

Priest in Charge report, 2019 - All Saints, Dogmersfield

Sunday worship: During 2019 services at All Saints continued with their pattern of alternate eucharistic and non eucharistic services. I am grateful to LLM Sarah Groombridge for her creative and dedicated leading of the Matins and Family services, and visits to lead collective worship at the Primary school.

Other services were led, presided or preached at by a number of other lay and ordained ministers from the Benefice, including Rev Pauline Moyses and the curates. Through this team the Sunday worship of the church continues and enables others to be welcomed warmly in preparation for their weddings and christenings. The Wardens and Sides people are appreciated for their part in this work of hospitality.

Jackie Harry and the choir continue to enrich the worship with beautiful music and the Revell's kind permission to park either side of their drive adjacent to the church also enables Sunday services. I am grateful to them for these gifts.

While we are aware of the slowly eroding stone work on the outside of the church and await the QI report, the inside is kept clean and sparkling by those to clean and care for it. A special thank you to the Sues!

In January 2019 we said good bye to Ben and the Chase family as they flew off to California where Ben is leading a church plant in Pasadena. In August Janette and Paul moved to Crookhorn, near Portsmouth where Janette has been appointed Vicar of Church of the Good Shepherd. We also welcomed Matt Bianchi as he was ordained deacon and he and his family came to live and serve amongst us.

Weddings: All Saints continues to be a popular wedding venue for both local couples and those further afield. I am grateful to Verger Joyce Stace and Jacqui Pemberton and organist Jackie Harry for supporting the clergy so kindly at weddings.

Many couples qualifying by attendance become well known to the regular congregation but sadly we don't see them regularly afterwards. All couples are prepared for marriage (as a C of E Requirement) at a Marriage Preparation Day with other couples getting married in the benefice in February each year. The clergy are supported by a team from St John's who

run workshop sessions for the couples covering Love languages, Communication, Resolving Conflict, Money Matters, Parenting and Marriage in the sight of God.

All Saints Primary School: in 2019 The church welcomed the Primary school for their Easter and Christmas services. It is always a delight to see and hear their talent and enthusiasm. 2 church members from the Benefice continue to act as Foundation Governor roles, together with the incumbent as ex-officio.

Throughout the year a team has also continued to provide Collective Worship in the school once a week. Open the Book has been one of these, happening once a month, and the team included Sue Rumsey. Discussions were also had between the school and PCC about joint projects but no conclusions were reached.

Support: Given the challenges and cost of running a church and looking after a Victorian building I am grateful to all those who so generously support the church financially, particularly those who give regularly and generously and those fund raise, whether by selling cards, hosting lunches, or volunteering at other events. In 2019, conversations were had at PCC with the Deanery Treasurer and a number of routes to increase income and reduce outgoings were followed up. Moving regular giving to PGS or covenants would benefit the church and particularly financial planning. I am grateful to the Friends of All Saints for their support and hard work in helping the church community to look to the future with confidence.

Lastly, a big thank you to Church wardens, Amanda and Jaquie and PCC secretary Christine Lowe for her continued hard work keeping us organised and informed.

Rev Angie Smith
Priest in Charge
22nd October 2020