

APCM 2020

APCM REPORT

7TH SEPTEMBER 2020



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
EASTERN GREEN
& ALLESLEY GREEN

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VICAR'S REPORT

Up until mid-March, the highlights of the year had included:

- Securing a permanent home for St Andy's at St Oswald's with a new afternoon time slot
- Employing a youth worker (instead of a children's worker) to develop our youth work
- The success of the 6th Party in the Park, attracting greater numbers than ever
- Launching a volunteer transport service
- The ongoing success of Forget me Not, Lunch n Chat and Light Lunch
- Our new involvement in Tastelife
- The successful launch of Rock solid – a group for young people on Sunday evenings

Our challenges included:

- Finances – continuing to struggle to make ends meet
- The struggle and demise of Tots Praise and Kidz Praise
- Inspiring Worship voted as our weakest quality

And then something rather unexpected happened and life has not been the same since. I suggest that a crisis can't bring to the fore things that aren't already there, but it can reveal them. St Andrews has responded magnificently and made me very proud to be Vicar here. We have looked after our own with regular phone calls, offers of shopping where needed and the provision of online worship of high quality (who said Inspiring Worship was a weakness?)

But we have not rested there. We have provided volunteers to shop and deliver for many outside our own church family. We have taken over responsibility for the food hub in Tile Hill, managed and staffed it. We have provided protective visors for care homes, food banks and businesses across the city.

My ambition in the year ahead is not to abandon the good things that we have picked up over the last 5 months, while trying to find ways of getting back to 'normal' and renewing our ministry to those in need in our community.

As always, I am grateful for your support, love and prayers. I am deeply grateful to a wonderfully talented and committed leadership team. And above all to Fran who puts up with an awful lot!

Greg Smith
Sept 2020

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Report 2019

Before I begin the report, I would like to pay tribute to my predecessor, Emma Adcock. I am very grateful for her help during the handover in difficult circumstances due to the lockdown. I also thank co-treasurer Jackie for her hard work. The detailed analyses she produces make my job much easier. My gratitude also to Greg, the Finance Committee and our very efficient Administrator, Julie.

Looking at the main points in the 2019 accounts starting with income for the year.

Stewardship and envelope receipts were down 12% and plate collections increased by 11%. Overall, collections were £5,000 less than 2018. This was balanced by an increase in wedding and funeral fees of £4,500. I can only echo Emma's words last year that we cannot rely on funeral and wedding revenue to balance the books.

Restricted donations of £7,000 were received which covered the kitchen renovation and hospital transport.

We are very grateful to all for their generous donations and regular giving. Fundraising and other income increased due mainly to grants from the Diocese and Churches Together towards the cost of our work with children. Grateful thanks to all who organised and supported fund raising events during the year.

Thanks also to Richard Marr for his stewardship work and ensuring we receive the maximum tax refund.

Turning to expenditure in the year, this rose by £12,000. This was due to Parish Share increase of £7,000 (£3,000 of which was for 2018) and £7,600 kitchen renovation which as stated earlier was covered by donations.

The end result was a loss of £2,000 for the year.

Headlines 2020

A budget for this year was set in November last year but it became evident early in March that this needed to be revised to take account of the effect of Covid19. We were faced with Church closure for an unspecified period and the resulting loss of income. As much as possible has been done to reduce expenditure but early figures suggested a loss for the year of £12,000. Thanks to your generosity and that of various bodies the latest forecast suggests a loss of £9,000. Under a Coventry Diocesan scheme, we have applied for a waiver of Parish Share for that sum. We should learn in October if we have been successful. Of course, we must do everything possible to reduce this deficit.

The pandemic has caused much suffering both physically and mentally both directly and indirectly through postponed treatments. Nevertheless, I believe we can look at positives. The crisis has highlighted two things.

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First, it has highlighted the love and care this family has for the community, evidenced by shopping for the vulnerable, the restarting of the Tile Hill food hub, the distribution of protective equipment and laptops and all the work done to produce virtual services and latterly to open the church in a limited way and much more. I feel very privileged to be a part of this family.

Secondly, it has shown how vulnerable our finances are to an emergency. The Coventry Diocesan Board of Finance recommends that Churches have a reserve to meet unforeseen events. We do not have any reserve, so we need to meet our normal expenditure by regular giving supplemented wherever possible by tax refunds. By doing this any further income can be used to fund a reserve and other projects. I would like to emphasise how important the tax refund from regular giving is. If you are a taxpayer, we receive 25p for each £1 given. We expect to receive £14,500 in this current year, 14% of our normal income.

These are difficult times with job losses announced every day, but I would urge you to consider and support the current stewardship campaign as much as you can. Also, may I urge you to consider leaving a legacy to the Church in your will to remember a life well lived and to give grateful thanks? As I Chronicles tell us: "Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand."

Thank you

Clive Murden
Treasurer

Below is the link to the account for 2019:

[St Andrew's Church final accounts year to 31st December 2019.pdf](#)

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CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT 2019/2020

As I sit down to write this report it allows me to think and thank god for all the wonderful activities and inspiring people St Andrews has.

I first would like to thank Greg and Fran for everything they do. Greg's leadership allows us as a church to outreach to our Parish in many ways, and further afield with support groups and working to support Tile Hill.

We are truly grateful for our readers, Sue and Lesley, both bringing different but inspiring gifts. Lesley with prayer and Sue leading home groups, both over the last year becoming more of a focus for us and especially as we go into 2020-21.

With the change of position for our children's worker Emma, we have seen the children's work suffer, we took a difficult decision to priorities Tots Praise over kids praise with the closure of kids praise due to lack of attendance. With Emma coming back from maternity leave to work with the youth (9-18), we pray over the next 12 months this sector begins to blossom.

Phil and the leadership team at St Andy's have faced some challenges of finding a more permanent home due to West Coventry Academy not being fit for purpose. I lift to god that the move into St Oswald's Church is the right move and St Andy's blossoms.

As Emma Adcock stands down as our treasurer, I would like to thank her for all her support over the past couple of years. Emma has done a wonderful job keeping us on track with Finances. I wish her well and success with her business and welcome to Clive to the position of treasurer.

Julie, the church administrator, who behind the scenes works tirelessly in ensuring everything is completed and up to date. Her support to Greg and the leadership team allows us to free up admin tasks to focus on other tasks. Thank you from all of the leadership team.

Our very active and vibrant PCC, thank you for your dedication over the past 12 months, sometimes having to make some very difficult decisions and meetings that go on rather late. Whether you are called to stand again or not the dedication shown has ensured that the path we have followed is the correct one.

Our beating heart of the church are all the sides people, musicians, readers, elements, technical, children's work, coffee helpers. Thank you for the commitment over the past 12 months, a Sunday morning would not run as smoothly as it does without you.

I would like to highlight some of the activities that we have done over the past 12 months. Firstly, our beautiful new kitchen. Not only has this given us something to be proud of but the community groups that hire the church out some more practical to use. Thank you again to Jose who officially opened it in September.

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Over the past 12 months Rosemarie Over and the social committee have organised some amazing events, from Queen to Elvis tribute nights, all raising valuable funds for the church and providing outreach to many. I do pray that we can put more events on in the future.

We have seen our support groups continue to grow, with a new lunch and chat group (light lunch) as the existing group became full to capacity. The dementia group continues to grow and helps support people diagnosed with this condition but also their carers.

A new eating disorder group, which will offer support to those people who suffer from eating disorders. This group ran by a small group of volunteers, who all received full training on how to support this vulnerable group.

Finally, I would like to thank Nick who over the past 12 months has supported me and the church family with so many things. Nick, you are a truly gifted and inspiring person.

As we move into the next year and the challenges and changes COVID may bring, our priorities and focus will be, inspiring worship, Youth, St Andy's permanent home and Finances.

Becky Crowe
Church Warden

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ELECTORAL ROLL

All who are resident in the parish and over the age of 16, Or non-resident and worship at St Andrews or St Andy's during the last six months are able to apply.

Being on the electoral roll enables you to vote at the AGM as well as giving you rights to baptism, funerals and weddings

An electoral roll form needs to be completed in accordance with the instructions on the form and returned to the electoral roll officer to be added.

The register currently has a total of 142 people.

A copy of the electoral roll is kept in church.

Website for further information:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about-us/structure/churchlawlegis/church-representation-rules/appendix-i.aspx>

Lesley Harrison

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FACEBOOK PAGE

No report this year

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IGNATIAN SERVICE/SERVICE OF CONTEMPLATION

It seems a long time since our last session. This was on March 1st where we celebrated St David's Day. We studied the Psalms of David in the Old Testament another David. On February Greg kindly led the group as I was unwell.

The group has been so worthwhile, we are usually around 10 in number. We have gained so much from the stillness and the centring on the Presence of God and have felt a real closeness in fellowship with each other and the Holy Spirit.

Vicky Yardley, Jill Pinks and Emma Craddock have provided so much encouragement in the group, helping in so many ways. Emma has led a session and Vicky has led Compline several times while Jill has catered for our refreshment needs!!

We will be glad to re-convene whenever that will be and hope to invite other speakers to share their journey through contemplation. I thoroughly recommend a wonderful book on silent prayer read during lockdown 'Finding your Hidden Treasure' by an Augustinian called Benignus O'Rourke.

Kate Dagger

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PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM

The Prayer Ministry Team consists of representatives from St. Andrew's who feel that prayer is a vital aspect of our Christian commitment and ministry.

Pre-COVID, the team met monthly to intercede on concerns of our Church Community and parish and to explore ways of developing understanding and practice. We also held an evening meeting in Church on the third Sunday of each month, open to all, to pray for the World, our Nation and our Community. Initially, there was a good response, but numbers reduced during the winter months.

During 'Lockdown', we were unable to meet in the flesh but decided that it was still important to meet and pray. Some of our members do not have the facilities required for on-line meetings so we decided to have a 'virtual' monthly meeting. This took place on the third Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm when, in our own homes, we would take part in a 50-minute service which incorporated a Spiritual Communion and the opportunity to pray for our Church and church family, our community, each other and the world. Such a 'virtual meeting' may sound odd, but we have found it a powerful experience. Happily, with the easing of lockdown, some of our team have been able to hold the service in one of our member's garden whilst those still self-isolating, have taken part at home. Our Prayer Chain is still in operation and we continue to hold in prayer those we are aware of who are in crisis. Please text or ring Lesley Lee (07970 302554) or Jeremy Thomas (07913 934210) with any requests.

The ministry of healing is also important to us. Our last Healing Service was held on 29th March 2020. It was early in 'Lockdown' and we needed to adapt the service for recording on YouTube. It wasn't quite what we had planned to take place in church but, given the circumstances which faced us and the world at that time, it was appropriate and well received.

As a team, we are always delighted to welcome new members. If you feel you have a calling for prayer or are simply interested in learning more, please contact Lesley or Jeremy.

Lesley Lee

September 2020

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THE LINK ONLINE

The decision to transition the Link from its original format of a Magazine for delivery to the Parish, which had existed for over 40 years, to a digital version was not an easy one to take. Unfortunately, for financial reasons the Link Committee and the PCC of St Andrew's were left with no option as, to put it bluntly, the money ran out. Advertising revenue ceased and we were not able to continue to pay our printing costs.

The digital format had been up and running for 12 months, prior to the onset of Covid, but it was working. I received the following message from Richard Barnes, Administrator of My Eastern Green on 1st March 2020:

" Hi Tracey

What I can say is it does receive quite a number of Likes when it is posted on MEG and I believe it is well received. Current membership numbers are 10,500 and I also share it to the Allesley group too. It has a potential readership of 12k plus.

Richard Barnes"

We were then left with no option but to change the format again to accommodate the unprecedented circumstances forced upon us by Covid.

The digital version of the Link is now a newsletter providing the Parish with practical information relating to essential services offered by the wider community throughout Coventry and details of the day to day running of the Church.

I really hope that the continuation of the digital version has helped to convey that St Andrew's Church has remained 'open for business' (albeit not in a literal sense) and will always do everything possible to offer ministry and support to the Parish whenever and wherever there is a need.

I'd like to express my thanks to Julie because without her support this digital version of the Link would not have been able to continue.

Tracey Tidmarsh
Editor of The Link

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WEDDINGS AT ST ANDREW'S

Over the past few years the number of weddings that have taken place at St Andrew's has declined.

So with that in mind last year Rosemarie Over and myself attended two wedding fayres with our "pop up stand" in the hope that we may be able to attract more bookings. Although we were able to make some people aware that church weddings were more available than they thought, unfortunately, we were not able to attract any further bookings for St Andrew's.

2020 sees the lowest number of bookings we ever have had with just five booked so far for this year. Although the events that have taken place sees that 2 of these postponed to 2021 although we gained a wedding in July. Who would have thought that the couple that got married on Friday 13th March would have had the most "normal" wedding of the year!

This year our marriage preparation course which was held over two evenings on consecutive weeks. The couples had a chance to meet with other couples who are getting married in the same year, it was great to see how the couples shared concerns, worries, insights along with lots of laughter. My thanks go to Rosemarie & Bill Over, Rita Muir and Stephen & Hilary Wankling for providing the catering for us at these evenings. Thanks also to Sue Hill who joined us for the second evening to provide assistance in music choices.

As wedding administrator, I liaise with couples from their initial enquiry either to have their banns read or to make a booking at our church. I have to be familiar with St Andrew's wedding policy as well as the relevant church law regarding qualifying connection and marriage. There have been many new changing rules and regulations to adapt what is allowed in Church Weddings for the foreseeable future.

I receive completed wedding forms and acknowledge bookings. I send out information about Marriage Preparation Day then liaise with couples about dates, orders of service and other enquiries, giving appropriate advice as required. I complete marriage registers prior to the wedding rehearsal and liaise with Minister taking the service, ensuring they have all relevant information.

As wedding vergers Fran and I have a variety of duties from opening the church 45 minutes before scheduled wedding. Between us we set up church candles, kneelers, chairs, orders of service in accordance with instructions from the wedding couple. We instruct and assist ushers as necessary calm the groom before the arrival of the bride!, greet guests and help seat them. Respond to requests from guests, the wedding couple or photographer etc. We liaise with photographer/videographer and ensure they are aware of and adhere to church policy on photographs and video recording. After a wedding service we collect money and count it and tidy church after the service.

If anything the current times have taught couples is that there are definitely ways of getting back to the beauty of a simple no frills wedding. Reflecting on what is important to the couple and realising for once that the marriage day is still as meaningful without the additional 100 guests, photo booths, sweet stalls and numerous decorations.

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Rebecca Martin
Wedding Administrator

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FOODBANK

The Trussell Trust Foodbank has been running for 5 years now, and in that time there has been a massive increase of people using this lifeline.

Your donations are so gratefully received, and such a relief for them to know they can feed their families. It is not easy for people to walk in to the Foodbank to ask for help, but they are met by friendly, non-judgemental volunteers, and can discuss their needs.

We can supply immediate relief with food and other household items, and then direct them to the relevant agencies for any other problems they might have.

We have noticed in the last few months, a substantial increase in the number of clients we serve, which is very worrying in this day and age. Universal credit has a lot to answer to and seems to be the main problem why so many are now having to use foodbank. Our prayer is for a fairer benefit system, and dignity restored.

Jackie Lynch

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THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

I have been collecting for the Children's Society for the past 22 years and over that time the parish has raised £27697 for homeless, disadvantaged, vulnerable children, enabling them to be safe, happy and hopeful of returning to their lives.

The ongoing, vital work of the society is totally reliant on the generosity and goodness of all who donate to this worthy cause, thinking of others less fortunate.

This is my last year collecting the boxes, but I am pleased to let you know that Nick Tooby will be taking over from me.

Thank you all for your kindness and loyal support. May God bless you all.

Jackie Lynch

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FORGET ME NOT

Forget me Not has been running for over 2 years, and we have more or less greeted the same group from the start.

We eat cake, drink tea, play games and sing...which they all love, knowing all the words to all the songs! It is good too for their carers, who really enjoy being out of their homes and chatting and comparing notes with each other and great friendships have been made between us all.

We have had some bereavements and some who are either in a home or hospital, and we do miss them.

It is a safe, friendly, relaxed atmosphere seeing familiar faces, which is so important.

If you know of anyone who would benefit from joining the group, please point them in our direction.

Jackie Lynch

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ST ANDREW'S CE INFANT SCHOOL

No report this year

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WEBSITE

The website is now regularly updated with details of events, news and information appropriate to parish life and activities. If you would like any church activities advertising on the website then please give me the details and I will gladly advertise them for you.

If you have never taken a look at the church website, please do take a look. The website address is <http://standrews-eg.org.uk/>

If you have any suggestions for improvement then please let me know.

Julie Crow
Parish Administrator

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ST ANDREW'S SHAWL MINISTRY

During the lockdown, I have sent out 3 shawls and a lap-rug. One shawl was to a lady completely unconnected to the church. I met a couple walking and in the course of the chat, I mentioned the ministry. The lady then contacted Greg and asked if she could have a shawl for a friend who she believed would greatly benefit from having one. The others have gone to people known to church members. I have another 4 shawls ready in case they are needed.

I have changed the purchase source of the wool as I can get the same product much cheaper on the Internet, same for the cards and wrapping etc. I remain very grateful for the support of the knitters who have continued their work throughout the lockdown, hence the store of shawls.

In the next few months, I need to work on communications and ensure that more people know about the ministry and the wonderful comfort that receipt of the shawls, lap-rugs etc. can bring to people when they need it most.

Please spread the news of the Shawl Ministry so that we can reach more people.

Julie McNaney

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FABRIC COMMITTEE

The refurbishment of the kitchen, side room and disabled toilet was completed during the year. Classic Interiors were responsible for the revised layout of the kitchen which involved a complete change of fitments and appliances. Godiva carpets did the new flooring to the kitchen and side room. This involved the creation of a new damp proof surface over which was laid Luxury Vinyl Tiles. Once the above was completed Jim Stewart did the decorating of all areas. Finally, Julia McNaney assumed responsibility for getting new curtains made and hung in the side room together with new lighting for the side room and kitchen.

Repairs were carried out to an area of the side room roof that was occasionally leaking.

Trevor Hill

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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CARD WRITING

In previous years prior to Christmas St Andrew's organises a card writing event. Unfortunately, in 2019 this was not possible due to prior holiday arrangements of the organiser.

Trevor Hill

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LUNCH N CHAT

Lunch n Chat for the year 2019 was very busy. Everyone loves coming, as for some it's their only day of meeting up with friends. The group gets on very well and we especially look forward to some home-made cooking. During lockdown, some people, other than phone calls or someone getting shopping for them, haven't seen or spoken to anyone. They're all ready to come back when safe to do so. Feedback is that Lunch n Chat is a wonderful thing that we do.

Rita Muir

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ALLESLEY GREEN/PARK HILL COFFEE AFTERNOONS

Seven of us continued to meet monthly for support and friendship until March. Since the outbreak of the Coronavirus this has not been possible, but we continue to keep in touch by telephone.

We really miss the interaction with each other and pray that one day we will meet again.

Jennifer Sanders

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HOME GROUPS

No report this year

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PARISH SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding means protecting people's health, wellbeing and human rights, enabling them to live free from harm, abuse or neglect, so we may provide safe and effective care to ensure best outcomes.

This year has been challenging for everyone and not least for St. Andrew's, due to the covid 19 crisis. However, I am proud to report St. Andrew's responded extremely well and was able to provide support for many people in various ways, thanks to a small army of people who volunteered to help others.

16 people underwent DBS checks during the year with a further 13 DBS checks undertaken for those people who volunteered during the crisis which makes 29 in total.

13 people completed C1 training despite face to face training being suspended throughout lockdown and a further 10 people undertook C0.

New volunteers were all safely recruited and my thanks and prayers go to each and every one of you.

We have not forgotten the children either during this time and promoting their welfare is to protect them from maltreatment, and to prevent impairment of their health and development. We will be having a special service at the end of the month for our children which we hope will help prepare them for their return to school after such a long period away from their friends and their school. Please can we all pray for them at this time so their transition back into educational establishments may go smoothly.

May St. Andrew's continue to rise to any challenges that present, thereby responding appropriately, enabling best practice.

Linda Chylinski

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CHILDREN'S MINISTRY REPORT

Children's Ministry Report for St Andrew's APCM, 7th September 2020 The Children's Ministry at St Andrew's and St Andy's has continued to reach out to children and their families who are regular attenders at church and also those in the wider community. Following the success of the first 2 day holiday club (July 2018), all volunteers were keen to extend this to 3 days in July 2019. While some children were from 'church families' the majority were not, proving that this is an effective way of bringing Bible stories and the good news of Jesus to those who rarely or never come to church. A small number of families asked to be contacted directly regarding holiday club 2020, though sadly we had to abandon plans for this due to the extra restrictions placed on us because of coronavirus.

The Children's Council became aware that all of our events were taking place during the second half of the year. To remedy this and to establish stronger links with St Andrew's School, Becky undertook to organise a new Easter event which would engage families from the school and our own congregation. In spite of her planning, this also became a casualty of the virus. We hope it may come to fruition in the future.

The Council is very aware of the impact of the lockdown on our work with children, but more importantly we are concerned about the difficulties some children have had in terms of their well-being. We extend thanks to the leadership team for regularly sending out a children's worksheet during lockdown.

At the time of writing a children's service is being planned for 30th August. The immediate response requesting places suggests that there is a real need for our work with children to continue. We cannot be sure what form this work will take in the near future, but we pray that whatever we offer, our volunteers will resume their support as enthusiastically as before and that more people will feel moved to join the children's team.

Below is a brief report from the different children's groups. The leaders of all the groups noted in this report wish to thank the volunteers for their commitment and hard work. Without you the groups and events simply would not happen.

St Andrew's Children's Church

St Andrew's Children's Church continues to have a dedicated group of 11 volunteers who give their time and talents to organise meaningful, fun sessions each week using the Scripture Union 'Light' programme. It is disappointing to report that the number of children has dwindled over this year. Prior to the coronavirus lockdown there was a core group of about 5 regular attenders, though in some weeks this number increased considerably, which made planning activities quite difficult for the leaders. We are grateful to St Andrew's School for the free use of the school hall each week which means that we can engage the children in noisy games and messy craft activities!

St Andy's Children's Church - reported by Phil Richardson

In the last year we have been running two separate groups for our older and younger children, which has been well-received. This has involved all meeting together in the same room, starting with a shared activity, but then breaking into separate groups for age-appropriate content. The older children have seemed to appreciate having slightly more

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'grown up' discussions! It has been difficult to predict how many children will turn up (anything from 2 to 12 children!) and I am always grateful to Anne, Natasha, Emma and Carys who have been involved in leading. Many thanks in particular to Jade who has now stepped down from coordinating children's work at St Andy's, but remains involved with helpful and creative ideas.

Tots Praise and Kidz Praise

Towards the end of 2019 it became clear that the numbers attending both Tots Praise and Kidz Praise was diminishing. For various reasons the volunteer base also decreased. These two factors led to the decision to 'take a break' from these services and re-launch later in 2020. This does not look like happening in the near future and certainly St Andrew's leadership team will need considerable volunteer support to be able to once again offer the variety of activities which were included in these two services.

All Star Theatre Company

All Star Theatre Company runs every week at Our Lady of Assumption hall and brings drama, games and fun to children aged 8-14 years. The children are enthusiastic and enjoy the opportunities to be creative in a fun, safe environment. Credit must be given to the leaders for their efforts to retain contact with these children during lockdown via drama activities via Zoom.

Open the Book

The Open the Book team lead an assembly at St Andrew's School every two weeks telling Bible stories through drama. The assemblies are well received and the children are always enthusiastic about joining in with sound effects and actions. During the year the team of volunteers has been able to firmly establish our links with Limbrick Wood School. Our assemblies ceased when the schools closed and as yet there are no plans to resume these as whole school gatherings for collective worship will not be allowed for the foreseeable future.

Children's Council

The Children's Council has met on 9 occasions since the last APCM. Since lockdown we have continued to meet via Zoom. Listed below are events which have taken place since the last APCM.

- Children's work at the Parish Weekend at Shallowford Hall (May 2019)
- 3 day Children's Holiday Club (July 2019)
- All Hallows' Eve Light Party (October 2019)
- Tea with Santa (December 2019)

Report compiled by Hilary Wankling

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SUNDAY SERVICE ROTA

I am sure many of this year's reports will have a similar theme, to begin with everything happened as normal with the rota being produced quarterly, containing four duties, these being 1) Setting up the Altar, 2) Sides Persons, 3) Readers and 4) Presenting of the Elements.

These duties were performed by a loyal group of volunteers which included a few new people wishing to help with these vital tasks. At this point I would be asking for others to consider joining this very worthwhile and rewarding ministry, but things have changed, so we now need to get used to a new normal.

At present the rota as we knew it is no more but as one comes to an end another begins.

The new rota which is now managed by Julie our administrator still lists our readers and the readings but now includes two new roles, these are Service Co-ordinator and Video Editor as well as the more well-known titles such as Preacher, Intercessor, Musician/Singer and PowerPoint Person. These roles all work together to bring us our Sunday services as we currently know them. It started off in March, when the church was forced to close its doors, as an online service accessed through our website or Facebook page and watched via YouTube and then more recently when we were allowed back into our church building these same people brought us our live services which we have all missed so much.

I would like to personally thank everyone that have given their precious time to help keep the services at St. Andrew's available to all our congregation, it has been a challenging time for us all as we have had to get used to Zoom meetings, filming ourselves doing readings, preaching, praying and singing then using something called WeTransfer to send the video clips to our techies who have had to learn to edit videos, YouTube uploading and webpage design. Who knew we had such talented people?

It is not too late to get involved, it is always great to see a new face, hear a new voice or see a different style of presentation.

Steve Martin

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BAPTISMS & THANKSGIVINGS

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 to date
Baptisms	31	28	25	34	18	4
Thanksgivings	2	0	1	2	2	0

2019 saw a drop in baptisms at St Andrew's Church.

2020 is an unusual year as baptisms were unable to take place during the lockdown period of the coronavirus pandemic, therefore the last baptism took place on 15th March. Since the lockdown has been lifted, limited numbers are permitted in church due to social distancing measures which is likely to have an impact on future baptism bookings.

Our Baptism Team now comprises of; Greg Smith (Vicar), Phil Richardson (Curate), Jade Stratton and Jayne Nye (Baptism Visitors), Fran Smith (Verger) and Julie Crow (Administrator).

The baptism process, in normal times, is that when we receive an initial enquiry for a baptism, the family is requested to attend any service to collect the baptism literature. This for some people may be their first time inside St. Andrew's Church. Once the baptism literature has been collected, a baptism visit can then be arranged to obtain all of the information needed for the baptism. Before the baptism, a Baptism Preparation Evening is arranged on a monthly basis inviting all the parents and godparents for those children that are due to be baptised that month. This is carried out by 2 members of the baptism team on a rota basis.

In order to keep to keep in touch with the families, on the first anniversary of the baptism we send a card to the child.

We continue to have annual meetings for the baptism team to discuss administration and baptism visits and how to improve our process to make this a better experience. Should anyone have any suggestions then please let me or any member of the baptism team know.

Julie Crow
Parish Administrator

APCM 2020

ST ANDY'S

We're used to change at St Andy's, but what the last months have seen is unusual even by our standards! Lockdown commenced only two weeks before we were due to move into St Oswald's Church for afternoon services. Since then, we have concentrated on meeting online (3.30pm on Sundays), and I am very pleased to say that the Zoom meetings seem to have been a success. It has been very heart-warming to catch up with people each week, seeing them face to face, and being able to interact and pray for each other. A lot of credit needs to go to Mark Strentz, who has masterminded the move to St Andy's online, but I am also grateful to all our speakers, leaders, intercessions leaders and worship leaders for adapting to the change. We also now have our (I believe) youngest ever intercessions leader in the form of Daniel, aged 10. We are mindful that online church does not work for everyone, particularly those with small children, and so we are looking to try a service in person, in St Oswald's, before long.

In the last year we co-ran a successful event at St Oswald's, "Step into Christmas", alongside the missional community from St John's, Westwood Church. We invited locals to join us one afternoon in December for a Christmas fair, with Santa Claus, refreshments, stalls, face-painting, and also "The Gospel in Chocolate". The event was very well received and encouraged us that there was a desire for people in Tile Hill to connect with things we might run at their local Church.

We have been working through the Prison letters in our services (Phillipians, Ephesians and soon, Colossians). These are letters that Paul wrote whilst in prison or at least under house arrest. These have been encouraging as they have reminded us how to stay hopeful and positive even when stuck in our homes!

It has felt like a lot has been 'on hold' during this time of lockdown, and especially as we were due to move into our new venue in March. However, God has also been using this time to show us that we do not consist in the sum of our productivity, and that he can use these 'desert' periods to teach us more about ourselves and more importantly Him.

Phil Richardson
Curate

APCM 2020

ST ANDREW'S LADIES FELLOWSHIP

We meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 1.30pm until 3pm in the church side room. Meetings consist of an opening prayer, a short informal talk, often illustrated, a poetry reading or a quiz etc, followed by tea/coffee and biscuits. During refreshments there is always plenty of time for chatting.

Since our 2019 AGM report, we have enjoyed a Beetle Drive, several café visits and a very well attended and most interesting talk on the origins of our group given by Janet Baker, our former leader. For our final meeting of the year we went to Haigs Hotel in Balsall Common, which proved to be very enjoyable, we received excellent food and service.

Sadly, due to Coronavirus, our meeting on 18th February 2020 was our last get together to the present time. However, during the restrictions we have tried to support one another by telephone calls.

When we are able to meet again we would really welcome some new people to join us, there is no subscription fee, Just £1 per visit to cover costs. We offer a friendly and supportive atmosphere; people can just come along on the day.

Finally, on behalf of our members I would like to thank our Vicar, Greg and Fran, together with their team of dedicated people who have kept in contact with so many of us during this challenging time. Just knowing that love and support is there should we need it brings great comfort, whether it be help with food shopping or a friendly chat. Also, for those of us with online facilities, the regular bulletins and church services have really made a difference to me, and I am sure many others. Thank you all very much.

Hazel Elks

APCM 2020

CHRISTIAN AID

2018: Collected house to house £706.64 plus gift aid £31.73 = £738.37

2019: Collected house to house £578.92 plus gift aid £30.62 = £609.54

Lots of people not answering the door. Also, the young families do not have cash.

Pat Sullivan

APCM 2020

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

This team is dedicated to helping our congregation and parish members whenever possible by demonstrating Gods love to those we meet in our community.

We continue to coordinate and support the following Ministries.

- Forget-me Not (Alzheimer Group)
- Lunch and Chat (Social and Bereavement Group)
- Light Lunch (for recently bereaved)
- Shawl Ministry
- Cards Ministry
- Pastoral Visits
- Fellowship Group
- Taste Life (help with eating disorders)
- Transport for Medical Appointments

Thanks to everyone who willingly gives of their time and energy to serve those who continue to enjoy our fellowship and the many who are experiencing change and adapting to new circumstances in their lives.

Rev Lynnette Clarke

APCM 2020

COFFEE ROTA

No report this year

APCM 2020

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

No report this year

APCM 2020

SMALL GROUPS

Small groups remain an important part of our life of faith and of developing our discipleship. There are several small groups including the prayer ministry team and the Allesley Green prayer group and each of the groups have a slightly different focus. For some of the groups focus on Bible study is central, for others intercessory prayer is at the heart of the group. The groups are a safe space to ask questions and explore issues, to share and pray together and they are a great way to get to know one another better and to develop fellowship. Each group has leaders who coordinate the group and their commitment to the groups is invaluable. Small Group leaders also meet together several times each year (normally) to support each other and to share resources that can be used across the groups.

In addition to these groups I aim to hold a Lent and Advent group to explore the Bible at these important seasons in the Christian calendar and life of the church.

The way the groups function has been limited by the restrictions imposed as a result of the Corona Virus. Groups have been inventive in the way they meet and keep in touch, with one group using zoom, other groups praying at the same time but in different physical locations and also meeting in a garden, social distanced, as restrictions have eased.

During Covid we set up the *Wednesday Gathering* where a small group meeting on Zoom have looked at Paul's letters to the Romans and to the Ephesians. I am hoping that we can develop further this way of meeting until the restrictions and possibly even after we return nearer to normal.

I believe small groups are an important part of our journey together as the people of God and I am committed to developing small groups in whatever way is practical for the coming months and into the future. If you would like to know more small groups please contact me, susanmasters@sky.com

Sue Masters
Discipleship Coordinator