



**Annual Reports & Accounts 2023/24**

*To be discussed at the Meeting of Parishioners  
& Annual Parochial Church Meeting*

**Sunday 12th May, 12 noon, St Andrew's, Churchdown**

## **AGM 2024 Agenda**

### **Annual Parishioner Meeting**

The meeting of Parishioners will be held in St Andrews Church on Sunday 12th May 2024 at 12.00 pm.

#### **AGENDA:**

- i. Opening thought and prayer - Revd John Monaghan
- ii. Appointment of a clerk for the meeting
- iii. Apologies for absence
- iv. Minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023
- v. Election of Churchwardens

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

The APCM will be held in St Andrews Church on Sunday 12th May 2024 following the Annual Parishioner Meeting.

#### **AGENDA:**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Appointment of a clerk for the meeting
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023
4. Elections to the Deanery Synod
5. Elections to the Parochial Church Council
6. Electoral Roll report
7. PCC & Standing Committee report
8. Churchwardens' report
9. Vicar's report
10. Fabric/Facilities report
11. Other Ministry reports
12. Finance report, accounts & appointment of auditor
13. Closing Prayer

### 3. Minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023

#### ANNUAL PARISHIONER MEETING, 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023

- i. **Opening thought and prayer:** The meeting opened with thoughts from Exodus 40, Proverbs and Romans 8, and a prayer, led by Revd. John Monaghan.
- ii. **Appointment of a clerk for the meeting:** Sue Francis, the PCC secretary, was appointed as clerk. Matt Waterfield circulated a sign-up sheet for attendees and one to record any apologies offered (one sheet for both meetings).
- iii. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies had been received from Helen Blackwell, Simon Britton, Peter Brown, Judi Brown, Louise Fazeli, Dave Fisher, Emma Nhachi, Norma Pepys-Goodchild, Graham Philpott, John and Sue Risdon, Nigel and Lorraine Roe, Elizabeth Shuli, Andrew and Sarah Smith, Steve and Margaret Riddick and Lauren Worsley.
- iv. **Minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2022:** These were approved and signed. There were no questions or matters arising.
- v. **Election of Churchwardens:** John explained that churchwardens were elected for one year at a time. Andrew Smith was happy to continue in the role. He was proposed by Kath Baker and seconded by Tim Dennish. Celia Anderson, who had been serving as deputy warden, was proposed by Alice Oakes, and seconded by Moira Perrin. Both Andrew and Celia were enthusiastically approved. John thanked them for all that they do; he could not do it all without them. John also thanked Nigel Roe, who had been serving as churchwarden but had stood down during the year.

#### ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING, 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2023

John confirmed that there had not been any late nominations and explained, that as the congregation was just below 400, we were allowed 15 elected members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC).

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies had been received from Helen Blackwell, Simon Britton, Peter Brown, Judi Brown, Louise Fazeli, Dave Fisher, Emma Nhachi, Norma Pepys-Goodchild, Graham Philpott, John and Sue Risdon, Nigel and Lorraine Roe, Elizabeth Shuli, Andrew and Sarah Smith, Steve and Margaret Riddick and Lauren Worsley.
2. **Appointment of a clerk for the meeting:** Sue Francis, the PCC secretary, was appointed as clerk.

3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 10th May 2022:** These were approved and signed. There were no questions or matters arising.
4. **Motion to approve a Burial Policy:** John explained that, due to limited space in the graveyard, the PCC had approved a policy (9/1/23) prohibiting the reserving new plots in advance of a death. This policy was approved by the meeting.
5. **Election to Deanery Synod:** John briefly explained the Deanery Synod system and noted that Deanery Synod representatives were ex officio members of the PCC. John thanked Gareth Davies, Gordon Goodman and Lesley Ward, who were stepping down, and Steve Riddick, who was standing again. Steve was proposed by Sarah Smith, seconded by Rachael Champness, and approved. John added that some PCC members might be encouraged to go along to the Deanery Synod and asked anyone else who might be interested to let him know.
6. **Elections to the Parochial Church Council:** John explained that we were allowed up to 15 elected members, but the Churchwardens, Deanery Synod representatives and clergy were ex officio members, which could make quite a large committee, so it was not essential to fill all the places.

There were six people standing for election and all were approved and elected for three years:

- Sue Francis, proposed by Michael Browne, seconded by Elizabeth Browne;
- Kath Baker, proposed by Christopher Phillimore, seconded by Jeremy Taylor;
- Sarah Wright, proposed by Emma Hartwell, seconded by Claire Taylor;
- Paul Hobbs, proposed by Celia Anderson, seconded by Julian Myrans;
- Jack Neave, proposed by Rhiannon Reeves, seconded by Adam Greenland;
- Roger Price, proposed by Stewart Fincham, seconded by John Varley.

John encouraged those present to pray for the PCC and to let him or the PCC Secretary know if there were topics that the PCC ought to be discussing. John thanked outgoing members Moira Perrin, Tim Door and Tom Nhachi, who were warmly applauded.

7. **Electoral Roll report:** There were now 399 people on the electoral roll (previously 400, but one person had died). There had been 20 additions and 5 deletions. John noted that this did not include the children and young people.
8. **PCC & Standing Committee report:** John reported that the PCC now met every two months, with sub-committees, including standing committee, in between. In response to a question about how

close we were to paying for courtyard project, Rachel Limbrick, the outgoing treasurer, replied that the courtyard project was fully paid for, but some pledges were still coming in, as some people had committed to giving over four years and there was 18 months of this left. John invited anyone who wished to see PCC minutes to email the church office.

9. **Churchwardens' report:** John asked if there were any questions on this report, but there were none. He again thanked the Churchwardens for all their hard work.
10. **Vicar's report:** John spoke of the incredible welcome he and his family had received and the many blessings and talents in the church, where there had been years and years of faithful Christian service, but also noted that, where much had been given, much was demanded. John mentioned the church weekend at home on 22<sup>nd</sup>-24th September. He encouraged people to email or call him, if they wanted to chat, or had a word from the Lord, and spoke about how encouraging it was to share testimonies. There were no questions.
11. **Fabric/Facilities report:** John thanked Kevin Sadler and Lorraine Yates for all their work as Facilities manager and administrator respectively, and Matt Waterfield, our new Operations Manager. There was a lot of work going on behind the scenes and a 5+ year programme of maintenance. We wanted to be faithful stewards. There was a question about the possibility of better lighting in the car park for winter evenings. John noted that we also wanted to use the courtyard and foyer better and find ways to draw visitors in, perhaps by displaying texts from Scripture.
12. **Other Ministry reports:** John was hugely grateful for people involved in all the different ministries and the annual report, which was also available on the website, was a wonderful snapshot, although there were also lots of other activities, like administration, hospitality and the flowers. If there were other areas to include next year, people should let him know. There were no questions.
13. **Finance report, accounts & appointment of independent examiner:** John noted that Rachel was stepping down as treasurer. We were hugely grateful to her. Rachel then gave a slide presentation on the annual accounts, noting that income had decreased from £379,000 to £368,000, partly due to the fact that courtyard donations were coming to natural end, but also due to a slight decrease in income from planned giving. People were still giving generously, despite recent challenges. There were 125 people or family units who were regular givers and giving had risen from £148,000 in 2010 to £258,000 in 2022.

Expenditure for the year had been £410,000, resulting in a deficit of £42,000, though £30,000 of this had been due to depreciation of assets, leaving an actual deficit of £12,000, slightly higher than

previous years. One of the biggest items of expenditure was the Parish Share, which, having remained the same in 2020 and 2021, had gone up to £87,000 in 2022. Long term investments showed a decrease of £7,000, so the Churchwardens would be looking at the investments.

Rachel thanked Di and Alice who did a fantastic job, managing the day-to-day finances. Rachel also thanked everyone for their support and all our amazing volunteers. In response to questions, Rachel confirmed that the figure quoted for the long-term investments represented the value of the shares, but we could spend the interest £3,000. She also confirmed that we had a £12,000 deficit at a time when we hadn't been paying a youth worker's salary, but added that that would have been budgeted for. There was a deficit budget again for 2023, but it was being monitored carefully. There had been some one-off large expenditures in 2022.

John noted that we must step out in faith. We needed to increase our giving a bit and be agile. In September we would be looking at stewardship. He also noted that Parish Share, which covered the cost of having our church buildings, housing and paying the Vicar, training new clergy, and subsidising other less well-off parishes, was actually low compared with a lot of other dioceses.

Stuart Fincham said it was a great set of accounts, but asked about the £4,560 for the upkeep of St. Bartholomew's churchyard (page 12) and whether this money could be used to pay the expenses relating to churchyard maintenance. Rachael explained that these were restricted funds, received for St Bartholomew's churchyard many years ago. Andrew Smith had undertaken to look at such funds and start using them, where appropriate, instead of general funds. John asked about the Friends of St. Bartholomew's, who existed to look after the building and churchyard, and how it could be used. Gordon Goodman explained that the Friends had been set up at a time when St. Bartholomew's was about to fall down. He encouraged the Churchwardens to approach them if there was a need. A huge round of applause for Rachel followed.

The current independent examiner for the accounts was Louise Newman & Co, who were happy to continue. This was proposed by Rachel and seconded by Stewart Fincham and approved.

Jenny asked about the possibility of larger text for the new liturgy at 1030, which was being addressed, and whether there was a plan to return to normal communion. Some discussion followed, but it was not clear how everyone's individual preferences could be accommodated.

**14. Closing Prayer:** Prayers were said by Alex and John, who referred to Matthew 28. The meeting ended at 1pm.

#### **4. Elections to the Deanery Synod**

#### **5. Elections to the Parochial Church Council**

**6. Electoral Roll report:** Currently, there are 379 on the electoral roll: 24 additions and 41 deletions.

**7. PCC & Standing Committee report:** St Andrew's and St Bartholomew's PCC works with the Vicar to promote the mission of the Church and share the leadership, management and administration of the parish.

Six new PCC members were elected in May 2023 and two were co-opted. Steve Riddick was re-elected as the Deanery Synod representative. The PCC met 6 times during the year, with Standing Committee meetings in between to prepare the agenda for the next meeting and chase up any outstanding actions.

Throughout the year, the PCC received reports on safeguarding, church finances, buildings and fabric and many other aspects of church business. At the September meeting we had the opportunity to hear from and pray for Kate, the children's worker, and Jamie, the new youth worker. At an envisioning event in October 2023 we discussed strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT). In November and again in March, Sarah Wright presented plans for Eco Church, including a planned new prayer and nature garden. In January 2024 we had a detailed presentation from the Missions committee. We also spent time discussing the appropriate response to the General Synod's approval of the Prayers of Love and Faith.

Any member of the church who has an issue for the PCC to discuss is invited to bring it to the attention of the PCC secretary (or Revd John). Minutes are also available from the office (once formally approved). If you might be interested in standing for PCC or Deanery Synod, please have a chat with Revd. John at any point in the year.

*Sue Francis, PCC Secretary*

**PCC for 2023/24**

**Ex-officio members**

Revd. John Monaghan

**Churchwardens**

Andrew Smith

Celia Anderson

**Deanery Synod**

Steve Riddick (*until 2026*)

**Elected PCC members**

*With 1 year to serve (until April 2024)*

Lynda Britton

Dave Fisher

Jane Pringle (*resigned*)

Jeremy Taylor

*With 2 years to serve (until April 2025)*

Rachael Champness

*With 3 years to serve (until April 2026)*

Katherine Baker

Sue Francis

Paul Hobbs

Jack Neave

Roger Price

Sarah Wright

**Co-opted members**

Mark Golledge (*co-opted 2023/2024*)

Tom Baxter (*co-opted 2023/2024*)

**PCC for 2024/25**

**Ex-officio members**

Revd. John Monaghan

**Churchwardens**

*\*Subject to Election (STE)*

Andrew Smith (*standing for re-election*)

Celia Anderson (*standing for re-election*)

**Deanery Synod**

Steve Riddick (*elected until 2026*)

Andrew Smith (*co-opted, until 2026*)

**Elected PCC members**

*With 1 year to serve (until April 2025)*

Rachael Champness

*With 2 years to serve (until April 2026)*

Katherine Baker

Sue Francis

Paul Hobbs

Jack Neave

Roger Price

Sarah Wright

*\*Mark Golledge (STE; co-opted 2023/2024)*

*\*Tom Baxter (STE; co-opted 2023/2024)*

*With 3 years to serve (until April 2027)*

*\*Jeremy Taylor (STE – standing for 2<sup>nd</sup> term)*

**Co-opted members**

*To be decided by the Vicar as appropriate throughout the year*



**8. Churchwardens' report:** As Churchwardens we are tasked with monitoring, improving, and encouraging church life and also acting as peacemakers. Over the last year, Celia and I have benefitted in this from the arrival of Matt and the development of his role as Operations Manager. It is also wonderful that such a capable Youth Pastor as Jamie joined us during the year to strengthen the team helping so many teenagers in the church to develop in their faith journey. Among the more significant 'behind the scenes' improvements have been the development of the PCC HR committee to ensure that we treat our staff well, the introduction of a new Health and Safety policy and the extension of our safeguarding regime to cover the service of over 150 volunteers. It has been good to have the support of Kath Baker as a Deputy Warden and John our vicar.

Sometimes differences over various issues become passionate as we explore together what following Jesus means for us in today's world. It is vital that, as we tackle difficult issues, our church is characterised by love, encouragement, and care for one another and for those outside the church. Thank you that our job as wardens is made much easier because lots of you serve our Lord Jesus in so many ways, in church activities, in your daily lives and in the wider community.

*Andrew Smith*

**9. Vicar's report:** What a privilege to be partnering in ministry with the family at St Andrew's and St Bartholomew's as it's coming up to my second year here next month! There has been so much to give thanks to the Lord for over the past year. We continue to see lives transformed by the power of the gospel, and the hope of Jesus made known, even in the midst of darkness and difficulty. We also continue to seek to empower one another in our ministries, with Jesus (not the leadership or Vicar) as the head of our church. Working with our amazing PCC and Core Leadership team, consisting of the Wardens and full-time (or almost) staff, has been such a joy. Andrew and Celia (Wardens) have been such a source of support to me week in, week out in ministry, as has the whole team. It's been a joy watching our ministries shape, develop and grow over the past year, including Women & Men's, Sundays, Children & Youth, Outreach and Evangelism, Communications and Governance, as well as ecumenical relationships with other churches in our area and the Diocese. Mid-week there is such a buzz around the Church office with Matt Waterfield (Operations manager) bringing his incredible gifts and relational strengths to our team.

**Sunday Services** – there is a growing sense of expectancy and openness to the Holy Spirit's activity in our life as we worship and sit under his Word. It's been wonderful seeing Prayer Ministry start up again at our 9am service, and also our twice a month 'Encounter' evening services which are focusing on the gifts of the Holy Spirit this year. In terms of morning preaching themes, last year we journeyed through the Old Testament, ending with a longer series on Nehemiah. This year we have been exploring our once a month series 'Healthy Habits which keep God at the centre of everything' – as part of that, I have written a booklet which we will make available to the church. At the start of this calendar year we've also been looking at

some of the characteristics of the 'Church of Tomorrow' as we continue to listen to what the Spirit is saying to our church at this time of cultural change. We'll also be exploring the books of Galatians and Revelation later on this year.

**Leadership** – as well as investing in the staff and central leadership, we've launched a once a month leadership book club for anyone to attend. This September we may offer a more formal course such as the CPAS Growing leaders course.

**Courses** – It's been good seeing an annual pattern of courses emerging, as well as the myriad of amazing courses offered by Dan Button and GTS. We've seen Parenting in the Autumn, Alpha in Winter, Marriage in Spring. We're hoping to launch a mental-wellness course in September as well. On top of Parenting and Marriage courses for families, wouldn't it be great if we could also offer a course for 'singles' as we seek to bless and encourage all those in our church and not just those who are married.

**Thoughts for the future and for your prayers** – that the leadership would be increasingly diverse in terms of age, social demographics and representative of the full five-fold ministry we read about in Ephesians four. This includes those with Apostolic (pioneering new ministries in our community), Prophetic (discerning what the Spirit might be saying to our church) and Evangelistic (able to encourage and challenge the rest of us to bring the gospel to our community) giftings. If you think you have a heart for any of these three areas, please get in touch with me.

-That we would continue to be a church that holds the tension of radical holiness, alongside radical inclusion as we uphold the doctrine of marriage as Jesus taught, and extend a loving welcome to all, including those who identify as LGBTQ+. The *posture* of our PCC and Core leadership is orthodox, and our *position* is one of love and grace for all. Pray that we would get better at inclusion, increasing family acceptance, protecting against victimisation, and nourishing faith identity in LGBT+ hearts. Pray that we would learn to live well alongside those with whom we lovingly disagree, over this sensitive issue, and that above all, Christ might be glorified, and his gospel spread.

-That we would be able to use our gifts and resources to bless and encourage other churches, both individually and corporately. We've seen great examples of this as we've sent out 'workers in the harvest' like those being called to ordination (Harry, Laine, Denise), all of our mission partners (locally, nationally and abroad), helping St John's with 'Winter warmers', supporting the DEF (Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship), and using our Church as a resource for other churches, including New Wine leaders meetings.

**10. Fabric/Facilities report:** Over the past year there have been no major works undertaken. The focus has been on maintaining the existing churches and buildings. Julian Myrans has continued to provide unsung support, we are blessed to have him. In addition, the newly formed DIY Team have established themselves. The process of identifying and then fixing maintenance issues grows from strength to strength.

Moving forward we are looking to upgrade the kitchen and have identified grant bodies that we can apply to for financial support in enhancing the facilities that our many volunteers work with to provide hospitality for our church family and the wider Churchdown community.

**11. Other Ministry reports:** This is not an exhaustive list of the many and various ways we serve the local church and wider community and world. We hope that this offers a flavour of some of the ministries that you have been involved in and offers us all opportunities for expressing thankfulness to God, to each other, and prayer for the future. If you would like to contact any of the ministries please email your enquiry via the church office ([admin@stastb.church](mailto:admin@stastb.church)) unless the ministry report provides a direct point of contact.

<b>Ministry</b>	<b>Leader</b>
6pm Services at St A's & 24/7 Prayer	Mark & Jen Golledge
Alpha	Neil Carne
Bereavement Cafe	Sarah Smith
BLT	Kate Smith
CAMEO	Sue Conaty
Children & Children's Assemblies Open the Book	Kate Smith
Choir and St Bartholomew's	John Risdon
Churchdown Zero	Ben & Jo Witchard
Churches Together in Churchdown	Catherine Rowland
Communications & ChurchSuite	Adam Greenland
Connect Groups	Simon & Joy Marshall
Deanery Synod	Steve Riddick
DIY Team	Dave Parry
Friday's Kitchen	Sue Ellison
Hospitality	Matt Waterfield
Meals Ministry	Christina Castrolippo
Men's Ministry	Andy Champness
Mission Team	Angus Johnson
Pastoral Care (incl. home HC visits)	Nigel Roe
Prayer Chain	Julie Ingram
Prayer Ministry	Kath Baker
Prayer on Thursdays	Richard Waters
Safeguarding	Corinne Phillimore
The Knitters	Anne Ewart
The Producers	Julian Myrans

Welcome & Information Teams	Celia Anderson
Women's Ministry	Rebecca Maughan
Worship & Tech Teams	Rhiannon Reeves
Youth	Jamie Flores

**6pm Encounter Services:** We have been excited to continue our Encounter meetings together over the last year. Encounter meets twice a month (first and third Sundays) - 6pm at St Andrews. Our times together include extended sung worship, prayer/ministry time and discussion. This year we have been working through in both discussion and practical application the Spiritual Gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12 - gifts such as prophecy, faith and healing. Our heart for Encounter is that everyone gets to encounter the Holy Spirit and use these gifts in their everyday lives. It has been exciting to see and hear of people bringing prophetic words / pictures for the first time as well as people responding to words of knowledge. We have been encouraged by having many of the older youth join Encounter this year and seeing them step into what God has got for them.

We are excited about the momentum that is happening with Encounter.

We are expectant of seeing breakthrough for people in areas such as healings.

And we are confident of the impact this will have across all of St Andrew's Church in 2024!

You can find out more about Encounter on our website here: <https://www.stastb.church/encounter>

*Mark & Jen Golledge*

**24-7 Prayer - January 2024:** We held our second 24-7 week of prayer in January 2024 - and what an exciting week it was! It kicked off with an amazing Holy Spirit filled evening called 'Space to Live In' - an evening which many continue to talk about (and we are looking forward to the next 'Space to Live In' in June 2024). Then each day in the week, Church members were encouraged to pray around a specific theme (which during the week included themes such as Church, Education, Business, Government and Family). Part of the St Andrew's building was transformed into a prayer room and it was exciting to see how people used this area to pray during the week. Again, we received many contributions from across the Church family of God speaking to them.

Please continue to pray. Although the 24-7 prayer week has ended we know that it's impact has not. Maybe the Lord is encouraging you to join one of our regular church prayer meetings?

You can find out more about 24-7 prayer on our website here: <https://www.stastb.church/247-prayer>

*Mark & Jen Golledge*

**Alpha:** Alpha is a series of group conversations that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. We ran an Alpha course that started in January 2024 using materials supplied by Alpha UK. Evenings started with a meal provided by members of the church, followed by watching a video

together about a specific aspect of Christian belief. Participants then broke into two discussion groups, facilitated by members of the Church, to discuss what they had seen and their own experiences and beliefs. Nine evening sessions and one full-day Saturday session were held. 14 guests attended at least one session, with the vast majority choosing to complete the course. Feedback from participants was very positive, with people finding the course helpful and supportive in exploring and developing faith. Most participants have signed up to attend the Bible Course (devised by the Bible Society), which is being run subsequent to Alpha, and a number have asked to be baptised. The Alpha format has proved to be a very successful way to invite people to explore God's love for them and we hope to run further courses.

*Neil Carne*

**Bereavement Café:** The Bereavement Café provides an opportunity for anyone who has been bereaved, recently or in the past, to meet socially with others who have also been affected by the loss of a loved one. They may be struggling with their grief, feeling lonely, isolated or simply wanting someone to listen. The 'drop-in' Café takes place in the Lounge on the second Tuesday of each month, 1.30-3.30pm. Volunteers provide a warm welcome, a friendly listening ear and space to remember those who have died, along with tea, coffee and home-made cakes.

The Café started in September 2023. Typically we have around a dozen guests each month, about half of whom are from the church family and half from the wider community. Some are 'regulars' whilst others might just come once or twice.

We give thanks that the Café is reaching out into the community and for the friendships growing among the guests and volunteers. Please pray for a raised awareness of the Bereavement Café throughout Churchdown and beyond so that we can reach more of those who are grieving with God's love and compassion. To find out more, please contact Sarah Smith via [sarahfhsmith@outlook.com](mailto:sarahfhsmith@outlook.com)

*Sarah Smith*

**BLT:** Babies, Lunch and Toddlers is a group for babies, toddlers and their parents / carers which runs every Wednesday during term time. We offer a space for children to come and play for a few hours as well as providing each family with freshly made soup and cake for lunch. Over the last year we've gradually introduced singing along with our story time, including songs about God's love for us, which we are thankful to be able to share with the families who come. Our team commits to praying regularly for the families who attend and each of us takes responsibility for praying for one or two of our regular families and getting to know them better. It's really exciting to be able to invite our BLT families to other events happening at church, particularly family events taking place over Christmas and Easter time. We look forward to continuing to welcome families into the church and getting to know them better each week through our Babies, Lunch and Toddlers Group.

*Kate Smith*

**CAMEO:** CAMEO is a lunch club. The name stands for: Come And Meet Each Other. Once a month, we offer lunch to people over the age of 65 who live in Churchdown, or who go to St Andrew's or St. Bartholomew's. The guests enjoy an opportunity to socialise and for some of them, to do this in a church setting enables them to see an otherwise unfamiliar bit of church life.

The lunch consists of a served, two course meal followed by a short period of entertainment: a quiz, a speaker, a musical group or conversation.

Over the year we make a profit and this has enabled us to make donations, the most recent being to: Churchdown Age Concern Minibus appeal, Churchdown Food Bank and the Gloucester cathedral Breakfast club for the homeless.

We now have a list of 60 guests, a few more than last year but still about 20 less than before Covid.

As a committee, we thank God for the for the volunteers who help us run this ministry and for the church kitchen, which is larger and better equipped than many other similar ones.

We ask you to pray that God would continue to bless CAMEO, as a place where guests feel welcome and assured of enjoyable time with friends, old and new.

*Sue Conaty*

**Children:** Our Sunday Children's ministry currently consists of five groups for children aged 0-11. It's a joy to be able to minister to the children each week; sharing the good news of the gospel with them and encouraging and guiding them as they grow in their faith. The biggest challenge for the children's ministry team is that we are currently very short on volunteers, particularly leaders, with two or more groups being merged most weeks in order to provide for all the children who attend. However, we are so blessed to have an amazing team of faithful volunteers who support the ministry and help to keep it running, many of them even volunteering to help with other special events such as prayer breakfasts. From December 2023 the children's team introduced a time for our 'on duty' team to meet together and pray each week before the children's group starts which has been a wonderful way to commit each children's session to God and ask that His will with this ministry will be done. We continue to trust in His provision as we look forwards and consider how best to support, encourage, teach and provide for our children and families.

*Kate Smith*

**Children's Assemblies and 'Open the Book':** Our Open the Book team currently consists of 5 members who visit Churchdown Junior School every week, sharing messages from the Bible in their school assemblies through acting out stories, usually with the help of the children. In Summer last year, a change in leadership at the infant school meant that Open the Book was no longer able to visit each week, however we are pleased to still have a good relationship with the School and have been invited back to give special assemblies there at certain times of year. We are grateful for the opportunity to continue strengthening our

relationship with the Junior School - through our visits doing Open the Book, we have had the opportunity to share resources with the school for their Christmas and summer plays and have been invited back to the school on one occasion to give talks to their year 3 classes. This term we have started using Open the Book's new material which includes many more stories and we are excited to continue sharing these with the children and their teachers.

*Kate Smith*

**Choir & St Bartholomew's:** Our Choir is a group of up to ten who have shown a high degree of dedication in supporting the Worship. Their core of regulars have led Services both at St Andrews 9am Communion each Sunday, and the sung Services at St Bartholomew's. At Christmas they shared fellowship at a splendid Christmas meal with entertainment.

Our Services have been sustained by the commitment over many years of Organist Gareth Davies, supported by Peter Clarkson and more recently by Jenni Philpott, as they have led from the Organ.

Our Organists and Choir members are volunteers, and value the privilege of serving a congregation each Sunday at St Andrews of around fifty, the size of the main congregation in many parishes.

At St Bartholomew's, regular Celebrations of the Church Festivals have increased the congregations for Easter, St Bartholomew's Day and Harvest. This has also been true at the welcome return of the Advent and Christmas Carols which in 2022 were cancelled by bad weather.

The music for worship is created to support the message of the preaching of God's Word. It seeks to strengthen faith in Jesus and deepen the discipleship of the congregations. Regular worshippers have commented on how much they value both of the variety of Services, the music and the leadership given by Preachers and Leaders Sunday by Sunday.

*John Risdon*

**Churches Together in Churchdown:** Churches Together in Churchdown, comprising of representatives of all four of our village churches, meets four times a year. We discuss ways to support each other and to show the Christian caring and love in our community. This past year some of our committee have written, printed and distributed prayers for the week of Christian unity in January. We have a team from each church who have planned and organised World Day of Prayer in March which this year was written by the women of Palestine so incredibly moving and relevant. It was hosted this year by St John's church. Throughout the winter months, we have all had a team to support the Winter Warmer initiative every Thursday at St John's, serving home-made soup and cakes to local people. They all appreciated the warmth and companionship found there. Our team comprised five of us from St Andrew's. This will carry on over the summer months as Summer Sandwiches. We supported and planned the Good Friday walk through the village. We have welcomed Valerie as a new member of the committee from St Andrew's this year. Working together as a

wider church in the village brings many rewards in helping the community to see us as Christians showing Gods love.

*Catherine Rowland*

**Churchdown Zero:** We all know that reducing plastic is an important way to care for creation, and that recycling is a great way to reduce the impact of single-use plastics. However, even better is if those bottles are never produced in the first place! Churchdown Zero is a plastic-free refill stall selling washing and cleaning products. The idea is to cut out plastic waste by refilling your empty bottles of washing up, laundry liquid, and more; instead of buying a new one. We buy in bulk and send our big bottles back to be refilled too! We sell these at the St John's Repair Cafe and after the 10:30 service once a month; as well as from our garage.

Over the last year we've been blessed to have the help of young people from our church, Emma and Noah, whilst doing their Duke-of-Edinburgh award. We'd love to develop this ministry further by opening it up every Sunday. Please pray that we can find storage space at the church and volunteers to help us run the stall.

If you would like to find out more, please find us at <https://churchdownzero.co.uk> or on Facebook at <https://facebook.com/churchdownzero>

*Ben & Jo Witchard*

Also, this year, Sarah Wright joined our PCC, and is working with a wider environment team, and the Diocese, to encourage us individually and as a Church, so we can be a blessing, and not a burden to our beautiful world. More details will follow this next year, including an Environment themed All-age service in June.

*Sarah Wright*

**Communications & ChurchSuite:** In our ongoing efforts to expand our reach, we've begun boosting our social media ads to connect with more individuals in Churchdown and beyond. This initiative aims to extend the reach of our message of faith, hope, and community to a wider audience as well as promote what key events are happening in the churches. We have also launched a private Facebook group for church members to share testimonies, prayer requests and notices. Alongside our increased social media presence, we've transitioned to sending out weekly bulletins via ChurchSuite and a monthly newsletter via Mailchimp. These communications platforms serve to keep our church members more informed about upcoming events, prayer requests, ministry opportunities, Vicar's blog, and encouraging stories. We currently run all of our church rotas through ChurchSuite and this has felt like a real step forward over the past year!

We're thankful for these avenues that facilitate effective communication and engagement within our congregation and the wider community. As we continue to refine our strategies, we seek God's wisdom and



guidance in reaching and connecting with every individual. For further details or to stay updated with our communications, please visit our website or contact [comms@stastb.church](mailto:comms@stastb.church) Adam Greenland

**Connect Groups:** Connect Groups are where small gatherings of church members meet in homes at various times during the week. They provide the opportunity for building strong supportive relationships that are difficult to form in a church where there are many members as in St Andrew's & St Bart's. We encourage Connect groups to think about incorporating 4 W's whenever they meet: These are 'Welcome, Worship, Word and Witness'. There is no 'one size fits all' such that each group has its own 'flavour'. As the Bible has much to say about caring for one another, Connect Groups are an ideal setting for this to take place. We have had opportunity over the past year to offer training for our Connect Group leaders with 'in house' and external input. Leaders have been recruited with 3 new groups starting recently. Our aim is to see additional groups formed as we encourage and develop the leadership potential within our 22 existing groups. We remain constantly thankful for the faithful and dedicated ministry of those who lead these groups week by week.

*Joy & Simon Marshall*

**Deanery Synod:** The Diocese of Gloucester is divided into nine "deaneries", which are essentially collections of parishes encouraged to work together on matters of common interest. Each parish is entitled to elect representatives to their Deanery. We are in the Severn Vale Deanery, together with Brockworth, Innsworth and various more rural areas to our North and West; our Deanery is led by Reverend Jacqui Hyde from St John's, Churchdown, whom many of you will know. Three Deanery meetings (known as "Synods") were held in 2023, in Dymock, Highnam and Longhope; and covered topics such as Youth Work across the Diocese, how the Deanery is organised, Parish Share, and issues confronting the national church (including Safeguarding, Governance and Living in Love and Faith). St Andrew's currently has two unfilled positions at the Deanery, and we would encourage anyone who is interested in wider church matters to put themselves forward for what is not an onerous responsibility. Anyone wishing to find out more should please speak to me or Reverend John.

*Steve Riddick*

**DIY Team:** The DIY ministry currently consists of four gifted men who look after the church building. Any DIY tasks are sent to the team, then allocated to the appropriate person to carry out. We have only been together for a few months so are still finding our feet. We shall be meeting up shortly to discuss how things have been going, to have coffee and to pray together. God has blessed the ministry by the fact that it hasn't cost much to carry out the repairs. I would like to see the ministry grow with the possibility of helping some of our church members in need with small home DIY tasks.

We haven't had any highlights so far unless you count the toilet being repaired in the gents (more of a flushing success.)

I think all the glory for God is evident as the building looks lovely and is comfortable to worship in.

I would like to ask for continued prayers for our safety as we carry out the work and for new members to join us.

*Dave Parry*

**Friday's Kitchen:** Friday's Kitchen meets twice a month in the main hall at the Church Centre (usually 1st & 3rd weeks) during term time. We welcome all ages and serve a choice of soups and a buffet style lunch, with tea & coffee, from 12noon to 1:30pm.

As well as regular Church members who attend we open the doors to our community. This gives us the opportunity to show love and hospitality to others. The kitchen volunteers enjoy the time together preparing the food and we strive to cater for allergies and dietary requirements. For the future we are hoping to have more information available on the tables e.g. what's on and upcoming, our Vicar's blog and prayer request sheets. There is no charge for the lunch but donations are gratefully received.

Prayer requests:-

for friendships to develop and grow

for the love of Jesus to be shown

for opportunities to tell newcomers about the life of the Church and for them to feel welcomed and encouraged

for more volunteers to serve in the kitchen and for more soup & cake makers

for the overall safety of the food and everyone attending.

*Sue Ellison*

**Hospitality:** St Andrew's Church kitchen offers us a fantastic resource to provide hospitality for a range of situations. In 2023 we said goodbye and thank you to Jane Badley who had led the Kitchen with a tremendous passion for her ministry and a thorough eye on establishing robust kitchen procedures. In 2024 the new Kitchen Leadership Team was formed to continue Jane's great work. This is made up of Sue Conaty (CAMEO), Sue Ellison (Friday's Kitchen) and Chantal Whitehouse (BLT). Over the past year we have provided: refreshments for services and church-based groups, lunch at BLT, CAMEO and Friday's Kitchen, an evening meal for ALPHA, Women's and Men's breakfasts, a meal for visiting clergy groups, and hosting the first ever Church Weekend at Home. Those booking the church for lettings also have the opportunity to use the kitchen. If you'd like to become more involved, or just know more, please do ask. We are proud to announce that we were awarded a 5 star rating following a food hygiene inspection in March from Tewkesbury Borough Council.

*Matt Waterfield*

**Meals Ministry:** The meals in the community ministry is a group of 25 women and men from within the St Andrew's church family who have volunteered to be asked to provide a meal when needed. Meals are provided to families and individuals to help in situations such as illness/injury, the birth of a baby, bereavement, and significant lifechanging events. Meal rotas are organised by using an online scheduling website called 'Take Them a Meal'. Team members can sign up quickly and easily by using a link which is sent to them in a WhatsApp group. In the last year we provided 126 meals to 16 families. The prayer point last year was for the Lord to provide two or three more people to join the team, and I am excited to say that we welcomed three new people to the meal makers team this year, which is wonderful! Thank you to all the people on the meals team, who so willingly and reliably make wonderful meals for people. It is a joy to be able to provide homemade meals to people in their time of need, and if you enjoy cooking and are interested in getting involved with this ministry, we would love for you to get in touch by contacting Christina Castrolillo at [christinagingerich@hotmail.com](mailto:christinagingerich@hotmail.com). Prayer point: we pray that God would continue to use the conversations that take place with people when delivering a meal as an opportunity to build relationships and community and that people would feel the love of Jesus through this ministry.

*Christina Castrolillo*

**Men's Ministry:** The men's ministries at St Andrew's and St Bartholomew's work to help us to love God with all our masculine heart / to care for men in our communities / to make men disciples of Jesus. We hold breakfasts every other month, with usually between 30 and 45 attending. We serve a full English and have had a range of speakers on living as followers of Jesus, with times of prayer and sung worship. We have started a monthly outdoor activity: walking, cycling or canoeing. These are opportunities for men to enjoy God and each other's company doing something fun and active. Twice-monthly Friday evenings at the Old Elm are a place where men can talk about what matters, and we have had some great conversations there about God, life, family and everything else. We are beginning to work with the Youth ministries to help young men in their transition to adulthood. Several more men are now involved in making all this possible. Please thank God for being present with us, and that more men would come along and see how good God is when we get together. If you want to know more, you can contact Andy Champness at [andychampness@gmail.com](mailto:andychampness@gmail.com). Information is also available in Church notices. Better still, sign up on ChurchSuite and get automatic notifications of events.

*Andy Champness*

**Mission Team:** The church continued to support mission by providing facilities, volunteers, prayer, and financial giving to its mission partners throughout the year. The Mission Team enables this, but many aspects of church life are Missional.

Some highlights from 2023:

The Mission Team led Mission Sunday in October at both morning services. Key mission partners contributed through videos played and stalls in the main hall, including children's activities.

10% of the church's unrestricted voluntary giving plus individuals' gifts is given to mission partners. In 2023 this amounted to £39k in total, disbursed to enable to 25 mission partners - some serving close to home such as the 'Hungry No More' local Churchdown foodbank, Gloucester City Mission, and Teens In Crisis, and others in distant countries, such as Africa Inland Church planting churches in Kenya and the international work of Wycliffe Bible Translators.

A special appeal for the Turkey/Syria earthquake relief efforts raised £4.2k which was distributed through Open Doors and Samarra's Aid.

At Christmas the church participated in two schemes for children in difficult circumstances – Operation Christmas Child providing shoe boxes of gifts to poor areas of the world and locally through Angel Tree gifts for children of women prisoners in the UK.

*Angus Johnson*

**Pastoral Care & Home Communion Visits:** Over this year we have sought to introduce a bit more structure into our pastoral care provision within our churches. A pastoral team has been established which seeks to meet three times a year for both updating and training purposes and a 'draft' pastoral care policy developed. Currently the safeguarding and training requirements for various roles are being evaluated. As usual we rely on church members to be committed to love one another because we ourselves are first loved by God and therefore help others in their hour of need – thank you. Rosi White oversees Families and Nigel Roe the Adult pastoral care. Included in pastoral care provision is Bereavement Support and Cafe (Sarah Smith); Home Communion; Meal Provision; Pastoral concerns; Prayer and visits. Once again, a special thank you to all those who have contributed to the pastoral care within our churches. It could not be achieved without you. For more details on pastoral care and support do visit the church website or contact either Rosi White or Nigel Roe.

*Nigel Roe*

**Prayer Chain:** A group of faithful prayers are informed when there are specific, urgent prayer needs within the church family. This is called the Prayer Chain and it is co-ordinated by Julie Ingram. Messages are sent to her and she passes them on to the chain. It is completely confidential within the group of about 20 people. To contact the prayer chain for significant needs, email [prayerchain@stastb.church](mailto:prayerchain@stastb.church) Prayer is powerful and there have been some wonderful answers. 'The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective' James 5 :16b.

*Julie Ingram*

**Prayer Ministry:** ‘And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.’ Ephesians 6:18

Prayer Ministry team members offer to pray with individuals, in church, at the end of every 10.30am service; during communion at many 9am services; and when requested at evening services or other events. Team members are on a rota for a particular Sunday of the month, and we pair up to pray. The team meets before the services to pray for each other, and wait on the Lord, in case He gives a word/picture to share. Then we make ourselves available to pray for whoever comes forward, in the name of Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit. It's great to witness God ministering to people during these times, with healing, encouragement, wisdom, comfort, guidance etc. It's also encouraging to see church members praying for those around them after the services. I'm thankful for the continued commitment of many long-standing team members to this ministry, as well as for those who have been assisting in extending this to the 9am services, this year. *Kath Baker* ([ankbaker@hotmail.com](mailto:ankbaker@hotmail.com))

**Prayer on Thursdays:** Thirty or more years ago we felt that we regularly needed to commit the life of our church to the Lord in prayer. Prayer for the events that were to happen, thanks for the things that had happened and prayer for discernment of his will for the way forward. We have been doing this regularly ever since in various forms and he has led us through many exciting chapters of the life of the church here in Churchdown. We have seen so many answers to prayer over the years, some small and some large. We currently meet on Zoom most Thursday evenings at 7:30 for 40 minutes. We are a small group but with a good cross section of our church community and would love to see more people come and help with this vital ministry.

*Richard Waters*

**Safeguarding:** Whilst everyone in our community is responsible for safeguarding the children and vulnerable adults within our community, there is a core team of us that meet regularly to ensure that the formal systems and documents required to support this are robust, up to date and user-friendly.

The work of our church core team is supported by the local Diocesan Safeguarding team who have lots of useful information, training and guidance to help us navigate any issues that arise. We are here to implement strategies to support any individuals subject to formal safeguarding processes to continue to attend church activities with confidence.

This year I am grateful for God's provision of an additional team member, an administrative support, to assist with the data manipulation and organisation of the 180+ volunteers that St Andrew's benefits from. It has been a huge answer to prayer and has certainly impacted the role and work of the PSO in a positive way. The evolution of the spreadsheet and data around 12 steps of safer recruitment and safeguarding training continues. We are confident that anyone volunteering or wishing to volunteer with children or young people within St Andrew's is recruited in line with the 12 steps of safer recruitment. This work continues to roll out

across other teams with current focus on the pastoral care team and with a view to rolling this out across all volunteers in due course.

I am currently working on the development of a set of paperwork to support team leaders with their safer recruitment of new volunteers. This will also support team leaders to ensure that the information and training of existing volunteers is up to date. Please pray that we are quietly guided to every safeguarding situation and that there are always capable people ready to support those who are in need.

Our Safeguarding policy is on our website <https://www.stastb.church/safeguarding> and more contact information is available outside the church office.

*Corinne Phillimore*

**The Knitters:** St Andrew's Knitters meet in the Church Centre every Thursday morning from 10am to 12 noon and refreshments of tea or coffee and biscuits are provided. We regularly have twenty or more ladies attend each week and it provides a valuable outreach group to the local community. In 2023 we raised £2,350 for the Gloucester Foodbank run by the Trussell Trust. We also donate items to the premature baby unit at Gloucester Royal, hats and scarves to Gloucester City Mission and the Cathedral Breakfast club and knitwear to Gloucestershire Bundles and the Elim Charity shop. We are thankful for some very generous donations of wool and we have a large supply available. New members always welcome. For more information contact Anne Ewart 07751784083

*Anne Ewart*

**The Producers:** The Producers is a group that promotes the health and well-being of men who suffer with long-term chronic pain. It is open to the wider community and comes under the heading of social prescribing. Repairs, refurbishment and construction of new items including benches, raised veg beds and garden planters are worked on every Tuesday in the Church Centre. Through listening and talking to each other (including tea and cake) strong bonds have been made and a new inner confidence has occurred within the group.

I believe that the right people have been involved from the start nearly 8 years ago to oversee God's work in giving hope to men who sometimes have no hope. If you need any more information or need anything, please contact Julian 07778039216.

*Julian Myrans*

**Welcome and Information Teams:** The Welcome Team is responsible for making our church family and visitors feel welcome and comfortable in church. They greet people as they arrive, try hard to spot people who are new or unsure of where to go, provide key information to newcomers and make/serve the refreshments after the service, helping to facilitate conversations which are an important part of our community, encouraging people to connect. We are always seeking new team members!

Whilst we have a dedicated welcome team, many of them are engaged in some of the more organisational tasks after the service, e.g. serving drinks, and can easily miss new people. It's therefore important to make the welcoming of newcomers, spotting people on their own, and chatting with them, a priority for all of us, ensuring that every person who walks through our doors feels comfortable to be here and welcomed. Can I challenge us all to keep our eyes open for those around us who are not yet connected to others in the church? Please pray for people who are new or who feel on the margins and for us all to notice and act.

*Celia Anderson*

**Women's Ministry:** There are a number of groups and events for women at St Andrew's. Most of the women's connect groups are weekly. The women's breakfasts are termly and then we have an annual women's day conference. The women's ministries have recently worked with the youth pastor in supporting the youth girls. Through the fellowship and testimonies we share in all these women's ministries, we continue to embrace the transformative message of Christ's grace and truth. The groups are a huge encouragement and they strengthen our faith, challenge us, inspire us and it is a great place to support each other. We hope to continue to be deeply convicted to live in a way that reflects Christ.

*Rebecca Maughan*

**Worship & Tech Teams:** The Worship Team provides musicians and singers for the 10.30 and 18.00 services at St Andrew's. These services have a contemporary style of sung worship led by a worship leader and band. The worship at these services utilises a rich mixture of musical sources from the last two centuries - traditional hymns that suit a band arrangement, more recent hymns from composers such as Stuart Townend and Phil Wickham, and modern worship songs from ministries such as Hillsong, Bethel, Vineyard, Elevation and Passion that have inspired worship over the church worldwide. The Worship Team is led by Rhiannon Reeves, Worship & Creative Pastor, but otherwise comprises of volunteers, and altogether there are currently over 30 people involved in the ministry. We are so thankful to God for providing new and capable musicians at just the right moments. We also have the joy of building up a youth band on a Monday night, some of whom have been integrated into our Sunday teams.

The Tech Team is involved in supporting all morning and evening services at St Andrew's. At every service we have personnel running the sound desk and data projection. At the 10.30 we also have people operating the livestream and cameras. Tech Team members also coordinate the installation and maintenance of the necessary hardware and software that supports our worship. In all, 16 volunteers are involved in the ministry. It's been really pleasing to get some of our youth participating in the Tech Team. We pray that this ministry continues to make our services accessible, audible, atmospheric, and enjoyable and that God never ceases to sustain it with able volunteers.

*Rhiannon Reeves*

**Youth:** Our goal in Youth Ministry is to offer a fun and welcoming atmosphere, and a place where youth are challenged and comforted by God's grace through Jesus.

My name is Jamie and I was appointed as a Youth Pastor in July 2023 moving from California. After months of learning, building relationships and creating structure, so far it's all been remarkable.

Our flagship meeting is Monday Night Youth with worship, games, and discussion with 40-50 youth attending from Y7-13. We have 13 youth leaders who have undergone the Safer Recruitment process from diverse ages, personalities and backgrounds to lead.

On Sunday Mornings, we have age-appropriate Bible lessons and socialising. On Sunday evenings are Discipleship Nights for older youth (Y10-13) to connect deeper with the Bible and foster community. Friday Night Socials happen every Friday before half-term like Quiz Night, Film Nights, Football, Karaoke etc.

Our Youth Spring Retreat will be 24-27 May in Devon where we're bringing 40-45 for fun times by the sea and learning from the Bible. Finally, there's Satellites, a Christian Youth Festival in August, where we join 1000s of youth with passionate speakers, powerful worship, and packed events! For more info, go to [stastb.church/youth](http://stastb.church/youth)

*Jamie Flores*

**12. Finance report and audited accounts:** Over the last year as Acting Treasurer I have greatly appreciated the support of Steve Riddick, Chris Jones, Matt Waterfield and Roger Price on our Finance Committee as well as our Assistant Treasurers Alice Oakes and Di Rowe. After years of dedicated service Alice and Di have now handed over to Alison Salcombe in a new role of Finance Officer. Christopher Phillimore has stepped into another new role as Stewardship Advisor to assist people give effectively to support the work of the church and Matt Waterfield now seeks to improve the way we manage our spending. Although Rachel Limbrick left her Treasurer role over a year ago, she has been very helpful in putting together our statutory financial accounts for 2023. We hope to continue to refresh the team controlling our finances and are still looking for a new voluntary Treasurer to oversee the team.

Staff costs continue to account for nearly 40% of our expenditure with our contribution to the diocese accounting for nearly 25%. The other major areas of spending are maintaining and servicing our buildings and support for our mission partners. The vast majority of our expenditure is funded by personal giving to the church. This giving has fallen slightly over the last year and our total income is falling below expenditure. Although we think that we can cope with this fall by using reserves this year, income and expenditure will need to be brought back into balance in the medium term.

*Andrew Smith*