

# THE ANNUAL REPORT



**St. Andrew's Church**  
HIGH WYCOMBE

[www.standrewshw.co.uk](http://www.standrewshw.co.uk)

Hatters Lane, High Wycombe, HP13 7NJ

2023

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1 INTRODUCTION
- 2 REACHING OUT
- 3 DISCIPLESHIP AND EQUIPPING
- 4 CHILDREN AND YOUTH
- 5 BEHIND THE SCENES





# INTRODUCTION

1

It is great to pause, reflect and thank God for all that he has been doing amongst us over the last year. We continue to push into our vision to Reach, Equip and Resource our church and serve our town.

## MISSIONAL COMMUNITIES

Over the last year we have started three new Missional Communities which have a goal to help us to better live out our mission in the world. Our aim is to learn to live out our everyday lives as extended family on mission. Each community has a specific missional focus, led by a core team of leaders meeting throughout the month to build deep community, make disciples and reach out in real and relevant ways to those they hope to reach.

## INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION

We are really privileged to have such a wonderful number of young families and young people that make up our church family. Our vision is for all ages to be part of the church community. However, during certain seasons in the life of the church we see a real growth in one part of the church. We have seen that our ongoing investment in our Children and Youth ministry is really seeing fruit and we celebrate what God is doing in this area and we do thank all those who give of their time and energy by investing in the rising generation in this way.

## THE WELL

With so many in our community struggling with anxiety, pressures and other issues around mental health it has been so encouraging to see the growth of the Well, as we reach out a helping hand to stand with those who need our help. Renew space continues to offer a place of solace and encouragement. We also have grown our affordable, quality counselling supporting individuals experiencing a range of problems.



## DEEPER IN PRAYER AND WORSHIP

As we gather to pray and to worship, we have really experienced a deeper sense of God's presence amongst us. Our prayer life has grown with creative and different ways to draw near to God. Our worship teams have led us deeper into encounter during our Sunday celebration with a growing space to pray and minister to one another.

## GROWING CHURCH

Over the last year we have seen a growing number of people joining the church across all ages. In the Autumn we had an encouraging Alpha course with a good number exploring the Christian faith. As we begin the new year, our Sunday morning celebrations have shown real signs of continued growth in numbers across all our ages.

## NEXUS

The Nexus Project has continued to move forward with the aim of redeveloping the entrance area, including moving the offices, kitchen and creche. There have been a number of delays around getting a Faculty from the Diocese and having to change the scope of the projects as prices have increased. We now have over two thirds towards our budget of £950k and are waiting to hear from other grant providers. We hope to begin the building works over the summer of 2024.



# CHURCH FAMILY

We have enjoyed spending time together with two picnics on the Rye with great numbers having fun, eating and playing games together. At New Wine's summer conference in Dettling, we took over 50 people as we joined with thousands from across the UK for great worship, teaching, ministry and growing community.



We welcomed onto the church staff, Liezl de Wouters, Dawn D'Silva, Jamie Mitchell and James McInerney in early 2024. We also said goodbye to some key members of the church staff team including Lydia Cook, Kat Aboud, our cleaner Glenda Derby and a longstanding member of our buildings team, Roy Tarr.

We continue our journey as a church to be God's transforming presence in Wycombe and beyond and we do want to thank all those who support, pray and give so generously of themselves as part of the body of Christ.



**SIMON AND  
DEBBIE DUST** LEAD  
PASTORS



# REACHING OUT

St Andrew's has continued to Reach Out in many ways to people in different life stages as well as those finding themselves struggling in life.

In January we had a **Comedy Night** with Paul Kerensa. It was a wonderful evening with nearly **150 people** in attendance. The evening had two aims: one, to launch the upcoming Alpha course and two, to act as a positive event close to the so-called Blue Monday and be a step in inviting those who don't normally attend church to a low-key event. The event served well in connecting with those outside church with around half the people being church members and the other half coming from the community.

The **Family Support Group** enabled **15 mums** facing additional challenges, who felt overwhelmed in life to find support, friendship and learn new skills to help them and their families thrive. Sessions have varied from tools to help your mental health, healthy family meals, problem solving, parenting skills, budgeting, craft and self-defence. The group enjoyed a great summer trip to Hobbledown Heath.

## QUOTES FROM THE MUMS:

'This group helps me with my mental health'

'It's a place I feel supported and not judged'



'I learn a lot that helped me and my children be in a stronger place'

'It helps me not to be so isolated as I made friends in the group'

**St Andrew's Playgroup** started 20 plus years ago running 3 mornings a week - we now offer 3 mornings and 2 full days and hope to increase to 5 full days soon. We have five permanent members of staff (four have been there over 17 years) and one additional, temporary member. We had an Ofsted inspection in September 2023 and we were delighted to maintain our rating of "Good". It has been great to have Chris Coyston building links with playgroup and coming in each week to do a song time - the children really enjoy it! We continue to be a part of a Buckinghamshire project to support and improve outcomes for vulnerable children by working closely with local settings and schools.



We launched **Counselling@theWell** in 2023, Holly started counselling people in the local community seeing up to three people a week. It has continued to grow throughout 2023 when we have now added another two counsellors to the team who also see up to three people a week, therefore being able to provide 9 low-cost weekly counselling sessions per week. The Well Counselling provides low-cost counselling for those in the local area who can't access private counselling.

## 9 LOW-COST WEEKLY COUNSELLING SESSIONS PER WEEK

"I was scared to admit that I needed therapy. I felt initially I was being weak but how wrong I was. For me showing this vulnerability has been a beautiful thing. I now hold my head up high and when people ask me how I am feeling I tell them with pride that yes I was feeling worried."

**- Feedback from Counselling@theWell client**



We look forward to seeing growth in the counselling team into 2024 and expanding our provision to those in the local area who need it.



**Renew Space** continues to provide a space for those who want to connect with others. We have a mixture of church and community people who access our Wellbeing morning. We have had referrals from Social Prescribers, where Renew is the only place they come to each week. We have a local lady who has dementia and she comes to us every week and loves doing a word search with us.



Our numbers are steadily increasing for **Lunch Club** although it has taken a while for seniors to be confident in coming out after Covid. We are always looking for ways to increase our numbers. Lunch Club plays a very important role in the life of St Andrew's; it is an accessible space providing company and delicious home-cooked food. We had our excellent Christmas meal this year where Claire did a fantastic job cooking for over **50 guests**.

Throughout the year we celebrate various events and celebrations. For Valentine's, there was a card on each table with Bible verses about God's love. And we also celebrated memorable occasions like the King's Coronation!



We held Noise days for the community in May and October, with good numbers attending and a reasonable number of volunteers. Bernie from St John's Ambulance did first aid workshops in May and the Fire Brigade brought a Fire Engine along in October. Jonathan & Soraya entertained guests with their singing, Adrian doing a Zumba demo and Wendy offering ever-popular foot massages. It has been great to be working with the Family Information Service and have them join us at the Noise to help run the children's craft area and promote what they do too.

## THEIR FEEDBACK WAS

"It was incredibly useful and reached a lot of our targeted 'seldom heard' families. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to join." It was encouraging to hear feedback from those doing Psalm Reading and Jesus Cards, that they had good spiritual conversations and prayed for lots of people. We continued to do decorating and gardening projects in the community to lend a helping hand to those that need it.



# NOISE STORY

It was really great to hear that Tess\* (name changed), whom we helped “transform” her garden (it was definitely a bit more than a “tidy”!!) came to Renew Space and stayed on to help with Lunch Club – excellent!

I witnessed a transformation in her as she began interacting with the 10 of us serving her in her garden: from at first opening up her front door and looking quite timid and unsure about us and just keeping herself to herself for the first couple hours, then coming out, then talking, then sharing her photos about what the garden used to be like, to then offering cups of tea to people and even joining us in the photo we took at the end of the whole crew!

# ALPHA

Alpha is still a brilliant tool for introducing people to Jesus and the Christian faith in a relaxed environment. During 2023 we ran **2 courses**. It is always disappointing when people drop off from the course halfway through and this happened in the spring term where we started with 8 people and dropped down to 5. From this course, 1 person has continued to engage with church and is now an active member of a Missional Community. In the autumn term, there were even more reasons to celebrate. 10 people started the course with 8 sticking it out until the end, since then 5 of them have continued to engage with church, small groups and strong friendships have been formed.



STARTED THE ALPHA COURSE



SAW THE COURSE THROUGH TO THE END



HAVE CONTINUED TO ENGAGE WITH THE CHURCH





Christmas is such a fun time to invite friends to join us at St Andrew's. At **Create for Christmas** we had **70 guests** (the majority not from St Andrew's) enjoying doing crafts, eating Christmas treats and hearing Hannah William's testimony of God being with her through the highs (getting married) and challenging lows (being really unwell in hospital due to a life-threatening illness) of 2023.



## CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

We prepared and served or delivered just over

135 meals



to our local community and volunteer team. Most guests do want to be with others, but we have found that there are some who aren't able to get out, need their own space or the family just needs the financial support of the meal to help them through the holiday period, so deliveries have now become part of our normal service.

More guests joined us on site than we've had over the last few years and the atmosphere seemed more cheerful & hopeful too. After the traditional turkey dinner, King's speech on the big screens, quiz, community singing and afternoon tea, there was a lot of fun as Katy Kartwheel brought her circus skills along and had everyone trying out the spinning plates! It was a real privilege to offer something of the light and hope of Jesus at Christmas.

We were especially encouraged by the volunteer team, from teenagers to pensioners, a wide range of ethnicities and backgrounds working together to help others. Everyone went home feeling that bit more positive about the year ahead. We have so many amazing volunteers who give their time and energy to serve and show God's love to others – Thank You!



3

## DISCIPLESHIP AND EQUIPPING

In late April/early May 2023 we launched our first two **Missional Communities (MC)**, Creation Crew, focused on reaching people who care about the environment and Togethernet, focused on reaching families with primary aged children. At the start of October they were joined by The Village, focused on reaching families of under 5's.

As a result, we've seen people who haven't been involved in mid-week groups before, or not for a long time, join a mid-week group. Our MCs are already helping to develop people in sharing their faith and we've seen people who had never before invited people to church or church events now inviting their friends. Even more encouraging, friends have said 'yes' to invites who before had always said 'no'.

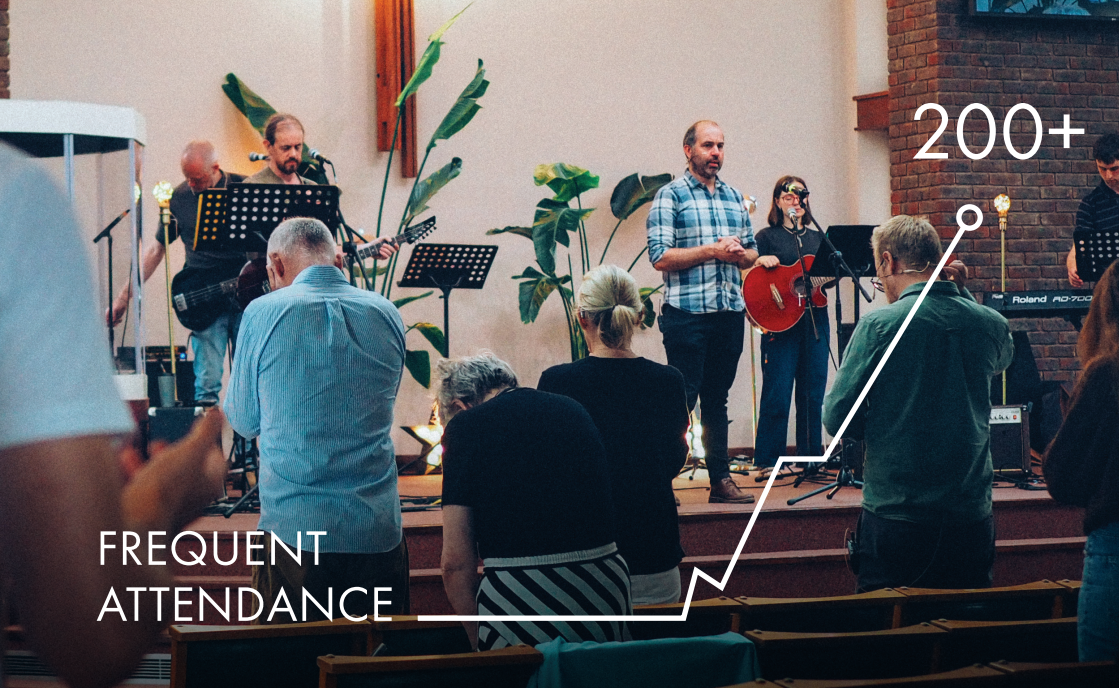
This has increased our opportunities to share faith and the next step for all three groups will be to grow in moving everyday conversations to spiritual conversations, so that we see more people in these growing networks coming to faith in Christ. Within the MCs, discovery bible studies have enabled people to better apply the bible in specific and accountable ways every fortnight. The result has been that faith is being lived out in exciting new ways across the church. With all this being the case, we hope to be able to double the number of MCs in the coming year.

Over the last 12 months we've had **10-14 small groups** running at any given time. Small group attendance has averaged roughly 100-110 people throughout the year (including a small amount of double counting) plus **52 people** in Missional Communities, it's been encouraging to see a number of new leaders stepping forward to lead the groups and a good mix of activity groups, courses, general and life stage groups taking place.

**10-14**  
SMALL GROUPS

**100-110**  
AVERAGE  
ATTENDANCE  
THIS YEAR





FREQUENT  
ATTENDANCE

200+

## SUNDAY SERVICES

Over the past year our Sunday ministries have been well stocked with volunteers and when people have stood down, we have been able to find new volunteers to step into their place. During the past year we raised up a new preacher to help us grow deeper in our understanding and application of the bible alongside two new service leaders. We have trained and are continuing to train new people on Proclaim and have added 3 additions to the worship team.

We have also set up a continuous prayer ministry rota and prayer ministry overseers each week to lead this ministry. We recently noticed that whereas the immediate post-covid trend was falling commitment to church, resulting in many people in the congregation coming less often or not at all, we are now seeing that trend reversed as, over the past year, people's level of commitment to church has grown. Due to this and the new people joining St Andrew's our Sunday attendance figures are more frequently exceeding 200, close to a third of whom are now children.

Finally, following training from Paul Harcourt in October, we have intentionally left more space on Sundays for people to respond to what the Spirit is doing between the worship set and prayers. As a result, we have clearly seen a greater openness to and outpouring of the Spirit at our Sunday gathering.

## PRAYER

Since September 2023, instead of a standard model of prayer gathering, each month we have planned a series of unique prayer and worship events led by a wide team of people which has resulted in **increased attendance of at least 30% when we gather people to pray**. Going forward we aim to expand prayer even more widely across the life of the church with weekly Monday morning and evening prayer meetings and the possibility of opening a 24/7 prayer space for an extended period of weeks/ months.

The **Young Adults Network** has been meeting for events every other month ranging from pub quizzes to pool and kayaking and the WhatsApp group has remained steady at 41 members.



## PASTORAL UPDATE

We continue to walk alongside others in times of need. This is based on the Greek word "Paraclesis" which can be found in the New Testament. We continue to support our seniors who can find themselves isolated and alone due to difficulties getting out of the house, so Ian Clark, Holly Robertshaw, and other members of the pastoral team continue to support them with visits and phone calls.

Home communions are also available for those unable to get to church. Various members of the pastoral team regularly visit those in the congregation, as well as some in the community. Holly also visits and connects with church members for a wide range of reasons. We continue to provide those in the church family who are poorly or struggling with meals if required. There are also one-off visits to those who are sick or in need of additional support.

## CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Our **Children's Ministry** has continued to grow and led by Chris Coyston our Children & Families Pastor, bringing oversight and vision.

Many of our regular **Kindle** (0-3 years of age) children have now become settled and happy to be left without their parents allowing their parents to stay in the service. We continue to encourage the children to stay and play where possible.

The children in **Kingdom Kids** (3-5 years of age) have grown over, not just in age, but their ability to engage and share their own ideas and thoughts about God. It is an encouragement to know how willing they are to pray together and have a good foundational knowledge of stories from the bible.



CHILDREN  
AND  
YOUTH

4





**Kosmic** (School Years 1- 5) continues to grow both in numbers and depth of knowledge. Each week we bring a mixture of fun and teaching focusing this year on subjects

like 'people who had experiences with Jesus' and digging into the sermon on the mount. We started catch and chat sessions which help the children experience the Holy Spirit for themselves at their level.

**Kids' Church** continues to combine the children from Kosmic and Kingdom Kids. Here we can dig deeper into what church means for everyone, Allowing the children to welcome the Holy Spirit more openly into the sessions and focus on God's love for us. These sessions also help the children moving on into Kosmic from Kingdom Kids.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY OUTREACH EVENTS AND GROUPS



2300  
CHILDREN REACHED

Last Easter we ran our annual **Easter Eggstravaganza**, a great day with the children and families both from our community and church, the event was a mixture of fun and games with loads of crafts, a short celebration, and an Easter egg scavenger hunt.

**Starlight**, our toddler group, has seen the numbers growing. Chris leads the song time with his guitar, and we have had a couple of people join this team, but it would be great to have a few more! We love seeing St Andrew's families mixing with community families and friendships being built.

We also had a great fun **Light Party** back in October with lots of families attending from the community and church. We were able to have loads of fun and show that it is fun being a follower of Jesus. Our **Nativity Service** was well attended with lots of fun and a great message of hope for us both as a church and a community.

Recently we had our first Team Family Tea which was a great way of giving back to our amazing team of volunteers. We plan to do this around three times a year including our summer team BBQ and another session in September/October.

Unfortunately, **Rooted** came to an end at Easter 2024, we have had loads of great experiences with the children in our community and we are praying and looking to God for what's next in our community work.

## **PB&J Roadshow**

This Christmas St. Andrew's joined with a number of other churches from across Wycombe to go into 11 schools in 5 days bringing a mixture of puppets and live actors together to tell the Christmas story from a different perspective aimed at primary aged children. We were able to reach 2300 children over the week as well as dozens of staff and volunteers in the schools.

A huge thank you to everyone involved in our Children's Ministry!

# YOUTH



Throughout the past year, our youth ministry has welcomed numerous young people, and it has been encouraging to observe the strong connections forming within the group as they look out for one another. Through our community youth club, hubs during the week, and Sunday mornings, we have witnessed many of our young people thriving and growing in confidence in their faith. Unfortunately, in September, we bid farewell to Kat, our former Youth Pastor, and we express our gratitude for the positive impact she had on our youth. We appointed our new Youth Pastor, Jamie Mitchell, in October and he joined us in January 2024.

Our community youth club, **Catalyst**, has been welcoming both young members from our church family and individuals from the local community. Offering hot chocolates on Friday afternoons as school ends has proven to be beneficial. Our goal at Catalyst is to welcome young people into a safe space and introduce them to Jesus through purposeful discussions, sharing personal testimonies, and inviting them to church events and of course having lots of fun.



On Sunday mornings, **Ignite** (Years 6-8) and **Momentum** (Years 9-13), take place during the morning service. During the autumn term we ran **Youth Alpha** and it was great to see young people wanting to receive the Holy Spirit and moving forward in their walk with Jesus. The young people had the pleasure of participating in a range of social gatherings including a movie night, Nerf Wars and a Christmas celebration. In March we had a **youth weekend away taking 15 young people** to the Chellington Centre in Bedfordshire.

## ONE OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE SHARED;

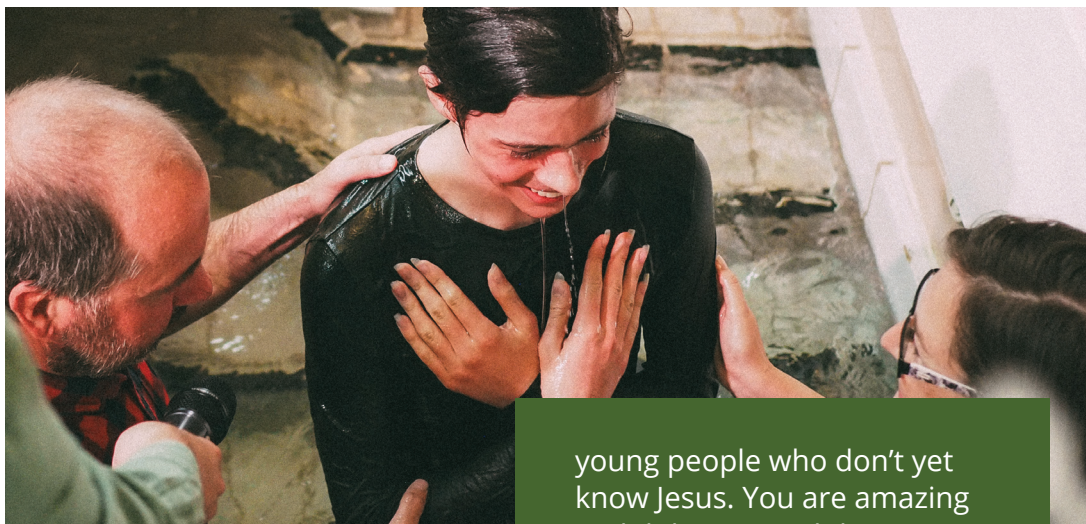
“The weekend away last year was amazing, lots of fun with games and activities paired with great worship and prayer which helped strengthen my relationship with God and the church.”



CHELLINGTON, BEDFORDSHIRE

In September 2023 we added a new **Youth Hub** for Year 6-7's meaning we now have a youth hub for every age group. Amy, (Older Girls Hub Leader) shared, "We've definitely seen an increased interest in discussing the Bible together, sharing ideas and questions on passages and also offering things that are going on from their lives which they'd like prayer for."

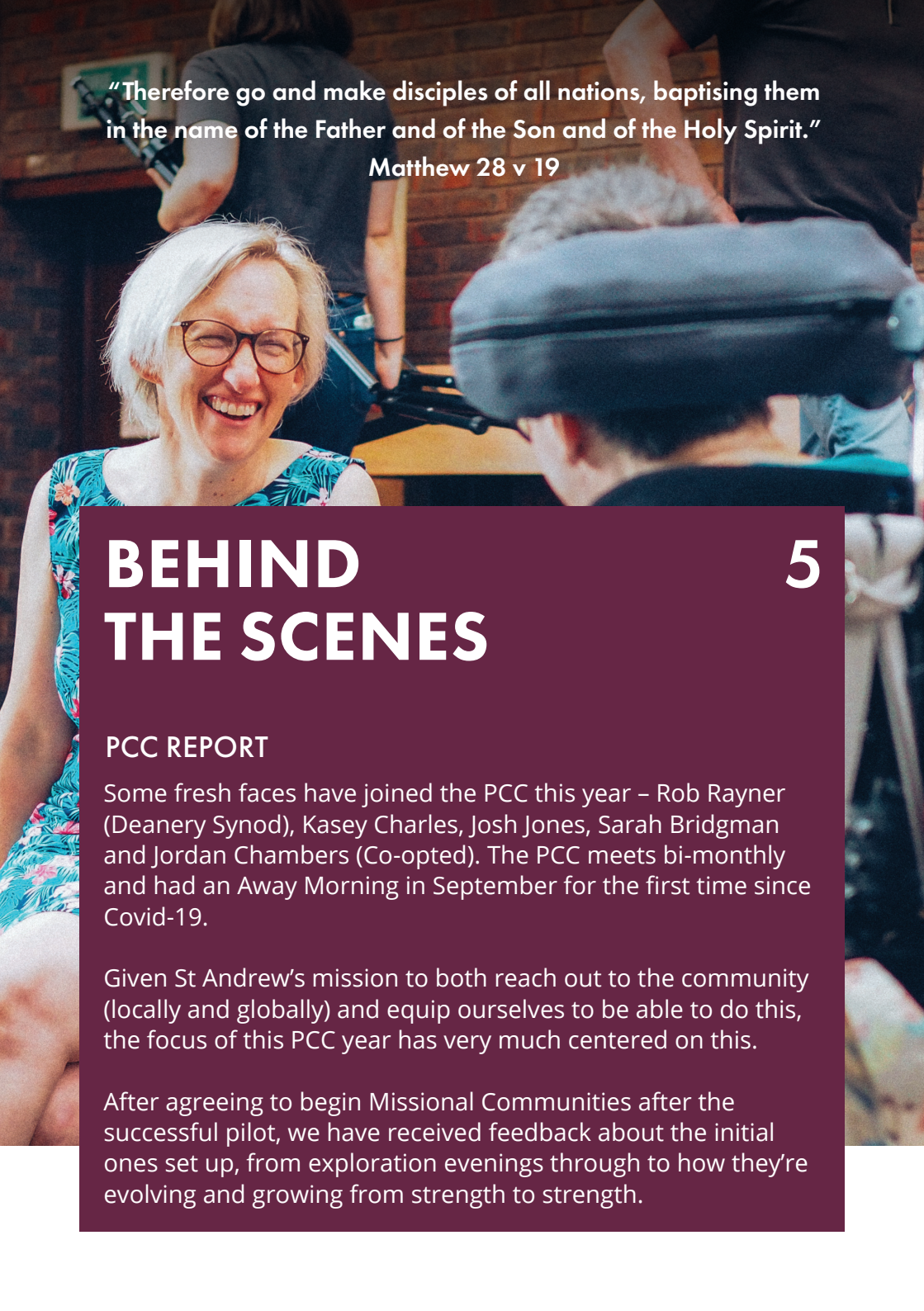
We have seen young people being baptised, new young people coming along on Sundays, and 4 Youth Hubs are still running strong with a great feeling of community and belonging for the youth.



We are seeing fruit from this spill over into Sundays and some have made friendships in Hubs and want to come along on Sundays to see their friends. We are really excited about where God is going with our youth. A big 'Thank You' to all the youth team for their time, commitment and passion to serve our young people and reach out to

young people who don't yet know Jesus. You are amazing and did a great job keeping everything running well whilst we were without a Youth Pastor in the autumn term. commitment and passion to serve our young people and reach out to young people who don't yet know Jesus. You are amazing and did a great job keeping everything running well whilst we were without a Youth Pastor in the autumn term.





“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Matthew 28 v 19

# BEHIND THE SCENES

5

## PCC REPORT

Some fresh faces have joined the PCC this year – Rob Rayner (Deanery Synod), Kasey Charles, Josh Jones, Sarah Bridgman and Jordan Chambers (Co-opted). The PCC meets bi-monthly and had an Away Morning in September for the first time since Covid-19.

Given St Andrew's mission to both reach out to the community (locally and globally) and equip ourselves to be able to do this, the focus of this PCC year has very much centered on this.

After agreeing to begin Missional Communities after the successful pilot, we have received feedback about the initial ones set up, from exploration evenings through to how they're evolving and growing from strength to strength.



Our Away Morning also focused on MCs as we had Simon Kirby, Vicar of St Mary's Cogges come to speak about what his church has been doing in this regard. It was interesting to hear about many varied MCs underway there, with no fixed model, following God's call to serve.



We also heard about what's been happening at **St Mark's Bourne End**, what we could be doing there and how St Andrew's may be part of this to bring something new there. St Mark's has been in interregnum for a while. There have been various prayer evenings in collaboration with other local churches.

With our overseas mission partners returning soon, we have also been thinking about what St Andrew's might do in the future and what we're currently doing in this area. As part of the church's mission statement, we want to be a transforming presence to High Wycombe and beyond with the "beyond" being the focus here. This will also be a focus moving forward over the next year.

The PCC has also heard updates on **Nexus** at most meetings, particularly around logistics for when work starts. This has included in-depth discussions about any concerns and possible opportunities. We've also been updated on the revised costs, budgets, tenders and grants being applied for.

The PCC recently found out that the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) has granted St Andrew's a Faculty which is great news! We must thank Simon Jones as PCC Treasurer and those on the Nexus steering group who have done so much work in the background to get us to this point.

The PCC also agreed to reinstate Gift Day in November which hasn't taken place since 2019. Again, this was in line with wanting to financially bless projects both locally and globally. All five projects surpassed their targets and it was a great success, displaying the generosity within St Andrew's church family.

Similarly to the above, we have been reviewing what St Andrew's has been doing for the environment and what we could be doing in the future, with sustainability at the forefront. With the recent decision by General Synod to allow same-sex marriage blessings, the PCC has been discussing this issue and deciding what's right for St Andrew's.

As is normal, the PCC also received reports from various areas of the church, staff team and mission partners. We also scrutinised various policies, making important changes to some of the HR policies and staff contracts. Regular updates on the church's finances and budgets are also provided by Simon Jones.

Safeguarding also remains an agenda item at every PCC meeting. Everyone is fully aware of the importance of risk assessments when approving various church events. As a church we prioritise protecting those who are most vulnerable, whether children or adults, and have sound procedures in place to do this.



# THANKS FROM THE



I would like to thank those who are stepping down from the PCC for their valid contributions and discernment over the last few years.

Jimmy Cheffy – PCC member for 4 years (1 year co-opted)

Neil Hart – PCC member for 4 years (1 year co-opted)

Karen Muzine-John – Churchwarden for 2 years

Paul Hodgson – Co-opted PCC member for 2 years

I'd also like to thank the staff team who have been a great support, working hard behind the scenes. Lastly, please continue to pray for the PCC and the leadership team as they continue to make decisions in the best interests of St Andrew's and the wider community.

**Cassie Mill, PCC Secretary**



# TREASURER'S REPORT

YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2023

## General unrestricted fund

We are grateful that at the end of 2023 we are able to thank God for his provision for all that we need and to finish the year with a small unrestricted surplus of £3k.

Overall unrestricted income fell by £63k from £353k in 2022 to £290k in 2023 due to a large one-off legacy of £52k received in 2022. Excluding this, unrestricted income fell by £10k, mainly as a result of one-off donations falling by £11k from a high of £38k in 2022 to £27k in 2023. Elsewhere in unrestricted income, **regular giving increased by £3k, and cash offerings increased by £2.5k** as we continue to see a slow recovery from the impact of the pandemic on giving levels. Additionally, these were supplemented by higher interest received reflecting the current higher interest rates. These small increases were broadly offset by lower lettings income and lower fees received for weddings and funerals.

On the cost side, people costs were lower by £13k as a result of staff vacancies, and services costs were lower by £3k mainly as a result of lower fees paid to the Diocese. These were partially offset by £5k higher premises costs (mainly as a result of higher utility costs), and a rise of £2.5k in Parish Share. As a result, unrestricted costs were £8k lower than the prior year.

## Restricted funds

The main items in 2023 restricted funds were as follows:

- Continued giving towards the Nexus project of £65k, along with £23k of bank interest, with costs of £45k mainly relating to professional fees
- Grants and other income towards community work of £28k, with costs of £28k
- Grants of £22k related to the Resource church project offset a similar level of costs

Overall, the restricted surplus for the year was £66k, with the largest part relating to the Nexus project.

## CURRENT YEAR

2024 looks to be another challenging year in terms of the church's finances. Increasing regular income to an appropriate level is likely to be the most challenging aspect, which is needed to cover the budgeted cost increases mainly resulting from the expected full staff team during 2024, as well as significant increases in our utilities costs after our long term fixed price contract came to an end.

Overall, the result of all of this means that to maintain a balanced budget, **we need to see an increase in our regular giving of around £32k (14%)** as well as maintaining strong one-off giving and higher grants.

**SIMON JONES** TREASURER

# CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT ON THE FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF THE CHURCH: 2024



1 Peter 4:10–11

*"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies — in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ."*





We're still enduring the toughest cost-of-living crisis for over fifteen years, and yet St Andrew's Church continues to thrive as a meeting place for some, a sanctuary for many, a place of fun, play and learning for others and, of course, a much-used and much-loved place of worship for us all.

The main purpose of this report is to bring everyone up to date with the major changes that have occurred to the "fabric, goods and ornaments" of the church, but also to shine a spotlight on what goes on behind the scenes during the week.

From a personnel perspective, new caretaker, Dawn, was appointed in May 2023. Sadly, our wonderful cleaner, Glenda, had to leave in September due to timetable clashes. Her duties have been taken on by Dawn on a short-term basis.

Herewith a list of all the major building and maintenance work carried out since the last APCM:

- A working party was arranged for installing a substantial amount of new PA equipment.
- Decorating work in St Andrew's house hallway was completed by Bob and Dawn.
- Replacement of five emergency fire exit lights that had failed. Testing of the rest of the lights around the building which were all Health & Safety regulation compliant.
- Practised fire alarm and emergency testing procedures, carried out in conjunction with the play group that operates weekdays from the Hickman Hall.

- Leaking roof repairs to the kitchen, main entrance lobby and crèche are now necessary on a more frequent basis due to the failure of the roofing material. These will hopefully be remedied by the Nexus building project which includes a new roof covering over the whole area.
- Replacement of two main boiler pumps, one serving the Hickman Hall and the other the lounge area.
- Repair of two extra LED floodlights in the lounge.
- All exterior stained woodwork painting: Preparing, cleaning down and repainting the woodwork (doors and window frames) of the church and surround facing Hatters Lane leading to and including the church offices. The church wall windows running down the length of St Andrew's House rear garden, and the rear windows of the Hickman Hall leading down to the main side car park at the bottom were also included.
- Replacement of three LED floodlights in the Hickman Hall and one in the main car park area.
- All the halogen floodlight lamps installed around the outside of the church building and in the worship area of the church were replaced with compatible LED equivalents. However, this has not proved to be as successful as hoped. There have been complaints of an insufficient amount of lighting in the worship area, and some people have noticed a flickering effect with a few of the LED lamps. We are currently therefore running a combination of LED and halogen lamps as a compromise. It is planned that sometime in the near to mid future the lighting in the worship area will be completely upgraded to LED. The lounge area lighting will have an upgrade of its own during the Nexus building project.
- Repair, adjustment and servicing of the main front entrance doors to the church. Fitted draft runners along the bottom of the doors and draft seal strips along the door edges. Also fitted the same to the double and single fire exit doors in the worship area of the church.
- Annual servicing, testing and/or cleaning of: fire extinguishers; lightning conductors; gutter, drain and downpipes; door and lock mechanisms; and fan heaters.

There is a large team of unpaid volunteers who contribute much free time, skill and physical effort to ensure all of the above can be completed. For maintenance, although they are paid employees / contractors, both Bob Cook and Andrew Ede donate a substantial amount of unpaid hours to complete various tasks and new initiatives – our grateful thanks to you both.

On the tech / PA / visual side, we extend big thanks to Andrew Ede (again!), Alex Wood and Dom Gravina who continue to improve the output of our audio and video capabilities within the church, and who also ensure that all our services can be received by people not in the church building. Thank you – the differences made in this area are substantial and appreciated by all of us. There is a large team of unpaid volunteers who contribute much free time, skill and physical effort to ensure all of the above can be completed.

For maintenance, although they are paid employees / contractors, both Bob Cook and Andrew Ede donate a substantial amount of unpaid hours to complete various tasks and new initiatives – our grateful thanks to you both. On the tech / PA / visual side, we extend big thanks to Andrew Ede (again!), Alex Wood and Dom Gravina who continue to improve the output of our audio and video capabilities within the church, and who also ensure that all our services can be received by people not in the church building. Thank you – the differences made in this area are substantial and appreciated by all of us.

Moving onto the church grounds, a wonderful group of willing volunteers (Marion Lyon, Ernest Arkoh, Stuart Lord, Suey Laight, Brian Kirwan, Karen & Anton John and Lesley Manning) have been hard at work to keep the exterior of our plot looking great. As well as general pruning, mowing and weeding, the decision was taken to leave the plants in the front lawn to flower, thereby creating new areas of habitat for birds, insects and small animals. This has been particularly popular for several types of butterflies, who as well as being lovely to look at, are also excellent pollinators.



More holistically, the church has just gained its **Eco Church Silver Award** – a truly great achievement, and huge thanks to Marion Lyon for driving this initiative through. Onwards to the Gold award!

# ECO CHURCH SILVER AWARD

# 2024



To all volunteers looking after the church and its premises, named or otherwise, a big well done for your ongoing support and contribution to this part of St Andrew's life – we look forward to another year with enthusiasm and God's richest blessing.

**DAVE CHAPMAN &  
KAREN MUZINE-JOHN** CHURCHWARDENS

# NEXUS REPORT



We are making progress with the building project, albeit it has at times felt painfully slow.

## KEY POSITIVES HAVE BEEN:

- Finally receiving Faculty approval from the Diocese (Church of England process for signing off the plans – similar to planning permission).
- Ongoing giving by church members towards the project.
- Positive news from a number of smaller grant making bodies/trust funds (£73k given or promised to date).

## CURRENT WORK:

- Continuing to apply for further grants from trust funds.
- Follow up work on our two largest fund applications - County council Community Infrastructure Levy funds and National Lottery.
- Reviewing and challenging contract tenders in order to select our preferred contractor.
- Awaiting updated planning approval for a few small changes to the scheme.



## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Balance of funding requirement will be secured.
- Satisfactory contractor negotiations.
- Final updated planning approval.



## SAFEGUARDING

Holly Robertshaw, Kathryn Aboud and Ant Dixon (once Kat had left) were the designated Safeguarding Officers for St Andrew's Church. We review our systems and processes regularly to check that we are compliant with the Diocese, and we use ChurchSuite for volunteer recruitment tracking and monitoring. We work closely with the Diocese to help monitor church safeguarding, using a dashboard.



## DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Wycombe Deanery Synod is made up of the clergy from Wycombe Deanery, along with representatives from the churches. St Andrew's is represented by Richard Gravina and Rob Raynor.

Wycombe Deanery covers the area around High Wycombe, including Bourne End, Marlow, the Hambleden Valley, Stokenchurch, West Wycombe and Hazlemere. There are 28 parishes with 35 churches.

The focus of the synod is on sharing vision and mutual encouragement, though there is also synod business that gets covered. Each meeting has a focus topic, with short presentations and small group discussions. The topics covered in the last year were:

- **April 2023 – Stories to Inspire**
  - Included Community Corner (Marlow Bottom) and Forest Church (Wooburn Green)
- **July 2023 – Children and Teenagers**
  - Included initiatives from Chris Coyston and Kat Aboud
- **October 2023 – Sharing the Fire**
  - Included Lighthouse and Growing Hope
- **January 2024 – Rural Churches**
  - Flourishing Together, a forum to encourage cooperation amongst the fifteen churches in the western part of the deanery

**RICHARD GRAVINA**

DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVE



# ELECTORAL ROLL

WE HAD

15

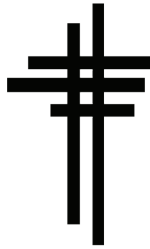
people join the electoral roll this year. This has taken our total number on the electoral roll from 183 in 2023 to 198 in 2024.











@StAndrewsHW



@standrews\_hw



@StAndrewsHW

Registered Charity: 1128971

[www.standrewshw.co.uk](http://www.standrewshw.co.uk)