

Shottery St. Andrew



Annual Report for 2022

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*Front photograph taken on Sun 30th April 2023 – Revd Mike's final service.
Back page photograph – Farewell & God Bless - Mike and Helen*

THE ANNUAL MEETINGS 2023

The meetings will be held in church, after the 10 am service
on Sunday 21st May 2023

We will endeavour to zoom the meeting to those at home

AGENDAS

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

1. **Opening Prayer**
2. **Election of Churchwardens** – *all present entitled to vote*
3. **Prayer of blessing** for Churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **Minutes of the Annual Meeting** held on 15th May 2022
3. **Matters arising** from these minutes
4. **The Reports** – *to be given verbally*
 - (i) Electoral Roll – *current number on the roll and changes*
 - (ii) Annual Report – *what the church has done in the last 12 months*
 - (iii) Financial Report – *presented by PCC treasurer*
 - (iv) Annual Report on Fabric & Inventory – *by churchwardens*
 - (v) Deanery Synod Report – *presented by member of Deanery Synod*
 - (vi) Safeguarding Report – *presented by Parish Safeguarding Officer*
5. **Elections and Appointments** – *only those on ER eligible to vote*
 - (i) Election of PCC Members
 - (ii) Appointment of Independent Examiner of the accounts
6. **Vicar's Charge**
7. **Any Other Business**- *only items submitted prior to the meeting can be addressed*
8. **Closing Prayers**

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

Sunday 15th May 2022 at 11:30am.

The meeting opened with a warm welcome and prayer from the vicar

1. Minutes of the meeting held last year on 30th May were signed as a true record.
2. There were no matters arising.
3. Election of Churchwardens. David Whyman and Bob Macvie were nominated and were both duly elected as Churchwardens to serve for another year. Revd Craig thanked them for their service to the church.

They will be confirmed in their office at the Archdeacon's Visitation meeting which this year will be held in St. Andrew's on 16th July, and Revd Craig invited members of the congregation to support David and Bob at that meeting.

Both David Whyman and Bob Macvie thanked everyone for the confidence to elect them. The members responded with a round of applause for their churchwardens

The Annual Vestry Meeting duly closed.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. **Those present:** There were 40 people at the meeting in church and a further 2 who attended by zoom. Apologies were received from 10 people.
2. **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting for 2021** were agreed as being a true record and were duly signed.
3. **Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.

4. Reports

- i. **Electoral Roll:** Anne Challis reported that there were 151 on the Electoral Roll, which is a net decrease of 1 from last year, being 7 new members offset by a loss of 8 existing members. Anne was thanked for her help in keeping the Roll up to date. Any members who are not on the Church Electoral Roll, should contact Anne.
- ii. **Annual Report:** Revd Craig thanked David Millington who compiled the report, all those who provided input, and Sally and Mike for printing copies off. He commented on the excellent nature of the report and recommended it for adoption by the meeting. The meeting formally received the report.
- iii. **Financial Reports:** Revd Craig was pleased to see both Richard Prior and Carole Taylor in church to present the accounts for 2021. Copies of those accounts were with the Annual Report.

Richard started by saying that surprisingly we had shown a surplus of just over £21,000. Welcome though that was, it does need some explanation. One major issue was that we had an increase in the value of our invested funds of over £26,000, without which we would really have had a negative result – a loss in performance terms of £5,000.

There were lots of reasons for that, but in simple terms, we were still coming through the effects of the pandemic and incomes from open plate, fund-raising and hall hire were still down on what they had been pre the pandemic. We were fortunate that the majority of our planned giving was through standing orders and consequently held up well.

It was difficult to say what the implications would be for the current year. Hall hire has started to increase but still not to pre-covid levels, so at this stage hard to say whether we could be looking at a breakeven or even a small deficit. We are also very wary of future performance of our investment fund, which could fall back.

Revd Craig thanked Richard for the tremendous amount of work put into his stewardship of our finances, and also to Carole.

There were two questions from the floor. John Turner asked for details on the cost item shown as Raising Funds - £107,000 – to

which Richard explained that this related to the total of our costs and the presentation was just a quirk of the way the Charity Commissioners required accounts to be presented. Larry Robson asked where our investments were invested. Richard answered that he didn't know in detail, but they were invested in the Church of England investments. Revd Paul added that the Church of England website did comment that these funds were ethically invested.

There being no further questions, Revd Craig asked that these accounts be formally accepted by this meeting and this was agreed.

- iv. **Annual Report on Fabric & Inventory:** Revd Craig reminded the meeting that the care of the fabric of the church was one of the legal responsibilities of the churchwardens and was pleased to hand over to David Whyman to cover this point.

David thanked all those people who work in the background keeping our church and grounds in such excellent condition. He reported that he had duly fulfilled one of his churchwarden's tasks in completing the Inventories of furniture, equipment and silverware, duly checking each item off and accounting for them.

David reported that there were a number of items relating to fabric which had kept his team busy this past year. We had spoken before of the plan to replace the church's aging and failing lighting system with a new system. He was pleased to report that the contractor was well under way with ordering of the components to do this job and was expecting delivery into its stores in the next couple of months. Installation would be at the earliest appropriate point in both their installation calendar and to suit the church's diary.

Work on the Audio-Visual system was also progressing, albeit at an earlier stage to the lighting. A company called Novam, from Tamworth, are assisting us in planning this work, ensuring that we order the right equipment for our needs.

The third item is one that several people have raised – the state of the carpark and access road. Here we are looking at about £40,000 to resurface the area – a lot of money, but we need to have a good job done. We recognise it needs doing in the next two years or so, and the availability of good parking is undoubtedly one of the reasons why people hire our church hall.

Revd Craig commented on how lucky we were to have two wonderful churchwardens who obviously care so much for the church we all love.

- v. **Deanery Synod:** - Orion Johnson reported that the Fosse Deanery Synod, of which Shottery is part, met twice last year once in June by zoom and then in person during October. She resigned as Lay Chair of the synod in June.

One of the major items for discussion by the Deanery Synod was the determination of each parish's Deanery Share contribution to cover the cost of stipendiary clergy across the deanery.

During the year, Revd Patrick Taylor was appointed Rural Dean for Fosse - previously it was covered by 2 acting rural deans.

There being no questions, Revd Craig thanked Orion, Jackie Daniels, Hilary Mattocks and Pat Morris – our Deanery Synod Reps for all the work they do on our behalf.

- vi. **Safeguarding:** - Revd Craig affirmed that Safeguarding is absolutely paramount. The safety of our children and vulnerable adults in church is of great importance to us all. Revd Craig introduced David Millington, who with Liz Talbot are the Safeguarding Officers for St Andrew's, to report on the situation.

David confirmed that there had been no safeguarding issues brought to his attention in the past year. The PCC had reviewed and readopted its safeguarding policy during the year and actively follow that policy.

He commented that during the pandemic the nature of safeguarding had been a little different, reflecting the church's work in the community rather than physical presence in church. Now that we have come back into church, teams are being reformed but often comprise new members, requiring safeguarding checks to ensure we stay as safe as possible.

There being no questions, Revd Craig thanked David and Liz for their work on our behalf.

5. Elections and Appointments

- i. **PCC Members:** In line with the Church Representation Rules, elected PCC members serve a term of 3 years. At the end of their 1st term, they can stand to serve for a second 3-year term – but after two consecutive terms they are required to stand down for at least one year.

At this time, there are no people required to stand down or be re-elected. There was however an anomaly which should be corrected by election. David Millington, the PCC Secretary, is not an elected member, so officially not allowed to speak at PCC meetings. To regularise this, Revd Craig had asked David to offer himself for election, and he had duly been nominated and seconded. The meeting graciously agreed to David being an elected member and he was welcomed to the PCC.

Revd Craig commented that, at Shottery, we have a PCC which works together and with the vicar for the collective good of the parish. Many thanks to all that team.

- ii. **Independent Examiner to the Accounts:** The meeting voted to reappoint Chris Wiltshire and Company as our Independent Examiner to our Financial Accounts.

6. Vicar's Charge:

I thank this meeting for giving up the time to be here with us today.

I have already given my thanks to the Churchwardens but would like to extend that to David Millington, as PCC Secretary, and to David and Liz as Safeguarding Officers.

I would also give my thanks to Margaret Spencer, who worked in the Parish Office for 35 years. Our new secretary, Sally, is now settling in although still finding her feet.

Thanks also to our Ministry team here and thanks must go to Revd Mary, Revd Paul, Revd David and Revd Joan – and also Revd Joy and Revd Nikki. Revd Nikki, as you may recall, is coordinating a chaplaincy team for the hospice next door. Also, thanks, of course, to Jan Walker, our Reader – our only Reader now, since Sarah moved forward to ordination. And I haven't forgotten the wonderful Revd Mike. It was a joy to celebrate Mike's priesting last summer and he continues to offer so much to our life and worship here in Shottery – and we are truly grateful.

Thanks to Caroline Penn and her team and for bringing Illumin8 back to us once each month. We are thankful for that and are seriously considering how we might move this situation forward and employ a Children's and Family Worker as we go forward.

We now have 4 home groups that meet across St Andrew's, which is a big development from the one which we had a year ago. We also have a Contemplative Prayer group, which meets under Revd Mary's leadership.

Thanks to Ruth Yeates for all the work she does on the website, and to Clodagh for the excellent job she continues to do, and has done for many years, on the magazine, Searchlight – and also in addition to the magazine and the PCC, in her role as our Cathedral Liaison Officer.

I repeat my thanks to Richard and to Carole for their stewardship of our Finances, and also to Tim Hewson-Stoate, who oversees our insurance cover and any issues arising. Something we had to call on this year, as someone decided to drive their car into our church gateway.

Thanks to all our musicians, – to Rosemary and Larry and to our organist Matt Penn, and also to Jackie Wightman – and to the choir. I would like to commend the choir to you and to any in the congregation who might consider joining the choir. Its great what you all bring to our church life.

Massive thank you to David Challis, for all the work he does around the church – his Ministry as he calls it – it is truly appreciated. His work is evident in this beautiful building but also in the churchyard as well.

Thanks to Dot as well who helps David with cleaning of the church and hall.

I need to thank David Gravestock, sitting at the back on the consoles, for his technical expertise that he brings and his heading up of the AV project in church. Thanks to the Zoom Techie team for all you do, sorting out the technical issues which arise during our services.

Just a few more thank you's to give. To Sylvaine and Gill our baptism team; to Hilary Capron who has taken over the chair of the Mothers' Union in St. Andrew's from the wonderful Audrey who has done the job for many years; to our Listening and Prayer team – good to have you back in church and with new members too this year; to Hilary Mattocks for keeping our communication going with our link missionaries Andrea and Andrew in Nepal; to Jenny Gregg, Hilary Mattocks, Jane Ireland for following up on funerals with the recently bereaved; to Jackie Daniels, Kay Sillitoe, David Challis for their assistance as vergers to me at funeral services; to Alan Minchin, and Jenny – Alan as Sacristan for many years –

who continue to pop into church to keep the silverware gleaming; to Derek Bowdery for being a star helping keep the church in working order and coordinating our sides people; to Andrew Mills, and Orion, for taking over the job of Sacristan, and to our servers; to Nick and Bev and all those who do the beautiful flower arrangements we see in church – Easter was marvellous this year; to Trevor Cox, an absolute star, doing lots of little but essential jobs – such a skilled man with his hands; to all those on the organising of fundraising events through the year, Carole etc and those involved in running the new coffee morning every second Saturday in the hall. I'm sure I've missed someone off this list – so much goes on in this church and so many do lots to make it happen. Without you it just wouldn't happen. Well done to you all.

Following our second 8 Essential Qualities survey, our 3 weakest areas were Holistic Small Groups, Effective Structures and Passionate Spirituality. I've already mentioned Holistic Small Groups and we've really made some headway there developing one group into five.

On Effective Structures, we began the year working differently as a PCC – we now have four subgroups that meet as part of the PCC, Worship & Nurture, Fabric, Finance and Mission & Outreach. These 4 subgroups now meet on alternate months, with the full PCC meetings on the others. The subgroups each submit written reports to the full PCC on their recommendations and anything else which they want the PCC to take forward – to approve, or not, as the case may be. This has allowed us to work on more areas of mission and ministry – it is very difficult in a full PCC meeting of say 20 people to really get our teeth into the nitty-gritty of these areas. The idea of the working groups is to do that detailed work that the full PCC, with the best will in the world, would never have time for. But it is the full PCC which would approve anything which comes out of those groups. It is early days, and we will keep reviewing how it is working.

In terms of Passionate Spirituality, obviously a large part of our spirituality and worship is done here in the church. I spoke last year about our aim as a PCC to improve our lighting in here and to instal permanent AV equipment – we're very temporary at the moment. I'm delighted that the Diocese has granted us a full faculty now to complete and instal the new lighting system. It just means now that we have to agree a time with the contractor and I'm hoping for that later in the summer to begin the work. Now, there will be scaffolding in here to permit that and rewiring – a huge job – but it is really encouraging that

we can now go forward with this. We are continuing to explore the AV situation. We've recently had a contractor give us a quote for the new system in here and David Gravestock is heading that up for us. We will give you more news of this as and when we get it. So, we seem to have a lot going on, and we will get there with all of this. It is all part of our worship, part of what we do together.

So, in this coming year, as I hinted earlier, I would like us to look at the funding of a part-time Children and Families worker. It is really important that we think now, not just lights and AV, but also new people we bring in here, especially children and families. And if we are to grow and keep growing, we can't just rely on Caroline Penn just running Illumin8 once a month. We need to really engage with this issue if we are serious in looking at our future and Mission. I'd like to be able to think about how we could be able to employ someone this year, to coordinate our children's activities within the parish, that would include Illumin8, perhaps Messy Church, holiday clubs through the holiday season, establish a toddler group in church, and other activities which the PCC and myself would like to explore. It would also encompass the recruitment and support of volunteer workers across the parish, to establish and develop perhaps a community children's choir, which would supplement work in our choir here. We would love to see a community choir developed which would be a choir itself but also be a feed-in to our Sunday worship. We would like to look at that with Rosemary and others as we go on. We could possibly develop a community clothes bank as well, for children, in partnership with a number of volunteers across Stratford.

I'm looking at someone who we could give say 10 or 12 hours a week to and I'm looking at Caroline Penn to do this at the moment. How would we fund it? AV needs and Lighting needs – a lot of that will come out of legacies. But we still need further funding. I don't know at this stage how we could fund it, but as one of our dear church members once said, "It shouldn't be whether we can afford it, but rather can we afford not to!" Take that one away with you. I think we will need about £7,000 a year to do that, and I've written a letter to the Town Trust, as a letter of interest at this stage. Whether they would help us remains to be seen. I've also contacted the Diocese about this, to see whether we can access some of the Mission Fund of the Diocese. Who knows what we will get from these pleas, and I must be honest in saying we might need help from individuals within the parish to make it work. We all need just to get behind something like this if we are to grow the church. It says

clearly in the bible that people who are without a vision are the people who will perish. So, let's have a vision. Come and talk to me, confidentially, about how you could help us to achieve this vision, however little that help might be.

Revd Mike has been exploring this past month, a fresh expression of church on Bishopton. I know St. Peter's ran there for some years - I believe. When I was here as a student, some 30 years ago, I remember the work in the community centre. What we are now looking at is something quite different. I don't want us to replicate what we do here and create a little church over there, with altars and crosses, books and vestments. That doesn't always strike a chord with the younger groups. What we need to set up is an expression of church which is what the people want - what is going to work there. Mike is talking to Holy Trinity and to the Diocese. Hold that in your hearts as well. We don't only need to be impacting Bishopton but also the 1,500 new houses which are going up across our patch. We need to introduce ourselves to those people, put information through their doors, welcome them to St. Andrew's and showing them what a grand church this is. So, a lot of work and Mike is heading that up.

I want to thank you all for being the people who you are, and to continue to thank you for the love that you bring to this place and to me. A big thank you to my wife, who is at the Cathedral all day today- this is the first APCM that she has missed since I became a vicar. We've still got challenges ahead folks - we're still coming out of Covid but we're moving on.

I'm going to quote from an American author, Max Lucado, who said, "If your problems are too big, then your God is too small". We are a people with a vision. If we don't have a vision, we shall perish. We have a great big God, who has each one of us in his hands. God will take us from strength to strength. May I quote from Isaiah chapter 41 verse 10: "Don't be afraid says the Lord. Do not be discouraged, for I am your God. I will help you. I will strengthen you and I will hold you with my right hand".

So, again, a Big Thank You for Everything you do. **Revd Craig**

7. **Any Other Business:** There being no other business raised, Revd Craig closed this annual meeting with a final prayer

Dear God we thank You for all that you bring us, all that You give us, all that You have done this past 12 months. We pray that You will fill us with Your

vision, that You will take us forward with all these areas we would like to grow, and we ask that You bless us, and help us to remember that You are a great big God.

David Millington -PCC Secretary

REPORTS

Vicar's Report

These annual reports seem to come round faster each year - that could say more about my age (I became a grandfather this year!) or it could say something about how much we all seem to cram into each year. Well, whatever the reason, we certainly have done a lot this year and have much to celebrate and be thankful to God. Here are some of the notable areas which I want to highlight: -



Rev. Mike Stewart: Mike completed his curacy at the end of April and has moved on to his new post in Bedford. Mike joined us during 2020 during the Covid lockdown. He was soon to find his place amongst us bringing his own style of ministry and contributing hugely in our outreach to younger non-church people across the town. The successful Beer festival, last summer, was down to Mike's hard work and commitment, seeing so many people coming into our building over that weekend. Mike helped, with Jane Ireland, to develop a fortnightly communion service at Lower Meadow and, in fact, the first time Mike presided as a Priest was at the care home. Mike has been a member of the Bishopton community centre management group and for a short period of time led a small support group for young men. We are grateful to Mike for his technical skills, especially as we've continued to zoom services out to people and live stream special events. We wish Mike and Helen, and the family, every blessing as they begin their new ministry and lives together.

Sarah Cushing: It was a pleasure to welcome Sarah in her second year of a curacy during this year. Sarah began her curacy in Emscote, Warwick and will complete that curacy here at St Andrews.

I was very grateful to both Rev Sarah and Rev Mike last September at the sad time of the Queen's death. With my being away in Mull, they both did a sterling job in delivering a variety of services for people during the time of national mourning.

Caroline Penn: At the beginning of this year, we welcomed Caroline onto the team, as children and families worker. With thanks and appreciation to the Town Trust, we have been able to employ Caroline for 10 hours a week. She has made a tremendous start this year, notably with the STAMP choir and the Sunshine Village toddler group, both meeting on a weekly basis and both attracting significant numbers of children. The monthly Chocolate Church (our version of Messy Church!) is packed with children and families each month providing a variety of activities, games, food and teaching.



It would be wonderful this coming year to be able to employ Caroline for more hours. We will be applying once again to the Town Trust and we will see how this goes.

Lighting project: We finally managed to install our new lighting system this year and it is all working extremely well. Thanks to our churchwardens, and to David Millington and David Gravestock for their hard work in seeing this through.

Last October, we had a wonderful evening with **Jonathan Veira**. It was brilliant seeing the church so full of people enjoying the music, humour and hearing the gospel message. Thanks to David and Joan Whyman for organising this evening so well.

We began a Saturday morning **Bible breakfast** during the year. Thanks to Jan Walker for this initiative and for making it happen. This appropriately followed on from our Bible teaching sermon series that we ran during the autumn.



It was good to welcome the **Bishop of Warwick** in January, as he confirmed five of our wonderful people. The service was followed by a lovely bring & share lunch and cake, made and beautifully iced by Ros.

Holy week, this April, was a particularly special time for me. It was amazing, and a real joy, to see so many people attending church on each evening during the week.

It is a shame that we haven't moved as quickly this year as I would have liked with our new audio – visual /project equipment. We do have a contractor who we are working with and talking to at the moment but it's all moving very slowly. This coming year, I am hopeful that we will be able to get all this in place subject to funding and faculty approval. The current system is very temporary, and we desperately need this to move forward more rapidly now

I write this report during a difficult time for the Church of England. The church is doing a good job in pulling itself apart, sadly, and we need to continue to pray for unity and love to be at the heart of what we all are as God's church. At St Andrews, it is my vision and desire that we will continue to seek God's heart and his will for our lives together, and for the lives of those we aim to serve.

May God bless each one of you as you continue to follow Jesus the Good Shepherd, and may God bless this coming year and all that we would want to do for Him.

With every blessing in Christ,

Reverend Craig, Vicar

Churchwarden's Report

How good it has been this last year to get back to normal with our church services and social activities, after the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. It's been great to see the Lunch Club restart under the guidance and leadership of Jenny Gregg and her trusty band of volunteers, and it is proving to be as popular as ever.

The Open the Book team have been invited back into our local Primary Schools and even have an extra school to visit monthly, since Stratford Primary (Broad Street to most of us) requested our presence. Nick Cutler has joined us and, with his wealth of experience, is proving to be a most valuable member of the team. The Saturday coffee mornings on a fortnightly basis have proved increasingly popular as social occasions, as well as raising much needed funds for the church coffers, - so my thanks to all who organise them. New faces are appearing on a

regular basis and staying to worship with us, which is so encouraging. Welcome to all you 'new faces' for joining the St. Andrew's family!

For me personally, one of the highlights of this year was the Community Beer Festival held in October and instigated by Rev. Mike Stewart. I was on the committee and know just how much time and effort Mike put into making it the success it undoubtedly was. For many people, it was the first time they had crossed the threshold into St. Andrew's. As well as enjoying excellent beer, food and music, they met many regular church members to chat with. The feedback I got from the beer drinkers was really positive! They loved the parish hall, our facilities and the friendliness of everyone they met. Rev. Mike has been a real asset to us during his curacy and we will miss him greatly, but are delighted that he will soon be forging his own ministry near Bedford, ably assisted by his new wife Helen, who will be working in the neighbouring parishes.

Another very positive initiative has been the fantastic work of Caroline Penn (and Matt) in establishing 'Chocolate Church' for the youngsters. This takes place once a month on a Sunday afternoon. Numbers have been amazing and it's been so great to see the hall filled with eager, active children and their parents busily engaged in creative activities. I'm usually out of harms way, in church, in charge of the games which are cleverly themed by Caroline. Food plays a big part in these afternoons and is certainly thoroughly enjoyed by the children. However, amidst all the excitement, Caroline makes sure the Christian message comes across in her own unique style. It's not Sunday School as most of us might remember but it's what appeals to the younger generation that we increasingly need to focus on, and Caroline is doing a brilliant job. The Stamp Choir has really taken off and, though not many of us have seen or heard the young singers yet, I'm really looking forward to when we can all experience them either in a service or a concert – it'll be a treat!

In church itself, we are all now able to benefit from our new lighting system. It seems to have been in the planning for years but through the persistence of the three Davids - Whyman, Millington and Gravestock - it's finally up and running! And what a difference it has made to the ambience of certain services when special lighting is required. Thanks for all your efforts gents!

We are so fortunate at St. Andrew's to have an amazing ministry team, spearheaded by Craig, who provide us with such enriching experiences that at times we can take it for granted. This, to me, was exemplified during Holy Week, when we had some unforgettable services leading up to Easter. My thanks to you all for the weekly diet of services and courses you provide which help to strengthen our faith.

Week by week, so many individuals just go about their duties, without fuss or fanfare – you know who they are – serving our church and serving God. Our worship, our fellowship, our lives are enhanced by what they do and so I express all our thanks for what you regularly do.

Finally, it is only right that I pay a special and warm tribute to my fellow warden, David Whyman, who is stepping down from the post after seven years. I have loved working alongside him for several of those years and we've co-operated extremely well with each other. Both being former teachers has helped our relationship, though David was a headmaster, so I always knew my place! With David taking special responsibility for fabric, he probably drew the short straw but he's made a brilliant job of it and that's why our church building is in such a good state of repair. He's been totally committed to serving our church to the best of his ability and made a mighty fine job of it. Thanks for all your loving service, David, and for all the laughs we've enjoyed – it's been my pleasure working with you. Since your move to Wilmcote, we at St. Andrew's have been so blessed to have you and your lovely wife Joan worshipping with us, and long may it last. God Bless.

Bob Macvie - Churchwarden

Fabric Report 2022

Firstly, I am pleased to report that the general condition of our buildings is good. All work recommended by our last Quinquennial Report (2020) has been done. Over the last year or so, we have made significant improvements to our Church fabric – the West porch has been refurbished with complete redecoration and a new carpet, designed to prevent grit and dirt travelling into the church building.

For a long time, since 2017, we have been assessing the lighting in our worship area to make it more flexible for our current needs and I am pleased to report that this is now complete and working well. We are now able to programme each individual light to fulfil our requirements and have different lighting for individual services, although this can take quite a time to programme. The big advantage is that we can dim lights as required, say for part of a service or showing a film clip, and then bring the lights up bright again. There are many routine tasks which I am pleased to report have all been done. To ensure that these take place at the right time, we are very grateful to Derek, who does so much behind the scenes. Thank you, Derek!

Our thanks also to our cleaning team, Dot and David, who week-on-week keep everywhere so beautifully polished and bright. Our appreciation to you both and to the rest of the team. After our electricians had completed our new lighting system, on the arch above the altar were two small patches of white paint, up high where the old uplights had been. I looked, only to notice they had been painted to match the existing paint – just one of the many tasks completed by David Challis. Bless you David and thank you for all those tasks of maintaining gutters and downpipes, replacing light bulbs and the whole host of other things you do. Of course, our lawns and gardens wouldn't look so beautiful all year round were it not for David.

So, looking forward to future work and projects. Our property is well used by both church and community groups, and this we applaud. It not only helps other groups to function, but also contributes to our financial budget and makes good use of our excellent premises. Unfortunately, this has a flip side to it, that there is increased maintenance of our premises. One aspect which attracts the use of our premises is our excellent car park. I have had much comment about the white lines, which in some places have almost disappeared. We have looked into this problem. Sadly, the surface of the underlying tarmac is breaking up and is quite loose. To put white lines on such a loose surface would be a waste of time and a considerable amount of money. There is a need to establish a separate fund of money for this purpose so that people may contribute. Current costing for re-tarmacking the carpark and white lines is around £45,000! Any amounts, small or large, will be appreciated. Lastly the Audio Visual (AV) system. Our current system is rather "Heath Robinson". A small team led by David Gravestock is assessing our AV with a more professional setup and are seeking full professional advice.

As always, my grateful thanks to the small band of helpers who meet frequently as a Fabric Committee. Special thanks to David Millington who writes our Minutes and keeps us legal and on track with the Diocese and Faculty requirements. To the whole team, thank you!

David Whyman - *Chair of Fabric Committee*

Parochial Church Council (PCC)

A reminder of the function of the PCC:

'It shall be the duty of the Minister and the PCC to consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the parish. The PCC works in co-operation with the Minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical.'

A PCC is required to meet at least 4 times each year. During 2022, St Andrew's PCC actually met 10 times during the year including the APCM. We try to alternate meetings, one month being a full formal PCC meeting and the next month being a Subgroups meeting – that way we get to cover more ground in more detail. The PCC feels better informed and gets to have more efficient meetings.

At the APCM in May 2022, one member was elected to the PCC – David Millington was formally elected by the membership.

Thus, after the APCM, the members of the PCC were:

Chairman: Revd Craig (8/10)

Mesdames: Hilary Capron (7/10), Sarah Cushing **Curate** (2/3)*, Jackie Daniels **Deanery Synod** (10/10), Sylvaine Gravestock (5/10), Jenny Gregg (10/10), Jane Ireland (6/10), Orion Johnson **Deanery Synod** (9/10), Clodagh Mallison **Parish Information Officer** (9/10), Hilary Mattocks **Deanery Synod** (9/10), Pat Morris **Deanery Synod** (8/10), Chris Süsник (5/10), Liz Talbot (8/10), Carole Taylor **PCC Treasurer** (9/10), Jan Walker **Reader** (8/10)

Messrs: Bob Macvie **Churchwarden** (9/10), David Millington **PCC Secretary** (10/10), Bob Robbins (9/10), Revd Mike Stewart **Curate** (10/10), David Whyman **Churchwarden** (10/10). (The numbers in brackets show the number of meetings attended during the year out of a possible ten. *Sarah Cushing returned to St Andrews as curate in September.

During the year, the PCC discussed the Parish Share, Outside Giving, Safeguarding, Fabric, Worship, Outreach and Finance.

We also spent time discussing the proposed new lighting in church and the audio-visual project which is still ongoing. This was our first full year with work in our subgroups and are starting to see lots of progress there – with more detailed discussions happening within the subgroups and a distillation of that work presented to the next full PCC for approval.

David Millington *PCC Secretary*

Deanery Synod

The diocese is divided into deaneries, each made up of parishes in that area. Shottery is in Fosse Deanery, informally known as Faith in Fosse. Deanery synod is made up of lay representatives and clergy from each of the parishes in the area and meets three times a year. The deanery lay reps from Shottery are: Orion Johnson, Jackie Daniels, Pat Morris and Hilary Mattocks (appointed or reappointed in June 2020, running to 2023).

Deanery synod presents a useful opportunity to chat with people from a swathe of town and rural parishes on our side of the diocese and to find out what is happening in those. Meetings usually consist of a talk or discussion, with the aim of supporting the spiritual or church life of those attending.

Shottery hosted the first two synod meetings of the year. On 2 February 2022 Rev Su McClellan led a presentation and discussion around the Living in Love and Faith project, encouraging those who had not already taken part in the project to use the online resources and survey. The summer synod (15 June 2022) focused on environmental concerns: Peter Ashton was appointed Environmental Representative and he gave an update on Eco Church. For the autumn meeting, on 19 October 2022, synod met at Kineton Primary School; Claire Strachan, the Church Buildings Development and Project Officer spoke about her role at Coventry diocese and the 2022 survey of church buildings within the deanery, which was being completed by each parish to help develop a strategy for church maintenance and repair.

The 'business' or administrative side of deanery synod is mainly focused on two areas:

1. Deanery share, which is offered to the diocese from our deanery and then split down into shares from each benefice and parish, to meet the cost of our stipendiary clergy.
2. The deanery plan, which considers the future organisation of the deanery, in the short, medium and long term.

Rev Patrick Taylor (Stratford-on-Avon) is the Area Dean, Margaret Howard (Wellesbourne) is Lay Chair and Pauline McIntosh (Stratford-on-Avon) is Secretary. Rev Barry Jackson (Edgehill Benefice) leads on the Deanery Plan.

Orion Johnson

Parish Safeguarding

The Disclosure and Barring Service checks all members of organisations within St. Andrew's if they have any connections with children or vulnerable adults.

The children's activities of the Stamp Choir and Chocolate Church have involved several new helpers who have all been DBS checked.

Safeguarding is taken very seriously at St. Andrew's and is an agenda item on all PCC meetings and at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Members of the PCC have also undertaken a basic safeguarding training update which was provided online by the Church of England.

Our Safeguarding policy is based on the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy and is regularly reviewed and readopted by the PCC. It is clearly posted in our Welcome area and on the home page of our website. The parish has copies of all the resource documents listed in the policy.

David Millington *Parish Safeguarding Officer*

Music Report 2022

As we entered 2022, Covid music restrictions were still in place, and these lasted until the beginning of Lent, so in church services, the choir still sang from the Sanctuary. There was, as always, plenty of music to learn for festivals from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday and all points in between, with Good Friday's 'At the Cross' Service being a particular focus. It was great to be back in the choir stalls for all of these services. We were, and still are, in dire need of extra singers, with choir numbers being their lowest for many years. However, we continued to do full choral arrangements of Anthems whenever possible.

On April 2nd, Larry and Rosemary attended the RSCM Annual Conference in Rugby. This was a very refreshing day of suggestions for new repertoire, as well as seminars and talks with good ideas for rehearsal techniques. RSCM membership for St Andrew's has been such a valuable asset over the years. In May, a number of us attended an afternoon session at Holy Trinity on the music of Taize, Iona and Margaret Rizza. This was more in the form of a lecture than a practical singing experience, but it did provide us with material which we then used at various meditative services throughout the year.

Music for Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity kept us busy through May and June. An appeal went out for extra singers, one of several such requests during the year. We were delighted to have our Altos, Ruth and Catherine Yeates returning

part time, and also welcomed David and Hilary Capron to sing with us regularly. Rev Sarah Cushing has also been able to sing with us occasionally since returning to St Andrew's.

We really enjoyed putting together a special evensong service in July, with some new hymns, a Magnificat and an anthem 'In our Service' written in honour of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, who was Patron of the RSCM. We had some extra singers and a really good size congregation, so it was well worth doing, and definitely one of the high spots of our musical year. With the death of the Queen in September we sang the special anthem again in an Evensong on the eve of Her Majesty's funeral service.

As a choir, we enjoy our musical outings, and August gave us a great opportunity when the choral scholars of St James's Piccadilly did their Three Counties Tour. Lily, former chorister at St Andrew's from age 6 to 18, was then part of this group. Various members of our choir attended 4 out of the 5 performances in Tewkesbury Abbey and Worcester and Gloucester Cathedrals. Visiting such services is an inspiration for those of us who sing and play in parish churches. Lily did a lot of choir training and conducting with us whilst still in the sixth form, and also on Zoom during Covid, and it is an encouragement for us to continue following her activities, now that she has moved from King's College Chapel Choir to being a Scholar at York Minster.

October brought Harvest music, and also an opportunity to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of composer Ralph Vaughan Williams. For the whole of Sunday 9th, we sang hymns written or arranged by him, and evensong was another special one with an anthem and a talk on the composer, who made such a great contribution to church music as well as other forms of composition.

We were not requested to provide musical entertainment for the St Andrew's celebration this year, but we did enjoy a choir meal together at El Greco, (thanks to David Capron for suggesting this and doing the organising). We had a great time as always rehearsing for and performing the Advent Carol Service and the Nine Lessons and Carols. With a few extra singers, we were very pleased with our achievements. Two of this year's favourites from these services were 'A Maiden most Gentle' (Andrew Carter) and 'Angel's Carol' (Rutter).

One of the great joys of this job is working with Matt Penn, our amazing organist. We are so truly lucky to have him to enhance our music. Matt is always happy to sing with the choir when needed too, which is such a bonus. As musicians, we are also very fortunate that St Andrew's continues to fund organists and choir rehearsals. We should also thank Jackie Wightman who

volunteers to play the organ for one Sunday Evensong each month. But what we so badly need are more regular choir members, ideally taken from the congregation, in order to make the most of what we already have in place. There is a real danger that if we don't keep replacing choristers as we lose older members, we will reach a point when a 'proper' 4-part church choir is no longer viable.

On a positive note, as we head into 2023, we are delighted that the new singing group for 7–11-year-olds called STAMP! has been successfully launched and is up and running. This is the project of Caroline Penn (our Children and Families Worker) along with Matt. It has a membership of 28 and will be giving a concert in Summer 2023. You never know whether there might be a potential chorister or two amongst them, which would enable us to restart a junior choir.

In concluding, I do want to sincerely thank our wonderfully loyal and enthusiastic regular choir members who continue to hold the fort in the hope of reinforcements! They really deserve to be supported and valued. I would also like to thank Margaret Cox for being willing to supply us enlarged copies and extra repertoire. We also much appreciate Sally's efficient help with copying requests and service booklet printing, and the encouragement received from Craig and all of the Clergy.

Rosemary Robson: *Director of Music*



The Parish Office

The Parish Office is often the first point of contact that many people have with St. Andrew's. Towards the end of 2021, our long serving Parish Administrator, Margaret Spencer decided that after 35 years, working hard over a steaming typewriter, it was time to call it a day. Big shoes to fill! It was not easy but we were fortunate and really pleased to have been able to recruit Sally Sleath, who you will now see in the church office on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Sally has now been with us a whole year and seems to have found her feet nicely. She always seems to have a lovely smile for all who seek her help. There's more and more technology in offices these days and Sally has coped admirably with changes of computer, internet-based telephones, installation of full fibre broadband and now even keeps our new website up to date – many thanks to Ruth who designed and implemented our new church website. Many thanks also to David Gravestock who led us through this technology maze.

You may notice how bright and welcoming the office is now – thanks to Mike, Craig and Sally – and now serves as an office also for Craig and Mike. That brightness has, more recently, been spread into the Welcome area, hall and porch, to give more visual impact to our noticeboards, whose contents are more up to date and relevant.

Outside of the physical office, Clodagh continues (her life work of) producing our monthly church magazine, Searchlight and makes an amazing job of it – we all look forward to each new edition. Where does she find all the input, articles and photos (and jokes)? Lots of cajoling and only the occasional prod. We are truly grateful for all the hard work which undoubtedly goes into each issue.

Clodagh also looks after our church Facebook page. It's difficult to comprehend how so much of our lives have been turned towards the internet and social media in the past few years. But if that is where people look for their information and news, that's where we must be also. The immediacy and visual impact of these platforms are undeniable. The snag is that they need to be bang up to date and that's a hard task. The Revd's Mike, Craig and Joan are a great help here.

DM

St. Andrew's School

As our church's life returned to normal after the pandemic, so did the school's. Children, families and staff were able, once again, to celebrate all the festivals in church – Harvest, Christmas and Easter were joyous events. Revd's Craig & Mike were kept busy leading worship in the school. The Year 6 children had their Leavers' Service in church – a right of passage before their transition to secondary school.

The children were able to mix and play outside of their bubbles – an activity some of them had not done before. For others it was a chance to renew friendships. Miss Howlett continued to steer the school through all this, together with assistance from colleagues – and for a while, from Mrs Jo Herero from Holy Trinity School.

Unexpected family circumstances meant that, sadly, I had to relinquish my governor role in August, but we were fortunate that Rebecca Bartlett came on board as a Foundation Governor to fill that gap. Thank you, Becks!

Ann Millington

Illumin8, STAMP, Chocolate Church and Sunshine Village

Last year, Revd Craig spoke about our vision for children's activities in church and a lot has happened since then. We did get funding towards employing Caroline Penn to lead this initiative and she has been very busy since.

Our monthly Illumin8 sessions, held alongside the 10am service, became a much bigger Chocolate Church held on Sunday afternoons and attracting over 50 with plenty for them to do – and eat!

Our vision for a community choir was realised this January in STAMP (St Andrew's Music and Play) where some 25 young people meet each Tuesday, to play and sing together. In June, they are to put on a show in church. They sound amazing.

Our vision for a church toddler group is taking off in our Sunshine Village, where the entire hall is a role play dream with shop, library, workshop, hospital, kitchen, etc. to keep the little ones occupied whilst the grown ups share tea and croissants together.

Our God was a great big God. Our vision is steadily being realised. **DM**

Listening and Prayer Team

Two members of the Listening and Prayer team are available after the 10 am service each Sunday to offer listening and prayer to anyone who wants it. They sit in the Sanctuary behind the altar. This feels quite a private place. People come to ask for listening and prayer for themselves or a family member or for a friend.

The weekly prayer list has continued since lockdown. This seems to be widely used still and members of the team receive requests to be on the list. Susie collates the requests for prayer which are emailed to members of the team for Sunday to pray for. We do ask that the information is updated weekly so that the prayers are relevant. These are kept strictly confidential.

In the autumn, we welcomed Kay Sillitoe, Revd Joy Hance and Revd Nikki Moon to the team, and after some Acorn training, they were commissioned by Revd Craig on 27th November. Revd Sarah re-joined us on her return from Emscote.

Susie Fletcher



St. Andrew's Listening & Prayer Team

Mothers Union

January 2022 was a time of new beginnings. St. Andrew's Mothers' Union branch looked forward to a year of monthly meetings and other events, which would not be subject to Covid related restrictions.

The Triennial meeting, (postponed from December) being the formal hand-over from retiring committee members to a new team of branch leaders, was chaired by Rev. Craig. Audrey Edwards was thanked sincerely for her unstinting commitment as branch leader, for all she had done during the past six years; pastorally caring for members; ensuring information from the diocese was communicated and making sure the branch was actively involved in the life of St. Andrew's, together with continuing support for charitable events. Thanks were extended to Daphne for producing the monthly programme, Jan for her work as treasurer and appreciation given to Gwenda and Pat, as supportive committee members. The new team appointed was Hilary (Leader), Fiona (treasurer), Jane (committee member) and Daphne continuing as secretary.

An open meeting was held in February, when Bob Macvie recounted his epic cycle ride from Lands' End to John O'Groats. Accompanied by his trusty bicycle and showing photos he had taken along the way of the dramatic countryside, he re-lived his memorable journey – a most interesting talk.

Thought-provoking topics of 'Women in Holy Week' and 'Prayer in Colour', shared by Rev. Mary and Rev. Joy gave a more reflective atmosphere to meetings, whilst a festive spirit was evident for the Platinum Jubilee Afternoon Tea. However, in September, a more sombre air was felt when the death of Queen Elizabeth, Patron of Mothers' Union, brought memories of a much loved and admired sovereign. The Barnabas Trust, a charity supporting persecuted Christians around the world, had recently been a charity of the month at St. Andrew's and it was good to have an in-depth appreciation of the work of this society from Alan.

The November meeting was one of remembrance, as memorabilia and memories were shared. It was good to welcome Karen, Diocesan President to this meeting. She gave an update on forthcoming plans for Mothers Union within the diocese and beyond.

Having looked forward to a full year of meetings, the effects of the weather proved otherwise; with one cancelled because of the heat and the other because of the snow and ice!

During the year, Shottery Mothers' Union supported church activities; providing refreshments following 'Time to Remember' service, organising a cake stall at the Christmas Coffee morning, facilitating the assembly of posies for Mothering Sunday and re-arranging the children's corner in church. The latter being the branch's contribution to the diocesan-wide 'Transformation' project. After agreement about re-locating the area for youngsters, resources were refreshed and renewed. It was good to put this initial stage of re-imagining children's facilities into place, just prior to Caroline being appointed as parish children and family worker. She has subsequently built upon this foundation.

Shottery Mothers' Union members also looked wider. Some attended the Mary Sumner Day service at Wilmcote Church in August; support continued for 'Coffee Tots' in Coventry, with Vera knitting wonderful garments for the babies and young children attending this nurturing hub, and donations received at a garden tea party were sent to the Mothers' Union Summer of Hope appeal.

It was a great joy to welcome new members during the year, but sadly the deaths of Corinne (a past branch leader), Eileen and Janette were recorded. It has been good to read of St. Andrew's branch in the Diocesan MU magazine and also have photos of our activities printed. An idea taken from this publication, prompted the idea of distributing gifts of love to church family members experiencing difficult times. Cards and small bags of goodies were delivered at Easter and at Christmas and this project is continuing.

Hilary Capron -Branch Leader



Cell Group

Cell group is a small group that meets bi-weekly on Wednesday evenings during the school year to grow our faith, share fellowship and encourage each other on our journey into Christ's heart.

Cell Group provides a space for:

- thought-provoking readings
- stimulating discussions
- fellowship
- prayer



During COVID we started to meet on Zoom instead of in person and this gave us great comfort and support during those times of lock-down and uncertainty. Sadly, we lost our founder members in 2022, Alan & Mary Boddington, and we still feel the loss of their insight and hospitality.

In 2022 we studied The Sermon on The Mount, using the Fisherman Bible study guide by Gladys Hunt and will be using the Archbishops Lent Book and supporting daily reflections during Lent 2023, when we will meet weekly to talk through what we've read so far and how it has impacted us.

We currently continue to meet on Zoom, as we have members who are now living outside Stratford or are not always able to come in person. To create face to face time and deepen our friendships, we are also meeting in person at other times, we have joined together to visit an open garden, for coffee at Stalls, held our Christmas Lunch at The View and are planning to meet up for brunches and more during 2023.

If you are interested in joining us to grow with Christ through Bible study, then please get in touch with Becks Bartlett who organises the sessions.

Becks Bartlett

Open the Book

Open the Book (OTB) offers primary school children an opportunity to hear key Bible stories told by a team of Christians from local churches, who present the stories during assemblies or acts of collective worship. Each presentation takes around 10–15 minutes.



At the end of the summer term 2022, Open the Book returned to schools after COVID. We are now going to 4 primary schools, Stratford (was Broad St), Holy Trinity (was The Willows), Bishopton and St Andrew's.

As well as a new school, we have a new storyteller, Nick, who has been involved with Open the Book before and so is settling in well with the team and school children who bring the story to life by acting out the story.

In the new school year 2022/23 we have already told the stories of David, from shepherd boy to king, and Joseph, from a brother sold into slavery to the saviour of Egypt and his family. The rest of the year we will be telling the story of the prophets, starting with Samuel and finishing with Elijah.

Occasionally we are also invited to bring Open the Book to church for a family service, where we have a little more leeway with how we tell the story, although we don't have quite so many keen volunteers!

If you would like to be involved in Open the Book as a storyteller or as a costume or props maker please get in touch with Becks Bartlett, our team leader.



Flower Arrangers

The past year has truly been a welcomed full year return after the constraints of **covid** for our enthusiastic Flower arranging group.

We have had the opportunity to demonstrate artistry, skills and presentation at several events, including weddings, vow renewals, funerals, weekly Altar floral arrangements and seasonal church celebrations as required.



We are blessed at St Andrews in having a large number of skilled arrangers from the “Blooming Lovely” flower arranging classes (many are non-congregation) and congregation members who truly can’t wait to help in every requirement that occurs.

The floral demonstrations have been totally funded by financial contributions from congregation members and floral donations by the arrangers themselves, who in the whole are non-members of our congregation.



A huge thank you to one and all who have contributed to the past year's floral activities.

Nic Carree



Events

In 2022, we began to get events happening again. The first event was the Annual Book sale, which everybody likes, and this raised £583, we also had a couple of bunny drives (always very competitive)

In April, we began fortnightly coffee mornings, wherever possible, to raise money but also for fellowship, approx. money raised £1500 plus Plant sale about £900 and a special Christmas coffee morning with lunch which raised Other events were a Guitar concert, Safari Supper, BBQ and Skittles and an interesting talk from Rev Mike on his gardening work.

A first for St Andrews was The Beer Festival that not only brought a very good profit, but also brought people into our Church, who probably had never crossed the threshold before.

Thanks to everybody who has supported these events in any way.

Carole Taylor



Revd Craig on the drums

Brownies and Rainbows



The 2nd Shottery St Andrew's Brownies year started very similarly to how 2021 left off - using Zoom for our meetings, but this didn't stop us from having a very full and active programme. Each girl received an activity pack with all the resources they would need for their meetings and had so many adventures together - completing our 'Chocolate Challenge' which included quizzes, cooking and, of course, tasting!

We also took part in an online detective mystery, which helped the girls learn more about their Brownie Promise and we also painted pebbles to spread messages of hope and kindness amongst our local community.

By March, with national restrictions lifted, we were back together in the hall and what an amazing feeling that was! After a fun Easter egg hunt (with a Guiding twist), around the outside space at church, we bounced into our summer term with our Teddy Bear Challenge. As part of this challenge, the girls took part in a 'trash fashion' activity, using recycled items to 'upcycle' a new outfit for their bear, we also made teddy bear cupcakes and made lots of teddy bear themed crafts.

We also took part in Jubilee celebrations for the late Queen. Queen Elizabeth II was our patron from 1953 until her death on 8 September 2022. As well as being our patron, she was a Guide and Ranger herself. As a unit we created cards which we sent to her, to celebrate her jubilee and, a few months later, in early September, we received a thank you card from Balmoral Castle - poignantly signed and dated just a few days before her death.

As well as September bringing great change nationally with the accession of King Charles III, there was also great change afoot at the 2nd Shottery Brownies as we merged with the 1st Stratford Rainbows to become a joint unit. As part of this merger, we also welcomed another leader - Caroline, or Brown Owl as she

is known to the girls, is also a leader at Bishopton Brownies and our District Commissioner. A joint unit with an age range spanning almost the whole of primary school naturally comes with its own challenges, but we spent our first term together with lots of settling in games and activities.

We finished the term with a great pottery painting experience with Spotty Pots and a whole District trip to the Everyman Cinema, on the snowiest day, to see the film version of Matilda the Musical.

Rhiannon



Outside Giving

During the year 2022, a grand total of £3,905 was given by St. Andrew's Church to the twelve nominated monthly charities. This compares with a figure of £3,552. However, with other monies given to The Ukraine, RSCM, British Legion and Stratford Christmas Lights, the total figure given amounts to £5,117.

A variety of charities are chosen by the Outside Giving Committee to support a mix of international mission and local mission. Some charities we support yearly such as **World Vision**, through which we sponsor Edgar Villca Charca who lives in Mosoj Punchay in the south of Bolivia.

Our giving to the **Church Mission Society** helps support Andrea and Andrew Young in Nepal who work in education and health. We also donate annually to **Christian Aid** and the **Shakespeare Hospice**.

This year we have introduced ABF (The Army Benevolent Fund), The Barnabus Fund (providing hope and aid for persecuted Christians around the world), The Stratford Food Bank (for whom demand now outstrips their contributed foods) and Toilet Twinning (our toilets in church are now twinned with toilets in Africa).

If there is a particular charity you feel strongly that we should support occasionally, the Outside Giving committee would be pleased to hear from you. Either speak to Bob Macvie or to Hilary Mattocks, Sylvaine Gravestock, or Liz Talbot. Extra special thanks should go to Hilary Mattocks for keeping account of all the money collected and for sending it on to the various charities throughout the year.

ST ANDREW'S CHARITY GIVING 2022

MONTH	CHARITY	Amount Collected £
January	World Vision	247
February	Church Missionary Society (CMS)	214
March	Children's Society	277
April	Cancer Research	203
May	Christian Aid	432
June	Stratford Food Bank	370
July	R.N.L.I.	301
August	Toilet Twinning	483
September	Barnabas Fund	329
October	Alzheimer's Society	321
November	ABF The Soldiers' charity	308
December	Shakespeare Hospice	420
Additions		
	Ukraine Bucket Collection	681
	Ukraine Guitar Concert	292
	RSCM	225
	British Legion	50
	Stratford Christmas Lights	25
	Total Collected – Including Gift Aid	£ 5,177

Finance Report 2022

Summary

During 2022, life started to get back to normal at St. Andrew's. The accounts, however, show a deficit for the year of £(7,177) and this needs some explanation.

In the past 2 or 3 years, increases in the value of our investments have led to overall surpluses and we knew that, just as investments can go up in good years, they can go down in other years. In 2022, the value of those investments actually fell by £ (16,479) or 9%. Otherwise, our 'normal' financial performance would show our costs being more than matched by our income.

Income

Income was broadly in line with 2021. Small reductions in planned giving and donations were largely offset by increases in open plate collections as attendance in church increased.

Other Trading Activity income was up on events (up £3,900), on hall hire (up £4,200) and on Fees (up £5,100).

Costs

Our costs were actually slightly lower than in 2021 – largely explained by a lower level of our Diocesan Share, which, in general terms, is how parishes pay for their clergy costs.

Other

As we noted last year, we had been fortunate during the pandemic that our bottom-line financial performance had been aided by successive increases in the value of our investments in the Church of England Deposit Fund. We also noted that we were intending to spend significant amounts of money on the church lighting and AV system which would reduce our level of invested funds.

During 2022, we installed the new lighting system, and we are starting to incur costs on upgrading the AV system during 2023. Both these items were covered by restricted legacies, so they aren't shown in the Income & Expenditure Account shown opposite.

Shottery St. Andrews Church

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM		
Planned giving and donations	81,478	82,978
Other trading activities	29,665	14,595
Investment Income	7	-
Other Income (<i>revaluation</i>)*	(16,479)	26,728
Total	<u>94,671</u>	<u>124,301</u>
EXPENDITURE ON		
Diocesan Share	67,591	71,368
Church Management & Admin	12,208	9,887
Other Costs	20,308	20,531
Other (Accountancy)	1,741	1,074
Total	<u>101,848</u>	<u>102,860</u>
NET INCOME	(7,177)	21,441
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS		
Total funds brought forward	<u>167,801</u>	<u>146,360</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u><u>160,624</u></u>	<u><u>167,801</u></u>



ST ANDREW'S SHOTTERY

