



st Andrew
STAPLEFORD

Annual Meetings 2023

St Andrew's annual meetings this year will follow on from the 10.30 am morning services on 5 March 2023. The timings below are therefore approximate.

NOTICE OF THE MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

The annual meeting of parishioners will be held in St Andrew's Church, Mingle Lane, Stapleford, CB22 5SY on Sunday 5 March 2023 at 11.30 am for the purpose of electing churchwardens.

Those resident in the parish whose names are on the local government register of electors and those on the electoral roll of the church are entitled to attend and vote.

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in St Andrew's Church, Mingle Lane, Stapleford, CB22 5SY on Sunday 5 March 2023 at 11.35 am.

Those on the electoral roll of the church are entitled to attend and vote.

NOTICE OF PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

A Parochial Church Council meeting will be held after the conclusion of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

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AGENDAS

The meetings will be opened with prayer.

A. MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

1. Minutes of 2022 meeting
2. Election of two churchwardens

B. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Minutes of 2022 meeting
2. Election of two Deanery Synod representatives for three years.
3. Election of members of the laity to serve on the PCC

Note: The retiring lay members of the PCC are Sue Brown, Anand Pillai and Jeanie Green. There are five vacancies, namely four for three years and one for one year.

4. Election of two assistant churchwardens
5. Financial statements & reports
6. Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2023
7. Parochial Church Council Reports
8. Electoral Roll
[A copy of the roll is available for inspection]
9. Reports on the activities of the parish
10. Buildings, churchyard, goods and ornaments
11. Deanery Synod
12. Parish Priest's Report
13. Any other business

C. PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Note: the minutes of the meeting on 14 March 2022 after the APCM have already been approved at the PCC meeting on 28 March 2022, but are included for convenience.

1. Appointment of Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and any consequential co-options
2. Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer
3. Confirmation of date of next meeting

Note: the composition of the Standing Committee will remain as Parish Priest, Churchwardens, Secretary and Treasurer and two additional lay members until confirmed or changed at the next PCC meeting.

A. DOCUMENTS FOR MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

Item 1: MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS HELD BY ZOOM ON MONDAY 14 MARCH 2022 AT 7.45 PM

Simon Taylor opened the meeting with a prayer and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PRESENT: Revd Simon Taylor (Chair), Felicity Cooke (Lay Vice Chair), Jackie Nettleton (Churchwarden), Alastair MacGregor (Churchwarden), Nicky West (Secretary), Chris Bow (Treasurer), Revd Clare Coates (Curate), Gillian Sanders (Minutes Secretary), Rachel Bousfield, Sue & Stephen Brown, John Bryden, Kirsty & John Campbell, Ollie Challis, Mary Cooper, Chris Everitt, Jeannie Green, Fiona Holliday, Simon Humphrey, Joan King, Trish Maude, Anand Pillai, Bill & Valerie Powell, Romie Ridley, Jill Ward, Peter & Christine Wenham, Judith Whale

APOLOGIES: Piers Brereton, Judith & Stephen Lee, Lizzie Taylor

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes were approved and signed.

Election of Churchwardens

Alastair MacGregor was nominated and seconded to serve as Churchwarden for the coming year and had expressed his willingness to serve. There being no other nominations he was duly elected to serve as Churchwarden for 2022-23.

Simon Taylor thanked Jackie Nettleton and Alastair MacGregor for their work during the past year. There is a casual vacancy for a churchwarden.

The meeting closed at 7.53 pm.

B. DOCUMENTS FOR ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Item 1: MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD BY ZOOM ON MONDAY 14 MARCH 2022 AT 7.55 PM

PRESENT: as at the annual meeting of the parishioners

APOLOGIES: as at the annual meeting of the parishioners

1. Minutes of the 2021 APCM and Matters Arising

- The Minutes had been circulated in advance.
- The Minutes were approved and signed.
- There were no matters arising.

2. Election of Lay Members of the Parochial Church Council

Simon Taylor thanked retiring members Jackie Nettleton, Simon Humphrey and Nicky West for their service.

Kirsty Campbell, Martin Ginger, Sarah Hackett and Romie Ridley were nominated and seconded and had expressed their willingness to serve. They were duly elected to serve as lay members of the PCC for a period of three years.

There are casual vacancies for other positions lasting one year and two years.

3. Election of Assistant Churchwardens

Margaret Hebden and Romie Ridley were nominated and seconded and expressed their willingness to serve. There being no further nominations they were duly elected to serve as Assistant Churchwardens for 2022-23.

Simon Taylor thanked Felicity Cooke and Romie Ridley for their hard work in 2021-22.

4. Financial Statements and Reports.

These were presented by Chris Bow. Simon Taylor thanked the finance team consisting of Chris Bow, Sue Brown, Lisa MacGregor and Clare Kerr, and Chris Bow added his appreciation for the team's hard work.

4.1 and 4.2 Treasurer's Report & Financial Statements For 2020

The extract from the Treasurer's report explains key figures in the accounts.

Statement of Financial Activities

Overall movement shows a deficit of £2,026 after crediting gains on investments of £16,290, representing a revaluation of our investments. The overall cash deficit was £18,316.

There have been big outgoings in restricted funds. The Nachingwea Link made significant donations and from the Estate Fund there was the cost of the church ceiling netting.

Balance Sheet

Overall, the PCC finances are in a reasonable position. There is the sum of £185,000 in either in investments or in cash.

Incoming Resources & Resources Expended

The general level of giving has reduced year on year but expenditure is generally in line with previous years.

Funds

These are as shown in the accounts.

Independent Examiner

The independent examiner was happy to give his approval to the accounts.

4.3 Budget for 2022

The notes show the assumptions made.

Summary

The summary shows that four funds showed an improved deficit from last year helped by

increased income from Johnson Hall hire charges, but the General Fund will go further into deficit, closer to £10,000.

Estate Fund

Further income is expected from Feoffees and a donation from the Friends of St Andrews towards the cost of the church ceiling repairs. Alastair MacGregor confirmed that the Friends' cheque has been received.

General Fund

The General Fund shows a projected modest increase in income. Expenditure is broadly in line with 2021 apart from the youth worker and parish administrator. There is good news that the PCC has negotiated a 3-year energy contract relating to the church and Johnson Hall and should therefore not be hit by the expected large increases in energy costs.

Messenger

The Messenger budget is steady and has generated a surplus, part of which is distributed to village causes.

Verger's Cottage

The Verger's Cottage is showing a small deficit because there has been very little income but there is an expectation that this will change as bookings pick up. Jackie Nettleton asked why the Verger's Cottage was not put on same contract as the church and Johnson Hall, and Alastair MacGregor confirmed that a special deal is no longer available.

Discussion

Felicity Cooke suggested now would be a good time to promote the Parish Giving Scheme. Simon Taylor said that joining the Parish Giving Scheme is easy via the parish website or by phone. Simon outlined the advantages of the scheme over the old Gift Aid scheme in that people can factor in annual cost of living increases, Also, in terms of cash flow, donations come through earlier from the Diocese, which also covers the cost of the scheme. Felicity Cooke mentioned the further advantage of administration being done automatically.

Stephen Brown raised the subject of the church boiler which is a cause for concern and is a budget matter. The costs are unknown but could run to some tens of thousands.

4.4 Gift Aid.

The report from Lisa MacGregor was noted. Lisa was thanked for her invaluable assistance with Gift Aid.

5. Independent Examiner

Simon Taylor expressed his thanks to Keith Haddow, the independent examiner, for his work in 2021. Simon Taylor proposed his re-appointment and Chris Bow seconded. All in favour. Keith Haddow was appointed unanimously.

6. PCC Reports for 2021

6.1 & 6.2 Annual Report of the PCC & Proceedings of the PCC

These were taken as read and there were no questions. Grateful thanks were extended to everyone on the PCC.

6.3 Safeguarding

Rob Needle has taken on the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer building on the good foundations laid by Lisa MacGregor. Simon Taylor thanked them both. There have been lots of changes this year as well as a trickle of incidents which had to be dealt with. Alastair MacGregor thanked Gillian Sanders for assisting Rob with safeguarding administration.

7. Electoral Roll

The membership of the Electoral Roll is now 117. Romie Ridley was thanked for her work as Electoral Roll officer.

8. Reports on the Activities of the Parish

Thanks were expressed to all who had provided reports. They are as follows.

8.1 Churchwardens' Report

The Churchwardens' report was taken as read and the wardens were thanked for their work.

8.2 Curate's Report

Clare Coates' report was taken as read. This is likely to be Clare's last APCM, and Simon Taylor proposed a formal vote of thanks to her. She was duly thanked.

8.3 to 8.14 Reports of Committees and Organisations

Thanks were expressed to all who had provided reports and contributed in so many ways. The reports were presented in groups as follows.

- **Ministry in and around Stapleford**

Events Committee

Pastoral Care

Thanks were given to Mary Cooper, Romie Ridley and Clare Coates.

Community Warden Scheme

Mary Cooper and Jackie Nettleton are our representatives on the Age UK team. They were thanked, and Jill Ward expressed her appreciation of the Warden Scheme.

JOY

- **Ministry beyond Stapleford**

St Andrew's Stapleford-Nachingwea Link Committee.

Thanks were expressed to Trish Maude for her leadership of the Link.

Traidcraft

Thanks were expressed to Romie Ridley.

St Andrew's/Children's Society Partnership.

Thanks were expressed to Rob Needle and the team.

- **Children and Young People**

Children and Families

The team is led by Sue Brown together with Clare Coates; grateful thanks were expressed to them and to the whole team.

Youth Groups

Zoe Clayton is doing exceptionally well in difficult circumstances. The meeting expressed their disappointment and dismay at the way Zoe has been treated by some parents. Formal thanks will be conveyed to Zoe.

St Andrew's Toddler Group

Thanks were expressed to Fiona Holliday and Clare Coates and their team for getting the Toddler Group up and running again.

Shelford & Stapleford Youth Initiative

YouthInc

Simon Taylor is now chairing YouthInc.

- **Music**

Choir and SingPlus

Thanks were expressed to John Bryden, who in turn thanked Sarah Needle and James Buchanan-Worster for their assistance with the choir and Frances Richardson for helping with SingPlus.

Tower Bells

Thanks were expressed to Tony Smith for his continuing leadership of the team.

- **House Groups, Study Groups and Prayer Groups**

A number of groups have kept going as best they can during the pandemic. Thanks were expressed to the leaders. The groups are:

Wednesday Evening Bible Study and Prayer Group

Exploring Faith, Life and Prayer (Women's Group)

Tuesday Evening Women's Bible Group

Wednesday Evening House Group

Friday Prayer Group

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- **Eco Church Project**

We gained a bronze award this year and are aiming for a silver award in the next couple of years. St Andrew's is now a Fairtrade Foundation Registered Church. Thanks were expressed to Sophi Berridge for her leadership.

- **Church Flowers**

Jackie Nettleton and the team were thanked for their lovely floral work.

- **Lunch Group**

Chris Everitt was thanked for organising the group.

- **St Andrew's Display Board**

Thanks to Judith Lee for organizing the display board.

- **Stapleford Mothers' Union**

Hilary Street was thanked for her continued leadership.

- **Friends of St Andrew's**

- **Stapleford Messenger**

Felicity Cooke is stepping down from the Messenger Production Team but many others are lending assistance. The meeting was grateful that the magazine is carrying on and the team led by Felicity was thanked.

9. Buildings, Churchyard, Goods and Ornaments

- **Church Building.**

Stephen Brown, chair of the Fabric Committee, was thanked for his report. Simon Taylor acknowledged that a lot goes into keeping the church safe and looking good – and he thanked Chris Cooper and Ollie Challis for looking after the building alongside Stephen.

Chris Everitt asked if the ceiling netting might remain permanently. Stephen Brown said the faculty is for five years during which time a permanent solution must be put in place. The ceiling repair estimate of £60-80,000 from two years ago needs to be updated. Stephen reported that the boiler has recently become a major concern with the result that tens of thousands of pounds might have to be spent within a year or two. If that is the case, we could possibly return to the faculty judge that there have been mitigating circumstances which might warrant an extension.

- **Inventory of Goods and Ornaments**

The inventory is available for inspection.

- **Johnson Hall and Verger's Cottage**

Jackie Nettleton has arranged for the cutlery & crockery to be replaced. She was thanked for her leadership of the Hall committee, and Mary & Chris Cooper were thanked for their efforts in keeping the Hall and Cottage in order.

- **Churchyard**

Chris Cooper and the team of volunteers were thanked. Simon Taylor commented that a beautifully kept churchyard has proved its worth over the pandemic, not least for Forest Church. Jackie asked if there has been any progress in getting younger people, perhaps Forest Church parents, to help in the churchyard. Sarah Hackett suggested conservation as an activity in Forest Church but Sue Brown thought there is not enough time. Rachel Bousfield thought that most children at Forest Church are too young to help around the churchyard. Mary Cooper reminded the meeting that there will be churchyard work party on Saturday 26 March starting at 2 pm.

10. Granta Deanery Synod

Lizzie Taylor and Felicity Cooke were thanked for representing us.

11. Parish Priest's Report for 2022

Simon Taylor had circulated his report for 2022 (relating to 2021-22) in advance of the meeting.

The text of Simon's **report for 2022 (relating to 2021-22)** was as follows. *This is included here as part of the minutes of the APCM held in 2022.*

This is my seventh annual report for the APCM, and, remarkably, the third during the pandemic. None of us knew, back in March 2020, that the pandemic would still be dribbling on a full two years later. When we first cancelled services and other church events just before Mothering Sunday in March 2020, we did so until, we said, the end of April, though we did presciently say that we might need to extend the period of cancellations. Well, yes, we did need to extend it.

I want to start my report this year slightly left field, by saying this. It is something that we, as a church in a small village, can be very pleased about.

We are now a training parish. That is not an official church designation, but you can, I think, rightly claim to be a congregation which trains people for public ministry. So in the last five years we have had four full time ordinands and two ordinands on summer placement. We have appointed and brought on two occasional preachers. We have had two members become authorised lay ministers. We have trained one curate and will, I hope, shortly embark on training another. That is quite a record, and on behalf of all those who have trained here or are training here, being allowed to make mistakes without recriminations, and to try things out and being helped to learn, I want to say a big thank you to you all. The loving and welcoming attitude you have to all those who train here is a huge contribution.

These thoughts come to mind partly because at some point in the next few months we shall wave goodbye to Clare Coates as she comes to the end of her training – what a fantastic gift she has been to us – but also because the pandemic has, amidst the incredibly hard and debilitating day to day work, given me an opportunity for reflection about where we have come from, what we have achieved, where we are going and what else we need to do.

Over the past six years we have achieved a great deal together apart from becoming a training parish. Some of it is rather dull, but it took a lot of effort from many people, often more effort than you would have thought. So our financial management is now sound, right from the ways in which we collect money to the accounting and reporting. We have brought our governance into line with relevant regulations. So the democratic elements of our church governance work as they should. We have good continuing succession planning for all key posts which works well on the whole. Our safeguarding has been modernised first under the leadership of Lisa MacGregor and now Rob Needle, and it is now excellent. I am grateful to them both. We have a superb database – fantastically useful all the time, but it really came into its own in the pandemic - and a useful modern website. We have excellent professional administrative help from Gillian Sanders. We have a terrific professional youth worker in Zoe Clayton. Our services now include a much wider range of styles than used to be the case, maintaining the traditional but no longer being restricted to just the traditional. Our pastoral care through the JOY group is beginning to reach out into our community more than used to be the case. Our choir has managed to recruit new members, thanks largely to the warmth, energy and musical adventurousness of John Bryden. We have a flourishing ministry to families, thanks largely to the leadership of Sue Brown and Clare Coates and their marvellous team. A new toddler group has been established with stronger links to the church now, led by Clare and our new Licensed Lay Minister Fiona Holliday. It is great to have Fiona on the team and we are very lucky to have her. And although we have lost some members of the congregation for a wide variety of reasons we are now seeing new members of the congregation at all ages. All of these things are significant achievements over the last several years.

One other change that has taken place – this one just in the last year, though we have been working at it for several years – is that the diocese has agreed to cut and has now cut the formal ties between Stapleford and Great Shelford. This is a good thing. It was a bureaucratic arrangement with no real purpose. And it carried with it the threat of absorption of Stapleford into another parish, which the old hands in our congregation have been battling for 25 years or more. That threat has now receded. It means, I think, that the future of Stapleford as an independent parish is a little bit more secure than was the case. It does also mean that in the fulness of time, when the diocesan cogs move, I will become your vicar in the full legal sense.

So, taking a long view we can and should be pretty happy with the way things are going. There is much to be thankful for. There really is. God has been gracious to us.

Having sketched in that big picture I can turn to a report on the last year or so.

I certainly did not think we would still be in pandemic mode now when I reported to you last year. I referred then to the huge cost, in terms of tiredness, frustration and extra workload there had been for all those involved in keeping the church going. Some of that eased over the course of the year as we settled into a kind of longer term pandemic mode, but many of the demands of pandemic church management have remained. And, as was evident at last year's APCM, not everyone has been happy with the direction the church has taken, so trying to keep the show on the road in a way that keeps everyone at least tolerably happy has been demanding too. Those who lead St Andrew's – not just me but I think all of us - are coming close to exhaustion caused by the ongoing demands both of charting our way through the pandemic and maintaining some cohesion.

But now we are, I hope, almost out of the pandemic at any rate. Some modest precautions are still in place, but God willing not for much longer. I anticipate – though who can really anticipate anything with this virus – that by the summer our services and events will be a great deal more normal, without masks unless from personal choice, without undue attention to spacing unless that is what someone wants, without obsessive hand hygiene, and without extra ventilation unless summer weather demands it. Not everything will be 'normal', of course. I don't know, for example, when we will feel confident enough to want to share a common cup, but I dare say we will get there too.

Now leaving aside the difficulties I have mentioned, it has actually been a pretty good year, with lots of excellent things happening. It is easy to lose sight of that when the day to day workload is so high. In 2021 we carried on with online services until Easter, and we can be truly proud of a lot of our output. I say 'we' and I mean all those who took part, a very large number of you. It was very much a team effort.

Then on Easter Day we broke free. We had our Easter communion outdoors in the churchyard. It was absolutely fantastic, a joyful celebration. I think we will do it outside again this year. One good thing we have learned during the pandemic is how good it can be to worship outside. Other outdoor celebrations included the wonderful Nachingwea Link 40th anniversary celebrations, our Harvest Festival, and various things forced upon us. You may remember, for example, that some of our terrific series of services and sermons on the Living in Love & Faith materials had to be outside whilst we had emergency work done on the ceiling – a passing but grateful thanks to Stephen Brown for his leadership of the Fabric Committee on this and other things - and then both Christingle and our Christmas Day services were moved outside as Omicron did its stuff. We had indoor specials too, including The Children's Society Partnership service with the CEO Mark Russell preaching – do you remember him calling us as a church community

the fifth gospel in Stapleford? - and not one but two sittings of our traditional lessons and carols service, another pandemic innovation that might be worth keeping.

Socially we have been a bit restricted. Church refreshments after services were a rather on and off affair as the pandemic waxed and waned, but we did manage one church social in the vicarage garden in August. That event in the marquee with the various musical contributions was great fun.

Looking back at it all I think we can genuinely say that in our provision of services, and in our pastoral care, and in our outreach more generally, we are well on the way to fulfilling our vision of being a church for the whole community. That is the vision I have been articulating for some years now – to be a church for the whole community. We want to proclaim and live out the gospel in ways that are accessible to everyone.

None of it could have been achieved without a great many hands on deck. I try to thank everyone but am conscious that I don't always manage. So a big general heartfelt thank you to all of you. You are genuinely appreciated.

I should though, pay special tribute to our wardens. Alastair MacGregor and Jackie Nettleton have served us with great devotion and deserve and have our enormous thanks. Alastair is going to serve another year, and I am looking forward to that. But a particular word about Jackie as she is stepping down. She promised us just the one year and I am very grateful for it, though I heartily and sincerely wish it could have been more. Maybe we will entice her back in the future. Jackie has been hardworking, and a very wise counsellor indeed, so thank you Jackie.

This year we have also expanded the role of the assistant wardens. Romie Ridley and Felicity Cooke have, for example, taken part in our monthly clergy and wardens meetings, and taken on a variety of the many tasks that need doing, and I am very grateful to them.

In any event, that is all how we have got to where we are. Having reviewed where we are, my custom each year is to look to the future, and try, inadequately, to sketch out where we are going.

I don't need to take as long doing that this year as I sometimes have in the past. Our general course is set. We are a church for the whole community, and I am convinced that actively pursuing that role is the best way of spreading the gospel here. We have set that course and it is gradually being reflected in all that we do.

That is the easy bit.

My sense, though, is that within that broad vision the church is at something of an inflection point. We now know what we are about and where we are going. We have seen the major changes in our pattern of services that I have referred to, but we have also seen a major change in the makeup of the church family for a variety of reasons. Not the least of these is, I think, just a loss of the habit of churchgoing, something we saw in effect at our recent Ash Wednesday service. And as well as the change in the pattern of

our services we have seen quite major additions to our activities in all sorts of ways – a monthly prayer meeting, Forest Church, JOY, the new toddler group, a new men's group and more. We have done all of that to spread the good news of Jesus Christ in Stapleford and beyond. That is our purpose, and the building blocks are in place, and if new things come our way we will be ready for them. It may not be many years, for example, before we see very significant new housing north of Mingle Lane.

In any event, what we now need to do, I sense, is consolidate a little, make sure our foundations are right, strong for what lies ahead. By this I don't mean to squash any new ventures that anyone is keen to try. If you have something new that fits with our vision I will back it and support you. But for my part what I want us to concentrate on and enhance over the next year or so are the twin pillars of bible study and prayer. These are the essential foundations for a church, but I suspect that they have become a little weaker in our church community than they should be. That is partly my fault. I have, for example, known for a while that our home groups needed support if they were going to flourish, but I just haven't had time to do anything about it. My excuse, for what it is worth, is that getting the finances and governance right, and sorting out our pattern of services so that it was truly welcoming to the whole community, supporting those in training and so on and so on have just taken up all my time.

In any event, with Fiona taking a lead, we are now going to spend time and energy trying to build up our home groups. We are starting with a bible overview course just begun, and we will continue with other endeavours as the year goes on. It is essential that we are a church in which reading the bible and applying it to our lives is a widespread habit. At the moment I am pretty sure it is not.

And we are going to see what we can do to build up the prayer life of the church. We have started a monthly prayer meeting, as I said. My intention is to start to build in prayer after our services too as a routine part of our provision. We will have some training later in the year on praying for others. And I will try to encourage the use of prayer resources too. We need to become a church which prays more. There is work to do there as well.

A bit of effort spent on these things will, I think, be well worthwhile. Being disciples ourselves, in the sense of continuously learning from the bible and praying more consistently, will support the mission of the church in the longer term. Our mission is to take the good news of Jesus Christ to Stapleford and beyond and to make disciples. We want to fulfil our Lord's commission in that regard, and to do that we need to ensure that we ourselves continue to be disciples. We need to be soaked in the Word of the Lord, and be prayerful as individuals and as a church community. That is not a retreat from wanting to be a church for the whole community, looking outwards in that sense. Far from it. It will support that aim and help it and us to flourish.

Standing back, I think there are really good things happening here. It has been a tough time over the last few years, but there is a vibrancy about St Andrew's that should give great encouragement. God has been good to us as we have sought to spread the gospel here. There are always things to do, and I have set out what I think we need to concentrate on next. My suggestion, my final thought? It is the same as last year. Pray for the Spirit to act in this place, pray for growth, and hang on for the ride.

Every blessing to you all, Simon

Discussion resulting from the Parish Priest's report for 2022:

Jeannie Green was concerned that we are 'concentrating on the twin pillars of bible study and prayer' without reference to the 'eucharistic sacrament' which she thought should have been mentioned in report.

Judith Whale did not think Simon was excluding the eucharist. She said there is an opportunity to take part in a communion service every week. Sarah Hackett found the 10.30 am service more accessible as there was not communion at all services. Jill Ward said that 9 am might be too early for older folk. Simon commented that the time was in fact changed from 8 am to 9 am to accommodate older people.

Fiona and Alan Holliday expressed their appreciation of the welcome they have received from the congregation and they value the diversity of services. Kirsty and John Campbell echoed Fiona's words - they too have been made welcome – and they praised the quality of the Messenger magazine.

12. Any Other Business

Alastair MacGregor thanked Simon Taylor for his positivity and leadership in challenging times. John Bryden also thanked Simon for his contribution to choosing music for services.

The meeting closed at 9 pm.

Item 5: FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & REPORTS

5.1: TREASURER'S REPORT

Extracted from the Report & Accounts 2022 for submission to the Charity Commission by the PCC. A full copy of this document will be available for inspection at the APCM, and can be provided in advance or subsequently on request. It is available on our website [here](#).

Financial review

As illustrated in the financial statements on pages 10-20, the church's financial position continues to be maintained predominantly by regular giving and donations. The amount this year, at £73,739, was 21% higher than in 2021 (£61,116), although this did include some one-off items totalling to £7,000.

Income from the parish magazine increased by nearly 9% after a static year in 2021. Rental income from the Johnson Hall recovered post-pandemic to £4,209 (2021: £1,881). There was no further Covid-19 related income (2021: £4,048).

Before investment losses, the net surplus for the year was £17,597 (2021: A deficit of £18,316). The restricted funds were in surplus in the year by £18,338 (2021: £14,703 deficit). This very significant turnaround was largely due to a recovery in Feoffees income (£6,929 compared with £2,504 in 2021), some one-off donations, no significant maintenance work and a low level of grants to Nachingwea (£2,200 compared with £15,906 in 2021). The church's unrestricted funds for the year (which reflect the normal operations of the PCC) were in deficit by £741 (2021: £3,613 deficit).

The PCC transferred £3,000 to The Messenger designated fund (2021: £3,000).

Losses on investments of £15,209 (2021: £16,290 gain), although not yet realised, offset a large proportion of the above surplus.

Net assets were £188,045 at the year-end (2021: £185,657).

The overall financial position of the PCC remains satisfactory.

Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held

It is the policy of St Andrew's Church, Stapleford to hold in reserves the equivalent of three months' general running costs and three years' annual deficit of income versus expenditure (based on recent years' experience). It is also our policy to hold an amount for likely building works arising from the church's next quinquennial inspection. The appropriate sum to hold in reserve for these purposes at the present time is £70,000.

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)

The charity's principal sources of funds are personal giving and fees gained for wedding and funeral services (charged in accordance with Ely Diocese procedures), with additional funding provided by rental income, income from the village magazine and interest on investments. A programme of fundraising events augments the church's funds but are

primarily to aid other charities eg: our link with St Andrew's Church, Nachingwea, Tanzania as well as a range of local, national and international aid charities.

Two Stapleford charities provide funds for the long-term maintenance of the church fabric.

5.2: FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2022

The tables under this heading are extracted from the Report & Accounts 2022 for submission to the Charity Commission by the PCC. The full document is available to read on our website [here](#).

5.2.1: Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2022 total	2021 total
	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources				
Donations and legacies	54,383	19,356	73,739	61,116
Charitable activities	1,948	0	1,948	2,166
Other ordinary incoming resources	23,666	3,354	27,020	24,418
Investments	4,037	0	4,037	3,750
Total incoming resources	84,034	22,710	106,744	91,450
Resources expended				
Raising funds	(12,413)	0	(12,413)	(11,379)
Charitable activities	(72,362)	(4,372)	(76,734)	(98,387)
Total resources expended	(84,775)	(4,372)	(89,147)	(109,766)
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other gains and losses	(741)	18,338	17,597	(18,316)

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2022 total	2021 total
	£	£	£	£
(Losses)/Gains on investments	(15,209)	0	(15,209)	16,290
Net movement in funds	(15,950)	18,338	2,388	(2,026)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	168,753	16,904	185,657	187,683
Total funds carried forward	152,803	35,242	188,045	185,657

5.2.2: Balance Sheet

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2022 total	2021 total
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets	0	0	0	0
Investments	114,542	0	114,542	129,751
Sub-total	114,542	0	114,542	129,751
Current assets				
Debtors	1,506	194	1,700	2,045
Cash at bank and in hand	52,581	35,048	87,629	75,097
Sub-total	54,087	35,242	89,329	77,142
Current liabilities				

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2022 total	2021 total
	£	£	£	£
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(15,826)	0	(15,826)	(21,236)
Net current assets	38,261	35,242	73,503	55,906
Total assets less current liabilities	152,803	35,242	188,045	185,657
Total net assets	152,803	35,242	188,045	185,657
The funds of the charity				
Restricted funds	0	35,242	35,242	16,904
Unrestricted funds	152,803	0	152,803	168,753
Total funds	152,803	35,242	188,045	185,657

5.2.3: Incoming Resources

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2022 total	2021 total
	£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies				
Donations & gifts	44,852	18,293	63,145	50,793
Gift aid	9,531	1,063	10,594	10,323
Sub-total	54,383	19,356	73,739	61,116
Charitable activities				
Fee income	1,948	0	1,948	2,166
Other ordinary incoming resources				
Hall hire	4,209	0	4,209	1,881
Fundraising	0	1,873	1,873	1,798
Magazine sales & advertising	17,057	0	17,057	15,694
Other income	2,400	1,481	3,881	997
Covid grant income	0	0	0	4,048
Sub-total	23,666	3,354	27,020	24,418
Income from investments				
Interest income	4,037	0	4,037	3,750
Total incoming resources	84,034	22,710	106,744	91,450

5.2.4: Resources Expended

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2022 total	2021 total
	£	£	£	£
Expenditure on raising funds				
Magazine printing costs	10,113	0	10,113	9,461
Other trading activities - hall upkeep	2,300	0	2,300	1,918
Sub-total	12,413	0	12,413	11,379
Expenditure on charitable activities				
Ministry share	25,801	0	25,801	25,498
Administrative costs	12,255	485	12,740	12,039
Utilities	2,364	0	2,364	2,344
Insurance	2,551	0	2,551	2,490
Repairs & maintenance	5,582	388	5,970	12,570
Events & entertaining	434	0	434	339
Missions & charities	1,800	3,499	5,299	24,848
Upkeep of services	2,355	0	2,355	990
Choir, robes & music	9,189	0	9,189	7,246
Youth work & education	10,031	0	10,031	9,225
Depreciation	0	0	0	528
Sub-total	72,362	4,372	76,734	98,387
Total resources expended	84,775	4,372	89,147	109,766

5.2.5: Funds

	1 Jan 2021	Movement during 2021	31 Dec 2021	Movement during 2022	31 Dec 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds					
Estate fund	18,457	(6,401)	12,056	13,542	25,598
Nachingwea fund	12,675	(7,827)	4,848	4,796	9,644
Children's Society & Warden Scheme	475	(475)	0	0	0
Total Restricted funds	31,607	(14,703)	16,904	18,338	35,242
Unrestricted funds					
Johnson Hall fund	25,838	(37)	25,801	1,909	27,710
General fund	47,728	15,314	63,042	(20,859)	42,183
Legacy fund	77,527	0	77,527	0	77,527
Designated funds:					
Messenger Fund	4,983	(2,600)	2,383	3,000	5,383
Total Unrestricted funds	156,076	12,677	168,753	(15,950)	152,803
Total funds	187,683	(2,026)	185,657	2,388	188,045

5.3: BUDGET FOR 2023

5.3.1: Notes

General inflation assumptions

Energy & water	10.0%
Contracted gas supplies	0.0% (contracts run to 23.12.2023)
Contracted electricity supplies	5.0% (contracts run to 30.9.2023)
General	8.0%

Johnson Hall

- Income: based on running rate in in June to December 2022
- No expectation of increased letting activity
- No increase in rates

Estate Fund

Income

- Feoffees income has been erratic in recent years
Budget based on 7 year average

Repairs

- £1,000 sundry repairs
- No quinquennial repairs

General Fund

Income

- 5% increase in giving
- Modest increase in investment income
- No other changes
- Cottage – Magog Trust rent for a full year

Costs

- Normal running costs assumed except as stated below

Staff

- 9.3% increase on current rates
(NB: 2022 costs inflated by cost of living increment – not repeated in 2023)

Maintenance etc

- Boiler/extinguisher service/safety equipment £750 plus, say, £500

Quota to diocese

- Per formal notification

Missions & Charities

- Age UK, Deanery Youth Initiative & SSYI

Magazine profit

- Sale revenue – cover price increased by 50% less 5% dropout
- Advertising revenue based on confirmed payments received and an allowance of £1,000 for sundry/late applications

5.3.2: Summary

	2023 Budget	2022 Actual
Johnson Hall Fund	1,785	1,910
Estate Fund	4,000	13,542
General Fund	(5,344)	(9,595)
Messenger surplus retained	4,084	3,944
Total	£4,525	£9,800

5.3.3: Johnson Hall Fund

	2023 Budget	2022 Actual	% increase / (decrease)
Income			
Hall Hire	4,250	4,210	0.96
Expenditure			
Electricity	309	309	0.00
Gas	256	256	0.00
Cleaning & Administration	353	327	8.00
Water	188	171	10.00
Repairs & Maintenance	150	118	27.50
Insurance	853	790	8.00
Other	356	330	8.00
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	£1,785	£1,910	(6.53)

5.3.4: Estate Fund

	2023 Budget	2022 Actual	% increase / (decrease)
Income			
Feoffees	5,000	6,929	(27.84)
Friends of St Andrew's	0	2,500	(100.00)
Tax refund	0	1,481	(100.00)
Donations	0	3,020	(100.00)
Expenditure			
Repairs	1,000	388	157.73
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	£4,000	£13,542	(70.46)

5.3.5: General Fund

	2023 Budget	2022 Actual	% increase / (decrease)
Income			
Collections & Donations	5,250	5,026	4.46
Regular Giving	42,000	39,826	5.46
Gift Aid	10,000	9,531	4.92
Fees	2,000	1,948	2.69
Investment income	4,100	4,037	1.56
Verger's Cottage rent	3,600	2,400	50.00
Total Income	£66,950	£62,767	6.66
Expenditure			
Administration expenses	1,921	1,842	4.26
Postage & Stationery	292	270	8.00
Photocopier Hire	1,460	1,460	0.00
Other	406	376	8.00
Clergy Expenses	341	316	8.00
Cottage Maintenance & Repairs	250	511	(51.08)
Cottage Gas	122	111	10.00
Cottage Electric	360	586	(38.58)
Cottage Water	499	454	10.00
Cottage Insurance	289	268	8.00
Cottage Cleaning	159	147	8.00
Gas	897	897	0.00
Electricity	450	-21	(2,245.92)
Insurance	2,466	2,283	8.00
Water	371	337	10.00
Organ Repairs	569	527	8.00

	2023 Budget	2022 Actual	% increase / (decrease)
Maintenance, Upkeep & Repairs	1,250	2,735	(54.30)
Church cleaning	330	306	8.00
Upkeep of Services	1,000	2,355	(57.54)
Education/Children's Work	100	(159)	(162.92)
Churchyard	1,464	1,355	8.00
Organist	8,692	8,461	2.73
Choir, Robes & Music	786	727	8.00
Events/Entertaining	350	434	(19.32)
Quota to Diocese	27,060	25,801	4.88
Missions & Charities	1,800	1,800	0.00
Bank Charges	266	246	8.00
Gifts	120	111	8.47
Youth Worker	10,374	10,190	1.80
Parish Administrator	7,849	7,634	2.82
Total Expenditure	£72,294	£72,362	(0.09)
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(£5,344)	(£9,595)	(44.31)

5.3.6: Magazine Profit & Loss Account

	2023 Budget	2022 Actual	% increase / (decrease)
Income			
Sales	4,441	3,290	35.00
Advertising Revenue	13,565	13,767	(1.47)
Total income	£18,006	£17,057	5.57
Expenditure			
Printing Costs	10,630	9,843	8.00
Administration	292	270	8.00
Total expenditure	£10,922	£10,113	8.00
Net Surplus	£7,084	£6,944	2.02
Distributed	3,000	3,000	0.00
Retained by PCC	£4,084	£3,944	3.56

5.3.7: Verger's Cottage Profit & Loss Account

Included in General Fund

	2023 Budget	2022 Actual	% increase / (decrease)
Income	3,600	2,400	50.00
Expenditure			
Maintenance & Repairs	250	511	(51.08)
Gas	122	111	10.00
Electric	360	586	(38.58)
Water	499	454	10.00
Insurance	289	268	8.00
Cleaning	159	147	8.00
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	£1,920	£323	495.12

5.4: GIFT AID

For 2022, we received £4,742.49 of gift aid on donations outside the Parish Giving Scheme. This total is very slightly less than for 2021. Of the total £1,056.74 was for the Nachingwea Link and £26.75 was for the Stapleford Community Warden Scheme.

A further £5,871.78 of gift aid was received during 2022 from donations from 24 regular donors via the Parish Giving Scheme. This is about £400 more than received for 2021.

Thanks very much to everyone who has gift aided their donations. We encourage anyone interested in giving to St Andrew's regularly to do so through the Parish Giving Scheme. Monthly, quarterly or annual donations can now be set up on the Parish Giving Scheme website www.parishgiving.org.uk, clicking on the 'Donors' tab at the top of the page and searching for "Stapleford St Andrew".

Lisa MacGregor

Item 6: INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

The Independent Examiner for 2022 was Keith Haddow. He has signed the Report & Accounts 2022 for submission to the Charity Commission. He was extremely thorough in his work. Our grateful thanks go to him.

Keith has indicated his willingness to act again in 2023 and the APCM is invited to make the appointment.

Chris Bow

Item 7: PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2022

7.1: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PCC

Extracted from the Report & Accounts 2022 for submission to the Charity Commission by the PCC. The full report is available on our website [here](#)

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference which the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole

During 2022 the church's activities were gradually recovering from the effects of the Covid pandemic.

Worship and Prayer

The PCC offers a range of services and other worship opportunities each week and in the course of the year. During the course of the year St Andrew's has generally offered up to three services on Sunday mornings, in addition to evening services once a month. Every Sunday morning begins with a communion service at 9 am. The various services at 10.30 am are of different styles. They include regular Forest Church services in the churchyard or Messy Church services in the Johnson Hall

depending on the weather. These services have proved popular with families with young children, but also with some older members of the church. The popularity of Forest Church has continued to prompt greater use of the churchyard for other services too, so that a number of services, both on special festivals and other occasions, were successfully held in the churchyard.

Special services have taken place according to the church calendar (e.g. Easter Sunday, Harvest Festival).

In March 2022 at the date of the annual church meetings there were 117 persons on the Electoral Roll. The attendance during an average week in October 2022 was calculated to be 83. This represented a slight increase from 80 in 2021, but a reduction from 100 reported in 2019, which reflects the effect of the pandemic. The 'usual Sunday' attendance reported in 2019 was 85. That figure was not collected in 2021, but was 76 in 2022. Attendance usually increases considerably for major festivals. For Easter Eve/Day the 2022 figure was 196 (compared to 250 on Easter Eve/Day 2019) and for Christmas Eve/Day 2022 the 2022 figure was 368 (449 on Christmas Eve/Day in 2019).

Both Easter and Christmas were disrupted by the pandemic in 2021. Overall, therefore, attendance is at present generally about 20-25% lower than before the pandemic.

The church meets monthly outside of Sunday services for a prayer meeting. It is open to all, though attendance is limited.

Deanery Synod

Four members of the PCC, including the parish priest and curate and two elected representatives, sit on the Deanery Synod, which provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and wider structures of the church.

The church building, Johnson Hall and Verger's Cottage

During 2022 the church remained open 24 hours a day. The PCC's Fabric Committee has continued to undertake and commission regular maintenance and upkeep, and volunteers do the bulk of the work necessary to maintain the churchyard. Both church groups and community groups and local service businesses use the Johnson Hall. A weekly toddler group, Little Fishes, run by the church, takes place in the Johnson Hall. This re-started at the end of 2021. The reduction in use resulting from the pandemic has been partially reversed.

The Verger's Cottage provides office space for the parish, including the administrator, curate and youth worker. A local charity, the Magog Trust rent office space and use it as their postal address, and it is also used as a postal address for another local charity (the Stapleford Feoffees) and a national charity (Women and the Church). The sitting room in the cottage is used as a counselling room by a local youth charity called Concrete Rose.

Parish Magazine

The church publishes a monthly news and events magazine for the village of Stapleford, The Stapleford Messenger, which is available on subscription with copies delivered in the village and in local shops. The production of the magazine has been taken over by the Messenger Production Group. The surplus from the magazine is used in part to fund local, national and international good causes.

Youth Work

A paid church youth worker, Zoe Clayton, works 16 hours per week for the church. She replaced Zac Britton just as the first lockdown was beginning in 2020. In person groups and trips started again in 2021. The groups are small but well-liked by those who attend. Occasional other activities and trips also took place as circumstances allowed. In December 2022 the youth group performed a nativity play as part of an evening fundraiser, to enable members of the group to go on a Christian camp called Fort Rocky in February 2023.

The St Andrew's Stapleford-Nachingwea Link

Together with the local community the church runs a Link Committee with the church of St Andrew's in Nachingwea, Masasi Diocese in southern Tanzania. The Link celebrated its 40 years of operation in 2021 with a service in the churchyard in September. It is thought to be the longest running, continuously active Parish to Parish link in the UK.

The St Andrew's/Children's Society Partnership

In 2022 the partnership continued to support the work of The Children's Society (TCS) by praying, acting and giving. The key event of the year was a service on the Feast of Christ the King at which Dagmar, Bishop of Huntingdon, presided and preached. The partnership committee continue to devise novel ways in which we can support the vital work of TCS with the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people in the country and St Andrew's models these initiatives so they can be adopted by other churches. For example, the 2021 Advent Challenge was adopted by other churches and schools and has seen further wide use in 2022.

The Stapleford Community Warden Scheme

This scheme, run by Cambridge and Peterborough Age UK but sponsored by St Andrew's has continued to run during the year. A new warden has brought great enthusiasm to the post.

7.2: PROCEEDINGS OF THE PCC

The Church of England defines the responsibilities of the Church Council (PCC) as follows:

- It has the responsibility, along with the incumbent, to promote the mission of God in its parish.

- Legally, the PCC is responsible for the finances of the parish. It also has ultimate responsibility for the care and maintenance of all church buildings and their contents. Although these responsibilities are executed by the churchwardens, all PCC members must share in the oversight. The PCC has a voice in the forms of Service used by the church and may make representations to the bishop on matters that affect the welfare of the parish.
- All PCCs are charities. Therefore, every member of a PCC is also a charity trustee and the PCC must comply with the Charity Commission guidance and legislation in relation to charities.

In the course of the year the PCC has, amongst other things:

- Thought how best to manage risk as the worst of the Covid-19 pandemic passes and make the most of the precious gift of being able to meet together again.
- Continued to follow good safeguarding practice, including safer recruitment. We thank Rob Needle (Parish Safeguarding Officer) and Gillian Sanders for all their work on this and the congregation for supporting this important process.
- Received regular updates on church finances, maintained the budgeting process and approved investments for church funds. The PCC is grateful to Chris Bow for his work as Treasurer, to Sue Brown and Clare Kerr who look after the day-to-day running of the accounts, and to Lisa MacGregor for handling Gift Aid.
- Considered how to keep church finances on a sound footing during a time of high inflation.
- Prepared a Trustees' Annual Report to file with the accounts filed with the Charity Commission.
- Thought about how to reach out to more of our community and make them feel welcome whatever their age, outlook and situation in life. We helped our community mark the death of Her Majesty The Queen.
- Considered a vision for buildings: how they can draw and inspire people, be accessible and serve the needs of our church today and tomorrow.
- Welcomed new initiatives to broaden and deepen our fellowship, such as the Bible Course, Bible Book Club, and Men's Group and Prayer Course
- Supported St Andrew's partnership with The Children's Society and also with the Link Committee furthering the relationship with St Andrew's Nachingwea.
- Received regular reports from committees and organisations, which have full reports elsewhere. We thank everyone who contributes to the work of these groups.
- Backed the Stapleford Warden Scheme. The PCC thanks Age UK and Stapleford Parish Council.

- Supported Eco Church. We thank Sophi Berridge for her leadership and look forward to moving the church further towards a sustainable future.

We thank Gillian Sanders whose administrative support to the PCC has been invaluable during this challenging year. We thank Nicky West for all that she has done as PCC secretary.

St Andrew's can only run with the enthusiastic support of the whole congregation. We are very grateful to everyone who contributes to roles visible and invisible. For example choir members and musicians, cleaners, coffee team, sidespeople, servers, prayer leaders, service leaders, occasional preachers, children's and youth work leaders, Deanery Synod representatives, flower arrangers, sacristan, vergers and people responsible for sound, repairs and maintenance, churchyard, pastoral care, home groups and the Johnson Hall. A special thanks to the retiring members of the PCC Sue Brown, Anand Pillai and Jeannie Green.

Alastair MacGregor

7.3: SAFEGUARDING

There are four sources of activity in relation to safeguarding in parish churches:

1. Safeguarding Training
2. Safeguarding Checks
3. The Parish Safeguarding Dashboard, which ensures the PCC are maintaining an appropriate level of oversight of safeguarding in the church
4. Reports or Suspicions of Safeguarding Incidents

1. Safeguarding Training

Our church is an active one, with lots of church-led activities going on. Whenever these activities involve children or vulnerable adults the volunteers who help run them are required to have safeguarding training. In 2022 the period after which safeguarding training needed to be renewed was reduced from five years to three. This meant that we had to arrange the retraining of nearly three times as many of our volunteers as we would usually do in a year. This target was achieved and we enter 2023 in 'maintenance mode' i.e., arranging safeguarding training for those whose training needs renewing or take on a new role that requires training.

2. Safeguarding Checks

As with Safeguarding training, these checks are required for all volunteers who run or assist with church activities that involve or could involve children or vulnerable adults. In 2022, as with Safeguarding training, the period after which Safeguarding checks needed to be renewed was reduced from five years to three. During the year we arranged the re-checking of nearly three times as many of our volunteers as we would usually do in a year. This target was achieved and these checks are now in 'maintenance mode', like the Safeguarding training.

3. The Parish Safeguarding Dashboard which ensures the PCC are maintaining an appropriate level of oversight of Safeguarding in the church

The Safeguarding Dashboard is an audit tool. It prompts the PCC to conduct annual reviews, ensures we continue to comply with safeguarding policy in relation to all our church activities with a safeguarding element, and that our policies and procedures remain up to date and relevant.

The Church of England National Safeguarding team has commissioned the development of a Safeguarding Hub (a database) to sit alongside the Safeguarding Dashboard. It is hoped that the Hub will automate the process of highlighting when renewals of safeguarding training and DBS checks are due. Individuals will show as Amber when a renewal is due within a month and turn Red when overdue. This will be an improvement on the current practice of looking through our spread sheet on a periodic basis. In due course, it is hoped that the Hub will also generate emails to individuals who need to update their training or DBS check, thus removing an administrative burden from the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

The Hub is still in development. Ely Diocese was selected to pilot the scheme and Stapleford was chosen to be one of the trial parishes within the diocese. We were chosen because we are using the Safeguarding Dashboard at the highest level (most other parishes are not so advanced). I have transferred data from our existing to the Hub. This has been a useful 'housekeeping' exercise for me and has also highlighted some problems with the Hub. These have been fed back to the team who developed the Hub and they have been pleased with the feedback and rectified the errors identified.

It looks like a promising development, even if it did involve a lot of effort transferring a lot of our data in the short term.

4. Reports or Suspicions of Safeguarding Incidents

In 2022 we received several reports of potential Safeguarding incidents. These we referred to the Diocesan Safeguarding team for advice.

Rob Needle

Item 8: ELECTORAL ROLL

There are 127 names on the electoral roll at 16 February 2023. This is an increase from 117 since the APCM in March 2022. The net increase over the last year is a result of new people joining the congregation. Sadly we lost Liz Hodgkins, a long-time member of the congregation who died last year. We are delighted to welcome new worshippers to the church family.

Of these:

- 65 are resident in the parish of Stapleford
- 43 are resident in Great or Little Shelford

- 11 are resident in the parishes of Sawston, Duxford, Whittlesford and Newton
- 5 reside in Cambridge, including Trumpington
- 3 live slightly further afield in Histon and Great Cambourne

All who live outside the parish have longstanding, close links with St Andrew's.

Felicity Cooke

Item 9: REPORTS ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PARISH

9.1: CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

The Church of England defines the role of churchwardens as:

- officers of the bishop, representing the laity and co-operating with the incumbent
- encouraging parishioners in the practice of true religion, and promoting unity and peace
- having oversight of finance, though the detail of this is handled by the treasurer
- having oversight of the care of the fabric of the parish church and reporting on its condition each year
- having legal ownership of the moveable furniture and ornaments of the parish church and keeping an up-to-date inventory of them
- maintaining an up-to-date logbook of all works done to the fabric of the parish church
- ensuring that all parish registers and records are properly kept and filed
- answering question from the bishop or archdeacon

Assistant churchwardens, Romie Ridley and Margaret Hebden, and I have worked with the clergy and Diocese to fulfil these requirements as best we can. This would not have been possible without the support, help and goodwill of everyone in the congregation. Thank you.

Thanks to our treasurer Chris Bow, and the whole finance team, and to Chair of the Fabric Committee Stephen Brown, and the whole fabric committee. Special thanks to Chris Cooper for tireless work with the church boiler amongst many other things. Thanks too to everyone who keeps the building and churchyard clean, tidy, operational and looking beautiful.

We have responded to Diocesan requests about Statistics for Mission and Articles of Enquiry. We have checked the inventory. It will be available to view at the APCM.

The Bishop's Pastoral Order has been terminated, which enabled Simon Taylor to be made our vicar, bringing the legal framework into line with the reality of Simon's ministry. We are liaising with the Diocese as part of Deanery Development Planning to help ensure that St Andrew's can continue to flourish in the long term.

Many thanks to our clergy Simon Taylor, Clare Coates (now installed as Team Vicar of The Lordsbridge Team) and Lucinda Howard for their energetic, positive and imaginative ministry.

We look forward to the future of St Andrew's as it fulfils its role as a church for the whole community.

Alastair MacGregor

9.2: CURATE'S REPORT

Since arriving as curate at St Andrew's in July 2022, time seems to have passed very rapidly! I already feel very much part of the church and have relished contributing and taking part in all of parish life here. My sending church St Barnabas was large with a younger and often transient congregation, but I have realised being part of a smaller church allows me to know people and to be known – both my family and I have been made so welcome by the members and the wider village community.

Curacy is a continual journey of learning, and I am fortunate that St Andrew's offers so much opportunity to get involved. I have especially enjoyed working collaboratively, learning from Simon as my training incumbent, but also from many others in the church with life-experience and spiritual wisdom. I have regular training and input from Ely diocese as part of IME2 for curates and have gained from being part of our local deanery chapter, with myself and Fiona Holliday, our LLM, hosting the last meeting at St Andrew's in January.

Much of the mid-week work I am involved with is continuing groups that our previous curate Clare developed. I love working alongside Fiona in our Little Fishes Toddler group on Mondays, and with Romie, Jackie and others at the monthly JOY club. I am part of the pastoral team and regularly administer home communion. I planned and led a Bible book club and hope to be involved on our Lent prayer course.

It has been great to help Zoe at St Andrew's youth, write my first piece for The Messenger magazine and visit Stapleford Primary school for Harvest festival and to make Christingles with Simon, as well as taking part in a very busy Christmas season (my first working as a priest which was exhilarating but tiring!) All these things are great examples of St Andrew's being involved with or blessing the wider community whilst maintaining a clear Christian identity and gospel focus.

My Sunday responsibilities have seen the biggest learning curve for me. Regular preaching as well as leading alongside other members of the clergy including Bishop Dagmar and Archdeacon Alex Hughes, serving and administering communion, leading prayers and offering prayer ministry after our 10.30 am service, Messy church and most recently singing the responses and collects at choral evensong, something I have never done before!

I have also taken part in two weddings at our church, a baptism and assisted Clare at a funeral service at the crematorium and later in the church.

I look forward to being priested at the cathedral at the beginning of July this year and continuing to serve and bless the people of St Andrew's with the resources only God can give.

Lucinda Howard

9.3: MINISTRY IN & AROUND STAPLEFORD

9.3.1: Pastoral Care

We are very grateful for all Revd Clare Coates' pastoral work, her co-leadership of the pastoral team and her vision and leadership in setting up of JOY. Also many thanks to Revd Lucinda Howard for joining us to help lead both teams.

The Pastoral team continues to telephone, visit and support mainly older members of the church family, who often cannot easily come to church, are in hospital or at home recovering. Lucinda, Jeannie and Romie are taking communion to 5 people/couples at home each month, and any others who wish for it while unwell. The team meets about every 2 months to share news and concerns and discuss ways forward. We are delighted to welcome Rob Ferneyhough to the JOY team and now the Pastoral team.

Future plans include:

- summer shared lunches for the whole church family to get together, a good chance to get to know newcomers
- tea for the choir (and congregation?) pre-Evensong;
- an excellent group activity called 'Grave Talk', found by Simon, about preparing for the end of life, from practicalities, such as 'where is my will?' to planning and much more to do with funerals, grieving etc - we hope to trial it with the JOY group
- a session on Scams open to the whole village

The Pastoral ALM training offered by the diocese is excellent if volunteers would like training for pastoral work.

Romie Ridley & Lucinda Howard

9.3.2: JOY

The JOY group continues to flourish and grow, now with about 18 of a possible 30 members attending each month. Tea or coffee and homemade cakes are much appreciated. We have recently enjoyed excellent talks: by Rev Clare Coates on Julian of Norwich, by Sue Wiles on living in Venice, and on being an air hostess in the 1960s, by Major Leanne Kordner from the Salvation Army in Tennyson Road, about their new and much improved buildings and her life growing up in N Ireland, Anne Hulls on changes in nursing from 1947 to 1975. We have had quizzes, memories of the accession and coronation of our late Queen, music by John Bryden and Sarah Needle, lots of good chats and more.

More helpers or speakers are most welcome.

Romie Ridley & Lucinda Howard

9.3.3: Community Warden Scheme

The Warden for the Village Warden Scheme is Juliet Hawksworth. We are very lucky to have Juliet as she is always thinking of innovative ways to increase our membership, and

she is able to “think outside of the box” when it comes to organising social events, or promoting the service. She is becoming more and more well - known and can often be seen riding around the village on her bike or working on her allotment. She has become very popular with our service users. She has managed to increase the number of service users but if anyone knows of someone who would benefit from the service, please do get in touch. When Juliet takes leave or is ill herself (which isn’t often), Yvonne Smith steps into her job. Yvonne works as a relief Warden and knows most, if not all of our service users.

The Warden Scheme itself is run by Age UK and Mary Cooper and Jackie Nettleton, who are the PCC’s nominated representatives on the scheme, have regular meetings with Sarah Thomson – the service manager at Age UK. They then report to the PCC.

We often receive donations from various quarters for which we are very grateful. Although our projected income appears to be a little unstable at this stage, (as a result of the pandemic), Age UK have various plans afoot to work around this. (Details cannot be publicised as they are still in the planning stage). We are mindful of the fact that fundraising needs to be ongoing, and any further support and ideas would be gratefully received.

Jackie Nettleton

9.4: MINISTRY BEYOND STAPLEFORD

9.4.1: St Andrew’s Stapleford Nachingwea Link

The Link Committee has met by Zoom on 6 occasions

Highlight in Nachingwea

- On the retirement of Mr Obed Pwirira after a magnificent total of 40 years as Chair of the Nachingwea Link Committee, St Andrew’s Nachingwea appointed a new Committee with Mr Kevin Bushiri as Chair

Highlights in Stapleford have included the:

- Parish Lunch
- Village Fair
- Organ Recital by John Bryden
- Christmas Fair
- Meeting (by Zoom) with the Rt Rev Bishop James Almasi and Mama Almasi following the Lambeth Conference

Projects

- ‘A’ Level Course – a new project for girls who have graduated from Secondary School. One girl has been sponsored with funds for uniforms and health insurance, in order to start on her A Level course in Science subjects.

- English Course for 40 students who had graduated from Primary school, in preparation for the start of Secondary education
- School uniforms and shoes for needy students in the Special Needs classes
- Wedding dress materials
- Plans are in hand for a project in conjunction with DARE in Dar es Salaam, to produce sanitary towels. This will involve the VETA Tailoring Course ladies whom the Link sponsored

The Committee gratefully acknowledges:

- the support of the Clergy and PCC, and thanks to Clare Kerr, Sue Brown and Lisa McGregor for their help in the management of the Link funds
- the generosity all who have contributed via direct giving and to those who gift-aided their donations, thereby adding substantially to the funds

Trish Maude

8.4.2: Traidcraft

It is with great sadness that I report that Traidcraft went into administration on 20 January 2023. Their finances had been difficult pre Covid, then Covid followed by the current financial crisis was too much. While the news is heart-breaking for all the team, they have been a major force for good in the ethical retail sector the last 40 years, especially in setting up the Fairtrade Foundation and mark. As they wrote,

We have championed the cause of trade justice to the point where we now have better standards and procedures in place to protect the rights and dignity of growers and producers all over the world.

Please see their website for a list of their suppliers whom it is possible to continue supporting. Please note that their sister campaigning arm, previously Traidcraft Exchange, now *Transform Trade*, was separate and will continue to partner with people who are fighting for their communities and finding better ways to trade.

In the last year orders totalled £1,255 with £350 of that pre-Christmas. Rather than a monthly stall during and since the main pandemic, the stall was invited to the Deanery Fair, the village weekend and, as usual, the Nachingwea Fair; many of you also gave me orders for my Fairtrader account. During the 2 main years of the pandemic, sales totalled an amazingly generous £5,000. Immense thanks to everyone who has supported Traidcraft at St Andrew's since it was started by Helen Shackleton 25 to 30 years ago. Your generous support has helped make Fairtrade mainstream in our shops as well as transforming the lives of countless of the most vulnerable communities around the world. Please continue your support, every little helps.

Romie Ridley

9.4.3: St Andrew's Children's Society Partnership

We ran the *Buy Bricks to Build Families* appeal during Lent. Supporters were able to 'buy' Duplo bricks for £1 each. The appeal raised £357, which was used by The Children's Society (TCS) in Essex to fund families they are supporting to take part in healthy activities in local leisure facilities. This allowed families to engage in shared activities that they would not otherwise have been able to afford.

The cash box collection scheme raised £244.

The annual St Andrew's Children's Society service was held on 20 November. This was also the date of the annual Safeguarding Sunday and the festival of Christ the King. Bishop Dagmar preached at the service and managed to link all three themes in her sermon. After the service we sold bottles of apple juice made from the apples in the bishops' gardens and raised finds for TCS. We sold 72 bottles, raising £216.

The Stapleford Children's Society Advent Challenge was once again used by our church members and by other parishes and groups. Our annual Christingle service was very well attended and raised a further £221 for the charity.

I am very grateful for the assistance and enthusiastic support of the members of the TCS Partnership team. We are always keen to recruit new members. If you are interested in supporting the vital work of TCS through the church, please speak to me.

Rob Needle

9.5: CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

9.5.1: Children & Families

We were pleased to be able to meet throughout 2022, on the first and third Sunday of each month. On only two Sundays did we have to retreat into the Johnson Hall due to bad weather, before deciding to move back into the hall for all services through the late autumn and winter months.

Our families enjoyed combined all-age, outdoor, services on several occasions during the year and we hope these will continue next year. After a minor panic(!) the Forest Church team rose to the need to combine indoor and outdoor services for Trinity, with very little notice, when Simon and Clare went down with Covid at the same time.

During our services we have looked at and learned about such diverse topics as John the Baptist, Sukkot, Candlemas, Zacchaeus, All Saints and enjoyed our first outdoor baptism.

Craft activities continue to be enjoyed by our younger element, particularly if they include something edible - our 'Lucy's Wreath' of a doughnut with white chocolate finger 'candles' a particular triumph.

Numbers have remained fairly consistent at around the 30 mark, and the adults enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of being able to chat over coffee and biscuits whilst the children get creative.

We also invested in three, new, fold-up tables which are kept in church for our outdoor use which make setting up much easier.

My personal thanks to Simon, Alastair, Lizzie, Fiona, Eleanor, Rachel F, Zoe, Lisa and Ollie for their support during the year, and to firstly Clare Coates and now Lucinda Howard for their professional input. We are grateful too for help from David and Ben, our student ordinands and to Gillian for preparing our service sheets. New and extra help would be welcome, and everyone is invited to any of our services.

Sue Brown

9.5.2: Youth Groups

St Andrew's youth club has had a fantastic year of fun, faith and food! There has been incredible growth in comparison to last year in many areas. We are currently running two groups. Our Friday Youth Club aims to provide a safe space to hang out, meet and make friends and play lots of games. The other group is for exploring Christianity which involves lots of discussion, activities, and the occasional guest speaker.

Last year, we had 17 young people on our register. This year we have 44. The Friday Youth Club has a great reputation and is growing more and more every week. Young people are excited to arrive every week and often bring new friends along. Young people are free to do what they like during this group. For some, that is play table tennis, fill up on snacks from our tuck shop or run around in the garden. Others use this time to complete homework that they cannot so easily do at home. We are very thankful to Laptops4Learning for donating 2 laptops to our group for the purpose of helping young people complete homework.

We have moved from a 20 minute "God slot" during our Friday group to a separate group called Explore. Parents and young people valued the 20 mins offered and wanted more so we now have an hour each week for this. We are currently running a Youth Alpha series during this group which has been great for engaging the young people in discussions and always leads to many questions. The majority of the young people taking part have not grown up in any church, so it is a great privilege to introduce them to the topics each week and share different views with each other.

Seven of our young people have attended Church/Messy Church services at some point over this year. We also had 14 young people run a fundraiser Nativity play in the church over Christmas time which was a great opportunity for the young people and their parents to mix with the congregation. Thank you all for being so welcoming!

The fundraiser went very well and was able to fund spaces for some of our young people to attend a residential trip with Youth For Christ. This weekend away is specifically aimed at young people with little to no connection with church. We are all looking forward to this trip.

Over this year, we have also taken many day trips. We have been trampolining, skateboarding and to Clip 'n' Climb rock climbing. Each of these trips have been filled with fun and has created a great space to get to know each of the young people better. We also attended a Philippa Hanna concert. Philippa is a Christian artist who all of our young people enjoyed watching and the event also gave our young people the chance to meet other Christians their age.

We have continued to offer 1:1 mentoring which is greatly appreciated by parents and young people as it provides a space to talk through a variety of issues. We currently have 7 young people being mentored.

The youth club struggles to find enough volunteers. Although it is great that we are having so many young people attend each week, this means we need more adults to be able to run. I am very thankful to everyone that has stepped in to help run youth groups/trips this year, but we really need more people willing to be on the rota. If we do not find more volunteers, then we will need to start turning young people away which would be a real shame. If you or anyone you know has a heart for young people and wants to get involved, please contact Zoe!

Zoe Clayton

9.5.3: Little Fishes

Little Fishes (formerly known as St Andrew's Toddlers) has now been reopened after the pandemic for more than a year. We have a core of lovely regular families who attend and some who dip in and out. Our numbers are rising but with a smallish venue are happy with the number who attend.

Each week we open in the Johnson Hall for free play for the children, play dough is always very popular as is the play kitchen and the trucks, and in the summer it is lovely to be outside in the garden with a small slide and outdoor toys. Some of the children having had limited socialisation during the pandemic were at first very shy and reluctant to mingle and it has been encouraging to watch them gain confidence and make friends. For the mums, dads, carers and grandparents there is space for a hot drink, and time to chat. Groups like this can be a life-line for new parents and help build community amongst those with young children in their care. That was the reason for our change of name in September as we wanted to make clear it is not just for toddlers but for all those caring for small children from birth up to school entry.

As a church group we always have a bible story and a related craft activity and end with a child friendly blessing song but we also enjoy reading old favourites like 'Where's Spot,' and the children clamour for their favourite songs such as 'the wheels on the bus,' and 'sleeping bunnies.' We have a very jolly time. We also try to be there for the mums and carers who sometimes are going through very difficult times and just want to unburden, and we are happy to offer to pray for them if they wish. One of our children was baptised

during the year, one of the dads joined the Men's Group and we are building relationships.

Clare Coates and I restarted the group early last year and when Clare moved on to her new parish I was very grateful that Lucinda Howard as the new curate was keen to be involved. We work well together and enjoy watching the group develop.

We are very grateful to our regular volunteers, Sarah Hackett and Kirsty Campbell who help us when they can – usually once a month, and also to Alan Holliday who takes away the hard work of setting up and packing away. We do however desperately need more volunteers on a regular or occasional basis to cover for holidays or sickness and to give us more time to spend with the children and their carers. It is not an onerous or scary form of ministry, but very enjoyable. Please consider prayerfully whether you can offer some time. We look forward to hearing from you.

Fiona Holliday

9.5.4: Shelford & Stapleford Youth Initiative

We want to say a massive thank you to St Andrew's, Stapleford for all your support this past year. SSYI, established in 1997, serves the villages of Great and Little Shelford, Stapleford and Sawston, providing youth activities and support for local 10–18-year-olds, with a focus on those who are vulnerable, hard-to-reach, and most in need, supporting them through open access and targeted activities, 1:1 support, schools work and community projects. Our activities provide opportunities to build relationships with young people, encouraging positive behaviour, community involvement and informal education. We work in partnership with Romsey Mill who manage the delivery of our work.

2022 has been a busy year for SSYI, with continued growth and development of our work and around 200 young people regularly engaging with our activities. For most of the year we have been running eight youth clubs a week engaging with a wide range of young people through open access sessions and targeted work. We have continued to run regular detached sessions in the community and various trips including a 3-day residential in the summer with fifteen of our young people. We are now running eight 1:1s within Sawston Village College and a few more in the community, providing more in-depth support to local young people. During the summer and autumn terms we ran 'Our Stories' a space for young people to explore Christianity through the personal testimonies of our youth workers and volunteers, up to fifteen young people a week attended these sessions.

We are so grateful for all the support we receive from churches, individuals, local parish councils, and other organisations. Your ongoing prayers and support are so valued.

Zachary Britton

9.5.5: YouthInc

The aim of this charity is to ensure that all young people in South Cambridgeshire have the opportunity to hear the gospel. It does this principally by providing a professional youth worker to run youth groups and give help to those parishes that do not have their own youth worker. It also runs relevant courses for parents and in the past supported a monthly deanery Connect service at St Andrew's.

The charity is funded by parishes and the Deanery, including benefitting from the proceeds of the Deanery Fair, plus donations from individuals. The period of matched funding from the diocese has come to an end.

The project builds on existing work with children and families with under nines. Having started with the Hinkledux parishes it has extended its work to other parishes that have not had the services of a youth worker. There are now groups in Whittlesford, and Thriplow & Fowlmere, and others are in development.

St Andrew's contributes in two main ways. We contribute £300 pa, and Simon Taylor is chair of the trustees.

A new youth worker was appointed in September 2022 after a prolonged recruitment exercise.

Simon Taylor

9.6: MUSIC

9.6.1: Choir

The choir is week by week working willingly and hard on our regular contributions to the church services. This is a privilege not taken lightly! Introits, anthems, descants and accompaniment to the liturgy either during the distribution of Holy Communion or during the prayers (Taize chants) are our usual diet.

We cover 14 centuries of music and are grateful, thanks to Simon Taylor's initiative, to be part of the eminent sponsoring team of three books of anthems by women composers.

Sarah Needle and James Buchanan-Worster have been immensely helpful in working with the choir when I have to be away on professional engagements.

Our recent services of Lessons and Carols drew back in former choristers - and we are thrilled to have an ever-increasing number of high sopranos!

A Come and Sing Messiah is our next big project, on Saturday 11 March in the afternoon.

Following our monthly Choral Evensongs we repair to 57 Bar Lane for a relaxing and well-earned party.

New singers with some ability to read music are also welcome to join the choir.

John Bryden

9.6.2: SingPlus

Singplus, following Covid, has greatly reduced in numbers but the 2-4 children aged 5 - 10 who have participated more recently have thoroughly enjoyed their 90-minute sessions, based in the church building with occasional forays into the churchyard and the next door cemetery. Singing, playing the piano and organ, dancing, drawing, history, architecture, and some Old Testament stories in detail have been amongst the content of these Wednesday afternoons. Francesc Richardson has played a huge part in the leading of this invaluable group and I have relished these sessions too. As the numbers have dropped to one this activity is at present in abeyance, though one of our older girls has moved on to St Andrew's Youth Group.

John Bryden

9.6.3: Tower Bells

For the group of ringers at Stapleford it has not been a good year. In the summer we lost a much loved member of our team, Julia Weaver. She was a brilliant ringer and was on the verge of trying to teach a new member to ring. Our numbers are down; we need six people to make a full team. Sometimes we can manage to get six, as we did for a wedding last year, but our team has family ties at times so a full team is not always available, so now and again we ring on four. But we are not giving up and at the moment we are trying to find a ringer who can train people so hopefully the situation will get better for us.

Tony Smith

9.7: HOUSE GROUPS, STUDY GROUPS & PRAYER GROUPS

9.7.1: Bible Book Club

This was a new venture started in 2022 with the aim of bringing members of house groups and others who might want to study the bible together once every term or so. It met twice in 2022, looking at the books of Jonah and Ruth. Those attending can read the book first – a printed copy is provided to mark up and make notes on – then the session lasts about an hour and a half, with a short talk, plenty of discussion, and refreshments. Come along and give it a try!

Simon Taylor

9.7.2: Wednesday Evening Bible Study & Prayer Group

Our small group has met to study the lovely gospel of Luke, using Tom Wright's incisive & readable study guide. Our time together is informal, yet taking God's Word seriously, applying it to our own lives. We also pray for concerns nationally, locally, and our own needs. With only a few of us, there are times when not all can come, and the group is hardly viable. It would be SO good to see a building-up of those who want to know more of the Lord and His Word. You are all most welcome!

Francesc Richardson

9.7.3: Exploring Faith, Life & Prayer (Women's Group)

Our ecumenical women's group has moved to meeting on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 7.30 to 9 pm. Numbering about 8, meetings since lockdowns are hybrid with those in person (usually 6) welcomed to Imogen's in St Andrew's Close, with others on Zoom (mostly two), which works surprisingly well with an iPad. Our usual format is: news and prayer requests & prayer, input and discussion, time to reflect on the topic in silence.

We began the Bible Course after Easter then changed to using very insightful chapters from *'How to Eat Bread: 21 Nourishing Ways to read the Bible'* by Miranda Threlfall-Holmes. We will use other chapters in the future. We also shared Psalms that have particularly helped us. In Advent many of the group used Margaret Silf's excellent Advent book, *'Lighted Windows'*. We enjoyed our usual summer shared supper and Christmas celebrations. We are now embarking on the Prayer course with two extra people joining us for it.

Romie Ridley

9.7.4: Tuesday Evening Women's Bible Group

The Tuesday evening Bible book Club continue to meet every week. We really enjoyed reading Romans together and then managed to squeeze in the letter 1 John before we start the prayer course.

Sarah Hackett

9.7.5: Friday Prayer Group

Our gatherings are greatly valued by each individual. We pray for one another, our varying churches, the local community, city, affairs of concern and world troubles. We are never short of a list....confusing, worrying, heartbreaking or being thankful. Meeting in the home of Mary Antcliff, sharing her sitting room and lovely garden joined by Cody her dog is a pleasure. We are indebted to her. It is a time we treasure....and sense as a positive contribution and response to life experiences.

Judith Lee

9.7.6: One-off Courses

Starting at the beginning of Lent 2022 around 40 people attended groups studying the Bible Society *'Bible Course'*. The eight week *Bible Course* aimed to show how the books of the Bible are part of one big story and how they connect to everyday life. Groups studied using video clips, bible readings and group discussions and were able to get an overview of the bible. A weekday morning group and three evening groups met in person while one evening group met by Zoom. The groups seemed to really enjoy the course and their reaction can best be judged by their comments at the end of the course:

'This course is a revelation!'

‘My understanding of the Old Testament has much improved. Lots of food for thought.’

‘I have really enjoyed the course which was well prepared & well presented- both the video elements and by the group leaders. The overview of bible history was useful & interesting. We also realised which parts of the Bible we know less about & came away intrigued to look at these parts.’

‘I liked the way the rhythm of the Old Testament prophesies being echoed in their fulfilment in the New Testament - was brought out. What most surprised me was the clarity with which Andrew Ollerton, was able to put before us the whole sweep of the Bible.’

‘I have really enjoyed the course and as a newcomer, was warmly welcomed by the group I was in and found it a great opportunity to get to know people.’

‘I learnt such a lot – I think finally the OT history of the split of the 2 kingdoms, the exile and the prophets sank in! The significance of the temple -and how God did not return to dwell in it post- exile but the promise that He would ‘suddenly return’ gave me a whole new sense of anticipation about the coming of the Messiah.’

‘I found the wooden visual illustration really helpful and memorable. And the videos very clear and well-explained.’

At the time of writing we are about to start another eight week course ‘*The Prayer Course*’ from 24-7 Prayer in the period including Lent leading up to Easter. The course is a similar format to the Bible Course and is a journey through the Lord’s Prayer giving practical tips on different ways to pray and to deepen ones prayer life.

Fiona Holliday

9.8: ECO CHURCH PROJECT

After gaining our bronze award in 2021, 2022 has been a slow year in terms of further development of our Eco Church Project, but we hope to work towards our silver award – with all that would entail in terms of improvement of our practices – in due course.

Sophi Berridge

9.9: CHURCH FLOWERS

The team has continued to supply flowers for all church services apart from in the seasons of Lent and Advent, despite dwindling numbers of flower arrangers! After advertising for more arrangers, two people stepped up to the mark and added their services – namely Wendy Elsbury and Fiona Holliday. My thanks go to them.

At Easter the flowering cross which stood outside for all to see, was ably prepared again by Gillian Halliwell. Thanks go to her.

People in the community have helped decorate the church at Harvest and Christmas. It's a great way to involve the community and an opportunity which I hope we will be able to develop.

We have tried not to use Oasis as our contribution to make our church an Eco Church. However, we have tried alternatives which we feel has been unsatisfactory. Therefore we have decided to go back to using Oasis for high days and holidays only - notably the festivals of Christmas, Easter and Harvest, when we plan for some slightly more elaborate decorations.

There is always room on the rota for more flower arrangers. Please do speak to Jackie Nettleton (07773 423388) if you're interested (men are welcome also!) Arrangements don't need to be elaborate. Indeed, a vase of flowers is all that is needed.

Jackie Nettleton

9.10: LUNCH GROUP

With our friends and neighbours from St Mary's we are an elderly group of single people who continue to enjoy the hospitality of the staff and volunteers at the Bistro of the Arthur Rank Hospice once a month for a Sunday lunch.

Our numbers at the lunches are limited to twenty, and although it was put forward that we might have two smaller groups on adjacent Sundays, this was voted down.

Sue Wiles and Frances Clifford continue to organise the bookings, and kindly arrange transport for those who otherwise would not be able to attend.

For those of us from St Andrew's who also enjoy the JOY meetings, we feel socially and spiritually uplifted and enriched.

Chris Everitt

9.11: ST ANDREW'S DISPLAY BOARD

This is shared by Forest and Eco Church and The Children's Society. Between those contributions comes mainly harvest, Easter and Remembrance Day. Through these I aim to highlight the church year. They are depicted boldly.

Judith Lee

9.12: STAPLEFORD MOTHERS' UNION

The Branch has continued to have afternoon only meetings at 2.30 pm, as members preferred this time – apart from the Summer Social on 23 June at 6 pm. Meetings have been attended by about a dozen members each time and we have enjoyed a varied programme of talks as well as services and meditations.

The year started with a talk on Anglo Saxon churches by Hilary, followed by the World Day of Prayer slides in February, in preparation for the WDP service on 4 March at Cox's Close Community Room. The service was prepared by the Christian women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland on the theme 'I know the plans I have for you'. Later in

March Rosemary Fuell came to the Branch to give us a thoughtful Lent meditation, greatly appreciated by everyone. In May, we had a members' meeting, when 'treasured possessions' were brought, and an explanation given why the possession was treasured. This proved popular with a wide selection of items being brought to the meeting. As well as the Summer Social in June, we had three more social events: on 14 July we hosted Milton MU to a tea party in the Johnson Hall, followed the next day by the Diocesan MU Garden Party in the Bishop's Garden in Ely. Bishop Dagmar (Suffragan Bishop of Huntingdon) gave an address to the assembled members, who came from all parts of the Diocese. And then on 9 August, Mary Sumner Day, members visited the Mary Challis garden in Sawston and enjoyed some delicious cakes and tea, sitting under the trees to seek shade from the heatwave. The Rev Mike Banyard officiated at our Opening Service in September, and this was followed in October by Mary Dicken's talk on the history of Sawston Hall. In November David Barnes entertained the Branch with a talk on a visit to Botswana (and agreed to finish his talk at the AGM on 8 December).

There was also a Deanery Advent service at Balsham on 6 December, as well as the Wave of Prayer held on 12 December for our Branch. Hilary and Kay attended the Diocesan Day Council meeting in October at Milton, where ideas were discussed about how to 'transform' the Mothers' Union, in line with the current them of 'Transformation – Now!'. Hilary attended a couple of the Thursday Prayer monthly services in the cathedral, now once again face to face, although there is a Zoom option (which proved popular during the Covid restrictions).

We have had two coffee mornings this year which raised £133.28 for Branch funds and also to help to contribute to the various Diocesan and national MU funds, such as Away From It All and Summer Harvest. We supported the Village Weekend (over the Platinum Jubilee Bank Holidays in June) and the Nachingwea Fair in December, with preserves and homemade cakes. The toiletries collection in November was once again very generously supported by the church congregation and the parish, all donations going to the Cambridge Women's Refuge, as part of our support for the Campaign Against Gender-based Violence.

The Committee has continued to be very supportive, for which I am particularly grateful this year. Mary has kept our accounts in order and we have sent a donation of £200 to the MU funds. We value all members' contributions to the Branch and its activities, whether that is through attendance or prayer.

It has been good this year to return to normal meetings and activities following the Covid disruption, and so we look forward to another year of MU fellowship within our Branch, which even though it is shrinking, continues to fulfil a role both within the church and the village of Stapleford

Hilary Street

9.13: FRIENDS OF ST ANDREW'S

I am very pleased to report that the Friends of St Andrew's Church are starting to resume their activities.

We held our AGM in October last year and welcomed a new member, Janet Johnson, onto the Committee. As it was a very cold evening numbers were lower than usual. Our Constitution gives us quite a wide window in which to hold our AGM so we will be looking at holding the next one earlier in the year when the weather will be warmer.

We are also planning to hold the Village Quiz again in the Autumn so watch this space.

Tony Hore

9.14: STAPLEFORD MESSENGER

The Messenger continues to produce a high quality magazine. We are always trying to introduce new items, such as our "marketplace" as well as looking for new stories and interviews with local people. There has been little backlash from our price increase although we have lost a few of our fourteen postal subscribers despite our increase for that being below cost. We have lost four advertisers but may gain two new. We do have something of a problem with deliverers but so far are managing to cope. We have built up a substantial fund for dispensation to suitable causes and will start to distribute this once we have convened a new panel to oversee this.

Martin Ginger

Item 10: BUILDINGS, CHURCHYARD, GOODS & ORNAMENTS

10.1: CHURCH BUILDING

This has been a busy year for fabric issues.

The usual checks and services have all been carried out. Please note we have decided to follow our insurers' guidelines and have the lightening conductor checked every 30 months.

The major concern this year has been the boiler.

We have had two unrelated breakdowns early in the year and then the boiler failed to fire up after the August service. Our servicing agents were particularly unhelpful in sourcing parts, so we embarked on an inhouse parts search and repair. This was successfully completed in December and the system is working to its usual standard. Our thanks to Chris Cooper for this work.

We are hoping to have the system serviced and safety checks carried out soon.

We have been researching a replacement heating system for the church for some time, and this breakdown has highlighted the urgency of the matter.

We have had a Technical Heating Survey of the Church as per Diocesan Advisory Committee's guidelines. There were no surprises in the heating options in the report so now need to finalise our thoughts before we make a recommendation to the PCC.

Quinquennial Works

- There have been no further Quinquennial related works this year

On-going maintenance and repairs

- Jan – lightening conductor repair completed
- Mar – boiler repair due to sooting up
- Mar - boiler repair; circulation pump replaced
- June – tower safety equipment safety checks
- August – Church gas boiler serviced but failed to start due to a boiler fault
- Sept – mid-Quinquennial tree survey
- Oct – recommended tree surgery works
- Nov - fire extinguishers safety checks - one had expired and was replaced
- December – boiler repaired in-house – awaiting gas safety checks

Working Parties

- Two working parties took place in March and September - our thanks to Chris Cooper for arranging these

My thanks to the Fabric Committee for their help and support.

Stephen Brown

10.2: INVENTORY OF GOODS & ORNAMENTS

The Churchwardens have completed a check of the Church Inventory, which is available for inspection at the APCM or on request.

Alastair MacGregor

10.3: JOHNSON HALL & VERGER'S COTTAGE

Johnson Hall

Bookings for the Johnson Hall generally held steady in 2022 although sadly the Hopeful Bridge Club closed in December.

Regular users pay £22 per session (increasing to £24.50 in January 2023). Regular users include Little Quavers baby group, the table tennis club, Shelford Bridge Club, the Horticultural Society, 440 Jazz and Ballet East. Other regular users who use the Hall free of charge include St Andrew's Youth Club, JOY seniors' group, Little Fishes toddler group and the Mothers' Union.

The Hall was also used for Pastoral Care committee meetings, Age UK/Warden Scheme meetings, the Lent Group and Lent Lunch, the Bible Course and Bible Book Club.

It is pleasing to report that the number of children's parties held up; there were ten parties in 2022 with two already booked in 2023. A number of other social gatherings were held in the Hall, as well as the Magog Trust AGM and the Barn Arts and Rangeford Villages exhibitions.

The Johnson Hall is available for hire for regular groups and one-offs, and is a pleasant welcoming space suitable for a wide range of events.

The Verger's Cottage is no longer rented by the Cambridgeshire Joint Playschemes administrators, but continues to be used as the base for church administration and as a village base for our curate. The office space upstairs is now rented by the Magog Trust, and the sitting room downstairs is rented as a counselling space on behalf of Concrete Rose. The Cottage is also used as a postal address by the Magog Trust, Stapleford Feoffees and a national organisation, Women and the Church (WATCH).

The Johnson Hall & Verger's Cottage Committee did not function in 2022 for various reasons, but will start its work again soon under the leadership of Martin Ginger. Some re-decoration of the exterior of the rear of the properties is needed, and probably other work too.

Gillian Sanders & Simon Taylor

10.4: CHURCHYARD

The churchyard is managed to combine formal and wild areas to a plan conceived 25 years ago and modified to meet the demands of St Andrew's, La Rocha Eco Church, Bronze Award for ecology, and this year, the more demanding requirements of the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust Bronze Award for Churchyards. Thanks due to the BCN Wildlife Trust inspectors and our local botanical advisors.

The wild areas include dead-wood and ground cover to encourage wildlife, and seasonally managed meadow-grass to encourage chalk grassland flowers. Trees are subject to bi-annual, professional inspection and pruning as required. Grass mowing is contracted out for most of the season.

Apart from this, the churchyard is fairly low maintenance, requiring seasonal work-parties and the attention of a few individuals with specific interests. Newcomers to these activities are very welcome.

Chris Cooper

Item 11: GRANTA DEANERY SYNOD

Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod is chaired by the Rural Dean, the Revd Michael Wilcockson, and the Lay Chair, Andrew Gore. The long serving Secretary, Anne Parry-Smith, and the Treasurer, Michael Younger, are both standing down and replacements are being sought. Meetings are open to all, and there will be external speakers at two meetings this coming year, talking on topics of relevance to us all.

Deanery Finance

Our deanery has done relatively well and parish share is stable, though some parishes have struggled. Deanery Treasurer, Michael Younger reported at the November 2022 meeting that there is now no draw down on pooled funds if some parishes cannot meet their share. However, if the shortfall was less than £10,000, we would seek permission to do so, in order to receive the £12,000 diocesan rebate. He said the 2022 shortfall was likely to be around £25,000, but thought the 2023 shortfall wouldn't fall below £10,000. Longer term, if parishes cannot sustain their parish share there will probably have to be changes in order to keep them financially viable, such as moving from a full time to half time clergy post. The deanery planning process is of relevance here (see below) but is not yet complete.

Key current issues are around increases in costs for churches, parishes and the diocese, not least for clergy stipends. Increased costs for clergy costs at diocesan level have implications for Ministry Share, due to rise by 4% for 2023.

Our deanery has few expenses, mainly contributions to the Rural Dean's expenses and payments for two members to attend a Mental Health First Aid Course.

Deanery Planning

Felicity Cooke chairs the Deanery Planning Lay Representatives Group for us. Deanery Planning is a process which the diocesan team initiated, to get parishes together in each deanery to review, assess and work to cooperate, building a plan on how to take forward their ministries and deaneries, in a way that is realistic, collaborative, accountable and aspirational, and which complements and supports the Diocesan strategy and vision, Living Ely 2025. It's bottom up in focus, but once deaneries submit their working to the diocese, some top down decisions may be made where circumstances dictate that.

YouthInc

Jenny Duke has continued to give us encouraging updates on the work of YouthInc, and a new youth worker has been appointed. The current funding stream for YouthInc has ended and the project is looking for alternative sources of finance. PCC Treasurers were to be contacted about this.

Mental Health First Aid

The Deanery has been promoting support for mental health through identifying mental health first aiders and running mental first aid courses.

Living in Love and Faith

Regular reports from parishes have been made about engagement with the Living in Love and Faith materials. There has been a variety of participation and outcomes, in terms of parish conclusions on same sex blessings and marriages.

Church of England governance

Members of Deanery Synod have asked for a clearer idea of how Deanery Synod feeds into Diocesan Synod, Bishop's Council and General Synod. This year we aim to follow up and summarise this both to the Deanery Synod and to our parishes. Details can be found in the Church of England online and hard copy publication called *The Church Representation Rules 2022*.

Deanery Synod members are the electorate for General Synod. Felicity Cooke is a General Synod lay member for Ely Diocese for this quinquennium. Felicity, Simon Taylor and Lizzie Taylor are all members of Diocesan Synod, taking a voice from the parish into wider Church governance. Election of our Deanery Synod reps at the APCM is an important part influencing what happens at General Synod, which is the main 'parliament' for the Church of England.

Felicity Cooke & Lizzie Taylor

C. DOCUMENTS FOR PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Item 1: MINUTES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING HELD BY ZOOM ON MONDAY 14 MARCH 2022 AFTER THE APCM

PRESENT: Simon Taylor (Chair), Alastair MacGregor (Churchwarden), Nicky West (Secretary), Clare Coates (Curate), Sue Brown, John Bryden, Kirsty Campbell, Felicity Cooke, Jeannie Green, Sarah Hackett, Anand Pillai, Romie Ridley

Simon Taylor welcomed new members of the committee.

1. Appointment of Secretary, Treasurer, Electoral Roll Officer and Vice Chair

The PCC made the following appointments, proposed by Simon Taylor and seconded by Alastair MacGregor, and agreed unanimously.

- Secretary – Nicky West
- Treasurer – Chris Bow
- Lay Vice-Chair - Felicity Cooke

Nicky West and Chris Bow were co-opted to the PCC, proposed by Simon Taylor and seconded by Felicity Cooke, agreed unanimously.

Felicity Cooke was proposed as Electoral Roll Officer by Simon Taylor and seconded by Sue Brown. Her appointment was agreed unanimously.

2. Date of next meeting

Monday 28 March 2022 at 7.45 pm by Zoom.

The meeting closed at 9.07 pm