

APCM REPORT

16TH APRIL 2018



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
EASTERN GREEN
& ALLESLEY GREEN

APCM 2018

VICAR'S REPORT

Highlights of the last year have included:

- Phil Richardson beginning his curacy
- Employment of Emma Wildman as a half-time children and families worker
- Bronze and Silver Eco-church awards
- 10th anniversary of StAPH (now St Andy's in a new building)
- Organisation of our first Parish Weekend
- Installation of new boiler
- A developing relationship with Nexus Music Academy
- The redesignation of the northern part of the parish as no longer greenbelt, paving the way for 2,500 new homes to be built

Challenges

- The retirement of the choir
- Very significant financial challenges
- The demise of the Church Together in Tile Hill

Priorities 2018

1. Develop and support children's ministry to focus on growth and discipleship
2. Develop a more Passionate Spirituality
3. Develop and support music for worship and its leaders

Greg Smith
April 2018

APCM 2018

CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT

April 2018 sees the end of my first year as a Church Warden at St Andrew's Church. I would like to express my thanks to the Rev. Greg Smith, Rev. Phil Richardson, Julie Crow and Stephen Warne for their patience and support.

Our PCC is active and achieved many things behind the scenes for the church, we do still have vacancies which is a priority to fill over the next few months.

It has been a year of special occasions to celebrate at St Andrew's. The first of these was the ordination of Phil Richardson as Curate in May 2017. Phil is well known to the church as StAPH leader for the past 2 years. We celebrated with a service in the Park where we were joined by Bishop John, during the service is where our second occasion occurred this was the renaming of StAPH to St. Andy's Church. More recently saw our third celebration being awarded Silver Eco church award. Special thanks to the eco team for their hard work to achieve such a special award.

We have also had our difficulties during the past year, the first of which we saw Mathis stepping down as Church Warden due to work commitments with Stephen Warne being elected as Acting Church Warden for the remaining of this year. The second was the church be defrauded out of £7,725, a full investigation was completed by the Church Wardens and agreed by the PCC no fault on any individual but full review on cash handling policies. The third painful decision was the retirement of the church choir from the 1st April 2018.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Stephen Warne for his support during his sort time as Acting Church Warden.

Becky Crowe
Church Warden

ACTING CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT

I have only been acting as Church Warden, I have little to add to Becky's report, save to say how much I have appreciated her support, and how well she does the job. We are highly blessed as a Church to have so many people who are willing to use their talents to serve. We are also blessed in having so many linked congregations, St Andy's, Pram service, Kidz Praise, Worship for All, Wednesday morning and so on. It is in the breadth of our fellowship that we are able to serve so many different people.

Stephen Warne

APCM 2018
ELECTORAL ROLL 2016-2017

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.

In 2017- 2018 I have added 9 people and removed 17 as people have moved away, no longer attend church or sadly have died; at the beginning of 2017 (after the last AGM) there were a total of 209 people on St Andrew's roll, there are now a total of 201.

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

APCM 2018

FINANCE

This year we have started the process of ensuring that our systems are robust for the modern world. We suffered a cyber fraud last year and lost a considerable amount of money. This was thoroughly investigated. Systems have been put in place to ensure there can be no repeat of this. We have a system in place for our electronic banking which will ensure adequate oversight. We have reviewed our money handling systems, though this still needs to be checked to ensure all people concerned know what is in place.

In order to continue the work of the Church at the level we have achieved last year we need to increase our giving by eight thousand pounds over last year. The whole congregation will need to consider if they can increase their giving. If we all gave an extra two pounds a week, and tax payers gift aided theirs, then we would hit this target.

Stephen Warne

APCM 2018

WEDDINGS AT ST ANDREW'S

At St Andrew's we 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.

As wedding administrator, I liaise with couples from their initial enquiry either to have their banns read or to make a booking for their wedding at St Andrew's. I receive completed wedding forms and acknowledge bookings. I invite couples to marriage preparation courses I continue to liaise with couples throughout their preparation for the big day answering a multitude of questions and putting couples at ease regarding the service. I complete marriage registers prior to the wedding rehearsal and liaise with Minister taking the service, ensuring they have all relevant information.

This year's marriage preparation course was another success, once again we joined forces with St Laurence's of Meriden for the first 2 sessions, the first being held at Meriden and the second here. Although it was quite a challenge to cater for almost 30 people at St Andrew's in week two, my thanks go to Rosemary & Bill for catering for this occasion and Stephen & Hilary for our 3rd session. It was good to see couples from both churches coming together to discuss various aspects of married life and the actual wedding day. On our 3rd session we invited back a couple who were married in 2017 to talk through their experiences of the marriage preparation course and any advice that they could provide on how we try to accommodate the wedding couple's requirements within the church service.

As wedding vergers, Fran and I continue to share the numerous duties between us in preparing the church for a wedding service, meeting with the photographer to ensure they are fully aware of the church policy and adhere to it. Dealing with the needs of the guests and the bridal party.

2017 saw the number of weddings reduce to five (the lowest number we have seen for several years). However, this year we have seven weddings (two having already taken place) and one booking for 2019. Of this two couples live within the parish, the remaining five have a qualifying connection in that they used to attend church or reside in the parish. The Church of England's qualifying connection provides people with the opportunity to get married in the church that they grew up near and we often see couples take up this opportunity as they like the idea of being married in the church that they have a strong connection to.

The majority of wedding fees are set by the Church of England, this year we had to review the organist fees as the RSCM made a discussion point of the recording of services and possibility of "performance fees". We reviewed our fees and came to a mutually agreeable fee with Sue Hill (wedding organist).

Rebecca Martin
Wedding Administrator

APCM 2018
FOODBANK 2017

Charley and I have been helping out, once a month at St Oswald's Foodbank, for the last 7 years since it opened. In that time there has been an increase each year of local people in crisis, through no fault of their own and find themselves in a situation they never imagined. In the first year at St Oswald's, we issued a total of 76 vouchers. In 2017 we issued 299 vouchers that catered for 392 adults and 247 children.

90% of the food we receive is donated by a caring public and is vital for our ability to give everyone referred to us, a balanced and nutritious 3 day supply of food. So please, when you are out shopping, put a few extras in your trolley to help those less fortunate, and make a difference.

Charley Watts and Jackie Lynch

APCM 2018
THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

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 2017 gave £1402.06 just through loose change. This is just one parish so imagine it countrywide.

To all my supporters for the 20 years I have been collecting for the Society, I give my sincere thanks for their loyalty. If you would like a box, please contact me on 024 7646 7344.

Jackie Lynch

APCM 2018

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. A small number of parents occasionally attend 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 Key Stage 1 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 'Send A Cow'. 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 which included a milk shake bar and a coin harvest.

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.

Following the sudden death of one of our Year 2 children, a decision was made to hold a Christmas production collection on behalf of Birmingham Children's Hospital. £1000 was raised. Parents also set up a 'Just Giving' page which raised over £5000. Rev Smith has been supporting staff, pupils and their families as they come to terms with this loss.

We continue to have a strong team of foundation governors who provide school leaders with appropriate levels of support and challenge. The church is proactive in recruiting foundation governors who have a strong skill set which complements our existing governing body.

St. Andrew's Church 'Open The book' team is now well established within our school. The children greatly enjoy seeing Bible stories being brought to life through drama.

As a school we continue 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).

During the Autumn term our school focused on the meaning of 'The Lords' Prayer. A display was made in the school hall which illustrated this.

An RE leadership team was also developed this year to ensure that RE has a strong focus within our school development priorities. They are currently focusing on gaining the 'RE quality mark' and on effective implementation of the new RE Agreed syllabus.

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 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.

C. Underhill

Head Teacher

APCM 2018
CHRISTIAN AID

Thank you so much for helping to support Christian Aid again this year.

St Andrew's Parish has raised:

	2017	2016
House to house collection	906.97	920.00
Gift Aid	91.17	81.62
Total	998.14	1001.62

Again 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 donate, many 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.

Kind regards

Pat Sullivan

APCM 2018

BAPTISMS & THANKSGIVINGS

2017 was yet another busy year for child baptisms at St Andrew's Church, though there was a slight decrease from the previous 2 years.

	2015	2016	2017	2018 (to date)
Baptisms	31	28	25	7
Thanksgivings	2	0	1	0

There have been some changes to the baptism team this year, as follows.

Shirley Lewis stepped down from the team at the end of 2017, having been a baptism visitor since 2014. Her service to the team has been invaluable and very much appreciated. Also, Becky Crowe will be stepping down from the team in the summer and again her service to the team has been invaluable and greatly appreciated.

New and very welcome members to the team are Phil Richardson (Officiating Minister), Emma Wildman, Jade Stratton and Amy Neale (Baptism Visitors) who join the Vicar, Fran Smith (Verger) and Julie Crow (Administrator).

The baptism process is that 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. 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 in touch with the families, on the first anniversary of the baptism we send a card to the child.

Also, in November 2017 we held our third Teddy Bears Picnic in church, which was a celebration for all the children baptised in the previous 12 months. Due to a low response level we invited the children baptised in both 2016 and 2017. Attendance was low, however this was a fun event with soft play, toys and teddy bears and healthy snacks.

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. Should anyone have any suggestions then please let me or one of the baptism team know.

Julie Crow
Parish Administrator

APCM 2018 WEBSITE

I update the church website and with the very helpful support of Mark Strentz I have been able to overcome any technical 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 2018
ST ANDREW'S SHAWL MINISTRY

During the past 12 months St Andrew's Shawl Ministry has given 21 shawls, 5 scarves and 2 lap rugs to friends, neighbours and relatives of members of St Andrew's Church. These shawls, scarves and lap rugs continue to bring comfort in times of trouble, a safe haven when required, love and warmth in place of a hug or as a gift bringing joy and celebration.

We are blessed with a small number of talented knitters that provide these lovely articles and would welcome anyone who would like to assist in this Ministry or knit a shawl for a friend or relative. Our shawls, on completion, are blessed in Church then tied and packed in tissue paper along with a prayer and short history of shawls, before being given to its recipient.

Our thanks go to the financial support given by members of our congregation and the Pastoral Care Fund.

Jackie Page

APCM 2018
IGNATIUS SERVICE

It has been a successful year for the Ignatius service with between 12 and 20 people attending most months. Many people have shown a deep interest in the spirituality of St Ignatius and have also been able to stay behind after Compline for private prayer. Topics that we have covered this year include the Holy Spirit, Prayer, Rest and Healing as well as using passages from the Bible, silence and contemplation.

We are a happy, friendly welcoming group with a relaxed atmosphere and have welcomed newcomers to the Ignatius service from other churches as well as from St Andrew's and St Andy's.

Our services take place on the first Sunday of the month at 6.30pm and is made up of 3 sections which include a meditation/talk and fellowship followed by Compline performed in candlelight and all are very welcome to attend.

Dawn Easthope & Kate Dagger

APCM 2018
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 quiz etc. followed by tea or coffee and biscuits. During refreshments there is always plenty of time for chatting.

Recently we celebrated a member's 60th wedding anniversary with a Strawberry Tea held in the church side room. We have also enjoyed a Beetle Drive and a member's interesting and information slide show of their holiday in Naples and Sorrento.

Occasionally we have a trip to a local café for coffee/tea and cake. Then at the end of the year we go out and enjoy a Christmas meal together.

We extend a big 'Thank You' to all our members for contributing towards making our monthly meetings so enjoyable.

We offer a very friendly and supportive atmosphere. New people are always welcome to join us, just come along on the day.

For further details phone Hazel on 024 7646 8747.

Hazel Elks

APCM 2018

FABRIC COMMITTEE

At the end of 2016 the PCC decided to apply for permission from the Diocese to have a moveable font to replace the existing stone font. A meeting was held last year with the Diocesan Advisory Committee to discuss the issue as they had reservations over granting permission. A comprehensive argument was put forward which has resulted in them recommending acceptance. We are in the process of publicly advertising our proposal after which we shall be applying to the Registrar for final permission.

The re-pointing of the brickwork to the porch has been done as required by the Quinquennial report.

A repair to the gutter on the north side of the nave has been done as well as some minor repairs to the roof. At the time the PCC were advised that more substantial repairs were required to an area on the north side of the nave for which scaffolding is required. The start of this work is imminent.

As part of the initial roofing work the roofer was asked to inspect the stone crosses at either end of the nave. The cross nearest the chancel was found to be cracked and in urgent need of repair or removal. After obtaining a number of quotes the PCC decided to opt for the removal of the cross and to apply for a faculty to obtain permission.

The applications for grants to finance the refurbishment of the kitchen were not all approved. A small grant that was awarded was used to replace the metal framed windows in the side extension. An application for the majority of the funds required is still being pursued.

As part of the support for the ECO church initiative whenever light bulbs have failed they are being replaced by LED versions consuming a tenth of the electricity. In addition to this a water butt has been installed to gather rainwater from the side room roof.

Trevor Hill

APCM 2018

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CARD WRITING

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 particularly small band of volunteers (6) 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. As in previous years a number of people not able to attend on the night were provided with booklets to enable them to separately send their greetings.

Trevor Hill

APCM 2018 LUNCH N CHAT

What is Lunch n Chat?

Lunch n Chat is a weekly luncheon club for people who have suffered a bereavement of a loved one. It is held on the first four Wednesdays of each month and starts at 11.45am until 1.30pm and the cost is £2 each week.

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

It is a safe environment where as an individual you can come along, chat and share your feelings or just listen, but everyone having experiences such a profound loss can feel welcome and start trying to pick up the pieces and start living again.

There are no new members of late and we average about 12 visitors every week.

For further information please contact Rita Muir on 024 7646 0744.

Rita Muir

APCM 2018
FORGET ME NOT

Forget me Not is our new dementia support group and we are still feeling our way. Currently 4 members with their carers attend and hopefully more will attend as word gets around.

The afternoons are quite lively with tea and homemade cake to start then we chat about their lives, what job they used to do and their favourite holidays. We sometimes play a game or do a quiz which is enjoyable. It will be easier as we get more people as we can't really split into groups as yet but I feel it will grow.

Rita Muir

APCM 2018
ALLESLEY GREEN COFFEE MORNINGS

We meet on the third Monday of the month at 2pm (change of time).

Four of the group have been taking it in turns to host the group in their homes. Unfortunately, because of illness this has been reduced to two this year until April, when hopefully we return to three.

Because there is some uncertainty, we no longer put an article in The Link.

If there is a retired member of St. Andrew's who would be willing to join us and host the meeting at their house (once every three months) we would love to hear from you.

The group has been going for 10 years and is very much enjoyed by present members. We support each other and put the world to rights over a cup of tea/coffee.

Please get in touch with me if you are interested in joining us.

Jennifer Sanders Tel: 024 7642 1830

APCM 2018 HOME GROUPS

Home groups continue to be an important part of the life of our church. Over the past year a wide variety of themes and approaches to discipleship and Bible study have been explored by the groups. These included looking at evangelism, angels, Life journeys, the Pilgrim Course and one group adopting a book club style of study of a Christian book.

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. Home Group leaders also meet together several times each year to support each other and to share resources that can be used across the groups.

In addition to these groups we held a four-week Advent group and a five-week Lent Group. The Lent Group followed a book entitled *At the Cross* which looked at the cross from the perspective of five different individuals. These sessions were 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 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

APCM 2018
COFFEE ROTA AND FAIRTRADE

The coffee rota seems to be working well at present, more people do get in touch if they can't do their turn which is a great help, so a big thank to everyone who is on the rota.

The church continues to use Fairtrade Tea and Coffee.

Rosemarie Over & Veronika Raugulis-Toor

APCM 2018

SEEK HIS FACE

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 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 St Andy's 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.

Each meeting we have a time of worship through peaceful and inspiring music, following which we enter into a time of silence to allow ourselves to be quiet before God. Following this we might have a time of prayer for the Church, for each other, or sharing what we feel that God is saying to the Church.

God does not always speak to us in merely spiritual ways however! At the February 2018 Seek His Face we counted four little birds flying around the Church as we were praying. Some of us remembered that in previous years there had been two or one birds flying around in the church, and that God had encouraged through this that he was going to work among us by His Spirit. This encouraged us that, as the birds had multiplied from 1 to 2 to now 4, that God was saying he was increasing his work among us.

Come and give it a try! You are free to sit there in quite for the hour or to join in as you feel able. We welcome anyone to attend who would like to take part in this crucial ministry of praying for the Church.

Phil Richardson

APCM 2018

ST ANDY'S

Saint Andy's Year Review

Once again, I find myself wanting to thank and acknowledge those who have put so much work into making St Andy's a great place to be. We have a team of several who can lead services, those who can preach and lead intercessions. We have a wonderful children's team. We are grateful for those who can lead and organise music, and those who can project the words and put the powerpoint together. Those who help with set-up have certainly had their work cut out at our new venue and I am so grateful for all their hard work.

If there is one word I would use to describe what it has felt like to be at St Andy's over the past 12 months it is "**life**". Indeed, this has been the main thing I am praying for us as a Church, as it hasn't mattered whether or not we have had a building as we have a people filled with life. Life is what I pray for at our services and gatherings, and that is what I see. There is a buzz when we come together and an expectation that God will come among us. It feels a little while now since the celebration of 10 years of StAPH in September 2017 that we celebrated on Bannerbrook park with 80 people turning up to join in. We were grateful to have Bishop Chris along to join the celebration, give the sermon and also to commission Phil as curate for the estate.

Of course, around this time one of the **struggles** was the closure of Woodlands and the subsequent 'homelessness' of St Andy's until Christmas. I am reminded that in Exodus, the Israelites had to move and camp in 42 different places before they found a home in the promised land. I think I count 7 places that St Andy's has met in over the past 10 years, so we can be thankful that we haven't been moved around as much as the Israelites yet! However, we can be encouraged and confident that God has in store for his people not an endless wandering, but instead a holy rest, what this looks like for St Andy's we don't know yet but just have to keep trusting in God!

I should mention the success of meeting in homes towards the end of 2017, where Colin and Jennifer, Mike and Pam, Margaret, Shirley and Gareth and Penny and Rob all opened their homes on Sunday mornings for prayer and fellowship. I think for many of us this was an encouraging time and particularly effective for helping people to get to know each other more.

So, what do we **hope** for at St Andy's? At the moment we meet in a temporary building at West Coventry Academy and we don't know how long we will be there for. Outwardly we have struggled over the past few months with losing a building and having an uncertain future. However, we know that God loves to work through weakness and chooses the weak things of the world to shame the so-called strong. Like a tiny seed that goes into the ground and becomes a huge tree, so it is the same with the Church that, through God's power, will grow to become something much greater than it ever might have appeared. God's faithfulness, rather than our own strength, is what continues to give life to the people of St Andy's and enables us to be ready to go out into the world with all his blessing.

Phil Richardson

APCM 2018

PARISH SAFEGUARDING

Christian communities should be places where all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from any form of abuse. We at St Andrew's aim to provide this based on good practice and by adhering to House of Bishops policies.

The term safeguarding covers vetting and safer recruitment, safer working practices with regular reviews, and responding to any concerns/allegations. The emphasis is on prevention and we have therefore been busy safely recruiting all those who have a role within our church, whether paid or unpaid. This includes DBS clearance as appropriate. Adequate training is an essential element of good practice and I am very pleased to report that 88 people from St Andrew's have undertaken Course 0, either on line or by attending one of my training sessions. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each one of you for completing this, and also many thanks to those few who have also completed C1. I would ask that in this forthcoming year, all those who come into contact with our children look to undertake C1. This training is given at various venues within the diocese and the information is on the noticeboard at the back of church.

I too, have been on training sessions. I attend safeguarding training for parish safeguarding officers on an annual basis to ensure I keep up to date and furthermore I have attended a training session for delivering C1 safeguarding for the diocese. I hope to deliver these sessions in the not too distant future.

Thank you to all who assist in Safeguarding, as we now are well aware that it is everyone's responsibility. I cannot do it alone.

Linda Chylinski

APCM 2018

THE LINK MAGAZINE

The Link has been printed on time for another twelve months without any serious problems. In January we held a party in the Side Room to thank 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 younger members of the church to take on this vital task. At present we need at least another 5 volunteers to deliver some magazines every month.

Link finances continue to be a cause for concern. We have been able to overcome a 30% increase in printing costs by reducing the number of pages, but not the content. Unfortunately, some of our long-standing advertisers are retiring and start-up businesses rely on websites for their business. We are therefore running up to two pages short of advertising each month which means that advertising income is about £1000 per year less than the printing costs. We have some reserves from previous years and we have increased advertising charges, however there will come a time within the next 12 to 18 months when outside funding will be essential to keep The Link going.

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 and coordinating Link deliverers. However, Barbara would like some help in future and we are looking for a volunteer to share the role. Thanks also to Cadman Printers who rarely fail to print on time each month and charge us well below normal market price for printing.

Richard Marr

APCM 2018
THE LINK MAGAZINE

St. Andrew's Church
Eastern Green, Coventry
THE LINK

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2017

		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		£	£	£	£	£
Cash at Bank 1 Jan		3879	4391	4219	2016	1582
Cash at NS&I 1 Jan		1591	1609	1621	1633	1643
	TOTALS	5470	6000	5840	3649	3225
RECEIPTS						
Advertising revenue		6952	6330	5604	5571	5045
Donations		0	0	35	20	10
Interest National Savings		18	12	12	10	0
	TOTALS	6970	6342	5651	5601	5055
PAYMENTS						
Parish Pump		0	0	40	40	43
Printing for St Andrew's			316	647	102	0
Folders' Party				15	0	0
Printing costs		6440	6186	6185	6838	6186
	TOTALS	6440	6502	6887	6980	6229
Cash at Bank 31 Dec		4391	4219	2971	1582	2051
Cash at NS&I 31 Dec		1609	1621	1633	1643	0
	TOTALS	6000	5840	4604	3225	2051

APCM 2018

CHILDREN'S CHURCH AND CRÈCHE

Over the past twelve months 27 children have visited Children's Church. Of these children, 12 are more regular attenders. Most children are in the primary age range. They participate fully in the activities and those who have recently started school are gaining confidence in telling the congregation what they have been doing during the session.

We currently have 4 volunteers who are willing to lead the sessions on a rota basis. I would like to thank all of them for the time and effort they put into preparing the activities, especially as they never know how many children will come each week. We have 10 more volunteers who support all of the activities during the session, again on a rota basis. This year we have welcomed Jackie, Jill and Chris to our ranks. By spreading the load, we have opportunities to be in church ourselves. Our own spiritual development is essential in helping us work effectively with our young children. We must have at least 3 adults in Children's Church, so we are always looking for more volunteers.

At St Andrew's Children's Church, we have continued to use Scripture Union's Light programme of study. The materials this year have included such topics as Talking with God, Songs to God, Moses the Leader, Christmas People, Stories of Jesus and People Jesus met.

In October 2017 the Children's Working Party was disbanded, and a more encompassing Children's Council was formed of which St Andrew's Children's Church is one small part. Other groups represented on the council include St Andy's Children's Church, Pram Service, Kidz Praise, All Stars Drama Group, the Baptism team and the Open the Book team. Since its inauguration, the council has met on five occasions and regularly reports to the PCC. We are working closely with and supporting Emma Wildman in her role as Children's and Families' Worker.

Hilary Wankling

APCM 2018

SUNDAY SERVICE ROTA

We would like to thank all who volunteer for the Sunday Service Rota roles. These include Sides Duty, Altar Dressing, Processing with Communion Elements and Bible Reading.

The numbers of volunteers are currently averaging at 13 Sides Persons, 4 Altar Dressers, 17 for Elements and 13 Readers. In some cases, there is an overlap, with some people taking on three of the roles.

The volunteer numbers are down again this year, compared to recent years. We would like to sincerely thank those who have left the team for their valued support and dedication over several years - and in some cases many years.

I have to report that we have now reached a critical point for some of the duties, particularly altar dressing and sides duty. Whilst I do not generally single out any particular individual I feel it is right to make an exception to this rule at this point in time. Rita Muir has been outstanding in recent months with her willingness to 'step into' many of the duties when we have found ourselves short of a volunteer. Whilst we greatly appreciate the extra help that Rita and some others have given, we should not rely solely on their good will. We desperately need more volunteers to come forward. Not only would this give people an opportunity to engage in a fulfilling role within the church but also relieve the pressure on current volunteers.

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.

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
07973459073
stevewankling@hotmail.co.uk

APCM 2018

PRAM SERVICE

Pram service has had a steady but successful year with a group of regular attending families and seems to keep renewing itself when toddlers leave to join school and new babies attending to keep a healthy number of children for the service. It is often a popular service for families to attend to enquire about a baptism but for many reasons i.e. parents returning to work we do lose majority of these families.

Pram service has continued to strengthen as a service with thanks to a great number of volunteers who help run the service and their valuable input into the planning and craft activities that are provided.

In December we said goodbye to Reverend Lynda Lilley who had been running the service for the past 3 years and I (Emma Wildman) took on the role to organise and run Pram Service with lots of hope for a successful future.

I have tried to include a more visual and sensory element into the service to add an extra level to the quality of service content. This has already included light up sensory balls/toys, foil crinkle blankets, bubbles and more recently we have built an ark out of cardboard boxes and filled it with inflatable animals to recreate the Story of Noah's Ark in an exciting and visually pleasing way. I will be continuing to build up a box of sensory items to include in the stories/prayers and aim to make the service more interactive and inclusive for babies and toddlers.

Since taking over I organised a family pancake race after the service on Shrove Tuesday and included a pancake breakfast before the service which proved to be very popular and was enjoyed by all the families which attended. I hope to run more events in the future at Pram service to reach out to the regular and non-regular families and provide more family fun.

Pram service is a great starting point to learn about the bible and is the first platform on the child's journey through faith and Pram Service definitely fulfils these criteria.

Emma Wildman

APCM 2018

KIDZ PRAISE

When Kidz Praise was set up and started in September it got off to quite a quiet start but as more attended and found out about the service it has grown into a busy fun filled service. The toast is popular and the children enjoy a new craft/activity each time which have included decorating Joseph's coat with coloured tissue paper and building towers out of spaghetti and marshmallows. Worship through music is effective and the use of action songs engages the children.

Kidz Praise was set up with the children of St Andrew's C of E School in mind to give them a place to explore their faith after school and an age appropriate service which could be a follow on from Pram service for those who attended before starting school. We have had a few children attend from St Andrew's C of E School but have also reached out to other local primary schools in the area and have regular attendees from a mix of local schools which is brilliant! This shows that we are meeting a need for this age range with this service and can continue to grow and keep this age range interested in the church.

Emma Wildman

APCM 2018

PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM

The Prayer Ministry Team is made up of members from each of the congregations at St Andrew's and St Andy's who have a heart for prayer, seek to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit, and who are able to offer a healing ministry. Members of the team are available, after our Sunday morning services; for those seeking prayer for themselves or on behalf of others.

An important aspect of our role is to uphold the church and its parish in prayer. St Andrew's has a Prayer Tree - available for all, whether a Church member or not - and you are invited to come and write a prayer request and hang it on the tree. This is available at any time during the week. We make a point of praying for specific requests each Wednesday, during mid-week 10am Communion, and members of the team will also regularly look at the prayer requests and pray over them.

Periodically, we hold a Healing Service, which incorporates opportunity for anyone to respond to prayer. Our next Healing Service is planned for Sunday, 24th June at 10am. All are very welcome.

Additionally, a 'Prayer Chain' is available for anyone in urgent need of prayer. Such requests are circulated and upheld in prayer by all members of the Team during the period of crisis. A privilege which we take very seriously.

For any further information on the prayer ministry team, or if you or anyone known to you needs prayer support please contact Lesley Lee (Prayer Ministry Team co-ordinator) on 07970 302554 or 024 7646 0048 or email lesleylee4@hotmail.co.uk

Lesley Lee

APCM 2018

THE BAND

The St Andrew's/St Andy's band currently consists of 11-12 members (4 of whom are Nexus students). There is a range of ages and a mixture of worship leaders/vocalists, guitarist, drummers and pianists. This means we can split the leading of services fairly evenly and it gives us the opportunity to have either a full band or just one/two people at a time depending on the service, which is a blessing in itself as many churches don't have this. We have recently started to use an app designed to help us organise ourselves and who is doing what each week. As a band of friends, we try to meet socially as often as possible despite busy lives and we love to sing/play together and make it a fun and beautiful thing each time; and of course, always welcome new members!!

Kirstie Smith