

St Andrew's Church, Bedford



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Celebrating the Life
of our Church

Sunday 1st May 2022

11:30 am

The Main Hall

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THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS
to be held on Sunday 1st May 2022, at 11.30 am
in the Main Hall of St Andrew's Church, Bedford

AGENDA

Opening Prayer

Apologies for Absence

**Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting held on Sunday 25th April
2021**

Election of Two Parochial Church Wardens

Chair's Closing Remarks



Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners

held on Sunday 25th April 2021, at 11.30 am
in the Main Hall of St Andrew's Church, Bedford

The meeting commenced at 11.30am with prayer following a Parish Eucharist at 10.00am.

Present: The Revd Duncan Goldthorpe (Chair) Curate
Mr Ian Smith Churchwarden
Mrs Diana Whitemore Churchwarden
Fifty Parishioners plus five Clergy and two Churchwardens

Notice of the Meeting - due notice of the meeting was admitted by those present. During this most difficult period of Covid and lockdown restrictions, the meeting was held on Sunday 25 April 2021 by Zoom. Ian Smith read out a statement from the Vicar who was not present.

Minutes of the last meeting held on the 18 October 2020, as contained in the Report and Financial Statements booklet, had previously been circulated and were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

Matters Arising - there were no matters other than those indicated on the agenda.

Statement of the J.A. & E.C. Hall Trust Fund:

(administered by the Incumbent and Churchwardens)

A summary sheet covering the purpose, objectives, activities and achievements of the JA & EC Hall Trust for the year ended 31 December 2020 was available. Ian reminded members that the Trust was set up in 1962 under tight conditions, namely:

1. Extensions to St Andrew's Church, Bedford and for maintaining the fabric of the building;
2. Maintaining the Garden of Rest;
3. The relief of poverty amongst elderly priests, elderly men and women in the Parish or who have been connected with St. Andrews Church;
4. The general religious purposes of St Andrew's Church.

The Trust is managed by the Vicar and two Churchwardens as the Trustees. At the beginning of the year it was agreed, with permission from the Charities Commission, to appoint an additional Trustee, Carolyn Callen.

At the year end the accumulated capital forming the Endowment Fund amounted to £4.42 million (2019 £4.15 million), an increase of £270K. Grants were awarded to St Andrew's Parochial Church Council amounting to £110,000 with total expenditure for the year of £122,823. This was to support the Verger and other Parish Workers, to fund Money Advice at St Andrew's (MASA), various repairs and replacements to the Church complex, plus an additional grant of £10,000 awarded to the Diocese due to Covid.

Election of Churchwardens

The Revd Duncan Goldthorpe stated that nominations for the role of Churchwarden were required to be received prior to the commencement of the meeting. Firstly, he wished to acknowledge with thanks the service the current Churchwardens, Ian Smith and Diana Whittemore, had given to St Andrew's during their current year of office, which had been a very hard year with Covid restrictions requiring much time and skills. He also thanked Carol Wood and John Thynne for acting as Deputy Churchwardens.

Duncan was pleased to report that both Churchwardens were prepared to stand for a further year, both being eligible, and that nomination papers had been received.

Ian Gordon Smith - proposed by Kelly Agler Good, seconded by Christine Garrett

Diana Sylvia Whittemore - proposed by Carol Wood, seconded by Kelly Agler Good

In the absence of any other nominations, the Chairman was pleased to declare Ian Smith and Diana Whittemore duly elected as Churchwardens for the Parish of St Andrew, Bedford for the forthcoming period 2021/2022.

This concluded the business of the meeting of Parishioners.



THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

to be held on Sunday 1st May 2022 at 11.30 am
in the Main Hall of St Andrew's Church, Bedford

AGENDA

Apologies for Absence

Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting held on Sunday 25th April 2021

To receive

The Electoral Roll

A Report on the Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council

A Report on the Proceedings of the Deanery Synod

The Annual Report and Financial Statements 2021

A Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

A Report on Safeguarding in the Parish

Mission Action Plan

Reports from Church Groups

Election of FIVE Representatives to the Parochial Church Council for three years. One representative for one year.

Appointment of an Independent Examiner to the PCC

A Report of the Ministry and Witness of the Church throughout 2021

Questions

Closing Remarks



Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

held on Sunday 25th April 2021, at 11.30 am
in the Main Hall of St Andrew's Church, Bedford

The meeting commenced at 11.30 am with prayer following a Parish Eucharist at 10.00am and the Annual Meeting of Parishioners

Present: Mr Ian Smith (Chair) Churchwarden
Mrs Diana Whittemore Churchwarden
Fifty Parishioners plus five Clergy and two Churchwardens

Notice of the Meeting - due notice of the meeting was admitted by those present. During this most difficult period of Covid and lockdown restrictions, the meeting was held on Sunday 25 April 2021 by Zoom.

Minutes of the last meeting held on the 18 October 2020, as contained in the Report and Financial Statements booklet, had previously been circulated and were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

Matters Arising - there were no matters other than those indicated on the agenda.

Revised Electoral Roll

This year saw a revision of the Church Electoral Roll which involved adding new members and subtracting those who had died or moved away. The legal notices had been displayed and the appropriate dates worked to.

Sue Smith (Electoral Roll Officer) reported that last year the roll stood at 241, but that this year on the 5 April 2021 the roll stood at 236, a loss of 5 members, all of whom have died. Of the 236 members on the revised Electoral Roll 95 live in the Parish and 141 live outside the Parish. It was noted that two new members of the congregation will be added to the roll but currently have not met the criteria. Sue was thanked for all the work that the position of Electoral Roll Officer involved. This report was received.

PCC Honorary Secretary's Report

The Honorary Secretary, Mrs Christine Garrett, presented her report covering the Parochial Church Council for the year April 2020 - March 2021. It reflected the business of the PCC, the role of its members, and the Council's discussions, deliberations and actions made on behalf of the members of St Andrew's. Thanks were expressed to all who had supported her in this role, especially with the production of the annual meeting booklet, not forgetting those who had kindly written and submitted the reports. Christine was thanked for covering this role. This report was received.

The Election of Representatives of the Laity for Membership of St Andrew's Parochial Church Council

The number of vacancies per year for the Church Council are calculated based on the size of the church electoral roll and in accordance with the Church Representation Rules; there are five members for the Church Council for the three-year term 2021-2024. Anyone standing for election has to meet the criteria for the Church Electoral Roll, be a PCC Trustee and complete

the basic Safeguarding Course online. These vacancies were for a three-year term and St Andrew's do not allow members to stand again without a year's gap.

Thanks and appreciation were recorded to the retiring members for their contributions to the Parochial Church Council and to the life of the Church in general during their term of office, namely: Zoe Browne, Jo Newton and John Thynne. John would continue to be a member of the Standing Committee by means of being a Deputy Churchwarden.

Five Nominations had been received for five places, each of a three-year current term of office, for the Parochial Church Council, namely:

Sally Coleman, proposed by John Thynne, seconded by Alan Colley

Viki Evans, proposed by Ian Smith, seconded by Diana Cox

Valerie Littleford, proposed by Christine Garrett, seconded by Fiona McLeod

Hugh Johnstone, proposed by Rob Huddart, seconded by Christine Garrett

Sue Smith, proposed by Diana Whittemore, seconded by Sally Coleman

Following the APCM, a meeting will be held for new PCC members and a welcome to Churchwardens, Deanery Synod members, PCC and sidespersons on a Sunday morning before the first Council meeting on Tuesday 18 May 2021. New members will also be asked to have their photograph taken for the board in church.

Honorary Treasurer's Financial Report

To receive the Honorary Treasurer's Financial Report and the Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2020, incorporating the Financial Statements of the Kathleen Plumbe Trust Fund 2020, which had been independently examined. The documents had been included in the Reports and Financial Statements booklet published prior to the meeting and had been displayed in church for the statutory period.

The honorary treasurer, Mr Lionel Mayoh, was called upon to present his report and the financial statements to the meeting. Lionel commenced by saying he hoped everyone had looked at the accounts and would therefore be in a position to ask any questions. As you will see, we ended the year with a small deficit of £1,347, although as you will have read, if we had not had two large grants (£10,000 each) and several significant donations from members of our congregations, we would have been facing a deficit of over £25,000. In short, our Church Centre lettings shrank from an expected £49,500 to £18,600 while our expenditure across several budgets was lower due to the closure of both the Church and the Church Centre. To note, using funds set aside, we updated our IT both in the Church and Church Centre Office. We should not forget to acknowledge the significant support that the Hall Trust provides in assisting God's work here at St Andrew's.

The position for 2021, although early days, is that we are facing a revised budget deficit of £9,500, as our planned expenditure is £329,000 and our expected income is £319,000. We know our lettings income in 2021 will be reduced.

Planned Giving (Stewardship Giving) - Lionel spoke about this subject stating everyone should have received correspondence concerning Planned Giving and that he would appreciate, where possible, for members to review their giving and also, if not already doing so, to pay by standing order to give the Church a regular income.

Lionel wished to express his thanks to the people who had assisted him during the year with the Church finances - Jim Dawson Stewardship, Recorder and claimer of Gift Aid, the team who bank your contributions, and to Gill Lake our Independent Examiner.

Lionel was thanked for all his work and time spent during the year in maintaining our financial transactions and for the challenges it presented.

It was proposed by Lionel Mayoh, seconded by Ian Smith, and agreed by all members in attendance and voting, that St Andrew's Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 be adopted. This was endorsed unanimously.

St Andrew's Church Annual Reports

The Chairman drew attention to the reports contained in the Reports and Financial Statement booklet depicting the life of St Andrew's and he trusted members had taken the opportunity to read these reports and therefore would not go into detail; if anyone was interested in receiving more information regarding any aspect, please contact the author or the PCC Honorary Secretary, Christine Garrett.

Ian highlighted a few areas, firstly mentioning the Churchwarden's Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church and inviting questions or points for clarification. He also emphasised Safeguarding, a most important and serious topic, and urged members (where appropriate) to assist our Safeguarding Officer, Sheila Bissell, in completing the online training. He also pointed out that the report covering Bedford Deanery Synod displays the important role we need to play in Bedford Deanery and with our neighbouring Churches.

Finally, Ian also referred to the other reports covering matters of general interest, which included: our worship, our Mission, the work of our committees, work with children and young people, our concerts, our Fairtrade Shop and the Money Advice Service we offer to the community, all of which were appreciated and acknowledged the enhancing of the life of St Andrew's.

Grateful thanks were expressed to those who had contributed to the booklet to inform members of the congregation.

The Churchwardens' Comments

Ian, Churchwarden and Chairman, firstly thanked everyone for attending this meeting in the life of the Church, as it is important to review the activities of the Church over the past year and to look ahead to the future. This was an important year, with the coming of our new Vicar, the Revd Lucy Davis, and sadly the loss of our Curate, the Revd Duncan Goldthorpe, who was moving on to pastures new.

In 2020 an awful lot had happened, especially with the pandemic and all the consequent changes that it has entailed. We said goodbye to the Revd James Reveley, but we have managed and continued to manage to keep the church family connected, either in person or remotely, with thanks to the huge effort of a large number of people and I would like to renew my thanks to them all. Looking forward, this coming year will be the licensing of the Revd Lucy Davis on Tuesday 20 July 2021, the new AV system and our Centenary Celebrations.

Finally, Ian stated that he and his fellow Churchwarden, Diana Whittemore, wished to record their thanks to all the Ministers and Staff for their hard work and support, to the Officers of the PCC, Christine and Lionel for all their work, and to our deputy Churchwardens, to members of the PCC for their commitment, and to all others who have contributed to the smooth running of this church, such as our Director of Music, Verger, Sidespeople, Welcomers, flower arrangers, Altar Guild members, readers, intercessors and to all members of the church community and congregation for their continued presence.

Questions and comments were invited.

Any Other Business - There was none and therefore Ian closed the meeting at 12.16 pm.



REPORTS TO THE 2022 APCM

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

The Electoral Roll this year, 2022, is a revision of the 2021 St Andrew's Electoral Roll. Last April the Electoral Roll stood at 236 which was a net loss of 5 from the previous year.

This year, the 2022 figure on 3 April was 241, a gain of 5 members; this gain is arrived at by the removal of 10 members, 2 of which have died, and the addition of 15 members. Of the 241 members on the Roll, 92 live in the Parish and 149 live outside the Parish. Last year the corresponding numbers were 95 in and 141 outside the Parish.

The regulations require that the numbers on the Electoral Roll reported to the Annual Meeting are those notified this year up to 3 April 2022. It is the job of the Electoral Roll Officer each year to report to the Annual Meeting and I would ask this meeting to accept this report.

Sue Smith
Electoral Roll Officer

PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT

St Andrew's Parochial Church Council (PCC) 2021 - 2022

Our Vision:

We welcome everyone to a community that lives out God's love in Christ through mutual support. We worship God reverently and joyfully. We seek justice, freedom and social well-being for all God's world.

The Parochial Church Council, working with the Vicar and Churchwardens, is responsible for reviewing and discussing matters affecting church life, our mission and worship, our buildings including 5 St Minver Road, arriving at decisions and sharing them with the congregation. The PCC meets on a Tuesday evening alternate months, with the Standing Committee meeting the month in between. The PCC is committed to enabling and providing a welcome to all who worship at our church and teams of Sidespersons and Welcomers are in place. In order to meet its objectives it has a structure of committees/groups to assist with the work of the church's day to day operations/concerns, worship, mission and fellowship.

PCC Membership

PCC consists of:

Vicar, Assistant Curate, Reader, Churchwardens are statutory members
Fifteen PCC representatives of the laity, one third of whom retire annually
Four Deanery Synod representatives
One member, Sheila Bissell, is an elected representative of Deanery Synod, Diocesan Synod and General Synod.

Vicar (from July 2021)	Revd Lucy Davis
Churchwardens	Ian Smith and Diana Whittemore
Reader	Diana Stretton

Deanery Synod	Sheila Bissell, Gareth Burrows, Ann Mason, Elisabeth Thorne, Carol Wood
Laity	Kelly Agler Good, Christine Garrett, Angela Huddart, Tim Retout, Alistair Sutcliffe, Andrew Thomas, Jenny Tomlinson, Nneka Williams until April 2021: Jo Newton, Zoe Brown, John Thynne from April 2021: Sally Coleman, Viki Evans, Hugh Johnstone, Valerie Littleford, Susan Smith
Co-opted Member	Lionel Mayoh

Carol Wood and John Thynne are currently Deputy Churchwardens, Lionel Mayoh is Honorary Treasurer and Christine Garrett is Honorary Secretary.

The following officers and policies are in place to meet our statutory and legal duties –
Safeguarding: Mrs Sheila Bissell, Diversity: Mrs Sheila Bissell, Health & Safety: Mr Phil Kino, Data Protection (GDPR): Mrs Kelly Agler, Finance: Lionel Mayoh (Honorary Treasurer), Church Electoral Roll: Mrs Susan Smith.

Environment is also a major concern for the church and PCC. A group of parishioners (reporting to the Mission Action Plan Committee) called the Creation Care Group has been established and are working on how we can address some of these issues. The church currently holds the Bronze Eco Church Award and is working towards silver.

Parochial Church Council – May 2021 to April 2022 has continued to be a difficult year for the Church and PCC with the agendas for meetings (continued by Zoom during lockdown) covering Covid arrangements in our worship, Church and Church Centre, going in and out of lockdown, supporting the Vicar and Churchwardens in endeavouring to keep all people safe. The PCC members are Trustees of St Andrew's as a charity.

The PCC were charged with consulting the congregation and writing a Parish Profile as we went through the procedures of seeking a new Vicar following the departure of the Revd James Reveley in May 2020 and working through the vacancy.

A notable event in July 2021 was the welcome to our new Vicar, Revd Lucy Davis, Chair of the PCC, who launched a new initiative and is leading the congregation and working with the PCC along with the Mission Action Plan Committee to establish a new and refreshed Vision for St Andrew's.

Much of the other business relating to the PCC reviewing and reaching decisions on many projects and initiatives is incorporated in the reports contained in the Reports Booklet. This also displays the valuable and appreciated work of our members of staff supported by the PCC.

I would like to close this report by thanking all PCC members for their valuable and appreciated individual contributions of the life of St Andrew's, its worship and mission, and maintaining the safety of its buildings.

Christine Garrett
PCC Honorary Secretary

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

St Andrew's has four elected members to the Bedford Deanery Synod who are also members of the Parochial Church Council. In addition the Vicar and Sheila Bissell are members. Sheila is a member of the Diocesan Synod and during the year was elected to the General Synod. So you can see that we are well represented to report back to the PCC on matters which have been discussed, especially those which are particularly relevant to parishes.

Each Synod is in two parts, one covers the formal business items on the Agenda, which include receiving the reports from the General and Diocesan Synods, the Diocesan Finance Committee, Safeguarding news and a deanery update from the Area Dean, while the other part of the meeting is devoted to a presentation, sometimes from a Diocesan officer, or as in the past year, a parish in the Deanery has given us a snap shot of what is going well and things where there is hope for improvement. The chairing of Synods is shared between the Area Dean and the Lay Chair.

The Synod has met three times during the last twelve months, the first of which was on Zoom. We were given the results of the Diocesan Synod elections, a Deanery finance update and the Safeguarding report given by Sheila who told members that six people from the Deanery had undergone the Wellbeing and Mental Health training arranged by the Diocese and it is hoped at least two people from each parish will receive this training. The meeting concluded with a presentation by Christian Cole, Youth Missioner for the Diocese. We should be looking to focus our connections with young people; at present there is a greater focus on work with children rather than young people, but we need to think ahead to how we will continue our engagement with children as they grow into teenagers.

The Autumn Synod was held at St Andrew's and members were pleased to be able to meet face to face after the completion of the business section of the meeting, which included as always an emphasis on parishes completing the training required by the Safeguarding regulations. The presentation was followed by two short presentations, the first given by Cathy Sanderson, Vocations Advisor, Bedford Archdeaconry, who gave information of the various opportunities to those who offer themselves for training. The second was given by the Revd Issac Pain, Vicar of Cranfield with Hulcote and Salford; he has been working with some of the students at Cranfield University and has started work on youth and children's work at Cranfield. The congregation have welcomed some new families into the church.

The Spring Synod met at the Church of the Transfiguration in Kempston. Among other reports we received a detailed report on the February General Synod written by Sheila Bissell. (Please talk to Sheila if you would like to know more.) The Revd Paul Essam, Vicar of Elstow, gave information about the Elstow Team Ministry Implementation which officially begins on 1 May. This will include the parishes of Elstow, Cardington, St Michael's, Houghton Conquest and Wilstead. A Curate will be coming in the summer and a Team Vicar will be appointed in due course. The Revd Stephen Smith will retire on 5 June. The Vicarage at St Michael's will be updated and later rented out. Two new houses are being bought, one in Shortstown and the other on the Wixams estate. So you can see that changes are taking place in the Deanery.

The presentation which followed was given by the Revd Andrea Maffei, who came to the host parish in September. Despite the restrictions of Covid Andrea has been working hard to regather the church family and bring back the sense of social justice which had existed in the 1980s. She is anxious to keep in touch with baptism and funeral families. She has set up a community café offering free sandwiches, cake, coffee and tea to offer support to those in isolation, poverty or who have mental health issues. Members were very impressed with the inspiration Andrea has shown in guiding the parish to respond to the challenges of Covid.

I hope from the above you can see that the Deanery Synod has a role to play in keeping us in touch with what is happening in local churches and also keeping us in touch with important discussions taking place in the wider church.

Ann Mason

REPORT ON THE FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS

Churchwardens' Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church May 2022

The role of the Churchwardens has been made much easier since July 2021 when Lucy arrived as our Vicar. The Churchwardens role is to keep an eye on all matters connected to our church and to support the Vicar; this may include faculties (permission from the Diocese to carry out work in the church and grounds), fabric (including the annual revision of the Terrier [the Terrier is the name for the Inventory of the church goods and ornaments]), finance (a task made far simpler by our excellent treasurer Lionel Mayoh), services during the vacancy (including the regular weekday Morning and Evening Prayer), meetings (of which there are many, each with at least one of the Wardens or Deputies in attendance), reports and maintenance (another task whose burden is reduced by the diligent work of the Church Centre Management Committee under the excellent chairmanship of Alan Colley). There are so many activities and events going on that we watch in awe at the amazing things happening at St Andrew's.

This current report covers the year April 2021 to March 2022.

This year has again been particularly challenging, with Covid remaining with us and the departure of Duncan Goldthorpe, our Curate, in May 2021. However, the arrival of the Revd Lucy Davis in July 2021 was a great joy.

Last year, at the time of writing our report, the process of appointment of our new vicar was not complete. However, we were able to announce on Sunday 25 April 2021 (the day of the last APCM!) the appointment of Revd Lucy Davis as the 12th Vicar of St Andrew's. She was Licensed on 20 July 2021 and has since then been working very hard to get to know everyone and everything about St Andrew's.

The sense of renewal and purpose has continued in that we continued to stream services, using our newly installed cameras, and continued to maintain contact with our congregation during the pandemic, maintained a variety of services, but we have had to adapt many other activities during the year as the pandemic affected us. Many of our previously normal activities have now been able to resume including Coffee and Company, Tea Dances, coffee and biscuits after a service and concerts. We all still have to use Zoom for some events. What it has done in many cases is enable those who otherwise would not have been able to come to church or a meeting to 'attend' virtually and so maintain contact in some shape or form with the church family. Our organ continues to delight many people and, under the enthusiastic direction of our Director of Music (Paul Searle-Barnes), we have been able to maintain the monthly Choral Evensong and last year we were able to hold our Christmas Lessons and Carols Service live.

We are indeed fortunate at St Andrew's that so many people take on responsibilities which help us carry out our duties. These committees have mostly returned to face-to-face meetings. One commitment that has not been able to continue as normal is the role of Sidesperson. We are very grateful to a number of Sidespeople who were prepared to come into church when services were allowed in person to help maintain our social distancing.

We are as always indebted to our Staff in the Church Centre Office, our PCC Secretary, our Treasurer, our Verger, Assistant Verger, Deputy Churchwardens, the *Friends of St Andrew's*, our flower arrangers, Servers, Sidespersons, Welcomers, chalice assistants (although they have not been able to carry out their role this year), sound and now AV operators, members of the mowing team, bell-ringers, the Events Committee – the list could go on! Some of these people have not been called on as regularly this year but have still been willing to contribute when required. Thank you to you all.

Part of our remit is to ensure that the clergy are well supported and here we have done our best. We are very grateful for the enormous support and commitment of the Reverends Peter Littleford, David Powell and Belinda Searle-Barnes, our Reader and Ordinand in Training Diana Stretton, for the work of Elisabeth Sutcliffe as our Children's Worker and latterly Anthony Davis, also an Ordinand in training. Their support for St Andrew's is invaluable and allows the whole ministry team to engage in so many more activities for the benefit of the church and congregation.

We can confirm that the inventory has been checked. There has been relatively little to add to the inventory this year. Enormous thanks to Carol Wood who undertook the majority of this process on her own this year. Any building maintenance work is covered in the CCMC report.

We look forward with eager anticipation, as we are sure you all do, to the next stage in St Andrew's journey and development.

Finally we are, as ever, deeply indebted to our benefactors, J.A. and E.C. Hall, whose Trust Fund has enabled us to do so much beyond what would otherwise be possible.

Ian Smith and Diana Whittemore, Churchwardens; John Thynne and Carol Wood, Deputy Churchwardens

A REPORT ON SAFEGUARDING

The Safeguarding Team at St. Andrew's comprises of the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO), and deputies Ian Smith and Christine Garrett. St Andrew's Church has a new policy that was adopted by the PCC on 16 November 2021. It is supported by the Church of England Parish Safeguarding Handbook which is available for anyone to read in the Church Centre Office. St Alban's Diocese has a very active Safeguarding Officer, Jez Hirst, who has been organising training forums for PSOs in the diocese to keep us fully aware of all the guidance that is available to keep us safe.

We follow recruitment guidelines for volunteers in the church community; currently fifty people hold Enhanced certificates from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), which are processed through thirtyone:eight as part of the recruitment process. We also ensure that volunteers working with Community Money Advice hold DBS certificates. At present two volunteers have Enhanced DBS certificates and four have Basic DBS certificates. We now have a policy adopted by PCC in January 2022 about the recruitment of ex-offenders as part of our commitment to equal opportunities.

In the words of Bishop Alan: "Every one of us needs to do all we can to make our churches, schools and chaplaincies as safe as humanly possible. Training is one of the key elements for good safeguarding." Safeguarding modules C0 Basic Awareness and C1 Safeguarding Foundations are available online. They have been designed by the National Safeguarding Team and are frequently refreshed to ensure relevance to today's needs. Safeguarding is of upmost importance to the Church of England, hence clear guidance is provided by the

Diocese of St. Albans about appropriate training requirements for all parishes.

All PCC members received Diocesan Safeguarding Learning News - November 2021. This guidance superseded all previous guidance in newsletters and the training requirements came into effect from January 2022. PCC have agreed to follow the guidance and ensure that individuals holding certain roles within our church community complete appropriate levels of training to comply with the Safeguarding Training and Development Practice Guidance.

The new guidance requires DBS certificates to be renewed every three years. The guidance also sets out new training requirements for members of St Andrew's PCC which are obligatory. All members of PCC must complete:

C0 Basic Awareness

C1 Foundations

Responding Well to Domestic Abuse

The guidance also states that all volunteer and paid roles in churches must complete Basic Awareness (previously known as C0). Certificates are valid for three years and must be renewed if postholders wish to continue to hold positions in the church community. A number of these certificates are due for renewal. I will be contacting people to ask them to renew online. I also hope to run a session to enable a number of people to complete Basic Awareness together without having to log in separately.

At present we now have sixty people holding C0 Basic Awareness certificates and eighteen holding C1 Safeguarding Foundations certificates. There are also twelve church officers holding C2 Safeguarding Leadership Course certificates. C2 Safeguarding Leadership Course training is through Zoom training sessions

Elisabeth Sutcliffe and I have agreed a recruitment procedure for volunteers with children. All volunteers with children's groups must have DBS clearance and complete Basic Awareness and Foundations Safeguarding training. All are required to read the Safeguarding policy and specific sections of the Diocese Safeguarding Handbook.

I thank everyone who has taken the time to participate in the training and comply with the Diocese requirements. The PCC are confident that we are doing as much as we can to ensure St Andrew's is a safe church for all who work and worship here.

Sheila Bissell
Parish Safeguarding Officer

REPORT OF THE EQUALITY OFFICER

It has been an eventful year. We are very happy to welcome a new incumbent the Revd Lucy Davis, to St Andrew's Church. The pandemic is still with us but we are worshipping in church once more and services are still available through YouTube to ensure accessibility to those unsure about returning to church. We recognise things will not be the same as before Covid, but now especially with the arrival of the Revd Lucy Davis we can encourage growth.

We hope through the Vision Statement our congregation will grow and the composition of our congregation will reflect the changes in society and become more diverse. We are a welcoming community at St Andrew's with a strong desire to grow and evolve within the context of all that is happening around us. Encouraging diversity within the church is something very much at the heart of the Vision of the Diocese of St Albans "Living God's Love."

The Equality and Diversity Policy was revised and re-adopted by the PCC in January this year. Its scope is broad. A copy is kept in the Church Centre Office. We at St Andrew's endeavour to be a welcoming church to everyone who wishes to attend. Please do let me know of any concerns you have about discrimination, whether in casual comments or actions. Also it is important to know that all members of the PCC are aware of their responsibility to uphold our values and can be approached with any concerns which will be treated with confidentiality and professionalism.

*Sheila Bissell
Equality Officer*

MISSION ACTION PLAN

The purpose of the Mission Action Plan Committee (MAP) is "to develop and recommend the strategic direction of Mission of St Andrew's, for PCC endorsement through the church's regularly updated MAP."

In the last year your MAP Committee has met on seven occasions. During the first part of the year much of our work was centred around two things.

The first was achieving the ECO Church Bronze Award. This required us to evaluate our activities in five main categories: Worship and Teaching, Buildings, Land, Community and Global Engagement and finally Lifestyle. In each category we had to satisfy a number of criteria. My thanks go to Tim Retout for his help in pursuing the application for this award. We finally achieved the Bronze Award in November last year. A significant contribution to this was the success of the Tree Planting last November, organised by the Centenary Planning Committee but we also began to make small changes all of which contribute to the reduction of our carbon footprint. The plaque to celebrate the Bronze Award is displayed in the Church Centre Foyer. However, there is much more work to be done!

The second was preparing for the arrival of Lucy. Much of our discussion was, therefore, qualified by thoughts about what she may wish to pursue as a strategic direction for St Andrew's. Once she had arrived and begun to settle in to St Andrew's, the answer to this was not long in coming.

Firstly, to build on the ECO Award, we have now established a 'Creation Care' group which is going into much more detail about how we can become more eco-friendly and work towards a carbon neutral footprint for the church.

Secondly, to begin to explore the strategic direction of the church in the immediate future, we spent a good deal of time discussing, planning and implementing the 'Vision Process' with which you will all be familiar, with responses to the three questions due in by 14 March 2022. These three questions were designed to be open-ended and anonymous so that anyone responding would be able to express their views freely.

The three questions/statements to which we asked the congregation to respond were:

- 1. As St Andrew's Church family we are**
- 2. As St Andrew's Church family we hope to be**
- 3. As St Andrew's Church family we are here to**

Now that the responses are in, the MAP Committee is in the process of analysing the responses, identifying the main strands that have emerged from the process and deciding on how we, as a church, should now be moving forward. The response to the questionnaire was

huge (over 100 submissions from all areas of our church life and from many individuals) and so the next stage of the process will take time.

The MAP Committee would like to thank everyone who so carefully and prayerfully responded to the Vision Exercise and assure you that we have taken into account all replies and will be putting a plan to PCC in the near future.

Ian Smith
Chairman, MAP Committee

REPORTS FROM CHURCH GROUPS

(Arranged Alphabetically)

ALTAR GUILD

After two years of false starts we're hoping that as from Easter, we shall once again be arranging fresh flowers in the Church on a regular basis. During the past year we decorated the Church as usual for Harvest Festival and Christmas, with limited flowers at Easter due to the restrictions. Members of the Guild have also arranged pedestals for Remembrance Sunday as well as for special anniversaries. Meanwhile, we have been grateful for William's selection of artificial flowers which have offered some colour during these changeable times. Recently, a team of us got together for the first time in two years to bunch up the flowers for distribution on Mothering Sunday.

We were especially delighted in July to be involved with the St Andrew's Through the Ages Centenary Exhibition, providing floral arrangements to go alongside the exhibits.

Moving forward, we are unfortunately gradually losing members from the team and would really welcome some new blood. You don't have to be an expert flower arranger and there are many opportunities other than pedestals such as the Advent wreath, Advent and Easter candles, windowsill placements, decoration of font for baptisms etc., and we are happy to give help to any willing volunteers. You may be surprised at what you can achieve!

Jenny Coggins

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

The Bereavement Group continues to meet four times a year with the service held in October or November.

We will be extending our support to a wider community as we hold our first open afternoon with our local funeral director; there will be tea and cakes as usual and our members present to give support and comfort to those who may be in need. It will be open to those who have lost loved ones, both past and present, and it is to be held at St Andrew's Church on Thursday 5 May at 2.00 pm.

Don't grieve alone, we are here for you, I am happy for you to contact me direct.

May God bless you and comfort you in your grief.

Sheila Bates

CENTENARY COMMITTEE

2 July 2021 was the 100th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of the current St Andrew's Church building. During 2020, a committee was formed, at the instigation of the Revd James Reveley, to plan and organise a series of events to celebrate this significant anniversary. The aim was to provide a wide variety of events so that something would appeal to every member of the congregation. It was planned that there would be at least one 'Centenary Event' every month.

Sadly, as with many activities over the last year, some of the events had to be cancelled or postponed. Nevertheless in the period July 2021 to March 2022 eleven events took place including:

'A Century of Song' concert given by Carolyn Sampson and Joseph Middleton
Burying a new time capsule
An Exhibition 'St Andrew's Through the Ages'
Celebration of Eucharist by the Rt Revd Richard Atkinson, Bishop of Bedford
Come and Sing 'Creation'
'Songs of Praise' with Bedford Town Band
Tree Planting at Keysoe Burial Ground
Patronal Festival Concert
Quiz Night
Pet Blessing Service

Some events were better supported than others but all events were considered successful and very worthwhile.

There are three more events to come, namely a Progressive Supper, the final weekend reunion party and the Centenary Celebrations which will conclude with a Eucharist presided by the Rt Revd Dr Alan Smith, Bishop of St Albans on Sunday 22 May 2022.

The final significant lasting memorial of the centenary to which the PCC agreed is the commissioning of a new Glass Cross to go on the wall of the Chapel. The same glass artist who designed 'The Spirit of St Andrew's' in the Church Centre has been commissioned to make the cross which has been funded by individual donations often in thanksgiving for or in memory of all sorts of St Andrew's connections or special life events.

Thanks go to everyone who has contributed to these celebrations and to members of the committee who have given time and energy in their organisation.

Ian Smith
Chairman, Centenary Committee

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTRY

Family Worship and Jigsaw/Jam/Jump

We began the year continuing a pattern of Family Worship, on Zoom and then outdoors in household groups when this was possible again. It was great to share in worship in this way, but we did also miss just being able to chat, so it was wonderful when we could meet in groups of up to thirty for a picnic in the park too!

Since September, we have been meeting as one children's group (Jigsaw, Jam and Jump together) in the hall. There are some advantages to meeting together and there have been times when it has really felt as though we are reflecting a small part of the family of God. However, it is a challenge to try to meet the diverse spiritual needs of up to twenty children, from toddlers to teenagers, at the same time. We are currently limited by the number of people willing to lead our Sunday morning children's groups and hope that others may recognise a call to minister in this way.

All Age Services

Last year we had to hold our monthly all age services in a very different way, joining with each other on Zoom for worship. During this year, we had to make decisions about how we were going to bring all age worship back physically into the Church building. Since June 2021, our new screen and cameras have enabled us to continue to offer this worship both in the building and live on Zoom, which has meant we can still be led in readings and prayers by members of our congregation at home. It is usually a Service of the Word, but we do have a

Eucharist when this is appropriate.

We have opened up the space at the front of church to families so they can see easily and feel at the heart of our worship. Before the pandemic, our under-16 congregation at all age services was often below eight; now, it is usually about twenty. But it is not just our families who enjoy this service. It is a joy to have those aged less than one to those over 90, sharing their faith and enjoying the opportunity for creative worship together.

Messy Church

At the beginning of last year, we had Messy Church via activity bags and Zoom services, but it was wonderful in July to meet in person, even if on one of the hottest days of the year in a shade-less car park!

Since then we have held Messy Church in the building three more times and it's been encouraging to welcome on every occasion both families we know and those that are new.

Messy Church continues to be a big commitment from a dedicated team, but the families who come always enjoy the afternoon and experience the opportunity to meet with God.

Noah's Ark

Up to July 2021, we held 'Out of the Ark' - a socially-distanced toddler service followed by some time with toys, all in the Church Car Park. It provided the opportunity for families in our community to meet in difficult times, to worship and play together. Perhaps in the future there will be the chance to reintroduce worship especially for toddlers and their families, although ideally not in the Car Park!

In September, it was a joy to welcome families to Noah's Ark once more. We have quickly grown, with a mixture of families we know returning and lots of new faces too. We now regularly have over twenty children attending each week with their parents and carers. Introducing a craft activity has helped meet the needs of some of the older children and staying in the Hall for the story has kept us sharing the Word of God actively together.

Thank you!

Our children's ministry has continued to grow and develop despite two years of having to change and adapt with the Covid pandemic. This would not have happened without the dedication of many people at St Andrew's. Thank you to all those who have offered their time, gifts and prayers for our children and families' ministry.

Looking to the future

The next year is going to still be variable. We are continuing to establish a post-pandemic pattern for our children's ministry and are beginning to plan ahead for when I go on maternity leave from the late summer.

It was wonderful to have Margaret Pritchard Houston, the Diocesan Children's Mission Enabler, come to us in March to help us reflect on our next steps for our children's ministry. Please continue to hold all those who work and volunteer with our children in your prayers.

Our young people are an incredibly important part of our church here today. To continue to develop our children's ministry, we would love for more of our congregation to be actively involved.

Please do consider if you are being called to share your time and gifts for our ministry among children and their families.

*Elisabeth Sutcliffe
Children and Families' Minister*

ST ANDREW'S CHOIR AND MUSIC REPORT

Restrictions on choirs in churches continued through 2021 but, undeterred, the virtual St Andrew's choir battled on enthusiastically, producing as a final recording the Stanford Canticles in B flat for the July Choral Evensong. There was a brief foray by an exclusive six-person choir for Lucy's Licensing service but otherwise the choir remained absent in body from the church, the DOM (Director of Music) sitting in solitary state at the organ each Sunday, providing organ interpolations at appropriate moments until.....

In September the long-awaited moment arrived when we all re-entered the church for Choral Evensong in September. The virtual choir had been rehearsing Parry's anthem 'I was glad when they said unto me: we will go into the house of the Lord' and never were these words more appropriate when we sang them in this service! Since then, the choir has sung regularly, only masking during communion and seated in a different formation until Palm Sunday when pre-Covid seating arrangements were resumed in the general unlocking of restrictions.

The choir has welcomed some new full-time members since lock-down - Jenny Tomlinson, Viki Evans and Natasha Vaughan, and Bruce Kilpatrick is often of great assistance to the tenors. Diana and Chris Stretton have regretfully left the choir and, very sadly, Nigel Haughton has died; there will be a memorial service for him later in the year. These three will be greatly missed. Hopefully others, particularly men, may come forward to replace those who have left; new members are always welcome.

Some trebles also left during lockdown - Eleanor, Olivia and Floriana - but we welcomed four new trebles - Daisy, who has been admitted as a full member, Mimi, Nelly and Rosie - so that there are now eleven trebles.

The enhanced choir has continued to take part in Choral Evensongs when more challenging music is included in the worship. The choir gave an excellent performance of Stainer's Crucifixion on Passion Sunday and the Carol Service had a new look in 2021, with a smaller orchestra of just nine players with the enlarged choir, but nevertheless a great sound - live music for Christmas once again!

*Paul Searle-Barnes
Director of Music*

CHURCH CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (CCMC)

CCMC's role is to maintain the fabric of the church, Church Centre and the Curate's house (5 St Minver Road - currently let on a fully managed basis) in conjunction with the Vicar and Churchwardens in whom 'legal possession' of the buildings is vested.

Our aim is to ensure that our buildings are well maintained and resourced in order to offer a welcoming and safe environment for all users.

There are twelve members of CCMC who meet every three months. This year, our architect will undertake the 'Quinquennial' review of our buildings. We do not anticipate that any major remedial work will be needed, though there will certainly be some advisory work recommended to be completed over the next five years. The Church Office arranges regular

servicing of the boilers and fire equipment. Regular courses are arranged for members of the congregation to obtain first aid qualifications.

Work completed in the last twelve months includes: replacing the obsolete control panels for the church lighting; changing more of the lamps to LED bulbs; installation of the audio visual equipment in the church; and clearing the moss on the Centre parapets and Old Centre roof.

We had busy and enjoyable workdays: cleaning the Kitchen, cleaning the flat roof over the Centre, cutting back the laurel in the car park, lifting the wire between the Centre and the vicarage, fence painting, gardening around the Church and removing ivy from the vicarage fence.

Works in progress include: The installation of security floodlighting on the west (Garden of Rest) wall; installing solar panels on the Centre roofs; updating lighting fittings and; redecoration of the Vestry and Robing room.

For many services, we need to employ outside contractors, though we try to do as much work 'in house' as possible - there is often some minor repair to be done. We are grateful for all the work done behind the scenes by members of the congregation to keep the buildings of St Andrew's shipshape.

Alan Colley, Chairman

CHURCH CENTRE OFFICE

2021 continued to be a bustling year for us in the Church Office. With a pandemic still around us and a new Vicar on her way, we hunkered down and helped to keep this ship afloat. Centre bookings were a bit of a white-knuckle ride as people continued to isolate or come down with Covid which led to last minute cancellations, moving bookings around and trying to keep track of it all. I can say that we may have a bit more grey hair than usual - but I think we managed it.

Of course, Centre bookings are lovely to wax on about, but that is nothing compared to welcoming Lucy Davis as our new Vicar. Karen and I have been delighted to get to know Lucy and Anthony. We are very excited to work with her as God continues to do a thing here at St Andrew's Church.

Thanks to Lucy and Anthony, we have continued to embark into areas where we have not gone before. One of these areas is the creation of our new e-newsletter and our new website. Karen has become the tech master as she navigates formatting these, updating and sending it all out. We would like to give a huge thank you to Anthony Davis for developing our new website and being such a patient teacher to both of us.

Not only have we continued to broaden our horizons on the various technology that we can utilise, but Lucy has allowed me to deepen my skills in other parts of running an organisation. With her help, I have begun understanding GDPR and am in the process of updating our GDPR register; delving into the world of licenses and ensuring that we have the appropriate licenses needed to run various functions. I have also begun aiding our Creation Care response as I look to how the Centre can engage in eco-friendly practices. I know you are thinking, how exciting is all of this. You bet your Aunt Betty it is!

I would like to take this moment to extend my eternal gratitude to Karen. As always, her patience, kindness and thoughtfulness has kept me going and I appreciate her so much more than I could ever express. I would also like to say a huge thank you to our caretaker, Giovanni who has patiently gone with the flow as we continue to navigate Centre life in a “what is going on with Covid” world. I would also like to say a massive thank you to Lucy for her support and never letting me know that she is tired of hearing, “just one more question”. Finally, I would like to say a gigantic thank you to you, our St Andrew’s Church family. Your continued grace and support are the thing that helps to put that song in my heart and to keep putting one foot after another.

*Kelly Agler Good
Church Centre Manager*

COFFEE AND COMPANY

Coffee and Company was set up over five years ago to address the issue of loneliness in the community. The monthly coffee mornings aim to provide an opportunity to meet new people, make friends and deepen existing friendships in an informal setting. Due to the pandemic, coffee mornings were suspended but began again in September 2021. Following Covid guidelines, we were able to start spending time together and talking to each other again.

The Coffee and Company team of twelve volunteers serve coffee or tea and cake in the Church Centre foyer. A warm welcome is guaranteed and introductions are made. Before long there is a buzz of conversation as people gather into small groups, sometimes outside, weather permitting. All monetary donations are given to charity.

Thank you to the wonderful Coffee and Company team for their generosity and gifts, providing a much valued opportunity to bring people together.

Diane Barlow

COMMUNICATIONS

This has been another year of broadening our communications tactics for St Andrew’s Church. In October we launched our new website. We would like to extend our thanks to Anthony Davis and Simon Thorne for their work on this. We have received quite a lot of positive feedback regarding this, not only from our own church family but from those stumbling across our site within the parish and beyond. However, we are always looking for ways to make this even more of a success and we always welcome all feedback.

This year, we launched our St Andrew’s Church e-newsletter. This means that instead of a black and white email with wonky bullet points and numbering, we are now sending out a colourful and link filled newsletter to all in our church and throughout. It is always exciting to see how often the newsletter is utilised for people to access Pew Sheets and information regarding St Andrew’s. Speaking of Pew Sheets, you will have noticed that they have shrunk a bit. As we dedicate ourselves to looking towards the future to make our planet just a bit more sustainable, we have shrunk the Pew Sheet to save on paper. I admit that this also helps the Office budget, which perhaps puts a smile on the treasurer’s face as I attempt to revise my budget to account for buying less paper (hopefully).

In an age where social media is all the rage, I am pleased as punch to say that St Andrew’s has gone viral! Our Facebook page has seen record number of visits. Since September, our Facebook presence has seen a twenty percent increase, as well as one post that saw a reach of over 29,000 people and was shared all throughout the country and made its way to South Africa.

These are all very exciting things, but we must not forget that we do have a church family here in Bedford and many in the family have been thinking of The Fisherman. With the advent of the St Andrew's e-newsletter, we have stopped sending a Fisherman's Catch. This has turned into The Fisherman's Catch blog posts on our website. We are also currently working on putting all these blog posts into a printed digest that will be printed numerous times throughout the year to make sure that all in the Church can have access to the news and events that have been happening. It has been discussed that The Fisherman will become a publication that will not only be for the Church family, but for the wider parish as well and highlight not just to us but to everyone who we are.

I thought I could get away with not mentioning the dreaded Covid in this report, but some wishes just don't always come true. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge that Covid has pushed our boundaries in the realm of communications. Some stuff we are comfortable with and some we are not. But please know, that we will strive to do our best to ensure that all in the church are communicated with in the ways that are accessible to them. We thank you for your patience as we continue to work this out.

*Kelly Agler Good
Chair, Communications*

CONCERTS AT ST ANDREW'S

It has been another disrupted year because of Covid, but in spite of this it has been possible to stage a number of events. Our Patron, Carolyn Sampson, and her wonderful accompanist, Joseph Middleton, have provided us with two outstanding concerts. The first in June 2021 was to celebrate the centenary of the Church building and was devoted to 100 years of song; the second, in January 2022, was to mark Carolyn's 100th recording and was called appropriately 'But I Like to Sing'. We were also able to stage the Come and Sing in October, featuring Haydn's 'The Creation'. At the end of the year we welcomed Evelyn Nallen's Weaver Ensemble - this was an entertaining and informative evening, with a recreation of the music of the early eighteenth century and highlighted the joys of dance and song.

As ever, I would like to thank the team of volunteers who work so hard and unobtrusively to put on such an excellent series of events. Work has already begun on the next concerts, and we are very hopeful that things will soon fully return to normal. We will endeavour to showcase excellent professional musicians with a local connection or from further away. We will continue to reach out to the wider community in Bedford and to demonstrate that the love of music can be an effective way to share St Andrew's excellent acoustics with a diverse audience. So, looking to the future, we will host the Bedford School Prize Concert on 7 May. In the summer we have a flute recital with Joanna Reveley, followed in the autumn by a performance of early music by the Corporation of Musick, the annual Come and Sing - Britten's Saint Nicolas, and a chamber music event to round off the series in November.

Stephen Rogers

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER: MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP GROUP

We are a group of twenty people who currently meet virtually to pray on the last Thursday of the month at 8.30 pm. The group was originally set up to provide a space in which to explore and engage in silent prayer. We draw on different prayer techniques including those inspired by the St Ignatian tradition such as the Examen and Lectio Divina, but also use poetry and art as inspiration.

Over the last six months we have begun to experiment with praying more responsively to world situations, using WhatsApp to send out prayers. This has engaged a wider element of

the group. During COP 21 we held a vigil every evening at 9.00 pm over WhatsApp and during Advent, those who wanted could sign up to receive a prayer a day. We are currently holding a five minute vigil in Lent at 9.00 pm every Thursday for the war in Ukraine.

Whilst attendance on Zoom averages about four a month, we have had seven new members join the WhatsApp group since September, many of whom join in and respond to the written prayers - some who just wish to receive. Some of these are new to St Andrew's, others are returners who have been on the margins. As we come out of the pandemic, we are looking to offer hybrid meetings - using the quiet room and Zoom to offer both face-to-face and virtual prayer, thus trying to be as inclusive as possible for those with different needs. One of our group led a successful quiet morning at St. Andrew's which was attended by eight of the prayer group. Another of the group has developed their confidence in writing and sharing prayers from which we have all benefitted. This group compliments the Friday meditation and other more contemplative forms of worship that St. Andrew's offers and we remain open to new members, however much or little they wish to participate.

Rosemary Thomas

CREATION CARE

Carbon Footprint Report 2021/22

As part of our Creation Care efforts, we are planning to report greenhouse gas emissions to the APCM each year. The same underlying data for 2021 has also been reported to the Diocese through the Diocesan Portal, and will contribute to wider Church of England carbon reporting. Much thanks to Lionel Mayoh for supplying the energy usage figures used to compile this report.

GHG emissions data for period 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021			
	Global tonnes of CO₂e		
	2021	2020	Base year 2011
Scope 1	29.8	27.1	24.2
Scope 2	4.8	4.8	13.3
Total gross emissions	34.5	31.9	37.5
Intensity measurement 'Tonnes of CO₂e per person on electoral roll'	0.146	-	-

Supporting notes

Reporting period: 1 January 2021 - 31 December 2021

Change in emissions

Our gas usage increased compared to 2020 because of resumed activity post-lockdown. It was identified during the process of compiling these figures that Church building gas usage has been high since 2017 (compared to historical levels) due to the heating required for the organ - action has already been taken to reduce this for 2022 in line with advice from the organ manufacturer.

Our electricity emissions reductions since 2011 are a combination of increased energy efficiency (presumably changes to lighting over time) and reduced UK national grid intensity.

Approach

We have followed the Government's guidance on measuring and reporting greenhouse gas emissions. Conversion factors are as supplied by the UK government for the relevant years. (Due to a methodology change, the 2012 conversion factor was used for the 2011 figures.)

Organisational boundary

These are combined figures for the church and the Church Centre only; this does not include any data for other church property because data was not readily available.

Operational scopes

We have measured our Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions. No attempt has been made this year to estimate Scope 3 emissions (e.g. emissions due to travel to church), but this may be possible in future years.

Scope 1 emissions include natural gas burned to heat the Church building and the Church Centre. Scope 2 emissions include electricity consumption for the Church building and the Church Centre.

Base year

2011 was chosen as the base year as this is the earliest year for which data was readily available.

Intensity measurement

Tonnes of CO₂e per person on the Electoral Roll has been used as a provisional intensity measurement for this year, calculated by dividing the total emissions by the 2021 Electoral Roll figure (236). Electoral roll figures for previous years were not readily available for comparison.

Carbon offsets

No attempt has been made to calculate carbon offsets or the impact of any tree planting.

Green tariffs

Our electricity is supplied by Scottish Power on their 'Green' tariff, but no attempt has been made to obtain renewable energy certificates to reduce our Scope 2 emissions.

Tim Retout

EVENTS COMMITTEE

This committee has a remit to organise and provide catering for church occasions in order to encourage hospitality and friendship throughout our community.

Obviously, the past two years have necessitated restraint in these activities with the regulations caused by the Covid pandemic. In July last year we were able to offer light refreshments for the opening weekend of St Andrew's Centenary Year celebrations. We opened the Church to welcome cyclists and walkers for the annual Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust fund-raising event in September. Harvest Festival was celebrated with a simple sit-down lunch in a well ventilated hall, keeping to all the rules! In December we were very fortunate that our scaled-down Christmas Lunch went ahead satisfactorily before another lockdown was announced that very evening!

In 2022 we are rejoicing that our Lent Lunches have been held as close to normal as possible and we look forward to fulfilling our plans for the rest of the year, including the Centenary weekend at the end of May!

We are a friendly team and always welcome new members or offers of help on an occasional basis.

*Pat Rogers
Chairman*

FAIRTRADE AT ST ANDREW'S

Our Fairtrade shop has continued to flourish, despite all the limitations imposed by Covid. Our attempts to hold stalls outside were not very successful as the wind or rain usually defeated us, but we began using the Church Centre Foyer to lay out our goods. This has been so successful that it has now become a permanent part of the way we do things even as restrictions are lifted. It means that we have more space so that our customers and volunteers serving can see the stock better and we can mount specific displays. Setting up and putting away takes a bit more effort and our thanks go to Lynn Herron, our Shop Manager for arranging the volunteer help each week.

Life was not so straightforward for our buyer, Brenda Mayoh as many items were out of stock for a long time. But she kept the shelves well-filled from a variety of suppliers and our customers have been very understanding and bought alternative products when necessary. Many people used our delivery system during the lockdowns and quite a number are still finding it very helpful. Personal visits to the shop have also continued. We also supply goods on sale or return to other churches and organisations wanting to have a Fairtrade stall and we have continued to visit outside events with our stall. We still provide an outlet for Companions Bread. We reinstated the Amazing Autumn Fair this year in the Foyer, Church and Chapel, which was a great success.

The result is that we have sold £28,000 worth of goods (up from £21,000 last year) with an average of £20,000 per year of sales since 1989.

Please come and visit us after the 10.00 am Sunday Service, the 10.30 am Wednesday service and on the first Friday of each month alongside Coffee and Company and keep an eye out for other events we will be having. When you buy a Fairtrade item, you know that its producer and employees are paid a fair price for the goods or wages for their work and are paid on time. Additionally a small amount goes back to the producer (the Fairtrade premium) to be used to improve in the local community.

*Fiona McLeod
Convenor, Fairtrade at St Andrew's*

FRIENDS OF ST ANDREW'S

Due to the Covid pandemic, no events were again held in 2021 until the ever popular and lucrative Tea Dances resumed in September, with all the required safety precautions to keep everyone safe. We were fortunate to still have a full committee at the time of the AGM in November and, although we sadly lost the valuable services of Karen Parrott and Beryl Tench on the committee, I am happy to report that they are both still very actively involved with *The Friends*. We gained a second Co-Chairman in Ralph Hall and two further committee members with the welcome return of Peter Brawn and Valerie Littleford as a completely new member.

Other events/talks are now being planned, including:

- a trip to Tolethorpe to see 'Hay Fever' on 15 July 2022,
- a talk by Bedford Borough Council about recycling plastics, (June/July)
- a trip on the Ouse with fish & chip supper, (September)
- a trip to Peacocks sales rooms, (October/November)
- plus the Tea Dances every third Sunday, and
- a talk by David Rogers about St Andrew's Church past & present (October)

Additionally, *The Friends of St Andrew's* are twenty-one this year and we hope to find a way to celebrate this with you all!

Jenny Pegg
Secretary

THE MEDITATION GROUP

The Meditation Group got back together in October 2021, having been unable to meet during the pandemic. It was really encouraging to be able to meet once more and since October, all the Meditations have taken place in the Chapel on every Friday morning at 10.30 am except the first in the month.

A central burning candle is a helpful focus together with the different aspects of the Chapel and the changing light patterns on the walls prompted by cloud and sunlight. Some participants have remarked that even though they choose to meditate with their eyes shut, a sudden burst of sunlight on the white walls can still be experienced which feels spiritually uplifting and hopeful. The numbers have grown since October with an average number of seven attending. Not everyone comes each week due to life demands, so the true number of those who participate is nearer twelve.

Julie Hibbert continues to lead the meditation in the following way.

The meditation begins by acknowledging the Trinity and then a verse(s) from the Bible (often from the Psalms) is read to give a focus to the twenty minute silent meditation. A hand bell is gently rung to mark the beginning of the meditation and then is rung once more to mark the end. This is followed by a prayer of thanksgiving for the time given as a gift from God and we finally all join in with the words of the Grace.

The new time of 10.30 am means that afterwards we can have coffee and tea together, which enables people to get to know each other better with many interesting discussions taking place. Anyone and everyone are welcome to come and there is no obligation to attend every week.

Belinda Searle-Barnes

MISSION AND OUTREACH TEAM

During the pandemic, the work of Mission and Outreach continued, but it mutated, partly out of necessity, as we were unable to meet in person, and partly as we wished to move on in our thinking about the way forward for St Andrew's Church.

We have decided to be called a team, in order to express the fact that we work together in a non-hierarchical manner and that we are cooperative and flexible in our way of working. We now have more frequent meetings than was the case previously and we communicate between meetings via our new WhatsApp group. Several new members of the team have been recruited and are making a keen and valued contribution to our thinking.

What is more, as we became committed to the project with World Vision, first mooted and agreed in early 2020, it was decided to change the way in which we manage all charitable giving. We felt that God was leading us in this direction.

Over the years, the committee had managed the distribution of the annual budget of approximately £13,000 in a piecemeal way and there were some twenty-seven outreach partners mentioned on the church website. We felt that it was time to support fewer causes but in a more in-depth manner, involving church members more and having a more solid partnership, one in which there was dialogue and where we could, for example, visit and learn from one another.

Consequently, there will be in the future three charities (one international, one national and one local) to which we commit for three years, in this case from the beginning of 2022 to the end of 2024. We are already committed to World Vision's work in Pajule, Uganda as our international partner and now we hope to engage the congregation in choosing a local and a national charity for the same period.

By now we hope you have been able to take advantage of the opportunity to vote for the two causes and we want to listen to and learn from you. When you receive our leaflet, please take the time to prayerfully consider it and be guided to propose and vote for some truly worthwhile causes.

Rest assured that we are retaining some funds within our budget, so that we are able to respond as a church to urgent needs, and to support some small charities which we have supported for many years and which tend to rely on our contributions.

Angela Huddart

MONEY ADVICE ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PCC

Introduction

Money Advice at St Andrews has been in existence since 2010 and I would say that, in common with most of the rest of the country, the last two years have been the most challenging we have experienced. The Covid pandemic has forced us to completely change the way we operate, and we are still constantly reviewing our processes. We are now (at last!) moving back to seeing clients face to face.

Volunteers

It has been another challenging year for our service because we were not able to see clients face to face. We currently have five advisers. Our new role of Client Support Worker did not really get off the ground and one had to step back due to pressure of work. The other person now supports our administrator in the ever-increasing amount of admin involved in constantly changing and updating our work processes to suit changing circumstances. We do hope to resurrect it in some form now that some semblance of normality has resumed. It is still difficult to recruit volunteer debt advisers and we are conscious that we do need more.

Our welcomers have not had a role since we stopped seeing clients, and during that time, two have decided to step back and one is currently unwell, so that role will be much curtailed as we resume seeing clients in person. We currently have two welcomers operational.

We still benefit from our senior adviser being a Debt Relief Order intermediary and from the valuable support provided by our administrator and service manager. I never cease to be amazed by the dedication and loyalty of all our volunteers.

Service Update

We are now seeing clients in person again but continue to offer a video or telephone service for clients who may need it. All our meetings are now held in person also. We expected to be inundated with clients when the temporary increase in Universal Credit was stopped and the support for furlough came to an end. That did not materialise immediately but there has been a noticeable increase in enquiries over the past few weeks.

We now record and analyse more demographic information. Broadly speaking, we see more female clients (67%) than male (33%) and our age range is:

Under 25	0%
25-40	54%
41-59	29%
60 +	17%

A quarter of our clients have children. Our biggest referral organisation is One Support but word of mouth is also a valuable source of client referral.

Statistics

	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
Nos contacting service	56	56	63
Nos worked with	24	26	48
Nos of open cases current	11	21	33
Total debt in open cases	£80K	£274K	£305K
DNA rate	42%	31%	30%

Publicity

We have developed a new website this year (moneyadvicestandrewsbedford.org) to try and increase our visibility locally and have also submitted two articles to local publications to ensure people know we are still here and still working! We continue to 'flirt' with the idea of making more use of social media but we are aware that this needs to be kept up to date and we are short of capacity in that regard.

Finance and Funding

The Hall Trust have agreed a budget of £6,750 for the year 2022. As always, we are grateful for this funding. As previously agreed, we have pursued other sources of funding and last year we secured £6800 from the Harpur Trust to be spent in developing the service over the next eighteen months. That funding ends in October 2022. We are monitoring our finances closely to ensure we have sufficient funds to operate effectively.

The Future

We believe that our service meets a real need in the local community and now that we are seeing clients in person and enquiries are increasing, we expect that to continue.

*Carol Madden
Chair of the Management Group*

MOTHERS' UNION AT ST ANDREW'S

2021 saw most meetings of the St Andrew's MU group take place on Zoom once again - we met monthly in our regular third Monday afternoon slot and enjoyed each other's company,

worshipping and talking together, sometimes with a theme and sometimes not. Meetings with the wider MU community, both in our Cluster (Bedford, Sharnbrook & Biggleswade Deaneries) and Diocese, also took place on Zoom, which did give some members who have not travelled to such gatherings in the past a chance to take part.

Towards the end of the year, with restrictions relaxed, we were able to meet in person as a group and to be the host venue for the Diocesan Autumn Sharing Day in November. This was the final such gathering of the Triennium and provided an occasion to thank those who have held trustee and other leadership positions across the Diocese for the last three years and to greet those who are taking up roles for 2022 - 2024. Covid restrictions and remote meetings did hamper our fundraising efforts during the year, but the annual raffle for the Away From It All (AFIA) holiday was able to take place at the Wednesday congregation Christmas lunch.

With things starting to return to something more "normal", as a group we have done some initial thinking about the 2022 MU theme of "*Transformation - Now*". As an organisation, Mothers' Union is looking at ways to build on the resilience, responsiveness and adaptability shown by members during the pandemic to transform ourselves to live out our faith, the churches and communities we work with and of which we are part to reflect Christ's Kingdom and Mothers' Union as a worldwide charity to be relevant for 21st century life.

"For with God nothing shall be impossible" Luke 1:37

Karen Parrott

PILGRIM HOUSE GROUP

During the lockdown of 2020 we started holding weekly meditations in our own homes with several people contributing a meditation or prayer for us all to reflect on. Who knew we would still be continuing with this throughout most of 2021 as lockdowns remained in place. We were able to add in the occasional Zoom meeting and it was good to see those who could join us.

With restrictions being lifted in the summer, we were finally able to meet up in Val's garden for a relaxed and socially distant get together. Our first proper face to face meeting took place in October at Jenny's house. Mask wearing and socially distant though it was, it was lovely to see each other and go over the York Course Bible study that we had started at the beginning of 2020. We met again in November but unfortunately, due to high rates of the new Covid variant, it was decided to postpone our Christmas get together.

In January 2022 we embarked on a new Bible Study, Caring for Creation, another one of the York Courses, and following a break for Lent/Easter, we should be on course to complete this by summer. We are all looking forward to our first Quiet Day at Chellington since 2019, which is scheduled for June and will be led by the Revd Sarah Burrow. We are also planning a social get together in August. September will see us starting another Bible Study and we will be rounding 2022 off with a Christmas get together.

Over the past few months I have collated all the weekly meditations into a folder of four booklets entitled Pilgrim Lockdown Meditations 2020/2021 which I have distributed to our members as a keepsake of that time and which can also be used for reflection and meditation.

You are most welcome to join us - monthly on Monday afternoons.

Alison Belding

PLANNED GIVING

Thank you to all who gave financial support to St Andrew's Church during 2021, whether it be by the Parish Giving Scheme, standing order, weekly envelopes or by casual donations online, cheque or cash. After 2020, when there was severe disruption to services and attendance at church, 2021 saw a return to a more regular pattern but not necessarily to the pre-pandemic level. This had some impact on planned giving, particularly in weekly envelope receipts although some individuals did set up monthly standing order arrangements to continue their regular support to St Andrew's. Although not part of our planned giving scheme loose plate collections were well below their normal level as were donations received from the yellow Gift Aid envelopes, often used by regular worshippers as well as visitors. The small 'card reader' which is situated at the back of church is becoming recognised as a convenient way of making a cashless donation and is a useful source of income which is slowly increasing.

Planned giving income for the 2021 financial year was £90,228, about £300 more than in 2020. This small increase, during a year which had difficult times for many, was at least positive and we are all aware that 2022 will be a year of rising inflation. Each year we lose members due to death or moving away and so any increase is always welcome. Thank you all for your contributions and in particular the new members and those who have increased their regular giving or made extra donations during the year.

The situation that we experienced during 2020 and 2021, when attendance at services was low, highlighted the benefit of regular giving by monthly standing order. This is an easily managed method of giving and is preferred by us as it provides a regular income stream and assists budgeting. If you would like further information about setting up a regular payment, please contact me or the Church Centre Office.

Another method of regular giving to St Andrew's is by the 'Parish Giving Scheme' (PGS) which is a direct debit scheme where your contribution is debited from your bank account each month and received by us about ten working days later with Gift Aid (if applicable). The donor can also agree to automatic annual increases in line with inflation. Further information can be obtained from me or the Church Centre Office.

Income tax recovered via the Gift Aid Scheme is an important source of income for us; this amounted to a little over £22,900 in 2021. If you are a tax-payer and we are not claiming on your contributions, please consider authorising us to do so by contacting me for a simple declaration form. It is essential that all Gift-Aided donations are recorded by us as it is a requirement that if asked by HMRC, we must be able to identify donors and the contributions they have made in any tax year.

Thank you!

Jim Dawson
Planned Giving and Gift Aid Recorder

THE THURSDAY HOUSE GROUP

It was with such joy that we resumed our face to face meetings last September! At last we could chat freely without the constraints of Zoom, enjoy refreshments together and spend time catching up with how we all were. Apart from a couple of times when Covid rates were again too high for comfort and we went back to Zoom, we have continued to meet twice a month.

Our new home is the Quiet Room where we can be in the round, able to see and hear each

other, with distance between us. We continue to study the Bible using the Bible Reading Fellowship New Daylight notes. Our leaders circulate some thought provoking questions in advance and, after a time of socialising and prayer, we start to discuss the passages we have been reading.

Our study has taken us through the Old Testament understanding better the Ten Commandments, Ecclesiastes and some of the Psalms, and in the New Testament we have read part of Mathew's Gospel and Paul's letters to the Thessalonians. Sometimes there is a topic to study and we enjoyed looking back at the start of the year as well as debating scriptural passages concerning Heaven and Hell. We usually take a break in August and have a quiz near Christmas - as well as seasonal refreshments.

Our group has been together for nearly seven years now, and more than anything benefits from that close fellowship which comes from knowing each other as pilgrims on our earthly journey. The love and support we offer each other is just as important as reading God's Word as we share the ups and downs of life through scripture and in conversation.

Jenny Tomlinson

TELEPHONE LINK CARERS (TLC)

The volunteers of the Telephone Link Carers Service (TLC) have continued to make calls from their own homes, which we started with the first Covid lockdown. We still make our calls on a Tuesday afternoon, but calling from home means that we can be more flexible and can call someone a second time if they do not answer. Sadly, the numbers of people we call has fallen off over the last year, with some moving away and with one person dying.

The service has been rigorously challenged by Safeguarding and data protection requirements which has meant we have made some changes in how we work, including asking for written consent to receive calls, but our core purpose is still to provide a regular friendly weekly telephone call to people who are lonely, may not get out very much or do not have family locally. We don't give advice, except to suggest any local services the person called may like to contact or offer to contact the Vicar if their concerns needs further help. Sadly, we miss Sandy, our Parish Nurse, who knew most of the people we called and was able to follow up issues for them.

If you know of someone who you think would welcome a regular call, either a congregation member or anyone living in the Bedford Borough, please contact Fiona McLeod, the organiser, via the Church Centre Office. If you would like to join the team to make regular calls and can offer up to one and a half hours a fortnight, please also contact Fiona. You will be very welcome and training will be given.

Fiona McLeod
Organiser, Telephone Link Carers.

TOWER BELLS REPORT

Our ringing has not really recovered from the pandemic. A number of our previous ringers have not resumed ringing or have moved away and we have relied on help from other towers to ring for weddings. Hopefully we can recover somewhat in the coming year, ring a few more bells on a Sunday and resume practices.

In normal times, we hope to ring prior to each Sunday morning service and festival services and practice on a Thursday evening.

The tenor was tolled 99 times in memory of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh and tolled half-muffled prior to his funeral.

*Alex Nash
Tower Captain*

WORSHIP BAND

The worship band continues to enjoy being a part of worship at St Andrews. The band has had to continue to adapt with the ongoing isolation requirements, but despite this we have continued to play on the first Sunday of each month and meet before services to rehearse.

We are also pleased to be continuing to provide the music for the Sacred Space services that happen on a Sunday evening bi-monthly. In the morning service, we usually include a children's song which we try to choose carefully so that all ages can get involved! We like to introduce new songs and find that over communion or at the very end of the service are appropriate places to include these. The evening services give us an opportunity to teach new worship songs and hymns often take a more contemplative style.

We are grateful to the supportive congregation at St Andrew's who encourage us with praise and enthusiasm, and we hope to offer the opportunity for people to feel comfortable worshipping God in a variety of styles.

Sam Rick