

Excerpts from *“Weaving the Threads of Our Parish: A Historical and Spiritual Perspective on All Saints’ Episcopal Church, Chelmsford, Massachusetts”*

In the 1850’s, Miss Anna Eliza Hunt wrote to the Rev. Theodore Edson, Rector of Saint Anne’s Church in Lowell about the “enfeebled state of religion” in Chelmsford, and asked him to come to hold Episcopal services. Meanwhile Miss Hunt began a Sunday School for children. Her long term desire was to establish an Episcopal congregation in Chelmsford but she knew that would require many resources, a place to gather being foremost, clergy, and the money needed for the same. She spent the next 50 years methodically gathering the human and capital resources to establish a congregation. She had to rely on others, visiting clergy and generous patrons in order to have official services, to purchase property and build a church. Even so, she spent even more time and energy building a community of faith. She established a church school, organized prayer meetings, and oversaw fellowship events. All of this would grow into All Saints’ Church.

It is notable that the founders of All Saints’ chose to locate their church in the center of the town and built a church that was significantly different in appearance from the New England Meeting House architecture of the Unitarian, Baptist and Congregational churches also in the Center. The church the founders built had the permanence of stone and appearance of rural England. The Chapel was begun in 1879 and the small congregation spent the next 13 years struggling to pay for permanent clergy. Nonetheless, the work of raising children in the Episcopal Church and building up the church community continued. Our founding years established a tradition of self-reliance and lay leadership. In 1892 the arrival of the Rev. Wilson Waters, who served as Rector for almost 40 years, solidified All Saints’ Church as a permanent and stable local institution. In the same way, “The Stone Church” became a landmark for all who passed by.

“[In the early 1950’s], the parish began to address the fact that their facilities were woefully inadequate. Instead of building a new sanctuary, All Saints’ built the Parish Hall, with a primary concern for serving the children and youth of the town. The gym and stage indeed became a social center. A church basketball league, plays, performances, dinners and other social events helped All Saints’ become a place where people, young and old gathered. In this time, All Saints’ served as the center of many people’s social lives. In 1960 the new sanctuary was built. Strong lay leadership was behind both building projects.

We have continued to improve our facility by refurbishing our Parish Hall, adding an elevator and ramps for handicap accessibility, and adding air conditioning. We still struggle as generations before us, with the challenges of having enough financing. We are therefore creative in ways to raise money and we rely heavily on our volunteer and lay leadership.

# Welcome to All Saints’ Episcopal Church

## Statement of Inclusion

All Saints’ Episcopal Church welcomes all people who seek the love of God without regard to ability, age, color, economic circumstance, ethnic background, family configuration, gender, nationality, or sexual orientation. We promise to “seek to serve Christ in all persons,...strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.”

## Parish Staff Directory

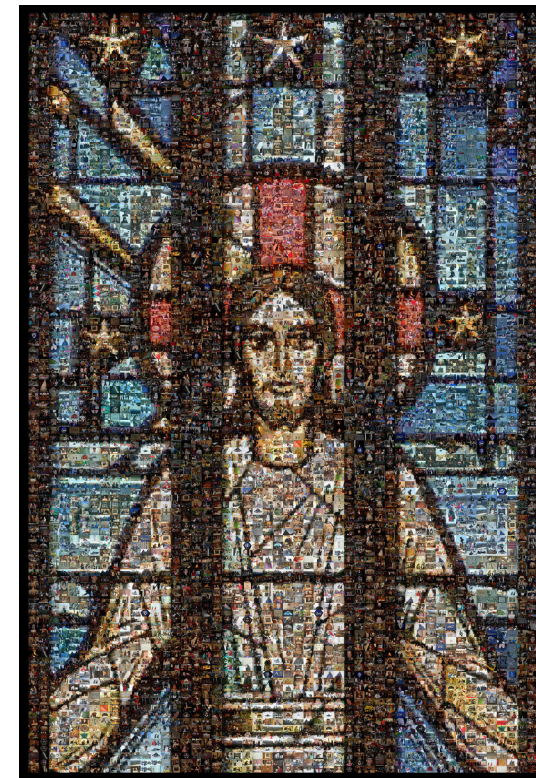
The Rev. Bill Brdbury, Rector  
Rebecca Haberl, Director of Religious Education  
Margaret Marshall, Minister of Music  
Deb Psilopoulos, Handbell Choir Director  
Darlene Gossement, Parish Administrator  
Bob Wilson, Sexton

## Parish Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday  
9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

## A note on the cover art

The figure of Jesus on the cover of this brochure is a mosaic of the stained glass window in our sanctuary, comprised of tiny photographs of people engaged in various parish activities. It was created by parishioner Steve Grillo.



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Email: [aschurch@gis.net](mailto:aschurch@gis.net)

## Welcome to All Saints' Church!

We are delighted that you have chosen to worship with us.

### Who We Are

**All Saints' Church** is a community of people living in Chelmsford, Greater Lowell and beyond who gather to worship God. We cherish the Episcopal tradition. We provide opportunities for members to discover, share and use their gifts, gratefully acknowledging God as the source of all we have. Through Jesus Christ and in unity with the Holy Spirit, we seek renewal and growth as people of faith and as a Christian community as we worship God our Creator, are formed in our faith, and join God in God's mission of reconciling love, serving both those in this place and those in the world outside our walls.

### Worship Schedule

#### **Sunday**

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, no music

9:00 a.m. Adult Bible class

9:30 a.m. Children's Church School

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with music

*Summer 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with music*

#### **Wednesday**

12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

No music, Service held in the Chapel

### The Worship Service

**The Book of Common Prayer:** This is the red book found in your pew. It contains all the words for the service and the page numbers are listed in your bulletin.

**The Hymnal:** This is the blue book found in your pew. It contains songs for the service and page numbers are listed in your bulletin and on the front boards on either side of the altar. Songs with an "S" before them are service music and are found in the very front of the hymnal.

**Lift Every Voice and Sing:** This is the black and red book found in your pew. Songs are listed in the bulletin and on the front boards as LEVAS or "L" and a number.

**Communion:** All baptized Christians and those who are seeking a deeper relationship with Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion at All Saints'.

### Accessibility

**Elevator:** There is an elevator that will take you from the Sanctuary down to the classrooms and then on down to the Parish Hall. The directions are taped on the elevator control panel.

**Amplification Headphones:** Headphones are available at the service for those who are hearing impaired. Please see an usher or greeter for assistance.

**Large-print Prayer Books:** The Book of Common Prayer is available in large print for those with vision impairments. Please see an usher or greeter for assistance.

### Restrooms

There are two sets of restrooms. One is at the bottom of the stairs from the Narthex. The other is in the connecting link between the main church and the Parish Hall. The connecting link bathrooms are accessible for those in wheelchairs and offer changing tables.

### Children's Services

**Sunday School:** Classes and programs are offered during the regular school year for children beginning in preschool. Feel free to ask a greeter to take you to the appropriate classroom if you'd like to check it out.

**Babies & Toddlers:** There is a playroom downstairs where you can play with your infants and toddlers during today's service.

**Kits for Children:** Kits with quiet activities for children are available from the greeters or ushers in the Narthex. Crayons and paper can be used during the service and returned to the Narthex at the end of church.

### Adult Education

Sunday morning Bible study meets at 9:00am during the school year in the Blue Room to discuss the Gospel reading for the day. Please see the bulletin for additional adult formation opportunities.

### Music

**Senior Choir** - The Senior Choir sings weekly during the school year at the 10:00 a.m. service. Rehearsals are Thursdays at 7:45 p.m. and Sundays at 9:10 a.m.

**Junior Choir** - grades 4, 5, and up. This group performs more advanced music (e.g.: two or three part music). During the summer, a number of members of the Junior Choir attend a week at the Diocesan Choir Camp, held at the Barbara Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, NH. Rehearsals are Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

**Children's Choir** - The Children's Choir is typically the children's first exposure to choral singing, and learning to follow notes and music is a major accomplishment. This group, for grades 2-4, focuses on unison singing. Rehearsals are Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.

**Handbell Choir** - The Handbell Choir plays regularly throughout the year. This group continues to grow in confidence as well as expanding its scope in types of repertoire and technique. Rehearsals are Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

### Parish Activities

Please refer to our weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter SaintsAlive!, both available online, to find out about the many social and outreach activities happening around our parish. We invite you to join us!

### Looking for more information?

**Information Cards:** Fill out an information card and indicate whether or not you would like someone to contact you. They can be found in the pews or on the table in the back of the Narthex.

**Coffee Hour:** If you would like to join others at coffee hour following the 10:00 service, head right down to the Parish Hall or look for a greeter in the Narthex after the service.