

## Vicar's Report – May 2022

### **General Comments**

All churches – nationally and internationally – are facing a challenging time as we emerge from the Covid pandemic. That includes St. Andrew's. We are now at a stage of rebuilding for the future. I am optimistic about the possibilities and mindful of the challenges...

Across the UK, there has been a 32% reduction in Sunday church attendance. We are ahead of that curve – a 17% reduction at St. Andrew's (compared with 2019). For that, we are grateful to God. Across the worship life of St. Andrew's, we are experiencing a 19% growth in attendances (compared with 2019). This is very encouraging indeed and confirms for us that the hybrid pattern that we now have is working well for people at the current time.

2021-22 has continued to be a year of development for our Mission Action Plan. We are thankful to God for all that he is doing in our midst. Here are some general reflections, under each category of the Mission Action Plan.

### **A Worshipping Community**

We have introduced co-presenting for our Sunday Online worship. I am grateful to Lekisha Atkinson and Jo Griffiths for their continued engagement with this. They are both very good presenters and their ministry is gratefully received by many. Our Sunday Worship is now being uploaded to YouTube as well as Facebook.

We have launched a new Family Service – TFG (Time for God). Andrea Ali is employed by the PCC to organize this. We have an army of volunteers who help with the creative arts stations and refreshments. I am so grateful to Andrea for her wonderful leadership of this activity. Numbers attending are reasonable – about 20 families per service. We hope to see this grow as the months pass.

In May 2021, we introduced a Contactless Giving Terminal into the church building. This is reasonably well used and provides a source of regular income for us.

### **A Caring Community**

In September 2021, Barry Snelgrove headed up an Air Quality Research Project. This was useful to ascertain levels of pollution around Enfield Town and our St Andrew's School site. This was done in collaboration with Citizens UK and was well received.

### **A Welcoming Community**

In September 2021, we formed a Steering Group to consider the 'Living in Love and Faith' agenda. Thanks to everyone who engaged with this. Later this year, we will be rolling out opportunities for the wider congregation to consider the LLF agenda. More details to follow.

### **An Interactive Community**

It is wonderful to see online Morning and Evening Prayer services flourish and caring micro-communities being formed at these. We usually have between 10-15 at each service.

More equipment has been purchased to enable multi-presenter opportunities and more equipment will be purchased this coming year.

In May 2021, we launched a new website, which has been favourably received. It is cleaner and clearer than its predecessor, and is well-designed for visitors and enquirers.

Also in May, we launched a new logo for the church. Thanks to Rich Agostini for designing this.

Since Easter, I have been working on a major revamp of our YouTube presence. The quality of videos is (hopefully!) being improved, thumbnails and titles are being edited, the name of the

channel is under regular review (currently 'Following Jesus in today's world' – but that is likely to change again). Please do pray for this aspect of our ministry. YouTube is a highly complex platform on which to create impact, but we hope to move forward with this over the coming weeks and months.

### **A Discipleship Community**

Thanks to Adrian Saull for heading up the Breakout weekly Study Group. I receive positive feedback from this. We would like more people to attend this Wednesday Zoom activity and for that study community to grow deeper in faith together. Please pray for this.

I am creating Discipleship videos for FB and YouTube on a weekly basis – usually 3 per week. For those who may not be able to get to a physical Study Group, and for those who like to do discipleship-on-the-move, I hope that this will be becoming an increasingly popular option.

### **A Located Community**

We continue to undertake maintenance work on the church building. In 2021, the drains around the building received major repair and restoration work. This was long overdue and will, hopefully, alleviate many of the damp problems in the church.

We now contract a Cleaning Firm who visit the church once per week.

All Compliance Certificates have been obtained.

### **Restoration Project**

There has been so much work undertaken on the Restoration Project this year! I am grateful to Dinos Kousoulou for all his hard work, wisdom and enthusiasm for this project. I am grateful, too, for the Steering Group for their encouragement.

The Business Plan for the project has been updated twice – and is due another update in the next few months.

First visualisations for the church interior have been received.

Many surveys have been undertaken: windows, asbestos, subfloor, monuments, lighting, heating, electrics and more. We now have a very good idea of the breadth and depth of work that needs to be undertaken.

We employ Robin Barden one day per week to research the history of people memorialised on our walls.

We have begun to explore a Community Audit with 'Love Your Doorstep'.

We have appointed a Fundraiser for the project – Nicole Crockett.

We are in conversation with the National Lottery Heritage Fund with regard to a possible fund application.

We are in the first stages of applying for funding for an Access Audit.

You will see that a lot of work is being done behind the scenes. Please hold this project in your prayers.

### **Looking to 2022-23**

In the coming year, I will predominantly be focusing on:

- Developing structures for missional growth and longevity of ministry
- The Restoration Project
- Developing the YouTube ministry
- Developing digital Discipleship opportunities
- Developing the in-building worship experience