

APCM REPORT 2017



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
EASTERN GREEN
& ALLESLEY GREEN

APCM 2017
VICAR'S REPORT

St Andrew's Church Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2017

The highlights of the last 12 months have included:

- Agreement by the Diocese for Phil Richardson to serve his curacy at St Andrew's
- Agreement by the PCC to employ and Children's and Families worker
- The success of Church Together in Tile Hill projects e.g. job club & drama group
- The arrival of Lynnette Clarke to supplement our ministry team
- Becoming the first church in the Diocese to achieve a bronze eco-church award
- The recruitment of two Nexus students to enhance our life and worship
- The launch of our first Pilgrim Course
- A vibrant social programme including staging Sleeping Beauty
- Generous response to Christmas financial appeal
- Carols in the close in Allesley Green & opening of refurbished Juniper Park
- Hosting the Bishop's Certificate in Discipleship and Mission

Areas of concern include:

- ❖ Numbers attending St Andrew's have continued to fall over the last 12 months
- ❖ Future venue for StAPH
- ❖ Ongoing financial challenges
- ❖ Too much to do!

Priorities for 2017

1. Developing children's ministry by employing and offering maximum support to a children's worker
2. Developing a more Passionate Spirituality in line with the 8 Essential Qualities of a healthy church
3. Supporting StAPH in the next phase of its development

Greg Smith
April 2017

APCM 2017
CHURCH WARDENS' REPORT

We have been ticking over for the past 12 months things of note this year are:

St Andrew's had a triennial inspection. Steve Burch led this and after a very long evening with plenty of coffee we got everything signed off.

Our PCC is active and has achieved many things behind the scenes for the Church. We have sorted out several appointments and employment positions.

We would like to thank Liz Reed for her hard work proof reading, rewording and generally advising us on our employment regulations.

We have a new Treasurer and thank Jackie for all her hard work over all the years she has been Treasurer.

We still have positions to fill which will be one of our priorities over the coming months.

The Church Wardens have made sure StAPH has not been neglected as Mathis and family have been attending StAPH at least one Sunday a month.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mathis for all his hard work this past year his first as Church Warden and for chairing all the PCC meeting.

I wish Mathis and my successor an uneventful year with no problems especially over the next few months while Greg goes on his well-earned sabbatical.

Emma Read
Retiring Church Warden

APCM 2017
TREASURER'S REPORT 2016-17

7 years as Treasurer, where have the years gone! However, when I handed in my resignation at the 2015 AGM, I felt the time was right to pass it over to someone younger and computer literate! I am positive Emma Adcock is that person.

Despite being teased over all my holidays, I must say that I have verged on paranoia with the church money. It is a massive responsibility, and one which I have taken very seriously.

We were a little ambitious with our budget for 2016 and it was an anxious time for PCC, but God always provides for us, as I have witnessed so many times over the years, and we have managed to fulfil our commitments.

The expenses of the Church are mandatory, we have no real control or choice over them. They have to be paid, and believe me we do not waste money on anything.

Our income relies heavily on the generosity of the congregation. We receive a sizeable tax refund each year because of your generosity in your giving and I thank Richard Marr, who works so hard enabling us to claim the refund which is a vital chunk of our income. Please, please, if you are a tax payer, do consider gift aid or stewardship on your donation. Thanks also to Trevor and Pat who stay and count the collections each week. Thanks to Julie for her invaluable contribution, and makes life easier for many of us.

Another way of giving is to consider a legacy to the Church in your will. I know it is not something we like to think about, but it is lovely to be remembered for your generosity.

You have supported some great Fundraising events in 2016, and it was good to see more people from around the parish, sharing our fellowship, and having fun whilst raising funds to help us to help others. We are always open to new ideas, even if you don't want to organise.

As usual, the accounts are there for you to peruse at your leisure but if there is anything you want to know or do not understand please ask.

God has given us the priceless resource of our Church and we respond with our giving, remembering the words we say each week:

ALL THINGS COME FROM YOU AND OF YOUR OWN DO WE GIVE YOU.

Finally, I wish Emma all the best in her new role as Treasurer.

God bless

Jackie Lynch

APCM 2017

THE CHURCH TOGETHER IN TILE HILL REPORT

The Church Together in Tile Hill have had a busy year with several new projects starting. We have started a Make Lunch project over the summer holiday for children missing out on free school meals and socialisation over the holidays. This project was a lot of fun, running 2 days a week with 32 children attending and volunteers from 9 different churches. We are planning to run again this summer, details to follow. We have also run a Money Course, teaching people budgeting skills and looking at Biblical wisdom surrounding money. We have started a Youth Cafe in Jardine Crescent. We have also started Good Neighbours Tile Hill partnering with Age UK and HOPE to befriend lonely older people.

The Tile Hill Job Club is going from strength to strength, providing a supportive place for those looking for work. We have seen around 90 people since we started, with around 20 people finding work, possibly more. We are always looking for more volunteers, especially as numbers are increasing, please contact Dawn Easthope if you can help with this rewarding project.

We have had 2 prayer walks and Lesley Lee has set up a monthly prayer bulletin for the churches and projects. Thank you so much for your prayers! We have also started the Tile Hill Community Forum where community leaders come together bi-monthly to share information, discuss issues and seek solutions together. We have produced a volunteering directory with details of all the projects which need support in the area. Copies can be found at the back of Church please take a look.

I (Anne Richardson) am stepping down as Development Officer after Easter to find a Church based placement more suitable to my ordination training. I am so grateful for the support and encouragement from St Andrews during my time with CTITH, thank you so much and I know the good work will continue without me!

Thanks!

Anne Richardson

APCM 2017
IGNATIUS SERVICE REPORT

The Ignatius service is held on the first Sunday of each month and currently has between 15 to 25 people attending each service. We welcome everybody who attends the service and we have also attracted people from outside of the St Andrews Church community.

The Ignatius service is a meditative style of service made up of three parts which comprise of a talk or meditation, a period of fellowship followed by a candlelit compline in the main church.

This year we have used themes such as the Creation, Holy Spirit and love and surrender to contemplate upon. The choir also featured in one of the services singing a medley of Taize and other meditative hymns.

Dawn Easthope

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ST ANDREW'S CHOIR REPORT

St Andrew's choir currently has 14 members who sing on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month as well as at special services such as the Christmas Carol service, Ash Wednesday and Easter services. The choir have also been asked to sing at weddings and funerals which take place at St Andrew's Church.

Members of the choir have participated in the annual Evensong held at Coventry Cathedral along with other choirs in the Coventry Diocese as well as at a Candlemas Eucharist service at St Mary Magdalene Church in Chapelfields, Coventry.

We warmly welcome anyone who feels that they have a passion for singing in a choir setting.

This year we have introduced both contemporary and traditional hymns into the communion part of the service and we are looking to introduce more hymns into the main service.

Dawn Easthope

APCM 2017

REPORT FROM ST ANDREW'S CE INFANT SCHOOL

Links between St. Andrew's Church and school continue to be strong. Rev. Smith regularly leads acts of collective worship both within school and within church which are well attended by the parents, grandparents and younger siblings of pupils at the school. The children greatly enjoy the opportunity of attending worship in church where they are encouraged to be active participants in the service. An increasing number of parents are also attending whole school acts of collective worship which are led in school by Rev Smith.

Rev. Smith also leads our termly 'Sharing Bread' service (communion service for children). This special service encourages the children to consider the concept of forgiveness and to make links with the Last Supper.

Prayer group meets at the beginning of each month. Two children from each class bring their class prayer requests to the meeting. The children enjoy attending these meetings and are always keen to be chosen as their class' representatives.

Our chosen charity for Harvest was 'Water Aid'. Our school council led an assembly about the work of the charity and explained to the school how we aimed to raise funds for them. Our children then completed a 'pipeline challenge' which involved them in working as a relay team to transport filled buckets of water around our grounds with their parents sponsoring them to do so.

A special St. Andrew's Day service was held in church for our children where the children had time to reflect on the importance of our school Saint.

The children's chosen charity for the collection made at the end of their Christmas productions was 'Bethany's Wish'. Parents gave very generously to this charity.

Foundation governors are working hard to increase their monitoring role within the school. They have recently carried out a survey of stakeholders views regarding collective worship and have participated in an RE learning walk/work scrutiny with our RE subject leader Mrs Metcalfe.

Rev. Smith has recently formed a small team of volunteers who have begun to lead 'Open The Book' assemblies within our school.

As a school, we have been actively trying to encourage members of the wider Christian traditions to lead acts of collective worship within our school. Currently Terry Osborne from Allesley Evangelical church leads termly worship with our children, along with Karen and her puppets (Jabez Ministries). Kings Road Baptist Church is also keen to support us.

Report from St. Andrew's CE Infant School continued

We have also been keen to make our church school ethos more visible to visitors to our school. This has involved us in establishing a quiet pupil reflection area in the main entrance area. The way in which our children actively knelt in prayer in this area was praised by a SIAMS inspector during our successful SIAMS inspection in June 2016 which saw our school maintain its 'Good' grading.

We have also established a school 'Good News' tree upon which children are encouraged to write down their 'good news' so that it can be shared within our school community.

Staff have also begun to keep a REEP (RE in the environment) learning log. This records all of the RE, collective worship and spiritual learning which our children have taken part in beyond their classroom.

Our Year 2 worship team play a significant role during whole school acts of collective worship. They read the welcome, the prayer and the dismissal. Their confidence in doing this in front of 180 other children makes us very proud.

End of term services are led in church by Rev. Smith. These services are key events in the school diary which staff, pupils and parents look forward to.

As a school we have also had the pleasure of being involved in Bishop Christopher's visit to St Andrew's Church to celebrate their being awarded Bronze Eco church status. The children enjoyed having the opportunity to meet the Bishop.

As Head Teacher at St. Andrew's CE Infant School I would like to thank Rev. Smith and St. Andrew's Church for their continued support.

Allison Underhill

Head Teacher

APCM 2017
CHRISTIAN AID REPORT

Thank you so much for helping to support some of the poorest folk in the world again this year. St Andrew's Parish has raised:

	2016	2015
House to house collection	920.00	978.51
Gift Aid	81.62	137.50
Total	1001.62	1116.01

You will notice that we are slightly down on our total for last year. I know many of you are not happy with house to house collections and those that did give did not complete the details to claim gift aid.

However, I would like to thank not only the collectors who do a fabulous job but those of you who donated too!

Thank you for showing your love for people – we know that taking part in Christian aid week takes hard work, perseverance and dedication but thanks to your help we will be able to lift more communities out of the devastation of war – so they can thrive, free from fear.

Regards

Pat Sullivan

APCM 2017
THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY REPORT

The Children's Society reaches out to vulnerable children who desperately need support.

This worthwhile charity helps them make contact with children at risk of harm, it gives a tailored programme and provides ongoing support to enable the child to change their life.

Box holders around the parish in 2016, gave £1354, just through loose change.

This is just one parish so imagine it countrywide.

Sincere thanks to all my loyal supporters.

If you would like a box, please contact me on 024 7646 7344

Jackie Lynch

APCM 2017
FOODBANK REPORT

The Foodbank is held every Wednesday, 11.00am to 1pm at St Oswald's Church in Jardine Crescent.

It is a lifeline for people in crisis, who have perhaps lost their job or are having to wait for their benefit claims to be actioned and not, as many believe, for the homeless. Other charities provide for them.

Each voucher provides for enough food to last three days, breakfast, lunch and dinner. It offers a warm welcome, many people are embarrassed or upset at having to use this facility, through no fault of their own, just victims of circumstance.

We give them a warm drink and biscuits and a sympathetic ear, and pray with them in the church if they want to.

There are many outlets where anyone who feels they would benefit from foodbank can get a voucher (Doctors, schools, council etc) which then entitles them to 3 visits within a certain period of time.

Last year we provided 167 food parcels with all food being donated by a generous public. This number is down on 2015, 194 food parcels were given out. It is encouraging, but there are still plenty who do need it.

The figure for all foodbanks in 2016 was 13,219.

Most people never expected to have to use the foodbank, none of us can foresee the future, so please keep on donating to this necessary cause.

Jackie Lynch

APCM 2017
WEDDINGS AT ST ANDREW'S

St Andrews continues to welcome couples who choose to celebrate their weddings with us. Whether they attend our church, live in the parish or who have a qualifying connection to the church. We offer a professional and personalised friendly service from the time of enquiry and booking right through to the wedding day.

In 2016 we had nine weddings and this year we have six bookings so far. Of this two couples live within the parish, three have a qualifying connection (I like the idea that couples choose to come back to a church where they feel they have a strong connection to) and we welcome one couple who have decided to join our congregation.

This year's marriage preparation course was a success, we joined forces with St Laurence's of Meriden for the first 2 sessions, the first being held at Meriden and the second here. It was good to see couples from both churches coming together to discuss various aspects of married life and the actual wedding day.

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 receive completed wedding forms and acknowledge bookings. I continue to liaise with couples throughout their preparation for the big day and then I complete marriage registers prior to the wedding rehearsal and liaise with Minister taking the service, ensuring they have all relevant information.

Fran and I continue to be wedding vergers and share the numerous duties between us starting from opening the church 45 minutes before scheduled wedding. I think that we would both agree that the part that still fills us with apprehension is how the photographer is going to behave, and if they will try to avoid adhering to church policy on photographs and video recording.

It is with sadness to report that the organist John Brook who has played for and/or arranged organists for our weddings for the past few years has decided that he can no longer play for us due to a change in his personal circumstances and health. I would like to express my thanks for his professionalism over the many years he has played for us. John has played for various churches over the years and always maintained the service we provided for wedding couples was second to none and if I dare be so bold he would also say "if only other churches had a Rebecca....."

Rebecca Martin

APCM 2017
ROCK SOLID REPORT

This year has seen the closure of Rock Solid after ten and half years of supporting young people in growing their Christian faith.

We have seen the numbers reduce over the last 12 to 18 months and it was felt that although there was a core of 5 or 6 members, it wasn't possible to continue. I also took into consideration the fact they were all at the top end of the age group and likely to be moving on in the near future.

I am very proud of Rock Solid, as it's unusual for a church youth group to run for such a long period of time. Throughout the ten years we have seen a dedicated number of leaders who have supported the venture. My thanks go to every single one of them who have given up their Sunday evenings and financially contributed to the running of the group.

I would also like to record my thanks to Alison for enabling us to use the Scout Hut each evening as a venue for the games and fun to take place.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to every single one of the 80+ youngsters who have attended Rock Solid over the years. Thank you for the fun, the challenge and the energy they brought to the evenings. I have learnt as much about myself as I have about them, it's been an absolute pleasure.

The three most enjoyable aspects have been :-

- 1) Watching young people joining at 10 or 11 and now seeing them as young adults and feeling privileged to have been part of their development
- 2) Being able to share my faith with young people who were never afraid to challenge what you said.
- 3) Being kept fit by young people keen to make sure the "old man" wasn't allowed not to join in the games

Regards

Nick Tooby

Rock Solid Leader

APCM 2017
LUNCH N CHAT REPORT

Regarding Lunch and Chat not too much different to last year. We have had a couple of new members lost three through illness and one passed away. So we currently run between 12 and 14 members, so not a lot to report were ticking along nicely.

2016 Report:

Lunch n Chat is a friendly luncheon group that meet on Wednesdays at 12pm at St. Andrew's Church for people who have suffered a bereavement of a loved one. It can be a partner, parent or child you have lost or someone who was close to you.

The format is lunch usually consisting of soup and a bread roll, a small desert, tea/coffee and biscuits.

It is held on the first four Wednesdays of each month (where there is a fifth Wednesday we do not meet), except December.

We are here to talk and listen. It is a safe environment where you can come along, chat and share your feelings or just listen, but everyone having experienced such a profound loss can feel welcome and start trying to pick up the pieces and start living again. It certainly helped me after losing my husband Don. I found that the group helped me grow in confidence and gave me something to look forward to each week.

We are a lively, friendly group open to both men and women, and our numbers have increased over the last 12 months to approximately 15 which is great news because this time last year we were contemplating reducing the frequency to a fortnightly group due to the dwindling attendance.

Rita Muir

APCM 2017
PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPORT

At St Andrew's, we are committed to the care, nurture and pastoral ministry to all, and the safeguarding of our children is of the highest priority. So, in line with the government and the House of Bishops policy, we have had a busy year following the Church of England recruitment practice guidelines, published in July 2016. We have now safely recruited many of our volunteers in line with that policy, by careful selection and vetting, to achieve best practice. This now applies to all positions within the church whether paid or unpaid. DBS checks are a vital part of that process where required.

Training and ongoing support is an essential part on safer recruitment also. Unfortunately, the diocesan training dates for this year are all fully booked, but I am assured new dates will be added and I will publish these as soon as they are available.

Please can I take this opportunity to remind all leaders that I must be informed of any new recruits and they will need to complete an application form and take up two references in order to comply with safer recruitment policy. This will enable our practice to grow in commitment and confidence and underpins the value of safeguarding as part of our ministry.

Linda Chylinski
Parish Safeguarding & Children's Advocate

APCM 2017

BAPTISM REPORT

Since September 2014 3 baptism visitors (Becky Crowe, Shirley Lewis and Eileen Warne) and myself as baptism administrator have taken over the baptism duties.

Eileen Warne has recently stepped down as a baptism visitor and I would like to thank her for the giving of her time to perform this task. It has been very much appreciated.

We now have an additional baptism visitor who will be available to do baptism visits later this year.

When we receive an initial enquiry for a baptism, the family is requested to attend any service to collect the baptism literature which for some people it may be their first time in 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.

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. A baptism visitor often attends this evening to assist the clergy or Becky and Shirley carry out the baptism preparation together.

On the first anniversary of the baptism we send a card to the child.

In November 2016 we held our second Teddy Bears Picnic in church, which was a celebration for all the children baptised in the previous 12 months. This was a fun event with soft play, toys and teddy bears. We received some very positive feedback from this event.

Annual meetings are arranged for the team to discuss administration and baptism visits and how to improve our process to make this a better experience.

During 2016 there were 28 child baptisms (31 in 2015) Child Baptisms and no Thanksgiving Services (2 in 2015).

In 2017 so far there have been 5 baptisms and 1 Thanksgiving Service and a further 7 baptisms already booked.

Julie Crow
Parish Administrator

APCM 2017
WEBSITE REPORT

I update the church website and with the very helpful support of Mark Strentz I have been able to overcome any issues that have come my way.

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

APCM 2017

ST ANDREW'S SHAWL MINISTRY REPORT

Over the past 12 months 17 Shawls/scarves have been presented to people with the love and blessings of the members of St Andrew's Church. They continue to bring comfort in times of trouble, a safe haven when needed, love and warmth in place of a hug or presented as a gift to bring joy and celebration.

Our small group of knitters continue to provide the shawls, crafted with love and prayers of St Andrews Church. Thanks go to members of our congregation who have donated money for wool and the Pastoral Care Fund who continue to fund our Ministry.

Jackie Page

APCM 2017
PASTORAL CARE REPORT 2016-17

Between April 2016 and March 2017 three meetings have been held and verbal reports were received from the following:

Lunch n Chat – weekly meetings of 9-12 members.

A lunch n Chat meeting in evenings was suggested for those who worked during the day. Ann and Rita run this new venture on a fortnightly basis, initially with a 7pm start. The Supper and Chat was closed due to lack of attendees and was forwarded to the PCC for it to agree closure.

Shawl Ministry – At least 15 shawls had been delivered. There had been enquiries from outside groups requesting information on running a shawl ministry.

Cards –A large number of cards had been sent out during the year to those who were recovering either from illness or being thought of or were given sympathy cards. As many as a hundred cards had been sent during the year.

Allesley Green Coffee Morning – 9 members were attending meetings regularly.

Visiting – a number of visits had been made to parishioners and others, who had either been ill, were lonely or were receiving support after bereavement.

This area would benefit further, if parishioners would inform more readily about those who would benefit from a visit from a member of the team or would inform the Chairman so that an appropriate visit could be arranged. It is hoped to develop this further.

Funerals – these had been conducted by either members of the clergy or those designated to help out, a support that was much appreciated. This is another area that could benefit from follow-up visits by members of the team.

Baptisms – The number of baptisms was increasing considerably and the work was now being co-ordinated through the Church Administrator.

Fellowship Meeting – there were regular meetings but an initiative needs to be developed to increase numbers attending, via adverts in Pews News and the Link.

Thanks are extended to those, who offered their homes as venues.

Report from Pastoral Care continued

Activities

1. A sponsored walk has been arranged to raise funds to provide a wet room for Hannah Miller.
2. Dementia was an increasing problem, and becoming more prevalent. Volunteers were needed and an investigation as to what would be required. A meeting needs to be set up with professionals. A patient's carer would need to be in attendance.
3. A meeting had been held with Alzheimer's Society, Coventry and a formal proposal would go to PCC.
4. Two teams were to be created to work on a monthly basis. This new initiative would be launched in September 2017 with a training day given by Alzheimer's Society on the first Tuesday of that month. Volunteers would be required to run this new venture. An application for a grant would be made to Good Neighbours, Coventry

During 2017 - 2018 there will be three meetings.

David Griffiths

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator

APCM 2017
PARK HILL COFFEE MORNINGS REPORT

Our meetings are held monthly and are open to anyone in the parish of St Andrew's, though we mostly cover the Park Hill, Allesley Green area. We have welcomed several new people this year and eleven of us had an enjoyable meal out at the Bear at Berkswell in March.

I am indebted to Hilda Whitem, Norah Hall and Jackie Cobden for hosting these meetings on a rota basis. Everyone is made welcome and a friendly atmosphere always permeates our get togethers.

We would ask you to pray for Ann who is unable to join us lately due to illness.

For more information telephone Jennifer on 024 7642 1830.

Jennifer Sanders
Group co-ordinator

APCM 2017
SUNDAY SERVICE ROTA REPORT

We would like to thank all who volunteer for the Sunday Service Rota roles. This includes not just Sides Duty but Altar Dressing, Processing with Communion Elements and Bible Reading too.

The number of volunteers is currently slightly down on last year's figures averaging at 15 Sides persons, 7 Altar Dressers, 17 for Elements and 16 Readers. In some cases there is an overlap, with some people taking on three or even four of the roles.

Although some of these roles may go un-noticed or even taken for granted sometimes, they are all very necessary in providing a warm welcome as worshipers arrive at church and to provide a vital support role in the smooth running of the service.

The duties are not difficult or onerous tasks and full training is given. We are always open to new volunteers to join us in this satisfying mission. Initially, new recruits work alongside experienced volunteers. Sides-persons and those on Elements duty always work in tandem.

Duty mornings come round approximately every seven or eight weeks, with the exception of Altar Dressing which rotates every five weeks due to the small number of volunteers.

If anyone feels a calling to this important part of the ministry, please contact Steve Wankling, Julie Crow, Greg or anyone on duty.

Thank you.

Steve Wankling

07973 459073

stevewankling@hotmail.co.uk

APCM 2017

HOME GROUPS REPORT

Home groups continue to be an important part of the life of our church. There are several small groups meeting across the parish; some meet weekly, some fortnightly and others on a more varied basis. The groups are a safe space to ask questions and explore issues 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.

In a questionnaire of members this year group members gave their feedback about their groups and said things like

'I love my home group'

'My faith has grown by being part of a home group'

'It helps my journey with God'

'You get to know people on a personal level'

In addition to these groups we held a four-week Advent group, focusing on preparing for the coming of Christ. This was an opportunity to meet together to look afresh at familiar readings from the Bible and to pray together.

As many of you will know by now I am passionate about home groups. I believe home groups are an important part of our journey together as the people of God and would love more people to think about being part of a group. If you would like to know more home groups please speak with me or contact me on susanmasters@sky.com, or speak with one of our home group leaders (their photographs and contact details are on the notice board at the back of church).

Sue Masters

Discipleship Coordinator

APCM 2017
THE ALPHA COURSE 2006-2016

For the past decade St Andrew's has organised annually a ten week Alpha course. In that time over 150 people from the church and our local community have attended the sessions to explore aspects of Christian life in a secure and supportive environment, based on a relaxed start to each session, over a shared meal. This is followed by a particular theme introduced by a variety of speakers, followed by small group discussion, which allows for questions and concerns of each course member to be explored.

Our thanks go to the host of people who have made the courses so uplifting – the course leaders, the volunteer meal providers and not least those who came as course members, searching for greater meaning in their lives. We trust that the experience was spiritually uplifting.

This year we have launched a new course entitled 'The Pilgrim' aimed at those who are new to the Christian faith, or wanting to enhance their own path to faith. This is a five session course, that continues the same principles as Alpha. A group of ten people have attended the course in recent weeks. For further information please contact Sue Masters at susanmasters@sky.com.

Watch for further courses in The Link magazine. Watch this space!

Harvey Wyatt

APCM 2017
LADIES FELLOWSHIP REPORT

We meet on the third Tuesday of every 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 quiz etc. followed by tea or coffee and biscuits.

Since the last report we have enjoyed a Christmas meal and three other trips out for meals, one to the Belgrade Theatre Café and two to Oakes Farm Café.

We offer a very friendly and supportive atmosphere. At present we have 13 members and several others who join us occasionally. New people are always welcome to attend our meetings, just come along on the day.

Hazel Elks

APCM 2017
CHILDREN'S CHURCH AND CRÈCHE REPORT

2016-17 has seen some changes in Children's Church, not least in the change of name from Junior Church to Children's Church. We felt our new name best describes the age range we cater for (0-11), though we do still use the name, 'Crèche', to make it clear that we can look after babies and pre-school children.

Becky Crowe continues to do sterling work overseeing the Crèche, while Lesley Lee has handed over the leadership of the primary age range to Hilary Wankling. All of the volunteers at Children's Church would like to formally thank Lesley for the great job she did in producing a really well stocked Resource Box, which makes such a difference on Sunday mornings. Everything is now to hand and ready to use. Lesley also organised rotas and the curriculum using materials from the Scripture Union 'Light' syllabus, which all leaders find helpful and inspiring.

We currently have 16 children on the register, though numbers continue to fluctuate from week to week. We make our sessions as lively and active as possible and the children respond enthusiastically as is evident when they feed back at the end of the church service.

We currently have 14 volunteers, 5 of whom are willing to lead one or two sessions each term. I would like to thank all of them for the time and effort they put into preparing the activities, especially as they never know if they will be working with 1 or 16 children! We must have at least 3 adults in Children's Church, so we are always looking for more volunteers so that we can spread the load and still have plenty of weeks free to be in church ourselves. Our own spiritual development is essential in helping us work effectively with our young children.

The development of a Children's Working Party, which meets every few months has enabled us to build links with the children's workers at StAPH and the Pram Service volunteers. We recently enjoyed each other's company at a 'Drinks and Dessert' evening. At the time of writing we are also looking forward to a joint training session led by Anna Martin from New Wine, which will help us to teach the Bible in creative ways and to cater more effectively for mixed ages.

We are entering an exciting new phase in the life of the Children's Ministry at St Andrew's as we seek to employ a part time Children's and Families' Worker. We ask for your prayers as we move through the recruitment process, that we will recognise the right person God sends to support us in spreading the Gospel in our local area.

Hilary Wankling

APCM 2017
PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM REPORT

The Prayer Ministry Team consists of a growing number of representatives from St Andrew's and StAPH who feel that prayer is a vital aspect of our Christian commitment and ministry. The team meets monthly to intercede on concerns of our Church Community and parish and to explore ways of developing understanding and practice. Members of the team meet before our morning church service in order to pray for those involved in the service, for those who are absent, for those who are sick or burdened in some way and any other matters that may need addressing. Please feel free to join us in the upper room c9.45am.

The ministry of healing is also important to us. Members of the team are available for those desiring prayers before or after our morning service. Please speak to the Welcoming Team who will introduce you to a member of our team. We held a very successful healing service last October and plan to hold another service this coming Autumn on Sunday, 29th October.

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 speak to Lesley Lee (St Andrew's) or Kate Dagger (StAPH).

Quiet Morning

A Quiet Morning was held at St. John the Baptist Church, Berkswell on 13th September last year led by our Readers, Sue Masters and Lesley Lee. It was a very special time and we hope to organise further Quiet Mornings in the future.

Prayer Workshops

Greg led a number of workshops last year focussed on "Praying Aloud". The workshops were a joyful and helpful experience and well attended. Please see Greg if you feel a hunger to learn more about Prayer.

Lesley Lee

APCM 2017

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CARD WRITING REPORT

As in previous years, prior to Christmas Amnesty International organises a card writing event called Write for Rights. The campaign produces a booklet highlighting the plight of a small number of political prisoners. The aim is to bring hope to these people and to cause their persecutors (Presidents, police chiefs and prison governors) to take note when they receive hundreds of appeals to release a prisoner. Receiving a greeting card can mean all the difference to a prisoner, or to family members hoping for the return home of a relative who has 'disappeared'.

At St Andrew's a small band of volunteers (approx. 20) met in late November to write cards to these prisoners and at the same time socialised and enjoyed festive snacks and refreshments. The Amnesty International booklet provides all the information needed for the card writing (names, addresses and suggested greetings) as well as background information as to how these people came to be imprisoned. A number of volunteers not able to attend on the night were provided with booklets to enable them to separately send their greetings.

Trevor Hill

APCM 2017

FINANCE AND FABRIC COMMITTEE REPORT

Finance

The Finances for 2016 ended as being satisfactory overall (see the detailed accounts). It was recognised in the autumn that the budgeted income for the year would result in a significant shortfall (mainly due to a fall in weddings and legacy income). An appeal was made in the December Link indicating a target of £5,000 which in the event was achieved leaving the church with a surplus on the year!

The budget for 2017 was formulated without the usual difficulty, recommended to the PCC and adopted. As before the church will need to raise sufficient funds to pay the increase in our apportionment (£3,000). St Andrew's finds itself in a fortunate position in that Phil Richardson will be our curate from the middle of the year (thus saving us the cost of a StAPH leader during his curacy). As a result, it is now possible to contemplate the appointment of a Children's Worker (subject to PCC approval) from September.

Fabric

Last year it was hoped to make improvements to the porch and entrance area using money received from a legacy. The church architect was asked to draw up plans and obtain quotes but in the end these came out too expensive for the PCC to contemplate. As a result, the decision was made to treat the woodwork of the porch as well as installing new metal guttering and drainage which is now completed. The re-pointing of the brickwork as required by the Quinquennial report is still to be done.

During the year, it was agreed to apply for permission from the Diocese to have a moveable font to replace the existing stone font which is not in an ideal position for baptisms. All the necessary quotes and explanations were presented to the Diocese but unfortunately this was rejected.

Plans have been drawn up to improve the existing kitchen in the side room. The PCC have approved the alterations subject to there being no cost to the church. Consequently, applications have been made for grants and it is hoped that these changes can be brought to fruition this year.

Trevor Hill

APCM 2017
REPORT ON THE ELECTORAL ROLL 2015-2016

Persons wishing to join the electoral roll can do so by obtaining a form from myself or Greg, complete in accordance with the instructions on the form and return to be added at any time during the year. Every six years a new electoral roll is prepared and any existing members have to re-apply. The last time was in 2013 so the next new roll will be 2018.

In 2016- 2017 I have added 1 person and removed 18 as people have moved away, no longer attend church or sadly have died; at the beginning of 2016 (after the last AGM) there were a total of 214 people on St Andrew's roll, there is now a total of 197.

A copy of the electoral roll is kept at the back of church – number of electoral roll at APCM 209.

Website for further information:

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

Lesley Harrison

APCM 2017
PRAM SERVICE REPORT

Children are not the future – they are the present. They are a vital and important part of the church family.

The Pram Service is held twice a month (2nd and 4th Tuesday mornings) to minister to, and with, the youngest members of our church family and their carers. It has its own vibrant congregation enhanced by the number and age range of the children. We have been continuing our journey through the Bible with craft, story, songs and, of course, drinks and biscuits.

This year the 'mums' have played a large part in the planning and preparation for the services and in leading the service itself. The services have been supported by a member of clergy (Greg or Lynda) with the mums being encouraged to lead the craft activities, tell the story and lead the prayers. Special thanks go to all who have been involved in this and especially to Eileen who has kept us going with endless cups of tea, coffee, juice and biscuits!

As with all things of this nature we have seen children, and their mums, leave as they've started school or nursery and have new members join. It is a delight to see many babies being brought along as the first point of contact to arrange a Baptism or Thanksgiving. What is even more of a delight is that many of them stay. The ever-changing congregation is both a challenge and a strength. There is always the opportunity for each adult to use, and develop, their skills and we are always happy when they would like to be more involved in joining the planning team.

Sowing the seeds of faith, helping to nourish them and watching them grow are a joy for all involved.

Rev. Lynda Lilley

APCM 2017
EASTERN GREEN VILLAGE HALL REPORT

The Village Hall committee has met monthly throughout this last year, while a sub-committee has worked very hard on a feasibility study to develop the Village Hall. The feasibility study is nearly complete and contains plans to build a standalone playgroup facility and a coffee shop/community café.

The committee is chaired by Greg Smith. Kay Morgan is the secretary and Sandy Faulkner the Treasurer. Seven others sit on the committee.

Greg Smith

APCM 2017

TEA AND COFFEE SUNDAY MORNING ROTA REPORT

The tea and coffee rota on Sunday mornings is going very well. People on the rota are very helpful and if anyone can't make it they let me know in good time. People will always help when needed. I would like to thank everyone for their help.

Rosemarie Over

APCM 2017
FAIR TRADE REPORT

We are very grateful to everyone that has supported Fair Trade in this past year. The Fair Trade shop at the Cathedral which has supplied food and gifts is closing. In order to continue Fair Trade another source will need to be found.

Veronika Raugulis-Toor

APCM 2017

SEEK HIS FACE REPORT

Seek His Face has continued over the last year as monthly gathering with the purpose of spending time in worship, prayer and prophecy. We gather on the second Sunday at the month at 6.30pm for an hour at St Andrew's and this is principally led by Daniel Smith with Phil Richardson.

The aim of the group is to make a space for us to hear, together, what we think the word of God is for St Andrew's and StAPH at this time. In Revelation, we read "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches". So we anticipate, as a Church, that the Spirit will be speaking to us, and so Seek His Face provides a forum for this.

By way of example, for 2017, the group felt that God was leading St Andrew's and StAPH into a time of **deepening our roots** into Him.

Over the last year, we have moved more towards engaging in open times of prayer, without feeling the need to have a specific focus for our prayer that month. This has been effective as it has enabled the gathering to stay simple, easy to lead, and further enabled those attending to take a more active part. We have not however completely abandoned a specific prayer focus for any one meeting. In the last year for example, we have dedicated Seek His Face gatherings to praying for the Village Hall café and those in education.

The pattern of the evening involves beginning with a time of worship led by the band, followed by a time of quiet and listening to God for prophetic words and pictures. After this we will pray into the given theme for the week, as well as any words and pictures that might have arisen. Around 10-15 people on average attend each month from St Andrews and StAPH.

We welcome anyone to attend who would like to take part in praying for the Church or listening to God, beginners and old-hands alike!

Phil Richardson

APCM 2017
THE LINK MAGAZINE REPORT

The Link continues for another year to be well received and is a vital means of outreach to the whole Parish. Without our amazing army of volunteer deliverers dropping the magazine into over 3000 homes every month. However, many of our volunteers are not getting any younger and we urgently need new members of the church to take on this vital task.

The Link costs £6200 each year to produce, despite our charging well below current market rates. We are still running up to two pages short of advertising each month which means that advertising income is only £5600 per year. We have reasonable reserves from previous years but to safeguard the future we are looking into ways of reducing The Link by one page but without reducing the content.

Thanks as always to Tracey's dedication each month in pulling together and editing the articles submitted by the various organisations that rely on The Link to let everyone know what they are doing. Thanks also to Barbara and Brian separating the magazines into bundles each month for the deliverers. Thanks also to Cadman Printers who rarely fail to print on time each month.

Richard Marr

St. Andrew's Church

Eastern Green, Coventry

THE LINK

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2016

		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
		£	£	£	£	£
Cash at Bank 1 Jan		2609	3879	4391	4219	2016
Cash at NS&I 1 Jan		1588	1591	1609	1621	1633
	TOTALS	4197	5470	6000	5840	3649
RECEIPTS						
Advertising revenue		8035	6952	6330	5604	5571
Donations		0	0	0	35	20
Interest National Savings		3	18	12	12	10
	TOTALS	8038	6970	6342	5651	5601
PAYMENTS						
Parish Pump		0	0	0	40	40
Printing for St Andrew's				316	647	102
Postage		63	0	0	0	0
Folders'Party					15	0
Printing costs		6702	6440	6186	6185	6838
	TOTALS	6765	6440	6502	6887	6980
Cash at Bank 31 Dec		3879	4391	4219	2971	1582
Cash at NS&I 31 Dec		1591	1609	1621	1633	1643
	TOTALS	5470	6000	5840	4604	3225

APCM 2017
LINK DISTRIBUTION REPORT

I would like to thank all distributors for continuing to deliver The Link to all the houses in Eastern Green and Allesley Green, by 45 distributors delivering approximately 3100 copies every month in all weathers. Without the commitment and dedication of these special people it would not be possible.

We have had a difficult year with the deliveries due to operations, sickness and holiday cover.

It there is anyone who would be willing to deliver on an ad hoc basis we would be very grateful, this is a truly Christian outreach for St Andrew's and we pray that we will be able to continue to provide this service to all our neighbours.

Many thanks to you all

Barbara Warner

APCM 2017
STAPH AND BANNERBROOK PARK REPORT

StAPH Year Review

Over the last year at StAPH we have seen a deepening sense of community and friendship. Furthermore, there is a growing expectation that we will meet God together in our services, which is a fantastic thing to be able to say. As ever, I am thoroughly grateful to everyone that leads, speaks, plays music, leads the children, does the projector, puts out the chairs etc. StAPH would not exist if it wasn't for all those that contribute to it!

Our pattern of meeting is:

1st Sunday: At St Andrew's, Worship for All.

2nd Sunday: At Woodlands, with 4-11s childrens group.

3rd Sunday: At Woodlands, all-age service.

4th Sunday: At Woodlands, with 4-11s childrens groups.

5th Sunday: At Woodlands, all-age service

This year, we have begun to preach more closely from the Bible, as advised by our 8 Essential Qualities survey results. So, our last four preaching series have been on:

Summer 2016: Godly relationships

Autumn 2016: The Book of James

Winter 2017: The Gospel of John

Spring 2017: The Psalms

We have also begun to 'think outside the box' with our all-age services, that take place on 3rd and 5th Sundays. We run café-style and also gone litter-picking and posting Easter cards during the service in order to serve the community.

Other Activities

The leadership team meets every 6-8 weeks and is currently made up of Phil Richardson, Penny Wakefield, Shirley Lewis, Stephen Warne and a big welcome to our two new members: Sean Wildman and Pamela Hancox.

We pray together weekly at 3 Brockhurst Drive, hosted by Mike and Pam Hancox, Wednesdays at 2pm, all are welcome to join us.

Penny and Rob's housegroup has also grown significantly, having moved to Thursday nights in order to incorporate some recent joiners at StAPH.

Report from StAPH and Bannerbrook Park continued

Coming Up

It was fantastic to confirm that Phil will be becoming curate for St Andrew's and StAPH (technically from July, though Phil will be starting duties in August after a mini-sabbatical in July. All will be welcome to join his Ordination ceremony and bbq afterwards on July 2nd (more info to follow!).

Believe it or not, StAPH celebrates it's 10th anniversary this September. This occasion will be marked, along with Phil's induction as curate to StAPH and St Andrew's, by a special service attended by Bishop Christopher on 17th September. Watch this space for more info!

Bannerbrook Review

StAPH run a full year of events on Bannerbrook, including the Easter Egg Hunt, a Christmas Lantern Walk and the community day.

- Easter Egg Hunt

A big thankyou to Rob and Penny Wakefield for organising this year's Easter Egg Hunt that at time of writing is yet to take place!

- Christmas

For the second year running we ran a Lantern parade on Bannerbrook estate, in conjunction with the Penny Farthing. Many thanks to Laura Morgan for co-organising the event, also to Shirley and Lisa for helping out with crafts. The event was a lot of fun, with crafts, donkeys and the inflatable nativity scene, but it felt especially significant to be singing Christmas Carols with those from the estate, to be keeping the Christmas story central to the event.

- The Community Day

The Community day was a great success again, with around 1500 people joining in. We trialled a StAPH prayer tent at the event this year and although there was not a huge uptake in those wishing to receive prayer, I am encouraged that people would have seen their local Church willing to do so!

Phil Richardson

APCM 2017
ALLESLEY GREEN REPORT

This May we plan to hold our fourth May Day Party in the Park on Allesley Green. As a direct result of holding these May Day events the residents of Allesley Green have now formed their own Residents Association. This is a very active association taking joint responsibility for running the May Day event this year.

The Residents now have their own News Letter and have organised many social events jointly with St Andrew's. These include Quiz Nights, a Games Evening, Treasure Hunt, Easter Egg Hunt and Carol Singing attended by some 170 residents and lead by St Andrew's band.

Greg helped them apply to The Heart of England Charities for a grant of £50000 to finance construction of a new play area for the community. This was completed in March and was officially opened by Bishop Christopher. Despite the rain this event was well attended by residents, the local playgroup, Park Hill School, local councillors and members of St Andrew's.

We have achieved a great deal in the last four years, and this can be summarised by the Residents Association Mission: We live in a beautiful part of the city with the lowest crime figures in the area and we want to keep it that way, so let's be good neighbours by looking out for each other. Active residents can ensure that we maintain and improve our environment and develop our community spirit.

Our next big challenge is to find ways to encourage the residents to become more active in the life and worship of St Andrew's.

Richard Marr

APCM 2017
GIDEON BIBLES REPORT

It is time to call in any tubes for the Gideons to enable me to have the proceeds collected by Mike Dyas, if you have any tubes please let me have them as soon as possible.

St Andrew's contribute to this worthy cause and on average we are able to give them approximately £80 or so each year. I am told that our church is one of the best in the area for continued giving, and it is very much appreciated.

I would like to thank you all for supporting the Gideon bibles and assure you that all the proceeds go towards providing bibles world-wide.

Barbara Warner