



Reg. charity no: 1196804

Agenda, Minutes and Reports for the

Annual Parish Meeting

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Annual Parochial Church Meeting

15 May 2022



THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST ANDREW, TAUNTON

[Reg. charity no: 1196804]

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2022 Sunday 15 May 2022, at 11.00 (approx.) following the 10am Eucharist, in Church

AGENDA

1. Prayers
2. Apologies for absence
3. Approval of Minutes of meeting 23 May 2021
4. Election of Churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2022 Sunday 15 May 2022, immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting, in Church

Papers attached.

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Approval of Minutes of meeting 23 May 2021
- 3 Matters arising
- 4 Report on changes in Electoral Roll since the last meeting
- 5 Annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021 *[separate bundle - Report to be adopted by the meeting]*
- 6 Annual report on the proceedings of the PCC 2021
- 7 Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church, including Inventory.

- 8 APCM to receive the following reports for 2021 :
 - a) New St Andrews (including financial summary)
 - b) Safeguarding
 - c) Church Hall (including financial statement)
 - d) Choir and music
 - e) Fundraising and social
 - f) Children and young people (all activities)
 - g) *St Andrews Church School (included in Vicar's report)*
 - h) Bell-ringing
 - i) *Lay Pastoral Assistants (included in Vicar's report)*
 - j) *Local Ministry Group (included in Vicar's report)*
 - k) *Ministry team (included in Vicar's report)*

- 9 Report on the proceedings of the Taunton Deanery Synod
- 10 Election of PCC members
- 11 Appointment of Independent Examiner to the PCC
- 12 Any other business as notified to the Secretary by **Wednesday 11 May 2022**. (Send to Sue Goodman, suegoodman61@outlook.com or 01823 256724.)
- 13 Vicar's report.

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST ANDREW, TAUNTON

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Sunday 23 May 2021, 11.25am.**

MINUTES

Vicar, the Rev'd Robin Lodge in the chair; approx. 40 members attending [not listed].
(The meeting was not live-streamed on Facebook, although the preceding service had been.)

1. Apologies for absence
June Acreman, Dennis Carter, Phil Emond, Janet Fulljames. Henry Haslam, Rosemary Palfrey, Janet Paynter, Joyce Penn, Sue Richards, Anne Willmott.

2. Meeting of APM 18 October 2020
Minutes had been circulated; there were no comments.
The Chair signed the Minutes as a true account of the meeting.

3. Election of Churchwardens
David Budd and Anthony Blackshaw, having been properly proposed and seconded, and having indicated their willingness to serve, were duly elected unopposed.

Robin thanked the two churchwardens for their willingness to serve, and gave especial thanks to David who has been sole churchwarden for a year. He also thanked the numerous people who have helped David when needed during the year, whether filling in at regular services or taking on specific building-related tasks.

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**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
Sunday 23 May 2021
immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting**

MINUTES

Vicar, the Rev'd Robin Lodge in the chair; approx. 40 members attending [not listed].
(The meeting was not live-streamed on Facebook, although the preceding service had been.)

Apologies for absence - as at APM (above).

1. Minutes of the APCM 18 October 2020
Minutes had been circulated; there were no comments; they were accepted by the present meeting.

The Chair signed the Minutes as a true account of that meeting.

2. Matters arising
None

3. Electoral Roll report

Full details in Ruth Cook's written report, which had been circulated. The Electoral Roll at the time of this meeting is 110, unchanged from the date of the report.

A question was asked concerning the Electoral Roll and the church membership list. Ruth explained that the ER is subject to certain rules and regulations (clergy, for instance, are excluded from it). Other individuals (not on the ER) may consider themselves part of the St Andrews family and therefore wish to remain in contact with St Andrews, receive information on services and events, etc. In the past this has been done informally, but with the advent of GDPR and greater understanding of data protection requirements, a formal membership list has been developed. Ruth manages this list, and the church can then send communications by post or email.

4. Annual Report and Accounts for year ended 31 December 2020

Papers had been circulated before the meeting. The Treasurer was pleased to note that planned giving had in fact increased during the pandemic, and income overall had been sustained.

Thanks were given to the treasury team in general, and especially to Mike Chapman, the previous Treasurer, for his help, encouragement and guidance during the hand-over period to the new Treasurer.

Resolution to accept the accounts :

Proposed – Darren Chalmers / Seconded – Jean Allgrove

Carried unanimously.

5. Annual report on the proceedings of the PCC 2020

Report previously circulated; no questions or comments from the meeting.

The Chair thanked the PCC Secretary for her work.

6 Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church.

The Churchwarden's report had been circulated, including a note on the Quinquennial Inspection carried out on 2 December 2020.

Noted: the church clock has now been restored and is in working order, with new hands in place. The issue of re-gilding the numerals to match has not been decided. Unfortunately, one of the two clock faces runs slow and is commented on.

The Inventory for 2020 had not been completed and was not signed.

7. Specific reports

All had been previously circulated. The Chair thanked all who prepared the reports, and all their supporting teams.

7 a: New St Andrews report

Report previously circulated, including the financial summary for 2020 showing a healthy position.

Alan Cook paid tribute to George Bros, the building firm who took over the new build toilets at short notice. Work commenced in March 2021.

The next steps in the overall NSA project are outlined in Alan's report; the group is due to meet shortly after this annual meeting for forward planning. Work on the narthex and kitchen is proposed in order to create space for non-income-generating community activities.

7 b: Safeguarding

Report previously circulated, covering calendar year 2020 only. A question was asked about the current safeguarding position, as children's activities could be re-commencing fairly soon. Ali Perry explained that she is monitoring both the pandemic guidelines and the developing shape of children's ministry at St Andrews; she will thus be in a position to update training for those who need it, when appropriate.

7 c: Church Hall

Report previously circulated, with the Hall financial statement for 2020.

Lesley Jones, Hall Manager, noted that lets for children's activities have re-started, and there is a lot of interest in adults lets, and parties generally – when allowed. The refurbished kitchen should be an attraction for new lets.

7 d: Choir & Music

Report previously circulated, no queries. The choir is currently poised to re-appear for worship, when national regulations permit.

7 e: Fundraising & Social

Report previously circulated, for 2020.

Ali thanked existing supporters of the Light Up the Spire appeal, at present the only fundraising activity, and made a general appeal for new ideas that fall within the current pandemic guidelines.

7 f: Children & Young People

Report covering Railway Children, Messy Church, MINT, and Church Mice (all for 2020/21) previously circulated. Sue Lodge and all the helpers were thanked for their work.

Noted:

- Messy Church – the team are already looking at suitable summer ideas, within the current guidelines. Outdoor events are a possibility.
- The DJ Club report was omitted from the main report in error; Ruth Cook supplied the following:
Sadly, the DJ Club has not met since March 2020. The Club used to be open to children from all age groups in the school [St Andrews Church School] but due to year-group "bubbles" in place this means it cannot meet in its usual format.

I am unsure as to whether it will return and whether it would continue to be a joint school/church led group.

7 g: Bell-ringing

Report previously circulated; there were no comments.

7 h -7 j.: Lay Pastoral Assistants, Local Ministry Group, and Ministry Team

Reports on these activities previously circulated.

8. Report on proceedings of Taunton Deanery Synod.
Report previously circulated. One update: the Synod meeting of 8 June has been postponed.
9. Election of PCC members
David Budd and Anthony Blackshaw, having been elected Churchwardens, remain on the PCC. For elected members, three 3-year terms and one 2-year term were vacant.

The following have been nominated:

- Phil Emond
- Sue Goodman (co-opted for 2020/21)

No other nominations having been received, these candidates were duly elected unopposed, to serve 2021/24.

All were in favour.

The Vicar welcomed and thanked the new PCC members.

10. Appointment of Independent Examiner to the PCC
David Bridges, from St John the Evangelist, Staplegrove, has been proposed as the Independent Examiner for 2021, and has agreed. In a reciprocal arrangement, our Treasurer, Antony Yeo, will act as I.E. for Staplegrove. The meeting accepted this proposal.

David Bridges is duly appointed. The PCC will formally confirm the new arrangement.

11. Any other business
Jeremy Harvey thanked Robin and Katy for all their efforts to maintain the work and worship of St Andrews in difficult circumstances and using a variety of technology. This sentiment was echoed by everyone present, with applause.

12. Vicar's Report
Report on 2020 previously circulated.

Robin repeated his grateful thanks to David Budd and his team for all their work in maintaining the COVID-19 regime in changing circumstances. The meeting thanked them with applause.

The meeting closed at 12.20 with the Grace.

[item 4]

Electoral Roll 2021

The number on the Roll at the APCM in May 2021 was **110**.

Since then, Kath Watt moved away and Tony Byrne is no longer able to attend. Sadly Joyce Izzard, Paul Williams and Margaret Thorne died, and we give thanks for their long and faithful service to St Andrews.

The Electoral Roll therefore stood at **105** at 31st December 2021.

Since then Geoff Brownsey has died and we also give thanks for his long and faithful service in our church.

We are pleased to welcome on to the Roll, Diane Ruff and Emily Lodge.

The total on the Roll as at today's date therefore stands at **106**.

Ruth Cook

Electoral Roll Officer

20th April 2022

[item 6]

Report on proceedings of the PCC, 2021

The PCC had 13 members [listed in the Annual Report], plus the Parish Administrator who attends but does not vote. In 2021 we held seven meetings via Zoom conference and four in-person meetings, including three single-issue discussions (see below). We have met three times so far in 2022.

The Standing Committee of the PCC had 7 members, membership was: Incumbent, Curate, Churchwarden(s), PCC Treasurer, PCC Secretary, 1 other lay member of the PCC. The latter is appointed annually by the PCC; Stephen Grimshaw was re-appointed at the 2021 APCM.

Our Curate, the Rev'd Katy Gough, left St Andrews early in 2022 to take up a post at HMP Exeter. The PCC will miss her incisive analysis of problems, and willingness to tackle issues in great detail.

Standing Committee held 5 Zoom and 2 in-person meetings in 2021; and has met twice so far in 2022.

New PCC members elected in May 2021 were Phil Emond and Sue Goodman (previously a co-opted member). Alison Perry was co-opted in December 2021.

David Budd and Anthony Blackshaw were elected Churchwardens. David's informal working group, consisting of the Churchwardens, Bill Perry and Merv Jones, continues to provide invaluable practical expertise.

The PCC receives reports at each meeting on Finance, Fabric (site & buildings), Health & Safety, New St Andrews, Church Hall, Fundraising (for routine parish expenses, not for specific works), Safeguarding, Children & Young People, and the Vicar's report. Minutes of Standing Committee meetings are also reviewed at each PCC meeting.

Regular issues covered during 2021 were:

- The ongoing Coronavirus situation. The existing continuity plan was reviewed at each meeting and updated as the situation progressed. In October 2021 the continuity plan was discontinued, and replaced by regular monitoring of checks and regulations, subject to guidance from government and national church. Two single-issue PCC meetings held in the early part of 2021 concerned the suspension, and subsequent re-starting, of public worship at St Andrews. The PCC continues to respond to the changing situation in a safe and timely manner.
- Finance, including current Parish Share payments (now made by monthly standing order), use made of legacy funds received, monitoring of financial reserves, disentangling financial liabilities relating to the Scout hut, mission giving (regular or single donations), stewardship.
- Annual strategic planning – At the Parish conference on 18 September 2021 a new Mission Action Plan, or MAP, was outlined. After a Covid-induced gap in 2020, the new MAP covers 2021-22.
- New St Andrews. With the completion of the new build of two toilets in December 2021, the PCC will review and discuss the future direction of travel for the NSA project as a whole. The PCC is committed to long-term support, including financial support, for the work of the NSA sub-committee.
- Policy reviews and updating - an ongoing rolling schedule through the year.
- Safeguarding. The Safeguarding Officer, Alison Perry, attended the 19 October 2021 meeting to deliver her annual report and carry out the annual safeguarding audit. In the absence of a Safeguarding liaison person, Alison was co-opted to the PCC in December. She has reviewed PCC members' individual safeguarding training and outlined renewal sessions where needed.

Other issues covered:

- St Andrews PCC registered as a charity on 26 November 2021; charity no: 1196804.
- Ownership of the Scout and Guide huts has finally been resolved, thanks to much detailed research by Tony Blackshaw. The local Scouts organisation is now responsible for insurance and all other outgoings connected with these buildings.
- David Bridges, of St John's Church, Staplegrove, will take over the role of Independent Examiner for St Andrews, starting with the 2021 accounts. Antony Yeo will undertake the reciprocal task for St John's, also from 2021.
- Use of affordable hand-held, contactless (or other) technology for one-off donations to St Andrews in person – this problem is not yet resolved.
- Director of Music post: the proposed job-share could not be implemented. Further discussions are under way.
- The Hall was closed for much of 2021, due to the Covid pandemic. Closer links between the PCC and the Hall sub-committee are helping the situation return to normal.

Sue Goodman, PCC Secretary

April 2022

Annual Summary Fabric Report for APCM 15 May 2022

Work undertaken during 2021

- Font lid now (January 2022) immobilised in the raised position, thus removing the need for separate insurance and annual inspection fees.
- Tower clock finally re-started end January 2021; changes between summer and winter time are done manually.
- One surplus pew from the south aisle was sold in June 2021.
- All interior church lighting was replaced with LED bulbs; work completed in July 2021.
- New IT equipment was purchased for the Parish Office, and Wi-Fi coverage was extended to the whole church building.
- The new St Andrews church website went live on 1 July 2021.
- Thoughtless and illegal parking next to the Hall and on the green continues to be a problem.
- Work on the new toilet extension started in March 2021; the two new toilets were completed in December 2021.
- Church inventory – not completed for 2021.

Current issues

Heating System

On 13 January 2022, MBH condemned the boiler as unsafe to use. MBH have given a quote for two gas boilers to replace the condemned 30 year old boiler, which was £33,904 plus VAT. We will get two more quotes for gas boilers should the advice we receive be to pursue gas. In the long term it is likely that natural gas will move to hydrogen and boilers should be able to convert.

We have had a Green Journey audit through the diocese completed on 22nd March 2022, but we have not yet received the report, which we hope will give advice on the type of heating to pursue. Green Journey were emailed just before the Easter Break to ask where our Audit Report was, and a response is awaited.

There are 3 diocesan experts in church heating, one is Geoffrey Robinson. However, we had to complete a faculty application in order to be contacted by the heating experts and we have had no response at time of writing. We cannot proceed with fundraising and Grant applications until we know what will be approved by the DAC when a replacement boiler Faculty is applied for.

Narthex

The Narthex has been decorated and plaster repaired, after flooding. The carpet was replaced (with blue carpet tiles) using insurance money following the storm damage.

Scout Hut

Ownership of the Scout and Guide huts has been established to be the Scouts'; they are thus responsible for all bills. The PCC Treasurer has now received the cost of the Insurance Premium (paid by St Andrews) from the Scouts Organisation, and they have insured the building through their own chosen insurers.

The land belongs to the diocese, however, and a lease agreement is going to be drawn up. Matters are in hand to begin to instruct the Diocesan Solicitors, Harris & Harris of Wells, to draw up a Lease Agreement with the Scouts Association. The Diocese advises that this will be a cost to the PCC as the Managing Trustees. All this will then place the relationship between St Andrew's PCC and the Scouts on a better and more formal footing. It will be up to both parties to then rebuild a relationship that has inevitably suffered from the COVID Pandemic.

Railings on the Green

A working party will start this refurbishment job after the APCM.

Faculty Updates

Following diocesan procedures, a faculty has been applied for in order to get advice on the type of heating system needed [see above].

At the PCC on 29 March 2022 it was agreed to proceed with a faculty to remove the diagonal pews on the South aisle, the pews under the windows on the South side, and the former choir pews (now superfluous) on the North side in front of the North door. This door will become a fire escape in future.

*David Budd & Tony Blackshaw
Churchwardens, 18 April 2022*

[item 8a]

New Saint Andrews Development Report for the APCM Sunday May 15th 2022

When preparing this report I felt that the picture below marked the feelings of celebration by the NSA Team that after four years of meetings the toilet extension was complete.

The Planning Team were delighted that during a meeting of the PCC on the 26th January 2021 it was agreed to accept the tender from George Bros Builders Ltd in the sum of £62,561.40 inclusive VAT.

The official Contract was received and signed by the Revd Robin Lodge, Alan Cook and David Budd.

George Bros Builders Ltd began preparatory work and digging foundations on Monday March 1st 2021. It was planned that the work should be completed in sixteen weeks. Due to the Westleigh quarry closing during the pandemic the exterior stone had to be sourced from another quarry causing the project to be delayed.

I would like to place on record our thanks to our Architect Jo Hibbert, Owen Beale, and the staff from George Bros Builders for all the work that they have carried out to bring the project to a satisfactory conclusion. It was fitting that Monday November 29th 2021 (the day before St Andrew's Day) marked the completion of the project.

Thank You!

I want to express a sincere 'Thank You' to everyone who has supported the NSA Project with such generosity and encouragement. We also extend our thanks to the Allchurches Trust, Somerset West and Taunton Council, Garfield Weston, and the Beatrice Laing Trust who gave substantial donations totalling £13,150. The 'Buy & Build' scheme was a great success when the materials detailed on the picture were coloured as the various materials were paid for. We also extend thanks to Rob and Sally Shuttleworth for their artistry in drawing the picture of the church. Also thanks to Martyn Trott who faithfully coloured each of the products as monies were received. Our thanks also to David Budd for fixing the picture on the wall which faces you as you walk into the extension area. It will always be a reminder of your generosity.

Finance

Thank you to Lizzie Budd for her hard and dedicated work as our treasurer. At our team meeting on the 4th January 2022 we were delighted to hear that, allowing for the retention payment to George Bros (due end of May), the NSA account has a restricted amount of £5,978.74 for future work.

The Narthex Area

I would like to thank the team who decorated the narthex following the completion of the building work. I'm sure you will agree that following repairs to the plaster the decoration has made this area much brighter and welcoming to everyone who comes into the church building.

The Future

Following completion of the toilet extension the original NSA vision was to continue with the plans to extend the current kitchen facilities into the Marshall Room. This would include a hob for the provision of hot snacks, soup etc. enabling the Narthex to be used for greater outreach into the community. Sadly the proposed architects plan for the kitchen extension is now in abeyance due to the situation regarding the boiler and the proposal to remove pews in the south aisle. With my retirement as Director of Music on Sunday September 25th 2022, I decided to resign as chair of the NSA team from the 1st February 2022.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the NSA Team [listed below] for their commitment and support to the project during the past four years. It has been a pleasure to work with them.

Alan Cook (Chair until 31/1/2022)
March 2022

David & Lizzie Budd
Steve Bull
Tom Cridland
Sue Goodman
Mervyn Jones
Revd Robin Lodge
Martyn Trott



**New St Andrews -
financial summary
2021**

APCM 15 May 2022, item 8a

	Income				Expenditure	Total	Statement
	Standing Order	Cash/Chq/ Transfer	Other	Bank Interest			
						42,362.76	<i>[Carried forward 2020]</i>
Total	925.00	762.50	15,310.91	19.36	-49,910.22	9,470.31	Agrees to St 57
Pending items							
Outstanding S/O to end Dec '21						35.00	
Balance after pending transactions						9,505.31	Agrees to statement as at 31/12/21
Outstanding invoice to George Bros (final - retention of £1177.54)						-8369.17	Paid in full
Balance						1,136.14	
Outstanding claim from LPW Grant Scheme **			6020.14			6,020.14	Received
Retention					-1177.54	-1177.54	
Balance						5978.74	As at 31/12/2021

** Note: LPW is Listed Places of Worship Grant scheme - gives grants to cover VAT incurred in repairs.

[item 8b]

REPORT OF THE SAFEGUARDING PERSON TO ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, TAUNTON, APCM, MAY 2022

This report refers to the year January – December 2021.

Safe recruitment

2021 saw the resumption of some church activities but not those involving children at St Andrew's, such as Railway Children and Church Mice. Telephone support continued to be given to those who appreciated the continued contact. Three of our congregation took up roles as Lay Pastoral Assistants, took the necessary training courses and received clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service. Any new DBS clearances now have to be renewed every 3 years (previously 5 yearly), although they are on a 'rolling programme' for existing clearances.

At the end of 2021, 19 members plus clergy and readers of St Andrew's Church held a clean DBS certificate. These all held roles working with the choir, children and young people, and included churchwardens, lay pastoral assistants, pastoral support and the ministry team.

During 2020, two safeguarding concerns were raised with the Safeguarding Team at Bath and Wells.

Training

All volunteers (ie most of St Andrew's congregation!) are required to take some training on Safeguarding which must be renewed every 3 years. The level of training is dependent on the volunteer's particular role. Every volunteer is required to take on-line Basic Awareness training, those whose role involves DBS clearance, and PCC members, must take on-line Foundation training while Leadership training (face-to-face) is for Clergy, Readers and Parish Safeguarding Officers. As activities resume it is necessary for a number of our activity leaders and volunteers to renew their training, and the APCM report for 2022 will reflect this activity.

Attendance at PCC meetings

I make a written report to each PCC meeting, updating members on any changes to the church 'teams' – as in effect the PCC are 'employers' of all volunteers. I attended the October 2021 PCC meeting when the annual safeguarding Action Plan was updated, using the on-line Parish Dashboard tool. I have recently become a co-opted member of the PCC to give advice on safeguarding matters should it be necessary at meetings, and I am grateful for the support and advice given to me by the Safeguarding Team at Wells.

I am grateful to Team Leaders who keep me updated on prospective changes to their teams, as all volunteers must be 'safely recruited' to their posts. At the time of writing there are 78 volunteers at St Andrew's who carry out 202 tasks between them. We are blessed to have so many people willing to carry out these tasks.

*Alison Perry, Safeguarding Officer
March 2022*

[item 8c]

St Andrews Church Hall Report for APCM 2022

1. Financial Statement 2021

Attached is a summary of the hall's income and expenditure during the period 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021 including a comparison with 2020. *Please note these figures are included within the church accounts for that period and are not separate.*

The hall made a small loss of £374, compared to a loss of £1601 in 2020. Income fell by £2142 mainly due to the cessation of the government's furlough scheme payments which covered 80% of the salary costs of the hall manager and hall cleaner whilst the hall was closed.

Expenditure also fell by £3369 .due to very little expenditure on equipment, furniture etc. There was also a rebate of £636 from the fuel providers. It is doubtful if any such rebate will be available in 2022!

2. Lets

Most government Covid restrictions were lifted on 19 July 2021. Apart from the local election in May 2021, one-off lets such as parties did not start returning until July. The demand for one-off lets has been steadily increasing since then.

During March, child care and children's supervised activities could resume and from then Taunton Reading Fairy, Mother & Baby Yoga and children's Karate all resumed. All other lets recommenced in September.

We lost a few lets during 2021, Toddler Group and the smaller of the two Karate groups. On the plus side, we gained Priorswood Circuits.

3. Other

The hall has been very fortunate that the cost of improvements to the toilets of £7000 has been met by funding from the church (PCC). Very many thanks.

Many thanks also to Merv Jones for redecorating a large area of the hall whilst it was closed during the Covid pandemic.

4. 2022

A recent new let has been Tea and Tots, which is a great success.

Another new let but for six months only is an NHS training group

Both the leaders of our pre-school groups (Reading Fairy and Mother and Baby Yoga) are currently on maternity leave and at this stage it is not known whether the groups will restart

New doors for the refurbished toilets have been installed, these being the last of the hall's door replacement programme, commenced a few years ago and from hall funds.

A leak from a roof window caused minor damage to the Weston Room ceiling.

If funds allow, work to remove moss from the roof.

Investigations are on-going for provision of Wi-Fi for the hall purchase of projector and screen as funds allow,

Finally, many thanks to the rest of the Hall Committee, Lesley and Mervyn Jones, Robin Lodge, Annie Garland, Andy Thomas, Mike Chapman and Thomas Cridland.

Mike Longman
Hall Treasurer
April, 2022

[item 8c]

**ST ANDREWS CHURCH HALL
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
1 JANUARY 2021 – 31 DECEMBER 2021**

Reconciliation of Spreadsheets/Bank Statement

<u>Spreadsheets</u>		<u>Statements</u>	
Income- 8539		01.01.21	4844
Expenditure <u>+8913</u>		31.12.21	<u>4470</u>
NETT + <u>374</u>		NETT	<u>374</u>

On that basis, the hall made an operating loss of £374 in 2021, compared to a larger loss of £1601 in 2020.

Income and expenditure broken down as follows:-

Income

	<u>2021</u>		<u>2020</u>		
Hall lettings	7034		7443	+ 409	Interest
2	28			+ 26	
a Furlough Scheme	1297		3210	+1913	
b Other	<u>206</u>		<u>0</u>	<u>- 206</u>	
	-8539		-10681		+2142

Expenditure

Salaries/Wages	5370		5306	+ 64	
Insurance	1243		1225	+ 18	
Cleaning	272		297	- 25	
c Repairs/Maint/Eqpt	776		3256	-2480	
Administration	300		347	- 47	
d Heating/Lighting	552		1361	- 809	
Water	100		90	+ 10	
Petty Cash	<u>300</u>		<u>400</u>	<u>- 100</u>	
	<u>+8913</u>		<u>+12282</u>		<u>-3369</u>
	<u>+374</u>		<u>+ 1601</u>	<u>-1227</u>	

NOTES

1 Income

a Furlough Scheme payments ceased in March 2020

b Closure of Diocesan Board of Finance account. Funds transferred to Hall account

2 Expenditure

c No programme of work following replacement of internal doors in 2020

d Rebates totalling £636

*Mike Longman
Hall Treasurer
January 2022*

[item 8d]

The Choir and Music Group - Report for APCM Sunday 15th May 2022

The Choir and Music Group.

The following picture captures so well the spirit of fun and enjoyment that we have when practising the music for our Sunday services and for those special occasions that occur during the year.



So it is only right that I should begin by saying a big 'Thank You' to all the members of the Choir and the Music Group for their ongoing dedication and commitment to the music ministry here at St Andrew's.

Thank you also for the kind and appreciative comments that are often made by members of the congregation.

Cantor and Organ.

At the end of March 2021 we were able to meet again in person for the Eucharist.

Sadly it was only possible for organ music to be played plus chanting by a cantor voice.

During this time and the months that followed it was an opportunity to sing a variety of arrangements for the Responsorial Psalms and for parts of the Eucharist (Gloria etc.)

Although I was able to sing I also felt for you knowing that in your hearts you would like to have joined in.

It was therefore a wonderful experience on Sunday August 15th 2021 to see the return of congregational singing, beginning with the hymn '*Tell out my soul the greatness of the Lord*' expressing our joy and thanksgiving to God in word and music.

The choir returned on Sunday September 12th adding further music to enhance the beauty of our worship.

Special Services.

It was a joy to see the return of the Advent Carol Service on Advent Sunday with the theme '*LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL*'.

I am grateful to Sue Richards for suggesting this inspirational theme for the service and for sharing together in the planning of the service.

It was a further joy to be able to hold our Community Carol Service on Sunday December 19th with congregational carols, readings, choir pieces with accompaniment shared between organ and the music group.

We were able to hold the Crib Service and the Midnight Mass with full congregational participation.

Choosing music for worship!

The choices of music for worship is a challenge and one that I particularly enjoy trying to complement the scriptures that are set for each Sunday of the year.

We all have our favourite hymns and songs speaking about those key moments in our lives – thanksgiving, sadness, doubt, relationships, discovering more about God.

While this is important worship and music must also speak about the needs of the wider world and the community in which we live.

Hymn Books!

For the time being printed hymn sheets are being prepared for the Sunday Parish Eucharist. It is providing the opportunity to use a wider choice of hymns from a variety of books that are available. At the moment we are using 'Sing Praise', for which the choir already has full music copies, together with contemporary music from the Catholic Church; reproduction from all these sources is covered by licence.

Royal School of Church Music.

The RSCM continues to arrange a number of webinars covering a wide range of liturgical ideas and music to accompany the words.

The Organ

I would like to record my thanks to James Atherton and Ross Daly from Nicholson & Co Ltd Pipe Organ Builders who tune and look after our organ with careful attention to the voicing and keeping an eye on any defects that may need attention.

Looking to the future!

Since the choir returned we have felt that there is a better balance with voice parts with using the chairs as they are currently positioned beyond the rood screen.

Retirement!

Robin told the congregation that I would be retiring as Director of Music in 2022.

It was not an easy decision to make but I feel that it is the right one.

My last service will be the Parish Eucharist on Sunday September 25th after which I am planning to have a break for at least six months during which I hope to discover what the good Lord might be calling me to do.

It has been a joy and privilege to be part of the fellowship at St Andrew's for over 26 years.

Thank you for your love, support and appreciation during my time here.

Alan Cook, Director of Music – March 2022



[item 8e]

REPORT OF THE FUNDRAISING GROUP TO THE CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING, FOR JANUARY – DECEMBER 2021

The Covid pandemic continued to put a stop to our usual flux of fundraising and social events during 2021, but all was not lost and the result at the end of the year was a very pleasing sum in the region of £4800, thanks to all our loyal supporters.

'Bags of Help' in September raised £90, with the Summer lunch (£524), Harvest (£535) and Winter Warmer (£483) lunches bringing in a healthy profit which was boosted by some generous donations from a supporter. The October Table Top Sale raised £322 and our main two events were the Christmas Market (£1038) and the visit of the Taunton Deane Male Voice Choir, who gave a superb concert in their Diamond Year and helped us to a healthy profit of £637. Our Grand Draw has so far raised £441, and the Draw will be carried forward to the Fete when the main prize draw will take place. Income has also to cover Draw cash prizes, lottery registration, and we have invested in some new tablecloths for our church meals. Otherwise, we are very cheap to run!

'LIGHT UP THE SPIRE'

We continue to be supported to 'Light up the Spire' and since June 2020, thanks to people's generosity, the total raised is £1900 (plus Gift Aid), £975 being raised in 2021. Each sponsor receives a certificate commemorating their contribution, and details of each month's sponsorship is included in 'Inspire', the weekly notice sheet, and on local social media, thus raising the profile of St Andrew's in the community. It is a lovely way to commemorate a loved one, to celebrate an event, or to send a message of thanks or praise to the wider community. If you would like more information on how you can sponsor a month's spire illumination, please contact the Parish Office, or speak to Alison Perry.

EASYFUNDRAISING

Easyfundraising continues to raise a few pounds – again from very few people who use this facility of giving, at no cost to themselves. Since we joined with easyfundraising in 2017, we have received £566, £173 of which was received in 2021. This is such an easy way to raise money for the church. Please – if you ever place orders for goods or services via the Internet – consider registering for easyfundraising. It is one extra 'click' when you order and St Andrew's Church will benefit. Speak to Alison Perry for more information.

SMILE AMAZON

As St Andrew's Church is now a charity, we can benefit from being part of the 'Smile Amazon' community. If you are shopping with Amazon, and are offered the chance to support a charity, please search for 'Parochial Church Council of St Andrew' and 0.5% of the purchase price will be donated by Amazon to our church.

It has been good to be able to plan for events in 2022 and we hope that you will support us as you have been doing in 2021. Thank you.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – 2022

Saturday 11th June – Fete on the Green (Her Majesty's birthday)

Sunday 10th July – Summer Lunch after 10.00 am service

Saturday 3rd December 2022 – Church Christmas Market

The Fundraising Team

Alison and Bill Perry, Karen Cridland, Anna Thistlethwaite, Sally Kellock, Mervyn and Lesley Jones.

'Putting the Fun into Fundraising'

[item 8h]

Bellringing 2021, report for St Andrew's APCM, 15 May 2022.

There was no service ringing or ringing practice during 2021. The tenor bell was tolled for 30 minutes to mark the funeral of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh on April 17th 2021.

With the relaxation of Covid restrictions, service ringing recommenced in January 2022.

Henry Haslam

[item 9]

Taunton Deanery Synod report 2021

At the time of the last St Andrew's APCM [21 May 2021] hopes were high that Deanery Synod could meet in person for the annual Eucharist in the summer. However, as the June date approached and Covid infection rates rose, it was postponed until September.

The September Eucharist did take place, at St Mary Magdalen. It in turn was affected by Covid to the extent that plans for 'bring and share' catering had to be changed to 'bring your own'. The Archdeacon celebrated and preached.

The usual autumn meeting did take place but was restricted to Zoom. The main item for consideration was an online presence for the Deanery. It was agreed that a small group would discuss and prototype a Facebook presence.

The spring meeting took place at St James's on 1 March 2022. It was a hybrid meeting – Zoom and in person. It was possible to report that a prototype Facebook page had been created. The central item was a session led by Julia Hill. She is the main contact point for deaneries and parishes in this archdeaconry. She demonstrated some cards developed to help deaneries and parishes to hold discussions to clarify their aims and how they might work towards them.

Stephen Grimshaw
Taunton Deanery Synod Rep., 2020-23

Vicar's Report

As a summary of the year's activities is provided in the Annual Report & Accounts, and the work of different departments and responsibilities of church life are set out in this booklet or will have been delivered orally at the meeting, this report is mainly concerned with my thanks, and an appreciation of where we are as a parish now and a vision for the future. In reading the two documents do remember that the Annual Report & Accounts refer to the calendar year 2021.

After a difficult year in 2020, we all hoped that we would fare better in 2021. Alas, after a successful range of Christmas services, albeit with restrictions, it was a shock when Covid cases rose sharply again over the New Year resulting in a third lockdown. This time responsibility for church life was delegated to the incumbent, but with a clear steer from our own Bishop that public worship should once again be suspended, the PCC reluctantly took the decision to close early in January. We re-opened on 28 February and have thankfully been able to continue ever since, thanks to the rapid and widespread vaccination programme in the UK. Step by step it has been possible to dismantle most, though not all, of the precautions, beginning in September. Although the road has not always been smooth, it was good to hold our Parish Conference in September to attempt to "press the reset button" on church life as we recognised the opportunity to think afresh about all we did. This will continue to need to be a work in progress.

As noted last year, it looked like one positive fruit of the pandemic was going to be an extension of our use of modern technology. We have continued to live-stream our main acts of worship to our Facebook page. My thanks to Bill Perry, now firmly in his role as IT Consultant, who has extended the wi-fi from the Parish Office to the whole church and continues to advise on options to improve this service in the future.

It has been really good to have two churchwardens again this year. Churchwardens are my partners in mission, ministry and management. David and Tony have each brought their own gifts to the role. David with a clear vision of what needs to be done and the ability to get things done, even though I know the procedures of the Church of England have been a tad frustrating at times; and Tony with his background and long experience of leadership in Education. We shall miss David in this role, but I am very pleased that he is able to pick up the mantle of Project Manager for New St Andrew's from Alan Cook, who has now retired from that post. At the time of writing, it looked highly likely that Tony will be carrying on as churchwarden alone. That is why it was necessary to ask this APCM to act with immediate effect in appointing Assistant Churchwardens to lend a hand, both with front of house leadership at services as well as with fabric matters. My thanks in advance to those who will have agreed to taking on this role by the time the meeting takes place, and indeed to past churchwardens and others for similar help without an official title! These posts are the appointment of the PCC, rather than by election, for one year at a time.

Sue Goodman continues to be a particularly effective PCC Secretary, giving much support to both clergy and wardens as well as doing her own job, where her attention to detail is an important gift to us all. Further thanks to Sue in her role as Editor of *Inspire*. She has signalled a wish to retire from this role as soon as a replacement can be found. Some progress has been made towards this, but the opportunity has arisen for a review of the full range of our communications so that we are clearer which medium is best used for any given purpose. Paper versions of *Inspire* are now available and can be requested via the Parish Office, but we will be continuing to put it online, at least for the time being.

Since being appointed Treasurer in 2019, Antony Yeo has increased his duties as leader of our "Treasury Team," enabling Mike Chapman to make a full retirement from the team. Mike Shaw remains an invaluable assistant, with the team being brought back up to full strength with Lizzie Budd as Assistant Treasurer alongside him. My thanks to them all.

Lesley Gold is an equally invaluable Administrator, and has worked tirelessly in lockdown at home, and in the Office, when possible, through another year. It is a demanding role, but one she never fails to exercise

with efficiency and good humour. As one who can quite easily let a detail or two slip from the mind, my bacon has been saved by her on more than one occasion with a timely reminder of a small routine matter which can have much greater consequences if overlooked!

Bill Perry's IT role has continued to include being our Webmaster. During 2021 work continued to bring about a refurbished website with a fresh look to it. As church members we may not always look at it often, but those enquiring it is our shop window and needs to be dressed well. It is essential that all receive a warm welcome to St Andrew's and, nowadays, an effective website is part of that package. However, we mustn't forget our other means of online communication, with Esther Checketts managing our Facebook page, and Libby Checketts looking after our Instagram account. It is a reminder that, for some, even a website may not be the go-to place for information about us, preferring instead to use social media.

Our Church Hall has suffered from lockdown but began to build back in 2021. Our policy continues to be that the Hall is developed primarily as the commercial wing of our operation as far as possible, with improvement of its facilities an important agenda item at Hall Committee meetings, with the availability of a projector and screen and Wi-Fi currently at the planning stage. My thanks to Lesley Jones our Hall Manager, assisted ably and very practically by Merv Jones, and to Mike and Annie Chapman for keeping the place clean. Thanks also to the Hall Committee, and Mike Longman as Hall Treasurer. Their work is supplemented by Mike Chapman and the grass cutting and leaf gathering team that looks after the grounds so well.

The hard work done by the New St Andrew's Group, led faithfully by Alan Cook as Project Manager, bore fruit as construction of the toilet extension in church, begun in 2021 and completed by the end of the year. We are all very proud of their achievement and greatly appreciate our new facilities. As I noted last year, this would not have been possible apart from the generosity of church members and successful applications to a couple of grant awarding bodies. My thanks not only to Alan, but also Sue Goodman (NSA Group Secretary), Martyn Trott, Thomas Cridland, David and Lizzie Budd, Steve Bull and Merv Jones.

On the subject of sites and buildings, Ali Perry and Ali Aish together continue to do excellent work maintaining our Garden of Remembrance, more easily now with the disappearance of formal social distancing. It stands as a reminder of many fondly remembered church members no longer with us as well as being an important if little-known resource to the wider community.

It has been a hugely rewarding experience being Training Incumbent to our curate, Katy Gough. Despite all the irritations and uncertainties of the pandemic, it was good to see the completion of her formal training by the end of 2021. Her placement with the Chaplaincy of HMP Exeter resulted in an unexpected job offer to join the team there as official Anglican Chaplain, although her departure during 2022 was always a possibility. It was just the right role for her, and it was a privilege to be among the few members of the public able to be part of her Licensing by the Bishop of Plymouth on 1 March 2022.

Alongside Katy and me, our two licensed Readers, Ruth Cook and Jeremy Harvey, have taken their share in preaching, assisting and leading worship and in pastoral care. We are blessed to have them. Finally, we should not forget Tricia Anderson, now retired from front line ministry but still holding the formal title of Reader Emeritus.

My thanks too for the help and encouragement of our retired clergy. It was sad to see the passing of Peter Fulljames in 2020, his illness exacerbated by pandemic conditions. (A reminder too of the equally sad loss of Gerald Farmer due to Covid directly), but Janet continues to be available for ministry in my absence, which, with the departure of Katy, will be very helpful. During 2021 it was great that we joined by Munna and Nicola Mitra, another retired clergy couple, retiring from school and hospital ministry respectively in Kent. It will be lovely to have their ministry among us too.

Alan Cook, as ever, has been working hard as our Director of Music, on the organ bench and leading the Choir and the Band. I am grateful them all for all that they bring to our worship together, albeit interrupted by the various coronavirus restrictions, and it was a relief when we were able to sing along with them once again. During 2021, the PCC advertised Alan's post as a Job Share with him as the senior partner.

However, no applications were forthcoming from a scarce field of available talent. After further consideration, Alan announced that he would be retiring completely at the end of September 2022 and so a new advertisement has now been placed for the full role, with the deadline of applications being 31 May. Alan has brought a huge range of talent as well as music to our worship over the years, and, speaking personally, he has been there in my own professional life for around the last 25 years as Diocesan Music Adviser. Although he will be sorely missed in this role, we will not be losing him entirely for as husband to Ruth and No.1 Supporter in her Reader Ministry here, he will remain one of the family, albeit sitting quietly on the back benches!

Behind the scenes, but no less valuable, are the many hours put in by Martyn Trott, who has gradually taken on all sacristy work since the pandemic began. It is work largely unseen and too easily unnoticed – except of course should it for any reason not be done! My thanks to him and all our servers and Communion assistants for their help in the sanctuary. As we return to a “renewed normal,” consideration has been given to the various sanctuary roles in the light of available people resources as part of the 2021/22 Mission Action Plan. Meanwhile, Judy Blew has been able to bounce back as Verger on occasions as things have eased, as well as bringing back that welcome cup of tea or coffee after our Sunday worship. Thank you, Judy, for always being there!

Over the last year, the work of our Flower Team, smaller nowadays, has still been able to achieve great things with limited resources, especially at Christmas and Easter. We thank them heartily for their dedication, without which our festivals in particular would be the poorer.

Our Lay Pastoral Assistants team expanded in 2021 with the commissioning of Steve and Carol Bull and Darren Chalmers to the existing group: Joy Abnett, Lesley Arberry, Beryl Oaten, and Sue Lodge. Katy’s review of our pastoral care systems at St Andrew’s was delivered in October, although even then we were still very mindful of the limitations of the pandemic. It was resolved to maintain the Telephone Pastoral Network for the time being. My thanks for all that has been done over the last two difficult years to keep in touch with the most vulnerable among us. As I write in May 2022, some semblance of normality and a wider use of the LPA team is looking possible once again. Thanks also to the team that assist with Home Communion, which, again, is only just being able to get working again in the way we were used to. All of these teams have members in common, such is the commitment made to caring for each other. Throughout this time visits to our nursing homes have been suspended and we look forward to working with them again when conditions allow. In the meantime, my thanks to Carol Dimmer who organised Christmas greetings cards from St Andrew’s to the residents so that they would know they are not forgotten at their parish church.

Messy Church continued to be in abeyance in 2021, but the decision was taken to refresh our team by working together with Rowbarton Methodist Church, aiming for a relaunch in 2022. RMC have an impressive track record in this sort of ministry, and it will be great to work with them. In the meantime, my thanks to Sue Lodge as Messy Church coordinator for keeping the pilot light aflame!

The pandemic served to see to the final closure of the Railway Children, the numbers having dropped below critical mass for survival. So far it seems there is insufficient demand for opportunities aimed at our teenage members, and our work with Children & Young People is now mostly with schools, Church Mice and Messy Church – although the latter, it should be emphasised, is really a ministry to *families* as a whole. It was good then to see Church Mice start up once again almost two years since it was one of the last groups to meet as lockdown loomed in March 2020. My thanks to Joy Abnett and Judith Crayford for reviving the brand! We had hoped to appoint further members of the team, but it seems that the burden of the paperwork and safeguarding training, important as it is, implies a commitment beyond what is sometimes possible to give. Sadly, from a national perspective, this is a common problem.

Ali Perry’s role as Safeguarding Officer, helping us protect our children and vulnerable adults, continues to grow as we understand more about the need, and the whole Church endeavours to improve its processes. As always, Ali carries out all her duties cheerfully and efficiently as ever keeping the necessary records, briefing me and the PCC regularly and making sure our training and clearance checks are all up to date. Training has slipped behind somewhat in 2021, not helped by a shortage of opportunities for face to face training sessions. Both Foundation and Basic levels of training are available online.

Safeguarding training needs to be undertaken at the appropriate level by all who volunteer in any church role, and does need renewing, like DBS clearance, every three years.

In line with diocesan policy, the PCC sets its priorities, and expresses them in its Mission Action Plan. From March 2020, this had been temporarily replaced with a Coronavirus Continuity Plan, which was designed to give an ongoing snapshot of the status of church activities in line with lockdown or other social distancing measures. In September 2021 we held our Parish Conference in order to “press the reset button” on parish life. We began with establishing a set of values which would govern the choices we make about priorities on emerging from pandemic conditions. These were to be: outward facing, reaching out to others in a way that is inclusive, accessible and welcoming to all; caring towards each other and our community; growing in confidence in our faith in a generous and loving God; responsive to change in society so that we are flexible in our worship and in how we serve others; and proactive in nurturing discipleship across the age groups. From this we decided to reopen and renew our Church Mice toddler group, offer worship that is more varied and meets a wider range of needs, to enhance our ministry of welcome and hospitality and finally, to continue with the New St Andrew’s Project. This will be reviewed in September 2022. My thanks to all who took part in this important piece of work.

We continue to be at the heart of what is now called MINT (Mission in North Taunton), chaired by Sue Lodge, which plans Easter Cracked and Nativity on the Green as well as coordinating the presentation of *It’s Your Move* books to primary school leavers. Nativity on the Green made a welcome and popular return in December, after which planning for another Easter Cracked began, looking towards April this year, to which we have invited seven primary school Year 5 classes from North Taunton.

Talking of schools, we continue to enjoy close links with St Andrew’s School with membership of the Bath & Wells Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) continuing to underpin its Christian identity. There are two Foundation Governors, who have a particular duty to uphold the Christian nature of the school. I am one, and Dawn Booth is the other, and is also Chair of the Local Governing Committee (formerly the Chair of Governors). Since academisation, the PCC no longer has a role in the appointment of these posts. Collective Worship in school continues to be an important ministry. Until lockdown, Katy and I, with Ruth Cook and my Methodist colleague, Deborah Kirk, visited St Andrew’s School weekly, and Priorswood Primary School fortnightly. With access to schools severely restricted over this period, it was necessary to make a video recording of a talk for collective worship to be used in each class while whole school gatherings are not possible. Even with the situation easing, schools have remained a sensitive place with a high risk of spread of disease; a return to in-person worship at St Andrew’s School is only just beginning at as I write. Meanwhile, at The Taunton Academy, I have continued to be part of the Ethos Committee, the purpose of which is to develop and monitor its own Christian foundation. We were pleased to host a Carol Service for their Year 7 in December, and as 2022 dawned, Katy and I had been booked to cover some collective worship in school. I continue to offer help with RE if required.

We should also make special mention of our superb Fund Raising Team led by Ali Perry. Their oft stated aim of putting the *fun* into *fund*raising returned with vigour in December with the very successful return of the annual Christmas Fair. Comprehensive plans have been laid for 2022, which we hope will proceed unscathed. Ali continues to coordinate the Light up the Spire project to commemorate anniversaries and special events with sponsorship of its floodlighting.

That is already quite a list, but beyond that there is a veritable army of others, too numerous to mention individually: our baptism welcomers, church cleaners, lesson readers, intercessors, sidespeople, coffee and catering helpers, cash counters, linen launderers, bell ringers, magazine/leaflet collators and distributors, and all the members of the PCC. Some of these ministries have not yet restarted, others have changed, and some have continued more or less as before. The list goes on, almost more than I can remember. And so if anyone has been left out, thank you to you too!

Last, but by no means least, I would like to record a public thank you to my wife, Sue, who alongside her other church roles and a more formal network of support, plays a major – maybe the greatest - part in keeping me sane! Her unstinting encouragement, sharing both the joys and sorrows of public ministry (and there can be plenty of each!), not least waiting for long hours for me to come to rest for more than

five minutes at a time, is of immense value to me and something for which I am most grateful, and all of this while holding down a challenging full-time job!

So, what of the future? There are two lessons (at least!) arising from our pandemic experience as we continue to emerge, albeit falteringly, from this difficult time. One is that Covid has succeeded in accelerating changes that were already on the horizon as the crisis broke. The other is that nothing could – or indeed should – ever be quite the same again. Our Parish Conference, with its role of setting values that would underpin all we did, before setting out the priorities for the ensuing year, was a good first stab at recognising that and beginning to make a response. Six months or so later it is beginning to look as if that work is not yet complete. At the Parish Eucharist which precedes the APCM this year I shall be outlining something of what that might mean. In the meantime, this report serves to warmly thank all those who join me in ministry in so many different ways in this parish. All of you are hugely appreciated.

May God bless us all as we embark together on the St Andrew's Journey in the coming year. As always, there is much to do, much to pray about as well as much for which to give thanks, not only for what has been and is now, but for what will be in the future if we but take the hand of God and, encouraged by the inspiration as well as the challenges of His Holy Spirit, keep walking together towards the future that God has for us all.

Robin Lodge
May 2022