

# **St. Andrew's Church**

## **Annual Report 2024**

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# MINUTES OF ST ANDREW'S CHURCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Chaired by Mary O'Neale

**1. Apologies** for absence were received from Judy Rose, Glenys Bloomfield and Suzanne & Mike Carter.

**2. Minutes of last year's AGM** (previously circulated) were approved. Proposed Trudy Hutchings, seconded Caroline Picking. Matters carried forwards to new Council: photographs of Council members to be displayed in church and environmental audit implementation. **Action: Council**

**3. Election of Council Members:** As the organisation of the SEP will change when it becomes a CIO at its AGM on 20<sup>th</sup> April, Council members elected now will only be in office until the SEP AGM. In the new structure the Congregational Leadership Team (CLT) will consist of the lead minister plus four members. Jackie Williamson, Jill Clarke and Derrick Atkinson have been nominated as candidates. Two Church Wardens will be *ex officio* members of the CLT. David Kent has been nominated as People's Warden. A block vote for all the candidates was proposed by Janet Galley, seconded Freddy Wright, carried unanimously. Jackie Williamson is willing to continue as Treasurer. There was no nomination for Safeguarding Officer. Also, a trustee from St. Andrew's needs to be put forward for election at the SEP AGM. Mary can provide details of this role. Mary was asked if she would have a role in the new structure, but she has still to decide about this. Church members were reminded that tasks in and around St. Andrew's are not only down to council members and that more volunteers are needed to help out.

**4. Queries Regarding (previously circulated) Reports:** Hard copies of reports are available from the steward's table. John Beazley comments that the reports were very good this year – short and concise. Jackie Williamson, Treasurer, reiterated that the accounts at 2022 year-end were better than forecast. She thanked the congregation for their support in last years church events and for all those who worked hard to make the events possible. More events, including for the Coronation, are planned this year. As there were no questions, the accounts were agreed. Proposed Trudy Hutchings, seconded David Kent, carried unanimously. Janet Galley

questioned what role Ann Fountaine played in Finance? This was explained by Jackie Williamson.

### **5. Any Other Business**

John Beazley raised the issue of returning to the common cup for Communion wine. Comments: disposable cups create plastic waste but 1 in 17 people currently has COVID-19. A new stock of plastic cups has just been purchased. Could reusable glass cups be obtained? Yes, but who would wash them? Also, glass cups are expensive. The common chalice has been part of Communion services for 1,000 years. It was right to use individual cups during the pandemic, but with the availability of vaccines, it is as safe as possible to use the traditional common cup. Could individual clergy decide what they would use for their services? No, the decision must come from the congregation. Is intinction an option? Vote: common cup 10 in favour, individual cups 15 in favour. Individual cups will continue

Mary thanked Ann Fountaine on behalf of the congregation for all her hard work and support and presented her with a card and gifts.

Jackie asked everyone who wishes to Gift Aid their donations to St. Andrew's to complete a new declaration form and return it to her.

Correction: Great Linford WI has been running for 40 and not 50 years

Meeting closed.

Jill Clarke,  
minute taker

*Now, among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."*

In the name of Jesus, the one who was and is and is to come, Amen

Friends, intent is everything! I repeat, intent is everything!!

The very sad news about the misogynistic, racist and threatening comments made by a privileged man against the member of parliament for Hackney North, The Rt Honourable Dianne Abbott, opens up a debate in British society and culture which must be had.

The accused man is reported to insist that he is neither racist nor misogynistic and his intent was not cause pain or to call for Ms Abbott's assassination.

As someone who trained to be a priest, he must surely be familiar with Jesus' words in Luke chapter 6 verse 45 - "A good person brings good things out of the good stored up in their heart, Jesus said, and an evil person brings evil things out of the evil stored up in their heart. For out of the abundance of heart, the mouth speaks".

A text that I think we all, as Christians, also ought to be familiar with.

Intent really does matter, in fact, it is really everything!

In our gospel text this morning, we are told that some "Greeks" had come up to be part of the temple worship, as part of the Jewish week-long festival leading up to the Passover.

Just a little background so we understand what's going on here:

There were non-Jews who lived just outside and around northern Israel, who were influenced by Jewish lifestyle and culture and had sort of embraced it and started to belong. They were known as "proselytes". In Greek, Proselytos, simply means "converts". So, Greeks who had converted and lived or endeavour to live the Jewish lifestyle – were the group identified in Acts chapter 2 verse 10 as some of the many different kinds of people who were present on that morning of the Pentecost.

The connection of this group with Phillip is obvious because Philip (a Greek name) was himself, as John tells us, from the northern part of the country, where many proselytes are located. So, the fact that they probably spoke the same language with Philip explains why these Greeks approached Philip first asking to see Jesus.

So why was it so important that John identified these people who were seeking to see Jesus? Why is John telling us where these people were from?

Remember, intent is everything!

If we accept the suggestion that Jesus' fame had spread all over Judea in the south and beyond Galilee in the north, then it is fair to conclude that these Proselytes wanted to see Jesus because of Jesus' 'celebrity status'.

Perhaps they wanted a 'selfie' or photos with him to upload on to their Facebook and other social media pages. Maybe they wanted to be able to write on their social media profiles that they had met that Jesus.

If that was in fact what these proselytes had in mind, then that explains Jesus' completely diametrically opposite response when he was informed of his new fans' enquiry!

"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified", he said "Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever serves me must follow me, and whoever serves me, the Father will honour".

This long litany of his passion was to point his "new as well as existing fans/followers" away from himself as a superstar figure, and to point them to the real essence of who he is – which is, one who has come to suffer and die so that greater fruit may be borne out of his passion, suffering and death. "Father glorify your name" was his prayer and his mission.

In other words, not about his miracles or his subversion of political authorities, but about his mission of reconciling humanity to God and bringing glory to God, both then and by the power of the holy spirit, still now among us and in our church.

Intent is indeed everything!

Some of you would recall from open door 2 weeks ago, the question we discussed: "Why do you come to church"? Since that question, Stephen – our warden, has been tormenting me on the term "idolatry".

Remember, intent is indeed everything!

As vicar of this church, the last year has been agonising for me, watching a lot of the structures that we worked incredibly hard to put in place being dismantled.

Over the last 7 years we established a functioning buildings group which is now no more; we established a solid finance group and now we can barely produce a treasurer from this congregation; we established the most thriving youth club run by a church in the MK area, but now, I sadly only see ex-St Andrews youth clubbers on the streets.

I agonise that those structure which are seen as signs of a thriving church are no more. However, it would seem that God has sustained for himself a congregation that has ever diminishing structures but a heart of worship and prayer. And I wonder if it is possible that this small grain has to die to bear greater fruits of the love of God?

Reflecting on our AGM, which takes place after this service has left me wondering if the structures that I and many of you hold dear and value so much are perhaps symbolically idolatrous? Was - I and many others - obsessed with those structures over and above the worshipping of God and praising his name?

Intent really does matter, because therein lies vainglory and idolatry.

The Greek fans of Jesus sought the ephemeral, the glittery, the celebrity Jesus. Jesus to the contrary pointed them to his suffering and death and his mission to glorify his father.

Maybe we too are being pointed to the same Jesus; away from the structures that have perhaps been a distraction for many years. Maybe the love and life of Jesus can be found more in our Sunday worship, in 5Ways Café, in Saturday open silence, in Wednesday morning prayer, in group seminars, in bell-ringing and in calling people to worship, rather than in the sometimes-tedious structures and meetings and these tapestries and fabric and building!

Intent is really everything.

We come to church to see Jesus; every other thing that is exulted above that intention is idolatrous. So maybe we need to let go and let God!

For all that has been, for all that is and for all that will be, thanks and glory be to Jesus in God almighty. Amen





## **St Andrew's Church Great Linford**

Treasurer's report AGM 2024 – Accounts period January through December 2023

Jackie Williamson, who had superbly served as treasurer for several years, resigned at the end of August 2023. As there was no-one willing or able to take on the role from the congregation, I, as treasurer to the Trustees and Partnership Council of the SEP CIO, have taken on the role of treasurer but to cover the main tasks of book-keeping, record keeping and bill paying. Other tasks such as Gift Aid, Sunday cash and card transactions etc. have continued to be performed by Jill Clarke, Mary O'Neale, Ann Fountaine and others.

Finances have on the whole remained fairly stable:

### **General Fund**

#### **Parish Share**

There was reduction in contributions from £30,000 in 2022 to £24,000 in 2023. While this keeps the accounts balanced it does reduce the funds that the Partnership has available to pay the ministers. Many of us remember the days of each church having its own full-time minister but the reality of such a high level of staffing would mean a contribution from each congregation of £50,000 - £60,000 and no church congregation in the partnership can afford that level and that two full time ministers across the partnership and hopefully one or two part time or house-for-duty posts along with the 20% Methodist post.

#### **Gift Aid and GASDS**

In previous years, we have added the Gift Aid recovered in January and the GASDS recovered after the end of the Tax year as income in the accounting period when received. In line with Charity Commission advice, we have accrued those amounts in the accounting period of the donations they apply to. This has increased the income for this year only by £2,620.

#### **Quiet Garden and Paths**

The proceeds from events such as the Coronation and the August teas have contributed to this fund which now stands at £2,198.

#### **Music Development and Organ**

This fund continues to grow from generous donations made during the year. It currently stands at £4,460.

#### **Building and property fund**

Essential repairs were required on the tower in the early part of 2023. A number of grants including a VAT recovery grant and the balance in the 'Preservation fund' paid for this. The current balance is £522 but will be used along with various grants etc. to fund essential maintenance of the building.

#### **Historic Rent**

Buildings including houses in the area of the church have a legacy Historic Rent. This could be payable to the Parish, but are rarely expected or requested. This liability can be removed from

the registry for future sale/purchase of property but requires the payment of a legal fee and a fee to the church. St Andrew's received a fee of £860 in 2023 which was distributed to 2 local charities.

### **Budget 2024**

The final column on the spreadsheet is my estimated budget for 2024. The figures are broadly in line with the General Fund income and expenditure in 2023. It is likely that there will be additional income from Grants etc. and expenditure that is currently not predicted. I hope you will find this a reasonable calculation.

Adrian Prisk

March 2024

**St Andrews**

**Financial Statement  
For the year ending 31 December 2023**

	General	Bellringers	Youth & Children	Garden Fund	Building Fund	Flowers	Organ & Music	Historic Rent	TOTAL FUNDS 2023	TOTAL FUNDS 2022
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Budget 2024

**INCOMING RESOURCES**

*Incoming resources from donors*

Planned giving:											
Gift Aided	20,894						2,400		23,294	21,984	22,500
Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid	9,168	(£2,620)							9,168	6,753	7,000
Not Gift Aided	1,853								1,853	2,279	2,000
Collections (open plate) at all services	1,883								1,883	1,707	1,800
Gift Days	77								77	77	100
Small Donations	31								31	31	100
	<b>33,905</b>						<b>2,400</b>		<b>36,305</b>	<b>38,537</b>	<b>33,400</b>

*Other voluntary incoming resources*

Donations, appeals etc.	3,717		140		500	20			4,377	907	3,000
Legacies and Memorials	1,081								1,081	2,147	1,000
Refreshments and Flowers				2,183					2,183	1,829	500
Fetes, bazaars, other fund-raising events	240	200			2,800				3,240	1,039	
Grants	5,038	200	140	2,183	3,300	20			10,880	5,922	4,500

*Income from charitable and ancillary trading*

Fees - Weddings/Funerals	2,476	255							2,731	3,723	1,500
Church letting	80								80	200	100
Church hall letting											
Chapel letting										63	
Other trading	63								63		
Other lettings											
Other Fees								860	860		
	<b>2,619</b>	<b>255</b>						<b>860</b>	<b>3,734</b>	<b>3,923</b>	<b>1,600</b>

*Other ordinary incoming resources*

Insurance claims										6,970	
Sundry refunds											6,970

*Income from investments*

Dividends											0
Interest on CBF Accounts											0
Interest from bank accounts											0
Income from sale of invested capital											0

**TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES**

	<b>41,562</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>2,183</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>50,920</b>	<b>55,352</b>	<b>39,500</b>
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**St Andrews**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
For the year ending 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2023 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2022 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
Incoming Resources from Donors	33,905	2,400		36,305	38,537
Other voluntary incoming resources	5,038	5,843		10,880	5,922
Income from charitable and ancillary trading	2,619	1,115		3,734	3,923
Other ordinary incoming resources					6,970
Income from investments					0
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b>41,562</b>	<b>9,358</b>		<b>50,920</b>	<b>55,352</b>
<b>RESOURCES USED</b>					
Grants	606			606	908
Activities directly relating to the work of the	37,995	9,796		47,791	51,819
Fund-raising and publicity	499			499	604
Church management and administration	90			90	443
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES USED</b>	<b>39,190</b>	<b>9,796</b>		<b>48,986</b>	<b>53,774</b>
<b>NET INCOMING (OUTGOING) RESOURCES</b>	<b>2,372</b>	<b>(439)</b>		<b>1,933</b>	<b>1,578</b>
<b>GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS</b>					
- realised					
- unrealised					
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>	<b>2,372</b>	<b>(439)</b>		<b>1,933</b>	<b>1,578</b>
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY 2023	4,312	21,939		26,251	
Prior Year reclassification					
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER 2023	6,684	21,500		28,184	26,251

**St Andrews**

**BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £	
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Tangible fixed assets				
Investment assets				
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Stock				
Debtors		2,620		Accrued Tax Claim Q4 2023
Short term deposits - eg CBF Deposit Fund				
Unbanked Receipts			381	
Verger Fees Account		220	220	
Cash Account		71	344	
Current Account		25,967	25,305	
		<u>28,879</u>	<u>26,251</u>	
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Creditors				
Advanced Fee Payments		694		
		<u>694</u>		
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>28,185</b>	<b>26,251</b>	
<b>FUNDS</b>				
Unrestricted		6,684	4,312	
Unrestricted Designated		11,371	9,218	
Restricted		10,129	12,721	
Endowment				
		<u>28,184</u>	<u>26,251</u>	
<b>Balances on Individual Funds</b>				
				Change
General Fund	Unrestricted	6,684	4,312	2,372
Designated Accts	Designated	9,173	9,173	
Paths & Quiet Garden	Designated	2,198	45	2,153
Bellringers Acct	Restricted	455		455
Children and Youth Fund	Restricted	571	431	140
Flower Fund	Restricted		36	(36)
Music Development Fund	Restricted	4,460	2,510	1,950
Building Fund	Restricted	522	5,622	(5,100)
Social Fund	Restricted	4,121	4,121	
		<u>28,184</u>	<u>26,251</u>	<u>1,933</u>

Approved by the Church Council

(The Chairman)

(Member)

Date:

|Date:

## **St. Andrew's SEP Representative - Annual Report for the year 2023**

The SEP Newsletter will keep you as up to date as I am with what's going on in the Stantonbury Ecumenical Parish.

The main thing is that as SEP rep I can vote at SEP meetings on matters that affect the parish and St. Andrew's church.

I can put forward views/ideas from the St. Andrew's perspective.

So think how much better that would be if I wasn't the only SEP rep from our church.

The good news is that each church in the SEP can have TWO representatives. That's TWO voices and TWO votes.

The meetings are every other month.

That's not too onerous and you get to see how the parish works.

So put yourself forward and give it a go.

Trudy

# QUIET GARDEN & CARE OF CHURCHYARD

2024

Many people make use of the Quiet Garden throughout the year and are very appreciative of this facility. Walkers, dog owners and cyclists all pause to rest.

With regards to the care of the churchyard, Trudy Hutchings, community volunteer Bob and I meet on each Wednesday morning at 10.00am (weather permitting) after Morning Prayer to undertake various garden tasks. We again wish to thank the **Parks Trust Volunteers** who, during this winter have maintained the natural perimeter hedge.

All are welcome to join us for **The Green Gym** each Wednesday morning 10.00am to mid-day, refreshments provided. Come and exercise by maintaining the beauty of these areas.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the upkeep of the Quiet Garden in any way.

At present we have been paying an annual donation of £40.00 to the Quiet Garden Trust to help cover the costs of running the Movement. Currently the suggested donation is £50.00 or whatever we can afford. If the congregation wish to maintain this support please could consideration be given to setting up a standing order of £50.00 each year.

David Kent

5<sup>th</sup> March 2024



## **ST ANDREW'S CHURCH MUSIC GROUP REPORT MARCH 2024.**

Since the last AGM there have been no meetings of the Music Group.

We are grateful to Glynis Dudeney, Penny Miller, Adrian Prisk, and Lauren and Hamish Hollis-Hill for providing music at our services, including weddings and funerals. Lauren is still studying for a Master's Degree in Music Therapy.

Thank you also to those members of our congregation who lead the singing at each Open Door service, as well as at Christmas and on other festival days, accompanied by Glynis on the Clavinova and Julie Lloyd on flute, Lauren on cello and Hamish on clarinet.

In May the choir sang a brand new anthem, The Mountains shall bring Peace, at a special service to mark the Coronation of King Charles III.

In July there was great rejoicing at a service of thanksgiving for the safe delivery of Adanna and baby Clemency with singing and dancing as never seen before in our church.

Members of the choir enjoyed singing in the Free Church Choirs Festival at St. Alban's Cathedral in October. It is always uplifting to sing with so many other Christians in such a wonderful acoustic.

The organ is playable following the work carried out last year, though there are one or two notes which don't always sound. Hopefully the tuners will return in April to sort out those minor issues.

***Glenys Bloomfield. (Music Coordinator)***

## **5Ways Café in the Park – Annual Report for the year 2023**

We miss Carol. Lesley joined the team just for February to cover for Carol's trip to Tasmania. And then Carol died. At 5Ways we remembered Carol with Spicy Rockett Cake Day on the second Tuesday of July where there was a varied abundance of her signature bake. I think, hope and pray that Carol would have had many reasons to thank The Lord and perform her happy dance in the months that have followed.

First of all 5Ways continues to serve the community with visitors from near and further. We've also had visits from the wood turners, the Home Instead craft team and Charles with his 'how to stay healthy' leaflets. There have been 'take your pick - variety unknown' tomato plants and lots of snap-dragon seedlings all the way from Wales looking to find good homes. Andrew leads walks on request, and with the benefit of a grant from the Great Linford Relief in Need Charity, 5Ways invested in a range of games (3D snakes & ladders is one to try), a soup maker and a contribution to the Textile group at the beginning of 2024.

The Café could not operate without its volunteers and there would certainly be no cake. Very fortunately Lesley stayed on and has been joined by Iris and Sylvia in the servery team with Derek providing additional baking (I'm dancing too Carol). Andrew, Angela, Terry, Tine & I are front of house with the estimable Piano Pete and indefatigable Stephen. We said goodbye to Liberty, our MacIntyre learner in July, with very best wishes for the future.

In 2023 5Ways, through donations received for refreshments, donated £1,757 to charitable organisations local and national, including £437 to St. Andrew's Church. The future though is going to be different. We have been very pleased to host the Textile Project on the second Tuesday of the month throughout 2023 with many thanks to Jane, Deborah & Sue and everyone who joins in; there's been all sorts going on – wet felting anyone? An application for a Community Foundation grant to develop a new textiling project in 2024 was not successful. However The Parks Trust, the Friends of Great Linford Manor Park and 5Ways are going to jointly fund a new project in 2024.

So 2023 has sort of been a gateway year for 5Ways. It has become an unincorporated association, whilst it is St. Andrew's church which gives 5Ways its place in the community, this bit of self-identity will aid future development and we are already thinking ahead to 2025. What can we do to maintain the Café as a vibrant, welcoming, safe space for everyone who joins us on the second & fourth Tuesdays of the month?

From the BBC Radio 'Thought for Today' we can look to G.O.D. - Generate, Organise, Deliver - both in a practical and spiritual way.

Trudy  
5Ways Coordinator

## **Churchwarden's Report 2024**

I studied civil engineering at university. At Liverpool, the Department of Civil Engineering sat next to the Department of Building Engineering. We civil engineers looked down upon our neighbours. We planned, calculated and constructed; builders just picked up a trowel and built!

This building was built and maintained by masons, labourers and carpenters; priests built and maintained it's congregation. It's "construction" lies in the intangible things of denominations, councils, committees, projects and procedures.

2023 has been a deconstructive year: no congregational council, no development project, no church treasurer, no events committee.

Is this bad?

No!

These structures are useful only if they promote building: and not just of stone and mortar, but the building and maintenance of community, worship and prayer; the building and maintenance of love, joy, faith and peace.

Not everyone has the skills or enthusiasm to construct but we all can be builders in some way. Let us all pick up the "trowel" that God has given each of us and just build.

Stephen Hutchings

Churchwarden

Stephen. Andrew's Church, Great Linford

13<sup>th</sup> March 2024