

2021 Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of St Andrew's Church, Dentons Green, St Helens. For APCM on 15th May 2022 and for submission to the Charity Commission.

Highlights of 2021:

Aims and purposes

St. Andrew's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Revd Canon Dr Chris Daniel, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is responsible for the maintenance of the Church building, adjoining hall and gardens.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St. Andrews. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and is committed to ensuring that our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

Our mission statement 'Pray: Grow: Go' continues to reflect our foci. We are committed to encourage and enable discipleship and to create new disciples. We are continuing to encourage people in their faith and to develop their gifts, facilitating leaders is key. We are developing our groups and finding new ways to do church. We are delighted to be working in partnership with the Joshua Centre with a couple of our groups. We respond to social need and provide a health cafe for asylum seekers and refugees and other activities such as a craft group and football. We continue to serve the local community through our work with children, youth, families and adults. Our main aim is to enable ordinary people to explore and live out their faith as part of our parish community.

Achievements and Performance: an overview of some key areas of church life.

Worship and Prayer

Covid Impact: We have continued to follow Government Guidelines with regard to social distancing and guidance for worship throughout the year. As the year progressed restrictions have been eased. The standing committee and PCC have discussed and agreed how to respond, recognising that we have a number of vulnerable members. This has had a dramatic impact on how we have been able to meet together and how we worship.

Regular Sunday Morning Gatherings:

We have continued to provide one morning gathering at 10am. Pre-covid we had 9am, 10am and 10:30 gatherings that offered different styles of worship for different communities. To minimise change-over, sanitising, to aid keeping to guidelines for worship gatherings and bearing in mind our volunteers and attendance we kept to one morning gathering at 10am for everyone.

Gradually restrictions were eased and we have been able to be more relaxed about staying in church for refreshments. However we have continued to keep services shorter i.e. 45-50 minutes. We continued to meet in the wood '**Word in the Wood**' once per month as this was a favourite gathering for families. We also agreed as a team to meet once per month from September at St Helens Parish Church (SHPC) to support them as they become a minster. Whilst this was a good thing in the short term we recognised that not having the building open on a weekly basis was not helpful to those who attend on an ad hoc basis. Whilst it was a joy to worship together in bigger numbers at SHPC many of our regulars did not join the services at all. Therefore at the end of the year we returned to regular 10am morning gatherings at St Andrews. Whilst gradually some familiar people have returned we no longer have the numbers to warrant two morning gatherings. Likewise we don't have a key base of families wanting to attend weekly on a Sunday so we created FEAST (see below). It was a privilege to be asked to join with the Scouts as they celebrated 100 years!

Numbers joining on-line have dropped. We did have some problems recording in the building and we wanted to encourage folk to attend in person so we now only occasionally stream services.

Sunday at 7: Continued to meet using zoom and gradually returned to in-person gatherings. Gradually numbers have increased at this gathering

Wednesday Morning Prayer: As a continuation from the first lockdown a number of folk took it in turns to deliver a short time of Morning prayer using a variety of creative and liturgical means. This continued until restrictions eased in 2021 and the members decided to devote their time to activities in church that were either reopening or being re-invented to encourage people to attend activities in person in church once more.

Bible Study: Bible Study members on Thursday night have continued to meet in 2021. This group is self-directed and met by Zoom for 5-6 week blocks studying books usually recommended by the Church of England. This enabled the group to support their study with online material provided as part of the Church of England's national initiative.

Delivered Liturgy and Newsletters: Aware that not everyone had the technology to gather on-line we delivered liturgy that folk could use to worship at home and delivered printed newsletters at intervals.

Trees: To unite our Sunday reflections, Word in the Wood, retreat etc we adopted a theme from Creation Sunday 2020 based on trees in the bible. Bookended with the tree of knowledge in Genesis and ending with the tree of Life we explored all the trees in the Bible over the year until September. After people trees are the most frequent thing referenced in the bible and we found a whole forest! It helped us see stories in a new light. Resources from the Bible Project were useful.

Putting Roots Down: In the new year we created a DIY retreat that people could take part in at home. Daily prayer reflections and suggestions were released each day on our website for 14 days and members were encouraged to meet and comment via a Whatsapp group. These reflections continue to be available on our website. We were joined by members of other churches who found this helpful.

Lent: Due to the success of the home retreat we continued to post weekly prayer reflections throughout lent leading up to our Easter celebrations.

Easter: It was not possible to meet indoors for Easter. Instead we created a reflective story and prayer walks around our garden that was supported by an audio recording: one for Good Friday and one for Easter Sunday. This was also videoed and put on the website. The craft group did an amazing job of decorating the garden and creating stations to help recall the story. People stopped when passing to take it all in. We were being church inside out! Spontaneously on Easter Sunday whilst a number of people were journeying around the garden Ian brought out his trumpet and we were able to sing Thine Be the Glory.

Lent boxes: building on the success of the Advent Angels we created another box suitable for lent with wooden shapes, stories and prayer.

How Angel Are You? Building on the success of last year we recreated with some amendments our How Angel are You walk through experience:

A variety of reflective stations told the story of Christmas from the perspective of angels: a dinner table scene provoked thought about angels in our midst, broken crockery in a kitchen reminded us of the shock when Mary encountered an angel, feathery tendrils suspended from the ceiling brought to mind the wonder of the shepherds when they saw the heavenly host, suitcases reminded us that Mary and Joseph were forced to be nomadic to keep Jesus safe, a view of a garden reminded us of Jesus' later encounter with an angel before the crucifixion, an enormous lego scene encapsulated the whole story, moving out of the church folk could take their photo in front of some large angel wings.

We were able to invite Bleak Hill and Rivington School. Rivington School were able to bring most of their years to experience the walk through in small groups: at the close we had two live Bethlehem Shepherds sharing their fire and sharing stories! Unfortunately on the days that Bleak Hill were due to come there were insufficient staff well enough to bring the children so representatives from each year came so that they could go back to school afterwards and share what they had seen.

FEAST: Pre covid we had three gatherings that reached primary school age children: Rivi school club, Thrive and our Gateway Gathering. In conjunction with the Joshua Centre who have supported these ventures we reassessed, reconfigured and rebranded! We created FEAST: an opportunity for all of our church family of every generation to gather around a meal, to hear a short reflection and share our own stories together. We had to be careful to observe social distancing. Initially we met on separate

tables but gradually we have been able to be closer. We have been able to welcome some young families as well as a range of people of different generations. We have two sittings, a noisier first sitting at 5pm followed by a more sedate gathering after the children have left to get ready for bed! The lunchclub team have been very generous at contributing their skills to this venture. We tried to involve the members of the lunchclub in this multi-generational worship/fellowship opportunity.

Baptism: During the year we were once again able to offer Infant baptisms at church. Due to restrictions on numbers we have offered these after the main service at 11:30am. This allows families to be free to invite as many people as they like. A number of our church congregation stay to offer a welcome. This has proved to be a successful timing that works for both families and the church. We are once again encouraging families to attend St Andrews three times before agreeing a date.

Funerals: Gradually we have been able to offer more freedom with attendance numbers for funerals at church. We do not get asked to take many funerals for our parish.

Significantly this year we were sorry that Barrie P was very ill and subsequently died. We will miss him very much. He was a committed member of the church over many many years and very loyal to St Andrews. Barrie served faithfully on the PCC and over the years held a variety of roles. We give thanks for his life and his faith. Les G who was on our electoral role also passed away this year.

Eco-Aware: Caring for our environment continues to be part of our expression of worship and is reflected in our purchasing choices. We continue to aim to purchase sustainable items that reflect our ethical values. We meet the parameters of the bronze eco award from La Rocha. We just need someone to submit the paperwork!

Craft Group and Garden: Our creative group continues to use our garden as a backdrop for creative expressions of hope and worship. The globe and triptych wall mosaics are augmented with a variety of knitting, crochet, sewing, felting, wood etc. This has had a particular impact at Easter, and remembrance Sunday. Once again we decorated the church with lights at Christmas and put out the Nativity. It is a great way to offer church 'inside out'. When some of our bunting was found on the retail park a kindly neighbour recognised it and returned it to church!

Schools

We continue to have good links with the two non-faith primary schools in our parish: Bleak Hill and Rivington and also with the local secondary school, Cowley International College.

Bleak Hill and Rivington: Schools have remained cautious about letting in visitors. During the lockdown Chris and Nick created short visual recordings instead of running assemblies. Chris did one short assembly for the Rivi leavers in July and we had hoped to be back in person in September. Some plans were put in place and then stalled. Rivi club team offered to meet parents outside school but due to spikes in numbers this was cancelled. We wait for the go ahead to once again go in person.

Cowley High School: Street pastors are liaising with the headteacher about introducing School Pastors to Cowley.

Groups:

The church is usually so busy hosting a number of groups. Sadly during covid we have not been able to continue all of the groups. There follows a brief overview, starting with those that cater for the youngest.

Sticky Fingers becomes Outdoor Sticky: This group was paused during lockdown. In September volunteers felt confident to open again. It was rebranded 'Outdoor Sticky' to reflect the group's response to covid guidelines. Some new outdoor activity toys were purchased to make the outdoor area more engaging. As a number of families involved pre-covid would now be school age this will mean building up the group again.

Rivi Club: due to ongoing restrictions it has not been possible to continue with Rivi club activities. The team did offer to do an outdoor after school activity but this was cancelled due to spikes in numbers of infections in the school. Lisa B had been engaged to undertake some support work with this group so with permission from Joshua centre we have redirected her time to FEAST.

Thrive, Family Time, Kids Clubs: During covid we amalgamated these groups and volunteers. In September we also embraced the lunch club and created **FEAST** (see above).

Youth Group: We have encouraged our youth to get involved with youth groups based at The Mount funded by Transform.

Luncheon Club: This group was paused during lockdown. We decided that this group had run its course and rather than reinstate it to encourage folk to join FEAST. We contacted all the members. Some wanted to continue to have a meeting in the day so Tuesday Tea and Toast was set up.

Tuesday Tea and Toast: Church is opened on a Tuesday morning by volunteers who offer tea and coffee and toast.

Welcome Cafe and Parish Nurse: Rachel, parish nurse, has adapted her role and continued to keep in touch with asylum seekers and refugees. Due to restrictions this has been more on an individual basis rather than gatherings. The cafe has been running on a monthly basis.

Other groups that use our building:

Due to covid restrictions groups were not able to rent our building since the first lockdown in February 2020. Now that restrictions have eased a few groups have restarted but some have ceased.

Brownies: It has been great that the Brownies have started to meet again. Unfortunately one pack was not able to generate enough members to continue meeting so just one group continues to meet.

Salsa - A group meet on a weekly basis and is growing in numbers.

Clergy:

Curate Nick: This year we said goodbye to Nick and his family. Nick started his first incumbent post in December 21 in Canterbury. He was due to leave us in July 21 so he spent his last six months in the deanery helping out in the Parr team. We have really valued having Nick as part of our team and we wish him and his family well as they move and settle into a new area.

Area Dean: Chris' role at St Andrews is half-time the other half fulfilling the role of Area Dean. This involves coordinating the clergy chapter and facilitating Quadrant Co-ordinators, DMPC, Synod, Deanery Partnership Vision group and Mission and Growth. Now that we have learned to use Zoom some of these meetings can be either in person or virtual.

Chris continues to co-chair the quarterly Bishops Diocesan Advisory Team.

Curate Hub: Chris co-ordinates the local curate training hub for our Archdeaconry deacons and priests. This was restarted in May 21.

Leadership and Discipleship

It has been another challenge to open the church building and find ways to meet together safely and to worship in a good way. We are finding that folk are gradually returning as they feel more confident meeting in person. Some of the developments we were making pre-covid have been stalled - in some ways it feels like starting again!

Electoral Roll:

All are invited to attend our services online, in church or at outside events and this information is published regularly in St Andrew's Connect or via letters to those not online. After the recent Electoral Roll Revision in April 2022 we have 83 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll with no additional names added but 3 removed sadly due to bereavement. Thirty two parishioners are resident within the parish and fifty one of these parishioners are not resident within the parish. The 2021 Statistics For Mission which was sent to the Liverpool Diocese in March 2022 stated the average weekly attendance, for Sunday services counted during 4 weeks in October 2021, was 24 adults and one child.

Deanery Synod

St Andrew's synod representatives attended Deanery Synod meetings via zoom and in person in the Deanery on three occasions and took part in business which included considering an audit of social justice initiatives in the deanery. Members were also updated on clergy vacancies and appointments, Deanery Vision and Mission statements and other initiatives within the Deanery.

A key item introduced in September this year is the Fit For Mission diocesan project. Representatives of our DMPC were first approached to see if FfM would be a good fit for our deanery. St Helens was subsequently asked to be in the first cohort. An initial synod in October were given key documents and discussion took place at synod prior to PCCs considering whether to join the project in this cohort.

Ecumenical Relationships

Chris continues to regularly attend the monthly Church Leaders Hub, which has continued to meet online and now in person. It is a great way to sustain positive relationships with local leaders. Due to ongoing restrictions the shared Pentecost outdoor event deferred to 2021 was postponed again. Instead a booklet was produced and a live stream provided.

The Church Building

Unfortunately the momentum that we hoped to gather with updating the building has been paused by lockdown and we have not made any progress this year. What we recorded in 2019 continues to be important:

We are aware that the main roof needs to be a priority for attention as our architect has highlighted that it will need to be replaced before his next survey (three years). This will mean some serious raising of funds. There are a number of improvements that need to be made to the church space as the walls need decorating, the floor tiles replacing and there are drafty areas near the sound desk. The wooden chairs, whilst comfortable, do continue to cause us

issues when moving and storing. We are beginning conversations with the PCC about the future development of our building. How useful is it in its current configuration, do we need it, could we use it better? This needs some careful and prayerful consideration

We have had grants that have been awarded during the year that help us upkeep the building.

The Flood: unfortunately we had a significant ingress of water to both cellars that did not drain in the usual manner: the dry cellar is no longer dry! A number of church volunteers came to help discharge the water. A significant amount of property stored in the cellars was damaged and we are currently liaising with our insurers to recoup the loss.

Finance: We continue to be concerned about our income as we lost significant income from rentals and weekly giving during 2020/21. We have been fortunate in receiving some financial support from a diocesan fund however we need to address this shortfall and raise significant figures to continue to be able to pay our outgoings.

Health and Safety

Andy is our Health and Safety Officer. He has been going into the building regularly to run the water and make sure that the building is safe.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St. Andrew's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar Chris), churchwarden (Joyce), two readers (Tim and Stephen) and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the Electoral Roll of the church. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The full PCC met on seven occasions during 2021. During the pandemic the PCC were able to meet on Zoom, with an average level of attendance of 85% at meetings. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of committees each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. The **Standing Committee** is the only mandatory sub-committee: Chair (Chris), Curate, Secretary, Warden, worship leader and one PCC member meet prior to a PCC meeting to set the agenda and convene if there is any business that needs to be dealt with in-between PCC meetings. We also have a **Communications group**.

In addition we have a **Development and Vision group:** This is neither an elected group or a sub-committee of the PCC. It is a selection of key members of St Andrews chosen by Chris (currently: Ali, Dan, Gaynor, Suzanne, Joyce, Nick). It is a safe place to dream dreams and explore possibilities. It is here that some new ideas have been birthed. Perhaps we should call it the midwives! This group has no authority and any significant recommendations are run past the Standing Committee or PCC for approval. **Safeguarding** has several roles associated with it and during 2021 this was covered by Revd Nick White as Safeguarding Officer until this role was taken over by Shirley Abrathat in July and Sarah Brooks continued as Lead Recruiter assisted by Nikki Roberts as Recruiter. The current PCC members represent the variety of groups, ages and cultures fairly well.

Volunteers

Once again a big thank-you to everyone who works behind the scenes to keep our church open. People clean toilets and kitchens, they get the hoover out, arrange for people to mend broken boilers, they book in people to rent the building, they open up, arrange rotas and do all sorts of things. Thank-you!!

Thank-you, Thank-you, Thank-you, to everyone who has contributed to St Andrews in such a generous way. So many people work behind the scenes in our building and online. During another very challenging year we have needed every one of you.

Administrative information for 2021

St. Andrews Church, Dentons Green Lane, Merseyside, WA10 6RU is part of the Diocese of Liverpool within the Church of England. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity registered with the Charity Commission. PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2019 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio members:

Incumbent: Revd Canon Dr Chris Daniel (Chairperson)

Curate: Revd Nick White until July 21

Readers: Dr Tim Matthews and Mr S Holland

Warden: Mrs J L Prescott, Warden, Electoral Roll officer

Elected members:

Mrs R Sutton, Parish Nurse

Mr P Prescott, Deanery Synod representative, Secretary

Mrs J S Platt

Mrs G Roberts, Deanery Synod representative

Mr R B Platt

Mr D Winrow, worship leader

Mr A Brooks, Assistant Treasurer, Health and Safety officer

Mr G Traynor

Mrs E Hindley

Mr M Charlesworth (from June 2021)

Approved by the PCC on and signed on their behalf by the Revd Dr Chris Daniel (PCC chairperson)