

## Report to PC Annual Meeting 2017

All Saints Church continues in its role as a place of worship, but at the same time stresses the importance of not just forging links with the community, but putting into action the love of God for all people but especially those in need of any kind.

To this end, we are very grateful for the invitation to be represented at this Village AGM and would like to thank everyone for the co-operation we enjoy from both the PC and the Village Hall Committee.

2016 saw a major overhaul of the newcomer programme, necessitated by the illness and subsequent death of Cora Munford. We have a seven strong team who keep an eye out for removal vans! New families are visited as quickly as possible, given an information pack and any current events that they might enjoy are highlighted. If there are children, the family is told about the activities for children that exist including: Baby and Toddler Group for the very youngest, Me, You and Breakfast 2 for children from toddlers up to about age 8, and also Drinkstone Youth Club for all school years from age 5 up to 16.

We continue to run Fund Raising events as a necessity, but there is no doubt they are great fun for everyone and are enjoyed by a large number of villagers. Last year there were once more eight fundraising events including two concerts, a Murder Mystery, our first ever summer garden party, the traditional Harvest Supper, and Christmas Coffee Morning and a highly successful Wine and Carols evening. We continue to be greatly indebted to the Village Hall Committee for their co-operation in everything we do; but I would like to extend our particular gratitude to those who play an active role by helping organise and run these events. They know who they are, but I have to give a special mention to Liz Schmitt, without whose help I suspect we would not get everything done.

All this fundraising keeps All Saints on an even keel in many ways, but is primarily to enable repairs to our sometimes crumbling 14C church. Most of last year saw the south aisle closed off for ceiling repairs, which for various reasons, took nearly a year to get repaired. The back of the church has had a good clean and tidy up and the photo boards overhauled for a fresh look; lighting has been installed in the ringing tower. Gutters have been cleaned out and the noticeboard has been repaired. We have a driveway full of holes that needs repair, which will happen shortly, but the next big one is stonework repairs to all the windows. This is out for tender now and will be expensive. Our fundraising will have to be bulked up with grants.

The other biggie at the end of last year was a plan to redesign the Village website. It has been a privilege to work with Liz and Tony Schmitt on this. It is now live, and is brighter and fresher, works well on any platform - even smart phones - but also enables different groups to maintain their own part of the website should they so desire - which includes the PC, the church, the VH and the History group. An asset to the village, we believe.