

# **ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, WRINGTON**

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE 2025**

The focal point for life in a village has for centuries been the Parish Church, and in Wrington, Somerset, in the Diocese of Bath and Wells, we have a magnificent example in All Saints'. It is a Grade 1 listed building and is sited in a conservation area. Pevsner states: 'It is among the most majestic of North Somerset Churches, crowned by a good tall West tower'. It has been written that: 'The Church sits in its place as if it had grown there, a marvel of dignity and proportion', and is an apt description when viewed from one of the many vantage points around the village. The visual impact on the landscape can be seen for miles. The North, East and Southern facades can all be clearly seen from the village streets and all date back to the late 15<sup>th</sup> century.

The outstanding feature of the Church is its beautiful square western tower, which it is said was copied by Sir Charles Barry when designing the Victoria tower of the House of Commons. The interior is simple, airy and enhanced by its unusual low-level windowsills. It comprises of nave and aisles (with 4 bay arcades) chancel (with side chapels) and South porch. There is an important screen of circa 1500 below a fine rood beam by W. Randall Blacking. The stone reredos, by Sir Charles Barry, is of significant interest, although the upper parts are now missing. Above the Chancel, on the eastern gable of the nave roof, is a very beautiful turret, decorated with four small corner pinnacles and a central cross. This cote contains the mediaeval Sanctus Bell of circa 1500.

We have four weekly Communion services, a said Communion at 8 am, and sung Communion at 9.30 am on a Sunday, plus a said Communion on a Tuesday at 10am and 8.30am on a Friday. Once a month there is a Café Worship style service instead of the Communion at 9.30 am. There is a monthly Club for pre-school children, Wrigley monkeys, hopefully transferring to weekly later on in the year'. Messy church also meets monthly in church during term time. There are additional services for Remembrance, Harvest, All Saints and All Souls, the Crib service at Christmas and other festival occasions. We have concerts and School Church days in which the wider community is involved. There are baptisms, weddings, funerals and other occasional services when needed.

The Churchyard is in very active current use for burials and interment of ashes. It is maintained to a very high standard and is financially supported by the wider community. The Lychgate was renovated in 2008 although this entrance is not used by all parishioners, as the access is onto a busy road. The War Memorial is well maintained and respected by the local community.

A Nadfas record of Church Furnishings was compiled in 2000. The original altar is 19<sup>th</sup> century. The pulpit of Caen stone was placed in the Church at the time of the Victorian restoration. The Perpendicular font is octagonal in shape and has been dated between 1460 and 1540. The eagle lectern was given in 1887. The windows contain no mediaeval glass but are of interest as they commemorate Hannah More, three former Rectors and three prominent local families. The bells have been rung since the 16<sup>th</sup> century when there were only four bells. There are now ten bells. There are two Victorian busts in the South Porch of John Locke and Hannah More. The books which constitute the chained library were bequeathed in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and are listed. There was an organ in 1633 but the present organ was placed in Church in 1859 in the lower space of the tower. In 1880 it was removed to the old Lady Chapel. The Victorian restoration saw many changes. Some pews have poppy heads, which will be retained. In 1997 the Vestry was reordered with installation of high quality oak

and wrought iron fittings in the Chancel. The Chancel step was widened at this time. Funding was provided by the congregation and village as a whole. Alan Thomas was the architect.

A further significant reordering was completed in 2016 with the removal of some rear pews, introduction of a server, and improved lighting, heating and sound system. As a result, the church is now used for a wide variety of church and community events emphasising the need for an accessible toilet in church.

Proposals:

1. To install an 'fully accessible' toilet within the current vestry.
2. Significant deathwatch beetle infestation of the vestry floor has been found. The opportunity will be taken to remove the floor in its entirety and replace with solid, reinstating the original lias flagstone floor, insulated with underfloor heating.
3. The existing south wall cabinetry and storage will be left largely unchanged. Doors will be added to areas currently open and security improved. The opportunity will be taken to modify the existing west door storage units to ease removal should this be required for access to the west door for tenor bell removal.
4. The existing toilet in the Reading Room near the North gate is unfortunately unsuitable for the disabled and is 70 metres from the church building.

Bibliography

The Buildings of England (Somerset; North and Bristol) Foyle and Pevsner  
The Church of All Saints: Hugh Smith  
Council for the Care of Churches  
The National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies  
(All Saints Wrington – Record of Church Furnishings)

(6 April 2025)