

WORSHIP

The average Sunday morning congregation is 20-25 and we have a Junior Church and a crèche for under 4's when needed. Music is provided either by our pianist on the Clavonova or by Hymnal Plus which is operated by a few members of the congregation on a rota basis. We have a video projector for use in our worship, this enables us to use programmes such as Powerpoint, films, etc. Services include, All Age Worship quarterly, Communion is celebrated by Methodist and URC style, URC style 1 in 3. Refreshments are served following the morning service.

PASTORAL CARE

We have a very good Pastoral team who care for our church family.

CHURCH ELDERS

Our Church Council is served by Elders who play an important role in the running of the Church. Elders usually meets three or four times a year and we have two Church meetings per year, one of our Church Members is a Worship Leader,

Within the Eldership is the Treasurer, Secretary and Property Committee.

Members of the congregation give their collection through the Goodwill Offering system or by standing order. This year we received £3,158.15 as a Gift Aid rebate.

A Worship group in place, Mission and Outreach, needs more members.

Ecumenically there is the Corsham Area Christian Churches which includes Anglicans, Roman Catholics, Baptists and ourselves. Two members of our congregation are members of that committee. Several joint activities are organised by the committee for Lent, Good Friday, Pentecost and an outdoor Carol Service.

A Fundraising Group organise several fundraising events such as breakfasts, lunches, afternoon tea, jumble sales, and taking part in town fayres.

Action for Children are supported by our Christmas Carols singing which takes place in Corsham shopping precinct followed by a church lunch.

Corsham is situated in North Wiltshire on the A4 between Bath and Chippenham. It has a population of approximately 14,000 and is growing. With easy access to the M4 motorway only 6 miles away at Chippenham and a railway station in that town, many Corsham residents commute to larger towns for employment. However there is some light industry located on several estates around the town and MOD/Service establishments situated around the town are increasing. Corsham has a Comprehensive School, 3 Primary Schools and 1 private Kindergarten/Primary School.

A Church Weekend Away has in the past been organised every other year alternating with 'A Church Weekend Away at Home'. Other sector churches are invited to join us on our away weekend. We have also held day retreats at a venue nearer to home, and various social activities, e.g.: entertainment events, skittles evenings and family fun days. Our Church has a skittles team (the Saints) who play in the Corsham & District Winter League, playing away in pubs and clubs, our home alley is in the local Football Club. Other skittles teams are supportive of some of our events.

St. Aldhelm's, is a welcoming Church, and has been refurbished, replacing the pews with chairs, new floor covering and improved heating. This refurbishment ensures that along with the provision of a servery, adjacent to the Church we can offer a versatile venue for services, concerts, meals and other gatherings. The large Church Hall has also been refurbished with a fully fitted kitchen and new windows have been fitted to the Hall, downstairs rooms, (with the exception of the kitchen, which already had a new window) and all upstairs windows. Gas central heating has been fitted throughout the premises. A downstairs room has a television screen and a DVD player and the Junior Church upstairs room has a wall mounted TV combined with video player. One other room is also suitable for children's activities, committee meetings, small groups training etc. All this, with disabled toilet and baby changing facilities, makes the building a good venue for 'in house' activities and for hirers.

New windows to the Hall, downstairs and upstairs rooms were fitted in early 2017.

Various church activities takes place on the premises, such as:

A weekly Hive, a Toddler Group;

A Saturday Café, held in the Church, which is well attended by the community.

A Women's Breakfast with Bible Study meets monthly on a Thursday morning, followed by Church Prayer time; Prayer time also takes place on other dates. A Bible Study Group meet fortnightly on a Monday evening and a Bible Study Group meets fortnightly on a Monday morning.

St. Aldhelm's have a Prayer Circle.

The premises are used by several 'outside' organisations including Wilts Age UK and a tap dancing group. Corsham Country Market rent storage space for their tables.

Our church is the host church for Corsham Churches Food Bank, an ecumenical enterprise. The food is mainly stored on our premises and people come to St. Aldhelm's to collect their food parcels usually on a Tuesday and Saturday morning.

During the pandemic the Food Bank continued but most other activities in the building ceased for a time and Sunday worship continued via Zoom and written services. Occasional services were held in the building when allowed, but from September we aim to resume weekly worship in the building. We are in a time of transition and discernment as we pray for guidance for the future, but a few activities are re-starting.

Priorities for St. Aldhelm's

Our **priorities** are evangelism, spiritual direction, church growth, Pastoral care. **Also** we value preaching, teaching, children's work, bible studies, world mission. **Other issues** which are of importance are stewardship, administration, ecumenical relations and exploring new forms of Worship such as Contemplative Prayer/music and Café Church and on some Sundays after Morning Worship an opportunity for Prayers for Healing and Wholeness.

**ST ALDHELM'S
CHURCH
CORSHAM**

