

# **ANNUAL PARISH CHURCH MEETING 2022 AGENDA**



**St. Andrew's, Compton Dundon**

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022, 7pm in the Church**

### **Vestry Meeting 2022**

*This part of the afternoon can be attended by anyone on the electoral roll or resident in the Parish of Compton Dundon.*

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Tuesday 25 May 2021 at 4pm
4. Matters arising.
5. Election of Churchwardens.
6. AOB.

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2022**

*This part of the afternoon may be attended by members of the electoral roll for the parish.*

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Tuesday 25 May 2021 at 4pm.
3. Matters arising.
4. Brief reflections on the life of our churches, and ministry and mission across the parish.
5. Electoral Roll Officer's Report 2021.
6. Election of Electoral Roll Officer.
7. Annual Parochial Church Council Report 2021.
8. Treasurer's Report 2021.
9. Appointment of Independent Examiner.
10. Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church.
11. Election of Parochial Church Council Members 2022/2023 and Deanery Synod representatives 2020/2023.
12. AOB *please let the Rector or the church office know of any items in advance.*
13. Closing Prayer.

## **Minutes of the St Andrew's Compton Dundon APCM on Tuesday 25 May 2021 4pm in the church**

### **VESTRY MEETING 2021**

#### **1. Welcome and Opening Prayer**

Rev Ana Lawrence opened the meeting with some verses from the Bible and a prayer. She said how good it was to be able to meet in the Church.

#### **2. Apologies for absence**

There were apologies from Kathy Ingham, Trish Cox, Judy Skelding and Chris Linney.

#### **3. Minutes of the 2020 Meeting and Any Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes which were proposed by Julie Gordon, seconded by Steve King and accepted.

#### **4. Election of Two Churchwardens**

Pat King and Trish Cox were willing to serve as Churchwardens for another year. Trish Cox was proposed by Susie Robertson and seconded by Peter Robertson. Pat King was proposed by Helen Thomas and seconded by Olive Holland. The election of both was unanimously accepted and Ana thanked them for all their hard work.

#### **5. AOB**

There being no other business Ana closed the meeting.

### **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2021**

#### **1. Apologies for Absence**

There were apologies from Kathy Ingham, Trish Cox, Judy Skelding and Chris Linney.

#### **2. Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 28 September 2020**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes which were proposed by Pat King, seconded by Helen Thomas and accepted.

#### **3. Brief Reflections on the life of our churches, and ministry and mission across the Parish**

Ana said it had been a difficult year and she was conscious that a lot of informal care had taken place in the Parish, with making sure people were alright. It had been a period of waiting for us, the country and the world. Highlights included the Zoom services, which we needed to build on, Zoom Coffee Mornings and the Zoom Bible Course. There were now two new Worship Assistants and one new Reader. Ana said she was grateful to Julie for her Safeguarding work which was very important in Parish life. She was also very grateful to Margaret, the Churchwardens and to Helen for her help at the beginning of 2020, as well as to our visiting clergy, Wendy Griffiths and John Greed. She hoped that the Harvest Lunch, Big Breakfast and Christmas events would be able to take place in 2021 and she looked forward to what lay ahead.

#### **4. Electoral Roll Officer's Report 2019**

In the absence of an Electoral Roll Officer, Helen gave a brief report. We had sadly lost two members, Angela Warren and Lloyd Harrison. She hoped someone would take it on as it was now all computerised and it did not have to be a PCC member. She was thanked for her work.

#### **5. Election of Electoral Roll Officer**

Peter Robertson said he would take it on and was proposed by Julie Gordon, seconded by Bill Ingham and unanimously elected.

#### **6. Annual Parochial Church Council Report 2020**

This could be found along with other documents in the APCM papers. Ana was grateful to all the contributors.

#### **7. Treasurer's Report 2019**

The accounts had already been accepted by the PCC and audited. Grateful thanks went to Margaret Sutton and Julie Gordon for their roles. Various questions were raised and answered. Steve King, Chairman of the Parish Council said we needed to apply every June for the sum of money the Parish Council kindly granted us every year.

#### **8. Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Debbie Shields was happy to continue for another year. This was proposed by Peter Robertson, seconded by Helen Thomas and unanimously agreed.

#### **9. Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church**

Pat showed us the Terrier, the inventory of all St Andrew's possessions.

#### **10. Election of Parochial Church Council Members 2020/2021 and Deanery Synod Members 2020/2023**

Deanery Synod Representatives, Pat King and Susie Robertson had been elected in 2020 for three years as had the PCC members. There were no more volunteers for the PCC.

#### **11. AOB**

There was no more business

#### **12. Closing Prayer**

Ana closed the APCM with a prayer.

Pat then thanked Ana for all her efforts over the past months.

### **2021 APCM REPORTS**

#### **RECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

A year ago, in my previous rector's report, I wrote about the concept of waiting and whilst Covid and all the associated restrictions had begun to ease off towards the end of the year, 2021 still felt like a season of ongoing waiting. At the beginning of the year, we were worshipping online once again, and other meetings continued in a similar way until a re-opening of all our churches on Easter Sunday.

I recognise that this has been a painful time with a longing for the removal of face coverings, an ability to sit close together in church and something of a return to 'normality'. I know that the strains of living with Covid have limited us socially and in so many other aspects of our intentional outreach. Not being able to get into schools, hospitals and nursing homes has been frustrating for the clergy and those who administer home communion and pastorally visit. Some of this began to change over the year, though the change has been gradual and fragile, so easily reversing on an outbreak of Covid in any institution.

Despite the restrictions and frustrations, some of the highlights were the continuation of the Bible course and the various Lent groups, all of which met online. After a few false starts, a return to our churches meant that we could host a 'back to church' Sunday in September, where it was good to see the return of some 'old' friends and some new faces. We also had an almost 'normal' programme of Christmas services and outreach both of the well loved and familiar and a few new things including 'Get in the Picture' #babyjesusrocks and blue Christmas. Our PCC's tackled some weighty issues during the year and gathered together for a day away in October, some of the fruits of which we hope and pray we will see in 2022. Summer rain failed to dampen the rectory garden party in August, and it was good to welcome so many into our home at last.

2021 has been a year of goodbye and welcome. Caroline Riall (Mission Church) one of our readers moved away in the Spring and in the Autumn, we welcomed Alison Tolson, who is training for ordained ministry at Cuddesdon Theological College, Oxford and is on placement with us.

It was wonderful to see Suzie Williams (Mission Church) be licensed to a new chaplaincy role with the Glastonbury and Street Sea Cadets. Kevin Lawrence (Mission church) was formally 'welcomed' into the Diocese at Wells Cathedral for the transfer of his reader licence, and it was good to support Andy Savage (Walton) at his confirmation service also in the cathedral.

Inevitably, 2021 saw some sad farewells as we mourned the deaths of, amongst others, John Troake (Street), Heather Kennard (Street) and Gary Sowerby (Street). Whilst such longstanding servants of our churches will leave a huge gap, I have been encouraged to see, as our churches reopen, new faces joining the church family.

Even amidst ongoing restrictions, it was a joy to celebrate 13 baptisms and 6 weddings during the year.

I am grateful to our Parish Safeguarding Officers who undertake an administrative role to ensure that all are both kept safe and up to date with ongoing training requirements. Thanks go to Sonia, our benefice administrator, who works tirelessly, flexibly, and often well beyond her contracted hours.

I want to pay tribute to Pat King and Trish Cox, our wardens, our treasurer, and the PCC as we have continued to navigate new ways of doing things both in procedural matters and in the arrangements that we have had to put in place during the months when our churches have been open in order to keep everyone safe. A huge 'thank you' to all those who lead and preach at our Sunday and Midweek Services: licenced Readers, Lay Worship Assistants, intercessors, welcomers, and readers. I want to also thank my clergy colleagues, Rev'd David Hatrey and Rev'd Sister Diana Greenfield for their support, commitment and partnership as we lead our churches together.

Ana Lawrence, Rector

## **BENEFICE REPORTS**

### **Pastoral Care**

As churches, we seek to support one another as part of our Christian calling and care. Pastoral care has been done in a variety of ways and as restrictions began to ease during the year, visiting people in their own homes resumed whilst the formal phoning lists began to be phased out over the first few months of 2021. I appreciate that there is much care ongoing including home visits, hospital visits (where possible) and other support. Most of the pastoral care is 'informal' and I am looking to adopt a more 'strategic' approach, without, of course, stifling any of the existing care.

Ana Lawrence

### **House groups**

House groups are a place where we can share fellowship and Bible study and pray for one another as we grow closer. Over the past year, friendships have grown and deepened even with some meeting online. Over the year the online group have continued to meet. Meanwhile, the 'Body, Mind and Soul' group decided for good reason to cease meeting. In its place, two new groups have been created, a daytime and an evening group, both which began during the second part of the year. These groups are growing and there is an increased desire to belong to such groups. Groups have studied the bible using bible study resources and have also used the sermon series questions.

Ana Lawrence

### **Lay Ministry**

As a benefice, we encourage lay ministry in its different forms and love to see people called by God into new areas of ministry. It has been good to see our lay ministers use their gifts more fully once again as our church doors have been open for Sunday worship since Easter. We have a number of readers, a reader in training and lay worship assistants who are part of the leading and preaching team. The abundance of lay ministry adds a richness in the variety and quantity of services we can offer both on Sundays and midweek.

Ana Lawrence

### **Mission and Outreach**

In my 2021 APCM report, I encouraged us to focus on being connected, reaching out to our community and sharing the great commission to make Jesus known.

Through our mission and evangelism in 2021, we have sought to continue to do this as a church family as Covid restrictions relaxed. Some of the ways we have seen this being worked out include: Christmas outreach such as 'Get in the Picture, #babyjesusrocks etc.

A 'Back to church' Sunday in September. Various social activities including walks as we seek to 'do life together'. The launch of Messy Church in Walton. Restarting the coffee morning in Walton with a regular 'thought for the day' sharing Christian perspectives on current issues. Supporting others both through our charitable giving and one-off collections.

During the year our churches also collected items for the foodbank and through the Cox's charity we have been able to support various individuals in particular need.

Ana Lawrence

### **SWCD Churches Book club**

It has been good to launch a new book club which is open to anyone from across our churches. The group meet roughly every two to three months to discuss the 'latest' read. Titles have varied considerably from 'The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry' to 'Sensible shoes' and 'Planet wise' amongst others. Do feel free to come along as we meet in a relaxed way to chat through our reactions and reflections to what we have read.

Ana Lawrence

### **Prayer Report**

I am able to report on some of the Prayer initiatives that took place during 2021.

#### **Prayer Topics in Lifeline:**

Prayer Topics continued to be published every week in Lifeline until the introduction of the quarterly "Time to Pray" prayer diary. Subsequently, a "For your Prayers" section was added to the weekly Lifeline to provide information for some particular prayer needs.

#### **Prayer Support Group:**

While still affectionally referred to as the Prayer Chain, the Prayer Support Group has continued to receive a number of prayer requests across a variety of prayer needs. It is worth stressing that the Prayer Support Group is and remains: -

1. a small group of Church members who have a heart for praying for the needs of others, which
2. treats all prayer requests in the strictest confidence.

Prayer requests can be made by anyone, and not just by those who are part of the group – all you need to do to ask for prayer is to simply email me at [prayers.street@gmail.com](mailto:prayers.street@gmail.com) with an outline of the particular prayer need.

#### **Thy Kingdom Come:**

The Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) initiative was held between Ascension Day and Pentecost 2021 – with resources made available across the Benefice. A detailed Guide to TKC was produced for the Benefice outlining everything that was planned and being made available.

As in previous years Church members were encouraged to: -

- pray for 5, family or friends, to come to know Jesus,
- follow in daily reflective prayer using either the dedicated Prayer Journal or Novena that were made available to Church members, and
- join in the 24-hour Prayer vigil which was delivered throughout the 24-hours by either coming to one of churches at a set time or to pray at home.

I am uncertain as to the number of people who joined this initiative in one way or another. However, those who I know that did take part, found it a worthwhile and uplifting experience.

#### Tuesday Morning Prayer:

A small but dedicated group met, via Zoom, on most Tuesday mornings at 8:00am, to pray for the needs of the world.

Jeff Brewer

#### Charitable Giving

In all of our parishes we have a long tradition of supporting other organisations through charitable giving and, in late 2020, a group was constituted, from across the benefice, to consider how we might develop this further.

Appointed by the PCCs the groups drew up guidelines and criteria for our giving and, following approval of these by each PCC in early 2021, members of the church family from across the benefice were invited to nominate organisations for their parish to support.

As a result and following approval at each PCC. 12 organisations were supported during 2021, 4 by each parish, being a mixture of local, national and international causes, involved in a range of work. Some were new to us, whilst others we have maintained our support for over many years.

Whilst restrictions in our churches meant that we were limited in the way we could promote the work of these charities and share their stories, regular articles in 'Life' and details on our web site kept people in touch, whilst a number of events were held during the year to support individual causes. In addition, prayers for our partners were included in our 'Time to Pray' resource and elsewhere.

We are always keen to improve the way we communicate about those organisations we support and find new ways of sharing their stories, but generally the profile of our charitable partners has been improved this year. A disappointment has been that our aspiration to find a cause that we could support across the benefice has not yet been realised, but we are sufficiently encouraged to continue with this agreed approach for a second year.

Kevin Lawrence, on behalf of the benefice Charitable Giving Group

#### Deanery synod

The first meeting of the year was in Feb 2021 and due to covid was held on zoom. The meeting started with a minute's silence to remember Jill Done who has stood as secretary for 12 years and done sterling work throughout that time. She will be very much missed by all.

We now have a Deanery Mission planning group similar to a standing committee to a PCC. At present our representatives are Jane Tompsett and Sandra Gristock.

Jane Durham continues to work as part time parish priest for Wheathill and Half time Deanery Mission enabler. In this role she produces the termly prayer diary and works on the Deanery Mission plan. She



facilitated a deanery away day and continues to offer Lay worship assistant training. Latterly her focus has been on rolling out the Living in Love and Faith course to clergy and churches in the Dioceses. The deadline for Deaneries to have delivered the LLF course was extended to March 2022. Jane made it clear that she wishes to have ongoing dialogue with all congregations in order for her job to be a success. We currently support Janes role with a levy of £3.50 per member but this may go up in the future.

We were introduced to Ed Gregory our Deanery accompanier and Diocesan director of Education. His role is to support inter church and schoolwork and develop links and working bonds throughout Bath and Wells. He reported in the Nov meeting that Somerset schools are being moved either to academies or Somerset County council. The Diocese will provide direction after its meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> Nov. A new initiative we were asked to pray for was Finding peace within, a meditative practice being run by Chris Whittingham. During the November meeting Jane Durham led a creative brainstorming session based on the 5 Marks of Mission to inform the vision for the new Deanery plan. We were also introduced to the idea that Glastonbury and Shepton deaneries my look at the possibility of merging at some point in the future. Hold on to your hats more to come on that in next year's report.

There is no doubt that Deanery Synod meetings have become more interactive and livelier in the past few years and it is very enjoyable to go along and feel like you can represent the concern and desire of the congregation so if you think this is a role you may want to explore, I am sure any of the Synod reps or Ana would be only too happy to chat to you.

Suzie Williams, Deanery Synod Rep, on behalf of the benefice

### **Eco Church**

Eco Church Group members for part or all of 2021: Trish Cox, Pat King, Helen Thomas (Compton Dundon), Kay Savage, Suzie Williams, David Yemm, Sue Ripley (Street), Sandra Gristock (Walton).

### **Eco Church Awards**

Saint Andrew's, Compton Dundon, applied to the A Rocha Eco Church scheme and received a Bronze Award in July 2021, the other three churches in the Benefice had received their Bronze Awards in 2020. Our work in 2021 was to maintain and try to improve on that level with the aim of applying for a Silver or Gold Award.

### **Wilder Churches**

During the year we participated in Wilder Churches, a churchyard project jointly organized by the Diocese and Somerset Wildlife Trust. Some changes had already been initiated in Street (including the Mission Church grounds) and Walton. Through regular webinars we were encouraged to take a detailed look at our churchyards and to develop management plans that respected wildlife including plants. We were fortunate in being able to involve Celia Linney (Compton Dundon) who provided detailed plant surveys of Compton Dundon, Street Parish and Walton churchyards. These revealed an fascinating mix of plants including some unusual trees in Street Parish churchyard. We applied for funding from Mendip District Council towards management of the new graveyard at Walton including hedge planting to take place in 2022.

### Energy Use and Carbon Footprints

We calculated the Carbon Footprint of each of the four Churches in the benefice using the online Carbon 360° Survey. Following on from this we began the process of obtaining energy audits through Green Journey.

Thank you to all those who have contributed to these and other Eco Church activities, including those in the Eco Church Group.

Sue Ripley

### Bereavement café

The benefice bereavement café formally came into existence in September 2021. This followed some two years of waiting during the Covid pandemic and at least 18 months previous to this in setting out the aims and structure for the initiative to take shape. Behind the scenes other bereavement cafes were visited and good practice identified. This led to the theft of approaches and types of open-ended questions which could facilitate discussions. Through a consideration of other ideas from Cruise and beyond various strategies have been put in place; this means that no one coming can anticipate what we will be doing. We meet once a month at the Mission Church, at a time when those who have lost a loved one have suggested they feel lonely.

The aim of the bereavement café is to offer a safe place where anyone can share, if they decide, to share thoughts and memories. This can be part of the healing process, it is not a once and cure all, rather a gradual move to come to terms and move on, whatever this may mean for each individual. We have created postcards to give away which shows what we do. All of the funeral directors in the Street area have taken them and any funerals involving those from the benefice are left one of these. Our thanks go to Kevin L for his skills in putting this together.

We are enormously grateful for the skilled input of Sue Ripley in this venture, whose knowledge we have drawn upon heavily. She has led training sessions so those who sit down with 'our guest' have an understanding of what to say and how to say it. There are things we can say and things we should not. Volunteers have come forward and given up their time to learn and be supportive in these groups. In addition, others have kindly helped to prepare refreshments, which have become a feature of our meetings. The additive of things go better with cake seems to me to certainly be true. (If there are those who could offer a cake or similar from time to time, we would seriously welcome this.)

Are we making a difference? I am not sure how to measure this! If it is simply numbers, then maybe we are not yet a success. Numbers vary, but a core is becoming clear, they value this time. Feedback has been good. A frequent response has been, it was not what we thought it was going to be like. But when asked, 'what did you expect?' there has been no reply. We know from other bereavement groups that it can take 18 months to 2 years to become established. Covid has hindered this. We wait, expectantly for the Lord's direction and seek to bring his peace and love into lives that have been hurt and where there is fear. What can you do? Simple, take one of the postcards and give it away to someone whom you feel would like support and care. We would rather you give one away than did nothing. (PS I like coffee cake!)

David Hatrey

## **PARISH REPORTS**

### **Fabric Report**

Due to the nationwide lockdown from March 2020, some items recommended for attention in the Quinquennial Inspection that month were carried over to 2021. These included repairing stonework and disjointed wood block flooring. Some roof tiles on the store building and top of the tower were replaced.

In May our sound system was serviced, with minor repairs.

There was a full fire and electrical check in 2021, with the only actionable outcome being to replace the two kettles in the kitchen area.

From February 2021 we have been carrying out regular inspections of the bell tower. Concern had been expressed about possible damage caused by birds and mammals entering the tower through the fenestration. The current protection is in good condition but we do need to ascertain whether bats are using the tower. Sticks have been removed from the wire and the stone louvres and this will be monitored monthly.

Andreas, our yew tree specialist, has continued his regular inspections of the tree. He has been paying particular attention to the damaged overhanging branch, giving it an opportunity to regrow.

The Incumbent Board on the back wall in church has been updated, the names written in beautiful calligraphy by Brenda Bergner.

In December 2021 we were pleased to have a new toilet and washbasin installed. This included plastering and painting the walls, plaster boarding the ceiling, damp treating and tiling the floor, fitting a vent and boxing in the pipework.

We are grateful to the three volunteer groundsmen for their hard work maintaining the outside area year-round.

Finally, the organ had a broken key repaired, followed by its annual service and has since been playing well with no further problems.

Pat King, Warden

### **Electoral Roll**

Inevitably there have been additions and deletions to the Electoral Roll as individuals have left the Parish or sadly passed away. Encouragingly a total of 7 individuals have completed registration forms recently and the Roll now stands at a total of 77.

Peter Robertson, Electoral Roll Officer

### **Reordering Report**

Re-ordering has been a subject of discussion for many years at St Andrew's.

With the arrival of Rev'd Ana Lawrence, the PCC at an Extraordinary Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> August decided it was time to take these ideas forward.

This proposal was formally adopted at the PCC meeting held 7<sup>th</sup> October and a working party was established.

This Group held their first meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> November to look at areas in the church that would particularly benefit from some alteration.

The Group was in agreement that it was vital to retain the overall character of a historic rural church.

The following areas were highlighted for possible re-ordering:

#### The Chancel and Choir area

Worship opportunities of St Andrew's could be enhanced if it became possible to use this area comfortably for small intimate services, prayer groups etc.

#### The Back of the Church

Hospitality is an important part of the Christian church and if more space for this purpose could be created this could only be beneficial. Such an area could also be used for children's work, church meetings etc.

As the font would have to be moved as part of the Bell Restoration thought could also be given to re-positioning this on a permanent basis.

#### Heating and Lighting

It was agreed an up-dated and more efficient heating system and improved lighting could only create a more welcoming building.

The Group decided a Re-Ordering Brief should be drawn up prior to engaging an Architect.

Helen Thomas

#### **Safeguarding Report**

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Core safeguarding training modules aim to promote a safer church across church communities from members of our congregations to our senior leaders.

During the year, PCC members took advantage of the online training to update themselves with the modules: 'Basic Awareness' and 'Foundation Training'.

Our church was closed for the first three months of the year owing to Covid 19. With careful preparations and diligent adherence to rules and safety, our church wardens - Pat King and Trish Cox, opened the church once again on Easter Sunday. We are all very grateful and thank them for their hard work throughout this difficult year.

Thanks must also go to Sandra Gristock for the help and support she has given to our safeguarding officer.

Julie Gordon

### **Events Group Report 2021**

During the Summer months of 2021 we were at last able to meet for coffee outdoors in our gardens. In August we held our first informal events planning meeting, which has evolved into a regular 'Events Planning' group.

The first event held after lockdown was the Cricket Club Fete in September. St Andrew's Church had a bric-a-brac stall and a share in the cake stall. Over £300 was raised for church funds.

The following month there was a Harvest Lunch in the Village Hall after the Harvest church service. Caterers provided a buffet lunch and together with the raffle and David's entertaining auction of fruit and veg we were pleased to donate £357 to one of our nominated charities, Christian Aid.

The Big Breakfast was reinstated in November, a very popular village event. Sarah Morris and Chris kindly prepared and cooked the food and there were a variety of Christmas stalls to browse. We raised £712 from this successful event.

The coffee mornings have been a welcome social opportunity and this has continued through our 'CAMEO' ('Come And Meet Each Other') meetings in the Village Hall on the first Wednesdays of the month. They are intended for everyone in the village community as a lovely time to meet, chat and support one another. And sample the cakes! During the December CAMEO we enjoyed singing carols and shared in Ana's Christmas message.

The year ended with a concert in church performed by the talented Intermedii Choir. Members of the events group helped, e.g. with decorating the church, selling tickets and programmes and catering on the concert day. The wonderful amount of £900 was raised for church funds.

A big 'Thank You' to everyone in the planning group for enabling these events to be both enjoyable and invaluable fundraising opportunities.

Pat King, on behalf of the Events Group

### **School's Work**

During the year, we have begun build connections with the school in Compton Dundon with pupils visiting the church as part of their curriculum. We hope to develop these links in the future.

Ana Lawrence