

# Annual Review 2020



## St Andrew's & All Saints

Partnering with God in the flourishing of our communities

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## RECTOR'S REVIEW

Little did we know at the start of 2020 just what this year would hold. Early in January we sensed God giving us a verse for the year from Isaiah 54:2-3

*'Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide  
Do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes  
For you will spread out to the right and to the left.'*

As we prayed through these verses, we sensed God saying, 'if you drive the tent pegs deep and go deeper with me, I will stretch you to the left and to the right.' It was only when the COVID-19 pandemic fully drove us into lockdown that we began to see what this might all mean. From mid-March we began broadcasting our services online, as our church buildings had to close, and through this God graciously opened up a wonderful opportunity to reach people through our online services, ZOOM Alpha and Christmas activities who we would never have otherwise had the chance to reach. In the midst of real trials and difficulties God has brought significant fruit. We are so grateful to everyone who has worked so hard to allow us to continue 'being the church' in this strange season, but we especially have to mention Derek at St Andrew's and Andy Green at All Saints who have made the technology happen so amazingly behind the scenes!

In many ways God seemed to have already been preparing us for what was ahead. In Autumn 2019 we had preached a sermon series on 1 Peter and reflected on what it meant to be the scattered church and also had recently set up the 'blessings fund' which has enabled us to bless not only members of our congregations who have been hit by hard times, but also others in our community who we have been able to bless through it.

Although many of our key ministries sadly have had to shut down or significantly be restricted over much of this year, God has opened up some new opportunities too, not least the Early Bird Service which has been a real blessing to our young families, and also new ministries working in partnership with the Octagon including the Community Pantry and other initiatives to serve that area of our parishes. As we go forward now, and at some point emerge into the 'new normal,' we will need to discern prayerfully what God is asking us to let go of, adapt and continue into this new season that he is bringing us into.

Amidst the joys there has been sadness too. Over the last year we have lost some of our precious congregation members, not least Megan Oliver who, at 104½, continued to be a faithful and prayerful servant to the very end and whose legacy will long live on at All Saints. In October we were devastated by the tragedy involving the Powell family and we continue to walk with Kevin and Sue and hold them in our prayers.

There are many challenges ahead for the coming year as we discern where God is leading us as what the 'new normal' looks like, but we trust that our God who has been faithful and walked with us in 2020 will continue to provide for us and lead us on.

Dave

## Encountering Jesus in Worship, Prayer, Word and Spirit



### Overview of Services

#### ST ANDREW'S SERVICES

St Andrew's had normal services until March 15<sup>th</sup> when we first went into lockdown and then moved fully online on Mothering Sunday broadcasting, jointly with All Saints, a contemporary and traditional service each week from our homes. Whilst this has been a huge challenge, it has been lovely to see great creativity released through these services and lots of different people taking part through readings, prayers and in particular testimonies.

In September we began to open up in-person services at St Andrew's again for a small group due to social distancing requirements, and it was very special to be able to have children and youth groups happening again, even though we were not fully able to gather together.

We also started a midweek service (which we had been planning to start in the Spring anyway) on a Thursday lunchtime which has had more of a traditional, reflective feel and we hope that this is something that can continue into the 'new normal' in 2021.

Dave Bruce

#### ALL SAINTS SERVICES

Worship at All Saints has been in a state of constant flux due to Covid-19, and we want to recognise the bravery, adaptability, patience and faithfulness of everyone as we have sought to adapt to the pandemic. Thank you, and well done to everyone as we've endeavoured to overcome these difficult circumstances.

We have continued to worship using pre-recorded services, live via Zoom, and following the installation of broadband, now via live streaming on YouTube (special thank you to those involved in making the tech work for this). Let us also not forget that we managed to worship in person for much of the autumn, and at Christmas, too. Covid restrictions have torn up most of our familiar forms of worship but we continue to discover different ways to grow in faith and glorify God.

Peter Myres

#### DEEPER

Deeper was able to take place for the first three months of the year as Peter particularly led a series on prayer ministry throughout January. We did pick DEEPER up again in November for a ZOOM service with guest speaker John McGinley to end the Mission Shaped Living Course.

Dave Bruce

# PRAYER

Arguably prayer is the furnace from which ministry and our own transformation is forged. In light of that, we aspired to maintain a rhythm of prayer in our personal and corporate life throughout this



year of pandemic. This has included our regular weekly Friday community prayers which have often taken place on ZOOM.

Responding to a call to national prayer by the Archbishops in Nov 2020, we hosted 'Friday12', setting aside each Friday to pray from 9am to 9pm, both in person at St Andrew's and online.

Throughout the year Heather has continued to keep the online prayer chain going with

many different requests which we have seen some wonderful answers to.

Peter Myres

## THE WAITING ROOM

'The 'Waiting Room', now towards the end of its third year, has continued regularly in our homes in 'lockdown' every third Wednesday of the month from 7-8 pm (or part of that time as people can manage).

A number of people have found this a great 'Hope' in their lives.

Why not join us in the coming months? All welcome!

Paul and Diana Hunt and the coordinating group



## **GROWING WHOLE-LIFE, LIFE-LONG DISCIPLES**



### **LIFE GROUPS**

Life groups have continued throughout 2020, despite the constraints of lockdowns. There are currently 12 groups, including a new All Saints Group which started in the Autumn led by Janet Finch and Diana Hunt. There has been a strong emphasis on mutual care and support for group members during this very different year. Almost all groups have used Zoom as a platform for meetings. Some groups met in small groups outside, or in groups of six in church when this was permitted.

In addition to pastoral support, all of the groups aim to support people in their walk with God, spending time in prayer and studying God's Word. Many link their 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

### **MISSION SHAPED LIVING COURSE**

Around 25 people joined the online Mission Shaped Living Course (a brand new New Wine Course) on ZOOM in October and November. For many of us this was a very significant course which gave us confidence in stepping out and sharing our faith with our friends, family and colleagues. The course was very practical in nature and we had some great testimonies come out of the course on our WhatsApp Group. We hope to repeat the course in this coming year and strongly recommend it to anyone who wants to join.

Dave Bruce

### **EASTER**

Easter this year came very early on in the first lockdown and we were forced to quickly adapt what we had planned. But daily video reflections from our readers and clergy in Holy Week and creative online services for Maundy Thursday (put together by Ruth Gould and some of her friends at Regents College in particular) and Good Friday proved a great source of encouragement for people. Several people commented that this had helped them engage with the Easter story much more than usual! We finished the week with our Easter Sunday Celebration services (filmed partly from the Easter Display in the Rector's garden!) with many of the congregation on video declaring 'He is risen indeed Alleluia!'

Dave Bruce

# PASTORAL MINISTRY

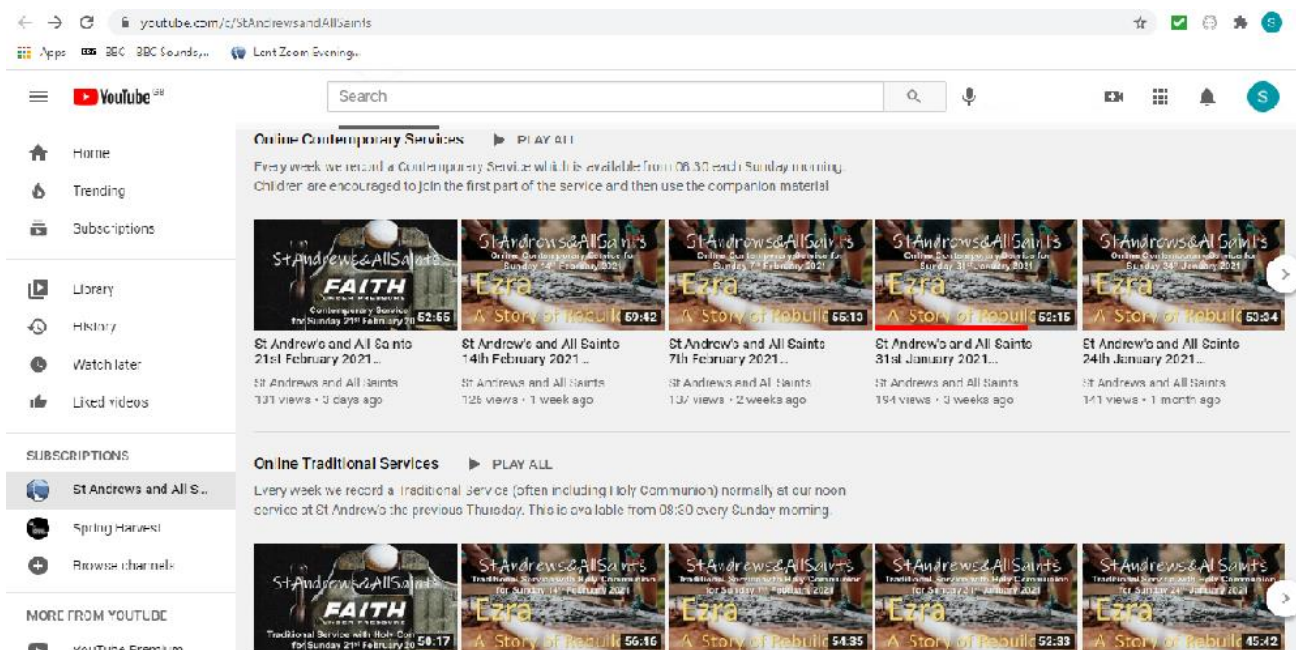
Throughout the pandemic we've seen a great deal of faithful pastoral ministry from many different people over this last year with a lovely sense of caring and looking out for each other in evidence across our churches. The 'buddy groups' have helped to keep connection at All Saints, whilst at St Andrew's Val Fane and Ali Mesley oversaw the setting up of 'Local Pastoral Groups' to help people connect and care for those who live closest to them. But alongside this, it has been the individual care too – the dropping off of cakes, the phone calls, the 'pastoral walks,' the dropping off of DVDs of the services for those not on the internet, and so much more, that has kept people connected and supported. Thank you to everyone who has played their part in this.

Dave Bruce

## ST ANDREW'S & ALL SAINTS ONLINE & YOUTUBE CHANNEL

For most of 2020 we were unable to hold services 'in-person' or had severe attendance limitations in order to maintain social distancing rules. In March we therefore quickly moved to having two recorded hour long online services each week; a contemporary service and a traditional service (often including Holy Communion). These were recorded at home or in church (when allowed), edited together with relevant hymns / songs and produced as YouTube videos, also available via our website. Weekly DVDs are also produced for those without internet access.

During the year we also introduced our own YouTube channel [www.youtube.com/c/StAndrewsandAllSaints](http://www.youtube.com/c/StAndrewsandAllSaints) via which all services and videos are available and watched around the world.



Later in the year, All Saints also started live streaming an additional service each week and various additional videos were produced for Advent, the Nativity Trail and Christmas. Thank you to all those who have helped make this possible during the year.

Derek Barnes

## Reaching and growing the next Generation



### MESSY CHURCH

Our last 'in person' Messy was February 2020, when we were following a series on our senses. Our March and April



sessions were cancelled, but we recorded a Pentecost Messy on Zoom and put it on the church website for families to access at a time which suited them.

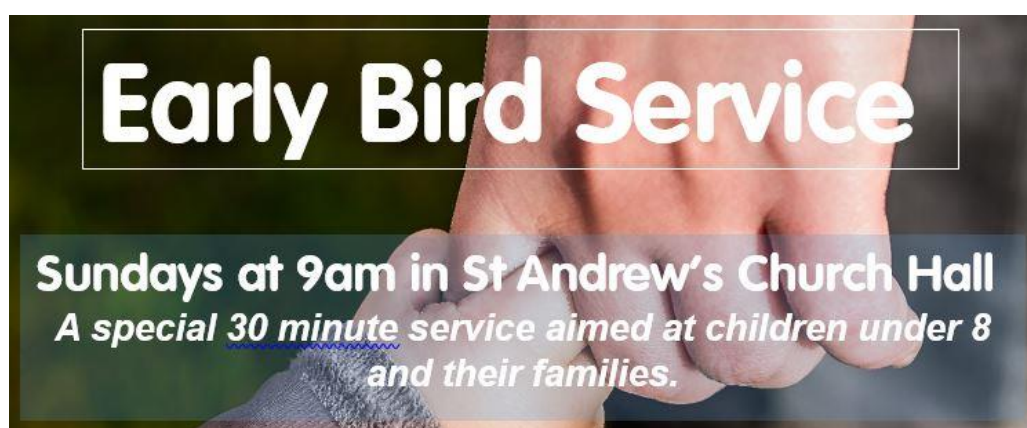
We continued to record sessions monthly, until our Christmas Messy, when we had a wonderful Christmas Eve session on Zoom. Helen, Margaret and Eddie met at church and shared the Bible Society video 'It Begins in Bethlehem'. The resources for crafts, along with the story book that accompanied the video, were delivered to the families, so we could enjoy making the crafts together during the session.

In January 2021, we live zoomed from our homes, looking at the story of Daniel in the Lion's Den, and were joined by 7 families to learn more about trusting God. We intend to continue zooming, while there are lockdown restrictions, now on the last Sunday of the month at 4 p.m.

Margaret Buchanan

### EARLY BIRD SERVICE

We began our Early Bird service in September, inviting families with young children to join us in the hall at St Andrew's on Sunday mornings at 9am. Around seven families came with a picnic blanket, which



was their socially distanced space to stay in and we provided all they needed for the service. When lockdown began in November we moved to doing Early Birds on Zoom and this has been working well with around ten families joining us each week. We always begin with our 'Jumping for God' song, followed by a story and craft activities, a thought for the day for the grown-ups, another song, a prayer activity and we always end by saying the grace together. Early Birds has been great fun and it's lovely to see the children close up to the screens sharing their news and showing us what they have made!

Helen Attree



## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY GROUPS AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES

2020 has been a strange year for our children's Sunday groups; early in the year they ran as usual and then stopped suddenly when we went into the first lockdown. Since then, resource sheets have been posted on the website each week for families to look at together with ideas to read, watch, make, pray and do. In the summer a group of children's leaders began to produce videos for young families to watch together, with a Bible story, prayer and craft or activity ideas and this is posted on the website each week. In December we began a Zoom children's group on Sunday afternoons for the 7 – 11's and this has continued, now meeting each Sunday morning.

As we were unable to run a holiday club in the summer, we joined forces with Virtual Sunday School and provided resource kits for families who signed up with us to watch holiday club online. We ran a Light Party on Zoom on October 31st and had a good number of families join us, again we provided resource bags so that everyone could join in with the activities. We ended the year with a Zoom Christingle service, where families made their Christingles at home (bags of resources were delivered the day before) and seeing everyone light their Christingles, turn out their lights and sing 'Away in a manger' on 25 screens was a very special end to a most unusual year.

Helen Attree

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Let me first take a moment to thank both Andy Green & Lisa O'Kane who have stepped down within the last 12 months from incredible, faithful service to our young people. Thank you.

It has been an incredibly strange time and sadly, as is often the case, young people in particular have often had the roughest deal. The picture from churches across the country is grim too, with many youth ministries losing numbers or simply stopping completely. But we've actually seen growth in engagement in this period.

Perhaps the biggest reason for this is our wonderful Youth Mentors. Since April 2020 all young people across our churches have had access to group mentoring, on either a weekly/fortnightly basis. I estimate since April myself and 14 volunteers have given over 500hrs of time to our mentoring groups; and the fruit is evident. Thank you so much to all of you.

Alongside this our Sundays have continued throughout, whether online or in person. We've run prayer sessions, met 1:1 and produced daily readings and videos, delivered discipleship resources (like our advent candles & prayers), had nights of fun (the Youth & Families Christmas Zoom quiz was a particular highlight) and offered continual pastoral support.

In particular I would like to thank Hannah, Simon MacCaulay, Sophie Wharton, Ellie Quinlan and Simon Noble for their invaluable efforts as the 'youth team' and selflessly serving in-person on Sundays, alongside our great many other 'teams' with too many people to name. Please continue to pray for all our young people, their families, and those who volunteer. It is invaluable.

I am proud to say that when our young people needed us, our churches have stepped up – and we have been there for them.

There's no greater success than this.

Eddy Edwards

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



## **ALPHA ONLINE**



As lockdown was imposed in early 2020 we had to move from our normal format of face to face Alpha to a Zoom platform for the course starting in June 2020. We were rather nervous that the impersonal platform would not promote the close friendliness of discussions over a meal followed by a chat

about the Alpha video.

How wrong we were! God moved in a marvellous way to not only bring together people who were geographically distanced – Manchester to Reading to Bristol to Newport (S Wales) & Malvern - but also to unite them with an enthusiasm and joy over the WhatsApp group in between Alpha sessions.

We were blessed to see lives turned around, some guests begin a journey of Faith, hope given where there had been anxiety and Christian lives rejuvenated. We thank God for His faithfulness and look forward to our next course in 2021

Colin & Marion Robbins

## **SUPPORT IN THE PANDEMIC**

Church members have supported their neighbours in so many different ways including baking, shopping, delivering CDs with recordings of Sunday services, launching the Octagon Pantry, Bags of Hope, and chatting on the phone. One particular outreach involved working with local businesses shopping for those in need. This initiative, launched by Jenny our local post mistress, saw a number of our church taking food orders from those isolating at home, then coordinating the shopping and delivery of their weekly shop.

Peter Myres

## **OCCASIONAL OFFICES**

Occasional offices continue to be a really important way of serving our local community. Because of COVID restrictions, things have had to be very different this year with a couple of weddings limited to just a handful of guests and only a limited number of funerals taking place in church. Sadly too, we have had to put a few baptisms on hold until normal services can be held.

Dave Bruce

# OCTAGON MINISTRIES

## Coffee Shop

Last January/February we continued our weekly meetings on Thursdays and the Tuesday evening suppers which bless our community so much. Planning was in progress for a Celebration of Mothering Sunday. A visit from the Diocese, during which they engaged with many folk was shared on film.

During lockdown we have endeavoured to share our love and support for one another but many of us, particularly the most vulnerable friends, long for that physical contact that no amount of texts or phone calls can replace. We pray that Coffee Shop along with all the other activities which take place at the Octagon may continue to bless this precious community and we look forward to a starting afresh God willing, later this year.

Sandie Barr-Hamilton

## Octagon Ministries during the Pandemic

Over the year we have worked together with the Brook Farm Community Association at the Octagon in many ways, starting with church volunteers helping to deliver emergency food parcels during the first lockdown to families who were struggling.

In the summer term we ran a project called 'Virtual Cook & Eat', giving a recipe and ingredients to young people (mostly from the youth group) encouraging them to cook meals from fresh ingredients and then share their experiences on Zoom with Sarah (Development Worker), Levi, George and myself.

In the summer holidays we launched 'Not School Lunch' cooking a hot meal for families who receive free school meals; a team of about 15 volunteers from both churches helped to cook and serve around 60 meals each week. This was repeated again in the October half term where we cooked on Tuesday and Thursday!



In September we launched the Community Pantry, offering food from FareShare and donations from Morrisons to families and local people. The pantry is open on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons and is staffed by Sarah McCarten-Williams and volunteers from both churches, and it has been a real privilege to begin to build relationships with folk who come regularly to the pantry.

In October we launched 'Family Cook & Eat' where we provide a recipe and ingredients for a hot meal for eighteen families each week. This has been really successful in encouraging families to use more fresh ingredients, learn new skills and try new foods!

At Christmas we worked with the Rotary Club and Waitrose to make up 100 hampers filled with Christmas treats; with help from the Foodbank and the Sunshine Centre to distribute around 45 hampers of essentials and treats and then with Morrisons to make up 25 fresh hampers for families to enjoy a traditional Christmas dinner which they otherwise would not have been able to afford.

Helen Attree

## HAPPINESS LAB

This course aims to explore what psychologists, doctors and faith leaders have to say about happiness. It hopes to spark questions about faith. Eighteen delegates initially signed up to attend in October via Zoom, including one from Mozambique and one from the US. In the end twelve participants attended regularly, and we are aware of at least one person intentionally exploring faith following the course.

Peter Myres

## HOLIDAY@HOME



As 2020 progressed we realised that we were going to be unable to hold any of our usual Holiday@Home activities. Determined that our friends would know that we were thinking of them, we arranged a harvest cream tea which was delivered to 80 of our guests on the 18th October. Little individual bags containing a cream tea, a special card and a DVD of the harvest service were delivered to their homes by our band of willing helpers.

As lockdown continued and Christmas drew near, on the 21st December we delivered 'Christmas in a Bag' to all our guests. The bags contained, amongst other things, a candle, a DVD of the Christmas Carol service and lots of delicious goodies with mince pies, stollen, and a mini Christmas pudding topped off by a satsuma.

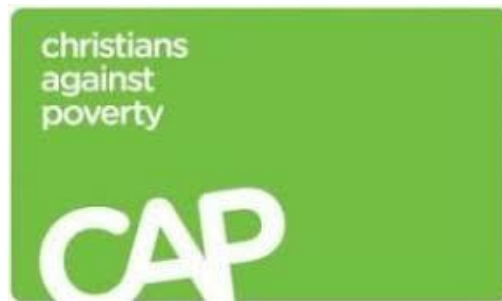
They were very well received and huge thanks go to all the wonderful helpers who brought cheer to our senior friends.

Patience Broad



## CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY (CAP)

The support of St Andrew's and All Saints (two of our partner churches) continues to be vital to CAP Malvern. The Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre has been operational since April 2019 and continues to grow despite the challenges of Coronavirus. The debt coaches, Denise Ditchburn and Chris Mesley, have had to make more use of telephone appointments, although for the most vulnerable we have been grateful for the use of the hall at St Andrew's for meetings. The greater challenge has been for Befrienders to build relationships with new clients without the opportunity of meetings. As I write we are delighted that three of our local clients have become debt-free in the last six weeks. Our relationships with other organisations in the town continues to grow. Please would you continue to pray for us as we seek to serve our community.



Chris Mesley – Debt Centre Manager [chrismesley@capuk.org](mailto:chrismesley@capuk.org)

## ST ANDREW'S MISSION PARTNERS 2020

Our involvement with Mission beyond our immediate locality has continued with links in several areas of the world. The contact with Msalato Theological College in Tanzania has evolved into support for a student in training. Our link with Lebanon has grown with Eloise Wharton spending her gap year working there supporting refugees. We have been unable to have any visits from our Mission Partners, but that has opened a new opportunity. We have appreciated some video and live internet links and intend to make more use of these in the future to keep up to date and inspire our prayer support.

UK		Overseas	
Church Army (Nick Russell)	£1,236	CMS (Ben & Katie Ray, Tanzania)	£1,200
St Mary's Building Project (allocation)	£2,500	Lebanon Bible Society (Mike Bassous)	£1,236
Other miscellaneous giving (including short term mission)	£1,100	Urban Neighbours of Hope (Jon & Elise Fletcher, Thailand)	£1,236
		Open Doors	£1,200
		Josiah Venture (Terry & Hannah English, Czech Republic)	£1,200
		Msalato Theological College (Tanzania)	£1,035
		Siloam	£318
		Compassion International	£240
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4,836</b>		<b>£7,665</b>

Nick Fane

## ALL SAINTS' MISSION PARTNERS 2020

We donated £8,500 to our Mission Partners in 2020. We continued to support the work of Jon and Elise Fletcher (UNoH) in the slums of Bangkok and Pat Blanchard (CMS) working with people with disabilities in Lima, Peru. Among our UK partners, we continued to support Christians Against Poverty, the Octagon and Lyttelton Well and this year supported the 4Front Theatre company, a local Christian group who do some wonderful things with schools and young children. We also made a donation to the fund-raising for a dementia cafe linked to St Matthias church in Malvern Link.

UK		Overseas	
Lyttleton Well	£2,050	Jon and Elise Fletcher	£1,600
Malvern CAP	£1,500	CMS (Peru)	£1,500
4Front Theatre Company	£800		
Malvern Link Dementia Cafe	£550		
Brook Farm Community Trust	£500		
<b>Total</b>	<b>£5,400</b>		<b>£3,100</b>

Paul Southern

## SIDE BY SIDE BEREAVEMENT CAFE



The bereavement café started the year well with a growing number of attendees who were getting to know and support each other. After the first lockdown we kept in touch, where possible, by phone and email until October when we decided to reopen. We were offered the use of the Railway Inn and we had two great meetings there until we had to close again. The pandemic has heightened our awareness of the need for bereavement support in the community and the team is looking forward to launching a new publicity campaign once it is safe to resume gathering.

Angela Gibson

## FAIRTRADE

### St Andrew's

As with so many businesses, the last year has been a very difficult one for Traidcraft and our producer partners in the developing world. Most of our sales are through small shops, events and churches all of which have been badly affected by the pandemic. Good news is that Traidcraft has picked up new on-line customers particular from those desperately searching for rice, pasta and toilet rolls in the first shut down! I am grateful for the way in which people have continued to order through my monthly ordering system and although my sales are definitely down, I have still managed to sell nearly £4000 worth of goods, and the profits have been sent to support Shiners day-care centre in Kisumu, Kenya.



I am placing notices in the notice sheet when I am organising an order and I would appeal to you to consider Traidcraft when you are planning your shopping. The full range of goods is available to view at [www.traidcraftshop.co.uk](http://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk) and you can then just email your order to [caroline.mesne@gmail.com](mailto:caroline.mesne@gmail.com). I generally order at the beginning of a month and then deliver to Mary Flynn a week to 10 days later for you to collect.

Caroline Smith

## FAIRTRADE

### All Saints

Thank you to all the very generous support from the AS congregation each month. Due to the pandemic there has been no Traidcraft table in church since before Easter 2020 and at present I do not know how long it will be before the church will be open as before to continue with the normal monthly sales - so watch this space!

Janet Simmonds

## FOODBANK & LYTTTELTON WELL

Thank you for helping us build the Kingdom beyond the parish boundaries.

In 2020 the Foodbank helped over 3000 people (twice the 2018 figure) and demand is still increasing.



It was a difficult year for the Lyttelton Well with the café, our main earner being closed or 'socially distanced'. Counselling successfully moved on-line. Books can still be ordered by phone. Keep praying and supporting!

Peter Buchanan

## SHOEBOX APPEAL



Despite the difficulties of restrictions this year and the November lockdown we managed to fill 42 shoeboxes for Amen Trust, with many lovely, donated items including some wonderful knitted hats, mittens and soft toys!

Thank you so much to everyone who contributed, the shoeboxes made their way to Romania where they were delivered to many gypsy children in time for Christmas!

Helen Attree



## BOREDOM BAGS



As we went into the first lockdown, we quickly realised that many families were struggling to find activities for their children to do, especially when experiencing financial difficulties. Many people from both churches donated items for the bags: wonderful homemade craft kits, colouring books, felt pens and 'things to do' as well as sewing some amazing drawstring bags to put everything in. Over 90 bags were delivered to children and young people around Malvern during lockdown.



We also realised that many older folk were also experiencing loneliness and over 40 boredom bags were made and delivered to them too, including homemade fudge, cookies and solitaire sets, puzzle books and craft kits. Thank you so much to everyone who helped with the boredom bags and all your amazing creativity, so many people were blessed by them and really appreciated that the church was thinking about them at such a difficult time.

Helen Attree



## CHRISTMAS – HOPE IN THE DARKNESS



Christmas was very strange this year with the majority of our Christmas services having to go fully online including our main St Andrew's Carol Service and our ZOOM Christingle and Messy Church. We did manage to hold socially distanced carol services at All Saints (but with no singing allowed), and outside carol singing at St Andrew's the Sunday before Christmas. Carols on the common sadly too was not able to happen. But despite this, we did have a fantastic Christmas with lots of new creative ways to connect our community, as described below.

Dave Bruce

## BAGS OF HOPE

We decided it would be a lovely thing to do, to bless others with a bag of Hope and Christmas blessing in time for Christmas, with the idea of giving them to people that we had perhaps got to know over the year. We invited people from the community to join us and we had many lovely donations from people we did and didn't know! We gave out over 75 bags to people who had been nominated and also to everyone who came to the Community Pantry at Christmas. A big thank you to everyone who helped with this project, and special thanks to Bob who made more than 50 heart shaped candle holders to go in the bags!



Helen Attree



## NATIVITY TRAIL REACHES MALVERN

This new project for our two churches came together with amazing swiftness and smoothness. Willingness and enthusiasm from the thirty plus adults and youngsters made God's plan happen. Both known and previously hidden skills were deployed using beer barrels, manikins, salvaged wood and SO much more. Visitors of all ages from near and far followed the trail every day, engaging with the scenes and the videos as well as the dressing up finale.

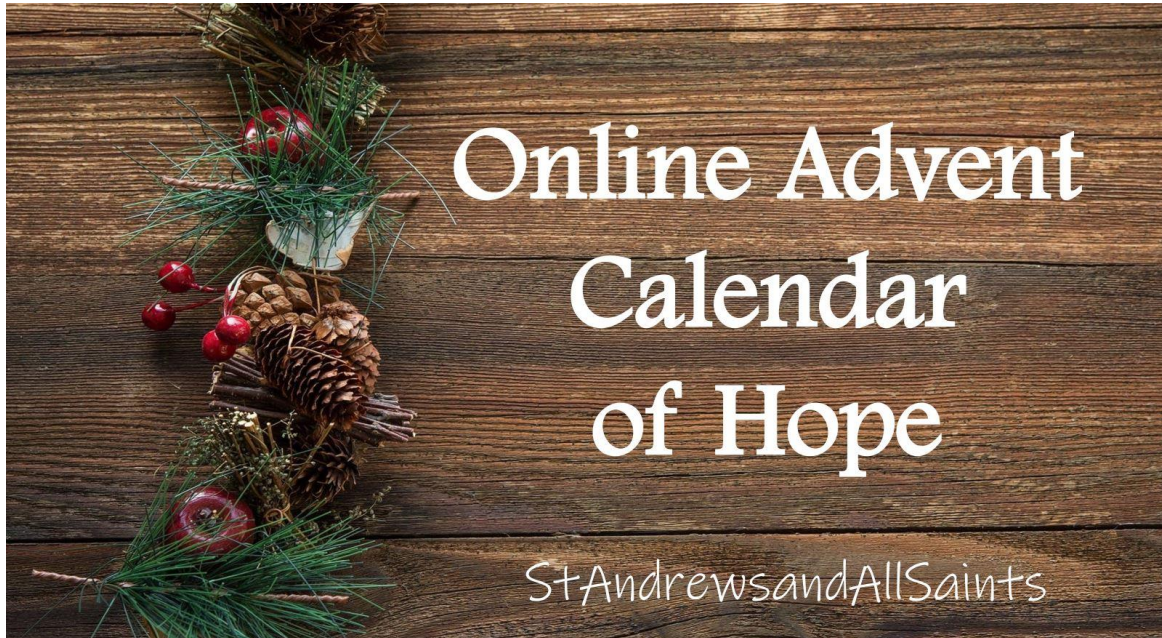
What a blessing it was!

Mary Flynn





## ONLINE ADVENT CALENDAR



At this time of COVID, where so many people are struggling, we wanted to reach out with good news at this time, so that people outside the usual church community could hear of the love and care of God and the hope that Jesus can bring even in the darkest times of our lives.

Throughout Advent we hosted a daily Advent Calendar of Hope. 24 different individuals from our churches told their stories of how God had sustained them through difficult times in their lives. We heard of God's hope in cancer, after adoption, in addiction, in business, in depression and many other remarkable stories.

The stories were viewed nearly 7000 times in total! Many church members shared the stories with friends and contacts who don't presently have an active faith, one friend said 'I have been so encouraged watching the Advent calendar every day and if I lived in Malvern it would persuade me to go to church!'

Alice Bruce

# Building together



## DEANERY SYNOD

The year started with a widespread and well attended series of consultation meetings across the diocese, involving far more people than just Deanery Synod members. The aim was to recognise that the existing structure needed changing to make deaneries effective, mission-focussed entities. These consultations continued via Zoom during Lockdown.

Deanery Synods representatives are re-elected every 3 years, as happened at the delayed APCMs held in 2020. Consequently, the first Deanery Synod meeting following re-election was also delayed until November. Almost immediately after this, Bishop John issued orders enacting the results of the consultations. The 13 deaneries were reduced to 6, the Malvern Deanery ceased to exist on 31 Jan 2021 and became the Malvern and Upton Deanery and 'Rural Deans' became known as 'Area Deans'.

The number of church representatives elected to the Deanery Synod is determined by the size of the Electoral Roll for each church. The year ahead will be an exciting one with a new vision across the new deanery and it is important that the full quotas of representatives are elected. St Andrew's should have 3 representatives (it currently has 2 vacancies) and All Saints has its quota of 2.

We have found it really encouraging to listen to other churches' perspectives and also to be able to pray for them. Mutual fellowship and encouragement is so important. It is a privilege to represent our churches and we are aware of how well off we are compared with some of the other churches in the Deanery – not just in monetary terms but in our leadership, vision and commitment too.

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

## CHURCHES TOGETHER MALVERN

During this unique year, church leaders in Malvern have continued to pray together, and to provide services and other activities for their members and the wider community, using Zoom, YouTube and other electronic means. Shared activities such as our Nativity Trail have been publicised through the CTM Facebook Group.

Dan Bennett, minister of The Source and CTM Chairman, sent out a Christmas message of encouragement to 'the church family in Malvern', and gave advance notice of Zoom prayers to be held during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 18th - 25th January 2021. Morning prayers were led by various ministers and evening Compline by Gary Crellin, vicar of Powick, Guarlford, Madresfield and Newland. Nigel Coke-Woods, the Methodist minister, organised the united Zoom service for Sunday 24th, which was joined by over 100 worshippers. Phillip Johnson, vicar of Malvern Link with Cowleigh, spoke on 'Abiding in Christ', the theme for the week.

Heather Williamson (St Andrew's Rep) and Margaret Buchanan (All Saints' Rep)



## CHURCH FABRIC: BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS, ALL SAINTS

The church building itself is in reasonable condition. The main issue is water damage where routine maintenance of gutters and downpipes needs to be scheduled rather than wait for problems to arise. Our Malvern stone walls, which don't look too clever in places, are in fact in good shape and will be repointed in Spring 2021.

This year we have had 2 new organ pipes added to our special organ which will allow an even greater repertoire to be played on it for all to enjoy.

Special thanks must go to Angela Davison for the fantastic work she and her small group of volunteers have done in the grounds of the church this year. Once tamed, the 'jungle' needs to be kept under control and we may need to consider paying someone to do it.

Andy Green and Tim Jones also deserve a big thank you for the amazing work they have done in installing the IT and wiring for our live and online services.

Paul Southern

## CHURCH FABRIC: BUILDINGS & TECHNICAL REPORT, ST ANDREW'S

During 2020 the key church development (in addition to normal maintenance) was the replacement of the main front doors with automatic sliding doors and associated access control system. Ever since the original doors were installed they have been problematic and difficult to use, so at the start of year we went out to tender for options and had the preferred solution installed in September.



With few services during the year, the normal technical team activities have been mainly replaced with recording and producing online services and bulk copying them onto to DVDs for those without internet access.

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

Derek Barnes



## **ALL SAINTS' PCC**

All Saints PCC has met six times in 2020, including two joint meetings with St Andrew's PCC. At the delayed APCM in October, Janet Simmonds stood down as her term as Churchwarden had ended, and we welcomed Janet Finch who replaced her. Other departures from the PCC were Bea Magowan and Helen Rhodes, who were thanked for their service, and we welcomed Andrew Crumpler to the PCC.

The first joint PCC meeting of the year started with reflection on the year just gone and vision for the year ahead. We discussed exciting new service patterns, internships, community events and plans for the next Weekend at Home. Little did we know what was coming. Very soon we were in lockdown and in-person services were replaced by online ones, PCC meetings were held over Zoom, Easter went online and the APCM was shelved indefinitely. Meanwhile, the PCC had plenty to consider including the practicalities of re-opening the church for Covid-safe prayer and services.

Maintenance of the grounds has continued under Angela Davison's guidance, although groups have had to be small and socially-distanced. By the last meeting of the year, Megan's Kitchen was on the horizon – a promise of a future when gatherings will be able to return to All Saints.

As the PCC meets throughout the year, the uncertainties of how to navigate through the twists and turns of the Pandemic remind us that God is always at the centre of all that we discuss and decide.

Sarah Yeadon (PCC Secretary)



## **ST ANDREW'S PCC**

The PCC has met six times in 2020 including two joint meetings with All Saints' PCC. Most of these meetings have been held via Zoom because of Covid.

The APCM held in October witnessed a significant transition in PCC membership. Helen Simpson stepped down as Churchwarden and Lis Whybrow was welcomed as her successor to join Nick Fane. Helen was thanked for her valuable contribution to church life.

Kevin Surridge, Mary Flynn, Judy Oliver, Jean McCarthy and Barry Austin also stepped down as PCC members to be replaced by Val Fane, Alan Holmes, Ginny Jones, Anna Laidler, Colin Robbins and Ellie Quinlan. Thanks to all past, present and future post-holders for the important roles they play on the PCC and in their service to St Andrew's.

Prayer continues to be the cornerstone of PCC meetings and we thank God for his provision and guidance as we have discussed missions and activities and the safeguarding and administrative efforts that support everything we do.

Sarah Yeadon (Incoming PCC Secretary)

## **SAFEGUARDING**

The PCCs of All Saints and St Andrew's have complied with their duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.



During 2020, the Safeguarding Committee, which represents both churches, has implemented the new increased requirements for church members to complete safeguarding training at different levels, with many more church roles now requiring training, 24 members of the churches have completed DBS checks. 41 members have completed safeguarding training at various levels.

A few safeguarding concerns have arisen during the year and these have been addressed promptly by Dave Bruce and myself. Support and advice have been sought from the Diocese on every occasion.

The Safeguarding Committee has met twice. The advice booklet for those working with vulnerable adults is complete and the booklets for those working with children or younger people are nearly ready. A policy for the 'Use of Social Media with Children and Vulnerable Adults' has been approved by the PCCs and is being implemented.

Val Fane – Parish Safeguarding Officer for St Andrew's and All Saints

## **TREASURERS' REPORTS**

### **All Saints' Treasurer's Report for 2020**

We began the year with a forecast deficit of just over £5,000 but we ended the year with a £5,000 surplus!! So, what caused this swing? One obvious cause is the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. With church operations being much reduced, our expenditure was nearly £7,500 less than we were expecting. Conversely, our income was some £3,000 more than forecast.

Although plate collections are down as you might expect, we are very fortunate in that our other income has not changed. The increase in our income arose from a one-off windfall in the Gift Aid tax claim. This is a quirk of us joining the Parish Giving Scheme effectively giving us an extra claim in the year. It won't happen again!!

Going forward, there is some uncertainty about the future Parish Share for All Saints and St Andrew's and this could impact on our commitments to ministry in the team. However, we have strong reserves and this puts us in a good position to plan with some confidence and be able to ride out any temporary bumps in the transition period.

Paul Southern – All Saints' Treasurer

## St Andrew's Treasurer's Report for 2020

During the year 2020 the church **received voluntary (undesigned or restricted) gifts of just under £140,000 (an 12.5% decrease on 2019)** on which it was able to reclaim a vitally important £31,000 of Gift Aid. Once other income is included (for example, income from lettings of the Church Centre) we received a total income of just over **£240,000 (a 5% decrease overall on 2019)**.

This included just over £22,000 being gifted into the **Blessing Fund** we set up at the end of 2019 (almost as if God knew what was coming in 2020!) and more than £13,000 restricted gifts (i.e. gifts that can only be spent for a specific purpose) towards the costs of running CAP Malvern. Our income was also boosted this year by £10,000 of government grants to support us in lockdown periods for which we are most grateful – in large part offsetting the loss on our hall income that it was paid to help address.

Of this income we spent just over **£220,000 on church activities (effectively the same as we spent in 2019)**. 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).

Overall, this means **the total net funds belonging to the church grew over the year by just under £11,000 to a total of just under £136,000** (including restricted funds, such as for CAP Malvern, and designated funds, such as the Blessing fund, that together make up approximately half 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 – a year unlike one most of us have ever experienced in so many ways and one where we are very aware many people's incomes have been under significant pressure. We plan during the next year to be open to developing and refining the range of activities we undertake. Therefore, your continued support will be applied to deliver more of what we believe God is calling us to partner with him to do in the parish, in Malvern, across the UK and internationally.

I also wish to offer thanks 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](mailto:treasurer@standrewsmalvern.uk) )



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 Exempted Charity*