



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, CHESTERTON

A thriving, open and welcoming church community for all ages

PARISH PROFILE



St Andrew's Church, Church Street
Chesterton, Cambridge
standrews-chesterton.org

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INTRODUCTION

St Andrew's Church is a thriving, open and welcoming community for all ages. We represent much of the diversity of belief and practice within the Church of England.



TOGETHER, WE SEEK TO BUILD A COMMUNITY THAT STANDS FOR...

- The **love** of God shown us in his Son, Jesus Christ.
- **Discerning** God's will through scripture, tradition and reason.
- **Respect** for each other's journeys of faith.

HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

OUR ABIDING AND LONG-TERM AIMS ARE TO...

- **Deepen** our spiritual life, our commitment to God and to each other.
- **Widen** the outreach of St Andrew's within our local community.
- **Develop** our work with families and young people and their participation in leading worship.
- **Continue** and develop the rich diversity of worship styles, and the strong musical tradition of St Andrew's.

OUR IMMEDIATE, MORE PARTICULAR, OBJECTIVES ARE TO...

- **Rebuild** parish activity in the wake of the pandemic. This includes participation in worship, prayer, study and fellowship outside scheduled services, as well as fundraising and social events.
- **Re-connect** with our wider church community via the programmes of activities based at St Andrew's Hall, and to re-evaluate practically what St Andrew's role should be, especially in ministering to the multicultural population we serve as a parish within the Cambridge City boundaries.
- **Develop** our vital work with children and families by reviewing the nature of our provision for this.
- **Continue** and enhance the online ministry which was initially developed as a response to the pandemic and is now an essential aspect of our outreach.
- **Widen** the participation of church members in the provision of music for services, in particular by bringing the choirs and the music group back to full strength post-Covid and by reviving provision for the involvement of young people.

IN THE MEDIUM TERM, WE NEED TO...

- **Raise awareness** further of economic inequality in our local community, bearing in mind that Cambridge is set to expand considerably and to continue to attract many high-earning people to the IT and biotech industries, while depending on local services provided by lower-paid workers for whom good quality housing is unaffordable.
- **Explore** further the issues raised by the 'Living in Love and Faith' initiative, and to prepare for responding to possible forthcoming proposals by General Synod.
- **Develop** further a programme which will enable progress towards carbon-neutrality in line with the Church of England's declared aspirations.



QUALITIES NEEDED IN THE NEW INCUMBENT

WE ARE SEEKING A PERSON WHO...

Is a prayerful, imaginative, energetic and practical leader.

Can inspire our church and visitors to engage thoughtfully and creatively with the Christian faith, and to make sense of our daily lives and experiences.

Recognises the importance of children and young people in the church community and will develop and grow our work with them and their families.

Is committed to the pastoral care of each member of the church family, particularly the vulnerable and marginalised, and will encourage our care for one another.

Looks outward, valuing, enabling and equipping the ministry by people in their communities, workplaces and wider life.

Likes working in a diverse team which may include other clergy, ordinands and lay workers, including a chairing role in St Andrew's Hall Management Committee and the line management of the Hall Manager and church employees.

Is fully aware of her/his own strengths and limitations, actively delegates responsibility and promotes lay leadership by recognising individual gifts and encouraging their use.

Is comfortable with a variety of worship styles and will actively celebrate them.

Is able to speak convincingly in preaching to the wide variety of people who make up our congregations, from sermons which contain serious intellectual challenge to the creative presentation of material which is accessible to children and all-age groups.

Celebrates music in worship and actively encourages a variety of musical and other artistic expression and levels of involvement.

Has courage, emotional intelligence, a sense of humour and the ability to respond quickly to unexpected situations.

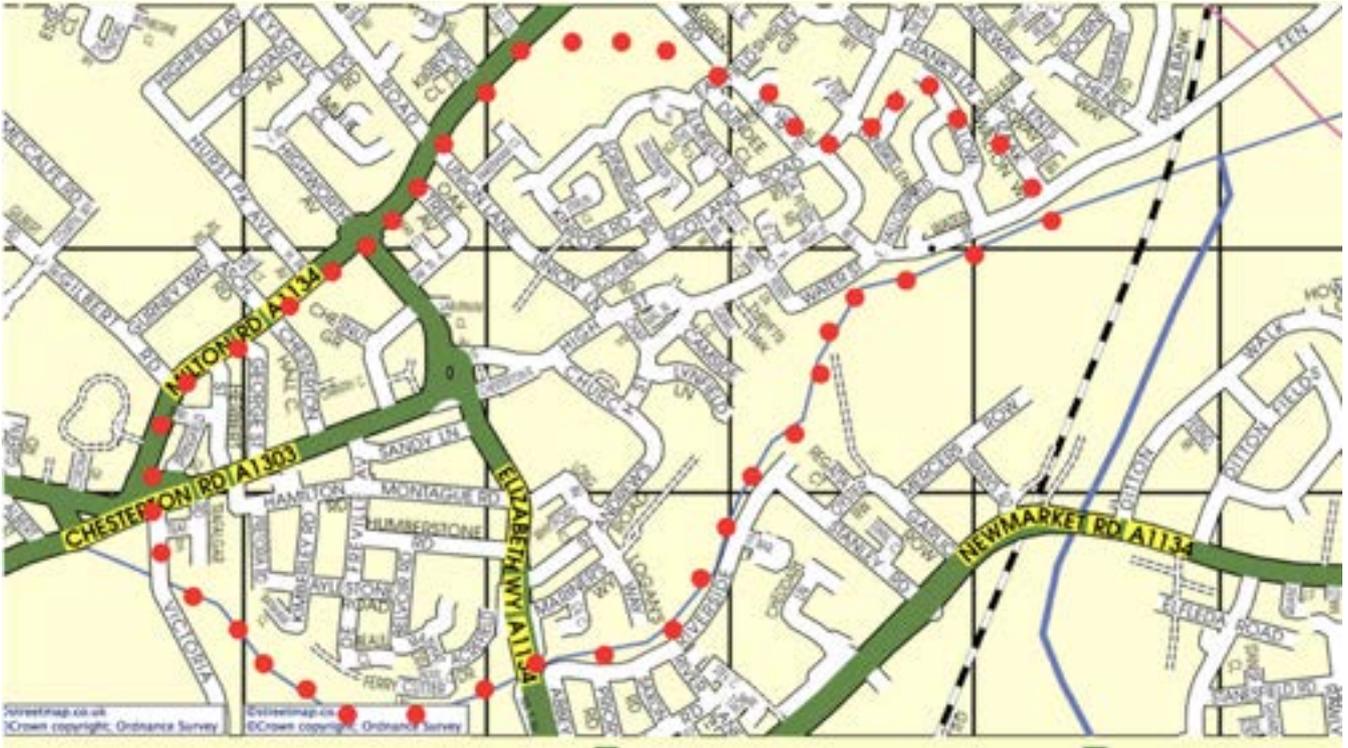
Is at home with working and communicating through contemporary technology and audiovisual equipment, including email, video and social media.

Has a respect and care for the maintenance and enhancement of the church building which has served the community for six centuries as a focus of worship, healing and spiritual renewal.

Is encouraging towards the many areas of activity promoted by our church groups.

THE PARISH

Chesterton is situated near the River Cam in Cambridgeshire. The name means 'the settlement near the castle or camp'.



The region has a **wide and varied history** from Romans with their garrison fort through to William the Conqueror and the motte and bailey castle, of which only the mound remains. King John gave the church and the living of Chesterton to Cardinal Guala of Vercelli in 1217 after the latter had successfully intervened on behalf of the Pope to prevent civil war. In 1436, Henry VI seized the advowson, giving it to King's Hall, which was later absorbed into the foundation of Trinity College.

Until 1912, Chesterton was an independent civil parish, one and a half miles from Cambridge city centre, but has subsequently been absorbed into the city. **Chesterton is broadly divided by the city ring road (Elizabeth Way) into East and West Chesterton.** The population of the whole of East Chesterton is 8,815 and West Chesterton 7,711, which includes some areas outside the parish of St Andrew's. Some socio-economic statistics for Chesterton are given at www.ilivehere.co.uk/statistics-chesterton-cambridgeshire-7933.html.



Chesterton has a variety of private and rented accommodation with Housing Association property and Council Housing. There are a number of new developments offering sheltered housing for retired people, and several nursing homes for the elderly. Some quite sizeable housing developments are currently being built in the parish. There is a stable Traveller settlement which is geographically in the next parish but which has strong links with St Andrew's Church, with many weddings, funerals and baptisms taking place within the church.

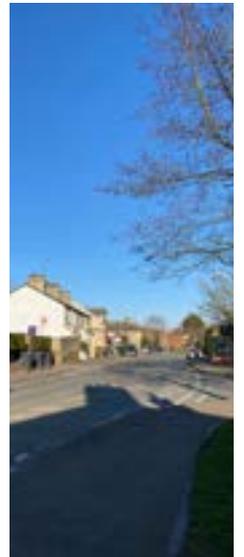
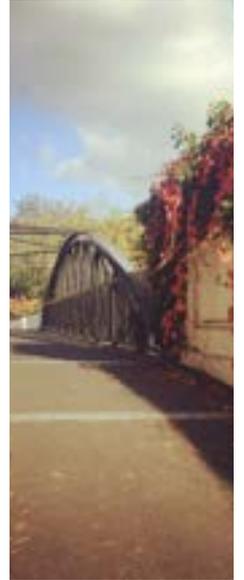
East Chesterton retains something of the character of a village, with a High Street and good local amenities including a range of shops, cafés and pubs. **West Chesterton** is predominantly late Victorian housing, most of which is privately owned, also with a selection of shops and pubs.

There are large areas of **pleasant green spaces around both parts of Chesterton, particularly towards the river** where riverboats are moored. A bus service runs from this area into the city centre throughout the day. The building of Cambridge North railway station, located close to the Cambridge Science Park, has been a great asset to Chesterton. The station is on the main line from London to King's Lynn. Several pedestrian/cycle bridges across the River Cam allow easy access to and from the southeastern side of the river.

LOCAL SCHOOLS

Although there are no schools situated in the parish, many children from the parish attend Milton Road Primary School as well as Chesterton Primary School and Shirley Community Primary School.

The secondary schools generally attended by residents of the parish are **Chesterton Community College, North Cambridge Academy and Parkside Community College**. CATS College Cambridge is an independent sixth form college based on the High Street. Their college programme is specifically designed for international students and the college regularly holds its end of term assemblies in the church building. This has led to a good working relationship between the staff and students within the church community.



Above left: Chesterton Recreation ground; St Andrew's Churchyard
Above right: bridge over the river near the Fort St George pub (just inside parish boundaries); Chesterton High Street

Below: Stourbridge Common; the Museum of Technology. Both very close to St Andrew's, just on the parish boundary.



THE CHURCH BUILDINGS

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

The present church dates mainly from the **14th/15th centuries and is a Grade I listed building**. There are only a few fragments of the earlier church remaining. This was built around 1250.

One of the outstanding features is the late 15th century wall painting over the chancel arch. **This depicts the Last Judgement (Doom) and would originally have shown Christ in Judgement**. Unfortunately, the figure of Christ is missing, but careful conservation in 1980 and again in 2002 has ensured that other parts of the painting can be seen clearly.

There are some **pews in the nave dating from the 15th century** with carved figures on the arm rests. The other pews are modern copies. The hexagonal oak pulpit dates from the late 17th century and the font is a plain stone octagonal bowl of the 13th century.



Memorial to Anna Maria Vassa, with the wreath placed on Vassa Day, July 2020



Detail from pews



Doom painting (15th century)

Outside there is a **touchingly inscribed memorial to Anna Maria, the elder daughter of Gustavus Vassa**; he was a native of west Africa who was enslaved but managed eventually to buy his freedom and wrote a moving autobiography, which helped significantly in the campaign against slavery which gathered force in the later 18th century. For more details on Gustavus Vassa (or Olaudah Equiano) see www.standrews-chesterton.org/vassa.htm. St Andrew's was given its Grade I listing (promoted from II*) specifically citing this historical association in 2007, the bicentenary of the 1807 Abolition Act. We designate as Vassa Sunday the Sunday nearest 22 July when we gather in front of the memorial, the poem is recited and a wreath of flowers is laid in Anna Maria's memory.

The years since 2015 have seen the successful completion of a number of improvements to the buildings and our facilities. St Andrew's Hall was extended to provide a first floor parish office and the detached Annexe building. Disabled provision at the church has been improved with self-opening doors and ramped access at the north porch, and an all-weather path from the north porch to the wheel-chair accessible toilet adjacent to the vestries. The organ was completely renovated and enhanced with a new console in 2020-1, and the chancel has been beautified by the replacement of old flooring with the creation of a new floor tiling design to complement the original 19th century scheme, and a new wooden tracery screen between the organ chamber and the chancel. The repairs to the chancel floor were paid for by the church's lay rector Trinity College under an agreement made in 2015 to meet the cost of necessary repairs to the chancel in perpetuity.

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH (CONT.)

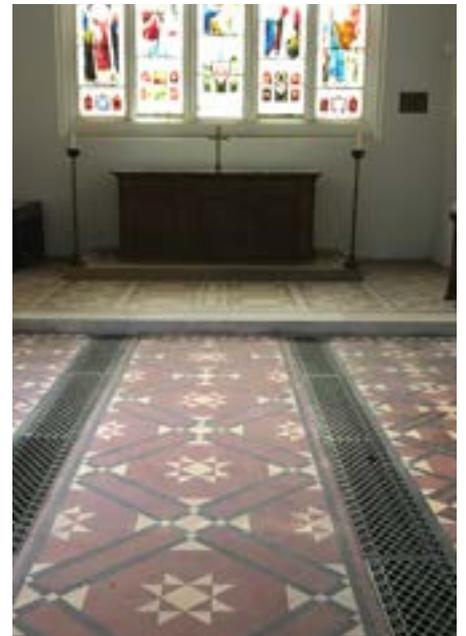
A report from the latest quinquennial inspection is currently awaited for the report from the latest quinquennial inspection. The previous one was received in 2014 and the recommended actions were included in a schedule timetabled according to their urgency; the principal remaining item addresses damp penetration in the south aisle wall. Budgetary provision for these repairs is made through annual transfers to an ear-marked capital account. The church's architects are Freeland Rees Roberts Architects.

Church cleaning is now not undertaken by members of the congregation, but is contracted out.

The PCC has committed itself to be a **net zero carbon church by 2030**, in line with the Church of England's objectives. The Fabric Committee is exploring a number of potential technologies to achieve this in relation to the heating systems in the church and hall, with the church boiler in increasing need of replacement.



New organ console (2020-2021)



New chancel floor tiling

ST ANDREW'S HALL

St Andrew's Hall, to the south of the church, was opened in November 2005 and is a joint initiative by St Andrew's Church and local Residents' Associations. It offers a unique opportunity for interaction between St Andrew's Church and the local community, and acts as a real catalyst for hospitality, service and mission.

St Andrew's Hall comes **under the umbrella of the PCC of St Andrew's Church but aims to be financially self-sufficient.** Capital funding came from donations made by private individuals, the sale of the former Parish Hall, and grant money channelled by Cambridge City Council arising from local large-scale housing developments.

In 2015 the Annexe and first floor parish office were completed, adding to the flexibility of the Hall for both staff and user groups alike. Since the Annexe was built the Hall is known locally as **"one of the most attractive public buildings in Chesterton"**.

The Hall is managed by the **Hall Management Committee**, which includes the PCC, residents' associations and user group representatives. The Chair is appointed by the PCC, most recently the previous Incumbent. The Management Committee employs a full-time (four days a week) Hall Manager and part-time Finance Officer to ensure the day-to-day smooth running of the Hall. The Hall Manager works her fifth day for the church, overseeing the work of the Church Administrator, and takes care of the administrative side of special services. She is also the church bookkeeper. A number of volunteers participate in diverse aspects of Hall life, tending the garden and helping with ad hoc events as required.



ST ANDREW'S HALL (CONT.)

Since its opening the Hall has built a reputation for being a **valuable resource**, open to the whole community. This is demonstrated by the breadth of its users, and (pre-Covid) room bookings at popular times of the day were at a premium.

Present **church use** of St Andrew's Hall includes regular Junior Church gatherings, as well as occasional meetings and services, a coffee morning and Youth Group meetings. Regular community groups include High Wired circus training, drop-in table tennis and the local history group.

Wider **community use** includes one-on-one counselling work, other faith groups, a Bulgarian Saturday School, Brownies, children's martial arts classes, Yoga and Pilates classes, fitness training and country dancing, to name a few. All of these groups are open to church and non-church members alike.

As well as the use of the Hall itself, its people are also active in **other much-loved community initiatives**. The Hall Manager in her role, and the Finance Officer on a voluntary basis, are both members of the Chesterton News and Chesterton Festival committees. This further cements the connection between the Hall and the wider Chesterton community.



Kitchen and catering at St Andrew's Hall



Church coffee mornings and events at St Andrew's Hall

Income for the Hall is derived from bookings fees paid by non-St Andrew's Church-based activities. Occasional grant applications are made for specific items and events, but the Hall currently receives no revenue grant funding. The Hall is surviving Covid times thanks to its participation in the government furlough scheme which meant that the Hall Manager and Finance Officer kept their positions. This money was also supplemented by a draw-down of reserve funds. The present financial situation is manageable now, but some considerable work is needed to build up the revenue and reserve fund in the near future.

The Hall is ready and waiting to welcome many more members of the community into the building.

**For more information, visit:
www.standrews-hall.co.uk**

THE VICARAGE (10 LYNFIELD LANE)



The Vicarage is a large, generously built detached brick house near the church, built in the 1990s, in a private cul-de-sac. It has the use of a one-acre shared community orchard by the river with the possibility of mooring.

The accommodation comprises:

- **Double garage** (electric remote-control door).
- **Downstairs:** entrance hall; study with fitted shelves and cupboards, facing the road; downstairs cloakroom. Fitted kitchen with fridge and dishwasher; utility room with sink and space for washing machine; dining room with doors to garden. Gas central heating. Large sitting room with gas fireplace.
- **1st floor:** Landing with airing cupboard. Main bedroom with large fitted wardrobes and en-suite bathroom. Second large bedroom over garage with Velux windows; en suite shower and WC. Two further bedrooms with fitted cupboards; family bathroom.
- **2nd floor:** Large attic bedroom. Three very large walk-in cupboards under eaves.
- **Garden:** raised paved patio with steps down to a large square lawn. Small summer house. Semi-mature fruit trees, pergola with vine, flower-bed. Shaded by tall trees on two sides.

The Vicarage is in the **catchment area** for Shirley Community Primary School and North Cambridge Academy. Nearby also are Chesterton Primary School and Chesterton Community College, while across town St Bede's Inter-Church School is the only Christian state secondary school in the county.

WORSHIP

WORSHIP STYLES AND TRADITIONS

For most of the twentieth century the worship at St Andrew's was what you might expect from a middle-of-the-road parish church with a strong choral tradition. **In the 1990s there was a conscious decision to embrace a greater diversity, introducing more informal expressions of worship and music alongside the best of the traditional.** Two surveys of the congregation (in 2003 and 2015) demonstrated a high degree of satisfaction with the mix, with a slight preference in the later survey for developing the more contemporary side. This means that a visitor to St Andrew's may find themselves at an Informal Service (musically led by a music group) or a choral Eucharist with anthems and a Mass setting. Vestments are worn for most services. **Considerable effort goes into the quality of worship and preaching at St Andrew's and the surveys have shown how widely appreciated this is.**

Thanks to excellent technological support from members of the congregation we were able to switch to online worship in March 2020 remarkably swiftly. Our **8 am Book of Common Prayer Communion** not only grew our regular congregation but also drew in a large audience from around the country. We found that the **10 am congregation welcomed a slightly less formal (and largely non-Eucharistic) diet** that included significant lay and all-age participation. A legacy from that is the potential for developing lay leadership in worship. A team leading the 10 am services participated via Zoom, the service being broadcast to the wider congregation as a livestream via Youtube. Later in the pandemic we saw the need to involve children and young families more actively and our Youth Worker developed a twice-a-month Zoom Church (which has now morphed into a once-a-month Café Church in the Hall). **Services are now largely in person but both morning services are still livestreamed to those at home.** 8 am numbers have held up throughout; 10 am numbers are down a little, but not too significantly.

Our choir resources are deployed not only on Sunday mornings but in seasonal evening and occasional weekday services that have a significant musical content.

TIMES AND PATTERNS: SUNDAY SERVICES

8 AM, EVERY WEEK:

Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
With sermon but no hymns (regular congregation of about 12-20).

10 AM:

1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

FAMILY SERVICE

30-35 minutes, designed to be the most accessible for younger children and their families, followed by coffee and, at 11 am, a Short Communion (without a separate Liturgy of the Word).

2ND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

SUNG EUCHARIST

75 minutes, during which anthems, a Communion/Mass setting and usually a psalm are sung by the St Andrew's Singers. Junior Church (or Café Church) meets in the Hall.

3RD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

ALL-AGE COMMUNION

60 minutes, with a greater informality and wider range of music; the sermon often involves interaction (sometimes with pictures, visual aids, quizzes, drama, etc.).

4TH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

PARISH COMMUNION

65 minutes, with Junior Church meeting in the Hall.

During all 10 am services, the Children's Area is available at the back of church. After all 10 am services (though in recovery mode this is only happening twice a month), coffee is served either in the church or in the Hall. Pre-Covid adult attendance at 10 am was 80-120 but is now 50-70 (with 15-20 online); at all-age services there may be 10-30 children.

5:30 PM, EVERY WEEK:

Evening services have been declining over the years and post-Covid are now often a said Evening Prayer; once a month there is a Quiet Communion (with 4-10 people attending) and, on occasion, a Taizé service (5-10 attending). Seasonal services with special music (Advent, Passiointide, Remembrance) draw 20-30 people.

WEEKDAY SERVICES

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

Morning Prayer at 8.30 am: attended by 2-4 people in person and 3-6 people online (led in the chancel with people participating in person and remotely).

TUESDAY

Holy Communion at 12.15 pm.

RESIDENTIAL HOMES

Pre-pandemic the pattern was to have a **weekly service at Langdon House** (4 pm on Sundays) plus a monthly midweek Communion; at the **Cambridge Nursing Centre** there used to be one eucharistic and one non-eucharistic (with hymns) service per month. Since services have resumed there have been monthly Communions in both places. There have in the past been monthly services at **Willowbank** (sheltered accommodation).

OCCASIONAL SERVICES

BAPTISMS

Numbers have reduced in recent years to 6-15 a year (often held at 12.15 pm on Sundays). Baptism of children from within the congregation is usually undertaken on the 1st or 3rd Sundays in the month.

WEDDINGS

6-15 weddings a year are celebrated at St Andrew's. Where a divorce is involved the guidelines of the House of Bishops are followed.

FUNERALS

About 20-25 funerals each year, of which one third will be in the church and crematorium/cemetery, the remainder taking place at the crematorium/cemetery only.

Morning Prayer in the Chancel



Taizé services



OTHER SERVICES

MAJOR FESTIVALS are kept with an All-Age Communion at 10 am (plus 8 am, etc.).

ADVENT, CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY

A choral evening service for Advent Sunday.
Christingle, Crib and Carol services at Christmas, as well as Midnight Mass.
An evening service for Epiphany with dramatic Procession of the Magi.

There is an **ASH WEDNESDAY** lunchtime service and evening Eucharist (with Mass setting).

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday begins with a dramatic entry into Jerusalem (beginning out of doors).
An evening Passion service includes the reading of the passion and music and other readings.
Monday to Wednesday of Holy Week: Address and Compline.
Maundy Thursday: Last Supper and foot-washing in the Hall, followed by the Watch in church.
Good Friday: ecumenical procession, All-age service at St Andrew's; Last Hour.
Easter Eve: Lighting of the New Fire, Vigil and Eucharist.

PENTECOST is usually the setting for admission of children to First Communion.

HARVEST is celebrated and food gathered for Jimmy's/WinterComfort/Foodbank.

An All Souls-tide **'TIME TO REMEMBER'** service for the bereaved.

Occasional **PET BLESSING SERVICE** (at a Family Service).

A COMMEMORATION OF ANNA-MARIA VASSA (at July All-Age Communion).



WORSHIP PLANNING

Worship planning has been carried out by those responsible for each service. During the vacancy the Director of Music is suggesting hymns to the priest leading the service (except for Family Services when the Youth Worker will have first responsibility).

The Music and Worship committee of the PCC has the brief of monitoring 'the PCC's strategy and policy for music and worship, monitoring the Vicar and Director of Music in planning and reviewing the worship and musical life of our church and working with them in ensuring its flourishing to the glory of God'.

Sermon series, themes and special services have been planned in the past by the **Ministry and Staff Teams** and finalised at a termly meeting that discussed the calendar for the following term (see below).

CONFIRMATION AND COMMUNION

St Andrew's prepares adult and teenage candidates for Confirmation but also has a policy of admitting children to Communion from Year 4 onwards, following a course of preparation.

The Admission to Communion service is normally held annually. Baptised members of any denomination who normally receive the Sacrament in their own church are invited to receive at St Andrew's. All are welcome to come forward for a Blessing.

ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

St Andrew's has a data projector, a built-in sound system (with several radio microphones and a hearing loop) and a stand-alone amplification system (used by the music group; also sometimes used outside).

CHRISTIAN NURTURE AND EDUCATION

St Andrew's has had **one or two home groups** that have met regularly throughout the year. This has been added to in Lent when a much larger number often participate in a special course (as many as 4-5 groups have met in the recent past; in 2021 three groups followed the Living in Love and Faith course). A daytime Bible study group continues to meet fortnightly (see Church Groups below).

Before the pandemic, all our services, courses and events were included in a **calendar issued three times a year**. Each of these terms would usually include, on a Sunday evening (in place of the evening service), a 'Thinking our Faith' session covering a variety of subjects (from the care of creation to 'Isaiah: the fifth evangelist') and a 'Message in the Movies' (watching, and then discussing, a film).

For several years successful **Parish Weekends have been held at Belsey Bridge Residential Centre**, involving invited speakers, prayer and discussion, a variety of worship and social activities for all ages.

Confirmations and First Communions



MINISTRY AND STAFFING

STAFFING

CLERGY CONNECTED TO ST ANDREW'S

Particularly through the interregnum, we have been supported by several clergy with connections to St Andrew's. These clergy have been taking services for us, as well as offering pastoral support when required.

BISHOP GRAHAM KINGS is retired, but has been Bishop of Sherborne and was also licensed as an Honorary Priest at St Andrew's in the late 1990s (when Director of the Henry Martyn Centre for World Mission).

DOROTHY PEYTON JONES is still licensed as Associate Priest, though has been developing a new outreach ministry at St John's Orchard Park. She continues to conduct a few services. Having been in the parish since 2001, she has a long memory of pastoral matters.

JONATHAN COLLIS is helping the parish during the vacancy as a point of reference for the Churchwardens and PCC (as well as being on the rota of clergy conducting services). He is resident in North Cambridge and has most recently served as the Vicar of Thorpe Bay and Rural Dean of Southend in the Diocese of Chelmsford.

DR MEGAN DAFFERN was until recently Diocesan Director of Ordinands; her work is now focussed on academic study and teaching of the Old Testament. Megan lives in the parish.

DR TIM JENKINS is a retired Fellow (and sometime Dean) of Jesus College; his research is in areas of religious anthropology. Tim is a regular at 8 am Communion services.

GRAHAM STEVENSON is the Chaplain of Fitzwilliam College, and lives in the parish.

OTHERS WITH CONNECTIONS TO ST ANDREW'S

LORNA DAZELEY has now retired completely from active ministry but has been involved with St Andrew's for many decades, and is a storehouse of pastoral wisdom and experience.

RIDLEY HALL AND WESTCOTT HOUSE (Cambridge Theological Colleges) regularly send students on placement to St Andrew's. St Andrew's has welcomed a succession of Curates over the years; the last, Kathryn Waite (now vicar of Sawston and Babraham), left in 2021.

STAFF TEAM

RACHEL CLARKE is the full-time Hall Manager, but currently works one day a week for the church, and acts as office manager, heading our administration.

HANNAH FYTCHE was a full-time Youth Worker with us; she now works part-time whilst studying for a PhD in the New Testament (at Clare College). Hannah is currently responsible for the monthly Family Service.

DEINIOL JONES has recently joined us as part-time (15 hours) Church Administrator during the vacancy. Part of his role is co-ordinating the worship rota, helping to produce orders of service and ensuring good communication with the clergy, Director of Music, Churchwardens and others.

JOHN REYNOLDS acts as Sacristan, preparing for services, caring for linens, frontals and vestments, and making provision for bread, wine, candles and other consumables.

PATRICIA ABREY organises a rota of sidespeople, readers, intercessors and (pre-pandemic) chalice assistants. This is included, together with the clergy rota, on a Google spreadsheet.

CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE

The majority of the congregation are local enough to walk or cycle to church (the cycle racks are usually full on Sunday mornings). There is a wide spread of ages, including older teenagers and young adults, which gives a strong sense of church family. Unfamiliar faces appear most Sundays: our prominent and accessible position no doubt encourages this. Over the years the congregation has been joined by those of all ages and, once established, they tend to stay, even if circumstances mean they need to move houses to another part of the city. There is a social mix, though it is certainly fair to say that those in social housing are less well represented.



There are about 150 on the church's electoral roll.

SAFEGUARDING

St Andrew's Church takes Safeguarding within the parish extremely seriously. We follow the Church of England's recommended safeguarding framework in recruiting, and supporting our ordained and lay ministers, our employees and our volunteers. All those working for, or on behalf of the parish must agree to comply with the safeguarding policy and with the good practice guidelines for their work, including the completion of all appropriate training for their role.

The Parish Safeguarding Officer position is currently held by the Hall Manager, but this role will be handed over to the Church Administrator later in 2022 upon the completion of all relevant training. Both members of staff will work closely together alongside the PCC during this period of change to ensure all regulations are followed.

ECUMENICAL LINKS

St Andrew's was part of the North Cambridge Council of Churches; this is now defunct and the relationship with other North Cambridge churches could usefully be revisited. We have more active and immediate relationships with our neighbouring parish of St George's (which now includes the new Hope Church) and Chesterton Methodist Church. We work with them and other (secular) community partners in the annual Chesterton Festival (mainly a fun day on the recreation ground, when the church is open for guided visits and sometimes holds a flower festival or other display) and in the community newsletter, Chesterton News. On Good Friday (at least before the pandemic) we have shared all-age worship, fellowship and an outdoor procession starting at the Methodist Church and concluding with a service at St Andrew's. We have in the past worked together in running a children's holiday club.

MUSIC

THE PRESENT SITUATION

It is worth noting at the outset that the pandemic dramatically changed the face of music at St Andrew's. Services were continued online all through the national lockdowns, for which we provided live music over Zoom or pre-recorded and digitally-blended music, with the very occasional Zoom choir practice. As the first lockdown eased, with all due risk assessments in place, we returned cautiously to singing with very small numbers, and in autumn 2021 we began again to seek to get as close as safety permitted to normal singing, but always with a careful limit on numbers of singers to allow for some social distancing. **For now, the numbers singing for any one service continue to reflect that caution.**

Before the pandemic, the choirs mostly sang from choir stalls at the east end of the north aisle, but for various reasons, after the first lockdown we trialled placing the singers in the chancel choir stalls (where the acoustic can be overwhelming and the sound tends not to reach the nave well) but principally in an arc behind the altar, in front of the chancel arch, with individual stands. This last is the practice we retained in the autumn thereafter as the most successful (in particular because of the live-streaming of all the services).



A recent Sung Eucharist, with the choir around the altar. (2021). Hear the choir on our YouTube channel.



Congregational singing



Above: Minims singing group
Below: December 2012



PERSONNEL

The Director of Music and Organist (a self-employed professional, paid an annual stipend) plays either the organ or the piano and/or conducts the choir for all services, and plays for all the occasional offices. He is supported by two Deputy Organists for Choral Eucharists and other major choral services (e.g. Remembrance-tide Requiem Eucharist, Nine Lessons and Carols) who are paid a fee for their services; further support is provided by two other organists who play on a voluntary basis when needed. The Director of Music also works with the leader of Minims, the monthly singing group for younger children (see below). A volunteer from the choir supports the Director of Music in choir administration and organising the music library, as well as chaperoning if that is required.

CHOIRS

The **unusually diverse** nature of the worship at St Andrew's, with four different types of Sunday morning service (Family Service, All-Age Communion, Parish Communion and Sung/Choral Eucharist) and three variants of evening service which require music (Choral Evensong, Taizé style and Informal Worship) means the need for flexibility on the part of the musicians. **Before Covid, there were three choirs:** a relatively elderly Parish Choir, which supported the hymns and sang the occasional motet two or three Sundays a month, a small Youth Choir, and New Voices, an adult choir of experienced singers which rehearsed and sang once a month.

Emerging from the pandemic this has been completely reshaped into one group, St Andrew's Singers, which at present comprises about 25 people, some of whom can only commit occasionally when services require a larger four-part choir, others of whom commit to singing two to four times a month in various configurations whether it is for full Choral Eucharist, or to support hymns and sing a motet at Parish Communion, or to lead worship and action songs in a pair at the microphone. There is no regular weekday choir practice, but the full choir prepares music ahead of the Choral Eucharist on the preceding Monday and Friday evenings and then, on the day, there is 30-minute rehearsal immediately prior to the other Sunday morning services.

The Youth Choir before Covid had drawn only from church families, and since the pandemic has not re-established itself. At present the growth area for children singing is with the very youngest end of the spectrum, the Minims (children aged 4 to 8), a group that has met for some years now, once a month on a Sunday afternoon, for singing and movement.

St Andrew's has long supported a **Music Group**, which before Covid provided music for worship-songs at services of informal worship (not quite once a month) either in the evening or occasionally the morning. This group, augmented with new members, played for its first in-person service since the start of the pandemic at the beginning of February and it is hoped will again become a regular part of the church's music life.

The Church is affiliated to the RSCM and prior to Covid the Youth Choir members participated in the RSCM award scheme. No auditions are held for St Andrew's Singers. At present, because of social distancing and ventilation, all rehearsals take place in the church, since the choir vestry is too small to be used safely.

The choir does not wear robes at present (since Covid), though the church possesses a full set of black cassocks and surplices. We are blessed with an extremely **large library of choral music**, much of it from the days of the robed men and boys choir (pre 1990s) and a good deal more gifted to St Andrew's by the director of a group which sang regularly at cathedrals for many years.

Choir for livestreamed Festival of Lessons and Carols (2020)



*Youth Choir: various moments from pre-pandemic years
Bottom right: visiting Choir from the Diocese of Nord Elbe*



REPERTOIRE AND MUSICAL TRADITION

For the last eight years, the hymns and songs have been chosen by the Vicar or worship leaders to fit with the readings, preaching content or the week's theme, and the choral material has been selected by the Director of Music in consultation with the Vicar. During the interregnum the Director of Music has also taken over choosing the hymns and songs.

The music used in worship at St Andrew's, as intimated above, is extremely varied. On the traditional end of the scale, aside from the good variety of hymns to be found in our hymnbook (see below), the full choir sings **a fairly ambitious range of ancient and modern music**, from Tallis and Byrd to Britten, Berkeley and Tippett, and into the 21st century with new works by Ola Gjeilo and Arvo Pärt. We use three different communion settings at All-Age and Parish Communion, where the choir (up to 8 singers at the moment) occasionally also sings a Communion motet. Our hymn book, Ancient and Modern. Hymns and Songs for Refreshing Worship, supplemented by worship songs used under a CCLI licence, means that the All-Age Communion and Family Service (and even Parish Communion) **includes a wide variety of modern hymns, chants from Taizé and Iona, and worship-songs**, and from time to time the congregation is taught new songs. Since there is a printed order for every service, the congregation does not normally use the hymn books (and there are not enough copies for them to do so at the moment). The Music Group has explored a reasonably wide repertoire of recent worship songs, as well as playing spirited versions of traditional hymns for the informal services.



The Friends of St Andrew's Concert 2021



INSTRUMENTS

2020 saw the completion of a substantial restoration of the organ at St Andrew's, using the existing pipework with some augmentation but completely new mechanisms and a brand new state-of-the-art console. The previous organ had become very unreliable: the Churchwardens and PCC chose to invest time and effort in this project (with substantial financial support from outside) as a commitment to the organ as deeply integral to the church's life. Organ accompaniment for worship and organ music in its own right has an important role at St Andrew's: the inaugural recital and the monthly lunchtime recitals that have been held to mark the completion of the new organ draw a good audience and the organ is used almost every week in worship, regularly at funerals and weddings, and for practice several times a week.

The grand piano (Steinweg) was presented a few years ago as a gift by a former member of the congregation. It is used regularly for both services and concerts. There is also an upright piano in the choir vestry, and a collection of percussion instruments.

CONCERTS

The Friends of St Andrew's (see page 33) hosts regular lunchtime concerts in church (including the current monthly organ recitals organised to celebrate the new instrument) and over the years St Andrew's has welcomed a variety of evening concerts by groups and individuals. Students from Chesterton Community College give two concerts each year, and this is a useful link benefitting both the College and the Church.

MUSIC: ASPIRATIONS AND NEEDS

Our hope is that the musical traditional at St Andrew's can continue to serve the diversity of styles of worship that makes this church so attractive. We need to continue gaining consistency in numbers of singers who are willing to commit regularly. Recently we have drawn in people who are early in their careers and through their involvement with the music have decided to stay as part of the church community. It would be good to think that the music at St Andrew's is one of the reasons people choose to come to this church. By continuing to work with Minims we hope slowly to develop St Andrew's Young Singers (STAYS) from the top end of Minims, as a new manifestation of the Youth Choir (possibly with a weekly rehearsal on a weekday in St Andrew's Hall, immediately after school: Thursdays have been earmarked as a possible day for this). It would be good to consolidate the Music Group and have it perform more frequently again: this needs not only musicians, but also consistent technical support for sound amplification. We would like to re-establish Choral Evensong once a term again (Evensong with settings of the responses, psalm, canticles, and anthem was provided once a term before the pandemic).



Before and after the restoration (2020-2021): the organ screen.

BELLS

St Andrew's has a heavy ring of six bells which are rung from the ground floor (the ringing area is open on to the back of the church). **We have a number of experienced ringers and the bells are normally rung for 30-40 minutes preceding the 10.00 am Sunday services.** A weekly practice is held on Thursday evenings. The bells are also rung for weddings, to mark special occasions and by visiting bands on ringing outings.

BELLS: ASPIRATIONS AND NEEDS

In the future our main aspiration is to **recruit** some more ringers for the band, since we sometimes struggle for numbers on Sunday mornings at the moment. Most towers do this independently of the church, but support from the church is always welcome. The bells and bell frame need maintenance from time to time but are in fairly good order at the moment. There has recently been a complaint about noise on practice nights which is being dealt with through environmental health so it's possible there may be changes, but **we are hopeful that we will be able to continue ringing as we have done for many years now.**

FAMILIES AND YOUTH WORK

We are currently enjoying experimenting with new formats for bringing together the young people in our church, along with their wider families or carers. Pre-Covid the children and youth met on 2nd and 4th Sunday mornings in age-appropriate groups in St Andrew's Hall. Post-lockdown, we have continued this provision on the 4th Sunday (notwithstanding exceptions for special services or holidays) whilst on the 2nd Sunday we are running a Café Church for children of all ages and their families to worship and explore faith together.

CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 11

During lockdown, we delivered activity packs and dedicated video content to over 40 children in this age bracket. There are approximately **23 children** taking an active role in in-person groups at the moment.

The Junior Church groups now meet once a month in St Andrew's Hall (mostly on the 4th Sunday) for the duration of the Sunday morning service (10 – c.11.15 am). We offer:

Babies and Toddlers: Parents and carers are welcome to bring their babies and toddlers to the Hall when Junior Church groups are happening. There are toys available, and they often dip in and out of the Rainbows' stories and activities in the same room.

Rainbows: Ages 3-5 (school years: pre-school and reception). These children are generally accompanied by their parents.

Wonderers: Ages 5-8 (school years 1-3).

Seekers: Ages 8-11 (school years 4-6).

There is a **Junior Church Co-ordinator** who also keeps in touch with families via a Friday email slot and chairs the Junior Church committee meetings (at least one per term). **Each Junior Church group has one or two leaders and a small team of volunteers supports them with practical tasks.**

Each leader organises the activities for their own group: our four Wonderers and Seekers leaders are all trained in Godly Play and this method structures their group activities. We also subscribe to 'Roots', a lectionary-based resource book, which leaders can refer to for Rainbow sessions and which also gives ideas and direction for Café Church.

We are currently integrating a blind child into our Wonderers group. He also uses hearing aids and speaks mostly through a mechanical aid.

Inevitably social gatherings have fallen by the wayside during the pandemic, but we did manage a **Families' Tea Party** at the start of the summer holidays in 2021, which was well supported. Children and families are encouraged to help with **parish activities** such as preparing Mothering Sunday flowers or Christingles and decorating the Easter garden and Christmas tree.



CAFÉ CHURCH

Café church now also meets once a month in St Andrew's Hall during the Sunday service, generally on the 2nd Sunday of the month. It begins at 10 am and generally lasts about 45 minutes. It grew out of 'Zoom Church' which was led by our Youth Worker and proved a very successful online formula for connecting with young people and families during the pandemic.

Since September 2021 we have regularly had between **20 and 40 in-person participants at Café Church**, which is now principally led by Junior Church leaders. The children attending range in age mostly from toddlers to early teens, so there is some crossover with the younger youth age bracket. Older youth tend to go to the service in the main church building. If staffing allows, we hold **an additional Café Church for under-8s** during the first part of All-Age Communion services.

We sit around tables in household/family groups, with the focus towards the centre of the room. We warm up with songs, move to a story with visual aids, then prayers and a creative activity and more songs. Some families then return to the main church for communion whilst others stay and chat. **Parents have said they welcome the opportunity to share in faith with their children and other families in a relaxed environment.** One day there might even be coffee!



Top: early days of Café Church set up.
Bottom: image from a Café Church story (the lost sheep!)



CHILDREN'S CORNER: IN CHURCH

We are in the process of re-installing our children's area towards the back of the North Aisle. **It is a much-loved and much-used facility.** We hope to promote its use particularly to pre-schoolers and their parents/carers whilst providing colouring and pencils for older children to take to their pews.

CHILD PROTECTION

There is a Parish Safeguarding Officer and all those working with children are DBS checked and have completed the relevant safeguarding courses (see 'Safeguarding' above).

Top: Café Church reflective activity.
Bottom: books in the children's corner.



YOUTH GROUPS

Our youth groups are for **young people aged 11-18** (of which there are about 20 connected with St Andrew's, about 15 of whom engage regularly). Groups are coordinated and facilitated by a part-time Youth Worker, supported by volunteer helpers and ordinands on placement.

Four regular youth groups currently run:



Why Group: monthly on 4th Sunday mornings (during Junior Church; see above), for all aged 11-18. During Why Group, we have time to catch up on news, pray together, read the Bible and reflect creatively on what we read. This usually ties in with the Bible theme in Sunday evening youth.

Sunday Evening Youth: 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, for all aged 11-18. Sunday Youth Group is all about fun, friendship, and faith. We have lots of fun, with choices of games, snacks and activities, as well as time to get to know each other. We create time to wonder and ask questions about faith, and explore what knowing about and trusting Jesus means for our lives; this year, by reading through St Luke's Gospel together.

Higher: weekly on Fridays after school, for a small group of friends in years 9-11. This group was established several years ago, and is a wonderful community of friendship, listening and prayer. Members of this group are potentially looking towards Confirmation in summer 2022.

Fun at Five: fortnightly on Wednesdays, for those in the sixth form or on gap years. This group was similarly established several years ago, and currently has three members. We support each other by catching up on our news, praying together, and reading the Bible together (as well as enjoying snacks and games). This year we are working our way through a Bible overview, and thinking practically together about Christian leadership.

As well as these regular youth groups, young people are supported by and included in the church community **in the following ways:**

Every Friday, a youth newsletter is sent to youth and parents/carers by email. This newsletter keeps everybody up-to-date with details of youth groups and church services/events, and always includes some extra resources as well as Bible and prayer inspiration for the week. Parts of the newsletter are also highlighted on the St Andrew's Instagram account.

Listening and prayer: young people can arrange one-to-one catch ups with our part-time Youth Worker, for listening and prayer. Stir Café (close to church!) is a great location for this.

Sunday services: our young people are actively encouraged to get involved with Sunday services with reading, leading prayers, being sides-people, and preaching or leading services together. This is a fantastic way for our young people to grow in their gifts and skills, and benefits the church community.

Getaway: we are aiming to run a youth group weekend away in July 2022 (with funding from the Church Schools Trust). More opportunity for fun, friendship and growing faith!



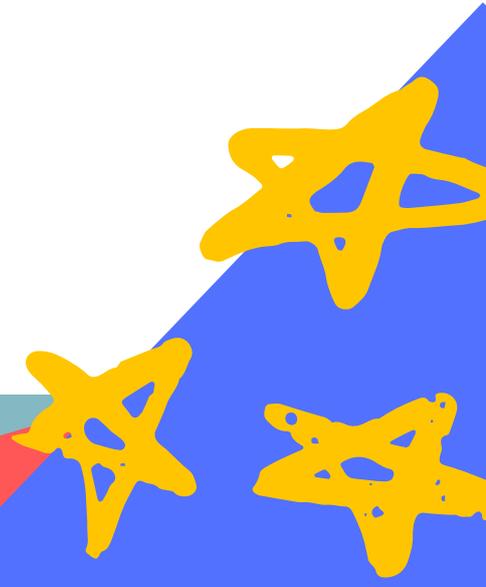


Youth group activities (left to right, top to bottom): Halloween light station 2020; Palm Sunday video recording, 2021; Besom project 2019; Christmas Party at Milton Country Park, 2021.

FAMILIES AND YOUTH WORK: ASPIRATIONS AND NEEDS

St Andrew's has a long history of vibrant children's work with Godly Play roots and is blessed with an unusually large number of children and young families. Numbers have been negatively affected by the pandemic and **we are keen to build back**, aided by a larger team of Junior Church leaders and supporters. Our vision is to provide high quality and accessible grounding in the Bible and Christian traditions for our young people, and to support their parents and carers in maintaining a home environment where children can further develop their faith. **We hope to continue to offer a mixture of small-group learning and opportunities for all-age informal worship and reflection.**

We are aiming to keep strengthening our existing youth community as we continue to move through the pandemic - providing our young people with a place of support, friendship and God's love. We are always looking for ways to include our young people in the wider church community. In future, it would be great to think about outreach, perhaps engaging with local schools and further afield.



ADMINISTRATION

PCC AND STANDING COMMITTEE

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) met eight times during 2021. The 2021-22 membership consists of the Incumbent as Chair, two Churchwardens, two ex-officio Deanery Synod members and 13 other members. Through various circumstances we will have ten other members from the start of the vacancy. Meetings have been a mix of Zoom and in person due to varied Covid restrictions. The meetings generally open with a 'Dwelling in the Word' Bible passage, reflection and small-group discussion. Business is generally conducted between 7.30 pm with the aim of finishing by 9.30 pm at the latest, ideally 9 pm. The Vicar is the Chair of the PCC and a Churchwarden is elected Vice-Chair of the PCC and chairs the meetings.

The Standing Committee consists of the Incumbent, the Churchwardens and the PCC Secretary, with an optional invitation to the Treasurer if desired, but it has not included the Treasurer to date. The Standing Committee aims to meet between PCC meetings to consider the draft minutes of the previous meetings and to set the agenda for the next PCC meeting.

PCC SUBCOMMITTEES

To assist with its wide responsibilities, **the PCC has a number of subcommittees, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life.** These committees are responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly, with minutes that are discussed by the PCC as necessary. Proposals or recommendations may be brought directly to the PCC from the subcommittees, which makes the work of the PCC more time-effective as a decision-making body, but not to the exclusion of discussion as required. In 2021 the committees were:

MISSION AND GIVING which makes recommendations on the church's strategy for financial giving to mission.

FINANCE which meets with the treasurer once a term to assist in preparing and reviewing the budget, reviewing finances and considering stewardship issues.

FABRIC which makes recommendations concerning the church's building development and maintenance.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP which assists the Vicar and Director of Music in planning and reviewing the worship and musical life of our church.

COMMUNICATIONS which works to review and improve the church's communications (publications, website, signage); this group has recently lacked a Chair but the PCC are keen to reconvene this crucial group to take identified matters forward. The PCC and the remaining members of the group are fully aware there are matters which need addressing urgently.

CHURCHYARD which reviews the management of the churchyard and plans necessary work.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN which works to review and improve provision for the church's younger members.



STAFF TEAM

There is also a **Staff Team (which is not a PCC committee)**, normally convened by the Incumbent, which deals with day-to-day management of the church and, if necessary, acts on behalf of the PCC. **This includes the Hall Manager, the Churchwardens, the Director of Music and Associate Priests and Curates, as appropriate.**

When St Andrew's Community Hall had an extension built, it included a **Parish Office** which allows some work space for paid administrative workers, Curates and Youth Workers, but now administrative staff assist more often in providing cover for the Main Hall office to deal with telephone enquiries, ad hoc arrivals and Hall bookings.



Until January 2021 there was a paid part-time Church Administrator working in the Hall under the line management of the Incumbent. During the pandemic a certain amount of this work was given to the Hall Manager, paid for by the PCC. **The PCC has appointed a part-time Church Administrator, for 12 months initially**, to reassign the additional work over and above the capacity of the Hall Manager now that the Hall is 'back in business', with a view to a longer-term appointment potentially to include handling elements of communications which had otherwise been managed by the former Youth Worker and the Curate.

The Hall Manager will remain responsible for all administrative matters concerning Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, and also acts as Safeguarding Officer with a PCC member supporting.

FINANCES

The finances of St Andrew's are run by a subcommittee of the PCC which is chaired by a member of the congregation (and former Treasurer), and whose members include the Vicar, a Churchwarden, Treasurer and members of the congregation as well as the Hall Treasurer and Hall Manager.

St Andrew's is fortunate in having very stable finances and we are able to cover our routine outgoings without drawing on reserves, including:

- Paying our Parish Share of around £72,000 per year, as part of a total annual expenditure of around £135,000 (2021).
- Giving donations to a variety of charities totalling about £6,000 each year.
- Employing a Director of Music and a Youth Worker, as well as a part-time Church Administrator.
- Having reserves that provide enough yearly income to allow us to set aside £5,000 each year to cover the cost of repairs and renovation required by our Quinquennial Inspections.

In addition to this, we have recently completed two large capital projects:

- The first is a complete rebuilding of the church's organ with a total cost of £130,000. A substantial proportion of this (£24,000) was raised from donations from the congregation.
- The second is a renovation of the chancel floor and provision of a screen in the chancel in front of the organ. Again, we were fortunate in receiving donations for a significant part of this (£7,500) as well as generous support from Trinity College of £34,000.

Neither of the projects would have been possible without large contributions from **the Friends of St Andrew's** (£25,000 for the organ and £10,000 for the chancel screen).

Almost all of our income is from **regular giving** by individual members of the congregation through either standing orders or the Parish Giving Scheme, and this totals around £110,000 (2021). Most of this comes in tax-efficient form. The church has total funds of about £650,000 and of this about £90,000 is in endowments which provide interest only.

We are very fortunate indeed to have **St Andrew's Hall on our site**, built 16 years ago with the vision of a combined community and church facility, and run by an active management committee of both community and church members. The Hall has a full-time Manager and a turnover in excess of £100,000, and is used by 25 different community groups each week. Other than during the Covid years, the income from letting out the Hall covers its running costs, as well as ongoing updating and maintenance.

Our financial state is a happy one: in the last few years, income and outgoings have been very close to balance, and we have substantial capital reserves. Money is not the limiting preoccupation that it is in many churches, which leaves us free to concentrate on the life of the church, and the opportunities that surround us. But we cannot afford to be complacent. Costs rise inexorably, especially the Parish Share; people move on and cease giving; and so on. Every year, we run a short campaign to invite people to review their giving; and in between times the giving coordinator invites new members to become regular givers.

CHURCH TRUSTS

We have the **generous support** of the St Andrew's Trust (see 'Other Groups' below), an outside organisation with both capital and income that was set up set up from bequests. It can be used for any purpose which assists in the 'promotion of Christianity at St Andrew's'.

COMMUNICATION

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

St Andrew's website is aimed at the following groups:

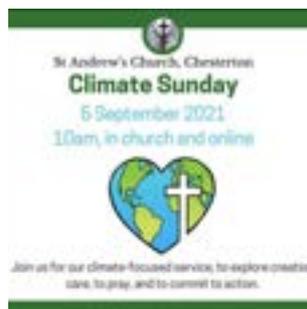
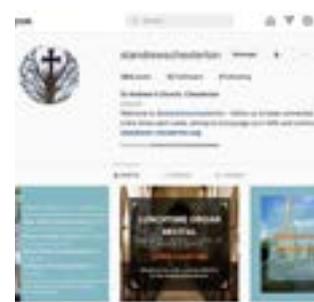
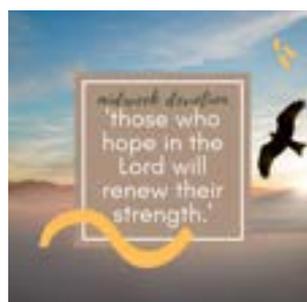
church members (for news and events, copies of the weekly notice sheets, contact details for the clergy); the wider parish community (service details, information on Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals); Christians new to the parish (to give an overview of the church, its groups, activities and outlook) and people interested in the church building (a brief history of the church, and details about the Friends of St Andrew's). Other content includes a collection of past sermons, directions for locating the church, and a selection of links to other resources of interest, including the Music Calendar and St. Andrew's Hall. See the website at standrews-chesterton.org.

The responsibility for the website lies with the Church Administrator, with a small group from the PCC (including a representative of the Staff Team) reviewing the content and providing regular feedback.

Facebook ([St Andrew's, Chesterton](https://www.facebook.com/standrewschesterton/) and <https://www.facebook.com/standrewschesterton/>) and Instagram ([@standrews_chesterton](https://www.instagram.com/standrews_chesterton) and <https://www.instagram.com/standrewschesterton>) accounts have been set up, managed by the part-time Youth Worker with the support of at least one other DBS-checked person signed into each account. These were set up in March 2020 in response to the first lockdown, as another way of keeping everybody connected and communicating key information. Regular posts include service times, daily Bible readings and features from the Chesterton Chimes. Engagement of the St Andrew's Facebook page with the local Facebook group 'Chesterton Babble' has been a positive way to engage with the local community. On Instagram, devotionals from the weekly youth newsletter (see 'Youth' section of this Profile) are also highlighted (because more of our young people use Instagram than Facebook).

Services have been livestreamed on the church's YouTube channel since March 2020.

(https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC30_MmGAdUFZ2x_gxeobkH6w)



From our website and social media pages:
visit to see more (details below).



St Andrew's Church,
Chesterton



St Andrew's,
Chesterton



@standrews_chesterton

WEEKLY NEWS SHEET

A **weekly information sheet** is produced for distribution to a database of people including our congregation, interested residents and community representatives. It is also available in hard copy in the church and delivered by volunteers to a handful of our congregation who can no longer get out to church. It is available on the website at www.standrews-chesterton.org/home/latest-pewsheets/.

CHESTERTON CHIMES

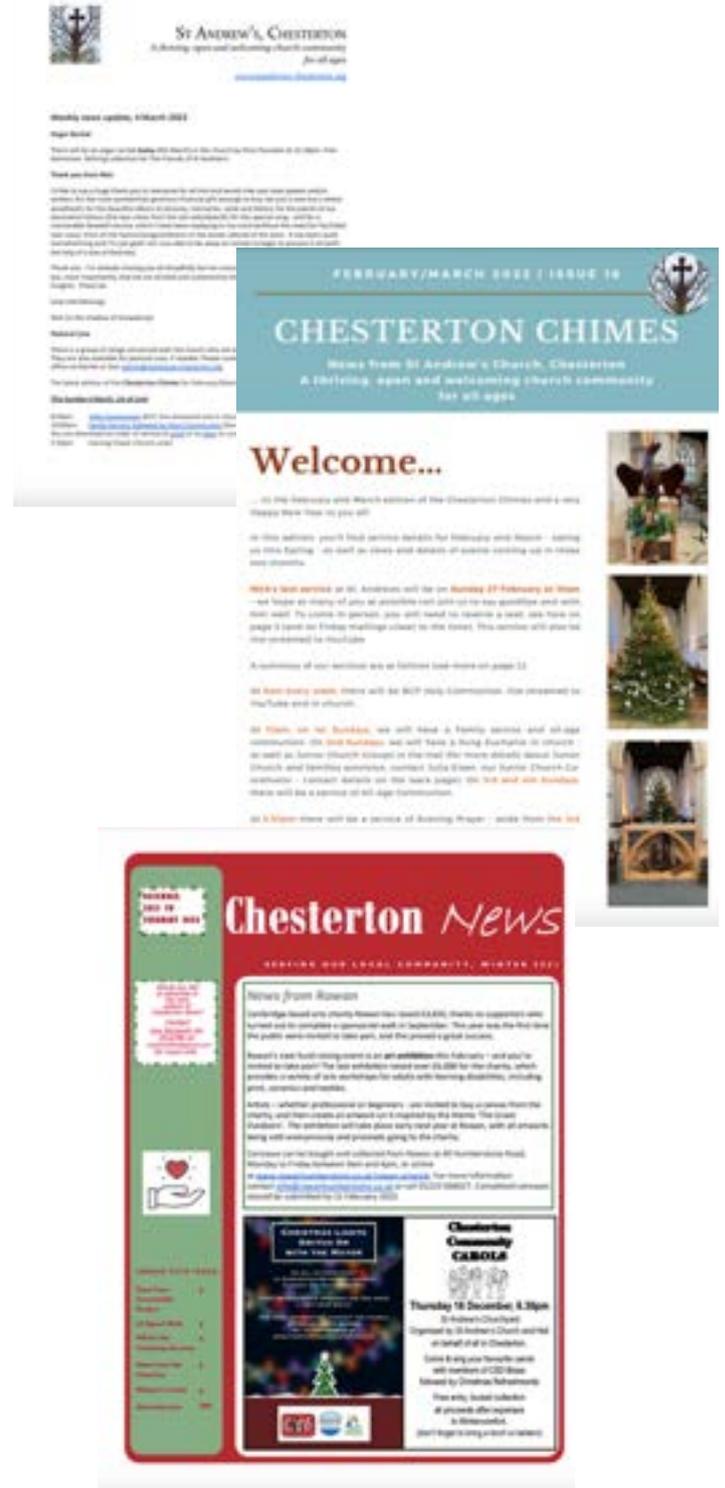
Recently revived during the pandemic, the 'Chesterton Chimes' is now available electronically on the church website; at www.standrews-chesterton.org/home/latest-chimes/ and is produced bi-monthly by a member of the congregation. It is sent out to the same interested parties as the weekly news sheet; content includes parish updates, personal interest stories, weekly readings and information for upcoming services and events.

CHESTERTON NEWS

This magazine is produced quarterly in hard copy and is also available electronically on the church website at www.standrews-chesterton.org/home/latest-newsletter/. It is distributed free to over 9,000 people in the parish and beyond by a team of approximately 60 volunteer deliverers. **The editorial team consists of representatives from St Andrew's, St George's and Chesterton Methodist Church and The Hundred Houses Residents Association**, as well as other local volunteers and the St Andrew's Hall Manager, who is the editor. It operates under the umbrella of the Chesterton Community Association and is funded by advertising revenue and contributions from the churches and Hundred Houses. It typically contains a letter from the Vicar/Minister of one of the three churches, a 'What's On' section for a number of venues in Chesterton and news about local issues and upcoming events.

THE FUTURE

With the appointment of the new Church Administrator we have **a wonderful opportunity to rethink our operation and streamline all of our communications** both within our congregation, and also further afield into our local community.



You can find all most recent copies of the Chesterton Chimes, the Chesterton News, and the weekly news sheet at standrews-chesterton.org

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Other sections of this Profile refer to some general opportunities for outreach (see especially St Andrew's Hall; Concerts; Other Groups; Youth Groups).

CHARITABLE GIVING

The **PCC's Mission and Giving Committee** is involved in helping St Andrew's have an outward focus through supporting organisations which:

- proclaim the good news of the Kingdom
- teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- respond to human need by loving service
- seek to transform unjust structures of society
- strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain the life of the earth

In our giving, **we strive to support multiple organisations which, as a whole, cover these five marks of mission.** We aim to have our giving split across charities which are local to Cambridge, UK-based, and international organisations. We also aim to support charities with a Christian ethos. In seeking to reflect our parish, we are responsive to church members' requests to support particular organisations, and have supported the volunteer efforts of numerous members of the congregation over the years.

The PCC has made a commitment to support the following organisations annually with contributions of between £400 and £1000 each:

- Azul Wasi orphanage in Peru (also supported by standing orders totalling over £6,000 p.a. from a number of people both from the congregation and from outside the church, and by special fundraising efforts).
- Wintercomfort for the homeless
- Bible translations in Iraq (Church Mission Society, CMS)
- Romsey Mill North Cambridge Youth Outreach worker
- Unseen UK's efforts to stamp out human trafficking.

In 2020 we also provided a larger amount of funds for 'It Takes A City' Homelessness Partnership, which aims to end rough sleeping in Cambridge due to homelessness. We also gave an additional donation to the Homeless Food Project at St Andrew's Street Cambridge, which has been helping provide for the daily meals of the 100+ homeless people in Cambridge currently in hotels and hostels.

The Mission and Giving Committee also allocates smaller one-off donations (£200 or less); in 2020 we wanted to ensure that we were supporting those experiencing various forms of increased hardship due to lockdowns (i.e.: mental health, poverty, domestic abuse). The church participates in the yearly house-to-house collection in Christian Week, and the collection at the Christingle Service is for the Children's Society.

We typically have Mission Gift Days twice a year at the 10 am services. There are normally a number of fundraising social efforts during the year, although this was interrupted by Covid; there were, however, some online activities during the lockdowns.

In 2020 the total of charitable giving by the church (PCC contributions and fundraising) was £11,422.

SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB

Before the pandemic, there was a monthly Sunday Lunch Club which, for a small charge to cover costs, offered **hot Sunday roast lunches and the opportunity for social time together to about 35 people** who might otherwise might be spending Sunday lunchtime on their own, and this will resume as soon as it is safe to do so. There is a rota of helpers, of whom 5-6 attend on each occasion.



CHURCH GROUPS

WHOLENESS AND HEALING PRAYER GROUP

This Group offers prayer for those in need of healing and/or those who have requested it.

Pre-Covid, during Sunday Eucharist services, two of us would be among the first to receive Communion and would then wait behind the font for anyone who wished to speak to us. We would also meet as a group in person for an hour in church or in St Andrew's Hall. During the lockdowns we met as a group for an hour every fortnight on Zoom to bring to mind and pray for anyone whose needs were known to us. Anything we are told is of course kept completely confidential.

We attend as a group the Diocesan Healing Day, usually in Ely or in Histon Baptist Church, which was (pre-lockdown) an annual day event devoted to talks, workshops and discussion about wholeness and healing in the Church of England. We have also held a couple of smaller awaydays with an invited leader just for the group. We have, as suggested by the Vicar or Curate, taken a role in special services which concentrate on healing, typically **at Luketide, during Lent and during Trinity.**

We have all completed the Diocesan Safeguarding Guidance programmes (see above, 'Safeguarding'), because some people coming to us might be deemed to be vulnerable.

As we believe strongly in the power of prayer, we aspire to offer ministry in the form either of laying on of hands, if desired, or of naming a person whose needs have been made known to us locally and farther afield. We are not limited by parish or national, nor indeed international, boundaries. When we are not meeting as a group we try to be diligent in our ministry individually.

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

One group meets fortnightly on Tuesday mornings, normally in St Andrew's Hall. Most recently we have studied the book of Ruth and St Paul's Letter to the Romans, and at the time of writing we are starting to look at St Mark's Gospel. It is open to any member of the group to lead sessions if they wish. When we begin to study a new book it is useful to have input from the Vicar, or another person with biblical knowledge, about context and background. It is hoped that this group will continue to prosper and grow.

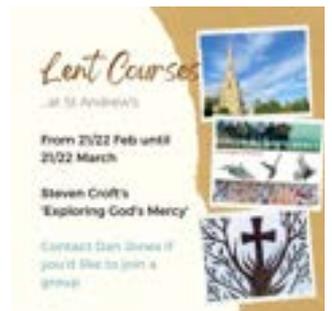
Before the start of the Covid pandemic several other study groups were held, and we would hope that these will start meeting again when normality returns.

LENT STUDY GROUPS

A number of study groups normally meet during Lent and some of these continue after Lent is over (a prayer triplet begun several years ago in this way is still in existence). In 2020 these followed the Church of England's 'Living in Love and Faith' course, meeting by Zoom.

DROP-IN COFFEE MORNING

A coffee morning, open to everyone, is held in St Andrew's Hall every Monday morning (except Bank Holidays), providing a time to chat, relax and make new friends.





HOUSE GROUP

A House Group meets on a Tuesday evening for a time of Bible study and prayer.

Typically we use a study book or course to set our topic and guide our discussion. We have used a number of books including diocesan and national Lent and Advent courses and McLaren's 'We Make the Road by Walking'. During lockdown we stopped meeting face to face but continued in Lent via Zoom.

UMBRELLA GROUP

The Umbrella Group was formed in 1966 as a social group for the parents of the children of St Andrew's Church who attended Sunday School and the parents of children who attended the Family Service.

The evening meetings took place in the members' homes in turn. There would be a speaker for the first hour, sometimes one of the members would give a talk about their work or an invited speaker from a charity or some other place of interest, or we would have a poetry and prose evening when members would read favourite passages. Now we have grown older. We have a committee to plan the programme and latterly the meetings were held mainly in a member's home. Because of Covid the group has not met for two years, but hopes to start again soon.



FLOWER GROUP

The current members of the Flower Group are drawn from the congregation. **Our aim is to enhance the beauty of the church building by ensuring fresh flowers are regularly in place which reflect the church's year.** No flowers are displayed in church during Lent and from the first Sunday of Advent only the Advent wreath is in place. Christmas greenery decorates the window ledges for the Christmas season through to Epiphany. For Easter we provide additional displays around the church. The Easter Garden is usually designed by the clergy and adding flowers involves the children from Junior Church. Pentecost and Harvest are the other occasions when we aim to provide a larger number of floral displays. A themed Flower Festival has often coincided with the Chesterton Festival (see above). Each member of the group has the opportunity to arrange a pedestal alongside flowers on the side altar a couple of times during the year. The PCC provide a grant each year to cover the cost of the flowers.



BOOK GROUP

The group meets every other month at the home of one of the parishioners, or by Zoom, depending on Covid restrictions and what people are generally happy with. It has been meeting for over 15 years, originally alternating between books and films, which we watched together and discussed as a group. In recent years, we have chosen to focus on books, which we read in the comfort of our own homes. At present we are quite a small group, with around 6-8 people who attend fairly regularly. We do not specifically discuss Christian books but rather novels and occasionally non-fiction which present contemporary issues and, without fail, stimulate interesting discussions. **Recent titles include** Mary Shelly's 'Frankenstein', Clare Fox's 'Watching the English', Jon McGregor's moving account of everyday people in 'If Nobody Speaks of Remarkable Things', Maggie O'Farrell's 'Hamnet', 'Station Eleven' by the Canadian writer Emily St. John Mandel, and the family memoir 'On Chapel Sands' by Laura Cumming.



ST ANDREW'S CHURCHYARD

St Andrew's Church is surrounded by its churchyard, some parts of which go back to the 12th century. A right-of-way passes through it, along which many people walk and cycle each day, passing the church door on the way. The Chesterton War Memorial is there and also a number of War Graves among the many other graves.

It is a 'closed churchyard', only having some spaces for the interment of ashes, so the responsibility for its upkeep has passed to Cambridge City Council. They are limited by time and resources, however, and mainly cut the grass, although the trees are regularly surveyed by Kenny Macgregor, City Council Arboriculture Officer. We also work with Guy Belcher, City Council Biodiversity Officer, to try to create as sympathetic a space for flora and fauna as we can.

15-20 people make up our Churchyard Group, several from the local community, as well as members of the congregation. On the third Saturday morning of most months we hold a working party from 09.30 until 12.30 and group members come, as they are able, to uncover graves lost in undergrowth, prune bushes, tidy graves and plant bulbs and some wildflowers. In the last three years we have worked with 'Cambridge Hedgehogs' (www.cambridgehedgehogs.org) to try to provide a good habitat for hedgehogs and safe places for them to hibernate. **In September, 2021, we were proud to receive a Bronze Award in the Cambridgeshire Churchyard Conservation Award Scheme.** This meant, among other things, creating spring and summer 'meadows' where the grass was cut at different times in the year to allow wild flowers to grow unhindered and provide seed for regrowth and as food for the different bird species that live there.

Our aim is to communicate what we are trying to achieve to our local community. An information board lets passers-by know some of what they might expect to see.



OTHER GROUPS

THE FRIENDS OF ST ANDREW'S

The Friends of St Andrew's was formed in 1974. **Its aim is to raise funds to help carry out necessary restoration work on the church building and its fabric.** Most recently it has donated a total of £35,000 towards a major renovation of the church organ and associated works. The Friends is run by a committee of which the Vicar is an ex-officio member. Membership is open to all who value the church as their spiritual home or as a community hub.

The basic income is from annual subscriptions with a minimum of £5, but many members give much more. An increasing amount comes from fundraising activities such as lunchtime concerts. **These are beginning to attract people from the wider community and as such are a useful method of outreach.**

It is hoped that more people from the community can be encouraged to join The Friends.



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