

12 August 2020

ALTON PRIORS. ALL SAINTS CHURCH PLAN (DRAFT 1.0)



Part A - Current Report

The report current at the time of first issue summarises known activity at the church, stakeholders, trends, site resources and results in hand.

Part B - Consultation

Open consultation findings summarise notes provided by survey recipients in reaction to Part A, the current report and specifies community planning meeting details.

Part C - Community Recommendations

Community recommendations include the full resolutions set at the community planning meeting.

Part D - Action Plan

The action plan splits tasks agreed at and implied by the community recommendations.

Part A - Current Report

Church Introduction & Statement of Significance

All Saints Church in Alton Priors, Wiltshire, England, dates from the 12th century. It is recorded in the National Heritage List for England as a designated Grade II* listed building. It was declared redundant on 28 July 1972, and was vested in the Trust on 12 December 1973

The church was built of limestone and malmstone rubble in the 12th century, but has undergone several major refurbishments since. In 1491, landowner John Button bequeathed lead to roof part of the church. In the 18th century the nave, two-stage west tower and chancel were all replaced. The church contains Jacobean stall fronts and on the north side of the chancel a 16th-century tomb-chest surmounted by a monumental brass commemorates landowner William Button (died 1591), great-grandson of John.

The presence in the floor of the church of trapdoors giving access to Sarsen stones, and the presence of the 1,700-year-old Yew tree in the churchyard, suggest it was a sacred site long before the church was built.

Current use (bookings) & voluntary activity

Whilst the church is no longer used for services on a regular basis, it has been the home (and beneficiary) of the Music for Awhile classical music festival in June for several decades.

The church also benefits from the support of a small team of local volunteers and residents.

Voluntary activity undertaken by this group includes

- Running the annual Festival and fundraising concerts, although this takes a great deal of work by the volunteer group to sustain.
- Conservation cleaning
- Remittance of wall safe and service funds
- Planning and delivery of all bookings including services.
- Recent provision of temporary visitor signage
- Ad hoc reporting of building change
- Funding some church repairs (eg. lead guttering extension) and churchyard maintenance (hedge cutting and tree pruning)

Collection Review

Open Churches Policy status:	<i>Open</i>
Local Community Officer:	<i>Ed McGregor</i>
Closest Church Classification:	<i>Open</i>
Classification outstanding items:	
Visitor nos. 2016/ 17 (est):	<i>4169</i>
Visitor nos. 2017/18 (est):	<i>4875</i>
Visitor nos. 2018/19 (est):	<i>2048</i>
Current project:	<i>Roof repair and installation of new engraved glass window</i>
Cleaning schedule:	<i>Occasional and before use.</i>
Welcome table:	<i>Present. Up to date Walk around Guide (2016) and leaflets.</i>
<i>There is also an online audio tour available.</i>	
Keyholder role:	<i>Fulfilled</i>
Key representative role:	<i>Fulfilled (remittances, CCT liaison, maintenance reporting)</i>
Area volunteer role:	<i>Vacant</i>
Fundraising roles:	<i>Volunteers run annual fundraising concerts, open gardens, as well as other fundraising for the roof repair.</i>
Stewardship roles:	<i>None</i>
Research, interp & talks role:	<i>None formal.</i>
Accessibility details:	<i>Provided via website</i>
CCT silver plaque:	<i>Installed, poor condition – lettering removed and temporary replacement laminated sign installed.</i>
CCT information board:	<i>Not installed.</i>
Oak post:	<i>Installed</i>
CCT freestanding board:	<i>Provided</i>
Wall safe poster:	<i>Installed, current</i>
CCT A board:	<i>Provided</i>
Gift Aid envelopes:	<i>Provided</i>
Visitor book:	<i>New one needed. Current one is full</i>
Building services:	<i>No electricity, no heating</i>
Parking:	<i>None formal. Spaces on road, which is a 30m walk away</i>
Organ:	<i>Electric</i>
Churchyard:	<i>Not owned by CCT, maintained by PCC and volunteers (mostly financed by Music for Awhile)</i>
Ringable bells:	<i>3. Hung for full-circle ringing but now only safe for swing-</i>

chiming

Pews:	<i>Choir stalls only</i>
Fire rated capacity:	100
Seating capacity:	<i>Not determined</i>
Site plan:	<i>Available</i>
Roof alarm:	<i>Installed. Elecsec.</i>
CCTV:	<i>Uninstalled</i>
Individual item security measures:	<i>Uninstalled</i>
Nearby attractions:	<i>The Ridgeway</i>
Public transport:	<i>Occasional local bus service</i>
Social media presence:	<i>None</i>
Images on CCT website:	<i>One of three</i>
Regular feature parish news:	<i>Occasional. Via volunteers</i>
Services per year:	<i>Up to three</i>
C of E support for services:	<i>Yes</i>
Christmas memory tree:	<i>No. Although it has been considered in the past.</i>
Tea Party:	<i>No</i>
Historic Church Tour:	<i>No</i>
Heritage Open Days:	<i>No</i>
Ride & Stride:	<i>No</i>
Champing:	<i>No, but possible.</i>
Retail:	<i>No</i>
Risk assessment general:	<i>Current</i>
Risk assessment fire:	<i>Current</i>
COSHH listing:	<i>Current</i>
Portable appliance listing:	<i>Current</i>
Security Audit:	<i>2015</i>
Children's explorer cart:	<i>None</i>
Children's trail:	<i>None</i>

Conservation reports

Condition Report:

Repairs liability: £65000
Annualised maintenance: £3689.41

Repair Liability:

• Short term:	£45,000.00
- Reroof N side of nave roof	£45,000.00
- Repair nave roof structure	£12,500.00
• Medium term:	£13,500.00
- Minor belfry repairs	£650.00
- Conservation to 'Button' and Burrough monuments	£3,000.00
- Repairs to Nave and Chanel plasterwork	£2,350.00
- Redecorate internal spaces	£7,500.00
• Long term:	£4,000.00
- RWG	£2,500.00
- Repair newel staircase	£1,500.00
• Desirable:	£2,500.00
- Install man safe system	£2,500.00

All cost figures are estimates, exclusive of VAT and professional fees

Income, Expenditure & Balances

Income 2019- 2020: £536 (N.B. Volunteers paid directly for repair to guttering, undertaking of tree surgery, restoring and painting of inner and outer church doors)

Wall safe 2018-2019 (incl. above): £307

Income 2018-2019: £2708

Wall safe 2018-2019 (incl. above): £265

Income 2017-2018: £6111

Wall safe 2017-2018: (incl. above): £452

Income 2016-2017: £11474

Wall safe 2016-2017: (incl. above): £103

Expenditure

Conservation expenditure '18/'19: £0

Maintenance expenditure '18/'19: £

Maintenance expenditure '17/'18: £660

Electricity '18/"19: £0

Electricity '17/'18: £0

Balances

Restricted Balance Report Jul '19 £8293.31

Income less expenditure '18/'19 £2708

Income less ann. maint.'18/'19: -£981.41

Local Community Officer's Summary

All Saints' Alton Priors is very lucky to have benefited from the long term voluntary support of several volunteers who have raised tens of thousands of pounds over decades of running the Music for Awhile festival in the church. The main volunteer responsible for these concerts was awarded Ecclesiastic's "Heritage Hero" award in 2018 in recognition of her efforts. The church also has good informal community support from its neighbours, who can always be counted on to get involved and help at events like the lime-washing day CCT held at the church in 2019.

Thanks to the community's efforts, funds were quickly raised to install the *rubberoid* membrane temporary roof, when the lead was stolen from the south side of the nave in 2016. This fundraising also paid for the alarm system and security lighting. This community have been the main contributors to the £8293.31 we were showing in restricted balances on 31st July 2019. The exact amount of restricted funds now available for the church is currently being queried with CCTs Finance Team.

There is currently a community led project underway at the church to install a new engraved glass panel, celebrating the church itself, local landscape and community as well as the 25th Anniversary of the Music for Awhile summer festival, which the CCT are very grateful for, and support.

All Saints' inspires generous support from a relatively small number of visitors each year, the maximum number of visits limited perhaps by the limited options for parking, and poor signposting to the church. The addition of video-directions on the church webpage might encourage additional visits over time, all of which would be certain to encounter an extremely well-presented church thanks to the continuing and extremely dedicated care of its volunteers who visit to clean throughout the season.

Improved "open church" and donation signage and interpretation (although these are currently at a good standard with an up to date walk around guide and online audio tour) in the church could improve visitor numbers and donation per head.

A temporary electrical supply is made available for the Music for Awhile concerts, but a more permanent electrical supply could enable flexible use of the interior for other occasional performances.

It is hoped that new ideas for use and potential supporters for the church may emerge as part of the church planning process.