

**THE PARISH OF
ST ANDREW, NORTH SWINDON
Annual Report 2024**



ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

to be held in church

Sunday 28th April 2024 - 11.15am

This pack includes

- (a) **Agenda for 2024 meetings**
- (b) **Minutes and Reports for 2023**
- (c) **Accounts for 2023**

THE PARISH OF ST ANDREW, NORTH SWINDON
28th April 2024, 11.15am

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS 2024

A G E N D A

1. Welcome and opening prayers
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of previous Annual Meeting of Parishioners 2023
4. Election of Churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2024

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the previous Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2023
 - (a) To be approved and signed
 - (b) Matters arising
3. Presentation of Updated Electoral Roll
4. Elections:
 - a. 3 PCC vacancies for 3 years
 - b. 2 PCC vacancies for 2 years
 - c. 2 PCC vacancy for 1 year
5. Consideration of Reports
6. Financial Report and Presentation of 2023 Inspected Accounts
 - a. Adoption of 2023 Inspected Accounts
 - b. Appointment of Independent Examiner
7. Incumbent's Report (including discussion on Children and Holy Communion)
8. The Grace

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St Andrew's Church, North Swindon

Minutes from APCM Meeting
 Sunday 21st May 2023, 11:15am
 In Church

Present:

Sally Robertson (Chair)	Paul Zukiewicz	Brian & Gillian Clegg	Lyn & Tony Jones
Helen Allen	Jo Prior (Minutes)	Sally Wilson	Susan & Peter Smith
Donna Kelly	Tim Holliday	David Templar	Coral Napper
Donna Wylde	Patti Tomlinson	Susan Jennings	

AGENDA ITEM	
1	Welcome & Opening Prayer (SR)
	Sally led the welcome and opened the meeting in prayer
2	Apologies
	These were received from Karen Vermeersch, Frances Grimshaw
3	Minutes of the previous Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2022
	Minutes from 15 th May 2022 were approved, agreed & signed There was one matter arising which was to remember Barry Luffman who sadly passed away in March 2023 & to remember the work he had given to St Andrew's.
4	Elections of Church Wardens
	Brian Clegg & Helen Allen are going to stand as wardens again, Sally thanked them for the work they do and thanked them for continuing to stand: Brian Clegg was proposed by Helen Allen, seconded by Karen Vermeersch Helen Allen was proposed by Frances Grimshaw, seconded by Patti Tomlinson. – Welcome to new members: It was a good time to welcome Patti Tomlinson on to the PCC – proposed by Karen Vermeersch seconded by Helen Allen.
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2023	
1	Apologies
	These were received from Karen Vermeersch, Frances Grimshaw
2	Minutes of the previous Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2022
	Minutes from 15 th May 2022 were approved, agreed & signed There was one matter arising which was to remember Barry Luffman who sadly passed away in March 2023 & to remember the work he had given to St Andrew's.
3	Presentation of updated Electoral Roll
	There are 67 parishioners. Breakdown is 34 residents & 33 non-residents – this is an increase of 3. Many thanks to Gillian Clegg for compiling the figures this year and for agreeing to continue to carry out this role.
4	Election of Deanery Synod representatives
	This needs to happen every 3 years, David Templar is St Andrew's representative. Colin Clark is also nominated and they are happy to continue. David was proposed by Frances Grimshaw and seconded by Helen Allen, Colin was proposed by David Templar and seconded by Paul Zukiewicz
5	Election for PCC members
	Sally thanked Susan Jennings for her 5yr commitment and her time on the PCC PCC Member– Susan Smith for 1yr – nominated by Francis Grimshaw seconded by Dave Templar

	ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS 2023	Action
	AGENDA ITEM	
	PCC Member – Patricia Tomlinson – nominated by Karen Vermeersch seconded by Helen Allen	
	Election of Sides people & Assistant Church Wardens	
	<p>The following are sides people:</p> <p>Paul Zukiewicz Dave Templar Tony Jones Lyn Jones Frances Grimshaw Donna Wylde David Hogg Gill Clegg Coral Napper was proposed by Sally Robertson</p>	
6	<p>The following are Assistant Churchwardens:</p> <p>Dave Templar Paul Zukiewicz Tony Jones</p> <p>These were proposed by Sally Robertson</p> <p>Thank you to Peter Smith who has stepped down from this role and a thank you to those staying on as ACW for their continued support.</p>	
7	Consideration of reports	
	Sally extended her thanks to all that have contributed to getting report together	
8	Financial report and Presentation of 2022 Inspected Accounts	
	<p>Inspected accounts – Susan gave a short overview of the accounts; Susan had not heard back from the independent examiner Paul Crowley but this was adopted by Susan Smith and seconded by Lyn Jones. All in agreement and confirmation of examiner will be at the next PCC meeting.</p> <p>Susan is in her 28th year of standing and is going to stand for another year, this was proposed by Frances Grimshaw and seconded by Dave Templar</p>	
9	Incumbents Report	
	<p>Hard to distinguish last year from this – but when it comes to saying thank you, that’s really rather irrelevant.</p> <p>So many people given so much of their time and energy and contributed to different initiatives.</p> <p>I am really grateful to everyone involved Brian, Helen and Karen for all the time they give but for each person who has contributed in any way you have made a difference to St Andrew’s and thereby to God’s glory in North Swindon. Thank you</p>	

	ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS 2023	Action
	AGENDA ITEM	
	<p>I have written about last year in our APCM report, so I want to highlight our plans for the future.</p> <p>As you know PCC took part in an exercise called good to great that doesn't seek to change us into something we're not, but rather to build on who we are.</p> <p>Another small change I want to draw your attention to is in our charitable giving: Swindon Night shelter, Christians Against Poverty & Nsawo School in Uganda.</p> <p>We have already shown this year that we can do much more than we think we can – God provides all the resources we need both practically and spiritually so before the grace I want to use the words of Paul's prayer at the beginning of Ephesians to pray for us as a congregation. As I did on Ascension Day.</p> <p>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation as we come to know him, so that, with the eyes of our heart enlightened, we may know what is the hope to which he has called us, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. May we remember that God the Father has put all things under Christ's feet and has made him the head over all things for us, the church, we are his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.</p> <p>Amen</p>	
10	The Grace	
	APCM closed at 12.05pm	

REPORTS FOR 2023

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

(a) Its Role

The Council is required, as stated in the Parochial Church Councils Measure 1956, to co-operate with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It is also a forum for debating matters sent down by the General, Diocesan and Deanery Synods. The PCC is responsible with the incumbent for the disposal of all monies collected.

(b) PCC Members

Ex-officio members

Sally Robertson (Priest)
Karen Vermeersch (Licensed Lay Minister – elected til May 2023 then ex-officio)
Brian Clegg (Churchwarden)
Helen Allen (Churchwarden)
Dave Templar (Deanery Synod Member – re-elected May 2023)
Colin Clark (Deanery Synod Member – re-elected May 2023)

Elected members

Susan Smith (Treasurer) (re-elected 2023 – term ends 2024)
Susan Jennings (term ended May 2023)
Donna Kelly (elected in April 2022 for 3 years – term ends 2025)
Donna Wylde (elected May 2021 for 3 years – term ends 2024)
Paul Zukiewicz (elected May 2022 for 2 years – term ends 2024)
Patti Tomlinson (elected May 2023 for 3 years – term ends 2026)

Co-opted members

Cathy Foot

Minute Secretary

Jo Prior

(c) Organisation

The PCC met 8 times in 2023: in person

(d) Proceedings of the PCC

The main items, which the PCC considered during the year, included:

- Windows & Coverings
- Church Maintenance
- Concert in Church
- Zoom update
- PCC Away Day
- Invitation to the Bishops
- Bells & Windows
- Heritage Open Day
- Picnic Church
- Plan for Lent & Easter
- Opening of the Vault
- Community Lunches
- Review of Charities

- Harvest Festival
- Good to Great development
- Eco-Champion

(e) Facts and Figures for 2023

Electoral Roll: 67

Average Sunday Attendance : St Andrew’s & Tadpole Farm Academy (*) (^ = + uncounted watching on Facebook or video):

	2023 [^] In church	2022 [^] In church	2021 In church and on Zoom/FB	2020 In church and on Zoom	2020 In church only	2019*
Adults	33	36	26	24	14	31
Children	7	7	6	4	3	8

Occasional Offices	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Baptisms:	24	23	16	5	32
Funerals:	10 (3 in church)	9 (1 church)	11 (3 church)	18 (2 church)	6 (0) church)
Marriages:	1	4	2	1	5
Blessing after Civil Marriage:	0	0	0	0	0
Confirmation	3	0	0	0	2

(f) Log Book, Terrier and Inventory

Checked March 2024, signed by Revd Sally Robertson, Brian Clegg and Helen Allen on 27th March 2024.

DISCIPLESHIP *(Sally Robertson)*

In one sense, discipleship includes everything we do as followers of Jesus – worshipping God, serving our community and loving one another. However, it is helpful to review those things we did during 2023 to help us all to **learn** more about following Jesus. The main focus for learning from the summer onwards was the resumption of the Monthly Bible Book Club.

We had followed the Bible Society’s suggestion of reading a whole book of the Bible and discussing it together on zoom during 2020-21 and restarted this face to face as a way to encourage us all to read the Bible more. Bible book club evolved from a small discussion group looking at Bible basics and has grown from 4 people initially to around 10 who engage each month. During the year we looked at Mark, Acts, Genesis, James, Elijah (looking at specific chapters from 1-2 Kings) and finally 1 John, 2 John and 3 John. We (try to) read the book in advance and then share our thoughts, questions and encouragements when we meet which is always a very interesting conversation. Bible book Club continues in 2024, please feel free to join us.

We also used seasons of the church year to increase our praying together. In Lent we met in person and on zoom for weekly Celtic evening prayer, encouraging us all to pray the Caim (circling prayer) each day. From St Andrew’s day to part way through Advent we reflected on Mary’s song of praise, often known as the Magnificat and held services of morning, mid-day and evening prayer each week on zoom.

It was great that during the year, as well as several Baptisms, 3 people were confirmed. Seth in Bristol Cathedral on Easter Eve and Margaret and Richard in St Sampson’s Cricklade in October.

Swindon Deanery Synod Report *(Sally Robertson)*

2023 was a year when a new Deanery Synod was elected on the 3-yearly cycle. The clergy remain the same as they are on Deanery synod as part of their role, but all the lay members of synod were re-elected at the APCMS. 15 members stood down, including John Bishop from New Town after 50 years on Deanery Synod, and 10 new members joined, while 22 continued in role. We are very grateful to everyone who serves on Deanery Synod and helps us to work together as parishes with a shared commitment to seeing God's Kingdom come across the Deanery.

Deanery Synod met 4 times during the year, with the Deanery Leadership team (DLT) meeting between synods to plan the agenda and work on the Deanery Vision. The Deanery vision was kicked off by the DLT in May, with input from the clergy chapter and we are hoping to develop begin implementing the plan that flows from it parts of it during 2024.

In February we met at St John's Haydon Wick with Archdeacon Christopher to hear the progress on the Diocesan Vision, Transforming Church. Together (TC.T) and to discuss what it might mean for our parish and how we can work together across the Deanery.

In May, at St Philip's Upper Stratton, Chris Dobson came in his role as Adviser for Parish Discipleship and Evangelism to follow up one of the strands from TC.T, developing discipleship and evangelism. He was keen to hear of our experiences of discipleship and evangelism to inform his work.

In July, with the new synod elected, we had a barbeque as one of the final events at Legge House. This helped us to get to know one another better and we received feed back on the draft Deanery vision. David Cain was re-elected as Lay -chair and Helen Watt as Deanery synod Secretary. We were grateful to Chris Pope for his years as Deanery treasurer and elected Anthony Slack in his place. The house of laity elected James Greenslade, Abby Scott and Dave Templar as members of DLT and the clergy elected Toby Boutle, Elveen Mead and Lydia Morey.

The final meeting of the year was at St Michael's Highworth in November when the Deanery vision was presented and there was discussion about the way forward under each of the 9 headlines. You can find the Vision document presented to the November Synod [here](https://nschurch.org.uk/swindon-deanery-vision.php) <https://nschurch.org.uk/swindon-deanery-vision.php>

At every meeting we heard updates on local and diocesan priorities, including Racial Justice, eco church and the cost of living crisis, as well as worshipping in a variety of styles and enjoying the hospitality of the host church.

We encourage anyone with an interest in the wider deanery and the topic under discussion to come to our meetings. The dates for 2024 are 6th February, 22nd May, 16th July and 3rd October. Please speak to your Deanery Synod reps if you would like to know more. They are Sally Robertson, Colin Clarke and Dave Templar

BUILDING & FABRIC REPORT *(Brian Clegg, Churchwarden)*

The church building remains sound overall, with no obvious structural problems. Following on from our 2022 quinquennial inspection by architect Calvin Weaver, 2022 saw two significant pieces of work. Four missing tiles were replaced by Monarch roofing, while a badly corroded and ineffective pair of window guards were replaced. Thanks to the brilliant work of stained-glass window expert Mike Snow, along with PCC member Paul Zukiewicz, the distinctive 'good shepherd' windows were cleaned and new, clear covers fitted. It is hoped that further window work will be undertaken in 2024.

One of the church bells suffered damage to the arm that connects the bell to the pull wire – as a result this will remain out of action for some time. We have obtained quotes, but budget limitations do not allow us to have repairs undertaken for the present. Internally, our portable electrical equipment was successfully PAT tested, and the fire extinguishers maintained.

FINANCIAL REPORT *(Treasurer Susan Smith)*

Please refer to the PCC's Annual Accounts and the Financial Review at the end of this Report.

SAFEGUARDING REPORT *(Cathy Foot, Helen Smith)*

Safeguarding continues to be a priority for the Church of England and for St Andrew's Church. As new activities are introduced we apply the principles and practices of safeguarding as laid out.

The Parish Dashboard continues to be a useful tool as we work towards Level Two. It helpfully generates an automatic action plan outlining the work still requiring the attention of the PCC. A copy of the plan is attached for information and action.

Catherine Foot and Helen Smith are the Parish Safeguarding Officers. They are available for any safeguarding concerns from the PCC, and wider congregation for advice and support. Jo continues to administer the DBS checks and updating training records.

Jo reports that five DBS checks were successfully completed in 2023-2024. One is in hand as this report is written.

Thanks go to everyone who completed the necessary training this year. One persons is outstanding.

One interim report was made in the Autumn to the PCC in November 2023.

In all matters pertaining to Safeguarding we have been supported by the Central Diocesan Team. However, keeping children, young people and vulnerable adults safe and being alert to signs of distress is the responsibility of everyone within the church community.

Catherine Foot will be stepping down from the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer as soon as a new one is recruited and in position.

Hospitality and Social events – KV/CvdK/SR

Community Lunches – eight lunches were held during 2023, beginning with six on a weekly basis during Lent, and followed by two during the summer holidays. A simple meal was provided free of charge to everybody who came along and it was open to the whole community. While the intention had been to encourage engagement with the local community, it was mostly attended by existing members of the congregation. Although they did not meet their original intended purpose, they were appreciated by those who did attend, giving the opportunity to meet in a relaxed way and share food and friendship together. There will be further lunches offered during 2024 for this reason.

Craft Club - Following on from our successful Poppy Project, the ladies involved wanted to continue doing something together, once a month, and so our Crafting Club was born. Our first project was to make goldfish for our up and coming May Fair on the 18th of May. Delighted to report we have already managed to make 30 as prizes! Our long term project is to make a hanging entitled The Tree of Life, with each leaf being made out of a gifted and meaningful piece of fabric. We will also be knitting and crocheting squares for blankets.

Social Programme - We expanded our social programme during the year, beyond our Epiphany party and summer barbeque at the vicarage with a return visit to Moonrakers for Sunday lunch, a fundraising meal at Bengal Square Indian Restaurant and most radically a summer concert at St Andrew's with a young tenor, Gregory Steward. This was a most enjoyable evening and many who came wished they had known to bring friends, it will be repeated.

Heritage open day - Following the success of our first involvement with the Heritage Open Day initiative we expanded our offering to talks morning and afternoon and a community lunch between them. Over 50 people came to hear the talks and were enthralled by the enthusiasm of our 3 experts, Paul on the building, Mike on the windows and Coral on the families buried in our churchyard and memorialised on our walls. It was a great opportunity to introduce more people to the joys of our building.

Churchyard (Helen Allen, Churchwarden)

This year we have focussed on managing our churchyard for people, wildlife and heritage. As a tranquil green space in the middle of ever-expanding housing estates, our churchyard continues to attract local dog-walkers and occasional ramblers, whilst also welcoming those who tend to family graves and memorials.

We continue to participate in 'No Mow May'. Refraining from mowing the grass during the spring allows wildflowers and pollinators to complete their lifecycles, contributing to and sustaining the biodiversity of our local area.

Amongst our local wildlife are deer, whose much reduced habitat includes the churchyard. Sadly, for us, they identified the crab apple tree, planted as part of the Queen's Green Canopy to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's platinum jubilee, as a food source, causing some damage to the sapling. Donna Wylde did some first aid on the tree and erected netting around it; however, it continued to attract damaging attention from deer throughout the year.

There were four churchyard gardening working parties convened during 2023, held in March, May, July and September.

Early in the year, we concentrated on cleaning and weeding around the Victorian monuments and gravestones. The team also cleared grass and moss from the ground around the church walls in preparation to lay gravel, as had been a previous tradition, with the hope that this would encourage moisture to soak into the ground and away from the walls. While awaiting the purchase of gravel, we planted annuals in the cleared space to the left

of the main door (when viewed from the carpark gate), which made a beautiful display throughout the summer and autumn. However, towards the end of the year, we received expert advice which suggested that grass would be better at absorbing moisture away from the building than other types of plants or gravel. Therefore, we made plans to re-seed the area with grass in the spring.

The PCC thanks all those who took part in the gardening, Donna Wylde for her dedication to the care of the crab apple tree, and those who provided refreshments to the working parties.

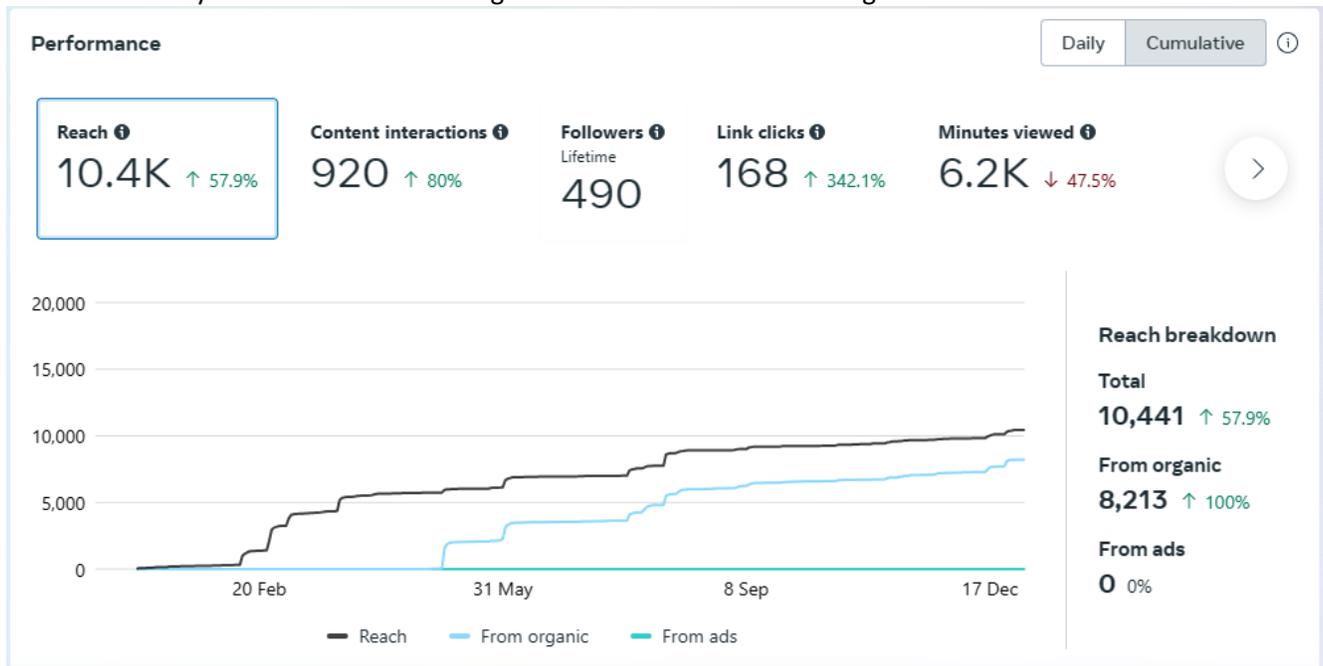
Picnic church – In order to make more use of the churchyard for worship we experimented with ‘Picnic church’. This ran once a month from 4-5pm and included a Bible story, set in the churchyard, games, a craft and a bring and share picnic. While it was appreciated by those who attended, the numbers were disappointing and it was not sustainable in the long term.

Publicity – BC and KV

WEBSITE (Brian Clegg – Churchwarden) – the website should be one of the main points of contact for the church, but plummeted in use in 2022 – this may in part reflect moving out of Covid restrictions. From April to December 2023, we had 6,433 page views, averaging around 23 a day, half as much again as in 2022. This is still relatively low compared with previous years, but combines with our monthly newsletter email, which now has 162 regular subscribers, more than two and a half times the size of our electoral roll, showing a healthy interest in parish activities.

From July 2023, we moved videos of church services from streaming on Facebook Live to videos available to watch on the church website (the Videos page in the Service menu) and also available on our Facebook page. This was because it was proving difficult to have a good enough phone connection to enable Facebook Live to be used. Our most watched service, the carol service, had 96 views, with more normal services getting around 6 views, though these can involve several in the audience, for example when watched by Ridgeway Rise care home – and each represents someone who was not able to get into church, expanding our outreach.

FACEBOOK (Karen Vermeersch) – this has continued to be an effective means of communication, with an increase in both followers and engagement over the year. Whilst the data shows a drop in video minutes views, this is most likely a reflection of the change from Facebook live streaming.



A CHURCH NEAR YOU (Brian Clegg) – The Church of England’s A Church Near You site is a valuable resource for potential new members and visitors which typically gets around 1400 views a month – a 65% increase over 2022. During 2023, our A Church Near You page was refreshed and kept regularly up to date with news and special services.

Community engagement

Schools (*Sally Robertson and Karen Vermeersch*)

2023 was a very encouraging year for engagement with schools, with 8 of the 11 schools in our parish either visiting church or being visited by Sally and Karen.

Great Western Academy and Abbey Park Secondary schools both continued their tradition of holding carol services at St Andrew’s, events which fill the church to capacity and beyond.

Sally contributed to Assemblies and/or RE lessons as **Red Oaks, Bridlewood, William Morris and Abbey Farm Primary Schools** and Abbey Farm made their first visit to church for a look round.

Karen was able to rekindle our relationship with **Uplands Special secondary school** which had lapsed since the pandemic and we hosted several classes at church for Baptism learning and Christingle celebrations and were able to contribute to harvest and advent assemblies.

Sally’s involvement at **Tadpole Farm CE Primary Academy** has continued to be high with several assemblies and RE lessons. Until July she was co-chair of the Academy Council (Governors) which gave more opportunities to serve the school and having relinquished this role she is now helping to coordinate the pupil led Prayer and worship team.

The highlight of our schools ministry in 2023 was the Pilgrimage in May which saw year 5s from Bridlewood, Red Oaks and Tadpole Farm making a pilgrimage from their individual schools to church and engaging in a variety of reflective activities en route and in the churchyard, as well as singing a song within church which was made into a video for all schools to share. This would not have been possible without the help of many people from within our congregation and other local churches. We are hoping to repeat it in 2024.

Residential homes and sheltered accommodation (*Sally Robertson*)

Ridgeway Rise – Our monthly pattern of 1 Songs of Praise service and 1 Communion service each month is now well established and the church members who join in with Songs of praise are made very welcome. Numbers at both services are between 10 and 20 though there are always more at Songs of Praise. Sally is also able to visit some residents who are confined to their rooms. Residents continue to watch our services on-line, though re-establishing their worship pattern when we changed from Facebook to recorded video was a little challenging. Some residents were also able to come to Coffee, Prayer and Chat on one occasion.

Priory Manor – Chris and Anne Pope, members of St Leonard’s Stanton Fitzwarren and recent residents at Priory Manor approached Sally about the possibility of a monthly Communion service. This has been established since July with around 8 people attending each time. Although some residents felt they did not want this to happen in the communal lounge (so we are grateful for Chris and Anne’s hospitality), we were able to hold a carol service in the lounge which attracted far more people.

Food Collective and Boxes of Hope

Since well before the pandemic and then seamlessly afterwards we have had a habit of bringing food and hygiene products to be distributed by Swindon Food Collective. During 2023 Patti Tomlinson was made aware of the work of Gorse Hill Baptist Church and we were able to visit and see their excellent ministry for ourselves. They distribute bags of food to households in need, referred by various different agencies across Swindon as well as hosting a community pantry and café several days a week. What particularly impressed those of us who visited is how their ministry has grown organically as different needs have emerged. PCC decided to swap our donations from the food collective to Boxes of Hope, from Harvest Festival and the Boxes of Hope team are very grateful and particularly for the Christmas gifts we collected at our Toy service. We had hoped to be able to become part of the delivery team in our parish, but currently Gorse Hill have sufficient drivers, however we will continue to look for new ways to partner with Boxes of Hope and meet needs in our community in our own ways.

Charitable giving.

For many years St Andrew's have given away a tenth of our regular income at the end of each year as a sign of our gratitude for all that God gives us. During 2023 PCC decided change the charities supported and adopt 3 new charities to provide a new focus and opportunities to connect with these charities in fresh ways. We wanted to focus our donations and make a difference to those who are receiving the funds, so for the first time the donations were sent to Swindon Night Shelter (local), Christians Against Poverty (National) and Nsawo Church of Uganda Primary School (international). We heard a speaker from Christians against Poverty talking about their work in July and we will be hearing more about the other 2 charities in March and April 2024.

Vicar's report 2023*(Sally Robertson)*

As you will have read above, 2023 was an exciting and full year for St Andrew's. Guided by our good to great principals, we were able to expand our hospitality, socialising, use of our churchyard and presence in the community. We continue to be a small congregation, but thanks to the great commitment of so many we are able to respond to God's call to serve others, trusting Him to provide us with all the resources we need. The team who fed us so cheerfully at the Community lunches, to name but one example, is testament to what we can achieve with what seems at face value like inadequate resources. In John's Gospel, it is St Andrew who brings the little boy with the loaves and the fishes to Jesus to feed 5000 and we carry on that spirit today.

The heartbeat of any church is regular worship and 2023 was the first year in 3 years when our services were not constrained by covid restrictions in anyway. We have continued streaming our morning service on our website so that those who are unable to join us can still worship with us, though we were disappointed to have to change to uploading a pre-recorded video rather than live steaming when the 5G signal became too unreliable. We have settled back into a pattern of Children's service, 2 Communion services and a morning prayer each month in the mornings and a communion and evening prayer in the evenings. This provides a variety of ways to worship and we are grateful to be accompanied by Martin Osman, Julie Johnson-Little, now departed for Cornwall, and John Keyes via a tablet.

Prayer continues to be vital to all we do and we focussed on praying for ourselves and our world using the Celtic circling prayer in Lent and on the purpose of St Andrew's through the Magnificat in Advent. Prayer is not of course restricted to these times of year, and I encourage you to continue praying for our parish using the weekly cycle of prayer which can be found on our website.

2023 was my second year as Swindon Area Dean, which has taken up some of my time and energy and it has been great to have Jo, providing administrative support and Karen, Brian and Helen supporting in so many ways to make this possible.

I am so grateful to God and to all of you for your roles in St Andrew's over the past year, bringing God's love to North Swindon through acts of service, small and great.

Financial Review 2023 (*Treasurer Susan Smith*)

The review is to be read in conjunction with the Parish Accounts for 2023.

The parish finances continue to allow us to support the ever increasing ministry and mission work within this area to increase our parish share and to continue to give grants to those less fortunate than ourselves.

Our receipts for 2023 have increased by 13%. This is accounted by receiving more income from our overall giving and fundraising.

Our payments have also increased by only 8%. This is accounted for by having no major purchases or work on the Church Fabric during the year.

A huge thank you should also be given to all the “behind the scenes” people who willingly give time to support the Church in this parish, in numerous ways. Their efforts are not recorded in the Parish Accounts, but save the parish the need to employ people to cover the roles and so reducing the total payments by, at a conservative estimate, of between £15,000.00 and £18,000.00.

A grant of 10% of the total regular giving received and collections (plate) from normal Sunday services, is shared between our designated charities. The charities we support with grants are, Swindon Night Shelter, Christians Against Poverty and Afrianspire Ufund-Nsawo School. This year we are giving £414.94 to each of these charities.

We are also committed to giving annually to the Wiltshire Historical Churches Trust (£50.00 pa) and the National Churches Trust (£50.00 pa) for Grants previously received.

The parish has also carried out other collections for

- (i) Bishop Lee’s “From the Bottom to the Top” cycle ride
- (ii) Embrace the Middle East during the Christmas period
- (iii) Children’s Society from the Christingle Service

The PCC have a policy that all financial matters for this parish are “crystal clear”. There is a “Statement of Accounting Policies” and also “Financial Rules and Procedures” in place to conform to the various Charities’ Acts. The PCC members, as Trustees for the Parish, are now required to sign a “Declaration for Fit and Proper Person” when taking up office.

The overall financial state of the Parish continues to be positive, however, during the next year we need to be careful with our limited financial resources.

We would like to thank everyone for their continued generous support.

PARISH RESERVES POLICY

The Charities Act requires that the PCC has a reserves policy to cover future short falls in income or unexpected expenditure. As the PCC’s income is all unsecured, the reserve is set to at least 6 months expenditure as unrestricted funds. In addition, as the church is an historic building, designated funds need to be reserved to cover work identified in the periodic quinquennial inspection.

The PCC agreed, in 2018, to temporarily reduce the reserves to £6,000 to cover expenditure and £5,000 for quinquennial and emergency repairs, but to increase these, when able to. The financial situation has not significantly improved and therefore the reserves have not yet been able to be increased. The Reserves Policy will be reviewed annually.

ST ANDREW NORTH SWINDON
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable UK Accounting Standards, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Charities Act 2011, using the Receipts and Payments basis.

FUNDS

The general fund represents the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. These include funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC.

The accounts include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible.

Subject to the above, receipts and payments include income as received and expenditure when irrevocably paid.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

The following assets are recognised but not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

- Moveable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal
- Land and buildings held on behalf of the PCC.
- Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment where the PCC is free to dispose of such assets without faculty.

The following assets are recognised and a monetary value given as part of the description in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

- Amounts owing from the HM Revenue and Customs.
- Any other amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December.
- Closing bank balances as shown in the receipts and payments accounts.

The following liabilities recognised and a monetary value given as part of the description in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

- Creditors for goods or services where the supply has been received and invoiced by 31 December

RESERVES POLICY

The PCC are required, in accordance with SORP 2019, to formulate a reserves policy and review annually.

ST ANDREW NORTH SWINDON
Year Ended 31 December 2023

GENERAL FUND - RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	2023			2022		
Receipts	£	£	£	£	£	£
Tax Efficient Planned Giving		9,053.04			8,490.04	
Other Planned Giving		1,892.30			2,495.45	
Collections		2,907.85			1,804.70	
Tax Efficient Collections		<u>533.88</u>	14,387.07		<u>834.98</u>	13,625.17
Tax Recovered			3,338.71			3,115.08
Donations			2,869.71			2,300.00
Grants			0.00			149.00
Fund Raising			1,424.32			135.77
Fees Weddings & Funerals		2,567.00			2,322.00	
Pre-paid		<u>0.00</u>	2,567.00		<u>0.00</u>	2,322.00
Interest			52.82			2.99
Bequests			0.00			0.00
			<u>24,639.63</u>			<u>21,650.01</u>
Payments						
Fund Raising		671.83			422.78	
Grants Christian Aid	0.00			386.45		
Jerusalem & M E Church As	0.00			386.45		
Childrens' Society	0.00			386.45		
Swindon Night Shelter	414.94			0.00		
Christians Against Poverty	414.94			0.00		
Afrianspire Ufund- Nsawo Si	414.94			0.00		
Wiltshire Historic Churches	50.00			50.00		
National Churches Trust	50.00			50.00		
Swindon Youth for Christ	<u>120.00</u>	1,464.82		<u>120.00</u>	1,379.35	
Parish Share		12,123.00			10,320.00	
Ministerial Expenses						
Revd Sally Robertson	433.18			498.98		
Other Clergy	<u>4.50</u>	437.68		<u>0.00</u>	498.98	
Telephone	296.90			336.78		
Stationery etc	<u>147.27</u>	444.17		<u>93.85</u>	430.63	
Mission						
Support and Mission Costs		150.19			121.40	
Youth & Children's Work		18.73			166.11	
Church Running Expenses						
Maintenance and repairs	491.51			499.20		
Car park tree	<u>0.00</u>	491.51		<u>960.00</u>	1,459.20	
Upkeep services	1,121.66			922.21		
Insurance	<u>1,535.74</u>	2,657.40		<u>1,451.02</u>	2,373.23	
Churchyard		1,018.56			1,018.56	
Administration for PCC		1,039.27			637.60	
Heating, lighting etc		<u>1,068.72</u>	(21,585.88)		<u>1,059.40</u>	(19,887.24)
Surplus/Deficit for year		£ 3,053.75			£ 1,762.77	

ST ANDREW NORTH SWINDON
Year Ended 31 December 2023

RESTRICTED ACCOUNT

OLD ORGAN RESTORATION FUND - RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
HISTORIC

Opening Balance 01 January 2023	£ 1,406.85
Interest added for 2023 was	12.38
Closing balance at 31 December 2023	£ 1,419.23

No further activity on this account took place in 2023

DESIGNATED ACCOUNT

FUND 5 - ST ANDREW'S CHURCH - RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
HISTORIC

The bequest came from a long standing member of St Andrew's Church with an interest in organ music

In November 2019 the PCC changed the use of the bequest for work on the churchyard wall

Opening Balance 01 January 2023	£ 5,569.64
Interest added for 2023 was	£ 49.01
Closing balance at 31 December 2023	£ 5,618.65

No further activity on this account took place in 2023

RESTRICTED ACCOUNT

FUND 7 - ST ANDREW'S CHURCH (Fabric) - RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

Wolfson Foundation Grant for work on St Andrew's Church roof

Opening Balance 01 January 2023	£ 4,006.66
Less .. Monach Roofing Ltd	£ 624.00
Interest added for 2023 was	£ 35.26
Closing balance at 31 December 2023	£ 3,417.92

No further activity on this account took place in 2023

ST ANDREW NORTH SWINDON
Year Ended 31 December 2023
BALANCE SHEET

		General Fund	Restricted Organ	Designated Fund 5	Restricted Fund 7		Total
Balance b/f at 1 January 2023	..	17,405.33	1,406.85	5,569.64	4,006.66	...	28,388.48
Surplus/Deficit for year	..	3,053.75	12.38	49.01	(588.74)	...	2,526.40
Balance c/f at 31 December 2023	..	<u>£ 20,459.08</u>	<u>£ 1,419.23</u>	<u>£ 5,618.65</u>	<u>£ 3,417.92</u>	...	<u>£ 30,914.88</u>
Represented by:							
Lloyds Bank Account A/c (1)	..	8,671.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	...	8,671.48
Lloyds Bank Account A/c (2)		5,107.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	...	5,107.79
Lloyds Bank Account A/c (H/I)		6,679.81	1,419.23	5,618.65	3,417.92	...	17,135.61
Cash in hand		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	...	0.00
Balance c/f at 31 December 2023	..	<u>£ 20,459.08</u>	<u>£ 1,419.23</u>	<u>£ 5,618.65</u>	<u>£ 3,417.92</u>	...	<u>£ 30,914.88</u>

Chairman: *Sally Anderson* Date: *10/4/2024*

PCC Member: *PHOM* Date: *10/4/2024*

Notes

Debtors HMRC £1,889.37

Purchases during year ending 31 December 2023 Nil

Other years - A detailed inventory was taken in July 2012 recording all assets according to location and checked 04 March 2023