APCM REPORT
17TH MAY 2021



ST ANDREW’S CHURCH

EASTERN GREEN& ALLESLEY GREEN

RESPONDING TO THE COVID PANDEMIC

*1 Peter 4:10 – Each one should use what gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.*

In March 2020 the announcement of a national lockdown and the closure of the church provided St Andrew’s with an opportunity to reach out, adapt and help the Community. The church was in the perfect position to show the compassion and love of God in action and to give practical support when people were anxious and concerned for themselves and their loved ones. St Andrew’s and St Andy’s immediately responded in the following ways: -

* **Prayer** - It began with prayer: to seek guidance from God to open doors and show us where the need was.
* **Building a support structure**

***Shopping*** – We utilised the skills of the church family with members of the community, to safely recruit volunteers to food shop for the vulnerable or those who had to isolate.

***Support line*** – We set up a support line for people to contact if they were in need or for family members living away to ask for help for a loved one who lived locally.

***Phone volunteers*** – We safely recruited a group of church members to keep in contact with the elderly or those who were feeling isolated. A call twice a week was an opportunity to talk, pray and check that everyone was all right. For many in the early days it was a life line, should they need support. The volunteers kept in regular contact with around 90 people.

***Foodbank*** – The foodbank in the neighbouring parish needed help managing it. St Andrew’s took over the responsibility by appointing a new manager and arranging for the foodbank to open again at a time of greatest need.

***Supermarkets*** – We negotiated with the local large supermarkets to allow our shopping volunteers to undertake additional shopping for those who were vulnerable.

* **Church Services** – People felt isolated from the church family and the opportunity to worship. In response, the Worship Team produced weekly recorded online services. For those involved in presenting the services it was a new experience to record and lead worship in this way, and a challenge to get out of our comfort zone and adapt.
* **Zoom Coffee mornings** – These were introduced to maintain a feeling of fellowship after the Sunday service. They replicated the coffee and chat people were used to on a Sunday.
* **PPE –** There was a need for PPE in our local care homes and wider within the city. Following an appeal, we received offers to meet the urgent need of those in our local area.

**So, has it all stopped now?**

Certainly not; we have continued to maintain and build on many of the initiatives throughout the past twelve months. We continue to support requests for shopping and help. We have maintained the phone volunteers throughout the year and the subsequent lockdowns, keeping in contact with over 55 households.

The foodbank has continued to operate in Tile Hill with the support and leadership of our church members at a time when demand for the service has increased.

We continue to record a weekly service which is accessed via our website. At Christmas, this included a Darkness to Light Service, an interactive Crib Service, and a youth drama.

We have embraced zoom with meetings of our Youth Group (Rock Solid), the Book Club, Building our Faith Bible Study group and many more activities.

While the current pandemic remains St Andrew’s and St Andy’s will maintain the support in place.

**Moving forward**

* **Evaluating the COVID support -** We will need to evaluate the COVID support system and the future need as we move out of the pandemic.
* **Creating online capability -** We recognise that many people now welcome the opportunity to worship in their own homes, whether this is through short term anxiety or a long-term change in how they wish to worship. St Andrew’s is now in the process of obtaining the online capability to stream services on Sundays and/or for funerals, weddings or christenings, to help meet this future need.

***Nick Tooby***

***Churchwarden***

CHURCHWARDEN REPORT

When I became churchwarden 5 years ago, never did I think I would see the church close for worship for months and only having “invited” guests once we reopened. How our church has changed in the past 12 months!

As coronavirus took hold last year, we had to make some difficult decisions on what our church could do to bring worship and support to our parish. As all of our support groups, children/youth and all fund-raising activities were cancelled, a worship committee was formed to review and work together to bring some form of worship. I would like to thank, Rebecca, Steve, Vicky, Paul, Sue, Lesley, Di and Nick for all the hard work leading and pulling together the online worship. All the readers that have learnt technology in a very short space of time and finally to each and every one who has tuned in to worship with us. During the months of lockdown, I feel very blessed that as a church family we have pulled together to help and support our friends and family with daily/weekly calls/shopping and even posting letters for people who have been shielding. Thank you to each and every volunteer as I know this has provided much support and relief.

I would like to thank Julie our administrator as over the past 12 months she has been our main contact person for all activities, whether it’s booking in for services, requiring shopping or picking up a jigsaw. Without her I know myself and Nick would have a lot more to organise!

I would like to thank Sue and Lesley for all the ongoing support they have offered myself and Nick during the interregnum, Clive for his work with finances as this has been very difficult due to the reduced amount of income. Finance is very concerning, although we have moved a lot of giving to online, as fund raising events haven’t taken place, there is a “hole” in our finance for this year. All members of the PCC who have some difficult decisions to make over the past 12 months, whether you’re standing again or stepping down it will be a year you will always remember! To all our visiting clergy (either via video or in person) thank you for taking the time to preach and bringing a different voice to us. Area Dean Rev. Matt Taylor for his continued support to myself, Nick and the leadership team during the interregnum. Finally, I would like to thank Nick. His ongoing support to me and the leadership team to keep us organised and planning for the future.

We said goodbye to Greg, Fran, Dan and Kirstie this year although a very tough decision for them all, I want to give thanks for all their love and support over the past 16 years. We know your new parish is very blessed to have you. We also said goodbye to Phil and Anne who have now completed their curacy and are moving to a new diocese.

As we slowly move on from covid and we start the process of finding a new incumbent. I know that god is walking with us as we find the right person to help us move forward. When the time is right to reopen our church back up to full worship and start back many support groups, we have all missed during the past 12 months.

 ***Becky Crowe - Churchwarden***

TREASURER’S REPORT 2020

Before I begin the report, I would like to thank co-treasurer Jackie and our Administrator Julie for their hard work and support also thanks to Greg, the Churchwardens and the Finance Committee.

2020 was an exceedingly difficult year. The Church was closed or open for very restricted numbers for nine and a half months. However, it is important to stress that St Andrew’s did not go to sleep during that time, quite the opposite. There have been weekly virtual services, work to maintain Tile Hill foodbank, distribution of laptops, telephone support and much, much more.

The accounts presented today are for the period 1st January to 31st December 2020.

Income

* Stewardship giving rose by £800 but plate collections fell by £9,000.
* Income from weddings and funerals fell by £9,000.
* Donations decreased by £2,600
* Tax refund from gift-aided giving rose by £1,400. Thanks to Richard for his hard work on stewardship.
* Other income including fundraising and grants for our youth work and administration decreased by £3,000.
* Overall, our total income fell by £21,000 to £105,554.

We are incredibly grateful to you for your generous donations and regular giving during a very difficult year.

Expenditure

* We made use of the Government’s furlough scheme during the year and salaries fell by £2,600.
* Staff expenses dropped by 47% to £3,500.
* Premises costs fell by £8,000. In 2019 there was a major refurbishment of the kitchen area costing £7,600.
* Parish share commitment was £13,000 less in 2020 for two reasons. In 2019 there was a remainder from 2018 of £3,000 and the Diocese introduced a parish share waiver scheme last year to aid parishes struggling to meet their targets. We applied for and were granted a waiver of £9,000.

Other costs fell by £10,000 due mainly to the reduction in funeral and wedding expenses and discipleship.

Overall, our expenditure fell by £37,000 to £91,955 which means that we ended the year with a surplus of £13,599. Of this £4,542 was for designated items, the major item being live streaming equipment. This leaves a balance of £7,279 on the unrestricted account.

On the Youth Accounts there is a balance of £6,146.

As I said at the beginning of the report, a lot has been done during the Covid restrictions to serve the parish. This can only be achieved on the foundation of a strong financial base. With everyone’s generous support we were able to end the year with a balance of £7,500 unrestricted funds. However, the budget for 2021 is predicting expenses exceeding income by £16,000 which means a deficit at the end of the year of £8,000.

In the first four months of this year, Church collections, stewardship and donations are as budgeted. We have received a grant towards our youth work, so together with continued furlough we are heading towards break-even, if monthly income, regular giving, donations and fund raising continue as budgeted.

To achieve break-even is important as it is vital that we meet this year’s parish share commitment after the assistance we received last year. However, I do not want to aim for break even. It is important that we start to build a small reserve to meet unforeseen costs in the future so I would urge everyone to consider how you can help St Andrews achieve that. If not already doing so, please consider regular giving preferably through the Parish Giving Scheme which allows us to claim income tax refunds monthly rather than waiting until the following April. Also, please consider St Andrews and the work it does when planning your will.

***Clive Murden***

***Treasurer***

ELECTORAL ROLL

All who are resident in the parish and over the age of 16, or non-resident and worship at St Andrew’s 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 139 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***

WEDDINGS AT ST ANDREW’S

I reported last year that 2020 had seen the lowest number of bookings we ever have had with just five booked for the year as the rules of lockdown changed throughout the year of the original five that were booked three took place, two of which were clearly not how they had originally planned. The other two decided in the end to marry later this year at the reception venue, so that if needs be a service could take place outside.

We did have an additional two weddings conducted.

Talking to couples who have had to postpone their “Big Day” because they could not have all the guests they wanted, I have also talked to others who have relished the opportunity to have the small intimate service that they truly relished but felt they were not able to have due to peer pressure. These smaller weddings with restrictions were amongst the nicest weddings I have been involved in. They were so relaxed the couples were at ease amongst just their family and closest friends.

2021 currently has only 1 wedding booked.

I hope that the lack of weddings in 2021 is simply down to people not wanting to risk having to make plans that will be altered or due to restrictions St Andrew’s has had to adhere to that a licensed reception venue offers more flexibility. I suspect not as I have also taken five bookings for 2022.

***Rebecca Martin
Wedding Administrator***

FOODBANK

At the end of March when lockdown began, St Andrew’s got word that the foodbank in Tile Hill which operated out of St Oswald's church was unfortunately forced to close due to the current volunteers having to shield under the Covid19 pandemic guidelines.

St Andrew’s church decided to set up an emergency foodbank in Tile Hill during the pandemic to support those in the local area who were struggling. In coordination with the Trussell Trust we began safely recruiting volunteers to support the setup and weekly running of the foodbank. Initially, we sourced a convenient location, as unfortunately, we were unable to use the previous St Oswald's venue. The Mosaic Family Hub was the ideal location - the team were extremely accommodating and upon an initial visit to the hub, it was clear this was an ideal location to set up the emergency foodbank, with covid safety guidelines in place. Greg and I worked with the Trussell Trust to agree on a one-way route into the building and out of an alternative door at the side of the building. We operated a one-in, one-out policy, ensuring each visitor adhered to covid restrictions including social distancing, gelling their hands upon arrival and later with the introduction of masks in supermarkets, we adhered to these guidelines within the foodbank also. Upon arrival before entry into the building, each person was asked if they had any covid symptoms within the last 7 days to ensure the safety of all volunteers.

Each visitor received either a single person pre-packaged parcel or a family pre-packaged parcel. We also worked with Fareshare to provide fresh fruit and vegetables.

In addition to the pre-made parcels and fresh fruit and veg, I set up a Facebook page for the emergency foodbank to generate awareness and ran adverts across Facebook within the community. This not only generated awareness for those in need but also resulted in the community coming together to donate. We were often asked what we were short of and were regularly given sanitary products, toilet rolls and nappies which we were so grateful for, as they were often in short supply. I also signed up to Bare Necessities - a pilot programme that began later in the summer. This provided visitors with the option to receive cleaning packs, sanitary packs, baby packs and more.

As lockdown began to ease, St Oswald's opened again and the foodbank was moved back to its original location. As before, this was set up within covid guidelines and operated as a one-way system. At that time, I began stepping back as co-ordinator and worked closely with the original team to retrain them under the new covid structure.

The foodbank is now operating with the original team out of St Oswald's church.

***Natalie Chylinski
Foodbank coordinator April 2020 - September 2020***

PARISH SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding is protecting all people’s health and wellbeing and this became a new challenge with the advent of covid and subsequent lockdown. All face-to-face training was suspended in March 2020 and remains so at present. Instead, there is a new foundation course available on line for anyone who wishes to access it. Also, online, is a leadership course, but this is not open to everyone currently although I have put names forward for those currently eligible to undertake it.

St. Andrews church response to the covid crisis was tremendous. Foodbank had closed at a time when it was possibly needed most due to those who ran it previously, having to shield. A willing bank of volunteers from St Andrew’s ran this vital service in a covid secure way until it was taken over again a few months later.

Our volunteer driving service had to be suspended. New covid guidelines have been drawn up and it is hoped this service will resume at a later date when it is deemed safe to do so.

A list of people within the congregation and the wider community was drawn up, and a number of us made at least weekly telephone contact to ensure the people on that list had their needs met, checked they were safe and well, and also provided a friendly chat. Most of these people are still regularly being contacted.

New guidelines were also written to enable willing volunteers (safely recruited and all DBS checked), to shop for those people who were shielding and also to collect prescriptions as required. Although this service is still currently available and in particular now for those needing to isolate, we have no one using it at present.

Reopening of our church provided further challenges to ensure covid safety. It is a requirement now that you book your place in church to enable social distancing. Increased cleaning and safer entry and exiting is required. It is necessary for people to leave church at the end of services as guided, to ensure safety.

Children have not been forgotten and when able and safe to do so, we provide a monthly service for children and their family. I am happy to say, this service reopened on Good Friday and we had a full house according to covid guidelines. It was lovely to welcome the children and their families back into church.

I am proud that St Andrew’s provides a safe environment for all people to grow in Christian faith. Jesus’ ministry was devoted to teaching people about God’s ways but he also cared for the sick and attended to the practical needs of ordinary people. I hope and pray that we at St Andrew’s continue to rise to these challenges as necessary, and continue to love God with all our heart, and in loving one’s neighbour, and helping out in time of need is really what it’s all about.

***Linda Chylinski
Parish Safeguarding Officer***

BAPTISMS & THANKSGIVINGS

Due to the impact of the Covid pandemic, only 5 baptisms took place at St Andrew’s in 2020. Again for 2021, church closure due to the pandemic has prevented baptisms taking place for several weeks however bookings are being taken and our first baptism takes place in June. Several bookings have already been taken for 2021 and over the coming months we expect more people will be willing to book baptisms or thanksgivings as lockdown eases.

Baptism visits are still taking place either via zoom or over the telephone in order to obtain the information needed for the baptism. Our first online baptism preparation took place in April.

***Julie Crow***

***Parish Administrator***

ST ANDY’S

Wow, what a year it has been! We draw to a close 12 months like no other. But it has all been hand-in-hand with the God that loves to be with us and draw close to us in difficult times.

In March 2020, St Andy’s were due to move into St Oswald’s to start meeting regularly there in the afternoons. Less than 2 weeks before we were due to move in, the country went into lockdown and plans were changed. St Andy’s moved online and we met in Zoom meetings, at our new meeting time of 3.30pm. This suited us really well as we were able to see each other, share stories of God’s goodness and needs of prayer or other physical needs that we had. I am grateful to Mark Strentz for setting us up online and making this possible.

Since March we met a handful of times in St Oswald’s, developing a relationship with Duane and Colin who are now the Churchwardens at St Oswald’s. I am very grateful for their can-do attitude and willingness to open St Oswald’s up for private prayer and for the use of the foodbank after things began to ease in the summer of 2020, not to mention in welcoming St Andy’s into the building.

Foodbank has been something that many of us from St Andrew’s and St Andy’s have been involved in over the last year, and another missional opportunity that has sprung up originated in foodbank. A chance meeting with a group of female Asylum Seekers who were interested in learning English meant that we started a conversation class online (Wednesdays at 11.15pm for anyone interested!). I am thankful for Anne Packwood and Sue Best for leading this group now that I am moving on.

It was great to meet in St Oswald’s for a handful of times in the autumn and winter as we have tried to find our feet in the new building, but it has been difficult to gather momentum when we’ve had to change plans due to the Covid restrictions. We had to move our all-age Christmas Eve service online at the last minute due to one of my family having to quarantine due coming into contact with someone who tested positive, for example!

It has been great, therefore, to finally start meeting in person from Easter Day of this year. It felt particularly amazing to finish the Easter Day service by standing outside of St Oswald’s singing “We want to see Jesus lifted High”, to the interest of some passers-by!

So I move on from St Andy’s to my new shared post with Anne but thankfully with a plan in place. Penny Wakefield, who has been a member of the Church since before I arrived, along with the leadership team of Tim Stratton, Dewi Thomas, Anne Packwood and Shirley Lewis, will be looking after things in this interim period.

On this final note then, I do ask you to hold them in prayer, just as you hold Nick and Becky and the St Andrew’s leadership team in prayer! And let this be our prayer for them:

“As I was with Moses, so will I be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous…”

***Phil Richardson
Curate***

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

Not surprisingly, Covid-19 has continued to impact on our provision for the children and young people in our parish. Children’s Church, Tots Praise and Kidz Praise as well as Open the Book assemblies have all been casualties of the pandemic. Members of the Children’s Council, however, have been busier than ever, meeting monthly to look for ways to continue to reach out to families.

Monthly services, specifically aimed at primary aged children, took place in church from late August through to December. We welcomed families known to us as well as new families to these services, which were well received. Ever conscious that we could only invite a small number of families, the council undertook to deliver ‘goody bags’ or gifts for special events to those who couldn’t attend. ‘Light party goody bags’ containing booklets about Jesus were distributed in November, while Nativity booklets were delivered to families in December. Once the church was closed again in the third lockdown, these services came to an end. However, the council undertook to produce a short, child-friendly online service in March, delivering craft packs to families prior to the service. As we ease out of lockdown, the council will be looking at ways to once again welcome children and their families back into church, the first service having been held on Good Friday.

All council members are thanked for their time, commitment and enthusiasm, especially during these difficult times. The support of St Andrew’s leadership team during the interregnum is also gratefully received. We look forward to the future when we will not only be able to welcome back all of our families to events, but also develop and extend the children’s ministry.

**All Star Theatre Company**

All Star Theatre Company has been meeting on Zoom every Tuesday night during the past year which has been challenging to try and do Drama online but we have had a great range of sessions and adapted well. We intend to go back to meeting in person once guidelines say it is safe to do so and the proper risk assessments carried out.

**Rock Solid**

Rock Solid has been meeting on Zoom on a Sunday evening. It has been a great way to keep in touch and enjoy some time to chat and play games together. We intend to go back to meeting in person once guidelines say it is safe to do so and the proper risk assessments carried out.

We are looking to safer recruit more volunteers for our Children and Youth Work to make sure the wonderful work we are doing can continue.

***St Andy’s Children’s Church - reported by Phil Richardson***

***Report compiled by Emma Wildman and Hilary Wankling.***

FACEBOOK

The St Andrew’s and St Andy’s Facebook pages have been so valuable this past year, with services switching to online we were able to upload/Live stream these services, share regularly updates and news plus add the Church bulletin so that we could still reach out to the community during Lockdowns and restrictions. St Andrew’s currently has 454 followers and St Andy’s currently has 130 followers.

***Emma Wildman***

PASTORAL CARE

Sadly, our Pastoral Groups have been unable to meet this year due to Covid restrictions.

However, an extensive programme of pastoral care has been offered to church and community members with whom we have links.

We have of course all terribly missed the physical exchanges of meeting with others but have managed to maintain substantial and widespread contact via telephone and computer We have been able to offer friendship to the lonely and provided essential services such as shopping for the very many forced to isolate.

As the restrictions are withdrawn, we look forward to advancing our care in the community and finding ways to support each other.

Thank you to you all for the prayer and practical concern you have offered to so many in the name of Jesus Christ. God bless you.

***Lynnette Clarke***

SMALL GROUPS

‘Let us not give up meeting together’ (Heb 10.25)

Small Groups are a valuable part of our faith life at St Andrew’s and St Andy’s and we have worked to develop these in recent years. The groups offer a place of fellowship, support and a space to grow in faith, and prior to Covid restrictions there were several small groups meeting regularly. Covid restrictions have meant that we have been unable to meet, but we have held a weekly bible study zoom group since Spring 2020, called Building our Faith. At these Bible study meetings, we have looked at Ephesians, Galatians, Women in the Bible, Worship and Prayer. This has been well attended by a regular 12-15 people, with a further 10 people attending sometimes. This has been a space to meet together to look at the Bible, to pray together and to share fellowship, and has been a space of growth and encouragement.

LENT AND ADVENT GROUPS

These have continued on Zoom during the last year as part of our Wednesday evening bible study. During Advent we looked at Bible passages linking the Old Testament prophesies to the gospel accounts of Jesus’ birth. In Lent our theme was The Prayers of Jesus which helped us to think imaginatively about prayer and to engage with the final week of Jesus’ life.

The Wednesday evening Bible study continues on Zoom through the Spring and Summer; a bonus of Zoom is that that we are not restricted by space and more people can take part. Why not think about joining with us one week?

LIGHT LUNCH

As a result of the Covid restrictions this group has been unable to meet for most of the last year. For a brief time, last summer, we met for several sessions, at venues outside St Andrew’s due to space constraints. The format of the session was very different as we were not able to offer lunch or drinks and the distancing meant it was not conducive to sharing in the same way. When lockdown was re-introduced, we again had to stop the meetings. This is an important part of the way we serve our community and we will be looking at if we can restart this group as restrictions are lifted.

***Sue Masters***

FABRIC COMMITTEE

As for 2020 a quinquennial report was produced by the church architect. No immediate repairs were identified. The only other point of note was the need for some re-pointing at lower levels around the church. No work was undertaken during the year except to mention that required to make worship Covid secure.

An offer by a parishioner to pay for the work on the entrance and porch (originally planned in 2016) was accepted in principle by the PCC. The work involves the glazing of the porch. The moving of the wooden entrance doors to the outside of the porch and replacing them with glass doors to the inside. Quotes have been requested from three building contractors that are still awaited. Once received a Faculty will be raised and a final decision taken by the PCC.

***Trevor Hill***

THE LINK

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 taken in 2019 for financial reasons. The digital version had been successful with postings each month to various social media platforms relevant to the local area.

Then, Covid struck, suddenly St Andrew’s Church, as a place of public worship, was not allowed to remain open and the Link became a Parish newsletter.

As a newsletter it has been a means of communicating to the Parish practical information relating to essential services offered by the wider community throughout Coventry and details of the day-to-day running of the Church. It has also proved to be an essential means of providing information about the availability of and access to church services and keeping the congregation up to date with news of each other!

I’d like to think that those reading the newsletter have found it useful and informative and that it has provided a link to St Andrew’s Church. In addition, it was proof that although the Church was not permitted to open in a literal sense it remained very much “open for business” in terms of its ministry to the Parish.

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

***Tracey Tidmarsh***

PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM

The Prayer Ministry Team is made up of members of our congregation who have a heart for prayer, seek to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit, and who can offer a healing ministry.

An important aspect of our role is to uphold the church and its parish in prayer. Before the Pandemic, members of the team were available, after Sunday morning services, for those seeking prayer for themselves or on behalf of others. Since Covid, personal contact is not possible, and all such ministry has had to be suspended. However, we continue to maintain our Prayer Chain and any requests or urgent needs are circulated to all members of the Team as required. Regretfully, our Prayer Tree must also remain dormant until use is once more permitted.

In the past, we would hold a Healing Service twice a year. Our last such service was held at the end of March 2020, just after Lockdown. We adapted our format to meet the needs of an online recorded service which, given the challenges of the time and our inexperience went reasonably well but obviously lacked the personal touch.

In September 2019, we had begun to hold an open prayer session in church, during the evening of the 3rd Sunday of the Month. This was focussed on praying for the World, our Nation and our own Community. It started well but attendance diminished as we entered winter and, sadly, it was suspended with Lockdown in March 2020.

Pre-Covid, the Prayer Team would meet every month to co-ordinate plans and to pray together for our Church, our community and each other. When the first Lockdown came into effect, we felt that Prayer Time together was vital. We could not meet face to face (this was before Zoom had taken off) so we decided that we would meet virtually every third Tuesday in the month at a specific time. We used a liturgy for Spiritual Communion, included a Bible reading, 2 songs/hymns and spent half an hour in prayer interceding for our City and local community, our Church and other needs we were aware of. Each of us was in our own home. We could not see or hear each other but we knew we were all praying at that time. It was amazingly bonding, and we were very much aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit. More recently, we have begun to meet on Zoom and, now that the better weather is on its way, we hope to meet in a member’s garden.

Chris Jarvis, a stalwart member of our team, will soon be leaving Coventry. She and her husband are moving to Devon to be nearer their family. We will miss Chris very much indeed.

If you feel that you have a heart for prayer and would like to join the Prayer Ministry Team, please contact Lesley. Details are below.

For any further information on the prayer ministry team, or if you or anyone known to you needs prayer support, please contact Lesley Lee on 07970 302554 or email lesleylee4@hotmail.co.uk

***Lesley Lee***

CHILDREN’S SOCIETY

It has been a challenging year for the Children’s Society with the lockdown, and especially as everyone has moved to paying by plastic rather than cash. This has meant that people have less spare change to go into the society’s boxes. Well, that is what I thought in my first year responsible for collecting for the Children Society, but already I’m receiving boxes that are filled with coins and notes! So, as usual, St Andrew’s givers have again stepped up to the challenge. I will never take for granted the money provided by people for the Children’s Society, as there are so many deserving causes that people want to support and are being asked for contributions.

Last year we raised a total of £1,156 which is a fantastic achievement and I’m just starting to count the donations this year. I understand that due to the lockdown, some people may not have received a collection box last year or managed to hand it in. This year, if you would like a collection box, then please email me your name and address and I promise to personally deliver it to your local home address, how’s that for an offer!

Finally, thanks you for all who have donated, collected, and supported the Children’s Society, not only this year but over many years. That leaves me with one final “thank you”, and that is to Jackie Lynch who stood down this year, after many years of co-ordinating the Children Society Box collection. She has done a fantastic job and has helped raise a substantial amount of money over the years to support this worthwhile charity. Thank you, Jackie.

***Nick Tooby
Churchwarden***

nicktooby@btinternet.com

SHAWL MINISTRY

3 Shawls and 1 scarf have gone out since the last report. I have more shawls, ready blessed and waiting for dispatch.

I intend to do a marketing campaign to raise the profile of this ministry.

***Julia McNaney***

WEBSITE

Over the past year the St Andrew’s website has become an increasingly important hub,

serving information to the church and community around our mission, discipleship,

services and more.

The website continues to be regularly updated with details of events, news and

information appropriate to parish life and activities. Following a recent review of the

websites analytics and performance, the site is undergoing a period of redevelopment to

ensure the best experience for all, regardless of the device they use.

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***