportunity to offer a welcome to all who step into our path, and:

- the time and commitment given by everyone, and willingness to help at short notice
- those who have stepped down, having contributed for some time
- those who have recently joined and want to serve in this way
- for all the fun and laughter we've had along the way

It would be great if, as a church, we could continue to pray that people who enter All Saints' doors experience something of God's love and grace, and that we continue to grow an amazing bunch of volunteers who love to serve on the Welcome Team.

John Taylor

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

We have enjoyed many 'one off' events throughout this year. Some highlights include

- Light Party – which saw St Helen's packed with families all enjoying messy games, good food and lots of fun. It was a great opportunity to share the gospel with many of our fringe families.
- Summer family mornings – During August these mornings alternated between film mornings and stay & plays. It worked well for maintaining relationships and community throughout the summer months.
- Christmas activities were also a highlight, with many gathering for our family carol service.

Please pray for us as we start to explore how we can support parents in their parenting and in how to best communicate the good news of Jesus with their children. I would also love to hear from you if you have any thoughts or ideas on what else we can do within the area of children's ministry in All Saints.

ADVENTURERS

"Adventurers", our Children's Church, meets every Sunday morning and is flourishing. We have Scramblers (0-2 year olds) which Joy Pollock heads up. Explorers (3 – 5 year olds), Discoverers (School year 1 – 2) & Trailblazers (School year 3, 4 & 5) which all meet together in St Helen's for teaching, ministry and fun!

- We have seen a good number of children promising their lives to Jesus, really understanding what it means to follow him and be in relationship with him.
- We have enjoyed learning about what it means to be a follower, a leader, and a risk taker, using characters from Star Wars and Peter from the Bible. The children have loved this theme and it had been very effective in engaging them.
- The children have really progressed in the area of prayer. They are really starting to be bold in praying for each other and us as leaders.
- Parents can tell stories of their kids talking about what they have learnt in Adventurers, and how they are applying this at school and at home.
- Our team has gone from strength to strength, growing in numbers, and relieving pressure off team members. We have also had a few young leaders emerge, and it's been a pleasure to give them space to grow in their leadership. This is something I hope to develop further.

Please pray for us to continue to seek God's heart for Adventurers, and to continue to use the children powerfully in the wider life of the church community. If you would like to see how you can get involved and serve within children's work at All Saints, please contact me!

MESSY CHURCH

Messy church is an opportunity for children and their parents or carers to come together to explore the Bible through crafts, story, music and drama. We meet once a month on a Saturday from 10.30am-1pm in St Helen's.

- Christmas was a particular highlight for us, we saw around 120 people attend and hear the story of Jesus' birth.
- The sense of community in Messy Church has grown remarkably. Decreasing numbers, due to families engaging more with sports on a Saturday morning, has created space to get to know the regular families and for deeper conversations.
- We have run a modified Alpha course, opening the door to some fantastic conversations with our families and many have engaged wonderfully with this

The team have decided that Messy Church has run its course and it is time to start exploring what else God has to reach families across Worcester. Please do pray for us as we move forward in discerning what this might look like.

Rhianne O'Rourke

MAINLY MUSIC

Mainly Music (MM) meets weekly during term time in St Helen's and provides a fun and good quality music session for pre-school children to enjoy with their parents, grandparents or care-giver.

We aim to provide an open forum for connection – between parents & children, between families at a similar life stage, between children & the music as well as between local families & our church with the hope that they find community, friendship & a sense of belonging.

MM has been running at All Saints for 5 years & we celebrated our birthday as part of a Macmillan Coffee Morning in September.

Highlights for this year include:

- Our committed and dedicated team who continue to be the lynchpin of all that makes MM successful. Their willingness to serve, their creativity, hard graft, prayerful commitment and enthusiasm ensure that each session runs smoothly and reflects Jesus.
- A continued determination to look for ways to make God and his church accessible. Our prayer teapot, introduced last year, is now used by MM mums on a regular basis. It has also been the springboard from which we have been able to pray with people during MM sessions which has been exciting. Church services & events have been promoted & we have been encouraged to see some folk from MM open to aspects of church life, particularly at Christmas with the Nativity Pantomime & Christmas craft evening proving popular.
- Hosting a one-day Mainly Music conference in April 2015. Jo Hood, founder of MM led us as a team alongside other teams from the locality in an inspiring day where we took time to look at what we do well and how we can be even better.

Prayer Requests:

- Our team will be a little depleted temporarily this year as we have some babies arriving, so it would be amazing if we could find one or two more people to help us, even if only in the short term and particularly those who are up for improving their sound desk skills!
- That we would continue to see an openness to God and his kingdom, particularly as we plan to link in with and invite MM members to social events in the coming year.

Rachel Cothurst



YOUTH

Our youth ministry has been through something of a transition in the last year or so. Huge thanks are due to the wonderful Giles Joiner who stepped down from overall leadership of youth at Easter 2015, but who remains a core part of the youth team.

To help with the necessary transition, the summer term last year saw both Rich & Kath and Owen & Laura investing time in the youth, giving the team encouraging boost, and showing the youth that they are an important part of All Saints. This was a lot of fun and created a new dynamic and fresh sense of excitement for what youth could be.

During this time, Joanne Oates emerged as someone called and equipped by God to take on overall leadership of the youth team which she did in September, bringing fresh enthusiasm and establishing a rhythm to the youth programme.

The autumn term saw great participation in “The Noise” project at October half term which saw the young people ending ways to bless the community and putting their faith into action.

The first youth weekend in January 2016 was held at the House of Bread (Warwickshire) where we had an extended time together worshipping God, asking questions and understanding more about prayer, using The Prayer Course sessions, as well hanging out, making music, playing wide games, being chased by a goat, and generally having a laugh!

Please pray for the team of leaders: Jo & Fraser Oates, Giles & Steph Joiner, Steve O'Rourke, Sam Johnson, Mark Pirrie, Louise Tindall, Philippa Barton; for inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit, for energy and perseverance and that their passion for seeing the young people come to faith/grow in faith in Jesus

Pray for the young people and an increasing passion for Jesus and living in his distinctive way in today's culture.

Philippa Barton

STUDENTS

The student sub-community, or 'circle', exists to be a home away from home for any university students in our midst. It is about building friendship, exploring big questions, growing in relationship with Jesus, and imagining new ways of living the student life (often with *decent* food).

2015 began by taking over a couple of tables at the Alpha course which, as well as (re)laying helpful foundations for all, brought in a number of new faces, two of whom were then baptised alongside two other students who'd been with us since the beginning of the academic year. After Easter, with the help of heroic babysitters, Laura and I made it onto campus to run the prayer course. I've also become an associate chaplain at the university which makes it easier which providing ample license

The PCC was glad to give financial support to two students who spent their summer vacations with overseas mission trips: Tom went to Columbia with Pioneers, and Esme to Bangladesh with Tearfund. Upon their return both gave inspiring reports to the 6.30pm gathering.

The 2016 academic year began with a student welcome party at the 6.30pm gathering, and has featured a couple of student lunches, but it has been a stuttering start somewhat due to the arrival of baby Morgan in October. The term ended with a Christmas house party hosted by big Sam (nice one).

Into the new year, pray for the community to regain momentum, for our evangelistic edge, for further baptisms, and for a fruitful linking up of students from University of Worcester and Regents College Malvern.

Owen Gallacher

MEN'S MINISTRY

Over the past year, men in the church have been invited to gather at various social times together and spend time building friendships and solidarity. Highlights include a great cricket at the county ground, followed by a curry, and a slap up breakfast at Chapel House at which Mike Harper shared some of his journey and experience in mission in the US. Dads in the Park has been a great opportunity to build a small community dads and carers spending time enjoying our children and chatting with other dads.

There have been less events this year, as my heart is more about connecting people into meaningful friendships, walking alongside each other and encouraging each other to be accountable.

This year we're looking at weekend away and a 'dads and lads' camping weekend at Top Barn at some point in the summer.

Pray for a willingness to the guys in the church to meet up and share their lives with each other; to find time to meet up, be accountable with each other and pray for each other.

Paul Barton

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Converge was set up as an evening gathering for women, to meet with one another and encounter God. As we head into 2016, it will be the umbrella for women's events, which will largely be outward focused. Here are our highlights:

- We hosted a women's breakfast and invited Margaret Bristow to speak on 'anxiety'. Judging by the packed out room, and the high percentage of women who don't normally attend church, it seemed to scratch where people are itching!
- This led onto an excellent 5 week Anxiety Course, also led by Margaret Bristow,
- and also very well attended, including people from outside church, one of whom had been told about it by her GP!
- Christmas Craft evening - another wonderful evening, which always provides an excellent and easy opportunity to invite friends into church. Many of us noticed that friends who attended the craft evening, then went onto attend the carol services.

Prayer requests:

- For the women on the edges of church to come into relationship with Jesus
- For the core team to have vision, creativity, passion and the ability to persevere

Kath Johnson

Revive

'Revive' is a women's day time group. Everyone is welcome and we serve women in retirement through to students and everything in between. We are not all members of All Saints. Some are being equipped and supported to take ideas and enthusiasm to their home church. For others, Revive is a safe - yet challenging place to ask questions and seek. We are all about authentic, real relationships. And real coffee and cake. Our purpose is to build friendships and support one another, serve our city and deepen our knowledge and love of God.

Highlights have been:

- An outward looking gaze - serving our city in practical ways through Maggs, Foodbank, Swanswell Alcohol and drug recovery service and the Good Soil Project
- A wonderful evening of great food, hospitality and company at Chapel House to watch 'About Time' which launched one of our studies
- Great guest speakers like Paul Swann, Laura Gallacher and Paul Wilcox
- A timely study on 'Working from a place of rest' and contemplative prayer
- The Prayer Course. Looking at Adoration, Petition, Intercession, Perseverance, Listening and Warfare.

Our prayer request would be for more folk to come forward to help serve the parents at Revive by offering childcare for their pre-school children.

Joy Pollock

PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral care continues to be offered across both the whole church but also our parish. We maintain the conviction that everyone who considers themselves a member of All Saints is one of its “ministers”, with all called to offer some degree of care to one another. The ordained staff have been working hard ‘behind the scenes’ with some of those delivering a more extensive form of pastoral care to continue to evolve the pastoral care culture and approach, which is firmly embedded and intrinsic in all areas of church life now. At its heart is a pastoral oversight team who ensure that everyone in need of care beyond that which one of our small groups can naturally offer, is receiving it, and making sure that the “lead” pastoral care person is appropriately supported, resourced and encouraged. We have plans to develop this approach further in 2016.

Rich Johnson

SMALL GROUPS

Our small groups grew in number last year, with four new groups forming. Each of them are small communities aiming to live out the mission of God together in diverse and creative ways. Some groups use programmes and externally produced materials, such as The Prayer Course, available online, and the The Besom Simplicity, Love and Trust discussion course, others focus on digging deeper in to the teaching offered at the Sunday gatherings.

What I find so beautiful about our small groups is the many stories I hear of groups gathering round their members who are struggling; providing practical support, as well as prayer, and walking alongside each other at whatever stage of life/journey they are in.

My prayer is that more and more people that cross All Saints’ paths be inspired and emboldened to enter in to authentic and accountable relationships no matter what stage of their God journey, and that there would be more and more groups ready and equipped to gather up the entire church family.

Rich & Kath Johnson

ALPHA

We ran just one Alpha course in 2015 (from January to Easter). This was hugely successful and saw 6 people come to faith which was very encouraging. Just under 30 people did the course and many found it a helpful way to engage with their faith.

There is a “core Alpha team” made up of LJ Tiffney, Barry & Joan Collier, Bev & Sue Dickens, Neil Silverthorne, Lisa Gosling and Barbara & Alan Penney that are working on taking Alpha forward. Last year we also had the benefit of the humour, wisdom and passion of both Mark & Sue Stone and Russ & Kerry West.

Rich Johnson

MENTORING

Mentoring is for everyone who is serious about their discipleship, regardless of age, gender etc. Here is a quote from a member of All Saints on the benefit of intentional mentoring:

'Mentoring is a central part of my discipleship and growth. It is affirming, encouraging and combats spiritual stagnation. The accountability and belief provided by my mentor keeps me sharp and hot and honest to my own desire to stay close to Jesus. My family, work and ministry lives are richer, deeper and constantly reinvigorated as a result of my mentoring relationship. I can't imagine life without it.'

We have more mentors than mentees at the moment, so do get in touch if you'd like to talk it through - no obligation! It is very exciting to see people who have been mentored embracing new and fresh challenges, with confidence in God. We recommend Tony Horsfall's, 'Spiritual Mentoring' to get you going!

Please pray that there will be an increasing breakout of good, healthy, mutually accountable relationships in the All Saints family.

"What people need these days is not so much a sage on the stage as a guide on the side" - anonymous

Paul Wilcox

BELLRINGING

The need to recruit some more bellringers is as urgent now as it was at this time last year. Some recruiting material (DVDs and leaflets) has been available on the information table in All Saints and, over time, it has nearly all been taken and, hopefully, perused, but unfortunately without any enquiries resulting from that. The position, therefore, is that our number of regular ringers remains at six and much as we would like to be able to ring the bells every Sunday morning (we know from the comments we receive how much their welcoming sound is appreciated) we can only do so if we can increase this number. There is a new booklet just received called "Discover Bellringing" and I commend it to you if you are interested in learning more about what we do.

David Beacham

PHOTOFIT

Photofit celebrates its fourth birthday this year! Photofit is for anyone who likes taking photographs and enjoys walking, rambling or exploring the urban/rural environment in the company of others. Whether you are a novice or skilled in photography, this activity is open to all-regardless of age, gender or experience. All you need is your own digital camera.

At the heart of our times together is the desire to build community and have fun! The remit is an inclusive one and intended as much for those who are 'connected' with church as for those who aren't.

Looking back over the last twelve months we have enjoyed some great times together involving days out to destinations such as Woodchester House and Mansion, Hampton Court (Herefordshire), Tintern Abbey, and the year was rounded off by an evening event held at Westonbirt Arboretum called 'Enchanted Christmas.

As we embark on another year together would you join me in praying that the vision for 'Photofit' is fulfilled - not just for those who continue to be involved - but that others might be added to our number who would see and experience something of the love of Jesus in a very practical and real way.

You can see the work of the photographers involved at '<https://www.flickr.com/groups/photofit/>'. If you would like to know more about what we do please contact me via the Church Office on photofit@allsaintsworcester.org.uk

Paul Long



SPORT@ALLSAINTS

Sport@AllSaints seeks to encourage church members & friends to participate in sport/leisure activities where the Christian life can be informally shared and relationships strengthened

Highlights:

- ENGAGE meeting at St Helen's to galvanising Worcester churches to prepare for Rugby World Cup activities
- 3 weeks Tag Rugby tuition for children is years 2-6
- Sports service and presentations to Tag Rugby participants
- Clubhouse presentation by Christians in Sport at St Peters' Baptist Church
- Henry Olonga outreach events in January 2106.

We ask you to pray that All Saints sport and recreation activities will enable Christians to involve their non Christian friends at the same time as building and strengthening friendships within the church family.

Bryan Mason

5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL

All Saints 5-a-side is a community of All Saints men, friends and colleagues who gather every Tuesday evening for a fix of footy and banter. Everyone is welcome to just turn up at the St Johns YMCA at 8pm whenever they are able, providing their enthusiasm exceeds their skills.

Please give thanks to God that we have now been running for over ten years - since October 2005 - but show no sign of slowing down (unlike the few stalwarts who have been regulars throughout..). In fact, a few weeks ago we celebrated our record ever weekly turn-out of 18. Join us in praising God for the light and life brought to many, many men (200?) so far: for the enjoyment, the friendships forged and the Christian faith modelled - including occasions of healings and revitalised faith in Jesus.

Please pray that our Heavenly Father would continue to pour his life and love into us and through us to everyone He brings our way. Thank you!"

Andy Sheppard

CAP DEBT CENTRE

Christians against poverty aims to enable those who are in serious debt to realise the freedom that comes from becoming debt free. This is achieved by contact with them in their homes, accessing the relevant paperwork and CAP in Bradford finding the best solution to solve their debt problem. They then have support through that journey locally and nationally. It also has an evangelistic heart seeking to demonstrate the love of Jesus to them and bringing them into a relationship with him.

Highlights:

- The growth of the number of people seeking CAPs help with their debt crisis.
- Many have become debt free whilst others are still on that journey into 2016.
- CAP money courses being run that have enabled many to budget successfully thus avoiding getting into debt.
- To see supporters gain a vision and passion for the poor as they visit those in serious debt with Dave.
- To begin to extend the ministries that CAP can provide, in a monthly drop in coffee morning, job club and a release group that deals with people with addiction issues.

Please pray for:

- the launch, manager, and establishment of a Job Club based at St Helen's sometime after Easter. This will be coupled with a monthly drop-in coffee morning primarily aimed at those that we have contact with already.
- more supporters to go on visits with Dave but also to become involved with the new ministries.
- time management and strength for those at the front line of this ministry.

Dave Christmas

CAP MONEY COURSE

The CAP Money Course money management course that teaches people budgeting skills and a simple, cash based system that really works. The course helps people from all walks of life to get more in control of their finances, so that they can save, give and prevent debt. The CAP Money Course is devised by the award winning debt counselling charity, Christians Against Poverty. The course is also a very useful outreach tool for people who do not normally attend church.

- In 2015, we ran one course in January, timed to coincide with people potentially struggling with their finances after the Christmas period. The course was well received with good feedback provided by those who attended.
- Discussions continue with aligned ministry areas such as Foodbank and CAP Debt Centre about co-locating within one building.
- Plans are afoot to run a CAP Money course which is specifically designed for and targeted at members of the congregation who are students.

Prayer requests:

- for willing volunteers to come forward who might consider leading new ministry areas.
- for more willing volunteers who may be interested in helping with the work of CAP Money, with marketing/promotion and being trained to help deliver the course. This would allow us to run more courses more often.

Guy Lavarack

FOODBANK

What is foodbank – how does it work

- Worcester Foodbank is part of the Trussell Trust and is a project of All Saints Church in partnership with churches in Worcester.
- Three days' emergency food (10 nutritionally balanced meals) is provided to men, women and children in crisis locally at our foodbank centre located at Carden Court. People also have access to other services such as a listening ear, signposting to further support, and prayer.
- Other essential supplies provided to clients include toiletries, tin openers, cutlery, plates and cups, some clothing, baby goods, and help with bus/taxi fares.

Location and contact details / food collection points

- Location: Unit 2 Carden Court, Carden Close, Worcester, WR1 2AR,
- Opening times; Monday, Wednesday and Friday 11am to 2pm (not Bank Holidays)
- T 780400, E info@worcester.foodbank.org.uk W www.worcester.foodbank.org.uk
- Food donation drop off points: Foodbank centre, Age Concern Office, Churches, Supermarkets (4), and the Guildhall.

What has it achieved?

- Fed 13,788 people since opening in June 2012 (one third are children)
- Given away over 125 tonnes of food, and collected over 138 tonnes
- During 2015-16 we fed 3,934 people with 37.8 tonnes of food
- Recruited, trained and supported 150+ **volunteers** who have given an estimated 6,500 voluntary hours – they are **amazing** and we thank everyone of them!
- Worked with 107 local agencies (65 in 2014) who help assess people in crisis and distribute Foodbank Vouchers
- Benefitted from the efforts of 136 partner organisations (105 in 2014), plus many individuals, that have collected and donated over 23 tonnes of food (22 in 2014)
- Foodbank regularly supports St Paul's Hostel, Maggs Day Centre, Night Shelter, Street Pastors, and the Soup Kitchen project
- Finances: raised £15K from local charities, churches and supporters, and received almost £11K from Trussell Trust in Tesco top up grants, and £2K from the Hopmarket Charity.
- Success in bidding for pallet loads from Lindt, Kelloggs and Wheatabix
- Opened a temporary warehouse to resolve storage problems while awaiting new premises
- Kept running costs down to £15K (budget £30K); budgets for manager's salary, warehouse equipment and food purchase not needed, leaving the accumulated fund of £40K. This represents an operational reserve of £16K, and £24K as a development reserve for the new premises
- Steering Group met on several occasions to support the Manager and improve accountability to the PCC.

Future plans

- Volunteers with management and warehouse skills are still required
- New premises have been identified and negotiations are well advanced.
- The PCC is looking to develop the service to include clothing, interview clothing and haircuts, baby basics supplies, Toys, Fuel bank and starter kits for homeless etc.
- The PCC also plans to house CAP and CAP Job Club in the new premises to assist people back into successful employment

Grahame Lucas

WORCESTER ABOLITIONIST GROUP

As the Worcester Abolitionist's we support the anti-modern day slavery organisation, Hope for Justice. Our aim is to make Worcestershire a hostile place to modern day slavery. As an abolitionist group we prayer together, fundraise and raise the awareness of modern day slavery within our communities.

Highlights of 2015:

- Our sponsored walk 'Hike for Justice' raised £1375.30.
- Sharing about the work of Hope for Justice with other churches within our diocese.
- Beginning to develop our work through networking with local charities; raising their awareness of the issue of modern day slavery.

Please Pray for:

- Victims of modern day slavery in Worcestershire.
- Zoe's hub team who operate in midlands area rescuing victims of modern day slavery.
- Our networking: that we are able to establish good relationships with local charities and enable them to identify victims of human trafficking.

Steph Joiner