



**Annual Reports & Accounts 2025/26**

**To be discussed at the Meeting of Parishioners**

**& Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**Sunday 10th May 2026, 12 noon, St Andrew's, Churchdown**

## **AGM 2026 Agenda**

### **Annual Parishioner Meeting**

The meeting of Parishioners will be held in St Andrew's Church on Sunday 10th May 2026 at 12.00 noon.

#### **AGENDA:**

- i. Opening thought and prayer - Revd John Monaghan
- ii. Appointment of a clerk for the meeting
- iii. Apologies for absence
- iv. Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025
- v. Election of Churchwardens

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

The APCM will be held in St Andrew's Church on Sunday 10th May 2026 following the Annual Parishioner Meeting.

#### **AGENDA:**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Appointment of a clerk for the meeting
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025
4. Elections to the Deanery Synod
5. Elections to the Parochial Church Council
6. Electoral Roll report
7. PCC & Standing Committee report
8. Churchwardens' report
9. Vicar's report
10. Fabric/Facilities report
11. Other Ministry reports
12. Finance report, accounts & appointment of auditor
13. Closing Prayer

### **3. MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS, 11 MAY 2025**

- i. **Opening thought and prayer:** The meeting opened with thoughts reflecting on the morning's sermon (the Good Samaritan) and a prayer, led by Revd. John Monaghan.
- ii. **Appointment of a clerk for the meeting:** Sue Francis, the PCC secretary, was appointed as clerk. Matt Waterfield, operations manager, circulated a sign-up sheet for attendees and one to record any apologies offered (one sheet for both meetings).
- iii. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Peter Brown, Sara Hobbs, Rob Burkitt, Dave and Tracey Fisher, Gordon and Sue Goodman, Sue Risdon and Mary White.
- iv. **Minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2024:** These were approved and signed. There were no questions or matters arising.
- v. **Election of Churchwardens:** Andrew Smith was invited up for the presentation after six years of service as church warden. John noted that Andrew had served through the interregnum and Covid, dealing with health and safety and finance, amongst other things, and acting as treasurer and had been a huge support to John and the staff team. Andrew reflected that it had been a great privilege to serve in this way and apologised to anyone he had upset. Andrew was warmly applauded by all present. John announced that Andy Champness was standing for election in Andrew's place (proposed by Dave Parry and seconded by Sara Hobbs). John was very thankful for Andy's willingness to serve and noted that Andy was already serving in many ways. Celia Anderson was standing for re-election (proposed by Sarah Dillworth and seconded by Ann Ewart) and John thanked her for a phenomenal year of service and for her wisdom. There being no other candidates, Andy and Celia were elected unopposed and John thanked them for their support.

### **MINUTES OF ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING, 11 May 2025**

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Peter Brown, Sara Hobbs, Rob Burkitt, Dave and Tracey Fisher, Gordon and Sue Goodman, Sue Risdon and Mary White.
2. **Appointment of a clerk for the meeting:** Sue Francis, the PCC secretary, was appointed as clerk.
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2024:** These were approved and signed. There were no questions or matters arising.
4. **Elections to Deanery Synod:** John explained that there were no Deanery Synod elections this year; the next ones would be in 2026. Steve Riddick had been elected

in 2023 and Andrew Smith had since been coopted. Jenny Philpott was also offering to serve as one of our representatives and would be coopted. (This was proposed by Janet Ross, seconded by Anne Davies.)

5. **Elections to the Parochial Church Council:** John thanked all those serving on the PCC for their service and noted that Rachael Champness and Roger Price were stepping down this year. The following people were standing for election and were elected unopposed.
  - **Chris Jones, proposed by Gordon Goodman and seconded by Judy Strawson;**
  - **Jenny Craig, proposed by Jennifer Golledge, seconded by Mark Golledge;**
  - **Debi Parry, proposed by Alex Anderson, seconded by Celia Anderson;**
  - **Rebecca Maughan, proposed by Ben Maughan and seconded by Lynda Britton.**
6. **Electoral Roll Report:** John drew attention to the appropriate section of the annual report, which had been distributed, written by Richard Waters, the Electoral Roll officer. He noted that the electoral roll had to be re-done every six years. There were 269 people on the newly revised roll. John thanked Richard for his work.
7. **PCC & Standing Committee report:** John again drew attention to the annual report. The PCC normally met every second month, with an additional training evening in the autumn and attended to matters of governance, mission, prayer and supporting the staff. The PCC members were also trustees. It had been a good year. The standing committee met in the months in between PCC meetings to plan the following PCC meeting. There were no questions on the report.
8. **Churchwarden's Report:** The Churchwardens' report also appeared in the annual report. John thanked Celia and Andrew for all their hard work and support during the year. There were no questions.
9. **Vicar's report:** John mentioned a few highlights and the encouraging buzz on Sundays. It was a joy to enable people. When back from his sabbatical, he wanted to meet ministry leaders more often to support them.
10. **Fabric and Facilities:** This section of the report had been written by Matt Waterfield. John thanked Matt for all his hard work and Roger for his work in applying for grants - we had received a huge grant for solar panels and batteries. It was a joy to have Matt's calm presence in the office holding everything together and organising teams of volunteers.

11. **Other Ministry reports:** Reports on other activities were available in the annual report and John encouraged all those present to read them and be thankful for all that was happening.

12. **Finance report, accounts and appointment of auditor:** The Treasurer, Chris Jones come up (to applause) to give his report. John thanked him for stepping up as Treasurer. Chris gave some personal background on his many years as a chartered accountant. He started by thanking everyone for all their giving and serving. More detailed accounts were available for those that wanted to see them, but Chris showed a few slides to illustrate the losses for the three years after both Covid and Courtyard Project. Over £100,000 had been lost, including both operational losses and depreciation. Our spending had been £57,000 more than our income over three years. The cash loss was £62,000. It was this that had led to difficult decisions last year. Since an appeal had been made, there had been an increase in income, due to the response by all. We should give thanks for prayerful giving. In response to a question about this year's budget, Chris noted that a balanced budget had been set for 2025. (There would still be depreciation, but expenditure should match income). The Finance committee was tracking the numbers. Andrew Smith also noted that restricted giving made it a bit more complex, but we were pretty much on budget. We did not want to go below a certain threshold in our reserves. In response to another question, Chris confirmed that there were still two Courtyard loans to be repaid. Payment had been delayed by agreement and the loan repayments had been included in the 2025 budget. John also highlighted Christopher Phillimore's role as stewardship officer and invited members to chat to him or email him about giving. There was also a booklet on giving available in the foyer. John noted that the accounts had already been agreed by the PCC and proposed their acceptance by the meeting. This was seconded by Christopher Phillimore and approved.

It was also proposed by Andrew Smith (seconded by Chris Jones) that Louise Newman & Co should continue to be used as the auditor/independent examiner of the accounts.

13. **Closing Prayer:** Andrew Smith was invited to close the meeting and did so with a prayer and a verse from Colossians 3.12. The meeting ended at 12.35pm.

#### **4. Elections to Deanery Synod**

This year we are entitled to elect 4 representatives to Deanery Synod, for a three-year period. Jenni Philpott and Steve Riddick have expressed a desire to continue in office, but we have vacancies for up to two other people. This is not an onerous commitment (three meetings per annum). Please speak to Revd John or Steve Riddick if you are interested in this opportunity.

## 5. Elections to the Parochial Church Council

### PCC for 2025/26 →

#### Ex-officio members

Revd. John Monaghan

#### Churchwardens

Celia Anderson (*elected 2025*)

Andy Champness (*elected 2025*)

#### Lay members of the Deanery Synod

Steve Riddick (*elected until 2026*)

Andrew Smith (*coopted, until 2026*)

Jenni Philpott (*coopted until 2026*)

#### Elected PCC members

With 1 year to serve (until AGM 2026)

Katherine Baker (*elected 2023*)

Sue Francis (*elected 2023*)

Paul Hobbs (*elected 2023*)

Jack Neave (*elected 2023*)

Roger Price (*elected 2023 but stood down*)

Sarah Wright (*elected 2023*)

Mark Golledge (*coopted 2023/2024, then elected for 2 years in May 2024*)

Tom Baxter (*coopted 2023/2024, then elected for 2 years in May 2024*)

With 2 years to serve (until AGM 2027)

Gaynor Grove (*elected 2024*)

Jeremy Taylor (*elected 2024*)

Jenny Craig (*coopted May 2024, elected May 2025*)

Debi Parry (*coopted May 2024, elected May 2025*)

With 3 years to serve (until AGM 2028)

Chris Jones (*elected 2025*)

Rebecca Maughan (*elected 2025*)

### PCC for 2026/27

#### Ex-officio members

Revd. John Monaghan

#### Churchwardens

Celia Anderson \*

Andy Champness \*

#### Lay members of the Diocesan Synod (*ex-officio on PCC and Deanery Synod until 2027*)

Steve Riddick

Andrew Smith

#### Lay members of the Deanery Synod (*ex officio on PCC until 2029*)

1. Jenni Philpott \*

2. Steve Riddick\*

3. Vacant

4. Vacant

#### Elected PCC members

With 1 year to serve (until AGM 2027)

Jenny Craig

Gaynor Grove

Debi Parry

Jeremy Taylor

With 2 years to serve (until AGM 2028)

Chris Jones

Rebecca Maughan

With 3 years to serve (until AGM 2029)

Sue Francis (*2<sup>nd</sup> term*) \*

Mark Golledge (*2<sup>nd</sup> term*) \*

Paul Hobbs (*2<sup>nd</sup> term*) \*

Jane Barnard\*

Alex Lyttle \*

\* *subject to election*

## 6. Electoral Roll Report:

The Church Electoral Roll now contains 280 names. Since last year 4 people have been removed from the roll as they have gone to be with the Lord whilst 15 people have been added to it, of whom 7 live in the parish and 8 outside. *Richard Waters*

## **7. PCC & Standing Committee report**

The PCC of St Andrew's and St Bartholomew's work with the vicar to promote the mission of the Church and share the leadership, management and administration of the parish.

Four PCC members were elected in May 2025, two for a period of three years and two for two years, as they had already been co-opted onto the PCC during the previous year.

The PCC met eight times in total during the year, with six regular meetings and two extraordinary meetings. Standing Committee meetings took place in between the regular meetings to prepare the agenda for the next meeting and chase up any outstanding actions.

Throughout the year, the PCC received reports on and discussed church finances, operations, staffing matters, safeguarding, mission and many other aspects of church business.

At the September meeting, we had the opportunity to hear from and pray for Kate, the children's worker, and Jamie, the youth worker. In November we heard from the Safeguarding Officer, and, in January 2026, we had a detailed presentation from the Missions committee.

Any member of the church who has an issue for the PCC to discuss is invited to bring it to the attention of the PCC secretary or Revd John. PCC minutes are also available from the office (once formally approved). If you might be interested in standing for PCC or Deanery Synod, please have a chat with Revd. John at any point in the year.

Sue Francis, PCC Secretary

## **8. Churchwarden Report**

Being a Churchwarden gives you a front-row seat to life in the church — its rhythms, challenges, and moments of encouragement. One of those rhythms is change and continuity, as people step into roles for a time and then hand them on. At the last APCM, Andrew Smith stepped down after six years of dedicated service as Churchwarden, bringing one chapter of that rhythm to a close. Andy Champness was elected to take his place, marking the beginning of a new chapter.

It has, as always, been a busy year, with weekly staff and bi-monthly PCC meetings. A good deal of time has been spent working closely with the Vicar and with others as part of a group shaping our church vision. A particular focus during the year was ensuring the smooth running of the church during John's sabbatical, which began shortly after the last APCM.

We are in the process of recruiting new members of staff. This is an important piece of work, and we are grateful to all those supporting the process. One of the strengths of our church lies in the partnership between our staff and the wider congregation who

serve alongside them. Whether serving within these walls on a Sunday or representing Christ in the wider community throughout the week, your dedication is appreciated.

There are many whose contributions are largely unseen, happening quietly in the background, but vital - washing tea towels, mending what is broken, supporting others in prayer, sorting the IT, home visiting the housebound to name but a few. Much of their work only becomes visible when it is not done. Thank you all - seen and unseen - for your service. As you read through the other entries in this report and learn about the wide range of ministries, do prayerfully consider how you might want to become more involved in the life of our church, inside or outside.

We look forward to another year of serving Christ and this community alongside each of you. *Celia & Andy*

## **9. Vicar's report**

Dear Church, God has called us all to 'mature' as his followers each year. Ephesians 4 tells us that becoming 'mature' includes having unity in faith, growing in knowledge of Jesus, speaking truth in love, rejecting false teaching (why we love God's word), actively participating in church life and walking in holiness daily.

As we take time to celebrate God's faithfulness for the year gone by, and as you prayerfully read through the ministry reports, we also recognise that most 'ministry' happens on your own 'frontline', where God has called you to influence those in your home, street, workplace, friendship circles and families. The list of ministries included in this report are just a small snippet of the countless ways God's kingdom is being advanced in and through this local church family.

On behalf of the 'great cloud of witnesses' (Hebrews 12) that make up our church, can I say a huge thank you for everything you have done to encourage, support and bless others in Christ's name this year.

This June marks my fourth year as Vicar in this inspiring church community and I am so grateful for a three-month Sabbatical last summer, after 12 years of full-time ordained ministry. God was teaching me so many things including having a renewed confidence in the gospel and my calling, the importance of authenticity and vulnerability in leadership, and the relief that everything is not my responsibility - but the Lord's, and ours, to hold collectively!

Particular highlights for me this past year included our *Impact* Church weekend at home, where we spent time considering what it means to have our identity shaped in Christ; The Big Bible Giveaway at Christmas, giving away over 2000 Bibles to homes in our community; seeing the growth of our After Schools Club; Hearing stories of lives changed through Alpha; sitting under the teaching of Dan Button at this year's Lent course; the variety and passion expressed across a range of our Sunday services; and developing a strategic leadership team (SLT), together with the PCC, Staff and wider church, to start exploring a Vision statement for the next five years together.

We sent out an update to the church following on from our March 'Dreaming and discernment evening'. Please ask if you didn't receive an update and would like that document. Since March, we've continued to reflect with the SLT and are planning a leadership day in June to continue to explore how we can discern God's call together, as we reflect on our shared Identity, Mission Statement, Values and Vision. When we have prayerfully gathered this information, we will be in a better position to align our priorities and processes to meet this vision. The Lord has repeatedly impressed upon us the metaphor of the 'river of life', including in Ezekiel 47, and that 'where the river flows, everything will live' (Ezekiel 47:). We want to take time to think about what that living water looks like in the *river* of large gatherings together, in the *streams* and smaller gatherings, and in the *delta and floodplains* of our dispersed community on our own frontlines. We also want to be intentional about living out specific Kingdom values that we feel the Lord might be impressing on our hearts as a church at this time, such as authenticity (being real with each other), compassion, and being brave and creative in our witness for Jesus in the world. We look forward to sharing in this journey of discernment with you all, and our church weekend at home (Impact) (9th-11th Oct) will be another opportunity to do that together.

As Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us, let us continue to "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." *Revd John Monaghan* [vicar@stastb.church](mailto:vicar@stastb.church)

## **10. Fabric/Facilities report**

The running of the church buildings along with their fabric & fittings is only possible due to the commitment and hard work of numerous volunteers including the DIY Team, Health & Safety Committee, Kitchen Leadership Team, St Barts Working Group and the support of the Churchwardens. We are also blessed to have Richard Waters volunteering two afternoons every week, offering valuable support to the facilities challenges that the church faces.

2026 sees the development of both an ongoing General Maintenance Plan and a new Ten-Year Strategic Maintenance Plan. Key to the latter will be developing and executing a Net Zero Carbon plan to address the challenges faced by an ageing Church Centre gas boiler.

The solar panels now have a full calendar year of production where kWh consumption from the grid was reduced by about a third. With the sun shining in 2025 we generated an additional £450 from selling excess production back to the grid.

The kitchen project progressed with support from grant funding and individual donations. We are blessed to receive these gifts. As well as two new ovens and additional 3 phase power. the kitchen will be updated with a new dishwasher over the summer months. *Matt Waterfield* [operations@stastb.church](mailto:operations@stastb.church)

## 11. Other Ministry reports 2026

<b>Ministry</b>	<b>Leader</b>
24/7 Prayer	Matt Perrin
After School Club	Kate Smith
Alpha	Neil Carne
Bereavement Cafe	Sarah Smith
Bible Course	Neil Carne
BLT	Kate Smith
CAMEO	Sue Conaty
Children & Children's Assemblies Open the Book	Kate Smith
Choir	Jenni Philpott
Churchdown Zero	Ben & Jo Witchard
Churches Together in Churchdown	Catherine Rowland
Communications & ChurchSuite	Adam Greenland
Connect Groups	Simon & Joy Marshall
Deanery Synod	Steve Riddick
DIY Team	Dave Parry
Encounter	Mark Golledge
Friday's Kitchen	Sue Ellison
Kintsugi Hope	Judy Strawson
Kitchen Team	Sue Ellison
Meals Ministry	Christina Castروفيلippo
Men's Ministry	Will Wright
Mission Team	Angus Johnson
Operation Christmas Child	Margaret Riddick
Open the Book	Kate Smith
Pastoral Care (incl. home HC visits)	Nigel Roe & Rosi White
Prayer Chain	Julie Ingram
Prayer Ministry	Kath Baker
The Producers	Richard Lewis
Production Team	Christopher Phillimore
Safeguarding	Churchwardens
Singles Connect	Richard Ham
St Bartholomew's	John Risdon
The Thursday Knitters	Anne Ewart
Thursday Zoom	Richard Waters
Welcome & Information Teams	Celia Anderson
Women's Ministry	Claire Hunter
Worship Teams	John Monaghan
Youth	Jamie Flores

**24/7 Prayer:** The 24/7 week of prayer took place in January this year. Once again, we converted the small chapel into a designated prayer room and encouraged everyone to join in by signing up to pray for one-hour slots either in the room or at home. During the week, we covered over 117 hours in prayer.

**A treasure** - there was such a beautiful presence of God in the Prayer Room and feedback shows participants enjoyed spending time in there. We were encouraged that people clearly entered conversation with Jesus shown through the artwork and many words and pictures received for the church during the event.

**A hope** – that prayer life within the church would grow so that St Andrew’s can truly be called a ‘house of prayer’ (Isaiah 56:7). We are excited that 24/7 Prayer will be run again in 2027.

**Find out more** - Matt Perrin [prayer@stastb.church](mailto:prayer@stastb.church)

**After School Club:** Primary age school children and their parents meet after school on a Wednesday between 3.15pm and 4.30pm for toast, milkshake, playdoh, crafts games, prayer activities, paw patrol and more!

**A treasure** - the recent conversations I’ve had with a few families expressing interest in coming to church on a Sunday.

**A trial** - having enough funding for After School Club to continue running in the next academic year.

**A hope** - to run a fundraiser before the summer holidays raising money to support after school club for another year and giving families from after school club the opportunity to meet members of our church congregation.

**Find out more** by visiting the St Andrews website, or emailing Kate at [children@stastb.church](mailto:children@stastb.church)

**Alpha:** Alpha is a ten-week course that gives people the chance to explore the Christian faith, ask questions and express their point of view. It starts with a meal and then we spilt into groups to watch a video and discuss issues coming out of that.

**A treasure** - the delight of seeing people meeting Jesus and choosing to follow Him for the first time or deepening their faith and commitment to Him.

**A trial** - we rely heavily on a small number of people willing to prepare, cook, serve and wash-up meals and to lead discussions groups. We need to refresh and widen that group or consider alternative ways of running ‘seeker’ courses, to make it sustainable in future years.

**A hope** - people will be praying for and preparing to invite their friends to come and explore Christianity when we run the next course (provisionally in early 2027).

**Find out more** - <https://www.stastb.church/alpha> or by emailing [alpha@stastb.church](mailto:alpha@stastb.church) (please note that this inbox is only regularly monitored in the lead up to and during an Alpha course or the Bible Course).

**The Bereavement Café:** The Bereavement Café is for anyone who has been bereaved (recently or in the past) to meet with others in a similar situation, to benefit from a friendly listening ear and to have space to remember those who have died, whilst enjoying tea, coffee and home-made cakes. It takes place on the second Tuesday every month, 1.30-3pm.

**A treasure** - an encounter when a man, who was not local, walked in off the street having seen the A-frame advertising the Café and then shared the pain and off-loaded the burden of a recent bereavement which he had not divulged to anyone else for complex reasons.

**A trial** - raising awareness of the Café within the community so that we can reach more of those who are grieving, with God's love and compassion.

**A hope** - that friendships will continue to develop among those who attend, that they will recommend the Café to others, and that guests will consider attending other Church events.

**Find out more** by contacting Sarah Smith ([sarahfhsmith@outlook.com](mailto:sarahfhsmith@outlook.com); 07964 895477)

**The Bible Course:** The Bible Course is an 8-week exploration of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation using video and discussion materials provided by the Bible Society. We ran it as a follow-up to Alpha in 2024 and then opened it to wider church participation in 2025.

**A treasure** - the quality of thought and discussion in the groups and the way that people were able to deepen their understanding through the excellent materials.

**A trial** - finding a time/day that allowed people to attend the course without adversely impacting Connect Groups and other mid-week groups.

**A hope** - that we might be able to run a daytime course as well as an evening one to make it easier for more people to attend.

**Find out more** by emailing Neil Carne at [alpha@stastb.church](mailto:alpha@stastb.church) (please note that this inbox is only regularly monitored in the lead up to and during an Alpha course or the Bible Course).

**BLT:** (Babies Lunch Toddlers) is a regular Wednesday lunch (11.30am-1pm) and playtime introducing babies and their families to Jesus.

**A treasure** - new families that have joined us over the last year and their feedback that BLT has become an important part of their week.

**A trial** - keeping soups going. We no longer have a kitchen team on a Wednesday, so we rely heavily on one volunteer to make us soup in advance and then the hall team to take it in turns working in the kitchen to serve it. Although this is working, it puts extra strain on certain members of the team and doesn't allow for BLT to run as smoothly as it used to.

**A hope** - for families to continue to come and find a support network at BLT. We'd love to see more of these families coming to other church events and coming to know the love of God for themselves.

**Find out more** by visiting the St Andrews website, or email Kate at [children@stastb.church](mailto:children@stastb.church)

**CAMEO:** A friendly, welcoming space for up to 60 members of our church and people who live in Churchdown, who are over 65 years old, to Come and Meet Each Other on the second Friday every month at 12 noon.

**A treasure** - the refurbishment to the kitchen, especially the arrival of two new electric ovens. We are thankful to all the people who organised the grants and the work that has been done. The most recent oven purchase having been made possible by the great generosity of an anonymous donor, to whom we are extremely grateful, as this enables us to have more freshly cooked food and less shop bought.

**A hope** - pray that the work and monthly meetings of CAMEO would show the love of Jesus to all the guests, especially those who don't yet know Him.

**Find out more** by contacting Margaret Thomas on 0452 712967 or 07767425483 or [mthomas2967@gmail.com](mailto:mthomas2967@gmail.com)

### **Children's Ministry (Sunday):**

**A treasure** - hearing children telling each other or their leaders amazing truths about Jesus – it's so exciting to see them not only grasp these truths themselves but be excited to tell others.

**A trial** - not having enough leaders. Although we have a good number of helpers which is a really important role, we have far fewer volunteers to plan and lead the groups which often results in having to combine groups together so that there is someone to lead the children.

**A hope** - that the children will continue to grow in confidence that they have a real and powerful God who they can approach at any time and ask for anything in His name (John 14:14). We'd love to see children confidently and expectantly praying for each other and for friends and family.

**Find out more** by visiting the St Andrews website, or emailing Kate at [children@stastb.church](mailto:children@stastb.church)

**Choir:** The Choir is a vital part of both St Andrew's and St Bartholomew's and has seen new growth this past year. We celebrated 850 years of St Bartholomew's Church in Churchdown with a Choir of 16, which was wonderful.

**A treasure** - more than doubling the size of the Choir (but there is always room for a few more!) We have also had the benefit of our new Choral Advisor – Cathy Elliot.

**A trial** - ill-health and we have lost a few members as a result, including the death of our long-treasured Choirmaster John Taylor last September.

**A hope** - that God would send us Tenor and Bass voices so that we can truly be a full Choir. Please pray if God is calling YOU to come and join us – Your Choir Needs YOU

**Find out more** about this ministry by contacting Jenni Philpott on 07708 956515 or via email: [philpottjm52@gmail.com](mailto:philpottjm52@gmail.com)

**Churchdown Zero:** We are a non-profit who sell a range of environmentally friendly cleaning and washing products in glass bottles with the aim of eliminating plastic waste to care for creation.

**A treasure** - thanks to your donations earlier this year, we have now transitioned to a bottle system meaning we are always open when we (Ben or Jo Witchard) are at church as we can now store a range of our products in the church centre.

**A trial** - that we have struggled to manage with shifting all the big product tubs to & from church and the St John's repair cafe. We hope the new bottle system helps alleviate this.

**A hope** - we would love for a few volunteers to help us in running a stall more frequently on Sunday mornings. Generally, prayer that people will understand our mission and utilise our products. Praying big, with some keen volunteers we could sell the products at additional repair cafes / events within the local area.

**Find out more** - Contact Ben & Jo Witchard directly or on churchdownzero@gmail.com. Visit our website: <https://churchdownzero.co.uk>.

**Churches together in Churchdown:** We continue to work together to organise successful events like planning and organising the Walk of Witness through the village which this year attracted over 120 people. World Day of Prayer is an annual ecumenical service held every March which is always well supported by all the churches.

**A treasure** - last summer we were able for the first time to have a presence at the Annual Parish Council Party in Churchdown Park. We chose to have a children's activity table which attracted children and their parents thus enabling us to reach out further and give information about our church activities. As a result of realising we weren't easily able to show who we are representing, we have designed and produced a large Banner which we can use at other events. Look out for us!

**A trial** - finding more people to go on our rota so that we can continue to support this valued resource.

**A hope** - we are always keen to have more support in this ministry so if you want to.

**Find out more** - speak to Catherine Rowland or Rachael Champness; [champnesses@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:champnesses@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Communications and ChurchSuite:** Communications and ChurchSuite help keep people informed about what's happening in church life and make it easier for everyone to stay connected and involved.

**A treasure** - the investment in new Alpha banners, including a large one placed outside facing the road up from the school. It was great to hear that, because of that banner, people came along to the Alpha course earlier this year.

**A trial** - we are still waiting for approval from the Diocese for the new external notice boards, which were approved by the PCC last year, so please pray that this process moves forward.

**A hope** - as I move on from this role and that the new communications coordinator will have the right gifts and vision to build on what is already in place and help move the ministry forward so it can grow and reach more people.

**Find out more** about this ministry by contacting Adam Greenland at [comms@stastb.church](mailto:comms@stastb.church) or visiting [www.stastb.church](http://www.stastb.church)

**Connect Groups:** Connect Groups in a large church like St Andrew's are smaller group gatherings meeting at differing times through the week where church members can grow in worship, friendship and encourage one another in their faith through prayer, Bible study and sharing their faith.

**A treasure** - the vibrancy and creative variety of the groups blessed by faithful leaders who are committed to ongoing development in these roles.

**A trial** - much the same as last year (raising up leaders) but equally, given the value of small groups in a large church, is to encourage a greater proportion of church members to participate in them.

**A hope** - will see groups growing not only in spiritual maturity but also numerically and impacting the community in which they are located.

**Find out more** - via the welcome desk on Sunday mornings or by contacting either the Church Office or one of the Pastorate Leaders: -

Simon/Joy Marshall:- [simonmarshall6@icloud.com](mailto:simonmarshall6@icloud.com)

Andy/Rachael Champness:- [champnesses@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:champnesses@blueyonder.co.uk)

Ben/Becs Maughan:- [maughanben@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:maughanben@yahoo.co.uk)

**Deanery Synod Summary Report:** Deanery Synod is a forum in which churches from our area (mainly to the North and immediate East of Gloucester) meet up every four months or so to share information and developments of common interest.

**A treasure** - to meet and know fellow Christians from beyond St Andrew's, and thereby to better understand all the opportunities and challenges being faced by their churches.

**A trial** - sometimes words take a long time to turn into actions.

**A hope** - that more people from our church will wish to involve themselves in issues beyond our own neighbourhood.

**Find out more** - by contacting Steve Riddick on [riddick829@btinternet.com](mailto:riddick829@btinternet.com) or by visiting the Deanery webpage on [www.severnvaldeanery.co.uk](http://www.severnvaldeanery.co.uk)

**DIY TEAM:** We have had 31 jobs to do this year with a few outstanding, they ranged from refitting the large curtains in the main hall, sorting out some electrical issues, resealing part of the roof to replacing a complete toilet in the ladies and stopping the squeak on the piano pedals.

**A treasure** - most of the work we have managed to complete at zero cost to the Church. We haven't had any trials really as all the jobs have been within our skill base.

**A hope** - that as the number of jobs decreases and we get on top of the ones we already have, the trend of receiving fewer new jobs will continue (that's done it, now we'll probably get lots!)

**Find out more** - contact Dave Parry via the Church.

**Encounter:** a twice monthly evening gathering (Sunday's 6.00-7.15pm) where our focus is on worship and discipleship in an informal way. Our focus is on 'receiving' from God, 'restoring' relationships with Him, and 'responding' to Him in how we live out our lives.

**A treasure** - having the opportunity to spend time focusing on "Fruits of the Spirit" with different people leading our evenings together.

**A trial** - the capacity of those who have a leading role at Encounter

**A hope** - we seek God for what is the next stage for Encounter evenings as we grow and build team.

**Find out more** - Mark Golledge, [mark@markgolledge.com](mailto:mark@markgolledge.com)

**Friday's Kitchen:** Friday's Kitchen continues to meet once a month for homemade soups and a buffet style lunch. Regular Church friends who attend and kitchen staff have the opportunity to welcome and connect with newcomers from across the Churchdown community.

**A treasure** - the growing numbers attending and a joyous atmosphere. Having a dedicated, caring and reliable kitchen team.

**A trial** - gauging quantities of food sometimes. Occasional sickness or holiday cover.

**A hope** - new people would feel really welcomed, enjoy themselves and want to find out more about other events at St Andrews. That they would want to come back with family, neighbours & friends.

**Find out more** - Sue Ellison Phone: 07397985126

**Kintsugi Hope:** Kintsugi Hope is a 12-week mental wellbeing course, based on the idea that we can find treasure in life's scars by sharing our experiences together, learning from one another, and understanding that it's OK to admit we're not OK when we are struggling. Following a successful course in autumn 2024, we ran a second one from November 2025 to February 2026.

**A treasure** - the group bonded quickly and people really benefitted from knowing that they were not alone in their struggles.

**A trial** - how best to raise awareness of the courses within the community, so that we can reach those who are struggling with their mental health with God's love and compassion.

**A hope** - that we can recruit more younger leaders, enabling us to attract attendees from a broader demographic.

**Find out more** by emailing Judy Strawson: [judystrawson@googlemail.com](mailto:judystrawson@googlemail.com)

**The Kitchen Team:** The group looks after the shared kitchen space, making sure it's safe, well organised, and welcoming for all the different groups who use it. They regularly review equipment and ways of working to keep everything running smoothly and safely.

**A treasure** - the kitchen is a real gift that we are grateful for. Over the past year we have been blessed with donations for new ovens and with funds for a new dishwasher which will be installed over the summer.

**A trial** - the kitchen is a shared space used by a range of internal and external groups. With so many people using it, it can be challenging to ensure it is always left clean, tidy, and ready for the next group. By following consistent ways of working, we can maintain high food hygiene standards and help keep our guests and volunteers safe.

**A hope** - that the food hygiene training that is being rolled out to kitchen users is warmly received as we seek to use the facility to support all our ministries and to welcome the wider community into our church centre.

**Find out more** - contact Sue Ellison or Matt Waterfield via the church office.

**Meals at Home Ministry:** The ministry supports individuals and families within our church family during times of need. Whether welcoming a new baby, recovering from illness, or facing a difficult season, this ministry provides home-cooked meals as a practical expression of Jesus's love and community.

**A treasure** - we are thankful for our dedicated team of servant-hearted volunteers who generously give their time to prepare and deliver meals. Their service is a meaningful expression of Jesus's love in action.

**A hope** - we would love to see this ministry grow! If you enjoy cooking and would like to help bless others, consider joining our meal makers team. Each delivery is also an opportunity to bring encouragement, connection, and hope.

**Find out more** or to get involved, please contact Christina Castrolillo at: [christinagingerich@hotmail.com](mailto:christinagingerich@hotmail.com)

**Men's Ministry:** Men's Ministry brings men (and youth) of St Andrews together to have fun, get to know each other better, and grow in their faith in God together.

**A treasure** - watching the rugby together in March. Although England lost, it was a great game and great to see men and youth experiencing the highs and lows of sport together.

**A trial** - the constant challenge in getting men to engage in our activities, but we accept that a lot of the men lead busy lives.

**A hope** - that the men's ministry would be a vehicle used by God to build up the men (and youth) of St. Andrew's in faith and love for each other, and a place where outsiders would feel welcome.

**Find out more** about this ministry by contacting Will Wright [sandwillwright@gmail.com](mailto:sandwillwright@gmail.com)

**The Mission Team:** The Mission Team enable mission activities locally and globally through prayer, communication, finance and support

**A treasure** - the week-by-week work of Youth for Christ sharing the good news of Jesus with young people.

**A trial** - the persecution of Christian women in Pakistan and Nepal highlighted by Anna Townsend.

**A hope** - for new people from St Andrew's to enter mission work and people to join the Mission Team.

**Find out more** - talk to Angus Johnson, Rosie Button or Gordon Goodman via the office [admin@stastb.church](mailto:admin@stastb.church). Prayer leaflet available by Welcome Desk. Mission Partners profiles on main noticeboard opposite kitchen serving hatch.

**Open the Book:** taking Christian stories into school assemblies and bringing them to life through acting them out with the children

**A treasure** - seeing the children as they walk in for an Open the Book assembly with their hand already raised, excited to take part.

**A trial** - having enough volunteers to cover every role; some weeks we must be creative with a few volunteers playing 2 roles or asking children to play characters more suited to adults.

**A hope** - as we share Bible stories with children and teachers, God would be working through them to plant seeds and draw His children to Him.

**Find out more** by visiting the St Andrews website, or emailing Kate at [children@stastb.church](mailto:children@stastb.church)

**Operation Christmas Child:** OCC is a Christian charity which provides children living in difficult circumstances around the world with a shoebox of gifts at Christmas, coupled with a Gospel message and an invitation to learn more about Jesus.

**A treasure** - an amazing outpouring of generosity enabled us to send 588 boxes (up from 470 last year), aided by practical help from the wider church to help pack

**A trial** - the logistics of storing, moving and sorting the contents of the boxes

**A hope** - that the hearts of the children who received the boxes will be open to the love of God

**Find out more** from the OCC website - [www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child](http://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child) - or from Margaret Riddick on 01452 712447

**Pastoral Care:** The team provides spiritual, emotional and practical support to people facing crisis or ongoing challenges in their lives and families.

**A treasure** - receiving a thank you card from a lady with many issues who had been supported for several years. There has been a marked change in her situation and she described her care as a blessing.

**A trial** - ensuring that people in need receive the help they require. This particularly applies to those no longer able to come to church and that their needs are not overlooked. It also applies to new people to the church.

**A hope** - to recruit new people to the team on both the leadership side and the delivery of a well-supported service.

**Find out more** - contact Nigel Roe (07780994827) or Rosi White (07426357967)

**The Prayer Chain:** The Prayer Chain is a group of faithful men and women who pray for difficult situations within our church family.

**A Treasure** - seeing and hearing about many answers to prayer, including healings.

**A Trial** - continuing to trust God when things don't work out as we hoped.

**A Hope** - that many will be blessed and encouraged, knowing that others are praying for them.

**Find out more** or to have prayer requests added ~ Julie Ingram.

Email: [prayerchain@stastb.church](mailto:prayerchain@stastb.church)

**Prayer Ministry:** Prayer Ministry is praying with someone (in-person) during, or usually towards the end of Church services, welcoming the Holy Spirit to come and transform them and their situation.

**A treasure-** having a wonderful, dedicated team serving on a monthly rota, standing alongside those who come for prayer, to help enable them to receive from the Lord.

**A trial** - finding an accessible location with sufficient privacy, as the chairs are often moved for other events/services, blocking it off, and being able to hear what is being shared or prayed whilst sung worship / other conversations are continuing too.

**A hope** - that all church members, of all ages, would step out and pray in faith for each other, always and in all places, and see God's miraculous power at work, bringing healing and transformation - and that those who experience this would share their testimonies to encourage us all.

**Find out more** - contact Kath Baker via [ankbaker@hotmail.com](mailto:ankbaker@hotmail.com) or see the 'Prayer Ministry' section on the webpage: [Prayer — St Andrew's & St Bartholomew's](#)

**The Producers:** a group that promotes the health and well-being of men who suffer with long-term chronic pain. It is open to the wider community and comes under the heading of social prescribing.

**A treasure** - the repairs, refurbishment and construction of new items including benches, raised veg beds and garden planters are worked on every Tuesday in the Church Centre. Through listening and talking to each other (including tea and cake) strong bonds have been made, and a new inner confidence has occurred within the group.

**Find out more** - contact Mr Richard Lewis 07359 855129

**Production Team:** The team supports the 0900, 1030 and Encounter services with sound and visuals and coordinates the YouTube livestream that broadcasts and records the reading and talk at the 1030. Sound and visuals cover our various microphones, the main church PA, the amplification and mixing of the worship band, the projection of words, slides, images and video to the church TVs, and the audio and video feeds to the livestream and the creche in the lounge.

**A treasure** - reducing the livestream to just the reading and talk has been very helpful in the frequency that we've had to rota our Production Team volunteers. The change to the livestream means we can now run the 1030 service with two people not four, reducing the load on the team.

**A trial** - that the visuals side has been 'fragile' at times this year, with our software misbehaving at times and not picking up the correct visual outputs, or the team dealing with wires that have been unplugged or borrowed. We have simplified the PC set up at the desk which has removed some of the complexity and should improve stability and reliability.

**A hope** - we pray that, as people on the Team move on from time to time, that God will send us new volunteers to sustain the ministry.

**Find out more** by talking to any one of the team at the desk in the south transept (at the 'back' of the central block in church) after any of our main morning or Encounter services. Experience is not essential to volunteer – we will train you!

**Safeguarding:** The ministry is all about keeping children and vulnerable adults safe in everything we do as a church. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

**A trial** - Identifying all the right people and levels of training required, and establishing good administrative systems to keep records and ensure compliance.

**A treasure** – Recruiting two new Parish Safeguarding Officer's (PSO's) - Thomas Nhachi and Caroline Jones who are taking over from the dedicated work that Corinne Phillimore has carried out as outgoing PSO. Also adding Debbi Parry and Sue Francis to the Safeguarding team to help with the administrative burdens.

**A hope** – to integrate the growing Safeguarding team to work well with each other and establish priorities and clear processes to stay on top of the safer recruitment of all of our amazing volunteers.

**Find out more** - [safeguarding@stastb.church](mailto:safeguarding@stastb.church)

**Singles Connect Group:** allows single people the chance to meet new people and make new friends.

**A treasure** - we now have a group of 10 or so who have got to know each other.

**A trial** - to identify others who might benefit.

**A hope** - that we continue to grow and provide encouragement, friendship and prayer.

**Find out more** – Richard Ham, 07890743525

**St Bartholomew's:** Celebrating 850 years of Christian worship as a beacon of hope on Chosen Hill

**A treasure** - the Celebration Service. The committed congregation give thanks for the Services of Celebration where on recent occasions there has been standing room only supported by the extended Choir. Also, the St Bartholomew's Weekend when the Friends Team welcomed over seven hundred visitors,

**A trial** - the continuing care of the Churchyard.

**A hope** - that we connect more effectively with those attracted to the Celebration Services and strengthening the dedicated work of the Friends of St Bartholomew's.

**Find out more** - contact Peter Brown, Friends Chair via the Church Office

**Thursday Knitters:** We meet every Thursday morning at 10am in the Large Hall. A group of up to 30 ladies, both Church members and non-members with refreshments provided.

**A Treasure** - raising a total of £2,650 in 2025 which was donated to Gloucester Foodbank run by the Trussell Trust.

**A Trial** - finding homes for all the knitwear produced which we either sell or gift to those in need.

**A Hope** - that the group will welcome new knitters and that friendships formed will continue to grow.

**Find out more** - contact Anne Ewart [ewartanne@gmail.com](mailto:ewartanne@gmail.com)

**Thursday Zoom Prayer Meeting:** We are a group of people who come together every Thursday, online at 7.30pm, to pray for the work of the Church here in Churchdown. Many years ago, it was made very clear to us that we should be underpinning all the Church's activities and ministry with a solid foundation of prayer.

**A treasure** - we believe that it is through prayer, in all its forms, that our churches and our church community have been brought to the place where we are now in.

**A hope** - more people come to join us in this important work, as a church we should be a praying community.

**Find out more** – by speaking to Richard Waters or Andrew Smith or indeed joining us online at 7:30 on Thursday evenings for 40 minutes

Meeting ID:717 8863 5477 Passcode: STAPRAYER

**The Welcome Team:** Members greet people as they arrive at our services, helping them feel at home and navigate the church building if needed. They help newcomers to connect with other ministries in the church. They make and serve the refreshments after the services and clear away afterwards.

**A treasure** - seeing people feel noticed, welcomed, and relaxed as they arrive and connect over refreshments after services. It's not really about the coffee!

**A trial** - on some Sundays, not always having quite enough people to offer the welcome as fully as we would like.

**A hope** - in the year ahead, we continue to offer a welcome that reflects God's love and generosity to everyone who arrives. We want everyone to feel comfortable when attending.

Joining the Welcome Team is a great way to get to know others in the church, with plenty of opportunity to chat and build friendships while serving together.

**Find out more** by contacting Celia Anderson via email: [celia.anderson@stastb.church](mailto:celia.anderson@stastb.church)

**Women's Ministry:** To encourage and equip all women in our church community and beyond, to enable us to be the light to guide others towards Jesus.

**A treasure** - hearing the testimony's of how God is at work in the lives of our women in the church, how he has been faithful to his promises and is working in lives.

**A trial** - starting in faith, with a set of dates and not knowing where the team or speakers will come from. God has always provided.

**A hope** - that we bring all generations of women together, particularly finding spaces where the youth and young adult women can join with the other generations.

**Find out more** about this ministry by reaching out to Claire Hunter via the church office, I would love to hear from you.

**Worship Teams:** We are blessed to have over twenty musicians and many worship leaders to facilitate our contemporary worship music. We exist to motivate the gathered church, through song, to proclaim the Gospel, cherish God's transforming presence and seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit to go out and live for His glory.

**A treasure** - seeing new worship leaders and musicians emerge and develop, and an increased hunger for cherishing God's presence corporately.

**A trial** - it has been stretching for our worship leaders to cover so many services and events, and unsettling going through a season of leadership change.

**A hope**- we see new, empowering leadership emerge, and the continued integration and development of younger musicians and worship leaders.

**Find out more** - John Monaghan, [vicar@stastb.church](mailto:vicar@stastb.church)

**Youth:** Aimed at giving youth (11-18s) a place to belong, believe and become like Jesus. All are welcome from those in Churchdown to those beyond where we meet weekly for worship, studying the bible and building community.

**A treasure** - Youth stepping up to lead in many areas of challenge and opportunity. Especially in recent Youth Sundays where youth have led in the preaching, reading, praying and be in the worship team, as well as behind the scenes roles like AV, kitchen, communion prep, kids work, etc

**A trial** - in areas like bereavement, exams and relationships tensions, but thankful we get to support young people in these times.

**A hope** - youth continue in their faith especially those leaving for university, apprenticeships and gap years. To apply what they learned and stay curious in the best ways.

**Find out more** - Jamie Flores, [jamie@stastb.church](mailto:jamie@stastb.church) or [www.stastb.church/youth](http://www.stastb.church/youth)

## **12. Finance Report**

After a difficult year in 2024, 2025 was a very welcome return to a positive financial set of results, boosted by a very generous legacy bequest as well as various grants for specific projects - the largest of which was for the solar panels.

Staff costs accounted for around 36% of our expenditure, with our contribution to the diocese accounting for 18%. The other major areas of spending were maintaining and servicing our buildings and the support for our mission partners. Most of our expenditure is funded by personal giving to the church, for which we are blessed and very thankful.

I want to thank Andrew S, Andy C, Steve, Matt, Alison and Roger for their support on our Finance Committee, with special recognition to Roger for his incredible work in obtaining the various grants we have received this year. Also, a huge thank you to Christopher Phillimore as Stewardship Advisor.

We have also paid down one of our two loans that remained from the courtyard project.

We continue to ask for your prayerful support for our finances.

God Bless, *Chris Jones*