

STRENGTHS

- 'It is precisely in a fractured, broken age that we need mystery and a reawakened sense of wonder' (Ben Okri)
- high church worship
 - liturgy
 - high regard for sacraments
- music
 - singing
 - 'Music is a most present remedy: it expels cares, alters grieved minds and easeth in an instant' (Richard Burton)
- daily office / services
- welcoming
 - Alan
 - strong, warm community; generous congregation
 - students involved in church life quickly - sense of ownership
 - good Vestry and we love IAN PALFREY
 - church is open
 - agape
 - real coffee and cake (hospitality - community)
 - meeting people
 - excuse to have food together - builds on existing community
 - rector's wine cellar and gin distillery
 - 'One never reaches home, but wherever friendly paths intersect the whole world looks like home for a time' (Herman Hesse)
- ecumenism/diversity
 - international
 - broad demographic - ecumenical, background, station in life
- estate/fabric
 - estate - location and buildings
 - keeping on top of fabric issues
- overall identity
 - confidence in what we do and what we stand for
 - strong sense of identity - who we are and what we do - anchors these conversations

WEAKNESSES

- communication
 - recruiting for the choir (need to catch at start of academic year)
 - not obvious how to officially join (emailing list)
 - more clear advertising of opportunities, eg to give time and talent
 - publicity for events
 - website unclear for Holy Week etc
 - lack of communication between subgroups eg not know a healing service is taking place unless you *know* Saturday routines
 - advertising/media
 - lack of photography at large events (centenary, Easter etc)
- outreach
 - need to be more visible - serve the community
 - more obvious/active charity work
- membership
 - age distribution (children and between students/retired)
 - need more volunteers
 - lack of leadership in volunteer activities (eg Storehouse)
 - lack of awareness (taking for granted) of people who *are* leading activities
 - only students and retirees - where are the others?
- fundraising
- processions
 - lack of canopy for eucharistic processions
 - short duration

OPPORTUNITIES

- 'Love one another as I have loved you.'
- organised events
 - Future uses of the All Saints' complex might include spiritual and meditative guided retreats and short courses
 - Angelus following the agape
 - plainchant introits at Mass
- societies / social gatherings
 - Prayer Book Society - need dedicated students to run
 - Plainsong Society
 - reintroduce Wednesday Club
 - house groups
 - short morning/afternoon group (4-6 weeks) eg Advent, ordinary time
 - teaching/learning groups/house groups in addition to Lent groups
 - student groups/youth group
 - 1745/1688 club
 - Sunday lunch bookings/dinner
 - port and plainsong/hedonistic hymnody
 - intellectual engagement (theology, bible study, doctrine etc)
 - catechesis ... not just for kids?
 - Bible study (Alpha group?)
 - more set-aside times like this to chat deliberately about spiritual/ecumenical topics
 - congregation understanding workings of church and diocese
 - time and talents event
 - movie nights?
 - hymn-athon/psalm-athon (fundraiser/outreach)
 - come-and-sing
 - summertime courtyard cafe
 - parish day trip (joint evensongs etc)
 - Alumni network
- ecumenism
 - partnerships with local charities and other churches
 - joint services (eg St Andrew's church) ; lutherans
 - ecumenical ceilidh
 - Diocese of Calcutta and Amazonia
 - formal ties with University (CU etc)
 - university chaplaincy
- mission
 - intentional lay community
 - rebooting the pastoral group
 - visiting the sick
 - monitor ethical purchasing/consuming
- finance
 - try to increase revenue from property - possibly employ manager rather than University
 - charitable giving
- keep website updated (Holy Week, various projects)
- children/young people
- move from focus on buildings to *people* (which is what the church is)

THREATS

- membership
 - choir (recruiting and retaining)
 - transitory town
 - inconsistency in church membership due to transitional nature of the town (students, tourists, travellers)
 - graduating students (replenishing student population)
 - key people with knowledge and experience leaving
- need more people to do the intercessions
- continued financial strength - not just depending on wealthy donors
- increasingly antagonistic culture
- matters outwith our control (diocesan level) policy-making not in our favour
- brown shoes in the sanctuary
- the Episcopacy

HOW DID YOU DISCOVER ALL SAINTS'?

