

**+THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
OF  
THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF  
ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, WEST  
TARRING**

*(In the Benefice of Maybridge and West Tarring)*



**ST ANDREW'S  
CHURCH**  
WEST TARRING

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL  
REPORTS FOR 2024**

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## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE CHARITY

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission as required by the Charities Act 2011 (Registration Number: 1130723). Its governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

The Charity Trustees are members of the PCC. Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church representation rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the Incumbent, (from 2 October 2023), Churchwardens and representatives on Deanery, Diocesan or General Synods) and eleven members of the congregation on the Church Electoral Roll (elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting) and appropriate co-opted members. Members of the congregation are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

### Ex-officio Members:

Paul Halstead	(Churchwarden)	Vice Chairman
Margaret Sturmeay	(Churchwarden)	

### Elected Members:

Carol Churchill  
Graham Hill  
Sophie Businge  
Jane Wells  
Caroline Birch  
Graham Fabes  
Liz McCarthy  
Raye Mills  
Stephen Stripp  
Co-opted during the year: Kathy Shuttleworth and Leah Barrs

### Deanery Synod:

Hazel Whittaker  
Frances Spencer

## OUR AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSES AS A CHARITY

The primary objective of St Andrew's PCC is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector (and during vacancy the Churchwardens) in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. Volunteers play a significant part in all activities of the parish, especially in youth work, fund-raising and administration. Donations are made annually to local and national charities.

## MOTHERS UNION

Another year has passed and our West Tarring Branch has been really busy once again. We have been blessed celebrating the Eucharist together with Fr Steven, listening to the interesting Bitesize Sessions led by Karen and an informative talk by Nancy Ford on Christmas Traditions.

We have also enjoyed afternoon teas, meals out and seen the Carpet of Flowers at Arundel. In July MU had a stall at Broadwater Carnival and the weather this year was on our side! We ran a Tombola Stall that was really popular with the public. The prizes were really eye catching and we raised £360 for our Away From It All Holiday project for Families. We enjoyed fellowship over our Sandwich Lunch and also created lovely posies with our talented team of Church florists. MU has continued to support the Welcome Café for families from local schools. They really benefit from the care they are given by all the teams involved. We are so grateful to everyone who helps weekly. Church members have been really generous with donations of much needed food supplies. We were delighted to receive support from both Worthing Lions and Turning Tides Charities to help fund this project. We continue to support the Baptisms in Church with each child receiving a gift from MU. This is such a special time for the families.

The Ministry of Cake at Worthing Hospital has sadly had to stop. This has been a wonderful outreach to families for many years. Huge thanks to all that were involved in this project for all they did both baking cakes and visiting the Wards too.

We do however continue to provide much-needed emergency admission and memory bags for the children's wards; these are very gratefully received. We are also extremely thankful to Christchurch who support our Hospital Projects through their Coffee Mornings.

Our own Branch Coffee Mornings are always well attended and are also a super time of fellowship together. Please come along and bring family and friends too.

In December we ended a busy year with our Christmas Party enjoyed by all. A group also took part in The Worthing Lions Christmas street collection.

We thank God for the friendship and support that MU offers. As we move forward to another year on our Christian journey we are always very happy to welcome new members. Please come along to our meetings and enjoy the fun and fellowship we share. May we always be guided by Jesus in everything we do.

Ros Halstead (Branch Contact)

## TRUSTEES' REVIEW OF THE YEAR

*(What we have achieved and how we have affected beneficiaries' lives)*

## SAFEGUARDING

In line with all churches nationally, the PCC continue to keep safeguarding to the forefront of our Church ministry, and have up to date parish reports at every meeting.

As well as DBS checks, PCC members and volunteers for the various church activities are required to do regular basic and foundation safeguarding courses, updating them every 3 years, which raise awareness of the principles of safeguarding in the church and local community. At present these are done on-line, though it's hoped to resume face to face trainings in the near future. These courses are available to all members of the congregation- I can give details to anyone who may be interested. Safeguarding officers too have regular training sessions and seminars to keep up to date with current situations.

It is not possible to report any details of the work done under this heading as everything is dealt with confidentially, and we are supported very well by the Diocesan safeguarding team.

*Frances Spencer. Parish safeguarding officer*

## **CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT**

In just over 1 year, under Fr Steven's leadership St Andrew's has grown in weekly attendance and the variety of services and fundraising events available to parishioners and the wider Tarring Community.

Some good links have been made with the Tarring High Street Community who have participated in many 'under the radar' occasions (Pantomime, Tarring Market, Articles in the 'Inside Tarring' Newsletter) raising the profile of the Church.

This year our Ride and Stride sponsor event in September took us to Fr Steven's previous Parish of St Mary de Haura in Shoreham and The Church of the Good Shepherd on Shoreham Beach, via Lancing College, St Nicholas Old Shoreham, St Michaels & All Angels Lancing and St James the Less North Lancing, before the climbed up to Lancing Ring to drive home to St Andrew's. We were joined by more Striders this year which

was wonderful. Let's see where 2025 takes us.

There were two more organised Coach trips this year. The first in May to St Paul's Cathedral in London, followed in November to Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford. There are no more coach pilgrimages planned for the future, simply because we feel we've run out of Cathedrals to visit by coach easily in a day. If you can think of somewhere of interest to visit we are happy to look into organising another coach trip.

Margie Sturmey, Paul Halstead - Churchwardens

## **BUILDINGS & FABRIC REPORT**

The latest round of repairs to the spire was completed during the summer. Before the access ladders were finally dismantled Fr Steven arranged to climb to the top, looked on by members of the congregation and the community and with local press coverage. The 4 most exposed facets of the spire have now been re-shingled, and subsequent winter storms do not seem to have caused any significant damage.

However we have had issues with water ingress into the church after heavy rain in the area beneath the tower; this proved to be largely due to debris accumulation in the drainage channels and when these were cleared the problem was much improved.

There is dust and fine particles continuing to fall at the West end. We are keeping a watch on this and will seek the advice of the Architect in due course. Work on the alarm system has been hampered by the difficulty of finding a contractor to mend the outdated 'pyroban' cable which was the power source to the whole system. This is still ongoing.

Continuing with the annual maintenance schedule, the heating system was largely trouble-free during 2024. The area outside the boiler room is very prone to flooding after even light rain; this is due to the drain or soakaway being blocked and this will not be easy to clear.

To prepare for the planned future opening of the church some doors have been fitted with locks; this will of course require a distribution of keys to people requiring access. *Paul Halstead April 2024*

## **DEANERY SYNOD REPORT**

We were welcomed to St George's Church East Worthing by the Rev John Brook. The speaker for the first part of the meeting was Richard Greenhorn from Christians against Poverty. He defined poverty as when you haven't got enough income

to be able to afford what you need for life, and there are 13.4 million people living in poverty in the UK today. Other statistics included 16 million people having been forced to skip meals recently due to cost and 25 million people went without heating during the winter because of increased energy costs.

CAP's vision is to see transformed lives, thriving churches and an end to UK poverty- a vision that can only be realised by stepping out in faith and putting the compassion of Jesus into action. Since 2010 CAP has seen more than 20,000 people become debt free as a result of their efforts. They give advice about money management, encourage the development of life skills, and help people back into work. Churches can advise what CAP offers to parishioners and the community who are in financial difficulties via the Worthing Debt Centre, based in the New Life Baptist Church.

Richard asked churches to consider supporting CAP with regular giving, or encouraging individual donations (£12 per month would enable CAP to support 6 families on their journey out of debt). Further details can be found in the Deanery newsletter.

The second part of the Deanery Synod meeting referred to the general running of the Synod:

News of clergy moves:

2025 Year of Faith- Lots of activities planned including a Deanery Service on 4th February

Deanery confirmation at St James the Less on 11 September 2024

A school governor needed for St Andrew's School

Diocesan Synod – elections now open for new member

Deanery Synod Meeting on Thursday 19th September 2024

The meeting was held at St Andrew's West Tarring- thank you to those who provided and served the refreshments.

The main speaker was the Revd Earl Collins who gave an excellent presentation on the Year of Faith 2025 which he based on the Nicene Creed.

He looked back to the Old Testament, often referred to as the scriptures, and how essential it is to our understanding of the New Testament.

The aim of the Year of Faith is to attempt to unravel “The Mystery of Faith” based on what we learn from the Old and New Testaments, and to help with this we have two main creeds

1. The Apostles Creed. This is a basic list of statements about what we believe. Its origins are in the baptism of people when they were asked a series of questions about what they believe. It’s a basic statement of our faith, in almost question and answer form
2. However, in 325 AD, as a result of religious leaders trying to teach their own interpretation of faith, the emperor Constantine convened the Council of Nicaea. This was a council of Christian bishops and resulted in the Nicene Creed which is used in our Eucharist .It adds more details about the statements in the Apostles Creed and how they should be taught and adhered to.

It is 950 years since the founding of the Diocese of Chichester and there will be a Deanery service on Tuesday 4th February 7.30pm at St Mary’s Broadwater. Various activities are planned throughout 2025 to celebrate the Year of Faith as well – the Diocesan Lent course will be one of them but more details will be published in the near future.

Deanery newsletters are sent out between meetings which contain up to date information of additional happening in the Deanery. Printed copies are available in church

*Frances Spencer*

## **SAINT ANDREW’S FELLOWSHIP**

*John Hubbard (Hon. Secretary Saint Andrew’s Fellowship)*

## **OLD PALACE REPORT**

I am pleased to report on the activities at the Old Palace over the past year. Throughout the year the Old Palace has been virtually fully used on weekdays and evenings by numbers of community groups including: The Busy Bees Nursery, The Church’s Mother and Toddler Group, Line Dancing, Martial Arts, Yoga, Musicians, The



NCT and the Girl Guides. On weekends, there are frequent private children's party, Baptism events and church activities organised by the Social Committee.

Additionally, over the winter months, the Church with the Mother's Union ran a Children and Families hub with a food store, for struggling families from the local community, In June last year the annual Tarring Market took place at the Old Palace and the Church, and few will forget the very challenging weather on the day.

The Old Palace is a vital hub for the Tarring Community and the income from all the events held there has contributed to the maintenance of a wonderful building, being one of only two Grade 1 listed buildings in Worthing.

Throughout the year, negotiations have been ongoing over the new lease for JBS Dance, a dance school which for many years has occupied the separate building to the rear of the Old Palace. The new lease is coming towards completion, with a number of complications along the way and the inevitable legal costs that has attracted. The dancing school will continue to provide a valuable source of income to the church.

Maintaining an old and significantly importing building does not come without costs, and these have been met from the rental fees of those using the buildings. Repairs and Maintenance has been ongoing, including a thorough deep clean in the summer break. Annual Gas and Fire Safety checks are undertaken and other costs including fuel, waste disposal, music Licence Costs and Insurance are met from income.

I am pleased to report that for the year 2024 a small profit was made from income over expenditure, although 2025 will be more challenging.

Finally, a big thank you to Linda our Caretaker for her steadfast work throughout the year; to her husband Clive for his voluntary gardening work; to Jack Martin for covering holiday breaks and providing other assistance to me and to Leah for managing weekend bookings and the calendar of events. *Graham E Hill - Manager*

## **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

### **Pilgrimage**

The Children's Pilgrimage 2024 was attended by 2 adults and 1 child and the Youth Pilgrimage 2024 was attended by 1 adult and 1 child from St Andrews. Both these pilgrimages we attend as part of the Chichester Diocese group.

Lots of lively worship, fun, teaching, friendship and various craft activities were available for all.

### **Welcome Cafe**

We started the Welcome Cafe again at The Old Palace in November. This has followed on from the previous success of the last couple of years. Families were identified by the local schools. We offered a drink, a snack, a listening ear, a safe and warm space and access to much needed food supplies.

We were very grateful to the Worthing Lions who very kindly supported us with Vicky made a Christmas hamper for 1 of the families at a local school. The family were extremely grateful. Thank you so much for all the support given, we are really grateful.

## **Christmas**

A very successful Christmas Tree Festival was held. We had 20 Christmas trees which were decorated by church members and the local community as well as a chocolate tombola, refreshments and jams, marmalade and chutneys. The High street choir came and sang on Sunday. Thank you so much for all the support.

The Christingle service went well with lots of children attending and all the Christingles made were given to all those who attended.

The Crib service was a great success with so many people attending. Various members of Shining Stars Sunday School and the congregation carried the Nativity characters to the altar to make the Nativity scene.

## **Schools**

We were delighted to welcome Durrington High school, Oak Grove College and Palatine school who all come to St Andrews again for their annual Christmas Concert/Service. They appreciated all those who gave up their time to help and allowed them to come and use the church.

We welcomed year 1 classes from Thomas Becket to visit St Andrews just before Christmas. They all enjoyed looking around the church.

## **Baptisms**

We have had quite a few baptisms during the year. Thank you so much to Mothers Union who very kindly gives each child the gift of a book. It has been a busy, fun and exciting year.

Vicky Townsend

Children's and Families Coordinator

## **BABY & TODDLER GROUP**

Baby and Toddlers are going from strength to strength. We are growing with lots of new families coming along and joining us. We offer a craft activity, a drink and a snack. Those who come love the group.

*Ros Halstead Jan Grange Vicky Townsend (Co Leaders)*

## **SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

Throughout the year we have been pleased to support all Church events, both through our presence and through helping to make and serve refreshments when needed.

Last year we ran a number of events that were very well attended by members of the congregation.

We organised the Refreshment stall at Tarring Market . This kept us all very busy all day. I think the poor weather meant that many more people wanted hot teas and coffees to keep warm. We realised it was a squash only having the Solar to have tables out.

We ran our usual Parish Barbeque at the end of August. Unfortunately, due to the high winds we had to eat in Church. Lunch was slightly late due to not being able to get the barbecues going, but we got there in the end!!

In November we were delighted to organise an afternoon tea party in memory of Jane Wells. We were delighted to have Steve and Leonie and other family members there, as well as a good number of Tarring High Street residents. Everyone agreed that it was a lovely afternoon.

At the end of November we organised a St Andrew's Day fish and chip lunch following the morning service. Another very enjoyable occasion for all who attended.

All of our events are very dependent on the support and attendance of our great congregation.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered as a helper, to all members of the Social Group, and to everyone who has made cakes, scones and salads, or supported us in any way. We appreciate you all. *Raye Mills - Secretary*

## **CHOIR**

There are currently 19 members of the church choir - 3 basses, 2 tenors, 5 altos and 9 sopranos. We continue to meet weekly for choir practice on Friday evenings and sing at the 10am Sung Eucharist on Sunday mornings. We also sing at occasional Sunday Evensong services as well as at weddings, funerals and special weekday services.

Christmas and Easter are our busiest times, as those services require a lot of additional practices as well as attendances at the extra services. Traditionally we have a weekend off after Easter and Christmas, as well as two weeks off in August.

We continue to sing from the Lady Chapel as that makes us feel more part of the congregation, though it presents its own challenge of how to organise our music in such a confined space.

Fr Steven is continuing to advertise for the permanent position of organist/choir leader, unsuccessfully so far, but we pray that the right person will come along to fill the post. Meanwhile we are very grateful to Peter Ashley and Brendan Walls who are filling in temporarily, plus Revd Nancy and other organists who help out occasionally. *Frances Spencer*