

**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, LITTLETON DREW**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2015**



**PRIEST IN CHARGE**  
**Jonathan Philpott**

**TEAM VICAR**  
**Revd Sarah Evans**

**ASSISTANT CURATE**  
**Gillian Parkin**

**LICENSED LAY MINISTER**  
**Diane Ross-Smith**



**CONTENTS:**

1. Composition of Parochial Church Council (PCC) for 2014-2015	3
2. Bybrook Ministry Team	3
3. All Saints' Goals	3
4. Bybrook Benefice Values & Mission Statement	3
5. Churchwarden's Report	4
6. Financial Report and Accounts	5

## **1. COMPOSITION OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 2014-2015**

- Revd Jonathan Philpott (Priest-in-Charge)
  - Revd Gillian Parkin (Assistant Curate)
  - Gareth Cook (Chairman)
  - Stephen Kinch (Secretary)
  - David Steele (Treasurer)
  - Caroline Cook (Churchwarden)
  - Lin Peek
  - Nikki Wright
  - Rob Coombs
- 
- Jeff Batty (Appointed Auditor)

## **2. BYBROOK MINISTRY TEAM**

**PRIEST IN CHARGE** – Revd. Jonathan Philpott

**TEAM VICAR** – Revd. Sarah Evans

**ASSISTANT CURATE** – Revd. Gillian Parkin

**LICENSED LAY MINISTERS** – Alison Flint, Len Scott, Mike King, Mary Pope, Diane Ross-Smith, Pam Tayler, Tim Woodward, Anton Campbell

## **3. ALL SAINTS' GOALS**

All Saints' supports the Bybrook Benefice Vision and Mission stated below in addition to our specific goals which are:

- ❖ To be a welcoming church to all
- ❖ To be an integral part of the community in Littleton Drew & The Gibb
- ❖ To maintain the fabric of the church for current and future generations
- ❖ To provide services which are inclusive and supportive of all

## **4. BYBROOK BENEFICE VALUES AND MISSION STATEMENT**

At the end of 2014, a new Vision Statement was launched by the Ministry Team and Team Council, to help us to understand our calling as Christians. Based on Matthew 28:16-20, the statement is:

***Worshipping \* Growing \* Sharing***

As a group of churches, our desire is:

- ❖ To love, serve and worship God
- ❖ To love and serve one another, our local community, and the wider world
- ❖ To live and share with others the good news of Jesus Christ

Because we know that we are loved by God

In our Mission, we aim:

- ❖ To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- ❖ To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- ❖ To respond to human need by loving service
- ❖ To seek to transform unjust structures of society
- ❖ To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the Earth

## **5. CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT**

My report covers three overlapping and intertwining aspects, namely

- 5.1 The fabric of the church
- 5.2 The services
- 5.3 The role of the church in the wider community

### **5.1 The Fabric of the Church**

Following the enormous efforts of the last few years to rescue and reinvigorate the church which have included roof and window repairs, replacement of heating, re-ordering to create a community space at the rear of the church and complete internal re-decoration, the transformation of All Saints' from a neglected, cold, damp and dingy place into a warm, light, airy and inviting space for both worship and community, continues. The final window repair in the Chancel in 2014 completed phase 3 of our major project, **'Bringing All Saints' back to the Heart of the Community'** which commenced in 2011 and so 2014 was a year to enjoy our renewed and reinvigorated church and be grateful for what we have achieved whilst re-grouping financially. Thus in 2015 we finally had the funds to carry out Phase 4 of our project which included external maintenance and essential repairs to the Tower steps. This work was completed in April 2015

We are now opening the church every day from Easter to mid October and then every weekend through the winter. Takings from donations in our collection box in the church have been small but every little helps. Our treasurer, David Steele has put a mention of us on the Macmillan Way website which we hope may boost visitor numbers and donations

We had our Quinquennial Inspection in February and for the first time in many years had removed a large number of items on the "essential repairs" list! The architect advised that there were now no major structural concerns and as a result we can turn our attention to the restoration of our bells. The Diocesan Bells expert has advised that our bells are of historical interest which should be helpful when applying for grants. To kick off the fundraising, we held an Auction of Promises night which was an astounding success raising an incredible £2150! Promises ranged from a music lesson, a Christmas cake to 2 tickets to Lords to watch the test match and a weekend in a cottage in Devon.

## 5.2 The Services

Our Licensed Lay Minister Diane Ross-Smith has provided lovely Family Services throughout the year in which she has managed to engage with all members of the congregation both old and young (not an easy task!).

We had a very busy time at Christmas at both Carol and Crib Services.

At the end of 2014, the ByBrook Benefice re-organised itself into three Clusters with a minister responsible for each. Gillian Parkin was appointed leader of the Western Cluster of the Benefice which encompasses ourselves, Nettleton & Burton, North Wraxall and West Kington. Gillian's usually leads our Easter Day and Christmas Eve services as both of these Services include Communion and she also led our recent Cluster Songs of Praise Service in which the congregation chose their favourite hymns so the singing was particularly enthusiastic

Numbers have continued to be encouraging and we look forward to welcoming the other churches in the Bybrook Group to our Service on 22<sup>nd</sup> May

Our trusty village organist, Louise Hooper continues to play for us at most services which saves us quite a bit in visiting organist fees.

## 5.3 The Role of the church in the wider community

As a PCC we feel the future of the church as a viable concern is directly dependant on reaching out to and involving as many of the residents of Littleton Drew and the Gibb as possible in the life of the church. Indeed the name of our fundraising project was, '**Bringing All Saints' back to the heart of the community**'. This means accepting that there will always be people who do not wish to attend services but would like to help out with upkeep etc. A great deal of the motivation behind our project was to bring the church back to the centre of the community and to this end, now that we have an appropriate space, we have begun to arrange community events in the church. In early October we held a Harvest Supper which was very well attended and a great success. These events attract villagers who wouldn't otherwise set foot inside the church so we hope that they might enjoy themselves sufficiently to venture across the threshold again!

The Littleton Drew annual Sloe Gin competition was as ever a great evening and raised nearly £200 and as mentioned above the Auction of Promises evening raised a staggering £2150!

We continue to support the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust annual Ride & Stride event, ensuring our church is manned and welcoming throughout the day. Our intrepid nominated village cyclist Oliver Hooper, visited most of the churches taking part and raised an extremely impressive amount

## 6. Financial matters and accounts

After many years of dire financial straits at All Saints, I am pleased to report that we are finally on a more secure financial footing, we certainly don't have much spare cash but

