

APCM April 2021

St Andrew's

— CULLOMPTON —

Tuesday 13th April 2021



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PCC Members (2020)

Vicar	Ed Hobbs
Associate Vicar (Bradninch)	Olly Mears
Treasurer (Co-Opted)	Matt Cooper (2019)
Wardens	Amelia Jerreat (2018) & Jo Bailey (2019)
Secretary (Co-Opted)	Beth Collier (2019)
Trustees	Chris Cozens (2020)
	Luke Edser (2019)
	Steve Foster (2020)
	Simon Friend (General Synod/Reader)
	Martin Hammett (2020 -Deanery)
	Elaine Reynolds (2018)
	Sarah Robinson (2019)
	Keith Rushforth (Deanery Synod)
	Richard Shere (2020 – Deanery)
	Martin Smith (2020 – Deanery)
	Andrew Southall (Diocesan Ex-Officio)
	Sarah Stuchberry (2020)
	Ed Thompson (2020 Re-Elected Lay Chair)
	James Wakefield (2020)

Vicar's Report

Dear St Andrew's Church family,

What a couple of years it's been! If you had said in January 2020 that, over a year later, we would still be living under such severe restrictions, that our church building would have been closed for extended periods, that Easter and Christmas services would be curtailed, that many of our activities would have been put on hold; no-one would have believed you! But here we are! And dare I say, it feels as though the green shoots of spring are on their way! There is light at the end of this very long, and at times dark, tunnel!

By the time you read this I very much hope that services in person (not a clarification I would have had to make a year ago) will be back on! And that other events and ministries will be planning to start up, or open up, again. And how we all look forward to seeing each other!

That said I do want to thank you for all that you have been a part of to not just keep things going, but in many places to see new things flourishing over the last year.

- Our services have migrated online. And as I say that I realise it sounds like that has happened almost by accident! It hasn't. It has been a huge amount of work for an amazing and dedicated team behind the scenes,
 - We have restarted a midweek service,
 - You've been booking in for church... when allowed!
 - We have recorded many, many, videos, interviews and short films,
 - Our social media team have been working hard with our website, Facebook and Instagram,
 - Home group membership is up, with many small groups meeting on zoom,
 - Youth and children's work has been forced to innovate and respond to the changing situation,

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- People Matter and Keystone have continued throughout, serving some of the most severe needs,
- We have started a new publication "Connect" aimed at the seniors in our church,
- Many of you have been phoning, emailing, writing, visiting (socially distanced of course), walking with each other, cooking meals, giving gifts, all the wonderful signs of love that I would expect from our amazing church family,
- I could go on but more I'm sure will be covered in the brief reports to follow!

Just one more thing I do want to say, and that is thank you for going on giving. I know for many this has been a difficult time financially too. Whilst we have seen our giving decline, it has not been as far or as fast as we feared, or as has been seen in many other charities. So, thank you! And, where you are able, please keep it up. Because, as the green shoots of the recovery come up, we want to be able to grow and develop and do even more to *Reveal the heart of Jesus in the heart of our community*.

So thank you again, do keep on reading, and do join with us as we venture into 2021 and a new season in the life of our church, excited about all that God has in store for us.

Yours in his name,

Edward Hobbs.



PCC Lay Chair's Report

The months since the last APCM in October 2020 have continued to prove interesting and challenging times for PCC. Not being able to physically meet has led to continuing 'PCC business' online and, during a time when some key issues such as plans for continuing services through covid restrictions, taking over the interim management of the Community Centre, receiving updates from ministry leads, being amongst some of the items on a PCC agenda that have been considered and responded too. If you want to know more about what PCC are up to then the minutes of meetings can be found on the church website under 'What's On'. This is the link: <https://standrewscullompton.com/about-us/pcc-minutes/>

Being Lay-Chair also involves me representing PCC and the Church Membership as a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) as well as providing clear, manageable and timely communication to PCC. SLT has continued to hold regular on-line video meetings with PCC being briefed and consulted on some key issues through emails.

Please contact either myself EdThompson@standrewscullompton.com or Beth Collier opsdirector@standrewscullompton.com if there is something you think PCC should be considering and/or discussing regarding the life of the church.

Ed Thompson (PCC Lay Chair)



Churchwardens

As Jo and I look back on the last 6 months (due to the delayed APCM 2020) it appears that some issues have continued to challenge us since the Summer 2020. At the same time St Andrew's still has much to be thankful for and to celebrate. COVID has continued to deliver many challenges, that have involved both the Church and Community Centre, but our live-streamed online services have been a source of much joy to our church family during these difficult times.

Celebrations:

- Despite COVID 19 the current finances remain stable. Edward Hobbs has recently spoken to us about the potential challenges that may occur over the coming months but we are thankful and continue to pray for God's protection over the ministries which serve our community.
- We have welcomed two new members to the Church team: Josh Baldwin (Youth and Worship) and Rachael Smith (Operations Team)
- We received a large grant from the Culture Recovery Fund. This has enabled us to develop the live-streaming resources, lighting and staging alongside funding some additional activities and projects to help us with COVID recovery. This is ongoing and you will hopefully see some changes within the church over the coming months.
- It has been difficult for many groups to meet over the last 12 months but Homegroups have continued online and grow from strength to strength. Many of us will be delighted to read the APCM report and see that although the church building has been closed in recent months the "church" is very much alive.
- New members of our church family who have found us through YouTube over the last few months....*Welcome!*
- The many volunteers and teams who work tirelessly, often behind the scenes, and the way they have adapted to the challenges of the last 12 months. There are many challenges to

running socially distanced activities and services along with the additional resources involved in the live streaming so our thanks to all those involved in making this possible.

COVID 19

The arrival of COVID 19 in March 2020 remains one of the biggest challenges faced by St Andrew's and has led to the very difficult decision to close the church building and stop face to face services from January to March 2021.

Socially distanced services had been running up until and including Christmas 2020. Although we were unable to sing, drink coffee and socialise, amongst other normal church activities it was great to meet together as a church family where possible. Our thanks to the amazing staff and volunteer team who made this possible to work within the national guidelines and to keep everyone safe. For those unable to attend the building, our live-streamed online services continued to engage with the wider church family and community, as well as those further afield. It was amazing to see all the encouragement via the messaging stream. The installation of live-streaming equipment meant that we could continue to reach out to the community and those who are not yet able to attend church in person. In recent months, this equipment has been such a blessing to enable services to continue during the most recent lockdown period.

Jo and I appreciate that the last 12 months have been very challenging for all in different ways; whether this is due to health concerns, financial worries, isolation and the many ways this pandemic has hit. We thank you for your patience and understanding, as the team have learnt to work and communicate in this different way. COVID 19 placed a halt on plans to the church building and the continual work to the fabric of the building but, as life returns to a new normal, we hope to restart these plans over the next 12 months.

PCC and Senior Leadership Team (SLT)

Since the last APCM the PCC and SLT have continued to meet via Microsoft Teams and Zoom. These new platforms are now becoming normal in the way we all continue to keep the church running in these challenging times.

We know that St Andrew's can't function without the help and support of the many volunteers who serve throughout the life of the church. Thank you for all you do.

Finally, our thanks to Edward and Lucy and Olly and Hannah, as they continue to lead us. In addition, the Ministry and Operations Team (Carrie, Josh, Scott, Jonathan, Rachel, Beth, Rachael, Ben and Tracey). We thank them for their vision and tireless work as they help us to "Reveal the heart of Jesus in the heart of Cullompton".



Amelia Jerreat (Church Warden)



Jo Bailey (Church Warden)

End of Year Accounts (2020)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST ANDREW'S, CULLOMPTON STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Incoming Resources					
Receipts from Donors					
Planned giving	170,040	-	-	170,040	163,031
Income tax recovered	37,552	60	766	38,378	38,568
Other collections and donations	21,059	1,175	15,342	37,576	61,488
Legacies received	-	-	5,000	5,000	-
Grants received	8,610	-	65,000	73,610	-
Total Donations and legacies	237,261	1,235	86,108	324,604	263,087
Receipts from Church Activities					
Receipts from Church Activities	4,986	-	-	4,986	25,221
Investment income	176	-	-	176	274
Community Centre lease income	3,000	-	-	3,000	3,000
Other sundry income	2,959	-	-	2,959	10,794
Total incoming resources	248,382	1,235	86,108	335,725	302,376
Resources Expended					
Church Activities					
Diocesan Common Fund	120,000	-	-	120,000	100,000
Outward giving	-	15,760	-	15,760	19,970
Services and other activities	106,641	4,299	19,808	130,748	180,537
Other governance costs	627	-	-	627	657
Total resources expended	227,268	20,059	19,808	267,135	301,164
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers					
	21,114	(18,824)	66,300	68,590	1,212
Transfers between funds					
	16,009	(7,266)	(8,743)	-	-
Net movement in funds					
	37,123	(26,090)	57,557	68,590	1,212
Funds brought forward at 1 January					
	65,479	362,461	30,640	458,580	457,368
Funds carried forward at 31 December					
	<u>102,602</u>	<u>336,371</u>	<u>88,197</u>	<u>527,170</u>	<u>458,580</u>

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Outward Giving 2020

Present team members:

Edward Hobbs, Matt Jerreat, Martin Hammett, Anthony Nderitu, David Sutton, Scott McJohnston, Matt Cooper, Keith Rushforth , Jenny Mc Johnston & Tracey Adams (Secretary) – but there is definitely room for more.

Please do join us!

International **(£8,500)**

Christian Solidarity Worldwide	£2000
Elam	£2000
Great Lakes Outreach	£1000
Thika (via Exeter Diocese)	£500
Intercontinental Church (Lyon)	£1000
Umoja	£2000

National **(£2,010)**

New Wine Networks	£1500
CPAS	£500
Kinsugi Hope	£10

Local **(£9,250)**

Mid Devon Community Family Trust	£250
Chat	£2000
Asaph Trust	£2000
People Matter	£2000

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Keystone	£2000
Bread of Life	£500
Rediscover Church	£500

Total Assigned	(£19,760)
Unassigned (approx)*	(£4328)
Grand total (approx)	(£24,088)

* Unassigned figure to be carried forward into 2021 Budget

Treasurer's Report

This has been a very challenging year for many charities and businesses, with Covid restrictions affecting every aspect of church life. With our reliance on charitable giving, the uncertainty of the economy means many charities have seen massive reductions in donations and income as a result. So, it's with huge thanksgiving that we can report that St Andrew's has sustained income levels and slightly increased donations for the year and although some of our congregation have been affected by the economic downturn, many have been able to give faithfully throughout the year and we have been truly blessed by our year-end figures. We can only say a huge thank you to all who have supported us financially during the year.

Our planned giving showed a slight increase on 2019 figures, rising to £170,040 and although other collections were down, due to the lack of services and events, a significant legacy meant that our total donations were only slightly down on 2019 at £250,994. Other income was also hit hard by Covid restrictions, with wedding and funerals being either banned or severely reduced during most of the year, which would have meant a significant reduction in overall income for the year compared with 2019. However, income from the government furlough scheme, as well as a number of other grants, and especially a grant of £46,800 from the Culture Recovery Fund (with a further tranche payable in 2021 - just over £32,000 of this fund was carried forward into 2021), meant that total income for the year came to £335,725, which is just over 10% up on 2019 and a position enviable to many charity organisations at the end of 2020!

Due to the lack of regular church activities, our expenditure was also reduced, with staffing costs saved through the furlough scheme, and the recruitment of the Youth & Worship Pastor delayed until September, which was later than we initially budgeted for. The total expenditure for the year came to £267,135, a reduction of over 10% from 2019 and a comparable figure to income less the total grant money received. In total, and including grant income carried forward, our total funds at year end totalled £527,170, a £69,000 increase on 2019. To have achieved this figure in a year with so much insecurity and

uncertainty, when you rely primarily on charitable donations, is an incredible achievement, especially when you consider that we also increased our Common Fund payments to the Diocese by an additional £20,000 to a total of £120,000.

This has meant that we have increased our general unrestricted fund to £102,602 after merging the designated reserve fund as suggested in the previous year, which puts us well on the way to achieving our goal of holding six months' worth of turnover in our reserve fund. We are also able to increase our outward giving fund to £29,600 which includes 10% of general fund receipts from donors of £22,875 plus an underspend carried over from 2019 of £6,725.

Once again can I express our sincere gratitude for all the support during the year on behalf of the PCC, and as we look to plan for another uncertain year, we are truly encouraged by the level of support our members and friends have provided during these unprecedented times.

Matt Cooper (Treasurer)

Operations Director's Report

There certainly is a theme of COVID and its many limitations, running throughout this year's APCM booklet and yet, as we have compiled the following reports, it is evidence alone that in-spite of such limitations, God has proved that He is in ultimate control. I love that He is present in the detail and it has been incredible to watch this detail play out over the past 12 months, in particular. It has been my privilege to work alongside such a fantastic team of committed volunteers and staff members, who's motivation has been to put Jesus at the centre of what St Andrew's does. This hasn't always been easy, as challenges present themselves, but what a year, to watch how God has woven the threads together to create a picture of his Kingdom.

We have worked with over 65 members of our volunteer teams across the board and have at least 17 different rotas; from those who lock & unlock the building, those who clean from top to toe, welcome team members, service ticket booking in, car-park stewards, tech cupboard designers, online prayer ministry team, thought for the day contributors, our projector and video camera operators, sound engineers, YouTube chat monitors, light bulb replacers, heating controllers, stage setter uppers, the list goes on!! God's provision has come up trumps!

We have also seen financial provision as we were awarded a local Government grant of £2500 in the summer as well as £52k from the Cultural Recovery Grant in the autumn. I would like to say a huge thank you to Laura Joyner, our Fund Manager who, with the help of Ed Thompson and Tracey Adams, has helped keep us on track and guide us through the process of spending and accounting for large amounts of investment. We have not only managed to keep to our initial business plan but have seen the funds stretch to allow us to buy all the kit necessary to provide our online streaming facility, upgrade much of our sound equipment to compete with the high demands of online audio and to provide for members of staff to enable them to work from home on laptops. A special thank you to William Lines who has spent much of his own time setting us up and generally being there for all of our technical worries and panics!

As I write this, our new staging is being installed and again, thanks to a great team this will provide us with a resource that will take us into the next decade and allow us to make known the message of Jesus Christ even further afield! We are so grateful for the hard work that has gone into this. Do look out for the special hatches that have been designed specially to hide all those cables that transfer the images and sounds to your screens!

Lastly, I would like to thank our Operations Team, who I am honoured to work with each day; for Tracey Adams, who keeps us all on track with her excellent finance skills, ChurchSuite training and knowledge and her patience and care for us as individuals. Also, thank you to Rachael Smith our new HR & Safeguarding expert, who, although has only been with us since December, has hit the ground running and getting us all up to speed with forms and processes, too many to name. Her PCC secretarial skills are second to none and she shows finesse with her general administration. Finally, a thank you to Ben Gaskin, who as you will know, doesn't even get paid for this job and is also studying a degree at the same time. His commitment to bringing people alongside him is second to none and without his patience and diligence we would not have been able to start up our new Audio-Visual Team in the way we have.

What a year this has been and without you all, it would be impossible, so thank you for your patience, understanding and support in so many ways. I am looking forward to what the next season brings with it, knowing that God is walking with us and helping us to navigate our way together.

Beth Collier Operations Director)



Staff Team

After a year with quite a number of upheavals, our staff team has been rather more stable this year, at least in terms of its membership! Our ability to work together out of the church offices has clearly been severely impacted by Covid, and some have been on full or partial furlough for parts of the year.

Our present staff team consists of:

Edward Hobbs – Vicar

Olly Mears – Associate Vicar (part time)

Beth Collier – Operations Director (part time)

Tracey Adams – Operations Finance Assistant (part time)

Rachael Smith – Operations HR & Safeguarding Assistant (part time)

Ben Gaskin – Operations Communications & Media Intern (part time)

Carrie Tucker – Children and Families Minister

Joshua Baldwin – Youth and Worship Minister

Scott McJohnston – Keystone (part time)

Jonathan Reynolds – Ordinand

Rachel Dunn – Ordinand

Hazel Briton - Ordinand

Alpha Report

We have run the Alpha Course twice in 2020/2021 online, and it has worked really well (far better than I expected!). It has felt easier for people on the fringe to join in, with a real sense of community in the groups, and people moving on in the faith journeys together. We will be looking to run it again online in the summer term.

Ed Hobbs, Vicar

Bell Ringing

During much of 2020, the bells have been silent, apart a brief spell of socially distanced full-circle ringing in September and October, hosting the annual service and AGM for the North East Branch of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers on 3rd October, playing the Ellacombe Chimes for a few weddings (a 'restrictions alternative') and before Christmas services.

Maintenance of the bells and bell frames has continued, along with winding of the clock each week.

We anticipate a cautious return to ringing towards the summer, in line with direction from the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers and the easing of restrictions.

Chris and Rachel Cozens, Tower Captain and Secretary

Care Home Ministries

It is now over a year since our team has been able to visit and share worship in our Care Homes. Wisely, the Homes have maintained isolating residents from visitors and careful COVID restrictions. I have maintained limited contact with cards, on behalf of church, to encourage staff and thank them for the valuable work they do in our community. At Christmas, I took boxes of individually wrapped sweets.

We are all too aware of the pain of isolation and lack of family hugs on these vulnerable people, often nearing the end of their lives. I do know that the Care Home staff have tried hard to ensure at least one relative can be present at these times.

We look forward to returning at some point, when our presence does not cause stress. We don't know whether familiar faces will be there, or that we will be recognised after so long. In the meantime, we pray for their protection and well-being and that our Father will somehow reach into battered souls with His love and peace.

Celia Fox, Lay Minister

Children's Ministry

2020 was a challenging year for Children and Families' Ministry. Our heart was to stay in touch with as many families as possible, still bringing Jesus' hope and light and reminding them of a God who loves them and is always in control. Again, we were blessed by a fantastically dedicated core team of volunteers.

Despite spending most of the year in lockdown, we continued to run assemblies, kids' clubs and Sunday groups.

My fabulous team created YouTube videos, Facebook videos and are masters of playing games on Zoom! We even managed to run our own Spree camp from home and Christmas Light Party. We set up a Kids and Families' Facebook page, which has 124 members, where we kept in touch with our community, posted challenges and competitions (including creating a wreath of Joy).

We managed to run a few children's groups in the centre in the Autumn term and are very much looking forward to being able to do that again. Thanks to a very dedicated and creative team, we've also been able to run a weekly KidZoom group with prayer, Bible story/thought and games.

We've still kept in close contact with the schools, providing video material and Carrie has run some whole school assemblies via teams. Cullompton Pre-School also visited St Andrew's Church at Christmas and we were able to live stream their Christmas Nativity.

Our toddler group is our largest 'congregation' of adults who don't know Jesus. So, in Spring 2020 we ran a successful Parent's Alpha Course with a creche and the Holy Spirit was visibly at work in amazing ways. After a bumper few months at the start of 2020 our toddler group had to move online. We now have a dedicated toddler Facebook page with 127 members, many of whom are new parents that we've not met yet, where you can find singing, story-time and community.

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A massive heartfelt thank you from me to all my wonderful volunteers. I simply couldn't share the gospel as wide or as deep without them. Please do pray for the contacts made and that the kids and families associated with St A's over the last year will know what they have heard in their hearts.

Carrie Tucker, Children's and Families Pastor



Coffee Morning

Sadly, we have not been able to hold our Coffee Mornings since lockdown last March 2020. However, we were still able to use some of our funds to support 6 good causes at Christmas.

At present, discussions are ongoing on how, as soon as restrictions allow, we can safely start operating again.

Linda Curtis, Coffee Morning Team

Connect Magazine

The Connect team have shown great leadership and creativity in taking this ministry forwards, building on the great work already in place. Connect Magazine now finds its way to approximately 75 members of our senior and/or isolated congregation in their homes, care homes and via email. Many recipients often report the profoundly positive impact it has had for them. The team agree that Connect is fulfilling its purpose; to strengthen community, tackle loneliness and isolation, and communicating the intentional love and concern of the church, particularly during lockdown.

Jonathan Reynolds, Ordinand



Cullompton Community Centre

What a tumultuous and difficult year 2020 proved to be for all associated with the Community Centre! Who could have for-seen that, due to the impact of covid on it's business model, shortly after last years APCM in October, the centre would enter a period of substantial change that would sadly see all the employees being made redundant and three of the four volunteer directors resigning?

We want to express our thanks, on behalf of St Andrew's church and the wider community, to the staff, the volunteer directors and the vast number of volunteers in what, until covid arrived, had been a very successful operating concern providing top quality facilities to many organisations and individual groups whilst generating excellent income.

At a PCC meeting in November 2020, members considered proposals from the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) for taking on responsibility for the day-to-day operational management of the Community Centre for an interim period. An Interim Management Group (IMG) was appointed to oversee this work and to lead on re-visioning the future purpose and function of the Community Centre, in what is expected to be a very different business climate. The membership of this group is:

Jo Bailey –Church Warden

Beth Collier- Operations Director

Jackie Henretty

Andrew Southall

Ed Thompson - PCC Lay Chair

William Wheeler - existing CCCOL Director

This group has met very regularly focusing initially on gaining an understanding of the financial and governance aspects of the centre whilst also undertaking a thorough review of the repair and maintenance needs of a 10 year old building.

Plans are now being developed that will hopefully see the centre re-opening for business from May 2021 onwards and contact is being made with previous users to advise them of our plans. Business activity is likely to look significantly different to pre-covid days with less large conferencing events and more of a focus on local community-based usage.

We would welcome your prayers and encouragement as we enter into this different way of working.

On behalf of IMG

Ed Thompson and Jo Bailey

Debt Centre

After a long time in the planning, St Andrews has now started a Centre for helping people with serious problems of debt. As we emerge from the restrictions of lockdown there is now a presence on Friday mornings in the Community Centre where people can come to receive help regarding what may seem insurmountable problems. We are grateful to the local charity CHAT for providing professional supervision and who are training volunteers. So far we have 5 Church members who are undergoing training to become volunteer advisers. If you want to know more or would like to get involved in this part of our Church's outreach to the community please get in touch with me.

Bob Hooper, Debt Centre Co-Ordinator

Growing Leaders

We finally finished our latest CPAS Growing Leaders Course in January 2021, completing the last 4 sessions online. We have had another cohort of amazing leaders, and it has been a joy to see them going deeper in their faith and grappling with some of what it means to lead others, both in the church and in the wider world. Once again it has been a privilege to be involved, and we will certainly be looking to run the course again in the future.

Olly Mears, Associate Vicar



House Groups

We presently have 21 active small groups, with more than 200 members. Not all have been able to master zoom, but all have been keeping in touch with each other, and helping to look out for each other. Anecdotally, for many groups, being on zoom as actually increased attendance and it will be interesting to see how many groups go back to meeting in person, and with what frequency, as things begin to unlock.

Ed Hobbs & Olly Mears

Keystone

Since April 2020 the Keystone Project has continued to flourish despite the global crisis of COVID 19. The project has served over 60 local people in the past 12 months. We have forged relationships with the Town Council, YMCA Cullompton, the John Tallack Centre, Mid Devon Council, CHAT and Cullompton Community Response Working Group.

Our Main Support Streams

We have relaunched our Women's Group streams of support and we have 9 regular attendees for this group with a further 3 women interested in joining in the new term. We have 12 regular attendees for our Job Club at present and we are seeing this support bear fruit with 4 people securing work or volunteering opportunities in the past 7 days alone. Our Friday Work Group has seen further new participants join the project and the number of people enjoying the benefits of this support is up to 8. **In addition**, we have also helped to ensure 3 people avoided sleeping rough through working collaboratively with CHAT, MDDC, People Matter and Bread of Life.

Locations: In March 2021 we moved our Women's Group and Job Club to Cullompton Community Centre, and hope this will be our permanent home. We have been running our Work Group in various locations around town. **Team:** We have recruited 2 new female volunteers to support our Women's work and a housing and benefits specialist to offer advice over the telephone. **Finances:** Although we have been unable to secure any large sums of money to fund salaries, a plan is being worked out between the Project Coordinator and the church office to ensure the immediate future of the project.

Scott McJohnston, Keystone Co-Ordinator



Lighthouse Prayer Ministry 2014-2021

Total confidentiality is a part of our 'DNA' and we have helped 89 people find a deeper peace since we began the ministry in 2014. God has spoken to our clients – hearing his voice, seeing pictures, receiving words of Scripture, etc. We have worked as two team members with one client in every session, in a secure room. At the end of each session, we have given a copy of our handwritten records of the session to the client. Team members were available for 1 hour prayer sessions, Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 9.00pm, until national lockdown in March 2020 due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

Although we could have decided to meet using Zoom, for example, the total confidentiality we keep could have been compromised. Our clients could have been at risk of having the details of their personal, 'life journeys' observed by anyone. As a result, I decided in March 2020 to put Lighthouse Prayer Ministry on hold until we could arrange face-to-face sessions again. Who knows, we may be able to resume Lighthouse Prayer Ministry at the end of June 2021. I like that thought as it gives us hope for receiving more, very personal, healing from God.

Alan Roberts, Lighthouse Prayer Ministry Team Leader

Let's Talk For Men

Let's Talk for Men began in 2020. It was launched following Derrick being interviewed at Services on October 18th 2020 and a subsequent Team Meeting of the four Members (Alan Risdon, Mat Collier, Andrew Southall and Derrick Holding). Let's Talk was launched with the purpose of offering a caring supportive space for Men to speak confidentially about issues they find challenging.

Requests for help has been lower than expected, but it has given the opportunity for developing the Team. If you would like to get in touch and chat to a member of our team, please email letstalk@standrewscullompton.com or if you would be interested in getting involved in running this team, please contact Derrick for more information.

Derrick Holding, Let's Talk Co-Ordinator

Oasis

Oasis was set up a few years ago to provide a space for women to talk to another woman confidentially, with any matters they be facing. Over the last year we have helped several women with online, telephone and face to face support, either as a one off, or over a number of weeks, sometimes more, to listen, talk and to pray.

We were able to source some training early on and are looking forward to arranging some more soon. We are hoping this can be opened up for wider access across different church groups, so watch this space...

If you would like to find out more about us, please head to the St Andrew's Church website. And please do not hesitate to contact us if you feel we can be of any help, however small it may seem.

For support, or any enquiries, please email Oasis@standrewscullompton.com

Sandra Williamson and Di Vickery, Co-Ordinators Oasis

Operations Team

➤ [HR & Safeguarding](#)

I joined the St Andrew's staff team in November 2020 and a large part of my role is helping to raise the profile of the HR & Safeguarding aspects involved in a Church with a large staff and volunteer team. This includes ensuring that all our staff team and volunteers have been through the Safer Recruitment process, involving application forms, references and quite often DBS checks before they can start working or volunteering.

So far, I have been helping to ensure that all those who are, or will be, involved in work with the Childrens' and Young peoples' teams, have been through the Safer Recruitment process and are DBS checked. I have also been carrying out DBS checks for volunteers with other teams. There are now 85 people who have been added to our DBS renewals list, meaning that their DBS is still in date or has recently been completed. There are another 19 people who are at various stages of getting a DBS check carried out. Others are in the earlier stages of the process and we are requesting application forms or references for them prior to getting a DBS check completed. After Easter, in accordance with a new Confidentiality Policy that was agreed by the PCC last year, all volunteers will be asked to complete a new Confidentiality Agreement as part of their volunteer role.

It is absolutely essential that the Church is seen to place a high level of importance on Safeguarding, so thank you to everyone involved for your support and understanding when you are asked to go through the necessary Safer Recruitment Process.

Rachael Smith, Operations Assistant (HR & Safeguarding)



➤ Finance

Having joined the St Andrews's Staff Team late in 2019, I now feel more established. I have been working from home for over a year now, just popping into the office as when needed. No week appears to be the same and there is always something new to learn and do. My part time role as Operations Assistant (Finance) also incorporates, bookings for Baptisms, Wedding and Funerals and raising the profile of ChurchSuite and helping to keep it as up to date as possible. I have been very pleased to help some of you get to grips with it during the last year. I look forward to being able to help more of you, please don't hesitate to ask.

Due to Covid, we only had a few Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals in the Church in 2020. As well as Sunday Services, I look forward to these family occasions being non-restricted for numbers. I do enjoy meeting new people, even if it is over email initially. As my role is mainly finance, I am also responsible to the day to day running of the finances of the Church, and all that that entails. More and more people now give via MyChurchSuite. On that note, please do contact me if you have any giving related issues. People can and still do continue to give by Standing Order and that is great too. Lots of givers updated their Gift Aid Declarations on MyChurchSuite, after the last APCM. If you have not done this, please could you. Can I also take this opportunity of reminding you that it is your responsibility to let us know any change in your personal tax circumstances?

I would like to express my thanks to my other Operation Team Members, Beth, Ben and Rachael for all their support and for putting up with me and my questioning! I am also very grateful to have worked with Tori from GX Accounting and Matt Cooper, our Treasurer this year. It is a pleasure to work with everyone else on the Staff Team, and with people who give up their time to volunteer on teams and have helped me out of different situations. Thank you all.

Tracey Adams, Operations Assistant (Finance & Bookings)



➤ Media & Communications

The unique situation of 2020 has seen a significant expansion in the media and communications work of the church, as so much has moved online. Special thanks must go to Steve Hellier and Mark & Jo Bailey for their work in keeping the website up to date.

Communications incorporates the website and social media accounts of the church, which are a vital means to enable engagement with the church's vision of "Revealing the heart of Jesus in the heart of the community". This includes signposting the ministry activities and services provided by the church, in order to enable people to access that provision, in addition to explaining why we do what we do and celebrating what God is doing in our community. A number of ministry areas now have dedicated Facebook groups, such as People Matter and Keystone, making their provision even more accessible.

Since March 2020, Comms has been able to facilitate a number of projects including the *Thought for the Day* videos produced between March and September 2020, the *Video Advent Calendar* from December 2020 and most recently, the *Lean in for Lent* prayer initiative in the period before Easter 2021. Each project was designed to enable people to engage with faith in accessible, stimulating and relevant ways. It has been particularly rewarding to see such a breadth of people representing the church family involved in these projects, sharing what it means to live out our relationship with God.

➤ Production Team

As many things have shifted online, the production requirements have grown from being a minor component in the delivery of services to an integral element, but what this has incorporated has also changed substantially between March 2020 and March 2021.

Between March and September 2020, the Production Team were heavily involved in collating, editing and producing the content of the pre-recorded Sunday services. This would not have been possible without the time and effort of so many musicians and the technicians who produced some incredible

composite recordings, many of which can be viewed on our YouTube channel. With the agreement of the SLT, the Production team has also been able to utilise some of the capacity of Josh Baldwin, our Youth and Worship pastor, who has helped realise a number of projects, including a series of welcome videos featuring members of the church family.

The blessing of the Culture Recovery Fund enabled the church to purchase high quality equipment to livestream our services from within the church each Sunday. Special thanks must go to Andrew Dunn of APi Communications for his hard work in installing the technology and Derrick Holding for designing and fabricating our desk. Having the capacity to livestream our services, required creating a livestreaming team incorporating projectionists and camera operators. Seeing this new team develop and grow in confidence in such a short space of time has been very satisfying and it is wonderful to have a team representing a wide cross-section of the church, each of whom brings something unique to their role. Thank you to Noah, Bethany, Rob, Amelie, Martin, Steve, Charlotte and Matt for their hard work and service on Sunday mornings.

Beyond this, the Production team continue to be important in facilitating engagement in the life of the church, with the capacity to livestream important gatherings including weddings, funerals, and last October's APCM. We were also able to bless the wider community last December by livestreaming Cullompton Pre-School's Nativity, as well as providing the Pre-School with a recording for those unable to view the event live. Production provides opportunities for more people to enter into the life of the church than ever before, and it is exciting to consider how we might continue to do this and find creative ways to bless the town, as we continue to seek ways to ***Reveal the heart of Jesus in the heart of Cullompton*** throughout 2021 and beyond.

Ben Gaskin, Intern



People Matter

People Matter has continued to operate the foodbank on a Friday morning throughout the pandemic although we have varied our practice depending on the level of lockdown restrictions. We had a very busy year in 2020, serving around 20 families per week in the first lockdown although numbers have fallen a little since.

We continue to be financially supported by the Church, Cullompton United Charities, Unite, Devon County Council and numerous individual donors, for which we are very grateful. Our food supply is topped up regularly via our box in Tesco and we have had plentiful supply throughout the year. We have also started to collect fresh surplus food from Tesco via the FareShare scheme and we have been using funds to buy fresh vegetables, eggs and milk. We were able to support around 40 families with Christmas vouchers and/or hampers.

We have a small team of volunteers who have worked hard throughout the year.

Melanie Whitehead, People Matter Co-Ordinator

Prayer Groups

➤ A.S.K. Network Prayer Group (Intercessory)

This prayer meeting has been going for many years and is attended by a changing number of people. Several folk have been unable to attend during the pandemic on Zoom because of technical issues or ill health. However, those of us who have been able to attend have been encouraged by being led to read a pertinent Scripture, wait on God, listen for His perspective, share our thoughts and pray into issues relevant to the church, community, nation and nations. This is a more intercessory type of prayer meeting which anyone is welcome to join. Please contact Martin & Judy Smith on 01884 32315 for more information.

➤ Prayer For Revival

This prayer meeting started after the last Love Cully event several years ago. We have covered many subjects related to repentance regarding the state of the National Churches, the Nation's leadership, the changing of laws, and our own personal and collective compromises, passivity and wrong motives. We have looked at the New World Order as well as listening to what God has taught us through the Scriptures and then how He has led us to pray, sometime in a different way than we expect. During the pandemic, we have asked the Lord what He is saying through it. We meet on Zoom, and for more information, contact Martin & Judy Smith on 01884 32315

➤ Monday Morning Prayer Meeting

About 15 years ago, a group began to pray for an hour in St Andrew's at 7.30 on a Monday morning – thus giving time for people to go off to work. In the first Lock-down we changed to a 9.30 zoom meeting (ID: 554 788 1082 PW: 554 1082). We've focussed mainly on Cullompton – community, church, commerce, children and young people – encouraging leaders and people alike. Spending time listening for the Lord's voice has given us some amazing directions for our thinking and praying – it remains a wonderful way to start the week! Everyone is welcome to meet with about 15 of us "regulars".

Reading through the Bible.

During the Monday morning prayer meetings in November 2020, someone brought the scripture "*...attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching.*" (1 Timothy 4:13 RSV). It didn't seem to work out before Christmas, but the idea to read through the New Testament in the run up to Easter seemed to be the Lord's leading. We started on Tuesday January 19th 2021, reading for an hour from 12 noon – 1pm. We did the same on Wednesday and Thursday. About 15 – 20 of us have done this each week. Reading scripture out loud for an hour has had a dynamic effect on each of us – the Power of God's Word is enormous!!

Martin Smith, Monday Prayer Co-Ordinator

➤ Prayer Ministry Team

I am wondering how the ministry team will look, after lock-down is over. Will it be completely different? Will St Andrew's itself be different? To coin a phrase I guess, "*watch this space*"! It is now, over a year since the pandemic hit us, affecting virtually every area of our lives; including prayer ministry. Praying close-up and personal has not been possible which has clearly affected the way that prayer ministry was able to function.

Recently I was given a vision of a bath bomb. If I were to throw the bath bomb at somebody, upon impact the bomb would explode and cover the person with its fragrance. That told me that by praying from a distance, or via the phone, Zoom, or some other device, the Holy Spirit would still be surrounding the person with his fragrance, as a result of our prayers. Prayer ministry, therefore, remains available, albeit from a distance, by simply emailing prayer@standrewscullompton.com. A member of the ministry team will then get in touch you as soon as possible and pray for whatever concern you have, by telephone or Zoom or whatever device is available.

➤ Prophetic Team

The prophetic team has been functioning since before lock-down started, and there have been a steady stream of people booking appointments with them, in order, to listen to whatever God wants to say to them. Currently, we operate via Zoom, usually on a Monday evening but not exclusively. In case you wonder what happens when you book in; we let you in via the link, there you will be greeted by four or five St Andrew's people, with a clear prophetic gift. Your job would be to do nothing; you are there simply to receive. The team asks Holy Spirit to reveal whatever he wants to say to you. What He has to say is always affirming, always encouraging, always uplifting, as he reveals his heart for you. Surely that is what we all want, isn't it? Since it started, the team has increased in its sharpness in hearing from God. So far, up to 30 have enjoyed the experience, not including those who have booked in for more. Please email prayer@standrewscullompton.com to arrange an encounter with the Holy Spirit.

Tony Bryant, Prayer Ministry Team Co-Ordinator

School Pastors

Duties at Cullompton Community College (CCC) were suspended in March 2020 but following a meeting with the new headteacher, Andrew Finney, we were able to patrol a few times prior to the current lockdown.

God willing, we will be resuming our patrols on Monday, April 19th 2021 with our reduced team of nine School Pastors and seven Prayer Pastors. It is a great blessing to have representation from three other churches in the locality.

Ascension Trust, our governing body, successfully moved their training online during 2020 and we currently have one volunteer undergoing training.

I thank God for a gifted and dedicated team and ask for your prayers for the students, staff and headteacher at CCC as they negotiate this time of change.

Judy Wincott, School Pastors Co-Ordinator

Silvertops

As with all groups we have been unable to meet for a year, however, we have kept in touch, mostly by phone as few members have internet connections. They are a resilient group and always sound very positive, with good family and friends who have helped with shopping. The Connect magazine has helped to reach out to non Church members. Sadly we have lost a valued member of the team Heather Rushforth and others have lost family members, not to Covid. We are looking forward to meeting again as soon as possible, as we will all have had 2 injections.

Veronica Inman, Silvertops Co-Ordinator

Street Pastors

Street Pastors have been serving the night-time economy in Cullompton since 2014. During this time, we have forged good relationships in the community, seen a reduction in anti-social behaviour on the nights we patrol and have been blessed to witness God at work in many challenging situations.

We have not been able to patrol since the start of the pandemic and a management decision has now been made to suspend our duties due to the diminished size of the team.

Our coordinator/secretary has recently stepped down so if you have a heart for this work and could fulfil this role then please contact me.

Please pray for God's direction for the future of Cullompton Street Pastors.

Thank you

Judy Wincott, Street Pastor Co-Ordinator

20s & 30s

The 20s/30s group swiftly moved online, in March 2020 and continued to meet each week between March and September 2020, led by Claire and Rob Thomas, Ally and Luke Edser, and Kayleigh and Ant Duke. In September 2020, the decision was taken to split into two groups, to enable more small-group discussion and greater relational depth and to remove the age limit on the groups, in order to facilitate greater integration within the wider church family.

A social community for the 20s/30s is still of vital importance and we have begun to organise a programme of events, which will enable us to grow as a community as well as drawing others into a community that is friendly, welcoming and fun.

If you are interested in finding out more please email

beng@standrewscullompton.com

Ben Gaskin, 20s & 30s Co-Ordinator

Worship

Since livestreaming from September 2020, we have incorporated live worship music as part of Sunday mornings. St Andrew's is blessed with a good number of sung worship leaders and even through musicians stepping back, due to lockdown restrictions, we have been able to consistently have live music at the traditional and contemporary services. Our sound team has coped well with the changes to mixing, although we will likely need some new recruits and further training going forward. The worship team recently recorded a version of the worship song 'Death Was Arrested' as a collaboration track, the aim is to produce one each month to help include more faces and voices in our services.

Youth

Due to Covid restrictions, apart from a time in September/October where we were able to run sessions in person, Zoom youth groups have met each evening on Tuesdays and Fridays evenings. Our amazing Youth Team have helped lead Friday Socials with games and quizzes and Tuesday Connect groups covering a 'How To Pray' series and a series called 'Stories' where members of our church family have joined in to share their testimony and take part in a Q&A session. We are in contact with 73 young people and normally have 5-10 attend each of our Zoom sessions, we're looking forward to the end of April when we will meet in person on a Friday again.

Josh Baldwin, Youth & Worship Minister



Safeguarding

A copy of St Andrew's Cullompton Safeguarding Policy Statement 2020 is on our website as well as a full copy of our most up to date Safeguarding Policy. Please go to www.standrewscullompton.com to find the link.

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact a member of our safeguarding team:

Ed Hobbs (vicar@standrewscullompton.com)

Beth Collier (opsdirector@standrewscullompton.com)

Nikki Phillips (NikkiPhillips@standrewscullompton.com)