

# ALL SAINTS, WICKHAM MARKET

## Introduction

The following statement has been prepared under the leadership of the churchwardens. It is hoped that it will assist in understanding the Church family of All Saints Church, Wickham Market.

All Saints has a strong and long-established evangelical tradition. It is a firmly bible-based Church which seeks to be led by the Holy Spirit. As such it recognises that the gifts of the Holy Spirit (as received by the early Church and recorded in the New Testament) are available and applicable to the Church today and encourages their practice.



## Church Mission and Vision

Our mission:

Love - in response to God's love shown to us in Jesus, we obey the command to love God and love our neighbour.

Grow - As the family of Jesus, we long to grow together so that our lives more clearly reflect the life of Jesus.

Serve - As servants of Jesus we seek to serve Him, one another, and our local community by proclaiming the Good News in word and action.

Our vision:

We aim to be a Church which is growing spiritually and numerically, reaching more and more of the community of Wickham Market. The Church family should reflect the community of which we are part. We aim to build on our relationship with the school, have restarted 'Open the Book' assemblies, and have restarted a café style service "Together@11". We are also considering re-introducing 'Messy Church'.

Our strategy:

To achieve our vision we aim to focus our resources on developing a culture of intentional Christian discipleship and loving service, and outreach across the community focusing especially on young families and the elderly. This aims to be via a pathway of groups that allow contact, enquiry and commitment using the model of 'Belong, Believe, and Behave'. We recognize that our outworking of this strategy is an ongoing process, but we are learning as we are building.

## Meet The Team

Church Wardens:

Alison Elliott

Paul Catchpole



Ministry Team:

Jenny Catchpole - Curate (SSM)

Ian Jenkins - Lay Elder

Pip Smith - Trainee Lay Reader

Peter Elliott - Lay Elder



Members of our  
Welcome Team



Members of our  
Technical Team



Some of our  
Musicians



Leaders of our  
Ladies Group

Plus, we have a Prayer Ministry Team, a team of folk preparing refreshments, and various members of our Church Family who run our Open Pantry, Open Door and 'Oasis' Service.



## Our Church Family

This year there are 84 on the Church Electoral Roll, of whom 64 are parishioners and 20 are not resident within the parish.

The average weekly attendance is 48 and 15 online, this number increases at festivals. (See also Statistical Information on page 15)



The congregation represents a diversity of backgrounds (many have come from other denominations). This presents both blessings and challenges, resulting in a somewhat non-conformist approach and a congregation of fairly independent-minded bible-believing people.

We are seeking to be a Christian Church in the world today, part of the "one, holy, universal, and apostolic Church of Christ."

Our Church house groups, which are attended by around 80% of our congregation and meet mainly on Tuesday evenings, continue to flourish. Some groups meet on other days, some meet every week and some less frequently. We have run a Parent/Carer and Toddler Group, and there is a loosely associated Girl Guide Company and Brownie Pack which meet during the week in the Beehive (Church Meeting Room). We also run a food bank (Open Pantry), a drop-in coffee morning (Open Door) and a ladies' seekers/enquirers group (PJT - Praise Jesus Together) every week along with a monthly informal evening service of praise and prayer, and an informal afternoon service with refreshments (Oasis).

The Church holds an annual parish weekend of worship, teaching, and socialising at Sizewell Hall Christian Conference venue on the Suffolk coast. This is well attended by people from all our expressions of worship.



We continue to support and receive regular updates from former Church members Jane & Alan Hutt who were commissioned by us to serve the Lord in Kenya where they work to provide a safe home for sexually abused child mothers and their babies/children.

## Our Worship

The Church promotes regular public worship open to all. The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to grow in their faith through teaching and spiritually fulfilling worship at our Church and so to become part of the All Saints parish community. During the Pandemic we started to live-stream our services and this continues, alongside our YouTube channel and our Website postings, to meet the needs of congregation members who cannot attend in person.



The Wardens and Ministry team maintain an overview of the worship services to ensure they meet the needs of our Church community. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament, enabling people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer.
- Knowledge of scripture and developing their trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

All Saints tries to meet the needs of all its congregation with a varied service pattern (see Statistical Information). Services are usually accompanied by a music group from a pool of musicians that lead modern songs and traditional hymns. We also have a team who lead a weekly slot for the children as part of the main service.

Prayer for people's needs is always available after every service, supported by a prayer ministry team. We also have a weekly morning prayer meeting and a fortnightly evening prayer meeting. There is also a prayer chain, so people can request prayer about their concerns, from members of the congregation.

We strongly hold to the principle of shared ministry. This has been achieved with the Incumbent sharing some of the teaching and service leading across the Benefice amongst the Ministry team and with our Church family members leading intercessory prayer and scripture readings.

## **Bricks and Mortar**

The spire is the first thing most people notice about All Saints Parish Church. Rising to over 137 ft. on a slender octagonal tower above the flint work of the medieval building, it is a landmark for many miles around. The church is located off the main shopping square.

The Grade 2\* listed building dates back over 700 years. The exterior is stone and flint work. Inside there are four stained glass windows, and a 600 year old font. There are six bells in the tower which are usually rung twice weekly.

To facilitate our work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the church building and the 'Beehive' (former vicarage stable block and store converted to meeting rooms and kitchen/toilets). This, together with a pre-fab building and field, are owned by the PCC and held on our behalf by the Diocesan Board of Finance. Regular and routine maintenance is carried out.

Time and thought is given to making best use of the church facilities. The PCC encourages review of areas of our church body/structure to see how we can move forward and make more use of our buildings, and improve facilities in keeping with the needs of modern-day services and wider use.

Our church building interior was re-ordered in 2012 to facilitate flexible use beyond traditional Sunday worship. (The pews were removed and toilet and kitchen facilities introduced).

In the last five years, the East wall and South aisle ceiling have needed, and received, extensive repairs. The church is open every day.

Mobile phone transmission equipment is installed in the church tower, for which an annual income is received.

## **Finances**

The church allocates 10% of its unrestricted income to a Tithe Fund which supports seven missions/missionaries which is regularly reviewed by the PCC.

The PCC's approach to the demands of the parish share is that we, as a church, try as a first priority to meet as much as possible of our part of the Benefice share (after attending to those running expenses of All Saints that fall to the PCC).

## **Other Matters**

We fully endorse the ministry of women in the church and our desire is for the next incumbent to be the best candidate to meet the needs of the churches and parishes as expressed in this statement.

All Saints holds firmly to the traditional biblical doctrine of marriage and are seeking a leader who would support us in that conviction.

While we, as a fellowship, would welcome into the congregation anyone with same sex attractions, we would encourage a growing relationship with God which we expect would include celibacy.