

# Annual Review 2023



## St Andrew's & All Saints

Partnering with God in the flourishing of our communities

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## Rector's Review

2023 has been a very different year for me as, after seven years in post, I had the gift of taking my first sabbatical between April and July. The highlight was spending two and a half weeks travelling around Scotland in a campervan, particularly exploring Celtic Christianity and the Hebridean Revival as well as enjoying the stunning mountains and coastlines. There were so many things that impacted me, but several



months on, two things in particular stick in my mind. The first is the simplicity of the churches of Lewis where the Hebridean Revival took place. There were no programmes, no mission strategies and few committees. Instead, it was just a very ordinary 'community in prayer' committed to encountering Jesus in the

Scriptures and in worship. Into that community the power of God came in a remarkable way and brought incredible transformation to a community. I wonder whether we have lessons to learn about not over complicating things and 'Simply Pursuing Jesus' and letting God do the rest?

Secondly, I was particularly struck by how it was in the wild places – the beaches and in the mountains – that I particularly encountered Jesus, not in the great 'religious buildings'. Since I have returned to 'normal life' again I have tried to continue to live this out by taking time to walk on the hills each day and encounter Jesus there and continue to reflect on how we can find Jesus much more outside of our church buildings and continue to 'walk with him' in the whole of life.

Taking time away to recharge, reflect and live in new rhythms for a time was so life giving for me, and a reminder to all of us that we all need to have 'Sabbath seasons' where God calls us to rest and take time out to be reshaped and reinvigorated again. As I found out, the church of God and the mission of God goes on very well without us and so none of us are indispensable!

I am very grateful to everyone who has served so faithfully, particularly in my absence both in the summer and in my recent time off sick in the autumn. The church continues to strengthen, grow and bear much fruit and I am so grateful for the privilege of serving in such amazing communities. This review celebrates the many

contributions that so many people have made to ‘partnering with God in the flourishing of our communities’ and we celebrate once more all that God has done.

As we enter 2024 it has been so exciting to ‘re-form’ the Chase Team, employ a new Youth Ministry Leader and begin to prepare the Parish Profile for a new ‘Vicar in the Chase Team’. There is so much to look forward to and we continue to prayerfully seek God every step of the way. The words of Isaiah 43:18-19 seem so apt in this season:

“Forget the former things;  
do not dwell on the past.  
See, I am doing a new thing!  
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?  
I am making a way in the wilderness  
and streams in the wasteland.”

Dave Bruce

## Wardens’ Report

2023 was always going to be an unusual year as we planned for Dave’s Sabbatical. This became more challenging with Dave’s illness at the end of year. As Wardens we want to acknowledge with huge thanks the way in which you responded and not only kept the churches going but that they thrived as we continued to worship and seek the Lord together. We recently heard of one person in the congregations who had not even been aware that Dave had been away. So thank you.

2023 was also the year that St Andrews introduced and formalised the role of ‘Warden-in-Charge’ which brought it into line with All Saints. The number of services each week means that these individuals provide a really important role in the practical support for the services for which they are responsible. Thank you for your faithful service week by week.

During this year Sarah and Janet have not enjoyed the best of health. However, All Saints folk were always there to take on whatever needed to be taken on! Our thanks to you all for your support and care.

Lis, Chris, Janet and Sarah

# Encountering Jesus in Worship, Prayer, Word and Spirit

## Overview of Congregations

It has been very encouraging to see how the different congregations have continued to develop and offer a great variety of worship styles and times across our parishes. The congregational teams are now working really well and have taken ownership of leading the different congregations and I'm so grateful to all our retired clergy, leaders, preachers, musicians, tech team, prayer ministers, wardens, welcome team, coffee servers and everyone else who serves to make our services possible, and places where people can encounter Jesus deeply.



Dave

## Early Birds at St Andrew's

Early Birds is an informal, friendly service at St Andrew's for families with young children, who arrive with great excitement and enthusiasm each week. Families sit together on mats and enjoy songs, stories, crafts, prayers and a 'message' for the grownups, as we seek to learn more about God's love for us and help our families, both adults and children, to grow in faith. It has been a real highlight this year to see the children enthusiastically volunteering to help act out the stories – and a challenge to ensure there are roles for all who want to take part! It has been exciting to see friendships developing as we share together and enjoy coffee and biscuits after saying the grace. We have been encouraged to see families growing in faith, some moving on to 'big church' and some bringing their children to be baptised!



Helen Attree

## 10.30 Contemporary Service at St Andrew's

We began 2023 by conducting a 'Service Review' when a range of people were invited to consider and comment on **Welcome, Worship and the Word**. The 10.30 Team then collated the response forms and identified some ways things might be improved. These have included gathering for prayer every week at 10am, reorganizing the foyer and relocating the Welcome Team. In services there has been greater emphasis on stories/testimonies; recognizing the diversity of learning styles and the importance of application to contemporary life; having a specific Frontline Focus twice a month and creating space for silent reflection and response. We are now developing Prayer Ministry as an integral part of our regular worship; streamlining the system for serving coffee after the service.



Our numbers are now higher than pre-pandemic levels at this service with an average attendance on a 'normal' Sunday of 36 children and 100 adults. This is especially encouraging because in 2019, Chaos (14-18's) took place during the 10.30 service and there was no Early Birds or regular evening service.

We continue to give thanks for the blessings of the God who is leading us into LIFE!

Jo Vickery

## The Six at St Andrew's

The Six at St Andrew's offers an informal, interactive service of worship that is summed up in three words: Worship, Word and Wonder. Meeting in the evening gives us the opportunity for extended times of sung worship, a longer teaching slot, and the space to wonder at all that God is doing amongst us – including

shared testimony and prayer ministry. There is more time to listen to the Holy Spirit.

Here are some comments from those who come: 'What I like about The Six service is that it is slightly less structured, potentially giving a little bit more space for more reflective stuff to happen.' ... 'We don't try to cram too much in.' ... 'I prefer having a longer worship set.'

We begin with refreshments at 5.45pm, but before that, from 5pm, there is time to pray and listen to the Lord for the service. This session is open to all.

We are committed to learning how to be disciples of Jesus in God's world today. So as well as largely following the same preaching series as other services, we took part in a recorded course on 'Prophetic Lifestyle' which gave us a deeper understanding of how we can be more receptive to the voice of God in our daily lives.

In the past year, there have been special occasions, including the baptisms of three young people, and a strawberry social during the summer. We have also been on the move, joining with All Saints for two services of 'Deeper', and attending several services of 'The Six on Tour' at All Saints Worcester in joint celebrations with other local churches.



Helen Wilkinson

## Midweek Service at St Andrew's

The midweek service takes place at 11 am on Thursdays, and is well attended, with numbers sometimes exceeding 30. It is usually a communion service, and on these occasions we appreciate Dave Bruce, David Ritchie or Mark Slater officiating. Derham Cook and Heather Williamson also lead and preach, as Licensed Lay Ministers. We have followed each sermon series and grown through them, both in richer worship and in deeper commitment to lifestyle change as disciples. We offer prayer ministry, and there is a strong sense of friendship, fellowship and mutual support among the members, which is reinforced over coffee in the foyer after the service, and through our monthly



Bring and Share lunches. Sylvia Knott, who was already giving expert tech support, now also acts as 'Warden-in-Charge' for this service.

Heather Williamson

## All Saints 10am Service

All Saints offers alternative style of worship that is both contemplative and contemporary, combining the best of the traditional and the modern. We begin our services with 5 minutes of silence to prepare us to worship in an atmosphere of holy calm. As someone said recently: 'The silence leads me into the Lord's presence.'

We rejoice in a variety of liturgy and music, and we are nourished by rich and relevant preaching and teaching that strengthens us to live for Christ in the world.

It has been said by many that All Saints is the friendliest church they have ever been to and being a small church helps with this. Small is beautiful! Everyone matters.

At All Saints you can expect to worship in Spirit and Truth, in an atmosphere of peace and grace, where Jesus is honoured as Lord.

Geoff Vevers

## St Andrew's and All Saints YouTube Channel

Throughout the year we have produced two online services each week, together with sermons and various other events available through our YouTube Channel ([www.youtube.com/c/StAndrewsandAllSaints](http://www.youtube.com/c/StAndrewsandAllSaints) with over 240 subscribers from 118 countries around the world), website and via some DVDs for those without internet access.

The online services each week are:

- Live streaming of the All Saints 10:00 Sunday morning services, often 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 well over a hundred weekly viewings.

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

Derek Barnes and Andy Green

## Prayer

Prayer is an integral part of our church and underpins all we do. It's part of our services, our meetings, our Life groups as well as weekly corporate meetings at our Churches. We also share the needs of the Church through a prayer chain.

Monthly, 'The Waiting Room' provides a sacred space to be silent in the presence of God.

During Lent, a card focused on 'setting something aside' and 'reviewing your day'.

In May we joined the world in praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' with a room transformed into a sanctuary with prayer stations and events across the Parish.

During Advent we focused on the meaning of 'coming' and 'waiting' with a card for both adults and children.

Prayer ministry training has been our focus this year with a morning led by Mark Beer from New Wine. Numerous people came and all culminated in newly formed prayer teams who were commissioned in February.

Helen Simpson & the Prayer Events Team

## The Waiting Room

Each month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday we have continued to meet in All Saints Church from 7-8pm. Those who come appreciate the time of quiet and 'Waiting' on God and allowing themselves to open up to God in a deeper way in the silence. Sometimes we have shared encouragements and words/pictures from the Spirit which have spoken to us personally and for the wider church. This is

now our 8<sup>th</sup> year and the co-ordinating group feel this is a vital part of deepening church life and growth. At the end of the year Paul and Diana Hunt stepped down from leadership of the 'Waiting Room' and handed over to the rest of the team to lead us into 2024. We are so grateful for Paul and Diana's commitment to this since it began.

Paul & Diana Hunt

## **St Andrew's Musical Worship Team**

The musical worship team has the privilege of leading people into God's presence through music and song. We have a fairly large team of around 20 singers and instrumentalists, some of whom have recently joined and others who have been faithfully contributing for years!

We couldn't do what we do without the technical team, who support us with sound, on-screen words, and recording. We are able to provide music for two services on a Sunday as well as the Thursday mid-week service.

We do try to be balanced in our choice of songs, using some new songs as well as traditional hymns, and experimenting in the way we express the words. Most important is that we are worshippers first and musicians second, with the emphasis on worshipping in Spirit and in Truth.

Jane, Debbie and Derek

## **Music at All Saints**

What a joy it is for us to continue to serve our Lord and His people through the gifting He has given to each of the six of us! We all play 'keys' of some sort or another, so we have a rota, and each week brings a different 'style' in worshipping our God through music. Songs and hymns – of praise, prayer and dedication – rise in honour of our God.

Janet Finch

## **Occasional Offices**

We continue to serve members of our churches and our community through occasional offices. We have conducted ten funerals over the last year including the funerals of some precious members of our congregations who are sadly no longer with us – Kathleen Hall (101), Pat Lynch, and Steve Nickells from the Octagon community.

We have had just the one very joyful wedding of Lois Hornby which was a dual nationality wedding in which the vows and other parts of the service were also translated into French!

Most exciting of all is that we have had 18 baptisms which is the most we have had for many years. Several families have either come through our Early Birds service, or now attend it, and Helen and Ruth now conduct all the baptism preparation with these families. We have also had two very joyful 'full immersion baptism' services at our Six service, where we have seen three of our older children/younger youth Flo, Sky and Taylor get baptised and share their amazing testimonies so confidently.

## Easter 2023

Easter was a very special time with some meaningful services and daily video reflections to help us journey together through Holy Week.

To seek to engage the community with the events of the Easter story, we created the Great Malvern Easter Treasure Hunt using a web-based app to guide people round different locations in Malvern to watch videos and answer questions about the Easter story. The treasure hunt took people to the top of British Camp to reflect on the cross and ended up at Giant's Cave to tell the story of the resurrection. This proved to be a great hit, with over 100 families and individuals registering for the Treasure Hunt.



Dave



## Christmas 2023

Christmas once again saw large numbers of people attend our services, including many who are visitors, at the St Andrew's Carol Services and Pop-Up Nativity, and at All Saints Christingle and Messy Christmas in particular. The services were joy-filled occasions and we trust that many encountered Jesus through them.



Dave

## **GROWING WHOLE-LIFE DISCIPLES... sent out into our communities**



### **Life Groups**

Life groups have continued to thrive in 2023. Two new groups have been formed, following the Lent courses last March. There are 18 groups meeting at various times during the week. Some meet during the day, including one early morning men's group. Other meet on weekday evenings. Several groups are ladies' groups. The online group has continued to meet on Zoom, for those who do not want to meet in person. Approximately 180 people are members of a Life Group.

Life Groups mirror the whole church vision to foster our relationship with God, our relationships with one another and our outreach to families, colleagues and the community. The emphasis differs between groups. Groups provide pastoral support for their members, not just from the leader but also by encouraging mutual support for one another.

Val Fane

### **Pastoral Ministry**

We meet twice termly to pray and to support one another and alert one another to needs that arise. We are encouraged by the sharing of stories of how God is at work in our community and how God uses us to bring his hope to others through pastoral visits, home communion and prayer.

At the PCC's suggestion, we did some in-person training on Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse. It was helpful to discuss together some of the questions and answers more fully.

There remain many pastoral needs both within the congregations as well as out in the parishes. Life groups continue to meet many pastoral needs, but where these cannot be met that way, the pastoral team helps. Within a structured

team we can support the pastoral visiting so that it doesn't all fall on Dave's shoulders.

At All Saints, we have our own 'Buddy System' overseen by Peter and Margaret Buchanan. Each member of All Saints is allocated a buddy group and the leaders of each group particularly look out for their members.

Lis Whybrow

## **Ladies' Breakfasts**

We have tried several venues for the Ladies Breakfast and are now meeting regularly on the third Saturday of the month at The Lounge Alturo. We have between 20 and 35 women attending each month. In the summer we had a speaker, Jean McCarthy. We would like to continue to have speakers, understanding that we would meet in church for these sessions.

Ali Mesley

## **Men's Breakfasts**

Our regular monthly 8.30 am Breakfast continues successfully with some 25 – 40 men attending the Foley Arms Hotel (Wetherspoons) in Malvern. A very successful speaker programme occurs on alternate months. It is a great time to have a good breakfast and meet together with others from church, and their friends, who are always welcome.

Derek Sheldon

## **Frontlines!**

We continue to support and encourage people to 'live as disciples of Jesus' on their 'frontlines' and it has been so encouraging hearing many stories from different people, particularly at 10:30am at St Andrew's and 'the Six,' of how God is using members of our congregations to proclaim and demonstrate his Kingdom.

Dave

## Church Volunteers

A huge proportion of the ministry at our churches is volunteer led. In a recent survey we found we have nearly 150 people now serving on some sort of rota across our churches! We are very thankful for all the time, skills, enthusiasm, and commitment they bring as we work to partner with God in the flourishing of our communities.

Dave

**PASSING ON THE BATON... to the  
Next Generation**



## Messy Church

Church, but not as you know it, with fun and faith for all the family, a place where we come together to encounter and celebrate God through stories, songs, crafts, prayers and food! We have many regular families, and numbers grow each month. Our themes have been: 'Life Changing Encounters with Jesus', stories of Daniel and his friends, Easter, Ascension and Messy Christmas; a wonderful start to Christmas with over 40 children! We celebrated God's love at the Village Fete in September, a lovely afternoon where we met up with many former Messy families. We would welcome extra help at our sessions, so please talk to Helen or Margaret if you would like to get 'Messy'!

Helen Attree and Margaret Buchanan

## Children's Sunday Groups

The groups on Sunday mornings are thriving with many families coming along regularly. There are four groups for the 0-11 year olds with an amazing team of leaders and helpers who are passionate about helping our children to encounter God and grow in faith. The younger ones start their session with worship and sometimes a video of the story before breaking into groups for activities which help to explore the story. The older children have a well-planned session including videos, games, Bible exploration and discussion. It has also been great



to have four young people helping in the groups and we really appreciate the way they have helped and encouraged the children each week.

Helen Attree

## Toddler Groups

Both Little Treasures (St Andrew's) and All Saints Toddlers continue to thrive, with numbers steady throughout the year. An amazing team of volunteers faithfully serve the families who come, offering support and encouragement alongside a warm welcome and coffee. Friendships are made with a good mix of families attending regularly and it is a privilege to see the children growing in confidence, learning to share and make friends. We are seeing some families bring their children for baptism, and some joining us at Early Birds or Messy Church which is brilliant!

Helen Attree

## Youth Ministry

This year our youth work has largely been volunteer led with the support of our Operations Manager Liz who became our acting Youth Ministry Leader committing up to 12 hours a week of her time. We continued to run two groups each Sunday, Pathfinders and CHAOS. **Pathfinders (11-14)** meeting during our 10:30am St Andrew's service and had between 10 and 20 young people attending each week, several of whose families joined the church in the last year. **CHAOS (14-19)** meeting in the church hall during the St Andrew's 6pm service. We had between 10 and 18 young people attending each week, some from St Andrew's families, some from families attending other churches in our town, and a few visitors from the boarding schools in the town.

In March 2023 we took our older youth away for the weekend to a local Christian activity centre, where we had a lot of fun getting to know each other better, taking part in adventure activities and Christian teaching and worship sessions. We also ran a one-day taster version in the summer for our younger youth.



Each half term we have encouraged our youth to attend 'Unite' a youth worship evening in Worcester which sees over 100 young people coming together from 10 churches in the area. It has been really exciting to see how God is moving through these events.

A new Youth Ministry Leader has been appointed and Nathan will start in April. It is a very exciting time for someone new to come in and lead the team, to develop this ministry, champion our youth, and take us forward in this new season. He will inherit an amazing group of young people and leaders to nurture and grow, and be able to bring new ideas and vision to build on the strong foundations and opportunities that have gone before.

Liz Saunders

## Youth Activities: Pathfinders

For Pathfinders it has been a big year of transition. We lost three faithful leaders – Sophie Wharton on her gap year, Annia Hornby starting university and Claire Jackson starting teacher training. My thanks to all three for their faithful service.

Four of our group have themselves now got involved in serving on a Sunday- Elyssa Baxter in Pathfinders, Ava Kennell and Eleanor Bruce with the Years 4-6 and Isla Mitchell with the little ones. Also this year, two of the group got baptised – Flo Saleh and Taylor – how good is that?

We got a big influx of energetic Year 7 boys in September and are building a new team of leaders. Thanks to James Laidler, Jin Mehta, Chris Murr, Mark Seyler, Ethan Howden and Liz Saunders for stepping up to ensure we can have 2 or 3 leaders each week to really engage this growing group.

Thanks also to Liz for organising the weekend away and some Friday night trips to mix with young Christians in Worcester which have been a real blessing.

Simon Macaulay

## Schools

Our interaction with the three schools (Malvern Wells, Wyche and Malvern Parish) has increased greatly over the year. Alongside Easter, Leavers, Harvest and Christmas services in All Saints, we have taken 'Experience Easter' and 'Exploring the Lord's Prayer' to all three schools. The team has delivered lessons about Pentecost and 'What Christmas means to Christians', helped with Open the Book, led assemblies, helped at Summer and Christmas Fairs and been interviewed by SIAMS! It has been great to get to know the staff a little better and for the children to recognise us and know that we are part of the church, alongside being able to share our faith and help them to discover a little more of God's love for them.



We have enjoyed another very successful year, taking 'Open the Book' into four schools once a fortnight. We continue to be given a very warm welcome and the children are always keen to be involved in the storytelling. We are very grateful for several new volunteers who have joined us. We performed our Christmas puppet show in six schools and enjoyed the challenge of a new script. The Bible Society has rewritten the Open the Book material and each team must use this

by September 2024. We would value prayers as we prepare for this change and in some cases adapt to a new style of storytelling.

Helen Attree and Margaret Buchanan

**SEEING LIVES TRANSFORMED... as  
we demonstrate and proclaim the  
kingdom**



## Christians Against Poverty (CAP)



We are celebrating with 10 families going debt-free in the last year! But the real celebration is people being more equipped to live on tight budgets. CAP Debt service, Money Coaching and Life Skills all play a part. But the stark reality of poverty, mixed in with traumas, job loss, relationship breakdown, addiction and rising living costs, is crippling many. Over the last year, we supported 40 households; families, couples, and singles, aged 20-80. With our volunteer befrienders, blessing team, and your prayers, we help clients facing up to debt, encourage and build hope. Some clients, once they have their budget and options, are equipped to manage their debt independently, but many clients need CAP's support until they are debt-free. T is one of these clients:

A year ago, T was weighed down with fear and anxiety, bills increasing, and demand letters built up. She said, 'I just prioritise feeding and keeping the children safe and warm'. CAP gave her clarity, understanding and courage to move forward. But there was more, one of her three children was not going to school because of severe anxiety attacks. Her befriender, a former teacher, offered to do some home tutoring, which built her daughter's confidence to go back to school. T has started a faith journey and growing in confidence and she went debt-free this January! This is just one of our remarkable stories. Please

pray for God's wisdom, energy and guidance in growing our support and volunteers.



Denise Ditchburn (CAP Centre Manager) & Kat Costello (Debt Coach)

## Side by Side Bereavement Café

The Bereavement Café has grown with over 20 bereaved people attending each week. It is humbling to see those who have been bereaved offer and receive so much support from each other. A fruitful one-day course was held in July offering a safe space to explore difficult feelings. We personally invite people at the Café to our church services. The well-attended Thanksgiving Service in November saw the majority staying for tea together afterwards and the Reflective Christmas Service encouraged some to try the Café and the Thursday service. We welcome new people each week and witness God's comfort and healing when they tell us they no longer feel they need to attend. Thank you for your prayerful support.



Angela Gibson and Jean McCarthy

## Alpha 2023

It has been a real privilege to lead another Alpha course during 2023. A group of just over 20, a mix of couples and singles, met to follow the Alpha course for 12 weeks from May through to July. A successful awayday was held part way through the course and the group bonded so well that a reunion BBQ, including partners and children, was held in August.

Colin and Marion Robbins

## Real Deal Live

What an amazing evening! Rod Williams returned to St Andrew's for an outreach event in November. There were about 60 of us including about 30 non-church guests. Rod William's magic show was incredible and his testimony of the Lord's saving grace in his life was so powerful. Several of our guests prayed with Rod for the first time and a few have signed up for the Alpha course running in the early 2024.



Thank you to everyone involved in making this such a special evening. Please continue to pray for all the follow-up conversations and for the Holy Spirit's work in each person.

Chris Mesley

## Octagon Ministries:

At the Coffee Shop we are still trying to grow the numbers attending but those who come are loyal supporters and we have a fantastic team who bake, serve drinks and walk alongside our guests in a variety of ways. Highlights in 2023 have included services at Easter, Harvest and Christmas which were well attended plus special meals to mark these festivals.

Thursday Project continues to meet after school with around seven regular families and a few more dipping in occasionally. These are happy sessions where we encourage the families to do crafts, play board games, have a meal together and use the community pantry.

A new craft group for the mums began in December, meeting twice a month, which grew out of our summer play dates in the park and discovering that there was a longing for a community where they could discover new skills – like knitting, sewing and making Christmas wreaths! One of the Thursday Project mums now volunteers to help run this group with Helen.

Volunteers from our churches support the pantry and café which now runs on a Friday morning, around 30-40 families use the pantry each week with food coming from FareShare and Morrisons.



Volunteers also support the Octagon Youth Group which meets on a Monday evening, helping to run the activities and cooking a meal for the young people.

A small group have faithfully met at the Octagon on Sunday afternoons twice a month to pray for the activities, the families and people we meet each week, the teams of staff and volunteers and the local community. It has been exciting to see prayers answered and to look forward to what God might be planning in the future!

Helen Attree and Angela Gibson

## **Joint World Mission & Social Justice Group**

The joint Mission Committee has responsibility for selecting, promoting, communicating and encouraging our 12 mission partners around the world. We also have responsibility to promote and support short term missions from within our churches. Currently we are bringing prayer points for individual partners each month to one of the services and looking to have one or two 'live' mission services each year. We believe it is vital for us to not only tithe our income but to ensure that we have an outward looking vision, for God's Kingdom is worldwide.

### **All Saints Mission Giving 2023**

As in previous years, we aimed to give away at least 10% of last year's unrestricted income, which amounted to £7,500. We actually gave away £7,700 which was spilt between beneficiaries at home and abroad as follows:

UK		Overseas	
Lyttelton Well	£1,350	Jon & Elise Fletcher (Thailand)	£1,350
Malvern CAP	£1,350	ELWA hospital (Liberia)	£1,455
Other smaller donations	£845	CMS (Peru)	£1,350

## St Andrew's Mission Giving 2023

Our mission giving from St Andrew's was split as below:

UK		Overseas	
Church Army (Nick Russell)	£1,857	CMS (Ben & Katie Ray, Tanzania)	£1,857
		Lebanon Bible Society (Mike Bassous)	£1,857
<b>One Off</b>		Urban Neighbours of Hope (Jon & Elise Fletcher, Thailand)	£1,857
Other giving	£1,655	Open Doors	£1,857
iSingPop	£1,854	Josiah Venture (Terry & Hannah English, Czech Rep.)	£1,857
		Msalato Theological College (Tanzania)	£2480
		Siloam	£60
		Compassion International	£168

Paul Southern and Barry Austin

## Malvern Foodbank



Sadly, the need for a Foodbank has grown significantly. In 2019 we helped 2,500 people. In 2023 we helped 5,500! The generosity of yourselves and others has enabled us to keep up with the demand. For the first time we have employed an Operations Coordinator to ensure efficiency and consistency. We have also obtained a significant grant which has enabled us to improve our reception area and include an office for private conversations. Most of the grant



is used to have a Citizens Advice person working with our clients to address their underlying needs. As ever, I am available to talk at Life Groups, services and anywhere else, if you want to know more!

Peter Buchanan

## Lyttelton Well

The counselling service provides much sought after and highly valued low-cost counselling, whilst the café continues to be a popular venue for delicious snacks and meals.

Rebuilding sales in the bookshop now that it is back in the café is proving difficult. Many Malvern churches have got out of the habit of buying from the Well [AS/SA is a notable exception] and individual buyers seem to favour the convenience of internet buying rather than supporting one of the few remaining Christian bookshops.

Ken Beecroft

## Malvern Wells Village Fete & the Wells Club

All Saints was very much involved in the Village Fete, promoting Messy Church, Toddlers and other church activities. Dave and the team had many interesting and useful conversations with fete visitors. Dave and Eleanor also judged the Dog Show, a new experience for both. The date for the 2024 Fete is Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September.

The Wells Club continues to survive in these difficult times, when so many pubs and clubs closing. Paul Southern and Ken Beecroft continue to run the fortnightly quiz nights and are developing recreational snooker evenings on the alternate Wednesdays, when the league players do not have competitive matches.



Ken Beecroft

## Amen Trust Shoeboxes



Thanks to the generosity of church members, we were able to pack and send 63 shoeboxes to Amen Trust this year for distribution with their partner churches in Romania to children living in poverty in gypsy camps. The



shoeboxes were filled with toys, toiletries, stationery, beautiful hand knitted hats, scarves, gloves and gifts for their grown-ups too.

Helen Attree

## Parenting Courses

It has been a pleasure sharing the Connected Families framework. Over the course of this year over 20 families have learnt the power of building a positive identity in their child. That their child is SAFE, LOVED no matter what, CALLED & CAPABLE of being a blessing and RESPONSIBLE for their actions.

Ruth Wharton

## Church Centre Users

In 2023 we had 19 regular groups using the Church Centre and we continue to attract a wide range of different users. We did lose a couple of groups last year; however, the slots were quickly filled. Some groups have expanded and are now using multiple rooms. Occasional bookings are also starting to slowly increase and I've had enquires about using the centre for semi-regular training for a couple of local organisations.

Kirsty Oldfield

# BUILDING TOGETHER



## St Andrew's Shared Lunch

The lunch we held was very well attended and enjoyed but a pattern has not been established yet. We hope to establish a regular pattern for shared lunches in 2024.

Mary Flynn

## Midweek Service Shared Lunch

We have held a monthly Bring and Share lunch, usually on the last Thursday of the month. We share delicious food and enjoy getting to know each other better over lunch.

Heather Williamson

## All Saints Shared Lunch

The monthly lunches were revived post-Covid in the autumn of 2023. Whilst not quite up to pre-Covid levels the numbers were reasonably good and those who came along enjoyed a pleasant meal with sociable chat. The lunches will continue on the second Sunday of each month, starting at 12.30.

Ken Beecroft

## Deanery Synod

This year has seen significant changes in the deanery as Malvern and Upton seek to work together to build God's Kingdom across town and rural parishes. Our Area Dean, Mark Badger has become the Archdeacon of Worcester. The new Area Dean is Gary Crellin, vicar of Powick. Angela Davison (All Saints) is a

Deanery representative on the Diocesan Synod. Philip Johnson (Malvern Link) and Lynne Sparkes (St Mary's) also moved on and further clergy changes are expected in 2024.

Peter Buchanan, Angela Davison, Jane Mortimore, Carole Nicholls

## **Churches Together in Malvern (CTM)**

The year began with a united service during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January, and daily prayers on Zoom led by different church leaders. Easter was marked by the traditional procession of witness and open-air service in the Priory churchyard on Good Friday, and the sunrise service on the Beacon on Easter Sunday.

June again heralded Lifepath week in the Priory, enjoyed not only by the hundreds of primary school children who attended, but also by the team, drawn from many different churches, working and praying together. The teams taking Open the Book to primary school children in their school assemblies also involve Christians from many different local churches.

Heather Williamson

## **Church Fabric: Buildings and Grounds, All Saints**

In 2023, work continued to address the issues flagged up by the last quinquennial inspection, none of which were major. All works requiring completion within 12 months have been done and attention has turned to the less urgent tasks. There were no unforeseen fabric issues with which to contend.

In the grounds, two trees were felled and branches from others removed. Volunteers fitted a fence along the top of the bank by the Store and tree chippings made a path alongside. We hope to apply to the Natural Networks grant scheme. Once works and planting are agreed and completed, we would claim back a major part of the cost. This would enable us to make the area next to the crypt more accessible and useful for outdoor events.

Paul Southern and Angela Davison

## Megan's Kitchen

Our faculty for Megan's Kitchen was approved in the autumn and the design detail completed soon after. Quotes for the kitchen and building work have been obtained. A PCC decision will be sought in January 2024 to go ahead with the preferred options, and we expect work to begin in early Spring 2023. By the time you read this, the kitchen may well be up and running!

Paul Southern

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

During 2023 a lot was achieved including:

- Continued improvements to our IT infrastructure, including a new office PC, further roll out of Microsoft 365, supporting CAP Malvern and our website.
- Continued maintenance (including locks, plumbing, blocked drains, replacement of bulbs, front doors, boilers, laptops, etc.).
- Installing a new screen in the Foyer.
- Replacing the heat exchanger in the boiler in the new build.
- Grounds clearance and maintenance, repairs to gutters, roofs, car park, etc.

At the end of 2023 we received our delayed Quinquennial Inspection Report. This included comments like 'This very well used church is very well kept, with maintenance being carried out promptly when needed, and little and often as required to keep on top of repairs and maintenance. The parish should be congratulated for this.' The report identified a few items for action which we were aware of, but also noted the need in the coming years for re-pointing parts of the outside of the church. We are also exploring ways that we could move towards Net-Zero. Following on, we have drawn up an ambitious action plan for 2024.

Having three regular weekly services each requiring two technical people (sound and laptop) increasing to three for recorded services (Sunday mornings) has created a real challenge at times in having enough trained technical people available to fill the rota. We have been able to recruit some additional people and train them up – but we could do with some more volunteers.

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

Derek Barnes

## All Saints' PCC

All Saints' PCC has met seven times in 2023, including three joint meetings with St Andrew's PCC and one extraordinary meeting called to make decisions for Megan's Kitchen.

At the APCM in April, Karen Enwright and Kathleen Horwood were welcomed onto the PCC.

The major focus of our meetings this year has been on Megan's Kitchen. Each meeting Paul Southern and Patience Broad have diligently reported to the PCC on the plans, finances and their meetings with contractors. Their dedication and devotion to this project has been outstanding and the expectation now is that the new kitchen and two new toilets will be completed in the spring 2024. It was noticeable how much unity and complete unanimity there has been in all the decision making throughout this process.

Some of the other discussion and decisions made in meetings were around setting up robust and rigorous risk assessments for all areas of church life and the church building, the appointment of a new cleaner, reviewing the legacies and the best use to make of their funds, the possible appointment of a gardener and the grounds work, which was skilfully overseen by Angela Davison.

We thank God for his provision and guidance in all that we have done this year and we continue to have Him at the centre of all we discuss and decide.

Kathleen Horwood (PCC Secretary)

## St Andrew's PCC

St Andrew's PCC met seven times through 2023 (including three joint meetings with All Saints' PCC). The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) was held at The Six service on the 16<sup>th</sup> April. Between meetings, the Standing Committee started to meet regularly to action ongoing issues and outline the agenda for the next PCC meeting.

2023 was a different year as we were without our Rector for a good proportion; nevertheless, we were able to continue to make good progress. Key items during the year included:

- finances (including budgets and creation of a Giving Station)
- staffing and cover
- safeguarding
- fabric (buildings)
- Wardens-in-Charge of Services
- service patterns
- Deanery and Chase Team related issues
- the Malvern branch of Christians Against Poverty
- our children and young people, including seeking a new Youth Ministry Leader and trip approvals
- church centre issues including hire charges and bookings
- Net-Zero.

As Treasurer, Andy Lymer has ably steered us through the management of finances. However, we have continued to be without a PCC Secretary and Val Fane and Liz Saunders have done a sterling job at regularly taking the minutes of meetings.

Prayer continues to underpin our PCC meetings, and we thank God for His provision and guidance.

Derek Barnes (PCC Lay-Chair)

# Safeguarding

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



During 2023, 39 members of the churches have completed DBS checks. 44 members have completed safeguarding training at various levels. We are the first church in the Diocese to have delivered the 'Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse' training face-to-face to a group mainly from the Pastoral Care team.

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 parishes are now generally compliant with all Church of England requirements. All required documents and procedures in place and good practice is being implemented.

Val Fane – Parish Safeguarding Officer

## TREASURERS' REPORTS

### All Saints' Treasurer's Summary Report for 2023

We began the year with a small deficit budget, but income was higher than expected and expenditure lower than expected, so we ended the year with a small surplus. As ever, we are so grateful for God's provision and the faithful stewardship of our congregations. Looking forward, the Chase Team may not receive the same level of grant towards our Ministry Share as we have had in the past two years and we are planning to expand our ministry team so expenditure across the team will increase. At present, All Saints has set a small deficit budget for 2024 but until the uncertainties surrounding future costs are resolved, this could change.

Paul Southern – All Saints Treasurer



**ALL SAINTS SUMMARY FINANCES 2023**

**UNRESTRICTED FUNDS**

<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
<i>Regular Giving</i>	£56,114	<i>Ministry Share</i>	£28,050
<i>Plate Collections</i>	£1,475	<i>Mission</i>	£9,094
<i>Gift Aid</i>	£13,417	<i>Children, youth &amp; families</i>	£5,667
<i>Other income</i>	£3,196	<i>Repairs</i>	£3,072
		<i>Other expenditure</i>	£25,964
<i>Total</i>	£74,202	<i>Total</i>	£71,847

**RESTRICTED FUNDS**

<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
<i>Megan's Kitchen</i>	£6,894	<i>Megan's Kitchen</i>	£2,924
<i>Other income</i>	£1,119	<i>Other expenditure</i>	£1,390
<i>Total</i>	£8,013	<i>Total</i>	£4,314

**BALANCES**

**Unrestricted**

<i>Current account</i>	£39,086
<i>Deposit account</i>	£12,595

**Restricted**

<i>Megan's Kitchen</i>	£64,830
<i>Holiday at Home</i>	£638
<i>Christmas Fund</i>	£336

**INVESTMENTS**

**Unrestricted**

<i>CofE Investment Funds</i>	£11,167
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**Restricted**

<i>Endowment fund</i>	£19,667
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## St Andrew's Treasurer's Report for 2023

The table below shows summary details of our finances as a church for 2023.

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) and in particular to Marion Robbins (bookkeeper). Between the two of them the bulk of the finance work is done. I get the easy bits!

Andy Lymer

<b>ST ANDREWS SUMMARY FINANCES 2023</b>		
<b>INCOME</b>		
<b>Giving:</b>		
Regular giving	£196,044	
Other offerings	£8,220	
Donations	£16,899	
Grants and legacies	£59,000	
Investments	£1,299	
Gift aid	£34,236	
<b>Total</b>		<b>£315,698</b>
<b>Church activities:</b>		
Church Centre hiring	£17,843	
Weddings and funerals	£3,440	
Blessing fund	£788	
Octagon Café	£900	
Bereavement café	£3,275	
<b>Total</b>		<b>£26,246</b>
<b>Other income</b>		<b>£22,360</b>
<b>Total income</b>		<b>£364,304</b>

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Church Activities :</b>		
Staff costs	£94,287	
Ministry Share	£83,850	
Church 'away' giving	£17,359	
Clergy/service costs	£8,026	
Office costs	£5,354	
Young people (not salaries)	£3,538	
Mission and community	£42,310	
Light and heat	£10,427	
Building & running costs (not light and heat)	£10,049	
Other	£9,146	

<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>£284,346</b>
<b>gain on investments</b>		<b>£148</b>
<b>Net increase in church resources</b>		<b>£80,106</b>



# St Andrew's & All Saints

Partnering with God in the flourishing of our communities

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



[www.standrewsandallsaints.org](http://www.standrewsandallsaints.org)

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