

Wardens' report -St Andrews Church May 2022

Since the last APCM we welcomed the continuation of our familiar pattern of worship in providing a constant in these unsettled times. It is particularly joyous to welcome a year without any covid restrictions to worship.

In the year we both celebrated the late Queen's jubilee and then her death. In response to the Queen's death, it was wonderful to see how the church community were able to respond to open the church to be available for people to pay their respects and seek comforts as needed.

In seeing this response to the church being open it spurred us to move towards having the church open more regularly. Thanks to the work of Dinos Kousoulou to prepare the way we are now able to open the church twice a week from May 2023. Thanks goes also to all the volunteers without whom we could not have opened.

We welcomed the opportunity for time for fellowship with the reintroduction of refreshments after the 9.15 service, which is very well attended and appreciated by those that stay. Newer members of the congregation have appreciated this time and feel welcome into our church family.

During the year it was a pleasure to have Kate start her student placement with us and has quickly become a fixture across all our services.

Online worship continues with services six days per week, and it is a pleasure to see Steph Morton, Jo Griffiths and Kate Ladd help lead worship online on Sundays alongside Steve.

The wardens wish to express thanks to all those who volunteer in welcoming, reading, leading prayers, as chalice assistants and helping with refreshments and with the TFG services, all of which helps with our worshipping community.

Although the restoration project was not successful with a national lottery application, all the valuable work has greatly added to our understanding of the building and the worshippers over the centuries. will inform the work we need to do on the church. Work is planned on the church to continue meeting the needs identified in the quinquennial report.

Finally, a special thanks for Steve for his continued energy, vision, and resilience during which continues to be challenging times. May God continue to grant him energy, vision, and resilience as we continue to move forwards building a community on the values of Jesus with increased uncertainties of world events.

Paul, Barry, Debbie

St Andrew's Churchwardens