

Annual Review 2021



St Andrew's & All Saints

Partnering with God in the flourishing of our communities

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Rector's Review

"We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you" (2 Chronicles 2:20)

This was certainly our 'verse of the year' for 2021 as we continued to live with the uncertainty and disruption of the COVID pandemic. The year began with us going fully online again for the first 3 months of the year during 'Lockdown 2' and it was a great relief for some of us to be able to return to in-person services just before Easter, whilst still continuing online for those who were not ready to return yet.

The summer term brought a time of experimenting with different times and types of service – introducing the weekly midweek service and evening service at St Andrew's in order to maintain effective social distancing. At the same time as this, we committed to pray at All Saints each Wednesday morning, ably led by Janet Finch, to fix our eyes on Jesus and seek Him for future direction of service patterns across our team. This was a very special time of God leading us forward and uniting us together, so that by the time the joint PCCs met in early October, there was real unity and agreement about the way forward. At this PCC meeting Dave gave a word which seemed to really resonate, about God showing us that St Andrew's & All Saints had been on a journey of being drawn closer together, starting with 'courtship' (2002-2014), then 'engagement' (2015-2020) and now was the time for the 'marriage.' This new season was to be a season where we no longer saw the ministries and missions as either 'St Andrew's' and 'All Saints,' but that everything was now to be joint and shared as 'St Andrew's and All Saints.' We are in the process of working out what this exactly looks like, but there is a new sense of 'working together' in a way which means that we are stronger and healthier together and can offer more to our congregations and communities because we are 'one.' We thank God that He led us in those times of uncertainty to show us the 'new thing' that He is doing among us.

This change has also brought loss, which has been difficult for some, but I'm very grateful for the

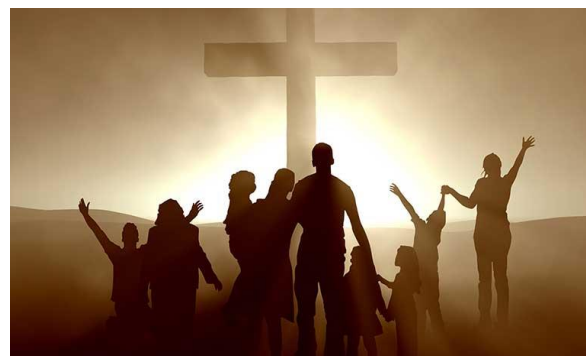


grace and support and understanding that has been shown by everyone as we have sought to be obedient to where God has been leading us. Loss also occurred at the end of the Summer as we said farewell to Eddy, our Youth Minister, Hannah and Oliver as they moved to Cambridge for Eddy to start his training for ordination. We were so sorry to see them go, but held a fantastic 'farewell' to them with crazy golf and hog roast in the car park at St Andrew's. As we write we are re-advertising once more for Eddy's replacement and are praying for God's appointed person to come

and fulfil that role. With Peter, our curate, leaving us before Easter in 2022 there are huge changes ahead, but we continue to be grateful to God for His provision and celebrate that nearly 90 new people joined us across St Andrew's & All Saints during 2021. So we go into the new year trusting God's provision once more, and knowing that even though we may not know what to do, that we can know that if we look to him, He will provide and He is in control.

Dave

Encountering Jesus in Worship, Prayer, Word and Spirit



OVERVIEW OF SERVICES

St Andrew's Services

It has been so encouraging to see the new services and different service pattern developing over recent months to offer a greater variety of styles and times of worship. The **midweek service** which is now at 11am on a Thursday is growing into a very special community of around 30 people who are looking for something of a blend of traditional with a bit of contemporary. Many of the old 9am congregation have returned to this, and a few new people (particularly those who have come through our bereavement support), and we hope soon, to start a monthly soup lunch after the service to continue to build community further.

The **10:30am** continues to be the most popular service and is lovely to see many new people, and particularly families, joining this congregation in recent months. The introduction of the evening service has allowed us to make this a little more family and children focussed, and the children's groups, crèche and Pathfinders (11-14) meet during this service.



The Six – our new evening service – has developed its own simple style of extended worship, testimony, interactive preach and time of response, and we have had some very special services in recent months with people enjoying the more relaxed, spacious place to encounter God. CHAOS (14-18) now meet in the church hall alongside this service and we hope that they might be able to be involved in ministry at these services at times in 2022.

Dave Bruce

All Saints' Services

Our hope is that everyone who attends our services will encounter Jesus, deepen their faith and feel part of a loving and welcoming family of faith. This last year has seen significant change at All Saints in response to the pandemic. When we returned to 'in person' services we opted to host one communion service at 10am on Sunday mornings rather than the two services we held before covid. This new service aims to blend both contemporary and traditional worship and is now live streamed for those who wish to access it online. Our weekly prayer meeting at 9am on Wednesday has played a critical part in discerning God's direction for the church at this time, and we are thrilled that our Toddlers group and Messy Church have returned too.

Peter Myres

Prayer

As a worshipping community we believe prayer underpins everything we do and is foundational as we aspire to hear and understand how God is leading us to serve our community and one another. Outside our Sunday worship, we gather to pray as a community on Wednesday's at All Saints and on Fridays at St Andrews, as well as in the various Life Groups. In addition we share the needs of the church via a prayer chain which allows people to request prayer and share testimony of what God is doing.

Peter Myres

The Waiting Room



Through the Pandemic we have kept the 'Waiting Room' going in our own homes, with a candle or other helpful symbols. Since October a group has met again in All Saints Church to simply spend time together in the silence, and in the Presence of God. In this way we experience an ever deeper relaxation and 'encounter' with God. As someone said: it is, in fact, 'God waiting for us.'

We will continue to meet between 7-8 pm every third Wednesday in All Saints Church. All are welcome.

Paul and Diana Hunt and the co-ordinating group

Confirmations and Baptism



Some of the highlights of the year have been our confirmation and baptism services. On November 7th, ten people were confirmed by Bishop Martin, the Bishop of Dudley, including two who had come to faith through Alpha during the pandemic – Russell and Denise. Hearing their testimonies and journeys of how God had drawn them to us was so inspiring.

The previous week we baptised both John Booth and then Lucy Horwood in a very special, full immersion baptism service with Lucy sharing her amazing testimony/preach to a packed church.

We've also been able to have infant baptisms begin again, and it has been great to welcome some families, especially those who have come through our Early Birds Service and Toddlers.

Dave Bruce



GROWING WHOLE-LIFE, LIFE-LONG DISCIPLES



Life Groups

Life groups have continued to thrive in 2021. Four new groups have started: there are now 16 groups meeting at various times during the week. In September a specific online group started, facilitating other groups to return to meeting in person. One or two operate a hybrid Zoom/in-person meeting.

There has been strong emphasis on mutual care and support for group members during the pandemic. In addition, all groups support people in their walk with God, spending time in prayer and studying God's Word. Many link discussions to the current sermon series. Leaders also encourage members in their outreach to friends, family, colleagues or the wider community.

Val Fane, Life Group Co-ordinator

New Wine at Home



With New Wine going online again this year, we had the opportunity to have 'New Wine at Home' opening up church to watch each morning or evening session. We had around 30 people attending each session on average and had a great time listening to the inspiring talks and joining in with thousands around the country worshipping God. Several of the evenings we gathered outside at St Andrew's around a fire pit to have fellowship and

reflect on the meetings together, and then were able to go home for a lovely comfortable night's sleep instead of a night in a tent. Several of the talks particularly resonated with us – especially Frances Chan talking about unity and Carl Beech talking about how we might create new worshipping communities in more deprived areas which inspired us to pray about 'Church at the Octagon.' We all left refreshed and inspired, with our faith raised about just what God can do.



Dave Bruce

Pastoral Ministry

The last 2 years of pandemic have been a really tough time for us all, and those who have had other significant issues to face have had it even harder. We continue to be grateful to have a culture where we all seek to look out and care for each other, whether it is through the life groups, the buddy system at All Saints, the welcome team or through friendships. So much caring just happens, unprompted – phone calls are made, meals delivered and coffees drunk. Thank you all of you who care so well for each other.

In Summer 2021 we held a series of ‘reconnecting events’ to simply connect with each other again after being apart for so long during the pandemic.

In 2022 we are going to explore whether we can set up a Pastoral team at St Andrew’s in addition to what already goes on, to relieve some of the pressure from Dave and ensure that no one slips through the gaps.



Dave Bruce

St Andrew’s and All Saints’ YouTube channel

For most of 2021 we were unable to hold services ‘in-person’ or had severe attendance limitations in order to maintain social distancing. In addition, we had members who needed to keep safe or isolate.

Throughout the year we have produced at least two online services each week available through our YouTube Channel (www.youtube.com/c/StAndrewsandAllSaints), website and via DVDs for those without internet access.

For most of the year the online services were:

- Live streaming of the All Saints 10:00 Sunday morning services, normally including Holy Communion.
- Recording of the St Andrew’s 10:30 Sunday morning contemporary services available online the same afternoon.

Typically, these online services together have had between 120 and 300 weekly viewings from around the world. Whilst this has reduced towards the lower end as more people attend services ‘in-person’, we plan to continue to offer these online services for people unable to attend.

Thank you to all those who have helped make this possible during the year.

Derek Barnes

Reaching and growing the next Generation



Messy Church

We praise God that we were able to keep contact with our families on Zoom during lockdown, enjoying watching them getting Messy in their own homes! It was a real joy to restart our 'in person' sessions in June, from 3.45 – 5pm, meeting on the third Thursday of each month. We welcome 8-10 families per session, they book in with Helen, and sit around their own table, thus restricting movement. Our Christmas Messy was particularly exciting showing the Bible Society video – The Impossible Promise, when we dared to do finger painting. We were thrilled that so many families came to the Messy tent at the Village Fete, catching up with families we had not seen for a while. Our theme has been 'Stories Jesus Told', including The Prodigal Son, The Wise and Foolish Builders, the Sower and The Good Samaritan. In 2022 we are learning about trusting God, sharing the stories of Old Testament heroes.

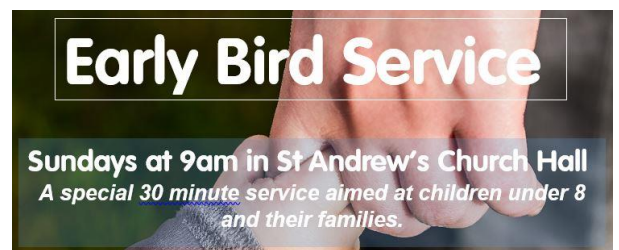


Helen Attree

Early Bird Service

Early Birds is a family friendly service for families with young children, meeting on the first, third and fifth Sundays at 9am at St Andrew's.

For the first seven months of 2021 around 11 families met regularly on Zoom with resources delivered to their homes each week. We began meeting again in person in August with



families bringing a picnic blanket to sit on, starting each session with our favourite Jumping for God song, followed by a story, a thought for grown-ups, crafts, a song, a creative prayer activity and ending by saying the grace together (with actions). It is a real joy seeing these young children worshipping God with their parents, learning of God's love for them and being part of an amazing church family.

Helen Attree

Children's Sunday Groups and Online Activities

Well, it was an interesting year for our children's groups. The team continued to record a Bible story, craft and prayer activities to go onto our YouTube channel each week up until the end of July. We are so grateful to everyone who came up with some amazing ideas for telling the stories and to Simon Noble for editing and uploading the videos each week. They were a real blessing to so many families.

At the beginning of the year we started a Zoom group meeting on Sunday mornings with resources delivered to families each week. Although a small group, we enjoyed our times together.

In the summer, at St Andrew's, we began to meet in person outside on the grass in front of church – a mixed age group. We had fun playing games together, making things and just enjoying being back together again. Once we were able to meet inside again we re-opened the crèche and two children's groups and we have a great time each week, exploring our faith, learning about God and what it means to be a follower of Jesus. At All Saints we have a crèche where little ones can play during the service.

Helen Attree

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Youth Ministry

This year was a significant time of transition in our youth. Eddy completed his three years with us and moved to Cambridge to train for ordination. His last Sunday with us was a very special one, as he not only preached, but prayed for 10 of our young people who were moving on to new schools or jobs and commissioned George Wharton as our Youth and Children's Intern as the first part of his gap year. The youth provision grew hugely during Eddy's time with us and we are really grateful for his, and Hannah's faithful service during their time in Malvern. It was so encouraging to see our large group of youth gathering with him at his leaving party and we are so grateful to God for all the young people He has given us. George stepped up into his role for the Autumn term, keeping the youth connected, organising social events, helping out with children's groups and setting up 5 a side football on a Thursday night. Sadly, we had to say goodbye to him too as he left for Australia for the second half of his gap year just after Christmas.



Dave Bruce

CHAOS

CHAOS (14-19) continues to meet alongside the evening service each Sunday and we get 10-18 young people attend each week. In the Autumn term, Dave led them through the SHAPE course before Alice Bruce took over assisted by Simon Noble and Ellie Quinlan, with several guest speakers coming in to share their stories for the weeks before Christmas.

Dave Bruce

Youth Alpha

In the Autumn term, once COVID had settled down a little, we were able to put on a Malvern Youth Alpha course for 20 young people from 4 different schools and 5 different churches. George, with the help of Toby (the intern from the Source) headed it up as we met on Monday after school each week to watch the youth videos, eat pizza and discuss together. It was a very special time and great to see youth from different churches connecting together. We had an away day on a Saturday in late November



which had to be moved at the last minute from All Saints due to the water being cut off, but this did not stop us from having a great day where several of the youth made some sort of commitment.

We hope that this sort of collaboration between churches and youth leaders is something that we will be able to grow in the coming year once we have recruited a new Youth Minister.

Dave Bruce

Toddlers

After 18 months of no groups we made the first tentative steps to reopen in August with weekly sessions at St Andrew's for 'not yet mobile' babies and their parents, a small group but much needed for the families that joined us. In September both All Saints Toddlers (Thursday mornings) and Little Treasures at St Andrew's (Friday Mornings) re-opened and the groups have been a real blessing for the families who have joined us, as many of the toddlers who came had no experience of mixing with other children. It has been a real joy to see them grow in confidence and learn to play with each other. We have welcomed some new members to the team and it's lovely to see how all the team care for the families who come. It's a real privilege to be able to serve God in this ministry!

Helen Attree

Schools

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, access to schools over the year was very limited, so it was very special to see Malvern Wells School and the Wyche School in All Saints Church for their Harvest celebrations. For many of the children it was the first time they had ever been in church! We invited the schools to two performances by 4Front Theatre in All Saints Church at the beginning of December which were very much enjoyed and then the schools returned for their Christmas performances/Carol services later in the month. We were also able to give Malvern Parish the opportunity to see 4Front Theatre's production (The Satellite Before Christmas!) in their school. We are very much looking forward to being able to visit the schools in person for assemblies and lessons in the New Year.

We have several members of our congregations who serve on the governing body of 4 different schools. This is a really important way in which we can serve our community and ensure that the Christian values of the schools are upheld. We currently have vacancies in all four of our schools, so if you are interested in serving in this way, please speak to Dave or Helen.

Helen Attree

Seeing Lives Transformed and communities flourish as we demonstrate and proclaim God's Kingdom.



ALPHA online



In last year's Annual Review in April 2021 we were just coming to the end of our second online Alpha course, and again God had blessed us beyond expectations, with new faith being discovered, where joy and hope had been absent – and a sense of new horizons being discovered

and explored, which we have continued to witness over the remainder of the year.

After a rest over the summer we embarked on a new platform for Alpha in the Autumn term – joining with 3 other churches in Malvern to jointly run a coffee shop style 'in person' Alpha. The unity this displayed was in itself a blessing, but God was in the business of doing even more – with lives being transformed and again faith being discovered and nurtured.

We continue to praise God for the wonderful blessings He sheds on our community and His never ending love in welcoming new souls into His kingdom.

Colin & Marion Robbins

Occasional Offices



Occasional offices continue to be a really important way of serving our local community. Because of the pandemic, the numbers of baptisms and funerals that we are being asked to take are slightly down on normal, but we continue to make really meaningful connections with people in our communities through these events.

It has been great to have a few weddings too this year, the highlight being the wedding of Christie Hornby to

Nathan in July on a very special day!

Dave Bruce

Octagon Ministries & Pantry

At the start of 2021 we were continuing our 'Cook & Eat' project, helping around 20 families with all the ingredients to cook new recipes that they may not have tried before.

Throughout the year the Community Pantry has

been open, offering a wide variety of surplus food to the community for a £2 donation.



Around 180 – 220kg of food is delivered to the Octagon each week from FareShare; fresh and frozen, fruit and vegetables and some dry goods too. Around 30 - 40 people use the pantry each week and they are served by a team of volunteers, mainly from our two churches.

In the summer, the Thursday Project was started again, meeting outside in August and moving indoors from September and meeting each week. Thursday Project is for families with primary school aged children and between six and twelve families attend regularly. They are able to use the pantry and spend time doing different crafts (some Bible crafts) and activities before sharing a meal together. The meal is cooked as much as possible from FareShare surplus food and it's great to see children eating new foods that they may not have tried before.

Since the autumn a group of us have been meeting on the second and fourth Sunday from 4 – 5pm to pray for all that is happening at the Octagon, for the community around the centre and to listen and try to discern where God may be leading us in our ministries at the Octagon. If you have a heart for this community, we would love you to join us for prayer and/or as a volunteer at any of the activities.

Helen Attree

Octagon Coffee Shop

The team at the Octagon Coffee Shop spent most of 2021 trying to keep in contact with our attendees via the phone and text messages. We continued to send out birthday cards and delivered small gifts at Easter and Harvest. Throughout, we offered prayer support or help with lifts to appointments. Joyfully, we were able to re-open in early November albeit on a different day and with a shorter time slot. For various reasons the team of helpers is quite depleted so we would love for new people to join us as we try to rebuild this ministry. Good listeners are particularly welcome.

Angela Gibson

Holiday@Home

2021 was again a challenging year for Holiday@Home. We weren't going to be able to meet together around Eastertime so on Maundy Thursday 1st April we delivered Easter bags to 63 of our senior friends. Everyone had a little plant, a palm cross, cards made by the children, Easter goodies and an Easter egg. These were greatly appreciated and it was good to be able to chat even if it was at a distance on the doorstep.



However, as Christmas approached, we felt it was safe enough, with as many covid precautions as possible, to hold a Christmas tea party. It was a joy to be back together in Church and 50 guests tucked into a celebratory tea. We sang a medley of carols and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the comradeship of being together again after so long. Very many thanks to all those who made it possible.

Patience Broad

Christians Against Poverty (CAP)



The Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Debt Centre has been operational in Malvern since 2019 and we have been blessed by the support of churches across the town. St Andrew's and All Saints are the lead church in this partnership and we are so grateful for the support in prayer, encouragement and finances from individual believers and the church as a whole. COVID has meant that the last couple of years have been particularly challenging for many in our community and we have seen many more people struggling to make ends meet.

Denise Ditchburn and Chris Mesley are the debt coaches and we work with an amazing team of volunteers from across the churches. God has blessed and provided in so many ways and has opened new doors for this ministry. In 2021 we had just the right number of new clients and all were seen within a few weeks of making an appointment. In August we responded to a request from the churches of Ledbury and Denise now works additional hours to support clients in that town. We had the privilege of seeing several clients become completely free of their debt during the year and others who are progressing on the path to dealing with their financial situation.

On this journey most are supported by a volunteer Befriender and seeing the difference that having this support in their lives is amazing. The Blessings Team has provided practical support to clients in a variety of ways and we continue to engage with others in the area seeking to support those in hardship. 2022 looks exciting as we continue to offer debt counselling and prayerfully look to relaunch the CAP Money Budgeting Course and explore with the partner churches the possibility of running the Life Skills course.

Being involved with CAP is so rewarding and a great opportunity to engage with our communities! Please would you prayerfully consider whether being part of this ministry could be for you. I would love to hear from you.

Chris Mesley (Debt Centre Manager)

07444 481854 chrismesley@capuk.org

St Andrew's Mission Partners 2021

We have continued to support the same world Mission links.

This year we have contributed an additional £1000 to UNOH to help support an apprentice working in their team in Bangkok. Our first supported student, John, at Msalato Theological College in Tanzania sent a video thanking us for his support and we have taken on a second student in training.

It has been a joy to be able to bless some of our own young people who have moved into various new mission activities. Nearer to home, the Church Army work in Greenwich has been even more valuable during the pandemic.

Finally, we have now completed our promised gift to the St Mary's building project and transferred the total £15,000.

UK		Overseas	
Church Army (Nick Russell)	£1,487	Urban Neighbours of Hope (Jon & Elise Fletcher, Thailand)	£2,488
St Mary's Building Project (allocation)	£5,000	Msalato Theological College (Tanzania)	£2,000
Other miscellaneous giving (including short term mission)	£3,242	CMS (Ben & Katie Ray, Tanzania)	£1,200
		Lebanon Bible Society (Mike Bassous)	£1,487
		Josiah Venture (Terry & Hannah English, Czech Republic)	£1,487
		Open Doors	£1,487
		Compassion International	£336
		Siloam	£240
Total	£9,729		£10,725

Nick Fane

All Saints Mission Partners 2021

We gave away a total of £8,110 as our planned giving to Mission Partners in 2021 to both UK and overseas beneficiaries.

In addition to our repeat beneficiaries, we supported the 4Front Theatre Company for their work with our primary Schools at Christmas and Mikey & Bethany Bryant (who came and spoke powerfully at our Harvest Service in the Autumn) for their work with the ELWA Ministry with sick children in Liberia. We also donated £1,000 to the St Mary's Building project but have not included this as a Mission Partner.

Our giving breaks down as follows:



UK		Overseas	
Lyttleton Well	£1,500	Jon and Elise Fletcher (Thailand)	£1,500
Malvern CAP	£1,500	CMS (Peru)	£1,500
4Front Theatre Company	£710	ELWA Ministry (Liberia)	£900
Brook Farm Community Trust	£500		
Total	£4,210		£3,900

Paul Southern

Side by Side Bereavement Café

We re-opened the Bereavement Café at the Railway Inn in June. We meet every Monday from 11am for an hour and a half. We aim to have 3 team members at each session whose role is to encourage and support attendees, giving them a safe space to share their experiences of bereavement. Both men and women come. Some have been with us almost from the group's inception but many more have come recently as a result of losing loved ones during the pandemic.



We encouraged members to attend the excellent courses that Peter ran in the Autumn which explored all aspects of bereavement and to come to the Service of Remembrance and the Quiet Christmas service. We ended the year with a Christmas lunch at the Railway attended by all team members and all regular users of the café, a total of 25 people.

Angela Gibson

Malvern Foodbank

2021 saw a frightening growth in demand for Foodbank help (up 35% on the previous year). We were assisted by receiving significant government grants (so thanks to all you tax payers!). Thanks to all who donate time, money or goods. Keep up the good work – Your Foodbank Needs You!



Peter Buchanan

Lyttelton Well

The Lyttelton Well continues to be a prime example of Christians working together, with professional counsellors and volunteers coming from all the churches. In 2021, counselling moved mostly on-line and the bookshop moved into the counselling rooms, allowing the café to expand. Peter Buchanan (chairman) stepped down from The Board and was replaced by Dr Michael Harper. Other new members of The Board include our own Ken Beecroft (retail) and Kathleen Horwood (counselling). Thanks to individuals and churches who give prayerful and financial support. Do support our now regular quiz evenings (more a fun evening with questions!).

Peter Buchanan

Amen Trust Shoeboxes

In the autumn we started collecting for the Amen Trust shoebox appeal – Amen take shoeboxes full of gifts for the whole family to some of the poorest gypsy camps in Romania. We sent 34 shoeboxes from church along with 13 from the Wyche School and a lovely collection of hand knitted & crocheted blankets, cardigans, hats and gloves to join with the 2417 shoeboxes which travelled to Romania in time for Christmas. Please do think of joining



with this project this year as many more shoeboxes are desperately needed to bless these families who have so little. For more information, please ask Helen Attree.

Reverse Advent Calendars

For each day in November we encouraged folk to put a gift into a bag – a reverse advent calendar – to bless another family before Christmas.

Due to the amazing generosity of church members we were able to bless another 34 families with bags of gifts and Christmas treats. Thank you to everyone who gave in this way!

Helen Attree

Men's Breakfasts

After Easter we began a men's breakfast at Weatherspoon's as a 'reconnection' event to help



the men of the church catch up with each other. This proved a great success with over 40 men attending the first one out on the terrace in the sun, and it has now become a regular monthly event on the first Saturday of the month. In November we had our first speaker, Martin Hall, who spoke on 'Mid life – crisis or calling?' and in the new year we plan to have a speaker every other month to inspire and encourage us as men in our discipleship. Derek Sheldon has kindly offered to oversee this ministry going forward.

Dave Bruce

Malvern Wells Village Fete

After the cancellation of the 2020 event, the Fete was back, with the greatest attendance it has ever had. Our churches were involved from the very beginning with an open air service in the morning and then manning our usual "Church Corner" group of marquees during the afternoon. The ministry team had many worthwhile conversations and we were able to promote Messy Church, Toddlers and other church activities.



The Youth Church excelled themselves, not only in running the games and arena events but also in their willingness to help others in building and knocking down tents and gazebos.

The only downside was that the Classic Cars team won the Tug of War contest.

The 2022 event will be on Sunday 11th September.

Ken Beecroft

Building together



Deanery Synod

In February the deaneries of Malvern and Upton were merged, under the leadership of Area Dean Revd. Mark Badger. This new Deanery Synod has met twice over 2021, once on Zoom and once in person. A new lay chair was elected – Maria Toman.

In the first meeting, held on March 10th, Bishop Martin blessed the new deanery and synod. Then there was discussion on developing and enabling churches to work collaboratively with the three aims of developing mutually supportive relationships, effective mission planning and serving and transforming communities.

September 25th was a morning meeting held in Castlemorton Parish Hall. Lyn Weston, the Director of Church of England relations for LICC, was the invited speaker. She spoke powerfully on the subject of Whole Life Discipleship and being a healthy gathered and scattered church.

At the end of the year a survey was sent out to churches, to canvass priorities for mission and changes needed, along with statistics and demographics for each church. The results, published in December, identified three main priorities as:

- Greater collaboration on children, young people and families work
- Working to provide greater engagement with our communities
- Collaborating to share resources more intentionally.

Maria Toman made visiting and getting to know one another a priority. She has visited individuals and churches, and initiated a number of prayer walks, a Zoom get-together for lay reps to share stories and encouragements, and a cheese and wine evening.

A regular newsletter is now being published by Sarah Kelsey at the Deanery office, which includes stories, biographies, biblical reflections and news.

Angela Davison and Peter Buchanan (All Saints), Jane Mortimore and Carole Nicholls (St Andrew's)

Churches Together Malvern (CTM)

Rev Nigel Coke–Woods is the new and proactive Chairman of CTM and led the first in-person United Service for two years, at MEC this January, during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It was a joyful occasion!



Because it was not possible to do the usual Walks of Witness last Easter, the churches displayed an accessible tableaux telling the Easter story, and many people did the circuit, to view them all over the Malvern area.

Other expressions of united witness have continued, through Lyttelton Well, CAP and Food Bank. Lifepath multi-media materials were prepared and sent to the primary schools.

Heather Williamson

Church Fabric: Buildings and Grounds, All Saints

The church building is in good shape but we do have a Quinquennial Inspection due in 2022 so hope no horrors are revealed! The stone walls in the grounds were repointed but they are fundamentally in good condition. Regular clearing of gutters and downpipes is necessary to avoid water damage and the occasional slipped tile needed replacing.

In the grounds, the clearance work is continuing and we hope that we may achieve a usable outside space later this year. The bank to the west of the church will be cleared of mature shrubs to ensure enough light reaches the west window, and this time we want the bank to have low-level ground cover with some spring bulbs. We are trying to plant with an emphasis on creating a wildlife-friendly environment. We have kept the grounds tidy with the help of some hard-working regulars, but we are always looking for people who would donate their time for 2 or 3 sessions during the year, as extra people would make a real difference.



Thanks go again to Angela Davison and her willing team of hands but also to Sue Potter for tidying up the grounds.

Paul Southern and Angela Davison

Church Fabric: Buildings and Technical Report, St Andrew's

2021 was a bit of a strange year due to the ongoing COVID situation. Nevertheless, a number of key developments in 2021 included:

- Design, installation and refinement of a digital video recording system in church enabling services to be recorded (and live streamed once we have a better broadband available). These services can also be streamed to virtually any room in the church centre and this facility is now used in the crèche most Sunday mornings.
- The office has been moved onto a dedicated PC, enabling the church laptop to be freed up to support visuals for all services.
- The progressive roll out of Microsoft 365 to support both churches.
- Installation of new fridges in the kitchen and foyer.
- Maintenance (including 5-year electrical testing, replacement of bulbs, front doors, boilers, laptops, etc.)
- We've just started the journey towards Net-Zero, in keeping with the Church of England 2030 target, including a first pass through their checklist for parishes.



Having three weekly services each requiring two technical people (sound and laptop) increasing to three for recorded services (Sunday mornings) has created a real challenge in having enough trained technical people available to fill the rota. Fortunately, we have been able to recruit a few additional people and train them up – but we really need a few more volunteers.

Thank you to all those who have helped during the year.

Derek Barnes



All Saints' PCC

All Saints PCC has met six times in 2021, including two joint meetings with St Andrew's PCC. Once again, the APCM was held via Zoom with many joining us remotely. Diana Hunt retired from the PCC but remains a valued contributor.

Meetings continued via Zoom for the first half of the year. A continuing thread was the journey we are on to build Megan's Kitchen, starting with a 'wish list' and closing in on a 'final plan' by the end of 2021.

With the pandemic continuing, service provision and the road ahead were continually reviewed. Finance was also closely monitored.

Staffing, including the departure of Eddy and the search for his replacement alongside the expected departure of Peter Myres to pastures new also influenced discussions around staffing capacity. New Mission partners and the review of Safeguarding policy were also on the agenda for discussion.

The Wednesday Prayer group has fed into many of our meetings as we try to discern where God is at work at All Saints. This is a reminder that God is always at the centre of all that we discuss and decide at PCC and there are currently spaces available if you feel that you would like to join. Please approach Dave or Peter to talk about this.

Sarah Yeadon (PCC Secretary)



St Andrew's PCC

The PCC has met six times in 2021 including two joint meetings with All Saints' PCC. Most of these meetings have been held via Zoom because of Covid.

At the APCM held in April, Carole Nicholls was welcomed as a Deanery Synod Rep, to join Jane Mortimore in this important role. The local Deanery had recently expanded and throughout 2021 has undergone a renewal of activity, as reported at PCC meetings. There is a space for one more rep if anyone is interested.

Andy Lymer has ably steered us through the management of finances and the challenges that the pandemic has presented.

Consideration of how to reconnect with people following lockdown has been an important theme, from which flowed many new initiatives. Other interesting topics discussed have been the Net Zero carbon targets as set by the Church of England and the approval of a new 'Tiny Treasures' group. Safeguarding policies and of course the search for a replacement for Eddy as Youth Minister have also featured.

Prayer continues to be the cornerstone of PCC meetings and we thank God for His provision and guidance.

Sarah Yeadon (PCC Secretary)

Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with its duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.



During 2021, 35 members of the churches have completed DBS checks and 35 members have completed safeguarding training at various levels.

A few safeguarding concerns have arisen during the year, which have been addressed promptly by Dave Bruce and myself. Support and advice have been sought from the Diocese.

The safeguarding group has not needed to meet. The parishes are now compliant with all Church of England requirements. All required documents and procedures are in place and good practice is being implemented.

Val Fane – Parish Safeguarding Officer

TREASURERS' REPORTS

All Saints' Treasurer's Report for 2021

There was some uncertainty about our finances at the start of the year that caused us to build some contingency into our budget which, in the end, was not required. We finished the year with a deficit of £6.5k on unrestricted funds against a budget of an £11.5k deficit.

Income held up pretty well but the reduction in church activities due to the pandemic meant it was a little lower than budget at £67.9k, an effective like-for-like reduction of 3.5% on 2020.

On behalf of the PCC, I wish to thank all of you who so generously supported God's work at All Saints through your giving in exceptional times.

Expenditure of £74.4k, a 5.7% increase on 2020, was also lower than budget due partly to reduced church activities and partly because we didn't use the contingency. We continued to pay our Parish Share of £42.4k in full.

There are significant uncertainties regarding our finances in 2022 e.g. energy costs, staffing costs and parish share and we have set another deficit budget. Clearly, we can't keep on doing that or we will exhaust our reserves. So, once we have a clearer idea of our likely expenditure going forward, we will address the need to balance the budget.

Paul Southern – All Saints' Treasurer

St Andrew's Treasurer's Report for 2021

During the year 2021 the church received voluntary (undesigned or restricted) gifts of just under £125,000 (a 11% decrease on 2020) on which we were able to reclaim a vitally important £30,000 of Gift Aid. Once other income is included (for example, income related to the Church Centre, weddings and funerals and in support of the CAP Malvern Debt Centre etc.) we received a total income in 2021 of just over £237,000 (a 1% decrease overall on 2020).

Our income included a further just over £4,500 towards the Blessing Fund we set up at the end of 2019. We have continued to use this fund in 2021 to support those in need in our community. Our income was also boosted this year by more than £18,000 of government grants to support us in lockdown periods for which we are most grateful – in large part offsetting the continued reduction on our Church Centre income this year that it was paid to help address.

Of this income we spent just over £229,000 on church activities (representing a 5% increase on 2020). This also included payment of just over £81,000 as Parish Share to support clergy costs and the wider Diocese's work (representing 100% of the requested sums). Our staff costs for the year amounted to a further nearly £63,000 of this total. We also gave away (locally and more widely afield) over £30,000 of our income (including a sum of £15,000 to St Mary's church in support of their building project).

Overall, this means the total net funds belonging to the church grew over the year by just under £8,000 to a total of approximately £145,000 (including restricted funds, such as for CAP Malvern, and designated funds, such as the Blessing fund, that together make up approximately one third of these sums).

On behalf of the PCC, I very much want to express my thanks for your very significant giving to God's work at St Andrew's Church this year – not least given the continued pressure on people's incomes over this difficult year for many.

I also wish to offer thanks again to the other members of the Finance team who support the smooth running of the church's finances - Valerie Jamieson (planned giving and gift aid), Chris Hopes (cash management) and in particular to Marion Robbins (bookkeeper). Between the three of them the bulk of the finance work is done. I get the easy bits!

Andy Lymer - St Andrew's Treasurer (treasurer@standrewsmalvern.uk)

Prayer for St Andrew's and All Saints

In the name of Jesus, we bless **St Andrew's & All Saints** and all the other churches of our town, that we will encounter the transforming presence of God more deeply.

In the name of Jesus, we bless our **young people** that they will grow and be filled to overflowing with your Spirit, and shine for you in their schools, with their friends and in their families.

In the name of Jesus, we bless our **communities** that they will flourish with Your life and values, and that lives will be transformed and people's hearts softened to receive the love of God.

Pour out your Spirit on us all, and teach us what it means to walk **with** You.

Amen.



In 2021, our St Andrew's Centre Manager, Doug Meadows sadly had to retire and then passed away after a long battle with cancer. We are so grateful for his 25 years of faithful service to St Andrew's.



Encountering Jesus in Worship, Prayer, Word and Spirit

Growing whole-life, life-long disciples

Seeing lives transformed and communities flourish as
we demonstrate and proclaim God's Kingdom



St Andrew's & All Saints

Partnering with God in the flourishing of our communities

St Andrew's is Registered Charity No 1128973. All Saints is an Excepted Charity