

**THE PARISH OF  
ST ANDREW, NORTH SWINDON  
Annual report 2020**



**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS  
to be held on zoom**

Join from this link <http://bit.ly/StANS> from a computer or by phone dial 0208 080 6592 and enter 813 6651 6924 # when asked.

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021 commencing at 7.30pm**

**This pack includes**

- (a) **Agenda for 2021 meetings**
- (b) **Minutes and Reports for 2020**
- (c) **Accounts for 2020**

**THE PARISH OF ST ANDREW, NORTH SWINDON**  
**12<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm via zoom**

**ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS 2021**

A G E N D A

1. Welcome and opening prayers
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of previous annual meeting of parishioners 2020
4. Election of Churchwardens.

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2021**

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the previous annual parochial church meeting 2020
  - (a) to be approved and signed
  - (b) matters arising
3. Presentation of Updated Electoral Roll.
4. Elections:
  - a. 3 PCC vacancies for 3 years
  - b. 1 PCC vacancies for 2 years
  - c. 2 PCC vacancies for 1 year
5. Election of Sidespeople and Assistant Churchwardens.
6. Consideration of Reports.
7. Financial Report and Presentation of 2020 Inspected Accounts
  - a. Adoption of 2020 Inspected Accounts
  - b. Appointment of Independent examiner
8. Incumbent's Report.
9. Presentation from Revd Paul Freeland about Pattern Church's planting plans.
10. The Grace.

**CONTACT DETAILS:**

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**MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETINGS HELD 30<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020  
PARISH OF ST ANDREW, NORTH SWINDON**

<b>Present:</b>	Helen Smith	Sally Robertson (Chair)	Karen Vermeersch (minutes)
	Peter Smith	Brian Clegg	Michael Vermeersch
	Susan Smith (Treasurer)	Debbie Nicholas	
	Helen Allen	Gillian Clegg	
	Colin Clark		
<b>Apologies:</b>	Frances Grimshaw	Glenn Smith	
	Dave Templar		
	Linda Pope		

**Agenda Item**

**Subject**

**ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS**

1. Welcome, Opening Prayers – Led by Sally Robertson (Chair)
2. Apologies as listed above
3. Minutes of meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2019 were approved, agreed and signed. There were no matters arising.
4. **Election of Churchwardens:**  
Karen Vermeersch nominated by Lynda Jones and seconded by David Templar. Elected.  
Brian Clegg nominated by Nick Atkins and seconded by Frances Grimshaw. Elected.  
A huge thank you to Karen and Brian for standing for this role.
5. The meeting closed at 7.44 pm.

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

1. **Apologies for Absence**  
As listed above.
2. **Minutes of the Previous Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2019**
  - a. The minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2019 were approved, agreed and signed
  - b. **Matters Arising**  
There were no matters arising.
3. **Presentation of Updated Electoral Roll**  
The Electoral Roll is on the notice board. There are 69 parishioners on it with 34 resident in the parish and 35 not resident.  
Many thanks to Alison Adam for completing the revision and who will continue as Electoral Roll Officer.
4. **Elections:**
  - a. **Deanery Synod Member - 2 vacancies**  
Dave Templar nominated by Bev Silvester, seconded by Karen Vermeersch  
Colin Clark nominated by Nick Atkins, seconded by Frances Grimshaw
  - b. **PCC vacancies for 2 years – 2 vacancies**  
Frances Grimshaw, nominated by Lynda Jones, seconded by Tony Jones.
  - c. **PCC vacancies for 3 years – 3 vacancies**  
Susan Smith, nominated by Frances Grimshaw, seconded by Barry Luffman  
Helen Allen, nominated by Lynda Jones, seconded by Tony Jones.  
Sally Robertson thanked all who were prepared to stand on the PCC.
5. **Election of Sidespeople**

With the restrictions imposed by COVID-19 it was proposed to defer election of sidespeople to the next meeting in 2021.

6. **Consideration of Church Family Reports**

Sally Robertson discussed the Church Family Reports. She provided an update, since the report was written. Most significantly given the state of play with not being able to meet up and with numbers reducing, the IGNiTE group had closed. There would be a period of reflection on what new initiative may replace it in due course.

7.

**Financial Report and Presentation of 2018 Inspected Accounts**

Susan Smith advised that the accounts were available in the report.

Helen Allen asked if the church is remaining solvent. Susan responded that we are presently keeping our head above water, just. She thanked all those who had remained loyal with their giving during these difficult times. Without them it would be a lot harder.

Helen noted that Parish Share would be reduced and asked if it would be possible to review it if necessary. Susan advised that Parish Share commitment had been held at the level in 2019, but this would be reviewed considering our financial state. Sally clarified that the commitment was that we would give 65% of our income. This was something which had been initiated by the Diocesan Finance Committee.

Helen commented on whether something would be done about the broken window. Sally noted that it had been highlighted in the 2017 Quinquennial report as a low priority and would be dealt with at an appropriate time.

The 2019 independently examined accounts have been presented in the Annual Report.

Thanks were offered to Susan for all her hard work.

Appointment of Independent Examiner: The meeting appointed Paul Crowley.

Proposed: Susan Smith Seconded: Helen Allen

8. **Incumbent's Report**

Sally reflected on all that had happened since the 2019 report had been written. She was grateful to all those who had kept things going, particularly Brian and Karen.

She also offered particular thanks to:

- Niki Wilding for her great support as Parish Safeguarding Officer
- Debbie Nicholas and Helen Smith for stepping into the role.
- Peter and Susan who were stepping down from their role as vergers for weddings and funerals. There is still a vacancy for vergers, let Sally know if interested.

She discussed the future and how different it may look going forward, reflecting on verses in Exodus and their relevance today to us in trusting in God and following His will, committing ourselves to prayer for direction and guidance. She suggested we all commit to praying for St Andrew's more.

Karen thanked Sally for her dedication and example to everyone and stated that we are blessed to have her as our priest, which was heartily endorsed by the people in the meeting.

9. **Closing Prayer and Grace**

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm with prayer and the Grace.

## REPORTS FOR 2020

### **THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)**

#### **(a) Its Role**

*The Council is required, as stated in the Parochial Church Councils Measure 1956, to co-operate with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It is also a forum for debating matters sent down by the General, Diocesan and Deanery Synods. The PCC is responsible with the incumbent for the disposal of all monies collected.*

#### **(b) PCC Members**

##### Ex-officio members

Sally Robertson (Priest-in-Charge)  
Karen Vermeersch (Churchwarden)  
Brian Clegg (Churchwarden from November 2020)  
Dave Templar (Deanery Synod Member – re-elected September 2020)  
Colin Clark (Deanery Synod Member – re-elected September 2020)

##### Elected members

Susan Smith (Treasurer) (reelected 2020 – term ends 2023)  
Frances Grimshaw (reelected – term ends 2022)  
Tina Thorpe (elected in April 2018 for 3 years – term ends 2021)  
Susan Jennings (elected in April 2019 for 2 years – term ends 2021)  
Bill Thorpe (elected in April 2019 for 2 years – resigned November 2020)  
Brian Clegg (elected in April 2019 for 3 years – became Churchwarden November 2020)  
Donna Kelly (elected in April 2019 for 3 years – term ends 2022)  
Helen Allen (elected September 2020 – term ends 2023)  
Debbie Nicholas (co-opted October 2020 – term ends 2021)

##### Minute Secretary

Susan Jennings

#### **(c) Organisation**

The PCC met 10 times in 2020: 3 times in person and 7 times on zoom.

#### **(d) Proceedings of the PCC**

The main items, which the PCC considered during the year, included:

**Mission:** During the mission-focused part of our meetings, we considered the following: Making the most of our building; Church at Tadpole Garden Village, where God is working through Covid, the purpose of worship, the performance of PCC, plans for All Saints to Christmas and safeguarding

**Business:** Our business discussions included: purchasing a large flag, (not) repairing the church wall, donation to Swindon Commercial Chaplaincy, impact of Covid, online worship, online giving, safely reopening church, supporting those who are shielding, supporting Karen Vermeersch in Licensed Lay Ministry training, resurfacing the path and providing back path for Covid and restoring the porch gates

After the APCM we began reading a book together and discussing our learning about prayer at the beginning of each meeting: A Praying Life by Paul E Miller.

(e) Facts and Figures for 2020

Electoral Roll: 69

Average Sunday Attendance : St Andrew's & Tadpole Farm Academy (\*) or St Francis Schools(^) :

	2020 In church and on zoom(+)	2020 In church only(\$)	2019*	2018*	2017^	2016^
Adults	24	14	31	30	29	38
Children	4	3	8	10	11.31	19

\$ This average does not include Sundays when the church was not open for services, but does include Sundays when we were in church and on zoom and just in church (prior to March 2020)

+ This average includes Sundays when church was not open for services and counts those who joined us via zoom as well as those in church. As with \$ it does not include Easter Sunday or Harvest.

Occasional Offices	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
<b>Baptisms:</b>	5	32	40	48	69
<b>Funerals:</b>	18 (2 church)	6 (0) church)	2 (1 church)	16(1 church)	5 (1 church)
<b>Marriages:</b>	1	5	1	1	1
<b>Blessing after Civil Marriage:</b>	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Confirmation</b>	0	2	6	6	1

**(f) Log Book, Terrier and Inventory**

Checked March 2021, signed by Revd Sally Robertson and Karen Vermeersch, March 2021.

**CHILDREN'S WORK** (Lyn Jones)

There has been quite a change this year due to Covid-19 restrictions and of course lock downs. Sally has been able to continue Sunday Worship via Zoom so we have still been able to engage with and have the children take part in the Children's Service from their own homes, craft and activities are posted on the church website prior to the services.

Once we could return to church social distancing measures were set in place with the moving of some pews and the closure of the Children's Area and removal of all toys and books, children were encouraged to stay in their family unit and not wander round during the services as they had previously. So that we could continue craft sessions we introduced plastic wallets containing colouring pencils, glue sticks, scissors and a pencil which were sanitised after each use, the craft was put into the wallet 72 hours prior to the service. There are always craft wallets available for children attending all services. When, weather permitting, we were able to have the Children's Service outside, and we assume we shall be able to do this again as the weather improves.

The introduction of the beads last year continues, we try to register all the children attending on Zoom so that they can collect their beads when we see them in person.

The children's leaders feel confident that the new measures introduced will enable children to participate in church services safely, but would welcome any feedback you may wish to make.

Our thanks to Bev, Nicola, Helen and Donna our other Children's Leaders.

**DEANERY SYNOD** (Dave Templar)

Swindon Deanery Synod 2020

Area Dean to 31st March 2020 Revd. Captain Clive Deverell.  
Acting / Interim Area Dean Revd. Raymond Adams 1st April 2020 to 3rd January 2021.  
New Area Dean Revd. Trudie Wigley 4th January 2021  
Associate Area Dean Revd. Sally Robertson.

There were 2 Swindon Deanery Synod Meetings 2020, 27th February and 7th July 2020.

27th Feb at All Saints Southbrook St.

We studied The Widow's Mite from St Mark's gospel 12:41-44 & St Luke 21:1-4.  
Area Dean Clive informed the meeting that our guest speaker Simon Taylor had cancelled that morning.  
Instead Revd Dr Catherine Okoronkwo who is the Vicar of All Saints and St Barnabas, Swindon would share with the Deanery her first 3 months experiences in Swindon. Additionally, Revd Dr Catherine Okoronkwo is now Bishop's Advisor on Racial Justice.

Other matters mentioned included: - Archbishop's Football Team, Growing Leaders Course, Exploring Christianity Course, Revd Sally Robertson reported on Uganda and the New Estates Group.

7th July First Virtual Meeting

Regret technical problems, I had sound but no vision.

Main Items

1) Bishop Viv's address (copies can be supplied). Bishop Viv brought her presence and experience to Swindon, sharing memories from Gloucester Cathedral, Liverpool, and messages from Archbishop of Khartoum. Bishop Viv concluded "we are going to face up to challenges".

2) Question and Answer session hosted by Archdeacon Christopher.

Remember at this time the Government had closed Churches. There were genuine concerns about Baptisms, Weddings and Funeral Services, Sunday Services and congregations keeping in touch. Everybody wanted to know about re-opening of Churches, how and when and when APCMS could be held. How had new priests coped without welcoming services?

I thought that Archdeacon Christopher was very helpful, his understanding of Covid 19 challenges, he brought genuine peace to Deanery Meeting and offered reassurance to Deanery at a time when there were so many popular press rumours. Archdeacon Christopher gave a message that we should only re-open Churches that were Covid 19 safe and should not cut corners in order to open early. There would be no pressure for early re-opening and Churches might consider re-opening at same time as Schools in September.

3) Revd. Sally Robertson submitted an update on our link with Uganda.

#### **FABRIC & BUILDING REPORT** (*Churchwarden Karen Vermeersch*)

The church building remains sound overall, with no obvious structural problems. The gates which protect the porch are in a poor state and need repair. Internally it would still benefit from redecoration. Repairs to the wall have not been carried out due to lack of funds.

The possibility of fully restoring the main path from the gate to the front porch, and adding a path from the west door to the front porch was investigated, but the PCC felt the cost were too high to proceed. However, the main path has been made much better with the addition of a new layer of chippings, while rubber non-slip mats have been laid from the west door to the porch. The overall cost has been more than covered by money raised in donations and a grant from the All Churches Trust, with the remainder available for future works. Many thanks to all those who helped lay the chippings and mats, and contributed to the cost.

The grounds continue to be well-maintained by our contractors. A new bench has been kindly provided by the Vernon family, which has been placed by the East wall, secured to prevent removal. Sincere thanks to everyone who has worked hard to help with the upkeep of St Andrew's, doing such jobs as clearing the drains, making minor repairs, helping with working parties and general cleaning and tidying. It makes such a difference. When all Covid restrictions have been lifted, we hope that many people will help in the effort to restore the church and grounds to a state we can be proud of.

#### **FINANCIAL REPORT** *(Treasurer Susan Smith)*

Please refer to the PCC's Annual Accounts and the Financial Review at the end of this Report.

#### **IGNITE YOUTH GROUP** *(Sally Robertson)*

For the first quarter of 2020, Susan Smith, Pete Dabbs and I enjoyed meeting up with the young people for games, chat, pizza and Bible focus, including the annual Pancake party and burning of palm crosses for ashing.

Lockdown of course prevented us from meeting in person after that and there seemed to be neither enthusiasm or the imagination for any online meet ups. Consequently, to reduce ongoing uncertainty in September as the restrictions continued and the young people grew older, I decided to draw a line under IGNITE with the hope that something new might emerge for young people of a similar age once meeting in person is possible once again.

I am sure I am not alone in being really grateful to all the helpers and young people who made IGNITE such a fun and nourishing experience while it lasted.

#### **CARE HOME MINISTRY** *(Sally Robertson)*

Care Home residents, their families and staff must surely have been among the most impacted by the pandemic and our support for Ridgeway Rise has necessarily but regrettably diminished. We have offered support, but any ideas we have had about sending in home baked goods etc have been forbidden by covid restrictions.

We held 2 Songs of Praise services in the home before Lockdown and have only been able to watch their many and varied activities via their facebook page since. However, one bonus of moving to zoom worship has been that some Sundays residents at Ridgeway Rise have been able to take part in our Sunday morning service and we have often been joined by 2 ipads from within the home.

We held a special Carol service on zoom for residents at Ridgeway Rise and our congregation and it was good to be able to share the Christmas story and the pre-recorded carols at a time convenient to them.

#### **SAFEGUARDING REPORT** *(Debbie Nicholas, Helen Smith, Niki Wilding)*

Safeguarding continues to be a priority for the Church of England and for St Andrew's Church. Even though there was less face-to-face contact during the year, we all still need to be aware of the risks our children, young people and vulnerable adults face when they are at church and on-line. During the year we contributed a null return to the Church of England's Past Case review. Nicola Wilding stepped down as Parish Safeguarding Officer during the year and we are very grateful to her for her hard work and commitment over several years. Debbie Nicholas replaced her towards the end of the year with Helen Smith as Deputy Parish Safeguarding Officer. They were commissioned on Safeguarding Sunday in October and are working hard to ensure our policies, procedures and records reflect current recommendations within the Diocese. Keeping children,

young people and vulnerable adults safe and being alert to signs of distress is the responsibility of everyone within the church community.

### **TADPOLE FARM CE PRIMARY ACADEMY** *(Sally Robertson)*

2020 at Tadpole Farm CE Primary Academy started off well, building on the Christian ethos and values that were already well established and looking to develop the pupil run worship committee further, however things of course changed! In September Jane Leo, the founding Principal was seconded to a wider role within the Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust, as the Strategic Lead focusing on Swindon school and SEND inclusion. The Deputy Principal, John Spencer, has been seconded to take over the Principal role and I asked him to summarize the year at Tadpole Farm. He wrote:

“At Tadpole Farm CE Primary Academy we continue to benefit from our link with St Andrews Church and, in particular, the support from Reverend Sally.

For many in our community, it has been a challenging few months. Through continued communication with parents, carers and children, we have attempted to identify ways in which we can offer support.

Of course, we believe that being in school is best for all children and we think that the periods of lockdown have reinforced this view. We were one of the first schools in Swindon to increase our on-site offer to pupils who could be vulnerable. We have reviewed and improved our home learning continuously and received a great deal of positive feedback.

Despite our efforts, inevitably, there will be an impact on the children in our school both academically and socially/emotionally. We recognise that every individual's experience of lockdown will be different and we have adapted our Covid recovery Plan to provide opportunities for pupils to reflect, often through Worship and Prayer.

As well as the inevitable impact on children, we have noticed an increase in requests for emotional support from parents.

Our focus for the rest of this Term is Hope & New Beginnings - we look forward to being able to further strengthen our link with St. Andrew's in our shared approach to both Worship in School and in Community based projects.”

### **Communication** *(Sally Robertson, Karen Vermeersch and Brian Clegg)*

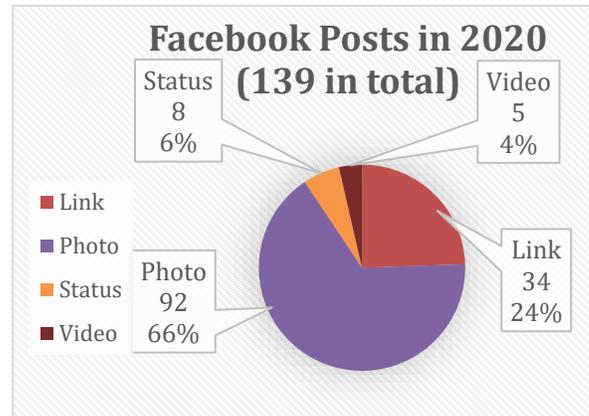
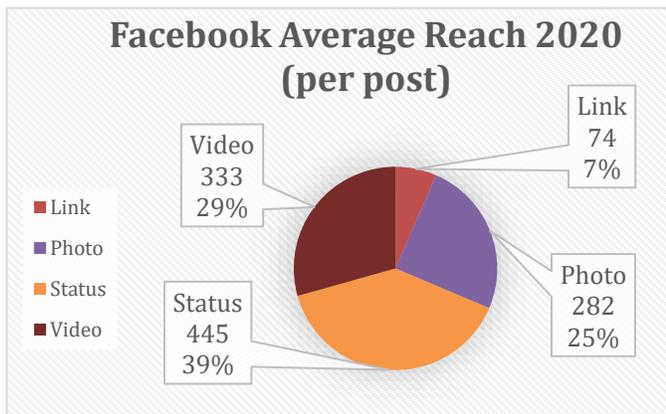
Because of the limitations placed on us by COVID-19 this year, communications have been far from normal - but even more than usually important as congregation members and those wanting to know more could not be sure that there would be a service in the church building every Sunday at 10am. The reduced numbers in church and the risks of handing out paper leaflets resulted in the paper monthly newsheet being suspended, but more reliance was placed on the **Email newsletter**, which became weekly at some points in the year to ensure everyone had the information they needed. 125 people are sent the email newsletter, though regrettably, we are aware that some of these end up in spam. The communication team has not met this year, but we have collectively worked on a range of ways to keep the congregation in contact and to ensure that we can look beyond the restrictions on our lives to God's gifts. Facebook has also proved an extremely valuable tool for keeping the congregation and wider community aware of activities from St Andrew's - we now have over 300 followers. After experiments with Skype and Teams we settled on Zoom for online services and church meetings, which has proved a very effective way to involve the congregation in services, which would have felt more remote if they had only been provided as videos with no opportunity to interact. We have not been updating the E-newsletter during the pandemic, but rather using it both to make emails to the mailing list (which has 132 subscribers) available to a wider audience and to provide help with online services and hymn singing.

Though most of our communication is now digital we do ensure the community Noticeboard in the new Sainsbury's in Tadpole Garden Village and outside Tadpole Farm Academy has an up to date list of services

each month. If anyone could offer to place a similar poster in some of the other shops in the parish each month, please let Sally know.

**Website** – The website has been enhanced and kept up-to-date as restrictions have changed from month to month. We have had a total of 346,300 page views between February and December 2020, averaging over 1,000 pages a day, a 34% increase on the previous year, reflecting the continued value of the website as a communication hub.

**Facebook** – Having a presence on Facebook continues to be a very effective way of communicating with the wider public. In 2020 the number of page followers increased from 271 to 298. We have used a variety of post types, including: text (status), pictures, links and videos. St Andrew’s Facebook posts, particularly those relating to events and services, have also been shared on local



community pages. Another benefit of the Facebook page has been the ability for people to communicate with us directly through it via messages.

**CHURCHWARDENS’ REPORT** (Karen Vermeersch, Brian Clegg)

Brian Clegg - It has been a very strange first year as a churchwarden - Sally discussed it with me days before the first lockdown, and for several months I was acting churchwarden before it was decided to allow the process to be completed online. A lot of my role this year has been involved with online mechanisms to support the continuation of the work of the church during the COVID-19 outbreak. This has included hosting Zoom church meetings and putting together videos of hymns sung from home by the congregation. I have had a lot of support, particularly from Sally and Karen, which has made taking on the role far easier than it might otherwise have been.

Karen Vermeersch – 2020 has certainly brought its share of new challenges for us all as we adapted to a completely new way of being church together in difficult and worrying times. I felt God very much in the situation as we learned to work with new technologies and practices to ensure that we continued to worship together safely. We were able to adapt the church building to allow worship there when permitted, as well as accommodating those who needed to stay at home via Zoom. As we look forward, we will need the participation of everyone to restore the building interior to its former homeliness. We will also need to be mindful of continuing to include those less able to access the building who are nonetheless very much part of our church. I am immensely grateful for Brian’s unhesitating support from the outset, and for Sally’s support and encouragement. A huge thanks also goes to everyone who has worked so hard to support us in so many ways.

## **LICENSED LAY MINISTRY** *(Karen Vermeersch)*

In June 2020, having felt that God may be calling me towards licensed ministry, I attended the Bristol Diocese Discernment Day. The Discernment Team affirmed my calling and have recommended me for Licensed Lay Ministry.

Presently I am undertaking the Diocese's Exploring Christianity course – a two year course which will be completed in summer 2021. In September 2021 I shall begin the 'Formation Year', which will prepare and equip me for Licensing in the autumn of 2022.

As Licensed Lay Minister, I will be a full member of the leadership team of St Andrew's, along with Sally and the churchwardens. You may already have encountered me leading worship on occasion; this is something I hope to expand, along with other areas of ministry to support Sally in creating spiritual growth within the parish.

I very much look forward to continuing to serve in this way.

## **PRIEST-IN-CHARGE'S REPORT 2020**

We began 2020 looking for ways to make better use of our building, particularly in increasing the sense of sacred space. By the end of the year we had all discovered that our homes could also be places with sacred space as many of us had worshipped together from home more than we had visited church during the year. In January we also bought a flag to place at the end of the drive, so people would know we were a living, worshipping church. The flag spent much of the year locked in an empty church.

While none of us would have chosen the events of 2020, the benefits of technology and the change in our weekly rhythms enabled all of us to re-evaluate what is important about worship and being church. We held a service every Sunday throughout the year with a mix of everyone at home and (when permitted) some at home and some in church. The screen in the pulpit and the projector are not the most attractive additions to the church, but it is great to see people worshipping from home and for them to be able to see what is happening in church and so I see them as very valuable additions. I have certainly valued the need to think through our service formats and the purpose of worship as well as learning to communicate with people via zoom. I hope you are as heartened as I am that our zoom services, whether we are all at home or some at home and some in church, have been consistently well attended, keeping us in touch with one another as well as ensuring our corporate worship continues.

As well as experiencing our first zoom morning prayers, Communion services and Carol services, we have been able to meet as PCC via zoom and we have a roughly monthly Bible Book club which discusses a whole book of the Bible from our homes.

Though many activities have been restricted during 2020, we have been able to pray together more, with daily evening prayer during the Thy Kingdom Come prayer week in May and weekly morning and evening prayer to coincide with the Archbishop of Canterbury's call to prayer in November. (Both via zoom of course). Coffee Prayer and Chat had become a well-established fortnightly event during 2019, and it's been good to be able to meet up virtually every week since lockdown in March to catch up with one another and pray together. In September we even managed a face to face meet up in the churchyard, with zoom participants too of course! But that was only able to happen once.

While we have been able to fulfil the important task of encouraging one another in our Christian faith during the year, we have been less successful in our attempts to reach out to the community around us and to play a part in meeting their needs. This has not entirely been for want of trying, and, particularly in Tadpole Garden Village, it feels that the opportunities have not been forthcoming. This should not deter us from continuing to look outwards and seeking to make more and stronger connections with our parish as restrictions are gradually eased. We should be encouraged by the success of our most outward focussed event of the year – Carol Singing

outside Tesco – which did attract people we didn't know or hadn't been in touch with for some time and allowed us to let people know who we are through displaying the much-neglected flag!. Let's continue to pray for more and better such opportunities.

Personally, one of the highlights of 2020 was working closely with Karen and Brian as churchwardens. Their adaptability, enthusiasm, caution and commitment have kept us all safe and together during this challenging time and I am extremely grateful to them for all they have contributed. Karen being selected to train as a licensed Lay minister was an affirming boost for her valuable ministry at St Andrew's. Brian's acceptance of the role of Church Warden about a week before lockdown was God-given timing and our worship has been hugely enhanced by his beautiful blending of words, photos and congregational singing, as well as many other technical competencies. Thank you, Karen and Brian.

***Sally Robertson: Priest in Charge***

## **Financial Review 2020 (*Treasurer Susan Smith*)**

The review is to be read in conjunction with the Parish Accounts for 2020.

The parish finances for this year continue to be particularly challenging because of COVID. Our receipts for 2020 have decreased by 26.5% reflecting the loss of services on Sundays, for baptisms and weddings. The regular giving, for God's work, has continued loyally throughout the year. Our payments have decreased by 11%. This has been accounted for by paying slightly less towards the Diocesan Parish Share and the reduced use of the church.

A huge thank you should also be given to all the "behind the scenes" people who willingly give time to support the Church in this parish, in numerous ways. Their efforts are not recorded in the Parish Accounts but save the parish the need to employ people to cover the roles and so reducing the total payments by, at a conservative estimate, of £10,000.00.

A grant of 10% of the total regular giving received and collections (plate) from normal Sunday services, is shared between our designated charities. The charities we support with grants are The Jerusalem and Middle East Church Association, Christian Aid and The Children's Society. This year we are giving £321.75 to each of these charities.

A monthly grant of £10.00 is given to Swindon Youth for Christ.

We are also committed to giving annually to the Wiltshire Historical Churches Trust (£50.00 pa) and the National Churches Trust (£50.00 pa) for Grants previously received.

The parish has also carried out other collections to the total of £150.83 for

- (i) Swindon Food Collective throughout the year
- (ii) Swindon Women's Aid from Carol Singing
- (iii) Embrace the Middle East and the Children's Society during the Christmas period

The PCC have a policy that all financial matters for this parish are "crystal clear". There is a "Statement of Accounting Policies" and also "Financial Rules and Procedures" in place to conform to the various Charities' Acts. The PCC members, as Trustees for the Parish, are required to sign an HMRC "Declaration for Fit and Proper Person" when taking up office.

The overall financial state of the Parish remains unclear. During 2021 we need to be careful with our limited financial resources.

We would like to thank everyone for their continued support.

### **Reserves Policy**

The Charities Act requires that the PCC has a reserves policy to cover future short falls in income or unexpected expenditure. As the PCC's income is all unsecured, the reserve is set to at least 6 months expenditure as unrestricted funds.

In addition, as the church is an historic building, designated funds need to be reserved to cover work identified in the periodic quinquennial inspection.

The PCC agreed that the reserves should be £6,000 but to increase this, when able, to cover a 6-month period for expenditure and £5,000 for quinquennial and emergency repairs.

The Reserves Policy will be reviewed annually.

## **PARISH OF ST ANDREW NORTH SWINDON**

### **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable UK Accounting Standards, the Charities SORP 2005 and the Charities Act 2011, using the Receipts and Payments basis.

### **FUNDS**

The general fund represents the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. These include funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC.

The accounts include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible.

Subject to the above, receipts and payments include income as received and expenditure when irrevocably paid.

### **STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

The following assets are recognised but not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

- Moveable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal
- Land and buildings held on behalf of the PCC.
- Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment where the PCC is free to dispose of such assets without faculty.

The following assets are recognised and a monetary value given as part of the description in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

- Amounts owing from HMRC.
- Any other amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December.
- Closing bank balances as shown in the receipts and payments accounts.

The following liabilities recognised and a monetary value given as part of the description in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

- Creditors for goods or services where the supply has been received and invoiced by 31 December

**ST ANDREW NORTH SWINDON**  
**Year Ended 31 December 2020**

**GENERAL FUND - RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**

	2020		2019	
<b>Receipts</b>	£	£	£	£
Tax Efficient Planned Giving		7,077.83		8,177.01
Other Planned Giving		1,953.50		2,514.29
Collections		616.56		3,216.24
Tax Efficient Collections		<u>96.50</u>	9,744.39	<u>762.69</u> 14,670.23
Tax Recovered			3,121.78	3,470.12
Donations			1,434.83	2,327.11
Grants			0.00	0.00
Fund Raising			137.00	527.51
Fees				
Weddings & Funerals		1,681.00		1,191.00
Pre-paid		<u>176.00</u>	1,857.00	<u>0.00</u> 1,191.00
Interest			1.52	13.63
Bequests			0.00	0.00
			<u>16,296.52</u>	<u>22,199.60</u>
<b>Payments</b>				
Fund Raising		102.10		192.95
Grants				
Christian Aid	321.75		413.00	
Jerusalem & M E Church As	321.75		413.00	
Childrens' Society	321.75		413.00	
Wiltshire Historic Churches	50.00		50.00	
National Churches Trust	50.00		50.00	
Swindon Youth for Christ	<u>120.00</u>	1,185.25	<u>110.00</u>	1,449.00
Parish Share		11,292.00		11,939.00
Ministerial Expenses				
Revd Sally Robertson	243.10		837.29	
Other Clergy	<u>63.90</u>	307.00	<u>62.90</u>	900.19
Telephone	304.92		243.73	
Stationery etc	<u>15.60</u>	320.52	<u>112.73</u>	356.46
Mission				
Support and Mission Costs		218.40		231.64
Youth & Children's Work		24.84		241.74
Church Running Expenses				
Maintenance and repairs		878.40		515.37
Upkeep services	769.85		1,203.83	
Insurance	<u>1,448.10</u>	2,217.95	<u>1,435.02</u>	2,638.85
Churchyard		1,018.56		1,011.66
Administration for PCC		411.49		478.90
Heating, lighting etc		<u>763.23</u>	(18,739.74)	<u>1,240.43</u> (21,196.19)
<b>Surplus/Deficit for year</b>		£ (2,443.22)		£ 1,003.41

**ST ANDREW NORTH SWINDON**  
**Year Ended 31 December 2020**

**RESTRICTED ACCOUNT**

**OLD ORGAN RESTORATION FUND - RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**  
**HISTORIC**

Interest added for 2020 was	£ 1.64
Total balance at 31 December 2020	£ 1,634.11

No further activity on this account took place in 2020

**DESIGNATED ACCOUNT**

**FUND 5 - ST ANDREW'S CHURCH - RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**  
**HISTORIC**

The bequest came from a long standing member of St Andrew's Church with an interest in organ music

In November 2019 the PCC changed the use of the bequest for work on the churchyard wall

Interest added for 2020 was	£ 5.54
Total balance at 31 December 2020	£ 5,560.37

No further activity on this account took place in 2020

**RESTRICTED ACCOUNT**

**FUND 7 - ST ANDREW'S CHURCH (Fabric) - RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**

(i) **Wolfson Foundation Grant for work on St Andrew's Church roof** £ 4,000.00

No activity on this grant took place in 2020

(ii) **COVID-19 Works**

04.11.20	Sum Up Donations	176.65	21.10.20	Gravel for path	301.75
			23.10.20	Rubber Mats	302.50
03.12.20	Sum Up Donations	112.75	08.11.20	Porch Door Repairs	60.00
			06.12.20	Lanterns	36.56
31.12.20	All Churches Trust COVID Grant	750.00			
		<u>          </u>	31.12.20	Balance c/f	<u>338.59</u>
		<b>£ 1,039.40</b>			<b>£ 1,039.40</b>
	Total at 31 December 2020	<b>£338.59</b>			

**ST ANDREW NORTH SWINDON**  
**Year Ended 31 December 2020**  
**BALANCE SHEET**

	General Fund	Restricted Organ	Designated Fund 5	Restricted Fund 7	Total
Balance b/f at 1 January 2020	18,340.80	1,632.47	5,554.83	4,000.00	29,528.10
Surplus/Deficit for year	(2,443.22)	1.64	5.54	338.59	(2,097.45)
Balance c/f at 31 December 2020	<u>£ 15,897.58</u>	<u>£ 1,634.11</u>	<u>£ 5,560.37</u>	<u>£ 4,338.59</u>	<u>£ 27,430.65</u>
<b>Represented by:</b>					
Lloyds Bank Account	9,335.38	0.00	0.00	338.59	9,673.97
Nationwide Building Society A/c (1)	6,562.20	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	10,562.20
Nationwide Building Society A/c (2)	0.00	1,634.11	5,560.37	0.00	7,194.48
Cash in hand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Balance c/f at 31 December 2020	<u>£ 15,897.58</u>	<u>£ 1,634.11</u>	<u>£ 5,560.37</u>	<u>£ 4,338.59</u>	<u>£ 27,430.65</u>

Chairman: *Sally Aloberton* Date: 10.02.2021

PCC Member: *[Signature]* Date: 10.02.21

**Notes**

Debtors HMRC £1,606.31

Purchases during year ending 31 December 2020 Nil

Other years - A detailed inventory was taken in July 2012 recording all assets according to location and checked February 2018