

The image shows the interior of a church, focusing on the altar area. At the top, a large, multi-paned stained glass window with colorful designs is set within a high, arched opening. Below the window is an ornate, gilded altar structure. The altar features several niches containing statues of figures, likely saints or the Virgin Mary, and is adorned with lit candles. The altar is set on a table covered with a blue and white patterned cloth. The overall atmosphere is solemn and traditional.

ALL SAINTS' PARISH CHURCH
CARSHALTON

REVIEW OF THE YEAR
2023-2024



Welcome to our first Review of the Year, looking back over 2023 and into 2024 - produced in time for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Please note, however, that this is NOT a legal document - that's the formal Report and Accounts, approved by the PCC, signed off by the Auditors and which will be presented to the APCM. This is a wider review of our life together over the last year.

My enormous thanks go to all who work so tirelessly for the building up of God's Kingdom here in Carshalton. As a parish, our 'strapline' is "*A living church, where God has been worshipped for 1200 years*". We are rightly proud of the place which All Saints' has played in this community over the centuries and our predecessors have left us a huge example to follow. Over the last few years, the diversity and vitality of this community of faith has continued to develop in many and varied ways. Our liturgy and music are something of a 'shop window' for All Saints and their ongoing development is vital; our work with young people continues to grow - both here in church as well as in our school; our outreach to the wider community as well as our pastoral care for all in need are also marks by which we are known. Over the course of the year, we have continued to welcome new folk, fellow pilgrims on the journey, for which we thank God. One of our number (Sarah Cornick) was Ordained as Deacon in June and is serving her Curacy in Balham; Angela Kah was Commissioned as a SPA in September; two members of the congregation are presently discerning a call to Ordained Ministry.

In the year to come, may it be the prayer of each one of us that God will continue to bless us in all that we do in his name and for the continued building up of the Kingdom in this place.

Fr David

Eastertide 2024

Over the past year the serving team has continued to enjoy a very healthy number of volunteers offering up their time and talents to serve at the altar on a regular basis. The team has overall grown in numbers over the past year. Our new servers comprise a variety of ages, including three new servers of primary/secondary school age. Continuing commitment to serving from those who have been part of the team for longer has, overall, been strong. A gradual training process has been implemented for new servers, meaning all new servers are encouraged to incrementally take on a variety of serving roles at Mass. Servers who were recruited a year ago are now able to confidently take on all regular serving roles, from being acolytes to being the subdeacon/liturgical deacon. Some members of the serving team have fed back to us that this has significantly enriched their Christian discipleship and sense of vocation.

Over the past twelve months two of our now more experienced servers have started to serve at our weekly 9am All Age Mass as well as the 10:30am High Mass, significantly enriching the liturgical offering at the 9am and nurturing more of a bridge between the two regular Sunday congregations.

Although the current serving team can rely on a healthy and sustainable number of servers, we are always on the look out to further grow the team and invite regular worshippers at All Saints' from all ages and backgrounds to serve. A noticeable sense of friendship and fellowship has developed between members of the team and with clergy, which helps to set a positive tone at our weekly masses.

Thoughts for the future would be to do more social events for the servers, however this would need to be carefully considered as the serving team consists of children and young adults. We are currently looking at how we can strengthen safeguarding practice around serving – all servers will be invited to participate in safeguarding training provided by the clergy later in the year.

A huge thank you on behalf of everyone in the congregations at All Saints' needs to be given to our servers – our weekly worship and administration of the sacraments would be nowhere near as rich and vibrant if it weren't for the devotion and time offered by those who serve. Our serving team is very much a core part of our life and worship at All Saints'.

Fr Daniel



This year the music has continued to go from strength to strength - we've welcomed our first two male choral scholars, had the first trio of Carol Services (Advent, Christmas and Epiphany) since before 2020, and started looking at some of the old [and good!] rep from some years ago. Over the coming term we are looking forward to introducing a new congregational Mass setting, the rest of the Nicholas Wilton Missa Brevis that we've been doing throughout Lent, and perhaps something else towards the end of the year.

With the all important stewardship of Marion, the concerts continue to flourish - we have regular visits from Carshalton Opera, Carshalton Choral Society, and Sutton Music Service amongst others, and a regular line up of groups entertaining the crowds at various open events in the Church. This is a very important part of our musical mission to the wider community, getting friends old and new through the door to experience the wonderful building we have.

Of course, I can't avoid mentioning the small celebration we had last summer, when a choir of 35(!) quite literally packed the chancel and I had to give up the reigns of power for a day and let others take control - just one of a number of occasions when, as someone put it to me after the Epiphany Carol Service, they 'nailed it'. I must give a huge vote of thanks to each and every one of them for their hard work - we should be incredibly proud of the standard of music which they give us week-in week-out and would rival many a well-established choral foundation, and I for one couldn't do it without them.

Of course, we need to end with the ever-important recruitment plug - the choir sings on Sunday morning and Choral Evensong once a month, and rehearsals are on a Wednesday evening; if you want to join us, particularly if you sing tenor or bass, then please do have a chat to one of us; similarly, if you know of a 6th form or college student (child/grandchild/nephew/neice/neighbour/paperboy etc.) who would be interested in a choral scholarship then please have a word with me or Fr David and we can give you some more information.

Antony Matthews
Director of Music

The Pastoral Care Group

The Pastoral Care Group has continued to meet on average every other month over the past year. The aim of the group is to provide some oversight and keep a finger of the pulse of the pastoral care offered at All Saints'. Conversations in the group tend to be lively and committed to generating new ideas about how to improve pastoral care in our parish context.

Some members of the group are keen to participate in pastoral care themselves, and last year members of the group undertook a pastoral care training course as well as safeguarding courses to become home-grown lay pastoral carers themselves to assist the clergy in pastoral care after our weekly masses. Five members of the group have agreed to have their photos advertised in church as people who can be approached for some pastoral support after mass on a Sunday. This is now in the last stages of being finalised. The idea is that our pastoral carers will be an extra line of support to assist clergy in pastoral care. Pastoral carers have been well trained in understanding safeguarding concerns and in maintaining appropriate boundaries, and know when to involve the clergy.

A couple of members of the Pastoral Care Group have expressed an interest in helping the clergy to visit local care homes, such as Ashcombe Court which the clergy recently visited.

Over the next year it would be good encourage some new people to join the group and work on acting on conversations which have taken place in the group over the past year.

Fr Daniel

The Mission Outreach Committee

It has proven very difficult to get new members to join the Mission Action Committee – everyone approached to join the group has declined. As a result, the committee has not met for some time. However, Angela Kah has agreed to chair a new committee and it is hoped that the committee can move forward over the next year. The clergy and Angela will need to give further thought to how the Mission Action Committee operates over the coming months. A new fully functional committee will be necessary for late 2025 when the new Mission Action

Plan is scheduled to be renewed. The current Mission Action Plan will need to be scrutinised as it was written in 2021 – All Saints’ has experienced some noticeable growth in weekly church attendance and in community outreach since then, so a fresh look at how we do mission will soon be required.

Although the Mission Action Committee has not met for a while, All Saints’ has been actively engaging in mission and ticking off many of the hopes and targets set by the Mission Action Plan. Involvement with local schools – including a continued close working relationship with our own All Saints’ Primary School – has increased, with many more school visits to church. Community engagement with events such as Open House London and the Advent Fair have been exceedingly positive and fruitful. The church continues to be a place open and welcoming to the local community, with our parish administrator, Marion Williams, doing a brilliant job at organising a variety of concerts and other events. There are plans to do visits to local care homes, and the clergy make a point of being seen in and around Carshalton. Sunday Club has grown significantly over the past year, and there are further plans to set up a youth group for teenagers called The Crypt Club. These are just to name a few of our missional goals.

Mission is the work of everyone at All Saints’, so we encourage all to continue to pray for our mission and outreach and to think of how we can further think and act upon our mission to make the love of God known in Carshalton.

Fr Daniel

The Flower Team



As the worst of the Covid epidemic passed by, a new and enthusiastic team of flower arrangers emerged at All Saints at the beginning of 2023. We are fortunate to have seven regular helpers, with at least another three who are involved from time to time. All these people (currently all ladies) are generous not only with their time, but in frequently donating flowers for use in our pedestal arrangements and vases.

An important occasion is always the day before Mothering Sunday when the team and other church members get together to help assemble posies for dis-

tribution by the children. Special occasions celebrated with flowers during the year have been our organist's wedding, the Golden Wedding of Assistant Priest Fr Howard Smith, and a 60th birthday Mass for a member of the congregation.

Rosemary Lilley

The Bellringers



At All Saints we have eight bells, which are hung for ringing in the traditional English full circle style. We aim to ring at least 6 bells before the main service each Sunday, and we practise on Monday evenings about every three weeks. We could always do with more bellringers, but bellringing is a complicated art to learn, and we are dependant on people who have the skill to teach.

In spite of low numbers, fellowship amongst the bellringers is always good. As in many places, some of the ringers are members of other churches, and some go from church to church to ensure that the bells are kept ringing. The main event of the past twelve months both locally and nationally was ringing to mark the Coronation of King Charles III.

Rosemary Lilley

Tower Captain

The Churchwardens' Report

I'd like to begin by thanking everyone at All Saints who has made my first year as Churchwarden surprisingly painless. More than anything that is testament to the fact that the church was in good order, due to the hard work of Fr David, Fr Daniel, my co-churchwarden Matt, my predecessor Andrew and most of all Marion.

The main function of the churchwardens' report is to confirm that the fabric of the church is sound and the chattels are safely accounted for. I'm afraid

that I cannot confirm the former, although it has to be said that despite us suffering the wettest 18 months on record the structure currently appears to be watertight.

During the winter we hosted our architect for his quinquennial inspection and thanks to Matt's drone he was able to inspect parts of the structure that had previously been inaccessible. Although the architect's report contained no major surprises, it did highlight some issues that need urgent attention as well as a list of others that will need to be addressed over the medium term. Most notable are the flat roofs above the north and south aisles, an area of pitched roof above the sanctuary and the baptistery roof. As Andrew mentioned in last year's report we have an ambition to replace the PVC rainwater goods that take water off the roof where it can accumulate and cause damage. Not only are the current pipes and hoppers insufficient for the job, but they are not in keeping with the aesthetic of the building. Replacing them will require scaffolding the exterior of the church so our strategy is to expedite this project so that the same scaffolding can be used for the urgent roof works identified by the architect, thus minimising cost and disruption.

The project will be expensive, and if we were to bear the cost ourselves it would seriously diminish our reserves. We will be looking to access grant funding to ease the burden but it may be that we will have to launch a fundraising drive as well. Any suggestions or volunteers will be very welcome.

As for the chattels, I can report that we have been through a very thorough insurance inspection and nothing was missing. Our understanding of the building and its contents is constantly evolving, which is one of the joys of being involved in such a complex and historic church. For instance, a restorer who came to address a minor infestation in the Gibbons reredos pointed out to us that what we thought were two rather ordinary tables turned out to be antiques of some importance.

Far more important than the building and its ornaments though, I think we can all attest that All Saints is a flourishing church, in its worship (which is attracting growing congregations,) in its outreach to the wider Carshalton community and in the opportunities for fellowship it offers. Long may it continue!

The Audio Video upgrade update is that we have aligned with Animesh Ravel who is a friend and confidant of Matthew Drayton. This gives us the advantage of an honest and upfront conversation around needs, requirements and alignment for hardware and services. Father David has handled the negotiations with the architect and the funding. We are now in the final stages with some hardware modifications needed re: wireless standalone cameras. Once this has been completed by Animesh, All Saints Church will own and order the hardware while the professional services for installation, testing and go-live will be supplied by Animesh and his team. The results will be full audio and video streaming from professional hardware (not iPhone as it is today) and, for the people attending live services, an upgrade in the audio quality. Training and details for anyone that wishes can also be provided as we look to move to an even more connected church!

Graham Parker
Churchwarden