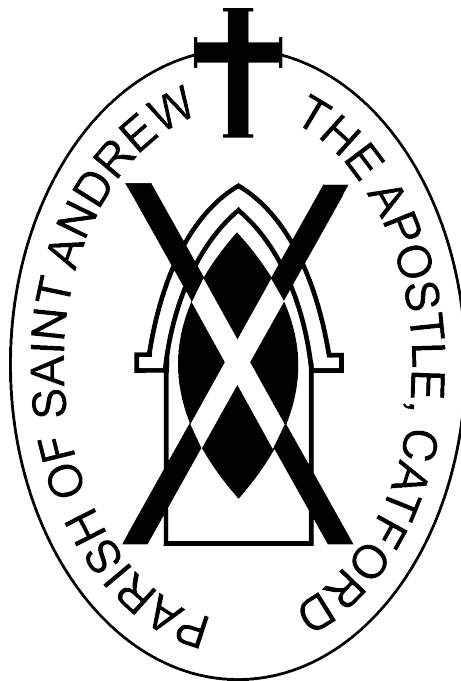


ST ANDREW'S CATFORD

**ANNUAL MEETING
&
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

11 MAY 2025



AGENDA
ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, CATFORD
11 MAY 2025

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS (open to all who live in the parish or are on the electoral roll)

Election of Churchwardens

Followed by

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (open to those on the electoral roll)

Agenda

Apologies for absence

Welcome from Rev Bec

Minutes of 2024 APCM

Matters Arising

Secretary's report

Report on fabric, goods and ornaments

Financial Statement for year ending 31st December 2024

Independent examiner's report

Churchwarden's report

Steward's report and Election of Stewards

Electoral Roll report

Free Will Offering (FWO) and Gift Aid report

Deanery Synod report

Safeguarding report

Committee reports

- Stewardship & Outreach report
- Finance & General Purposes (F&GP) report
- Children & Young People's (C&YP) report
- Website report
- Social media report
- Hall Executive Committee (HEC) report

Election of PCC Members – including ex-officio and Deanery Synod members

Appointment of independent examiner

AOB

Welcome to the St Andrew's Annual Report,

The eagle-eyed among you might notice that there is no vicar's report in this document. This is because it concerns the church's activity during 2024; the church was still in vacancy and I had not yet arrived as vicar.

I have, however, been able to read all that the community got up to last year. Reading the report, I am full of thankfulness for all that people, both lay and ordained, have given of their time, resources and skills over the last year. I hope that you will have that same joy and thankfulness in reading it for yourself.

I am looking forward to all that lies ahead for us as a church in the rest of 2025, and beyond.

Every blessing,

Reverend Bec Wilkinson

02/04/2025

PARISH OF ST. ANDREW'S, CATFORD

MINUTES OF THE 2024 VESTRY & ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

SUNDAY 28th APRIL 2024

There were 41 members of the congregation present with Zanna Bloomfield (ZB), Churchwarden, chairing the meeting.

ZB welcomed everyone to the Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meeting at St. Andrew's.

Nicole Burgum (NB) opened the meeting in prayer.

VESTRY MEETING

Election of Churchwardens

Richard Elliott (RE) and ZB were nominated and elected for the position of Churchwarden for 2024/25. Trevor Jarvis (TJ) proposed, Brenda Henderson (BH) seconded. All agreed.

ZB nominated Fiona Craggs (FC) for Assistant Churchwarden. NB Seconded. All agreed.

This concluded the business of the Vestry Meeting.

MINUTES OF THE APCM IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

Apologies for absence

ES noted that apologies were received from Peter Almond, Jacqui Joseph-Grotefeld, Jonathan Ames-Lewis, Angela Jackson.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Rona Dixon (RD) proposed that the minutes were an accurate recording of last year's meeting. FC seconded. All in favour.

Matters arising from the minutes

None

Secretary's Report The report appears in the booklet.

No questions on the report. ZB thanked Emily Steadman (ES) for her work as Secretary.

Churchwardens' Fabric and Ornaments Report The report appears in the booklet.

ZB thanked RE for preparing the report.

Fenella Beckman (FB) asked RE to expand on the urgent actions required from the Quinquennial inspection and explain the impact of our inspector resigning.

RE: Inspector resigned only a month ago (he completed the quinquennial report in 2022). The most urgent works required are the Lady Chapel and the buttress work and works due to a number of leaks in the roof over the south transept. The works are in preparation and are not being held up by not having an inspector. F&GP committee has shortlisted potential new inspectors and will be appointing a new inspector imminently.

FB: From a health and safety standpoint, what key actions arose from the fire risk assessment and what are the impacts for the Hall?

RE: the F&GP and Hall Exec Committee were, in fact, quite relieved by the report – some things don't have to be done which we thought might have to be, for example compartmentalisation of the electricity boards on fire escape routes. Most of the points are to do with fitting smoke detectors and call points in the outbuildings to enable us to continue using the Vestry Room and the upstairs Hall. The only action affecting the church itself is to fit emergency lights to the south wall.

Financial Statement: The statement appears in the booklet.

ZB gave her great thanks to Wendy Owen (WO) for her continued work as Treasurer.

No questions.

Appointment of auditor The independent examiner's report appears in the booklet.

As every year, we need to appoint an examiner for the next year. WO: our current auditor, Trevor Blackmur, is prepared to do it again; he does it on a pro bono basis, as he does for St John's Southend. The inspector has to be totally independent from St Andrew's.

WO proposed that we continue with Trevor Blackmur. John Goodwin (JG) seconded. One abstention. Everyone else in favour.

Churchwarden's Remarks The report appears in the booklet.

ZB: there is a dearth of priests across the diocese as a lot of vicars are retiring and there are currently 18 vacancies. We will continue to report back to the congregation across the year about where we are with the recruitment process. At the moment, we are ready to send our Parish Profile and the advertisement to the Diocese for review.

BH: can we still progress our Mission Action Plan even without a vicar in place? ZB: yes – we can still move forward with our MAP.

Laura Higgins (LH): will the MAP plan be shared with the congregation? RE: yes, we will be sharing it with the congregation. We need to work out, with members of the committee, how to implement it and will be creating working groups to address the three main areas, which are: diversity and inclusion; outreach; growing our children and youth.

FC: knowing there are 18 vacancies, would the Diocese consider one vicar looking after more than one parish? ZB: Southwark does not have that plan in mind. There are many combined parishes across England and while the Diocese may have to consider it in future, at the moment, they have no intention to combine ours with another. However, they are likely to have to reach outside our Diocese to find a new vicar, as they did with Fr Lindsay.

FB: when would the Diocese consider closing a parish?

ZB: It may be that if numbers in a congregation drop, a priest may go part-time and cover more than one, but at the moment, the Diocese has no plans to do so. They will do everything they can to place a priest in a parish. RE: those questions very much relate to the MAP.

Teresa Charles (TC): does the priest have a say if they are asked to share duties between parishes? NB: a priest would not be given another parish halfway through their time at a parish. In this Deanery, most churches have only one priest and those with more than one tend to have retired priests. For a priest to share duties between parishes, the post would have to be advertised as a benefice.

RE: we have been in discussions with our Area Dean and the Diocese about our vacancy and we are advertising the position for St Andrew's alone.

Allison Bishop (AB): part of this 5-year MAP plan is change – and we've had an opportunity to reflect and think about where we're going, and we can tell our new priest about our plan.

RE – thanks very much to the MAP committee – composed of PCC and non-PCC members and two children – and it was a very positive process, working in all of the feedback from the congregation and the wider community. It has the potential to really strengthen us as a parish.

Steward's Report and Election of Stewards The report appears in the booklet.

ZB recorded her thanks to Janette Cunliffe (JC) for her work with the Stewards and noted how vital stewarding is to the work of this church. She also passed on her thanks to all the Stewards who have served and continue to serve on this team. New stewards are always welcome. Please speak to JC if you would like to join.

All agreed to approve the current Stewards for this year. NB proposed. JC seconded. All in favour.

Electoral Roll Report The report appears in the booklet.

ZB thanked John Goodwin (JG), the Electoral Roll Officer, for providing the report.

The report states there are 70 members on the Electoral Roll this year. We have lost 7 members – 3 have moved away, 1 has died and 3 have come off the list.

ZB: newcomers don't always understand the importance of being on the Electoral Roll – it shows ownership of a church and allows you to vote and contribute to the life of the parish more fully. Once you're on the roll, after six months, you can vote and take up official roles.

FB: what are the benefits of being on an Electoral Roll? Not everyone may know that you can be on the roll if you're not living in the parish.

ZB: it proves you are a member of a church. Being on it doesn't stop you going to other churches, but it gives you voting rights. And yes, you don't have to live in the parish to be on the electoral roll.

ES: the number on our Electoral Roll determines how many PCC members we can have (minimum of 9) and how many Deanery Synod representatives (2). In other words, it indicates to the Diocese how active and vibrant a parish we are, how engaged our congregation is – the more members on the roll, the more representation we have at Deanery Synod, and the more PCC members we have.

LH stressed the importance of being on the Electoral Roll as it allows you to vote at the APCM.

Free Will Offering (FWO) and Gift Aid Report The report appears in the booklet.

JG noted a typo in the report – 'The income received from the three sources above totalled c. £32.2k in 2023, of which c. £26.5k was gift-aided (approx. 82).'

Keith Bloomfield (KB): highlighted that we do have Gift Aid forms if you would like to gift aid your donations. Since the reintroduction of the plate, we have been asked whether we have the cards that state you give by standing order, so people can place one in the plate. We do have those cards so please ask if you would like some.

Janette Cunliffe (JC): as stewards, we have noticed people are putting money in the plate more and it helps if you give by standing order to have a card to put in to indicate they already give.

LH: Gift Aid and donations are going down. Could we have cards that go in the pews to advertise how to include gift aid in your donation?

KB: We have a form on the single donation Gift Aid envelopes at the back of the church; we can adapt it and put in the pews, which people can then fill out, sign and give to KB. Otherwise, when people pay by card, it is difficult to identify if they have signed up to Gift Aid.

CC: we do have a small limit for one-off donations. KB: yes, we can claim a top-up for one-off cash or card donations. A limit of £30 per donation and subject to an overall limit of £8000 per annum,

plus a further limit related to the amount of our annual Gift Aid claim. HMRC are keen to maximise the Gift Aid route rather than the top-up route; it's much more difficult to prove that donations qualify for the top-up claim.

David Stent: for those people who wish to set up a standing order and take advantage of the Gift Aid scheme, the form doesn't have St Andrew's bank details. Is there another form which has those details: KB: yes, we have those forms and will put at the back of the church.

RD: reiterated need to have the Gift Aid and donation forms (with church bank details) available and accessible at the back of the church and in the pews, as relevant.

ZB thanked KB for all the work he does for FWO and Gift Aid.

Deanery Synod Report The report appears in the booklet.

ZB: Deanery Synod is, at a local level, a way in which we can pass questions up to the Diocesan Synod. Representatives are nominated and co-opted to the PCC. It's a three-year term. It's a very interesting role – you can discuss really big topics; e.g. when I did it in the 1990s, the introduction of female priests. Chris Jarvis is one of our current Deanery Synod members. Rona Dixon has done her three years and is standing down.

RD: It's very interesting, you get to find out about information you wouldn't normally. One of the topics we found out about was exercise. It's a fantastic communication method. There are three meetings a year.

ES: We need one new Deanery Synod representative to take Rona's place. **Fenella Beckman has been nominated. RE proposed her nomination. JC seconded. One abstention. Everyone else in favour.**

Safeguarding Report The report appears in the booklet.

ZB: Jacqueline Joseph-Grotefeld (JJG) gave her apologies. We are very grateful to her for all she does as our Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO). If you are on the PCC, you have to have regular DBS clearance, so JJG will be approaching you soon if you need yours renewed or completed.

No questions.

Committee Reports All of the committee reports appear in the booklet.

Committees meet and send regular reports for the PCC to review throughout the year.

Stewardship & Outreach Committee report

ZB: Jonathan Ames-Lewis (JAL) gave his apologies. Thank you to him and the rest of the committee for their work the past year. Reiterated that it's important to consider how you can give to church life, either with time, talents or money.

No questions.

Finance & General Purposes (F&GP) Committee Report

RE: apologised for any duplication between this report and the CW's report on the fabric and ornaments. With the F&GP report, tried to get into a bit more detail on each of the issues that we have been working on throughout the year, including the remedial work from storm damage to the north side of the roof and the renewable energy project, which Trevor Jarvis (TJ) has been working on. The fire assessment work has already started and is ongoing.

No questions.

Children & Young People (C&YP) Committee Report

ZB gave thanks to Angie Thompson (AT) for her sterling work with the children and young people.

AT: thank you for all the support I get, particularly from the parents. We are always looking for Sunday School teachers so please let me know if you think you might be able to help.

No questions.

Online and Social Media Report

ZB: thank you to CC for all of her work with online and social media over the years and to Tom Steadman (TS) for his work on the website.

No questions.

Hall Executive Committee (HEC) Report

ZB: Robin Maggs wrote the report. The HEC is very important as a lot of our income comes from the Hall lettings. There is a team from the HEC looking at how to redevelop the Annex buildings. If anyone has any experience in grant funding, please let us know.

RM: Firstly, at the end of my first year on the PCC, I want to compliment the churchwardens and other members of the PCC on their hard work, terrific dedication and commitment. Second, a key part of the fire assessment is the responsibility that all PCC members hold if there is a fire. I urge all PCC members and those involved in using the Hall, to take part in fire risk training that will be offered. The work we are having done as per the risk assessment will allow us to continue legally using the Hall and its surrounding buildings.

FB: thank you for all the work that is being done. Regarding the review of the Hall hire fees – have you increased the fees? Have you capped the prices? Are you keeping it to market rate?

RM: we have reviewed the fees both in comparison with other hall hire fees, i.e. market rate, and in terms of management of hall bookings. The rates will increase for external users, but we keep in mind the community aspect, so many local groups hire it for below market rate. Long-term plan is to fundraise as much as possible for the benefit of the church and future projects.

RE: thanks to all of those on the HEC and for the work on the garden, which is looking fantastic. Who is on the Annex Refurbishment Group? RE: TS and myself currently on the group; we are working out who else to involve.

Election of PCC Members

ES: We have had ten elected members this past year, with one standing down mid-term. Six of our seven elected members whose 3-year terms finished are standing for re-election and we have one new nominated PCC member standing, so we will have nine elected members in total.

The new PCC now has 9 elected members and 9 ex-officio members. Elected PCC members for 2024/2025 are: Norma Dixon, Gill Leach, Janette Cunliffe, Jacqui Joseph-Grotefeld, Jonathan Ames-Lewis, Angela Jackson and Angie Thompson Trevor Jarvis, Robin Maggs.

ES: thank you to everyone who has served on the PCC, who continues to serve and who may yet serve.

WO co-opted as Treasurer and ES co-opted as Secretary.

Number of PCC Members for 2024-2025

FC proposed to set the number at 10 for 2023/2024, to be in line with the previous year. GL seconded. All in favour. Number set at 10.

Any Other Business (AOB)

NB: thank you all very much for your support over the last year as we've been going forward without a vicar – thank you to everybody, including Brenda Henderson, working with the servers.

ZB closed the meeting with the Grace.

Secretary's Report – St Andrew's APCM – May 2025

The PCC continued with monthly meetings during the interregnum. We have had in-person meetings in the Vestry Room. While no extraordinary meetings have been required; the Standing Committee has met or consulted on urgent decisions between meetings.

The following items have been discussed and, where relevant, agreed/adopted by the PCC during the past year:

- Committees were elected and reports made at each meeting.
- The Treasurer updated us on the accounts and St Andrew's financial position at each meeting.
- In June, the PCC made the decision to advertise for a new vicar in July/August. In September, our two elected representatives – Jonathan Ames-Lewis & Jacqui Joseph-Grotefeld – interviewed 2 candidates. Rev Bec was offered the job and accepted. She was inducted on 12th January 2025.
- In the absence of an incumbent, the churchwardens updated the PCC at each meeting on relevant business and happenings. The vicar's update has now resumed at each meeting.
- Fiona Craggs was reappointed Assistant Churchwarden, to support Zanna and Richard during the interregnum.
- As Secretary, I reported at each meeting on relevant correspondence received and took the minutes. During the vacancy and since Rev Bec's arrival, I have continued to send out the Weekly Newsletter, with the ministry team's support, as well as handling a range of administrative tasks.
- Online/social media presence: Crystal still manages our active Facebook page – she has moved to updating on it annually. Tom Steadman built a new website in spring 2024, which went live in May 2024. He updates the website weekly and reports to the PCC on a quarterly basis.
- The Hall Executive Committee reports on its activities at each meeting. This has included signing us up to the 'Eco Church' scheme. Alongside F&GP, plan is to create a working group to progress scheme to become an eco-friendlier church. PCC approved Hall redecoration works to go ahead.
- The F&GP Committee reported their work at each meeting. After our Quinquennial inspector and surveyor Bob Wilson, stepped down, the PCC appointed a new inspector and architect: Paul Jackson. The PCC recently approved the appointment of Paye Stonework & Restoration Ltd to carry out a first stage of essential works on the brickwork, buttresses and drains.
- It was another busy year of events as we continued to extend our links with the community and collaboration with the Archibald Corbett Society and Library. Yet again, we were part of Corbfest in July, opened the church for London's Open House Festival in September and were on the Catford Arts Trail in October. For the second year in a row, we put on a highly successful Christmas Tree Fair in November, which culminated in a joint Christmas Market with the Library, a Bromley Concert band performance and an HGLO concert. In December, Nick Bland led the choir in the annual Festival of 9 Lessons & Carols; our Christmas celebrations were followed by the Family Christmas Eve Service and a Midnight Christmas Eve service by Candlelight.
- In line with our Mission Action plan, Racism and Unconscious Bias training was organised for the PCC and congregation in November. And Open Church started in March, with the church opening its doors every Tuesday from 2:30-4pm.

Emily Steadman
PCC Secretary

Churchwardens' Report on the Fabric and Ornaments of St Andrew's

Fabric

Overview

An inspection of the church fabric was undertaken by the Churchwardens in April 2025. No significant problems were ascertained beyond those detailed in our last Quinquennial Inspection Report (QIR, December 2022) although in one or two cases (for example the stained-glass windows and the Lady Chapel roof) the level of concern has increased. The only damage as such was caused by Storm Isha in January 2024, necessitating emergency roof repairs that were the subject of a successful insurance claim. Works aimed at addressing the problems identified in the QIR and at making the church watertight continued throughout 2024. Two inspections of the external fabric of the church by drone were carried out in early 2024. Along with a series of ultra-close-up photographs, the results have helped us to understand the building's various defects. A Church Inspection (in conjunction with the Articles of Enquiry procedure) was carried out by The Rev Bridget Shepherd on 25 May 2024. Following the resignation of Bob Wilson in February 2024, a new Quinquennial Inspector/Church Architect was appointed in July following a formal recruitment process. Mr Paul Jackson RIBA CA AABC IHBC EASA, a Diocese-approved conservation architect, is now advising St Andrew's on our care of the building.

Condition summary as of April 2025

All areas of the church are fully usable and for the most part dry. Obvious defects include the following:

External

- Lady Chapel area: the buttresses are slipping outwards over the damp proof course, causing the flying buttresses over the Lady Chapel roof to sag. As an immediate measure, cracks and open stonework joints need to be filled and the brickwork repointed. Further interventions may be needed depending on the results of telltale monitoring. Work on the first phase is due to start soon.
- Lady Chapel roof: in our view, this will require attention sooner rather than later. The QIR summarises the condition of this slate roof as "generally fair" but some deterioration is apparent.
- Lead flashings coming loose (e.g. NW buttress/aisle roof abutments).
- Defective tiles on north aisle roof.
- Repointing of brickwork required in several areas.
- Depressions in South Passage tarmac due to inadequate backfilling after drain installation.
- Timbers: fascias, rafter ends and doors will soon need painting/staining.
- Tower: some louvres missing or slipped; tower turret: pigeon netting needs repairing.

Internal

- Lady Chapel: open stonework joints and associated wall cracks (work due to start soon).
- Lady Chapel: continuous gap along the junction of N wall and floor.
- Lady Chapel NW corner and E walls of both transepts: poor state of internal decoration. The underlying causes have been remedied and other priorities mean that we will need to put up with the walls in this condition for a while longer.
- South Transept: cracks in the brickwork of the S wall below windows. This historical problem is currently under investigation.
- Cracks in Ambulatory walls and floor.
- Sanctuary mosaic floor cracked and loose in places.

Glass

The church windows are degraded to varying degrees, displaying cracks, holes and other defects. Furthermore, the Perspex covers over the Lady Chapel and East windows are discoloured and unappealing from the outside. An expert opinion has been sought and it is hoped that an inspection will take place soon.

A maintenance plan aimed at remedying the above defects (and others) within the quinquennium, according to their level of urgency, is in place. The buttress slippage issue has been a priority for the last two years but has suffered administrative and procedural delays. Stonemasons have now been engaged and this essential work, which will be supervised by our new Quinquennial Inspector/Church Architect, is to start within a matter of weeks.

Summary of work completed in 2024

- Localised pantile replacements to the NE and NW roof ranges; securing of loose ridge tiles; precautionary removal of a heavy piece of stone coping (Feb. 2024: Rodells Steeplejacks Ltd.).
- Installation of additional fire safety equipment in conjunction with the Hall Executive Committee: emergency lighting along South Passage; emergency lighting and call points in Church-Hall Lobby, Choir Vestry, Old Kitchen and Upper Hall (Alarmwise).
- Roof repairs (South Transept): refurbishment of W and E valleys; relaying of edging tiles; repointing of transept ridge tiles; lead flashings redressed and repointed; box gutter cleared and repointed; a number of damaged pantiles and aisle/transept tiles replaced. Leaks into North Transept area successfully fixed (June, Catchesides).
- Repairs to SW buttress/aisle roof abutments: stepped lead flashings dressed and repointed into the brickwork; the brickwork itself repointed on three sides; edging tiles re-mortared; some damaged aisle roof tiles replaced (July, Catchesides).
- Roof repairs (North Transept): W and E lead valleys repointed; edging tiles along the valleys removed, recut and reinstated; transept ridge tiles repointed; stepped lead flashing in angle between NW transept wall and main church wall redressed and repointed; some damaged pantiles and aisle roof tiles replaced; box gutter checked. Leaks into North Transept area and N-side pews successfully stopped (July, Catchesides).
- Site investigations arising from of our insurance claim for subsidence: S and N drains surveyed and jetted; further remedial work (under a separate insurance claim) is required; trial holes dug as part of investigation into buttress slippage and brickwork cracks (July–Dec., Auger).

- Replacement of broken (mostly flashbanded) pantiles in SE range of main roof; repointing of lead flashing on south side outside tower trap door. Leak situation further improved if not completely fixed (December, Rodells Steeplejacks Ltd.).

Summary of maintenance tasks carried out in 2024

- Cleaning of high-level gutters, box gutters, hoppers and valleys; silted-up gully between Lady Chapel roof and main church cleared; plant growth removed (May, Sam's Gutters).
- Low-level gutter clearance (throughout the year, St A Team).
- Vegetation removed from Lady Chapel roof (October–December, St A Team).
- Unblocking of drainage gullies (throughout the year, St A Team).
- Regular cleaning of the church interior, including a deep clean in advance of Open House Day (throughout the year, Cleaning Team).
- Garden: lime trees trimmed and pollarded (August, Garden Care Services Ltd.).
- Organ tuned (x3, Nicholson's); blower/humidifier serviced (April, Watkins & Watson Ltd.).

Safety

All safety inspections falling due in 2024 were carried out and certified on time (PAT testing; gas safety inspection; fire-fighting equipment; fire alarms and emergency lights; lightning conductor; organ blower and humidifier).

Ornaments

The Churchwardens carried out a full inventory check of the church's movable property on 5 February 2025 based on the Excel spreadsheet assiduously compiled by Mel Fuller in 2022. We are very grateful to Mel for his hard work. It cannot really be claimed that an inventory of this kind is ever complete, but the comprehensive approach adopted by Mel was continued this year and as a result there were many additions. The inventory now numbers 221 items/categories of items, all photographed. Outstanding work for next year includes the itemising of all hangings and vestments.

The Churchwardens have declared that "The lists of Church properties, goods and ornaments [...] have been duly checked and additions or corrections noted and initialled and are certified as correct to the best of our knowledge".

The inventory of Church Articles, Work Log and 2025 Maintenance Plan were produced to the PCC on 20 March 2025. Hard copies are kept in the St Andrew's logbook along with our safety certificates and a copy of the QIR. Digital copies are securely stored.

We offer our heartfelt thanks to all who cleaned, maintained, repaired and otherwise helped to look after the church building and its fittings, musical instruments and ornaments in 2024.

Churchwardens Richard Elliott and Zanna Bloomfield, April 2025

St Andrew's Church, Catford - Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

General Fund Receipts & Payments Account

	2024		2023	
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £
RECEIPTS				
<i>Incoming Resources from Donors</i>				
Planned Giving - Freewill offering	1	£30,417	31,338	
Gift Aid recovered	2	£9,054		
General Collections	3	£7,226	3,211	
Donations	4	£5,970	4,853	
Sunday School	5		0	
Wedding/Funeral income	6	£425	820	
Mission Giving	8			2,775
		£53,092	£3,020	40,222
				2,775
<i>Income from operating activities to further the work of the church</i>				
Fundraising (in mission)	10		610	
Fees (Funerals & Weddings)	11	£798	1,025	
Teas	12	£638	486	
		£1,436	2,121	
<i>Other Receipts</i>				
Restricted Income		£21,500	200	
Special events			3,025	
		£21,500	3,391	
<i>VAT Refund</i>				
VAT refunds and Insurance Claim	18	£5,124	1,325	
		£5,124	1,325	
Total Receipts	18a	£81,152	£3,020	£47,059
				£2,775
PAYMENTS				
<i>Grants to further the work of the Church</i>				
Mission Giving			3,020	2,775
<i>Church activities</i>				
Parish Support Fund	20	£19,476	18,720	
Parish expenses	21	£1,055	2,086	
Insurance	22	£7,387	6,634	
Heating and Lighting	23	£10,848	11,880	
Fundraising Costs	24	£126	117	
Religious	25	£282	262	
Music	27	£9,213	7,227	
Governance	28	£420	2,532	
Maintenance inc sacristry	30	£31,310	17,320	
Hall	31	£14	415	
Wedding and Funeral fees	33	£514	793	
refreshments		£752	3,025	
Special Events				
		£81,397	3,020	71,819
				2,775
<i>Church management and administration</i>				
Administration	32	£3,323	227	
		£3,323	227	
Total Payments	33a	£84,720	£3,020	£72,046
				£2,775
Excess of Receipts over Payments				
Bank current and deposit accounts at 1 January 2024		£557	355	
transfers into general account from other accounts	18b	£33,423	27,625	
B/F 1/1/24 plus income line 18a plus transfers in line 18b		£115,132	74,684	
transfers out of general account into other accounts	33t	£30,099	£ 2,436	
Payments line 33a plus transfers out line 33b		£114,819	£ 74,482	
Bank current and deposit accounts at 31 December 2024		£313	557	

Reserve Account		2024 restricted		2023	
		£	£	£	£
<i>Receipts</i>	trans from old restricted acct closed 31/12/23			6409	
	Restricted Donations trans from general acct		30099	2270	
	Restricted Donations trans from hall			400	
	Interest		1430	1171	
			31529	10250	
<i>Payments</i>	work completed				
	transfer to hall				
	transfer to current account		28386	17015	
			28,386	17015	
excess of receipts over payments			3143	-6765	
Bank current and deposit accounts at 1st January 2024			96925	103690	
Bank current & deposit accounts at 31st December 2024			100068	96925	

Organ Maintenance Fund restricted Account

Deposit Account 2

		2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
<i>Receipts</i>					
	Interest	34	200	166	
			137	111	
			337	277	
<i>Payments</i>					
	Work Completed	35			
Excess of receipts over payments			337	277	
<i>Transfers</i>	From general fund				
	From Reserve fund				
Bank current and deposit accounts at 1st January 2024			9465	9198	
Bank current & deposit accounts at 31st December 2024			9802	9465	

Capital Works Fund Receipts & Payments Account - Designated Fund

		2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
<i>Receipts</i>					
	Interest from CBF Deposit Fund		156	133	
<i>Payments</i>		36			
Excess of Receipts over Payments			156	133	
Bank current & deposit accounts at 1st January 2024			3042	2909	
Bank current & deposit accounts at 31st December 2024			3198	3042	

Restricted Deposit Account Hall		2024	2023
<i>Receipts</i>	Interest	904	371
	Transfers from hall	44,500	35000
	Total Receipts	45,404	35,371
<i>Payments</i>	Payments restricted items		
	Transfer to general Account		3000
	Transfer to hall account		4,148
	Transfer to Reserve		6409
	Total Payments	0	13,557
	Excess of receipts over payments	45404	21814
	Bank current account 1 January 2024	39598	17784
	Bank current account 31 December 2024	85,002	39598

Hall Account		2024	2023
<i>Receipts</i>			
	Hire Fees	52196	52771
	Grant		
	Fundraising		369
	Total Receipts	52196	53140
	Hall returnable Deposits In transfers In	12150	15731
	Grand Total	64346	73519
<i>Payments</i>	Invoices	15699	24369
	Transfer to hall reserve acct	44500	35000
	Transfer to General acct	5339	8851
	Total Payments	65538	68220
	Hall Returnable deposits out	11805	15255
	Grand Total	77343	83475
	Excess of total payments over total receipts	-13342	-10432
	Excess of Deposits in hand	345	476
	Total	-12997	-9956
	Bank Current Account 1 January 2024	16234	26190
	Bank Current Account 31 December 2024	3237	16234

Statement of assets and liabilities at 31st December 2024

	<i>General Fund</i>	<i>Restrict</i> <i>ed</i>	<i>Organ</i> <i>Fund</i>	<i>Capital Works</i>	<i>Total</i> <i>2024</i>	<i>Total</i> <i>2023</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Monetary Assets</i>						
Bank current account	313				313	557
Hall Restricted Deposit Account		85,002			85,002	39,598
Deposit Account No 2 OMF			9,802		9,802	9,465
Reserve Account		100,068			100,068	96,925
Hall Account	3,237				3,237	16,234
CBF Deposit Fund 1				3,198	3,198	3,042
Total Cash	3,550	185,070	9,802	3,198	201,620	165,821

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2024

	General	Reserve	Hall Reserve Account	Organ	CBF	Hall	Mission	Total 2024	Total 2023
Income									
Income from Donors	30,417			200		52,196		82,813	84275
Other Voluntary Income	45,611							45,611	14765
Grant	5,124							5,124	1325
Interest		1,430	904	137	156			2,627	1786
Mission							3,020	3,020	2775
Total	81,152	1,430	904	337	156	52,196	3,020	139,195	104926

Expenditure

Work of the Church	84,720					15,699		100,419	96415
Mission							3,020	3,020	2775
Total	84,720			-		15,699	3,020	103,439	99190

	General	Reserve	Hall Reserve Account	Organ	CBF	Hall	Mission	Total 2024	Total 2023
Balances 1/1/24	557	96,925	39,598	9,465	3,042	16,234		165,821	160,116
plus income	81,152	1,430	904	337	156	52,196	3,020	139,195	104,926
plus transfers in	33,423	30,099	44,500					108,022	76352
plus hall deposits in hand						345		345	476
Total	115,132	128,454	85,002	9,802	3,198	68,775	3,020	413,383	341870
minus expenditure	84,720					15,699	3,020		99,190
minus transfers out	30,099	28,386				49,839			76859
Total	114,819	28,386	-	-	-	65,538	3,020	211,763	176049
Balances 31/12/24	313	100,068	85,002	9,802	3,198	3,237	-	201,620	165821

Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St Andrew's Church, Catford.

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024 which are attached.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement


In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
- to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



14th March 2025

Name and Address

TILESBY BLACKMOR ATT
2 HAFTON ROAD
LONDON
SE6 1LP

Churchwardens' Report, St Andrew Catford

“Opening our hearts, opening our doors, serving the community”.

This annual report covers the period January to December 2024, as we entered our second year of the interregnum. Parish life continued with the support of clergy from far and wide (a total of 23 different celebrants over the interregnum) for which we were very grateful.

The Ministry Team – Nicole, Crystal, Liz and Tracie – continued to lead services, including selecting weekly hymns, visiting parishioners, preparing the weekly news sheet content and preaching. At the beginning of the year we asked parishioners to list their favourite hymns, so that we could supplement the existing hymn compendium, and maybe introduce some new hymns. In addition, the collection plate was re-introduced during the service offertory hymn, together with the sum-up machine. Life is gradually adapting post-Covid to some new and some old customs.

One of the major tasks for 2024 was to prepare for a new priest. A group of people from the Ministry Team, congregation and youth met over several months to finalise the Mission Action Plan (MAP), which highlighted three priorities: growing the youth, diversity and inclusion and outreach. This led us to the Parish Profile which was developed once again with a wide group from the parish, and a number of quotes from the pews. Our mission statement is “Opening our hearts, opening our doors, serving the community. We want St Andrew’s to be a welcoming, generous church, a place for everyone to find joy, peace and fellowship in Christ.”

Our thanks go to all involved in these projects and especially to Tom Steadman for typesetting these imaginative and eye-catching documents. Indeed, Tom has also spent many hours designing our new website, and ongoing maintenance, for which we are really grateful.

Many demanding discussions took place within the PCC regarding nominated candidates and/or job advertising for a new incumbent. The Area Dean, Bridget Shepherd, also attended a PCC meeting to assist with discussions, and it was decided that if we advertised, we would widen our remit but also allow nominated candidates to apply. Liaison with the Diocese and the Bishop allowed us to place the job advert in August. In September, the recruitment process planning, shortlisting and interviewing took place with our two parish representatives: Jacqui and Jonathan. In addition a group of people from the congregation, including the two wardens, were available for the parish visit of the shortlisted candidates. We were delighted that Rev Bec Wilkinson was appointed in November, with her collation and induction service booked to take place in January 2025.

The regular routine of parish life continued both with services and business.

Services included Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Corpus Christi, Harvest, Black History month, Nine Lessons and Carols (with thanks to Nick, our former DoM, for leading this and rehearsing the choir), Christmas Eve Children’s service (more on that later) and Midnight Mass plus the regular Sunday and midweek services. We were privileged to join our neighbouring church of St Mildred’s for a Deanery Service on Ascension Day. We also had four baptisms, five funerals and two services of thanksgiving for two much missed former members of our congregation.

Business activities included Deanery Synod meetings which were attended by our reps Chris and Fenella. Also deanery churchwardens met on Zoom and face-to-face several times, and the Ministry Team and wardens met with the former Area Dean Steve Hall, who retired in the autumn. We wish him and his wife a long, happy and healthy retirement. The wardens continued to maintain and prepare the church inventory prior to the annual parish visit and inspection by the then acting Archdeacon, Bridget. The visitation Service at Southwark Cathedral took place in June, which is

where the wardens are sworn in as church officials. It would be good to see more parishioners attend this important service.

Diversity and Unconscious Bias training took place in November, led by a team from the Diocese. There has been a lot of discussion both at the PCC meetings and in the congregation on these issues, and this is an area which will need thoughtful and honest discussion moving forward. Interviews took place for a new quinquennial architect following Bob Wilson's resignation. We were delighted to appoint Paul Jackson, who has already been involved with our QI report.

Youth in the parish also play an important part in our life at St Andrew's, with the children doing the readings and intercessions on the last Sunday of each month. Their additional sessions throughout the year have included a board game party and pizza after church in March, the fun and chaotic Easter Egg hunt on Good Friday enjoyed by all 90 children, a mosaic workshop run by Rona, a picnic over the summer, a prayer bake off and harvest feast which included making tree ornaments for the Christmas Tree Festival, culminating in the brilliant play "Christmas Calamity" at the children's Christmas Eve Service, with a superb cast of youngsters. Many thanks to Angie for producing this.

In addition, the Scout Group, which is sponsored by St Andrew's, arranged for the Beavers to complete their Gardener Badge, which included a litter pick and planting bulbs in the garden adjacent to the hall.

An additional contribution to services is the team of servers - including many young people - that are on duty several times during the month. Thanks are due to all the serving team, and in particular to Brenda, who has been training and supervising the team.

Other events that took place during the year, and in no particular order, include:

- Plant sale in June which was so successful that it sold out in the first 45 minutes!
- General Election in July at which the Hall was used as a polling station.
- Corbfest Quiz in the Hall, concerts by Hither Green Light Orchestra (HGLO) and Eltham Park Pleasant Sunday Afternoon Orchestra.
- Open House Festival for the second year which was very successful once again, including an organ recital by Nick and an interesting talk on St Andrew's architecture by Jon Wright.
- Nicole celebrated her 40 years as a Reader in October which coincided with the choral evensong detailed below. We also said farewell to Tracie.
- Visiting Choir from Bexley District Organist and Choirmasters Association (BODCA) sang choral evensong.
- The Christmas Tree Festival for the second time, which had 35 trees this year, and classes from Sandhurst and Torridon Schools visiting throughout the week, as well as choir-led carols, concerts by HGLO, Bromley Concert Band and a Quiz. Thanks to Christine and Robin for spearheading this event once again.

As we said last year, there are too many people to mention by name, but thanks are due nonetheless to so many of you, that keep the church and hall running smoothly, maintaining the structure, contributing to services and attending in all ways, regularly and with passion. You all know who you are, and we thank you enormously for your support.

During 2024 we said goodbye to Len Patching in May and Christine Callow in September, and held two thanksgiving services for their lives. May they rest in peace.

We also said adieu to Max Marsh, Hannah and Cecilia as they take up their new life in the Diocese of Derby. Bridget Shepherd has been appointed as the new Archdeacon of Wandsworth, and Alastair Cutting appointed as the new Bishop of Woolwich. All of these people have been a great help to us during the interregnum, and we wish them well with their new appointments.

And now to the future: we have welcomed our new priest, Rev Bec, at a lovely collation and induction service in January 2025 – more of that in next year's report, no doubt. We look to consolidating our MAP over the next couple of years, under the guidance of our new priest, and to continue worshipping God to the best of our ability moving forward.

Churchwardens Zanna Bloomfield and Richard Elliott.

Stewards Report and Election of Stewards 2025

On behalf of the parish I'd like to say a big thank you, as always, to all the stewards who gave of their time and effort in the past year. Your efforts are always very much appreciated.

There have been no changes to stewards from last year. If anyone would like to join us, we can always use more volunteers.

At the time of writing these are the people who wish to stand for election for the post of steward for the coming year:

Hillrett Bradshaw	Nyewuna Chukwu	Brian Craggs	Janette Cunliffe
Norma Dixon	Sandra Fuller	John Goodwin	Angela Howe
John Lee	Diane Nolan	Sharon Richards	

Stewards duties generally come round roughly every four weeks on a Sunday morning, with requests for volunteers for any extra services. The more stewards we have, the longer the gap between duties.

The duties of a steward are many and varied. If you are curious to find out more, please speak to myself or any of the existing stewards. Asking for information does not automatically commit you.

Please give this some thought, it's not onerous but is a valuable service.

Any of our younger people from the congregation would be welcome to serve as a steward. Any young volunteers would be included on the stewarding rota alongside our adult stewards and would assist on a regular basis.

Janette Cunliffe
Steward

Electoral Roll Report 2025

Under the Church Representation Rules, every 6 years all Parishes in the Church of England are required to 'tear up' their Electoral Roll and compile a new one starting with a blank page.

This process, having been undertaken here at S. Andrew's, has resulted in 84 persons joining our Electoral Roll, of which 58 are female, 26 male, 52 live in the Parish and 32 live outside the Parish. The total number on our last Electoral Roll was 70.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those here at S. Andrew's who have assisted in the completion of this task.

John Goodwin
Electoral Roll Officer

FREE WILL OFFERING AND GIFT AID REPORT FOR 2024

First, a big thank you to all those who have continued to support St Andrew's and our work in the past year, both financially and in giving of their time and talents. Bishop Christopher wrote to all parishes in January expressing his thanks and appreciation for the contributions so many parishioners generously and often sacrificially give to fulfil their parish pledges.

As always, this report concentrates on planned financial giving through the weekly offering scheme envelopes, by regular bank transfers/standing orders, or by gift aid envelopes.

For this time only, I have included some previous years' figures for comparison.

Statistics for 2024 (c.f. 2023 in brackets)

Weekly envelopes

No. of givers	10 (10)
Number gift-aiding	3 (3)

Standing orders

No. of givers	34 (39)
Number gift-aiding	27 (32)

Gift aid envelopes

No. of regular and occasional users 3 (5)*
(*some also giving regularly by other methods)

Money (rounded to nearest £)

Income from the above sources	£30,278 (£32,216)
Amount qualifying for gift-aid	£23,603 (£26,308)

Commentary

Both the number of people and the amount received from planned giving by these traditional means has continued to decline. This reflects people having moved and left St Andrew's and those who have sadly died. In recent years it has been affected by changes in methods of giving as we head more towards a cashless society and in the wake of Covid, and by changes in the number and type of special events.

These changes not only affect our direct income but also reduce the amount we can reclaim from HMRC in Gift Aid.

Gift Aid

Gift Aid received for donations in recent years (rounded)

2022	£7,382
2023	£6,652
2024	£5,901 (expected on qualifying income from the above sources; claim yet to be finalised)

Gift aid can also be reclaimed from payments made using the sum-up machine but only where the donor can be identified and has signed a gift aid form. In practice, identifying qualifying donations may be difficult, and the additional gift aid we have recovered is relatively small (£75 for 2023). The sum-up machine is a very convenient way of making donations but please bear in mind that it is more complicated for gift aid which cannot be claimed on anonymous or unidentifiable payments.

We receive a top-up payment from HMRC for small cash or card donations that are not gift-aided but there are strict rules on what we can claim. It is very useful extra income – £1,726 for 2022/23 – in relation to such donations, but not really as a substitute for gift aid on large sums or regular committed giving. It is entirely a personal decision whether an individual wants us to reclaim tax on their donations, but if you do, please consider completing a gift aid form and make sure your donations can be clearly identified, rather than relying on the top-up arrangements. The only qualification is that you must have paid sufficient tax to cover the amount reclaimed by us (and any other organisations to whom you gift aid). This equates to a quarter of your donation(s) at current tax rates. I am happy to give confidential advice on this.

Please do not hesitate to speak to me in private if you have any questions about planned giving or gift aid.

Keith Bloomfield

Deanery Synod Annual Report 2024-2025

The East Lewisham Deanery Synod

In the Church of England, a Deanery Synod is a synod convened by the Rural Dean (or Area Dean) and/or the Joint Lay Chair of the Deanery Synod, who is elected by lay members. The Deanery consists of all clergy licensed to a benefice within the Deanery, plus elected lay members elected by church members on the electoral roll.

The Deanery Synod of East Lewisham is made up of 16 Anglican churches and includes St Andrews Catford. Our Area Dean is the Reverend Bridget Shepherd, and Clare Dowding is the Deanery Synod Secretary.

The elected lay members are made up from the congregation of each of the churches of the Deanery and they usually attend 3 meetings a year where we discuss matters concerning our deanery as well as the Anglican Church at large.

The Deanery Synod met on three occasions this year. At each meeting the Deanery are updated on all the East Lewisham area news and notices and then we consider a key issue that impacts our Churches or issues and challenges that the wider society is facing. Discussions take place on how our Churches together can work together to address or tackle these challenges.

Below is a summary of the key issues that were discussed at each meeting over this last year.

18th June 2024

Presentation from the Southwark Diocese Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Team

Members of the Southwark Diocese Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Team attended the meeting to give a presentation on the work of the Team in general and then specifically about Operation Forgiveness, a project working with young people in schools and in the community to encourage young people to stop carrying knives.

The team covers issues such as homelessness, poverty, modern slavery, work with older people, etc (see <https://southwark.anglican.org/mission-ministry/faith-in-action/justice-peace-and-integrity-of-creation/> for more information). They are affiliated with the Synergy Network (which also includes the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark, London City Mission, and Street Pastors), which works to end serious youth violence in this country (see <https://wearesynergy.org.uk/>). Amongst other work, they are engaging with the Home Office on responses to knife crime and youth violence – where they can, they use their voices to amplify the issue, and to seek resources to help.

Operation Forgiveness - (<https://www.operationforgiveness.org.uk/about/>) is an outreach programme that works with young people involved in gangs or at risk of

being involved in gangs. Their approach builds on the personal experience of the Programme Director's whose young brother in law was a victim of knife crime at 15 years old in 2010. The programme is delivered in schools and other settings. There are materials that have been approved for use by community workers and others working with young people in this area.

The discussion that followed centred on why the church needs to get involved in youth violence prevention and what can the church do to assist in this work. In summary the feedback was that the Church needs to listen to what young people are saying about knife violence otherwise if the Church doesn't cover these issues then the Church risks being seen as not relevant or not interested in the issues that are of interest to young people. The Church also needs to engage wider family members and the community because when a young person becomes a victim of knife crime the ripples impact on and affect more than just the young person and their family.

If anyone wants to follow up on the work of the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Team then contact the following via email -

Natalie.Walters@southwark.anglican.org, and
Jason.OShea@southwark.anglican.org.

9th October 2024

Presentation on the Diocesan Investment Programme

The Archdeacon of Southwark, The Venerable Jonathan Sedgwick, gave a presentation setting out the programmes and projects that will be delivered as part of the Diocesan Investment Programme following the successful bid to the Diocese National Church for £29m over the next nine years. The projects that will be delivered all link back (as part of the Golden Thread) to the six priorities in the Diocesan Vision.

The six priorities of the Diocesan Vision include:-

- Growth
- Youth and Diversity
- Deepening our discipleship
- Ministry
- Parishes
- Healing

The presentation summarised the six main projects and set out how churches can apply to be involved. There is a strong emphasis on collaboration between churches to deliver projects jointly, a shift of structures to things like "bubble church" and funding to support projects on young people and training the workers supporting young people. The six project areas are:-

- *Fresh Expression & Innovation Grants*: it's already possible for parishes to apply for up to £10,000 a year, and 'Fresh Expression' can be interpreted in different ways for different circumstances. The DIP grants are in addition to this, to be awarded every three years; the 'Bubble Church' in Balham was the first, and this is now being rolled out elsewhere – this was originally an Evangelical idea, but it's now being picked up in the Catholic tradition as well.

- *Parish Development & Renewal Programme*: this is a two-year programme, with groups from neighbouring parishes working together to find the most effective way of doing what's wanted in their situation – the ideas are coming from the parishes themselves, not from the Diocese centrally (this is building on a project the Revd Jeremy Clark-King had experience of in Canada).
- *Apprenticeship-style Training Scheme*: the focus here is on Children & Young People's workers, who will be employed by the Diocese. Inevitably they will have to be placed in parishes where there is existing youth work, but in due course these people can then build up work elsewhere. The hope is that this scheme will help to encourage educational diversity in ministry of different kinds.
- *Local CYP Missional Practitioners*: this funding will help existing CYP workers to work in places where youth work is not so well-established. There will be more information at the Children, Young People & Families ministry conference on 9 November (see <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/small-changes-big-impact-children-youth-families-ministry-conference-tickets-1008233021107> for information).
- *Research on Diversity in Lay and Ordained Vocations*: amongst other things, the Diocese wants to understand the barriers in the vocations processes which are present for those of Global Majority Heritage.
- *New Hub and Resourcing Churches*: this will share experiences and resources across traditions (not just in HTB models) – the money will go to a less-well-resourced church which is being paired with a church which already has good resources. This may involve the more traditionally-understood model of church planting, but nothing will be imposed from on high. It's important to understand that this will all take some years, and there are no magic bullets, but there is much that is very good already to build on.

The discussion that followed sought to gain views on what the Deanery felt were exciting and positive in terms of the six project areas and what they were concerned about. Overall the meeting felt the opportunities to work across churches and share expertise and experience was to be welcomed and the apprenticeship scheme would be great for our church schools.

However there was concern about time and money being spent on Global Majority Heritage barriers (Project 5) when a report, 'From Lament to Action' ([From Lament to Action: Archbishops' Anti-Racism Taskforce calls for urgent changes to culture of Church of England | The Church of England](#)) already exists. There was also concern that the new ways of working all seemed very exciting and positive but it would require a culture change across the church structure as currently most Church reps tend to be very loyal to their parish and getting them to spend time working across a number of parishes in a way which may benefit the wider Synod area but not a specific church may take time to implement.

27th February 2025

Presentation on Modern Slavery

The Diocese Modern Slavery Advisors gave a presentation on Modern Slavery. The presentation aimed to raise awareness and to flag that modern slavery is taking place right here and right now. The Deanery were encouraged to report situations

where we suspect modern slavery is taking place. The presentation informed the group as to how Modern Slavery now works, eg people begging on trains or on the streets don't often keep the money they are given, it is usually passed on to someone else who controls them.

The numbers are staggering, 50 million people in the world, (roughly the population of Spain) and it is estimated that there is an average of 1000 victims of modern slavery in each deanery in our Diocese today.

Information was shared on how to report any concerns through the Modern Slavery Helpline which can be done anonymously. A team called Southwark Against Modern Slavery can offer advice, training and information and there are materials available for church members.

The outcome of the discussion that followed included a suggestion that awareness of modern slavery should be a mandatory module of the Southwark Safeguarding training course (currently optional).

The full set of meeting papers for the three meetings referenced in this report are available on request from myself or the Deanery Synod Secretary. I am also happy to provide any additional information and clarification at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 11th May 2025.

Fenella Beckman
Deanery Synod Representative

Safeguarding at St Andrew the Apostle, Catford

Report for Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Sunday 11 May 2025

Introduction

1. A Safe Church is a manual containing the Diocesan policies, procedures and guidelines for safeguarding children, safeguarding adults who may be vulnerable, and responding to domestic abuse. The PCC first adopted Diocesan safeguarding policies and procedures, as set out in A Safe Church, on 13 October 2009.

2. This means that at St Andrew's we are committed to promoting and supporting environments which:

for children and young people

- are youth and child-friendly and nurture their positive development
- enable children and young people to be active contributors to the church community
- protect children and young people from actual or potential harm

for adults who may be vulnerable

- ensure that all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse
- encourage adults who may be vulnerable to lead as independent a life as possible, to choose how to lead their life, and to be active contributors to the church community
- protect adults who may be vulnerable from actual or potential harm
- for those experiencing domestic abuse
- recognise equality amongst people and within relationships
- refuse to condone any form of abuse
- protect those vulnerable to domestic abuse from actual and potential harm

and for all people

- enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to openly and consistently

Responsibility for Safeguarding at St Andrews

3. Responsibility for implementing Diocesan safeguarding policies and procedures is shared between all members of the PCC, Rev Rebecca Wilkinson, (St Andrew's Priest), Zanna Bloomfield and Richard Elliott (Churchwardens), and Jacqueline Joseph-Grotefeld, the PCC appointed Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO). Safeguarding is also an important part of the work of the Children and Young People and Hall Management sub-groups of the PCC.

4. All members of the congregation have a role to play in helping St Andrew's to be a safe church and are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the parish safeguarding poster which sets out what action should be taken in the event of a safeguarding concern. The poster contains contact details for the parish safeguarding officer, the Diocesan Safeguarding Team, and emergency contact details for the police and children and adult social care in Lewisham. The poster can be found on

the noticeboard by the tea point at the back of church; another is on a noticeboard in the Hall.

Safeguarding Audit

5. In 2025, the Diocese asked all parishes to undertake a Safeguarding Self Audit. St Andrew's Church successfully completed the detailed audit which consisted of 58 questions.

By completing the audit, this showed that, as a church, we have made progress in implementing policies and procedures but still have some way to go in being fully compliant.

We have an action plan and our goal is to follow the points in the plan to ensure that St Andrew's Church is fully compliant, in respect to Safeguarding issues, as soon as possible.

Safeguarding Training

6. All members of the PCC should have a basic knowledge of safeguarding issues. In order to achieve this, the Basic Awareness Course, which appears on the Church of England's National Safeguarding website, should be undertaken. Members of the PCC who already have an account, should log into the Church of England's Safeguarding Training Portal. In the event that a member of the PCC does not already have an account, each member of the PCC will need to create an account by clicking on the link at the following address: <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/login/signup.php>

The registration process involves entering a few personal details and requires an email address that hasn't previously been used to create an account on the site. (If only a shared email address is available for use, then this can be worked around as outlined in the "I share an email address..." [item of the FAQ](#)).

Once registration has been completed, a confirmation email will be sent containing a link that needs to be followed to activate the account. The contact details shown on the website should be used, as soon as possible, if the confirmatory email doesn't arrive within an hour of registration taking place. (Accounts that remain unconfirmed for seven days are automatically cleared from the system).

After the confirmatory email has been sent, the training will then be accessible under the "Courses" menu.

Each PCC member should let the PSO know that they have successfully completed the Basic Awareness Course. **For people who are new members of the PCC, or for existing members of the PCC, who are yet to conduct the course, completion of the course should be conducted as soon as possible and no later than 30 June 2025.**

A Safe Church

7. This contains all Diocesan safeguarding policies and procedures and can be found online here: <http://southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/diocesan-policies-and-procedures>

8. Parishioners can find a hard copy of the updated manual on the bookcase outside the Sacristy.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks for PCC Members

9. As of 2 February 2023, the Diocese has updated the Confidential Declaration and Privacy Notice Forms which are used with DBS applications. The updated versions of the forms must also be used for enhanced DBS checks.

**Jacqueline Joseph-Grotefeld
Parish Safeguarding Officer
St Andrew the Apostle, Catford**

The group's purpose has been to:

- Build community and fellowship in the church – developing new opportunities for church members to take an active role in our worship and wider church life.
- Help make St Andrew's a welcoming place for new and existing members and to build a sense of belonging.
- Promote and co-ordinate giving in the church: encouraging regular financial giving but also giving of time and talents.
- Co-ordinate and encourage charitable giving within the church community.
- Develop ways for St Andrew's to be visible and active in the local community, beyond the church gates.

Charitable Giving

Along with our regular giving to Lewisham Foodbank, St Andrew's is supporting these charities as part of our charitable giving until 2026.

- **The Lewisham Bank of Things** - continuing to build on our longstanding relationship with this local charity which has had a substantial impact on the lives of young people in the Borough.
- **Mission Aviation Fellowship** - MAF is a Christian humanitarian organisation which works across Africa, Asia and South America, providing relief and medical support through a network of light aircraft to otherwise inaccessible communities.

What's next?

This committee has been largely inactive this past year, as its Chair stepped down. After the APCM, the new PCC, led by Rev Bec, will rethink the committee's remit and purpose, considering how it might be reorganised going forward as well as seeking new leadership for it.

Emily Steadman
PCC Secretary

Finance & General Purposes Committee Report

Overview

At the heart of the Finance & General Purpose Committee's remit is the care and maintenance of our church building, both internally and externally, with a focus on implementing the recommendations of the latest Quinquennial Inspection Report (QIR). The F&GP also receives finance updates, liaises with our insurers, plans building-related projects, researches contractors, solutions and fundraising opportunities, and supervises works. Every effort is made by this six-person committee to preserve the integrity of our Grade II* building and its fabric, while at the same time considering how the building can be adapted to meet new needs.

For a comprehensive account of the present condition of the church building and the work undertaken during the year to maintain it, please see the **Churchwardens' Report on the Fabric and Ornaments**. The report below will summarise the issues that claimed the committee's attention in 2024. The F&GP met eight times during the period.

Planning and supervision of roof repairs

Organisation of emergency repairs on 9 February 2024 and successful insurance claim. The work was carried out by Rodells Steeplejacks Ltd, who were called back towards the end of the year to replace defective tiles and repoint lead flashings on the south side of the church.

In June and July 2024, scaffolding was erected on the south side and then the north side of the church from which Catchesides carried out reasonably extensive roof works to both transepts and to the aisle buttresses on the south side. This solved the leaks mentioned in last year's F&GP report to the APCM and familiar to us all.

Appointment of new Quinquennial Inspector/Church Architect

Our longstanding Quinquennial Inspector Bob Wilson resigned at the end of February 2024. We spoke to a number of architects and surveyors before drawing up a shortlist in consultation with the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC). In mid-July, three candidates were shown around St Andrew's and interviewed by members of the F&GP including the two Churchwardens. Accredited conservation architect Paul Jackson, who looks after a number of other churches including St Pauls, Covent Garden, was appointed with the approval of the DAC in August. Paul will carry out our next Quinquennial Inspection in 2027 and, in the meantime, advise St Andrew's on its higher-profile repair projects.

Buttress slippage and site investigations

Within the context of our insurance claim for subsidence, site investigations began in July 2024 and continued periodically until January 2025. The work involved CCTV drain surveys and the excavation of trial holes to examine the church foundations. While the investigations were paid for by our insurers, all damage – to the building itself as well as to the drains – has been

declined. We have, however, been advised that a separate insurance claim for the drain repairs, which will be made soon, stands a good chance of being accepted.

Masonry consolidation works aimed at arresting the north-side buttress shift and preventing any further damage are expected to begin shortly, having been in the planning for two years, during which structural engineering reports were commissioned and List B permission sought from the DAC. These works will be supervised by our new Quinquennial Inspector/Church Architect Paul Jackson. Investigations continue into the problem of cracked brickwork in the South Transept.

Forward planning

With an eye on the Diocese of Southwark's Net Zero 2035 ambition, detailed work continued during the year on a renewable energy project involving the installation of PVT panels on the south slope of the church roof. This has entailed a great deal of technical planning and research, for which special thanks are due to Trevor Jarvis. Meetings have been held during the year with commercial specialists such as NIBE, Elite Renewables and Better Planet Ltd, and in December with the Diocesan Net Zero Manager and Diocesan Environmental Officer. We have now reached the point where we need to decide between this comprehensive scheme and a lighter, easier-to-implement alternative based on traditional solar panels. We have consulted the relevant Diocesan departments inconclusively on this and the next step will be to solicit an independent expert opinion. Further research on costs and the grant-funding landscape for renewable energy projects is also now needed. Consideration has been given to the Give To Go Green match-funding scheme for smaller-scale environmental projects and we will try to be in a position to apply for a grant this year.

In view of the steady deterioration of our stained-glass windows, we have approached an accredited expert to carry out a condition inspection, which we hope will take place in the near future. It is also hoped that we will then be able to apply for a Church Care Grant and other funding.

There is much work to be done before our 2027 Quinquennial Inspection. The F&GP draws up an annual Maintenance Plan to address all building-related issues in order of priority. In addition to the buttress slippage repairs, this year's plan includes the drain repairs mentioned above, the refurbishment of rainwater goods and gullies, further masonry and repointing works, relaying the church's tarmac paths and inspecting the internal roof structure.

I would like to thank the committee members for their hard work and dedication throughout 2024 and to all others who supported the F&GP's work, not forgetting the St A Team for its routine maintenance and regular tidying of the church grounds.

Richard Elliott, F&GP Chair, April 2025

Children and Young People committee APCM report 2025

The Children and Young People (C&YP) committee supports St. Andrew's community of children and young people to grow in their faith and have fun while doing it.

Sunday School

Sunday School continues the first Sunday of each month, with many thanks to the Sunday School leaders who provide their support. We are always on the lookout for new leaders – if this could be you, please get in touch: youth@standrewcatford.com or speak to Angie.

Participation in the liturgy

The children and young people continue to participate in Sunday services through the readings and the intercessions on the last Sunday of the month. Brenda leads the older children and young people in serving, which has been enthusiastically welcomed. While currently none of the young people steward, this opportunity is available, with thanks to Janette for facilitating.

Christmas Eve Children's Service

Many of the Sunday School children dazzled a packed house at the Christmas Eve children's service with their play 'The Christmas Calamity'. Many thanks to Gill, who coordinated an invitation to our uniformed groups to participate in the play. We had two Rainbows and one Scout take part in the play, and received lots of positive feedback. Thank you to Crystal for accommodating the play within the service, to everyone who donated props, to the parents who endured much rehearsing, and to the behind-the-scenes cast of characters who made it happen!

Children and Young People activities

A variety of activities have been held over the past year, including:

- Mosaic making, expertly led by Rona, where young people created beautiful mosaics.
- Thanksgiving Potluck, where we gathered to thank God for good food and friends! We also made baubles to decorate the Sunday School tree at the Christmas Tree Festival. This year's tree theme was 'Harry Potter'.
- Games Party, with a selection of games to play and (importantly) pizza to eat.
- Easter Trail, complete with a mystery for older children to solve and challenges for younger children, craft activity, Resurrection Garden, and refreshments.

Thanks to the army of volunteers who have made the above possible, and the fantastic Sunday School parents who are so supportive of these activities.

Kids' Council

Rev Bec has introduced a Kids' Council, which will convene once a quarter after the Sunday service. Children and young people will have the opportunity to discuss a question relevant to parish life, as a way for their voices to be heard on parish matters that concern them. Kid's Council met for the first time on 2 March, with lots of views and suggestions by the young people.

With Rev Bec's guidance, over the coming year we hope to build on the above with more activities and opportunities for children and young people to get involved in parish life.

Angie Thompson, CYP Chair

New Website development

In the spring of 2024, it was determined that St Andrew's needed a new website.

The new site was previously built using WordPress and it was decided to stay with this platform and update the look and content to make it more contemporary, relevant, and easy to use while also showcasing St Andrew's more clearly in the community, introduce a St Andrew's 'brand' and make the website more useful to the parish.

Work started in February 2024 and the new website went live in May 2024.

As well as our own standalone website, the St Andrew's 'Church Near You' website has also been updated with the latest information and up-to-date emails and contact details.

Future development:

- A downloadable and online gift aid form
- Team-specific pages with private access if needed
- Recordings of services as downloadable 'podcast' episodes to increase the accessibility of the church and website.

Web Hosting

In November 2024 the website host Catbytes decided to stop their hosting business so we moved to Hostinger. The migration was completed in September 2024. This not only allowed us to save money on hosting but also meant we could set up some St Andrew's specific emails.

@standrewcatford.com emails means people do not have to use personal email addresses, helping with consistency of messaging from St Andrew's as well as futureproofing these accounts when new people take over church roles.

The Domain registration is still with 123-Reg and lasts until 26th June 2026. At that time, we may look to transfer Domain hosting to Hostinger as well.

Website statistics overview

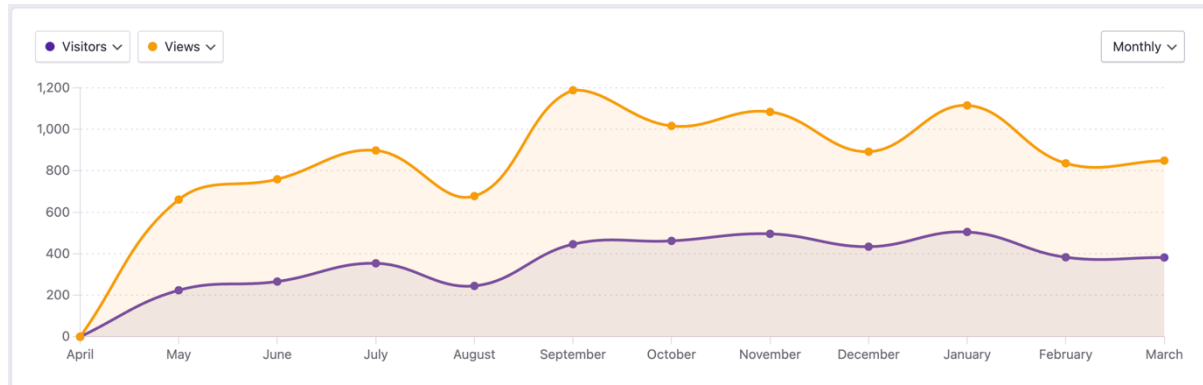
- We continue to see steady usage of the website with a slow trend upwards since launch at the beginning of May 2024
- Activity generally peaks on Friday and Saturday just after the newsletter is published.
- We have an average view count on the website of 831/month
- Some headlines. Since the launch, we have had:
 - 9976 views from 5437 unique visitors
 - Our top two pages are 'Hall Hire' (3068 views) and 'Home' (2817 views), with 'About Us' third (738 views).
 - Our top search engine referrer is Google with 5254 out of 5835 referrals, making it 90% of the search traffic
 - Facebook continues to be our top social media referrer with 135 of 137 referrals.
 - Our top three growth pages are Safeguarding (85%), Children and Youth (55%) and About Us (50%)

Detailed breakdown of the website statistics can be found on the following pages. All stats are from 1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025

WEBSITE REPORT | 2024 - 2025

Website views statistics

<p>Visitors</p> <p>4,112</p> <p>↗ 0% vs. previous period</p>	<p>Views</p> <p>9,976</p> <p>↗ 0% vs. previous period</p>
<p>Sessions</p> <p>5,437</p> <p>↗ 0% vs. previous period</p>	<p>Average Session Duration</p> <p>2:45</p> <p>↗ 0% vs. previous period</p>
<p>Bounce Rate</p> <p>61%</p> <p>↗ 0% vs. previous period</p>	<p>Views Per Session</p> <p>1.83</p> <p>↗ 0% vs. previous period</p>

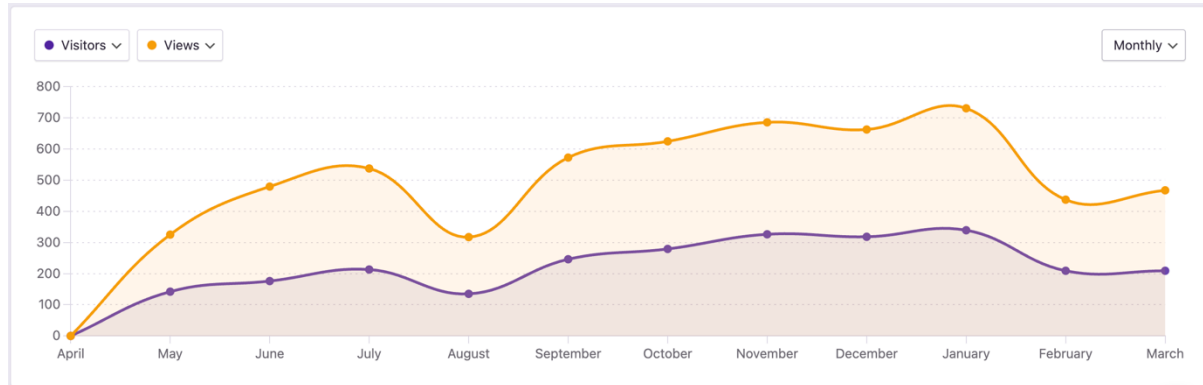


Title	Visitors	Views	View Duration	Bounce Rate	URL	Page Type
Hall Hire	2081	3068	1:39	54.7448	/hall-hire/	Page
Home	1920	2817	0:55	44.2225	/	Page
About Us	563	738	1:13	19.2063	/about-us/	Page
What's On	541	721	1:14	50.2276	/whats-on/	Page
Hall Hire enquiry form	447	550	3:05	15.2	/hall-hire-enquiry-form/	Page
Services	403	504	1:09	13.8702	/services/	Page
Find Us	402	473	1:26	13.3484	/find-us/	Page
Life Events	242	300	1:12	9.434	/life-events/	Page
Giving	133	215	1:43	44.5055	/giving/	Page
Children and Youth	98	111	0:41	18.8679	/children-and-youth/	Page
Church History	85	100	2:09	18.8889	/church-history/	Page
Stained Glass	46	49	2:05	43.75	/stained-glass/	Page
Safeguarding	41	49	0:24	7.1429	/safeguarding/	Page
Church Organ	39	44	1:05	29.2683	/church-organ/	Page
Privacy Policy	16	21	0:17	55	/privacy-policy/	Page
Safeguarding	9	19	2:03	20	/safeguarding/	Page
Broadcasts	5	5	0:17	80	/broadcasts/	Page
Easter Newsletter	2	2	1:08	0	/easter-newsletter/	Post
Search: "concert"	2	4	0:36	0	/search/concert/	Search
Church Calendar	1	1	0:57	0	/category/church-calendar/	Category
Holy Week & Pick up a Palm Cross	1	1	0:13	0	/pick-up-a-palm-cross/	Post
Newsletter	1	1	0:07	0	/category/newsletter/	Category
Search: "Car parking at church?"	1	1	0:10	0	/search/Car+parking+at+church%3F/	Search
Search: "Christmas fare"	1	2	-	50	/search/Christmas+fare/	Search
Stabat Mater	1	1	-	100	/stabat-mater/	Post

WEBSITE REPORT | 2024 - 2025

Search Engine referrals statistics

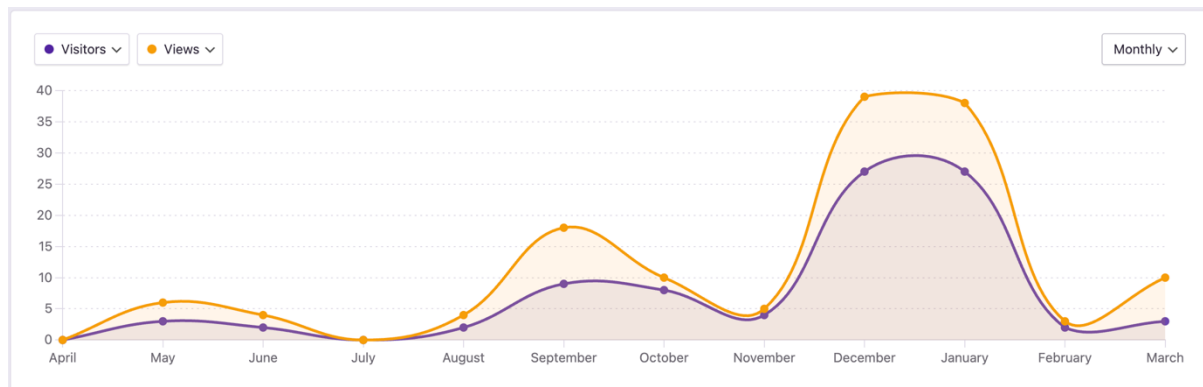
Visitors 2,556 / 4,112 ↗ 0% vs. previous period	Views 5,835 / 9,976 ↗ 0% vs. previous period	Sessions 2,991 / 5,437 ↗ 0% vs. previous period
Average Session Duration 2:23 / 2:45 ↗ 0% vs. previous period	Bounce Rate 55% / 61% ↗ 0% vs. previous period	Views Per Session 1.95 / 1.83 ↗ 0% vs. previous period



Rank	Referrer	Referrer Type	Visitors	Views	Session Duration	Bounce Rate
1	Google	Search	2,369 (92.68%)	5,254 (90.04%)	2:24	56%
2	Bing	Search	108 (4.23%)	306 (5.24%)	1:48	38%
3	DuckDuckGo	Search	37 (1.45%)	139 (2.38%)	3:05	33%
4	Yahoo	Search	25 (0.98%)	71 (1.22%)	2:09	43%
5	Ecosia	Search	16 (0.63%)	58 (0.99%)	2:50	42%
6	Brave	Search	3 (0.12%)	7 (0.12%)	4:47	33%

Social referrals statistics

Rank	Referrer	Referrer Type	Visitors	Views	Session Duration	Bounce Rate
1	Facebook	Social	85 (98.84%)	135 (98.54%)	1:09	70%
2	Instagram	Social	1 (1.16%)	2 (1.46%)	0:09	0%



SOCIAL MEDIA APCM REPORT

Aside from our successful website, Facebook continues to be our main online platform for publicity and communications with our community.

Some stats

- During April and Holy Week, our activity reached over 7,722 views, 3/4 of those followers, but 25% non-followers.
- A number of new followers - 10 in April alone.
- The page has 551 'likes' with 643 'followers' (up considerably from last year)
- 75.7k views in the past year with 15.7k of those being unique visitors, and 2.5k interactions with our posts (likes or comments)
- Each post gets between 400-700+ views
- Admins are Nicole Burgum, Crystal Callow and now Rev Bec Wilkinson. Richard Elliott.

Facebook continues to be an essential and integral tool for the church to communicate with our local community and wider.

We are not active on Instagram nor any other social media platforms – any volunteers to do this would be welcome!

Crystal Callow
April 2025

HALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – APCM REPORT 2025

ANNEXE

Discussions are taking place regarding the future use of the Annexe. Any proposals, no matter how vague, will be presented to the PCC however, the scale of the project and the sums involved are quite daunting. It is hoped that further progress will be made in 2025, and to arrive at a definitive solution for a problem that has been avoided for the last 20 years.

HALL USE

The lucrative contract with Plus Services finished at Christmas. The church has benefitted from an annual income of £39,000 for the last two and a half years but will now have to rely on the intermittent hires.

The HEC is working on increasing, usage and improving data analysis to identify opportunities.

Financial information for the hall is contained in the church Accounts for 2024.

MAINTENANCE

It is hoped to be able to redecorate the hall areas in 2025 whilst they are not so heavily used. They are showing signs of wear but the overall condition is good despite 8 years of intensive use.

FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

Following the FRA report in 2024 work such as the addition of more call points and alarms have been completed.

Regular testing and inspections continue.

EVENTS 2025

The Hall is used almost every month for a church or community event, which will include a fundraising element on each occasion.

We would encourage all of the congregation to consider if they would like to use the hall for an event of any kind that would benefit church and community. The HEC will offer their total support.

GARDEN

Phase 1 has been completed and many have complimented on the growth so far. 'Phase 2' has started with the intention of creating an area of herbs and vegetables and to encourage

a Growing Club, especially for younger people such as the Beavers, although all will be invited to join.

We have just benefitted from a generous donation from a member of the congregation that will enable all areas to be completed and planted this year.

Although not actually part of the garden project, and following the hoped for replacement side gates, it would be nice to feel a sense of completion and continue the works to provide a secure area for recreation called, in Monty Don style, The South Garden. This can be done relatively economically but, again, it would provide a space where, perhaps with a small greenhouse, plants could be grown and, following a suggestion from a member of the congregation there could even be a 'Men's Shed', which have proved very successful in other areas as a place where men could meet.

Robin Maggs, HEC Secretary